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REPORT BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL  
ON RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE LEOPOLDVILLE AREA

Report dated 6 March 1961 to the Secretary-General from  
his Special Representative in the Congo concerning  
events in Matadi

On 3 March 1961, United Nations forces in the Matadi/Kitona area observed that the ANC patrols were carrying unusually heavy armament. Shortly thereafter ANC road blocks began to impede ONUC movements and a helicopter crew at Boma was arrested. Simultaneously, ANC troops at Banana tried to prevent the access of the Sudanese Commander, Lt. Col. Abdul Hamid, to board a plane and fired at his party. In the resulting exchange of fire two ANC were captured and disarmed by Sudanese. In the evening of 3 March the ANC shelled Banana camp. In the early afternoon of 4 March, an ANC unit attempted to dislodge the Sudanese detachment guarding the Canadian signals at Matadi, and an exchange of fire ensued. The ANC brought heavy armaments including armour piercing 37 mm. guns with which they fired at the building, smashing signals equipment and killing one Sudanese soldier. As the Sudanese were armed only with rifles and light machine-guns and could therefore not effectively respond to this attack, the Canadian detachment Commander, Captain Belanger, who showed extreme gallantry under fire, went out unarmed to meet the ANC Commander and arrange a cease-fire. He has not been seen nor heard of since.<sup>1/</sup> Firing stopped after some 45 minutes, but resumed at 1800 hours when the ANC used mortars and heavy machine guns against lightly armed United Nations troops.

On 5 March the ANC attacked the Sudanese unit with heavy weapons at 0830 hours; and again at 1200 hours while a conference to arrange a cease-fire was being held. The second unprovoked firing, in which the ANC concentrated all the weapons at

<sup>1/</sup> General McKeown, Commander of the UN Force, subsequently reported that Captain Belanger was back in Leopoldville, safe and well.

their disposal, could be explained only as an attempt to force the hand of the United Nations cease-fire negotiators. The cease-fire negotiations on 5 March were held between the Acting Prime Minister of the Leopoldville Government, Mr. Delvaux; ANC Chief of Staff, Major Kiembe; local ANC commanders and various other personalities on the Congolese side, and Major Bouffard, the Sudanese Company Commander, and the Matadi movement control officer on the United Nations side. Red Cross officials also attended. The Congolese Delegation demanded that the Sudanese withdraw immediately, failing which they would be subject to an attack by the entire Thysville garrison, including their artillery and armour. To avoid further bloodshed the United Nations negotiators saw no alternative but to agree to a temporary withdrawal of the Sudanese troops who were transported by train to Leopoldville the same night. Assurances were obtained that United Nations stores in Matadi would be safeguarded, and the movement control detachment would remain there until arrival of new United Nations troops. The Congolese Delegation also claimed that troops which were to replace the Sudanese in Matadi had to be of a nationality acceptable to the Congolese Government, a condition which the United Nations cease-fire delegation had, of course, no authority to discuss. The attacks of the ANC against United Nations troops in Matadi resulted in two Sudanese soldiers killed, one officer and three other ranks seriously injured and nine others hospitalized. Twelve Sudanese are missing.

The gallantry of the Canadian and Sudanese personnel, who held on to their positions despite heavy losses and against an overwhelming superiority of the attacking forces both in number and armaments, cannot be sufficiently emphasized. Their devotion to duty and readiness to lay down their lives must be highly commended.

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