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LETTER DATED 15 MAY 1961 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF
THE SECURITY COUNCIL

It will be recalled that on 21 February 1961 the Security Council adopted a resolution on the situation in the Republic of the Congo (S/4741). In that resolution, the Security Council expressed its deep concern at the situation in the above-mentioned country and, above all, at the serious threat to international peace and security which that situation represented. The resolution also called for a number of practical measures designed to bring the situation in the Republic of the Congo back to normal. Although in the opinion of the USSR delegation these measures fell far short of the needs of the Congo situation, they would nevertheless have made some contribution to a solution of the problem of the Congo if they had been carried out without delay.

Now that nearly three months have elapsed since the adoption of the aforementioned resolution, the Permanent Delegation of the USSR to the United Nations would like to know precisely what has been done to implement it. In particular, it deems essential the submission of official information on steps taken to put into effect paragraph 2 of part A of the resolution, recording - not, incidentally, for the first time - the urgent demand of the Security Council that "measures be taken for the immediate withdrawal and evacuation from the Congo of all Belgian and other foreign military and para-military personnel and political advisers not under the United Nations Command, and mercenaries". In this connexion, the USSR delegation is interested primarily in official information on the exact numbers of personnel in the above-mentioned categories who have by now actually been withdrawn or evacuated from the territory of the Republic of the Congo, the numbers still remaining in the Congo, and when the withdrawal of the entire personnel will be completed.

The USSR delegation wishes to refer further to paragraph 4 of part A, wherein the Security Council decides that "an immediate and impartial investigation be held in order to ascertain the circumstances of the death of Mr. Lumumba and his colleagues and that the perpetrators of these crimes be punished." It would be important to learn, for example, whether during the intervening period United Nations representatives in the Congo have received any material shedding new light on this question, whether they have taken any steps to obtain information of this kind, when the special commission established by the General Assembly to carry out the investigation mentioned in part A, paragraph 4 of resolution S/4741 intends to proceed to the execution of its tasks, within what time limits it expects to carry them out, and what procedure it will follow in its work.

Furthermore, it has transpired that the representatives of the United Nations Secretariat in the Congo, on the one hand, and Kasa-Vubu and Bomboko, on the other, have recently signed an agreement concerning a reorganization of the Congolese Army. According to the available information, in this agreement additional obligations are undertaken on behalf of the United Nations which are not directly provided for in the Security Council resolution of 21 February 1961. The Permanent Delegation of the USSR to the United Nations regards as abnormal and inadmissible the fact that members of the Security Council have still not been officially informed of the signing of the above-mentioned agreement and do not have an official text thereof, although in fact it was signed on behalf of the United Nations and refers, it would appear, to the Security Council resolution of 21 February.

Lastly, the USSR Government wishes to draw attention to paragraph 1 of part B of the same resolution, in which the Security Council insistently urges "the convening of the Parliament" of the Congo. In that regard, various information has been reported by the Press, but members of the Security Council have not been officially informed whether any specific measures have been taken by United Nations representatives in the Congo to give effect to this provision of the resolution, the purpose of which is to restore as soon as possible the rule of law and the sovereign rights of the Congolese people; nor where and when the Congolese Parliament is to be convened and what measures are being taken to ensure the safety of its members, since a large part of Congolese territory

continues to be under the uncontrolled domination of a group of persons who have been violating all the laws of the Congo and who seized power by a military coup.

The USSR Government would be grateful for the submission of such data and expresses the hope that this information will enable members of the Security Council to form an idea of the actual state of affairs in the Republic of the Congo, the progress of the implementation of Security Council resolutions, including the resolution of 21 February 1961, and any possible further steps in the interests of the Congolese people and of peace in Africa.

I would ask you, Mr. President, to have this letter circulated as a Security Council document.

I have the honour to be, etc.

(Signed) V. ZORIN
Permanent Representative of the USSR
to the United Nations

