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LETTER DATED 21 JUNE 1961 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CUBA
ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND REPLY DATED 22 JUNE 1961

A.

On the instructions of my Government, I have the honour to write to you to express the preoccupation of the Revolutionary Government of the Republic of Cuba at the attitude of the United Nations forces in the Republic of the Congo, capital Stanleyville.

According to direct reports received by my Government, these forces are taking it upon themselves to disarm soldiers of the legitimate Congolese Government, headed by Prime Minister Antoine Gizenga, while tolerating the repeated aggressions of the soldiers of Albert Kalongi, Moise Tshombe and Mobutu, who are killing United Nations soldiers without any action being taken against them by the command of the international forces.

The disarming of the forces of the legitimate Government of the Congo by United Nations troops constitutes a clear and unjustifiable violation of the Security Council's instructions. And the disarming of Congolese troops, combined with the extreme tolerance shown to the soldiers of the faction chiefs Mobutu, Tshombe and Kalongi entails, in the opinion of my Government an interference in the internal affairs of the Republic of the Congo which is contrary to the spirit and letter of the Security Council's instructions, to the United Nations Charter and to the rules and principles of international law.

I therefore request on behalf of my Government that the text of this communication be circulated to the Members of the United Nations.

I have the honour to be, etc.,

(Signed) Mario García Incháustegui
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

61-16539

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B.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge your letter of 21 June 1961 expressing the preoccupation of the Revolutionary Government of Cuba regarding the activities of the United Nations forces in the Congo.

I can state most categorically that the contention that the United Nations forces have disarmed soldiers of any of the Congolese authorities or have tolerated the killing of United Nations soldiers is completely without foundation. There may have been cases where by agreement with Congolese authorities the United Nations forces, in pursuance of their mandate to prevent civil war and to maintain law and order, have undertaken to disarm irregular military groups. However, this has never taken place in the area to which your letter specifically refers.

In instances where United Nations soldiers have unfortunately been killed, as was the case recently at Port Francqui, energetic measures were taken by the United Nations command without any partiality regarding any of the political regimes claiming authority in the Congo.

In this connexion I wish to draw to your attention a statement by Mr. Massena, representing the Stanleyville authorities and speaking on behalf of both the Stanleyville and Leopoldville authorities, as contained in S/4841, Annex II, para. 5, and which reads as follows:

"The two delegations pay a particular tribute to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and his representatives in the Congo for the attention and help they have continually given the various Congolese political factions with a view to enabling them to settle their differences by peaceful means."

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Dag Hammarskjold
Secretary-General

His Excellency,
Dr. Mario Garcia Inchaustegui,
Permanent Representative of Cuba,
etc.

