



UNITED NATIONS
SECURITY
COUNCIL



Distr.
GENERAL

S/4863
21 July 1961
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

MESSAGE DATED 19 JULY 1961 FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC
OF MALI ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL, AND REPLY DATED
20 JULY 1961

1. Letter dated 19 July 1961 from the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Mali addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting a message from the President of the Republic of Mali

I have the honour to transmit to you a cable from Mr. Modibo Keita, President of the Government of the Republic of Mali. I quote:

"Please transmit following message to Secretary-General United Nations.
I quote:

'In connexion announcement that Congolese Parliament will shortly convene under United Nations auspices, have honour inform you that Government of Republic of Mali feels both hope and apprehension in view of numerous errors and grave complicities committed by United Nations representatives since beginning of Congolese crisis. Therefore request you take all necessary steps to ensure that work of Parliament proceeds in legal manner and in accordance with democratic principles.

Government of Mali requests dispatch to Léopoldville of African commission capable of preventing intervention by elements which caused and have perpetuated Congolese crisis.

Draw your attention to fact that another United Nations failure in Congo would gravely compromise the fundamental mission of the Organization.

Have honour to be, etc.'

End of quotation."

I should accordingly be grateful if you would have this message circulated as an official United Nations document.

I have the honour to be, etc.

(Signed) A. MAIGA

(Stamp of the Permanent Mission
of the Republic of Mali to the
United Nations)

61-18495

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2. Letter dated 20 July 1961 from the Secretary-General addressed to the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Mali, transmitting a message addressed to the President of the Republic of Mali

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 19 July 1961, transmitting a message from His Excellency Mr. Modibo Keita, President of the Government of the Republic of Mali. I hereby enclose a message in reply and would be grateful if you would transmit it to the President.

The text of the two messages will be circulated to the Members of the Organization in a Security Council document (S/4863).

I have the honour to be, etc.

(Signed) Dag HAMMARSKJOLD

Message to the President of the Republic of Mali

The Members of the Congolese Parliament, convened into session by Ordinance of the Chief of State dated 5 July 1961, are now gathering at Lovanium University under security and safe conduct arrangements devised by the United Nations in close co-operation with the competent Congolese authorities from Leopoldville and Stanleyville.

In accordance with the Security Council resolution of 21 February 1961, and with the General Assembly resolution 1600 (XV) of 15 April 1961, the Secretary-General and his representatives in the Congo explored the possibility of an early meeting of Parliament in consultation with the various Congolese authorities (S/4841 and Adds. 1, 2, 3). Agreement on the modalities for the convening of Parliament was reached between representatives of the Leopoldville and Stanleyville authorities on 19 June 1961. On that occasion, Mr. Massena, representing the Stanleyville authorities, made a statement on behalf of both Congolese delegations in which he said, inter alia:

"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."

Under the Agreement of 19 June responsibilities are vested in the United Nations to ensure the security and freedom of action of the parliamentarians. The Secretary-General has accepted all these responsibilities. The United Nations Command, acting in continuous consultation with the Congolese authorities concerned, has completed security and other arrangements to that end. These include the rendering of assistance, such as transport facilities, to enable the parliamentarians to travel to and return from the meeting place of Parliament in full safety.

United Nations responsibilities of course do not, and cannot, extend to the proceedings of Parliament itself, which are entirely within the competence of that body. The United Nations will do everything in its power, however, to ensure that these proceedings remain free of outside interference.

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While taking note of the suggestion of the Mali Government in regard to sending an African commission to Leopoldville the Secretary-General wishes to draw attention to operative paragraph 6 of General Assembly resolution 1600 (XV). The Secretary-General is informed that the President of the General Assembly is still engaged in consultations with a view to designating the seven members of the Commission of Conciliation which would assist the Congolese leaders to achieve reconciliation and to end the political crisis.

I note that your message contains intimations of "numerous errors and grave complicities" said to have been committed by representatives of the Organization since the beginning of the Congolese crisis. Both in the General Assembly and in the Security Council I have repeatedly and categorically rejected these allegations as baseless, and I must reject them again when made at the present juncture.

The texts of your message and of this reply are being circulated to the Members of the Organization in a Security Council document (S/4863).

