

UNITED NATIONS
SECURITY
COUNCIL



Distr.
GENERAL

S/4917
4 August 1961

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

REPORT ON ACTION TAKEN BY THE UNITED NATIONS TO ASSIST
IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 19 JUNE AGREEMENT BETWEEN
THE LEOPOLDVILLE AND STANLEYVILLE AUTHORITIES

Report to the Secretary-General by the Officer-in-Charge of the
United Nations Operation in the Congo

1. In the report dated 20 June 1961 reference was made to the Agreement reached between representatives of Leopoldville and Stanleyville authorities on the modalities for the convening of Parliament (S/4841 Annex III).
2. Pursuant to this Agreement, and in accordance with the specific request of both parties concerned, the United Nations was asked to assume the following responsibilities: (a) assurance of absolute safety for all members of Parliament attending the session to be held at the campus of Lovanium University; (b) supervision to ensure that ANC forces and police did not circulate carrying arms in Leopoldville city and in its adjoining zones throughout the period of the parliamentary session; (c) ensuring that members of Parliament, administrative personnel of the Chambers and UN civilian personnel placed at the disposal of Parliament shall not have with them any weapons, money or other negotiable instruments of any kind, either when entering Lovanium or upon their departure; (d) ensuring the freedom of passage of members of Parliament through the Congo at the request in writing of the member concerned; (e) placing the necessary civilian personnel at the disposal of Parliament during the session; (f) inviting all the other political factions in the Congo to subscribe to the 19 June Agreement; (g) continuing to accord its good offices to the parties concerned in seeking a real and satisfactory solution to the Congolese crisis and to that end arranging all the necessary contacts between the Congolese political leaders.

The following actions were taken by the United Nations to ensure that the conditions stipulated in the 19 June Agreement were put into effect:

A. Protection of parliamentarians during the session

3. The perimeter of the zone in which Parliament was to meet and in which parliamentarians, employees of the two Chambers and United Nations military and civilian staff were to reside during the session was sealed off with barbed wire and electrified fences; entrance was possible only through a single gate. The whole perimeter of the security zone was guarded by United Nations troops in approximately battalion strength, consisting of Indian, Malayan, Tunisian and Swedish personnel; at night the entire perimeter was floodlit and especially trained dogs were used. Outside the perimeter and on roads leading to it, checkpoints were established to prevent the approach of any unauthorized persons. The responsibility for order and security inside the perimeter was assumed by United Nations field service personnel, who also searched the premises to ensure that they were safe and secure and that no clandestine radio transmitters or suspicious objects had been left there before the parliamentarians moved in.
4. Access to the area where Parliament met was controlled, first by United Nations military police at roadblocks established on all access routes, secondly, by United Nations military guards outside the gate, and thirdly, by United Nations field service personnel inside the gate. United Nations security guards were also at the disposal of the Presidents of the two Chambers, should they have found it necessary to call on their assistance to maintain order; however, no need for such intervention developed.
5. On 13 July, the students, professors and essential installations of the Lovanium University were evacuated with United Nations assistance from the campus and moved to temporary quarters in Leopoldville. This evacuation was carried out not only from the "maximum security zone" where Parliament was to meet and reside, but also from adjoining residential areas on the Lovanium plateau. On 14 July, United Nations administrative and housekeeping staff moved into the university campus and the area was sealed off by United Nations troops.
6. On 16 July, the first group of parliamentarians arrived from Stanleyville and moved into Lovanium. Thereafter the only persons who were permitted to move into and out of the security zone were: (a) a very limited number of senior United Nations military and civilian officials whose presence at Lovanium was required for administrative reasons or to fulfil the undertaking of the

United Nations to continue according its good offices to the parties concerned in seeking a real and satisfactory solution to the Congolese crisis; and (b) President Kasa-Vubu who, in the exercise of his constitutional functions, and at the specific request of the Presidents of both Chambers, held several consultations with parliamentarians, and by invitation addressed a joint session of both Houses of Parliament on 27 July and administered the constitutionally required oath to the members of the new Government on 2 August.

B. Security surveillance in Leopoldville

7. United Nations forces deployed in the Leopoldville area were ordered to prevent the movement of any Congolese armed forces in Leopoldville and to provide additional static guards at key points throughout the city. Special attention was given to security arrangements at Ndjili airport so as to ensure the protection of any parliamentarians arriving by aeroplane to attend the Lovanium session.

8. No occasion arose which would have compelled the United Nations to intervene in order to enforce the provision of the 19 June Agreement that armed ANC forces or police should not circulate through the city of Leopoldville or adjoining zones. The only armed personnel, other than United Nations troops, that appeared on the streets of Leopoldville were normal police and gendarmerie guards stationed at some of the key installations and residences of high officials. In order to lessen the possibility of alarm arising from vehicles carrying such sentries to and from their points of duty being mistaken for mobile patrols, representations were made with the Leopoldville authorities to restrict such guards to the absolute minimum consistent with public order and safety. The United Nations obtained full co-operation from the local authorities.

C. Prevention of introduction of unauthorized objects

9. United Nations Field Service personnel carried out the security checks required to ensure that no members of Parliament, administrative employees of the Chambers or UN staff members assigned for service at Lovanium carried with them any weapons, money or negotiable instrument when entering Lovanium or upon their departure. They also controlled and closely inspected all deliveries of food and other supplies,

laundry, etc., moving in and out of Lovanium during the session, and retained all mail and other communications from outside in safe custody until the end of the session.

D. Freedom of passage for parliamentarians

10. The United Nations provided transport on UN aircraft to all members of Parliament, or to substitutes claiming entitlement to replace a deceased or otherwise incapacitated member of Parliament, who had requested such assistance from the United Nations. It also provided, where requested to do so, the transport for the return journey of substitutes whose credentials had not been accepted by Parliament. The United Nations assured the protection of members or substitute members of Parliament on such trips.

11. Several groups of parliamentarians availed themselves of the United Nations assistance in providing transportation and ensuring protection for their journey to Lovanium. The largest group were sixty-nine parliamentarians who were flown from Stanleyville on 16 July. Other groups used UN transport to reach Lovanium from Kasai, Kivu and North Katanga.

12. While in most instances local authorities did not oppose the journeys which the parliamentarians wished to undertake, on two occasions the UN took direct action to ensure their freedom of movement. On 17 July, it transported to Stanleyville at their request the President of the Chamber of Deputies, Mr. Joseph Kasongo, and seven other parliamentarians who had been at their request under UN protection in Leopoldville since February. On 29 July, it transported to Lovanium Mr. Badjoko, a substitute, whose credentials had been approved by Parliament, from Stanleyville, where he had sought UN protection after having been arrested and detained by the local authorities. Transport was provided for him upon receipt by the United Nations of an official request from the President of the House of Representatives and a personal request from Mr. Badjoko.

E. Provision of UN staff

13. The UN undertook the responsibility for providing all the administrative, medical, technical, catering and housekeeping staff, as well as security guards, needed to operate the essential services at Lovanium during the session of

Parliament. All UN civilian personnel and administrative troops which were employed on this work resided in the sealed-off security zone throughout the session of Parliament, and had no contact with the outside world. They were subject to the same security checks regarding weapons, money or other negotiable instruments upon entry and exit from Lovanium, as the parliamentarians themselves.

F. Accession to 19 June Agreement by other political factions

14. The Agreement of 19 June was subscribed to by the Bakwanga authorities, and the "Legislative Assembly of South Kasai" decided on 11 July that parliamentarians from that area would attend the session at Lovanium. On the other hand, the Elisabethville authorities did not accede to the 19 June Agreement.

G. Good offices and arrangements of contacts between Congolese leaders

15. UN officials were available at all times for consultation by the Leopoldville, Stanleyville and other Congolese authorities in an effort to assist them in seeking any mutually satisfactory solution to the Congolese crisis. On the specific request of the Leopoldville and Stanleyville parties, two UN officials held themselves available for discussions after the opening of Parliament, and were on occasion invited by both parties jointly to attend such discussions.

16. Prior to the session the UN had arranged the contacts between various Congolese political leaders. Thus, it provided transport and protection for delegations sent by Mr. Gizenga and his colleagues to Leopoldville for discussions with President Kasa-Vubu and leaders of political parties concerning the formation of a new government. It also arranged the transport of several parliamentarians from Leopoldville and other cities to Stanleyville for consultations. UN officials were also ready to assist in facilitating contacts between officials of the Katanga authorities and other Congolese political leaders.

17. Point 10 of the Agreement of 19 June provided that the UN should take all necessary steps to ensure that Parliament may open on the date agreed upon by the two delegations. Although the date of 25 June was proposed by the two delegations when the Agreement was concluded, it soon became apparent that this date was too early if all the preliminary discussions and other preparatory work to ensure the success of the meeting were to be carried out. By Order No. 41 of 5 July 1961

(S/4841/Add.3) the President of the Republic, who under point 12 of the Agreement was to convene Parliament, convened the Chambers for 15 July and entrusted the Presidents of the two Chambers with agreeing upon the actual date of the first meeting.

18. Following the swearing-in of the new Government on 2 August, Parliament decided to leave Lovanium and UN protection, and to continue its meetings in Leopoldville city. Before doing so, the Chamber of Representatives adopted unanimously the resolution set out in Annex II of the Secretary-General's report (S/4913) concerning the meeting of the Parliament.

