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REPORT OF THE OFFICER-IN-CHARGE OF THE UNITED NATIONS OPERATION IN
THE CONGO RELATING TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PARAGRAPH A-2 OF THE
SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION OF 21 FEBRUARY 1961

Addendum covering developments during 18-19 September 1961

1. During the night of 17-18 September, Katanga gendarmerie in Elisabethville continued their mortar attacks on the UN headquarters and twice on the post office. On the morning of the 18th, the Katanga jet fighter bombed the UN headquarters building. A UN medical supply depot was captured by the gendarmerie and one Italian medical doctor and four of his men, all belonging to the Italian Red Cross, were taken prisoners. The road block established by UN troops on the road from Elisabethville to Jadotville was also attacked shortly before midnight and the attack repulsed.

Efforts to restore communications with Jadotville did not meet with success, although it was confirmed that the helicopter which had flown supplies to the Irish Company on the morning of the 16th was safe in the custody of that Company, as was its pilot. At Kamina, the Katanga jet fighter bombed the base again and fired on a UN DC-3 without damaging it. The base was otherwise reported quiet, except for sporadic bursts of fire.

2. In Albertville, the old airfield was under machine-gun and mortar fire; intermittent firing continued through the night of 17-18 September. Although the UN hospital there was at one stage surrounded by the gendarmerie, UN troops were able to break this encirclement, and the gendarmerie troops disappeared completely shortly afterwards. Firing from the gendarmerie was also directed on the UN post at the railway station; mortars and grenades were used. At about noon on the 18th, the District Commissioner asked the UN authorities for an immediate cease-fire. Late in the evening some 100 gendarmes had given up their arms and ammunition to the UN troops, while mobile groups had fled to the neighbouring villages on the outskirts of the city. No UN casualties were reported as a result of the day's shooting.

3. On the political plane a message addressed to "the representative of the UN in Leopoldville" was received in the morning of 18 September from President Tshombe through the British Embassy. In that message, Mr. Tshombe declared that before leaving Elisabethville he ordered a cease-fire which was immediately broken by a new attack by Indians and UN troops against Katanga gendarmes at Albertville airport. Fire had been opened with automatic weapons against the commander of the Katanga gendarmerie, whose jeep was completely destroyed. Two Katanga gendarmes had been arrested. He also stated that three mortar shells had been fired into the heart of Albertville and that the strategic points in the town had been immediately occupied by the UN. In Elisabethville, a Katanga lieutenant had been attacked on 17 September near the tunnel while he was alone and unarmed in a jeep. From Elisabethville UN reinforcements were said by Mr. Tshombe to have been sent to Jadotville where they were immediately repulsed by Katanga troops. He concluded by stating that in accordance with the last message of the Secretary-General, President Tshombe had been waiting since 17 September to meet Mr. Hammarskjold at Ndola or Kitwe to put a complete stop to this state of affairs.

It was not possible, however, in view of the circumstances surrounding the reported deaths of the Secretary-General and his party that day, to pursue UN efforts with a view to bringing about an immediate cease-fire with the provincial gendarmerie.

4. In the evening of the 18th, however, it was decided that Mr. Khiari, Chief of ONUC Civilian Operations, should proceed during the night to Ndola to continue the mission which had been undertaken by the Secretary-General. After having been delayed by weather conditions, Mr. Khiari, accompanied by a party of four UN staff members from the Leopoldville headquarters, left Ndjili early in the morning of the 19th.

5. Before Mr. Khiari took off for Ndola, the UN representative in Elisabethville was requested to inform Mr. Tshombe of the arrival of another UN representative at Ndola.

6. Although there was some firing in Elisabethville during the night of 18-19 September and some shots were fired from the ground at a UN plane which was departing from Kamina at dawn on the 19th, the situation during the day

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remained quiet. The situation was also quiet in Kamina, where no new attacks by the Air Katanga jet fighter took place. In Albertville the situation was also reported quiet.

7. Politically the day began with a message from President Tshombe to the UN representative in Elisabethville through the British Consul in Elisabethville and also the General Manager of the Union Minière there. In his message, Mr. Tshombe declared himself ready to proclaim a cease-fire on Radio Katanga but not on a UN radio as no one would listen and no one would believe it was he. The only necessary condition was that all UN troops in Elisabethville would be withdrawn into their camps and should no longer move around. As regards Mr. Khiari, the answer was no. Mr. Tshombe was quite willing to meet other personalities but not Mr. Khiari who, he said, was one of the people principally responsible for the painful events of Katanga. President Tshombe said that he dedicated this cease-fire to the memory and the regret of Mr. Hammarskjold, adding that he hoped very much that Mr. O'Brien would respect in his terms the memory of his Chief.

8. It was then learned that President Tshombe was at that time back in Katanga territory in the little border town of Kipushi.

9. Shortly before noon Mr. Khiari landed at Ndola. Official confirmation reached ONUC Headquarters in Leopoldville thereafter that Mr. Khiari had met with President Tshombe at Ndola at around 1500 hours and that discussions between them were going on. It was also learned that Mr. Tshombe was accompanied by his minister of finance, Mr. Kibwe and by his minister of foreign affairs, Mr. Kimba.

10. At 2355 hours on 19 September it was not yet known what the results of the afternoon's discussions were.

