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

A. Report on action by troops of the Government of the Republic
of the Congo in the Kasai-Katanga border area and on hostilities
involving gendarmerie units in the province of Katanga

1. This report concerns the action undertaken in the Kasai-Katanga border area by troops of the Government of the Republic of the Congo under the command of General Mobutu, and the hostilities which broke out when that action, described by the Government as a police operation, was resisted by gendarmerie units under the control of the Katanga provincial government.
2. The Central Government's operation was launched from bases in Kasai. ONUC headquarters knew of fairly large ANC troops movements, centring in the Luluabourg and Luputa areas, towards the end of September, but was not aware of the real intentions of the ANC command or of the precise dates when ANC units actually entered Katangese territory.
3. While United Nations observers were dispatched to the scene, they were unable to cross into Katangese territory or to establish at first hand the depth of ANC penetration into the province. Similarly, although there were unconfirmed reports of numerous aerial bombardments by Katanga-based aircraft, ONUC observers witnessed only two incursions into and bombings of Kasai by such aircraft. Reports on the hostilities were issued variously by the Government, General Mobutu and the Katanga provincial authorities.
4. Mercenaries may have been involved in this operation on the Katangese side, but none was actually seen by United Nations observers. It can be assumed with virtual certainty, however, that the Katanga-based aircraft were manned by non-Congolese personnel, since it is known that there are no Congolese pilots to fly such craft. It may be noted in this connexion that,

according to ONUC reports, 237 persons, chiefly mercenaries, covered by the provisions of paragraph A-2 of the Security Council resolution of 21 February 1961, remain in Katanga; 388 such persons have been evacuated, including 317 Belgians. The twelve military officers attached to the Belgian "Consulate" in Elisabethville have likewise booked passage to leave the Congo.

5. The United Nations Force Commander has transmitted the information on these matters which is set forth below.

(a) Ground force movements

(i) Forces under the command of General Mobutu

Between 21 September and 1 October, one battalion from Thysville and one from Leopoldville were air-lifted to Luluabourg, where they joined a third ANC battalion already stationed in the Kasai provincial capital. The latter battalion proceeded by road to Luiza, completing the move by 13 October. On 20 October, General Mobutu confirmed radio and press reports of a clash between the leading elements of this force and gendarmerie troops inside the Katanga border on the Kapanga road. On 31 October, ANC Headquarters reported this force to be 30 kilometres inside Katanga. On 6 November, however, General Mobutu stated that this unit had not in fact moved into Katanga and was still intact.

On 13 October, the two battalions from Thysville and Leopoldville commenced a move by rail from Luluabourg to Luputa near the Katanga border. ANC Headquarters reported the move complete by 15 October. Reports from Brigadier Goulson, United Nations Commander at Luluabourg, indicated that by 25 October some probing attacks by both sides had taken place and that some ANC casualties had been evacuated to Luluabourg. On 31 October, ANC Headquarters reported that its force was 60 kilometres inside Katanga along the road to Kaniama. However, it is said that air attacks allegedly accounting for the retreat of this force on 2 November, took place in the general area of Tshisamba, about 10 kilometres inside Katanga.

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(ii) Forces under the command of General Lundula

It was also reported that a detachment of picked soldiers from the Stanleyville area was to make up a new unit for a move on Katanga from the north. The first element, air-lifted by chartered Air Congo planes, landed in Kindu on 24 October. By 4 November, this force had grown to 54 officers and 1,887 other ranks. On the same date, it was confirmed by the United Nations Malayan unit at Kindu that the move by rail and road to Kasongo, near the Katanga border, had commenced. On 6 November, only 905 ANC troops remained in Kindu.

The troops at Kindu were not engaged in the recent military operations, which took place only along the Katanga-Kasai border. The continuing move towards the northeastern part of north Katanga could indicate, however, that operations inside Katanga are contemplated in this area. The strongest garrison of the Katanga gendarmerie there is at Kongolo.

(b) Katanga aerial activity

Several air attacks are reported to have taken place in the area of operations, and those which were actually witnessed by ONUC have been reported in paragraph 6 of the report of the officer-in-charge (S/4940/Add.12).

Other attacks by Katangese aircraft were reported by the ANC to have taken place on 22, 27, 28 and 31 October, but ONUC is unable to confirm them independently.

Again, on 2 November, the ANC commander at Luluabourg, Colonel Ndjoko, reported that a Katangese airplane which had come from the direction of Kaniama had dropped approximately 42 small bombs on an ANC column at Tshisamba, near the border but inside Katangese territory. This, too, is unconfirmed.

On 3 November, the United Nations Commander in Kasai province reported that he had visited Luputa by helicopter to verify the reports of aerial activity. He was unable to go further because the Government troops at Tshisamba had withdrawn into Kasai territory, leaving no Government troops on the Katanga side. He reported that information on the air attacks was confused; raids might have been carried out by two DC-3's and two lighter type aircraft which dropped some 40 small bombs. This attack is said to have been followed up by an air-drop of parachutists using two DC-4 aircraft. Many non-Congolese soldiers are said to have taken part in this move. One ANC company was reported dispersed with all contacts lost.

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B. Report concerning the events in Luluabourg

6. During the night of 1-2 November, ANC troops in Luluabourg undertook a house-to-house search for a clandestine radio transmitter rumoured to have been used for the benefit of the Katanga gendarmerie. About 300 non-Congolese nationals were reported to have been detained for questioning, but they were soon released. The ANC Commander in Luluabourg, Colonel Ndjoko, was known to have been opposed to this operation, but to have been forcibly prevented by his officers from halting it. Nevertheless, it began in an orderly manner; a Nigerian officer visited the central area, together with an ANC officer, and reported that there had been no untoward incidents by 0330 hours.
7. Later in the night some calls for assistance were received, whereupon ONUC officers and civil staff proceeded to the scene and offered protection to persons who feared molestation. At that time there had been no reports of serious mistreatment.
8. In the morning hours it became known, however, that a group of 30 to 40 ANC soldiers had become disorderly in one area. WHO reports indicate that 8 women were raped, and that one woman suffered a spine injury when she jumped from a window to escape attackers.
9. Thereupon, ONUC forces redoubled their efforts to afford all possible help and protection to the foreign population of the town. With the assistance of the ONUC Commander and civilian representative, Colonel Ndjoko succeeded in confining the ANC troops to camp and restoring calm. Joint guards were established at places where about 200 foreigners had sought refuge, and joint patrolling of the town was instituted.
10. During the night of 2-3 November, UN forces offered protection to a number of non-Congolese families as a precautionary measure, but the night passed without incident.
11. In view of an incipient exodus of persons of European origin, the provincial authorities imposed restrictions on the granting of exit visas, but these were cancelled after vigorous representations by UN officials. All persons who wished to leave were subsequently reported doing so without difficulty. Some Belgian women in responsible positions, particularly the social welfare officers, have nevertheless chosen to remain at their posts.

12. The danger of panic among foreign nationals was reported acute on 4 and 5 November, in anticipation of the arrival of a trainload of troops returning from the Katanga border area. Upon their arrival in Luluabourg on 5 November, 132 of their number, described as mutineers, were disarmed by the Nigerian troops. The United Nations Commander, Brigadier Goulson, acting on the request of Colonel Ndjoko, arranged for their immediate transport to Leopoldville by United Nations aircraft. Thirty-eight others, mostly NCO's, remained in Luluabourg until further orders.

13. Among the Congolese, fears have tended to mount dangerously in connexion with recurrent unconfirmed rumours of impending raids by aircraft of the Kantaga gendarmerie. Should such air raids occur, they would be countered by United Nations air action as indicated in the report of the Officer-in-charge (S/4940/Add.12, section (c)).

14. Further disturbances were reported during the evening of 9 November: some 180 ANC troops in Luluabourg threatened to use force to prevent being sent to Leopoldville, where they thought they would be punished for the recent events. The ANC commander explained to them, however, that only those found guilty of misconduct would be transported to Leopoldville, whereupon the trouble subsided. Exaggerated reports of this incident increased tension in town, and some of the non-Congolese population gathered in the Nigerian Brigade area for safety.

C. The situation in Stanleyville

15. Vice-Premier Gizenga was granted a one week's leave of absence by the Council of Ministers of the Republic to settle his domestic affairs, and left for Stanleyville on 4 October 1961. He has not returned. On 19 October, the Orientale Provincial Assembly adopted a vote of censure against President Manzikala, and elected in his place Losala Simon. Mr. Manzikala, who had been placed under house arrest, sought and was granted United Nations protection. On 30 October, members of the Jeunesse MNC were reported causing disturbances in the city; the United States consul was assaulted in his hotel. Law and order was restored on the personal intervention of General Lundula. On 31 October, Mr. Gbenye, the Minister of the Interior of the Central Government, arrived in Stanleyville for a three-day visit. On 11 November, General Lundula arrived in Leopoldville for conferences with members of the Central Government. On 13 November he pledged allegiance to the President of the Republic.

D. The situation in Albertville

16. In the northern part of Katanga, the predominant element in the population is the Balubas, who, in general, oppose Mr. Tshombe. Balubakat elements have been exerting a growing influence in a number of localities. One of the Vice-Premiers of the Central Government is Mr. Sendwe, who is the President of the Balubakat political party.

17. Problems of the maintenance of law and order in connexion with the activities of Baluba jeunesse groups and other uncontrolled elements have arisen in some places.

18. This problem has been particularly serious in Albertville and nearby towns, where disorderly groups, describing themselves as "jeunesse" but who in reality were intent on pillage, have roamed the area, molesting Congolese and non-Congolese alike. On 10 November, officials of certain Albertville enterprises requested UN protection for the evacuation to Usumbura of the wives and children of their staff. Protection was immediately accorded and boats left at 1400 and 2000 hours.

19. The ONUC representatives reported that the situation as of the evening of 10 November was tense but in hand. Local pro-Tshombe and pro-Sendwe (Conakat and Cartel) leaders alike were co-operating in calming the population, and members of the police force, as well as gendarmerie officers, announced their allegiance to the Central Government and their readiness to help maintain order.

20. In the meantime, Stanleyville ANC elements from Bukavu crossed the Katanga line, and occupied Bendera. One non-Congolese was wounded during this move; he was evacuated by United Nations aircraft. The ANC Commander, Captain Mika, expressed regret at this incident, and assured ONUC civilian and military representatives of his desire to co-operate in the maintenance of order in Albertville.

21. The first ANC contingent reached Albertville from Bendera on 13 November, but was dissuaded from entering the town by the ONUC representative and Mr. Mwamba Ilunga Prosper, a Balubakat leader. On the next day discussions were held with the ANC officers with a view to quartering the ANC in a former

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gendarmerie camp and keeping them out of the centre of Albertville. The ANC moved into the camp, but half an hour later armed soldiers appeared in town and began to loot homes, steal private vehicles and indiscriminately threaten and arrest civilians, both Congolese and non-Congolese. They also set up road-blocks at several points where they demanded money from persons wishing to pass.

22. ONUC officials organized additional evacuations of foreigners to Usumbura and accorded protection to those remaining in the city. ANC demands to take over the guarding of the docks were rejected. The ANC commander was told on 15 November of the grave consequences to which his troops' behaviour might give rise, bringing the Government of the Republic into disrepute in the eyes of the population. Captain Mika again firmly promised to maintain order, and eventually brought in four ANC soldiers bound as prisoners on charges connected with their behaviour in the town. The ANC Commander also agreed to withdraw all his troops to camp and to forbid them to enter Albertville with their arms. He further undertook to return all stolen vehicles to ONUC Headquarters for return to their owners.

23. United Nations representatives have received instructions to take effective measures for the maintenance of order in the event of a recurrence of the disturbances. Mr. Kalume Joseph, who had been installed as District Commissioner, has been granted United Nations protection.

E. Recent events in Kindu

24. On 11 November 1961 2 C-119 aircraft from Kamina carrying scout cars for the Malayan contingent arrived at Kindu. The arrival time of the aircraft and the nature of their cargo had been communicated in advance to the local ANC. The 13 Italian air crew members proceeded to the officers' mess, about 2 kilometres away, where there were only 2 Malayan officers and a few other ranks, the remaining Malayan troops being on duty at the airfield. Sixty ANC troops from Stanleyville, supported by an additional 200, thereupon surrounded the mess and looted it. The air crew members were taken prisoner, beaten and removed to Kindu prison. About 20 shots were fired, but there were no casualties. The ANC confiscated all weapons at the mess.

25. Shortly thereafter, ANC troops demanded that the two armoured cars should be surrendered to them. When this was refused, they surrounded the airfield itself, where the Malayan camp is situated. There were 206 Malaysians at the field, and 300 ANC troops, with about 664 more ANC nearby in Kindu. The ANC strength at the airfield had grown to 700 by 13 November. The water supply to the field was cut off.

26. The Commander of the Malayan battalion promptly entered into negotiations with the ANC Commander, Colonel Pakassa, with a view to securing release of the airmen, removal of the besieging ANC troops, and return of the confiscated weapons and mess properties, including money. A combined UN-ANC guard was placed at the aircraft and the scout cars. Colonel Pakassa was unable to solve the other problems, however, and professed to have little control over his troops. He sent telegrams to Mr. Gizenga and General Lundula asking them to come to Kindu.

27. From Leopoldville, General Lundula promptly sent a senior staff officer to Kindu. He was accompanied by the UN Chief of Military Operations, an ANC Liaison officer and a Malayan Liaison officer. The party flew by UN aircraft, arrived at Kindu at mid-day on 13 November, and began negotiations with the ANC Commander.

28. From Stanleyville, Mr. Gizenga is said to have left for Kindu by automobile on 11 November.

29. In the course of the negotiations with Colonel Pakassa, the special mission from Leopoldville was informed that the air crew were being held on suspicion of being spies on behalf of the Katanga provincial authorities, but they were safe and well looked after. The ANC Commander said, however, that he had no authority to release the men, and that he could not guarantee the safety of any UN official even if permitted to visit them. He refused to acknowledge the authority of Major Dawe, General Lundula's envoy, on the ground that he had come from Leopoldville and was therefore subject to suspicion. While Colonel Pakassa appeared amenable to the eventual withdrawal of the ANC guard from the UN aircraft and cars, he stated that no UN aircraft would be allowed to fly over Kindu.

30. On 14 November Colonel Pakassa informed UN officials that the thirteen Italian prisoners had escaped. On the same day General Lundula, the Minister of the Interior, Mr. Gbenye, and thirteen other officials flew to Kindu. They joined in conference at the airfield with Colonel Pakassa and the ONUC representatives.

31. At the conference, the UN presented the following demands: (a) Every effort was to be made to find and bring back the Italian crewmen who were alleged to have escaped; (b) UN aircraft, armoured cars and other property were to be returned; (c) all ANC troops in and near the airfield were to be withdrawn; and (d) all culprits responsible for the incident were to be severely punished.

32. General Lundula issued orders that all the UN demands should be met and that Colonel Pakassa should implement them after pacifying his troops. He and Mr. Gbenye directed that the culprits should be sent to Stanleyville for disciplinary action.

33. It was apparent that the ANC in Kindu were hostile to the Lundula-Gbenye group. Mr. Gizenga had arrived in Kindu but did not attend the conference at the airfield. Immediately after the conference, when an Air Congo DC-4 aircraft landed at the field, General Lundula and his party boarded it and flew to Stanleyville. The General promised, however, to return to Kindu on 15 November, which he did, with a party of five ANC officers.

34. At another conference with Colonel Pakassa in the presence of Brigadier Hamid, the UN Commander, and ONUC civilian representatives, the ANC Commander stated that no further information was available concerning the allegedly escaped Italian crew members. After vigorous protests by the UN officials, General Lundula repeated his previous day's orders and directed Colonel Pakassa to submit a detailed report on the entire incident. The General undertook to have the culprits flown to Stanleyville for punishment.

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35. After hours of waiting and a good deal of prodding, Colonel Pakassa produced a report in which he stated that no information was available on the "escape" of the 13 men. At the same time it was noted that ANC troops had in fact withdrawn from the airfield save for the normal complement of 25 men. They were, however, reported concentrating again near the former Malayan officers' mess 2 kilometres away. The 2 United Nations aircraft and the 2 armoured cars were returned to ONUC custody.

36. Later in the day, United Nations representatives who had just come to Kindu in connexion with the incident, secured the following information on the actual happenings from three reliable persons who were at the scene or nearby. According to these sources, the Italian crew members who were captured at the Malayan mess were brutally beaten, dragged to trucks and brought to Kindu prison, where they were immediately shot and then cut to pieces by the soldiers. Pieces of the bodies were distributed to the large crowd that had gathered to watch the massacre, and some parts of the bodies were also flung at non-Congolese who were present. Two mutilated bodies were dragged through the main street of Kindu and exhibited until 12 November. All the remains of the bodies were then thrown into the river.

37. Photographs of the massacre were taken by one local non-Congolese. Soldiers later forced entry into the residence of a WHO physician and threw part of a hand on his table amid insults.

38. The names of the victims are:

Officers:

Major Amedeo Parmeggiani
Captain Giorgio Gonelli
2nd Lieut. Onorio de Luca
2nd Lieut. Giulio Garbati
2nd Lieut. Francesco Remotti

Non-commissioned officers:

M/Sgt. Nazareno Quadrumani
M/Sgt. Silvestro Possenti
M/Sgt. Martano Marcacci
M/Sgt. Francesco Page
M/Sgt. Filippo di Gioranni
M/Sgt. Nicola Stigliani
M/Sgt. Armando Fabi
M/Sgt. Antonio Mamone

39. In immediate response to the first cabled word of the incident on 13 November, the Acting Secretary-General authorized the use of United Nations jet aircraft to lift the siege, even to the extent of strafing to disperse the besiegers, if the ONUC Command would consider this to be necessary and helpful. It was emphasized, however, that in this context the safety of the besieged personnel must be the primary consideration. Concern that United Nations aerial activity over Kindu might provoke the rebellious Congolese troops to further assault or even execute the prisoners who, it was hoped, were still alive, was a major deterrent to such action by the commanding ONUC officers.

40. When the actual events became known, the United Nations Officer-in-Charge in Leopoldville despatched a letter to the Central Government emphasizing the gravity of the crime, demanding the immediate arrest of the ANC Commander at Kindu and requesting the establishment of a joint investigating committee to arraign the remaining culprits. It was further demanded that all suspects should be tried and those found guilty severely punished.

41. In the letter the Government was further informed of the military measures, including sealing-off of the Kindu area and disarming of the ANC troops there, that would be taken by ONUC to ensure apprehension of all suspects and assist in the efficient discharge of the functions of the proposed joint committee. ONUC resources and strength would be used fully. The Acting Secretary-General has directed that these measures be carried out with the utmost vigour and expedition.

42. The Acting Secretary-General has conveyed to the Government of Italy his profound regrets and condolences.

