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LETTER DATED 16 OCTOBER 1961 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS ADDRESSED TO THE
PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

In connexion with recent events in the Congo, in Katanga in particular, I consider it necessary to draw your attention to the following.

It is generally recognized that the formation of a single Government by the Congolese Parliament in August this year opened the way to the speedy normalization of the situation in the Congo, to the consolidation of that country's political independence and the restoration of its territorial integrity. However, there are a number of signs to show that the colonialists, whose interests would not be suited by such a course of events, are once again doing their utmost to sabotage the clearly expressed will of the Congolese people. For example, the troops of the colonialists and their mercenaries have not yet in fact been cleared from Congolese territory - although it is almost fifteen months since the Security Council adopted its resolution on this subject. According to reliable information, the colonialists are continuing to pour arms into the territory of Katanga, including jet aircraft, which are being used not only against the Congolese people but also against the United Nations troops themselves.

The situation in Katanga, where bands of mercenaries formed and maintained by the colonialists are terrorizing the population, keeping real power in their own hands and impeding the reunification of the province with the remainder of the Congo, is still a matter of particular concern. These actions, which are preventing a solution of the Congolese problem, are still not being suppressed by the United Nations troops, although they have everything they need to do so and, now that a single Government has been formed and has confirmed the principle of the territorial integrity of the Congo, no longer have the slightest excuse for not taking action to ensure the strict execution of the Security Council and General Assembly resolutions on the Congo, including the Security Council's

resolution of 9 August 1960 (S/4426), which clearly calls for the use of all means to achieve the reunification of Katanga with the remaining territory of the Congo, and the Security Council's resolution of 20-21 February 1961 (S/4741), which urges the immediate evacuation from Congolese territory of all Belgian and other foreign military and para-military personnel, political advisers and mercenaries.

Instead, the United Nations Command recently concluded a so-called "cease-fire agreement" with the mercenary and separatist bands, thereby appearing to recognize the legality of their existence and their official status; and document S/4940 of 6 October 1961 ("Interim report on the implementation of the cease-fire agreement between the United Nations troops and those of the Katanga authorities") even states that the agreement became final upon its approval by United Nations Headquarters, although in fact, as is well known, none of the principal organs of the United Nations has considered this question.

Furthermore, it was recently reported in the Press that representatives of the United Nations Secretariat had promised the rebel ringleaders in Katanga not to support any plans of the Congolese Government aimed at the reunification of Katanga with the rest of the Congo. We do not know how accurate these reports are, but we consider it significant that nobody in the Secretariat has denied them. If they are true, then such statements by representatives of the United Nations Secretariat clearly exceed their authority and directly contradict the spirit and the letter of the Security Council's resolutions, which provide that the Government of the Congo is to be given every possible assistance in consolidating the political independence and territorial integrity of the country.

The only United Nations organ which is competent to decide questions connected with the presence of troops sent to the territory of the Congo in pursuance of its resolutions is the Security Council. Consequently, the attempt of the United Nations Command in the Congo to by-pass the Security Council and in effect to take action contrary to the Council's earlier resolutions on Katanga cannot be tolerated.

In drawing your attention to all these facts, the USSR Mission considers it timely to suggest that the members of the Security Council should be furnished with full information on the present situation in the Congo, in particular in

Katanga, on the actions of the United Nations Command and on the latter's future plans for the implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions. At the same time, it would like to draw attention also to the danger of the situation created by the continuing territorial division of the Congo, which if it is maintained, may again have serious consequences both for the interests of the Congolese people and for the cause of universal peace.

(Signed) V. ZORIN
Permanent Representative of the USSR
to the United Nations

