



Distr.  
GENERAL

A/4702  
28 February 1961  
ENGLISH  
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

Fifteenth session  
Agenda item 85

THE SITUATION IN THE REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Letter dated 15 February 1961 from the Minister for  
Foreign Affairs of Albania, addressed to the President  
of the General Assembly

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a copy of the Declaration of the Council of Ministers of the People's Republic of Albania in which the Albanian Government vigorously protests against the barbarous murder of the lawful Prime Minister of the Republic of the Congo, Patrice Lumumba, and his colleagues, by the Tshombe-Mobutu clique and the Belgian colonizers. I request that you will circulate this Declaration, as an official document, to all States Members of the United Nations.

(Signed) Behar SHYLLA  
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the  
People's Republic of Albania

## DECLARATION

The whole Albanian people and the Government of the People's Republic of Albania have learnt with profound indignation and sorrow of the barbarous murder of the lawful Prime Minister of the Republic of the Congo, Patrice Lumumba, and of his colleagues, the President of the Senate Joseph Okito and the Minister of Defence Maurice Mpolo, by the Tshombe-Mobutu mercenary clique and the Belgian colonialists. This unprecedented crime committed against the Congolese people's national leader and the dauntless standard-bearer of the African peoples' liberation from the savage colonial yoke was planned and perpetrated by the Belgian colonialists and their agents in direct complicity with the American imperialists and the other member Powers of NATO, and with the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Dag Hammarskjöld. The Secretary-General and his representatives in the Congo have tarnished and steeped in shame the name and flag of the United Nations, by becoming the accomplices of the imperialists in the plot to dismember and enslave the Republic of the Congo, a Member of the United Nations, and in the monstrous murder of the Head of the Congolese Government, Patrice Lumumba.

The Government of the People's Republic of Albania, which in the past, and particularly in its telegram dated 12 December 1960, gave the United Nations timely warning of the imperialists' dangerous plot against the Congolese people, registers the strongest protest against this international crime, which constitutes an intolerable defiance of all peace-loving peoples and an unscrupulous violation of the United Nations Charter. This crime is part and parcel of the colonialists' and imperialist aggressors' design against the national independence of the Congo and of the other independent countries of Africa.

Expressing its sympathy and active solidarity with the heroic, freedom-loving people of the Congo in these difficult moments, the Albanian Government denounces, before all States Members of the United Nations and before world opinion, the Belgian Government and the Secretary-General of the United Nations as the organizers of, and accomplices in, the murder of Patrice Lumumba. It demands that the United Nations take immediate steps for the arrest and sentencing of the authors of this crime, the imperialists' mercenaries Tshombe and Mobutu; for the disarming of their mercenary troops; for the withdrawal of Belgian and all foreign troops from the Congo; and for the restoration, on the territory of the Congo,

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of the power of the lawful Congolese Government headed by Antoine Gizenga. At the same time the Albanian Government considers that Dag Hammarskjöld, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, because of his direct and very heavy responsibility in recent tragic events in the Congo and in the murder of the statesman and hero of the Congolese people Patrice Lumumba, is no longer worthy of that important position; for that reason it will no longer have any relations with him, and requests his removal from the post which he at present occupies.

The Government of the People's Republic of Albania unreservedly supports the proposals of the Government of the Soviet Union as presented in the latter's draft resolution of 14 February 1961 submitted to the Security Council, and declares that, in collaboration with all other peaceful countries, it will lend every effort and support to the end that the Congolese people, under the leadership of its lawful Government headed by Antoine Gizenga, shall re-establish its full sovereignty within its country and recover from the grievous wounds inflicted by the colonialist and imperialist aggressors.

THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF  
THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA

Tirana, 15 February 1961

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