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PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

26

30 October 1962

Dear Dr. Bunche,

I thank you for your letter of 12 October 1962 regarding the inclusion of a 'Political' paragraph in my Operational Instruction to GOC Katanga Area, General Prem Chand.

As I mentioned in our discussions during your visit to LEOPOLDVILLE, the situation in KATANGA does not conform to what might be called an orthodox military problem. Political considerations inevitably limit to a degree the scope of military action in what otherwise would be a straightforward military problem. In order that my commanders appreciate the operational influence of the political factors, I consider their inclusion to be essential in my Operational Instruction.

The concern you expressed regarding the number of copies issued possibly arises from a misunderstanding. The Operational Instruction to Gen. Prem Chand was given a very restricted circulation and was only issued on a 'Personal For' basis to Operational Commanders not below the rank of Colonel who were directly concerned in the plans.

Yours sincerely,

Lt.General
Kebbede Guebre
Force Commander - ONUC

Dr. Ralph J. Bunche,
Under-Secretary
for Special Political Affairs,
UNITED NATIONS,
New York

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FILE NO.:

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

12 October 1962

My dear General,

This is further to my unnumbered to you of 5 October.

I am very glad to see that you have taken the step of issuing an Operation Instruction to Chand concerning his task in Katanga. It is vital that military commanders in the Congo receive precise instructions to enable them to carry out their tasks. However, as you know, I was a bit concerned about the first paragraph under the political heading. Since there are a number of copies of the Instruction, although it is classified "Top Secret", there is a risk that what has been stated under the heading "Political" might be misunderstood. I would, therefore, be happy if this paragraph could be omitted to avoid any misunderstanding, and instead you can state "as reported in ISUMs" or "no change to verbal briefing", or anything else of that kind. In view of the delicate nature of such questions, I would prefer if political situations are not assessed in writing for military papers.

I sincerely hope that you would not take this suggestion as criticism. I would like to assure you that all of us here greatly appreciate and laud the fact that you are meticulous in issuing appropriate instructions to your subordinates. I did, however, feel that I should write to you about this on a purely personal basis.

Yours sincerely,

Ralph Bunche

Ralph J. Bunche
Under-Secretary
for Special Political Affairs

Lt.General Kebbede Guebre
Force Commander
ONUC Headquarters
Leopoldville