

Katanga - legal measures against secession 1962

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BOX 6

FILE 17

ACC. 75/7

United Nations Archives:

RU- 15	A/ 706	RR- 75/7
Box	Drawer	File 6
Subject	KATANGA - LEGAL	
Period	July-Sept 1962 MEASURES AGAINST	
Official	BUNCL SECESSION	
Box 6	file 3	

RTB.

Dr. Bunch

10 Sept 1962

RJBunche

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ONUC
LEOPOLDVILLE

6476 GARDINER FROM BUNCHE. FOLLOWING AIDE MEMOIRE, DATED
TENTH, RECEIVED FROM ITALIAN MISSION: QUOTE (Cable Office: Please repeat
attached) UNQUOTE.

Ralph J. Bunche
Under-Secretary

AIDE - MEMOIRE

The Secretary General's appeal to the powers concerned of July 31, 1962 has been immediately conveyed to Rome where it was carefully studied by the Government.

On August 27th, the following note of an informal character but reflecting the views of the Italian Government was distributed to the press :

" The United Nations Secretary General has just conveyed to the Congolese Central Government and to the Katanga Province authorities a plan for national reconciliation. The plan suggests the acceptance of a federal Constitution safeguarding the country's national unity while at the same time meeting the aspirations to autonomy expressed by individual provinces. U Thant's proposals aim at bringing back to Congo harmony and peace by eliminating reasons of friction which so far have prevented the country from starting towards an orderly and peaceful development.

As far as Italy is concerned, the peace action developed by the United Nations in the Congo was always supported since the very beginning when, with our presence in the Security Council we directly concurred to evolve the policies adopted in this respect by the United Nations. We also supported the unity of the Congo while realizing that there were in the country certain understandable aspirations towards local autonomies.

It is therefore confirmed by Italian political circles support for the initiative undertaken by the Secretary General of the United Nations in so far as the

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latter is aiming at conciliating differences emerged after the declaration of independence, hoping that such an initiative would meet with the approval of all leaders responsible for the future of the Congolese nation".

The above mentioned note therefore endorsed on behalf of the Italian Government the plan introduced by the Secretary General of the United Nations for a solution of the Congo problem.

Moreover, on August 29th the Italian Government decided to join various other Governments in undertaking a step with a view to let Mr. Tshombé know that Italy fully agrees with the provisions of the United Nations 'plan for the Congo. Accordingly, the Italian Government informed Mr. Tshombé of its attitude.

New York, September 10th, 1962

10/1

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10 September 1962

Dr. Bunche:

This was handed to the SG by Amb. Zoppi
this morning.

bp

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New York, September 10th, 1962

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

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*orig. communication
on USSR file*

FILE NO.:

PO 230 CONGO

The enclosed translation of a communication dated 7 September 1962
..... is transmitted to the Permanent Missions of the States Members of the
United Nations at the request of the Permanent Mission of the Union of
Soviet Socialist Republics to the United Nations.

10 September 1962

BK

Translated from Russian

DELEGATION OF THE
UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

No. 516

7 September 1962

Sir,

I should be grateful if you would circulate as an official United Nations document the reply of the Government of the USSR on the Congo question, which I delivered to you on 5 September 1962.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(Signed) P. MOROZOV
Deputy Permanent Representative of
the USSR to the United Nations

U Thant,
Acting Secretary-General,
United Nations,
New York

Translated from Russian

PERMANENT MISSION OF THE
UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

No. 513

5 September 1962

Sir,

I have the honour to transmit the following reply of the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the appeal you addressed to States Members of the United Nations concerning the question of the Congo:

"The Soviet Government considers it necessary to make the following comments regarding your appeal to the Government of States Members of the United Nations concerning the question of the Congo.

"The Soviet Government shares your concern over the dangerous situation which has arisen in the Congo and considers that your appeal reflects a desire to find a way of solving the Congo problem.

"It is no secret that those primarily responsible for the Congo tragedy are the Governments of the United States, the United Kingdom, France and Belgium, which are protecting the interests of the international monopolies holding sway in the Republic of the Congo and neighbouring countries. Ever since the Republic of the Congo came into existence, the Governments of these countries have pursued a policy of blatant interference in the domestic affairs of the young State and, far from coming to an end this interference is continually increasing. This alone can explain why, for two years, no effect has been given to the Security Council resolution providing for United Nations assistance to the Republic of the Congo in maintaining its national independence and territorial integrity, or to any other resolutions which the United Nations had adopted on the subject of the Congo.

"Instead of taking decisive steps to ensure the application of the resolutions of the Security Council and General Assembly of the United Nations, the United Nations Military Command in the Congo has, to all intents and purposes, been acting in the interest of the colonialists.

"Irrefutable evidence of this is provided by the fact that the United Nations Command in the Congo, after twice embarking upon military operations in Katanga - at the instance of peace-loving countries

friendly to the Congolese people - with a view to expelling foreign mercenaries and safeguarding the territorial integrity of the Republic of the Congo, discontinued their operations under pressure from the Western Powers and concluded an amicable settlement in the form of a truce with Tshombe. What is more, the United Nations Command has persisted in preventing units of the Congolese National Army from entering Katanga and particularly from entering those areas where the imperialist monopolies are lording it most freely, and has virtually rendered the Congolese Government powerless to act.

"Mr. Adoula, the Prime Minister of the Republic of the Congo, had every justification for the statement he made on 24 April 1962 that the Western countries were guilty of double dealing in the matter of Katanga. 'It is scandalous', he said, 'that some of these countries, while loudly proclaiming their support of the Central Government, are replenishing Tshombe's arsenal behind its back. This double dealing must be stopped.'

"It recently became known that the Western Powers are plotting a new conspiracy against the Republic of the Congo. As was reported in the Press, discussions were recently held between the Governments of the United States, the United Kingdom, France and Belgium on a so-called plan of action in the Congo. The participants in these discussions are pursuing their previous aims of obstructing the unification of the Republic of the Congo and the restoration of its territorial integrity, of strengthening the position of Tshombe, who is the tool of the international monopolies, and weakening the position of the Central Government of the Congo.

"There has thus arisen a completely intolerable situation, incompatible with the rules of international law and with the purposes of the United Nations, in that the Western Powers are imposing their will on an independent and sovereign State - the Republic of the Congo - and are dictating terms favourable to the colonialists. No country or group of countries has the right to preside over the destinies of another sovereign State. The Congo problem can and must be solved exclusively by the Congolese people and the Government of the Republic of the Congo.

"For this purpose, interference by the Western Powers in the domestic affairs of the Congo must be brought to an end and effective action must be

taken to support the measures worked out by the Government of the Republic of the Congo with a view to severing direct communications between the Katanga separatists and the outside world. All States Members of the United Nations should, for their part, break off all relations with the Katanga separatists and refrain from furnishing them with assistance of any kind. The Security Council and the General Assembly of the United Nations should bring pressure to bear on States Members which disregard the efforts of the Government of the Republic of the Congo to maintain the unity and territorial integrity of the country, and should even go so far as to take the sanctions provided for in the United Nations Charter.

"The prompt restoration of the territorial integrity and unity of the Republic of the Congo, and thus the fulfilment by the United Nations of its task in that country, could be achieved, first and foremost, by means of the full and immediate implementation of the resolutions of the Security Council and the General Assembly, which provide, in particular, for the immediate apprehension, detention and deportation of all foreign military and para-military personnel and all political advisers and mercenaries in the service of the Tshombe regime in Katanga.

"The United Nations could help the Government of the Republic of the Congo to establish effective control over the activities of foreign monopolies in order to deprive them of any opportunity of supporting the Katanga separatists, and compel them to pay taxes and discharge all their obligations to the Government of the Republic of the Congo.

"The Soviet Government considers that the aforementioned measures should be carried out as soon as possible, and within one month at the latest, after which United Nations troops should be withdrawn from the Republic of the Congo."

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(Signed) P. MOROZOV
Deputy Permanent Representative of
the USSR to the United Nations

UNITED NATIONS

Press Services
Office of Public Information
United Nations, N.Y.

(For use of information media -- not an official record)

Press Release CO/227

7 September 1962

TEXT OF IDENTICAL LETTERS TO PRIME MINISTER ADOULA AND MOISE TSHOMBE

Robert K.A. Gardiner, Officer-in-Charge of the United Nations Operation in the Congo, sent identical letters today to Prime Minister Cyrille Adoula and Moise Tshombe.

Following is the text of the letters (translation from French):

I am directed by the Acting Secretary-General to express to you his satisfaction that the Plan submitted by the Officer-in-Charge of the United Nations Operation in the Congo to the Government of the Republic of the Congo and to the authorities of Katanga Province on 20 and 24 August, respectively, has been accepted by both parties.

The Acting Secretary-General is sure that, on the basis of this agreement, you will now wish to proceed without delay to the implementation of all of the provisions of the Plan, and he invites your cooperation to this end. On his part, he wishes me to assure you that you may count on his full support and assistance in giving effect to the Plan. It need not be said that now, as always, I am at your disposition in seeking a sane and peaceful reconciliation of the differences that have led to so much strife and suffering in the Congo.

I am also to inform you that the Acting Secretary-General will exert every effort to ensure that all provisions of the Plan will be carried out faithfully and fairly. Measures taken in the implementation of the Plan should adhere strictly to its provisions.

The Acting Secretary-General has further requested me to advise you that within a day or two a second communication will be sent to you, which will set forth a detailed program for the immediate implementation of the Plan.

An identical letter has been sent to Provincial President Tshombe (Prime Minister Adoula).....

* *** *

Leopoldville, 1 August 1962

Sir,

The Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs of the Republic of the Congo has the honour to submit to you the statement reproduced below, and requests you to be so good as to publish it in the next announcement by the General Secretariat of the International Telecommunications Union:

" The Provincial Telecommunications Office of Katanga has established new, direct telephone, telegraph and telex connections with abroad, although it is not in the position of an administration within the meaning of the Convention.

Moreover, this Office has in no way been authorized by the Government of the Republic of the Congo to establish these direct connections. Consequently, their use must be regarded as illegal.

The Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs of the Republic of the Congo - for domestic reasons - has decided, on the basis of Article 32 of the Convention on the International Telecommunications Union, to suspend all direct international telephone, telegraph and telex services between Katanga and abroad, including connections hitherto authorized by the national administration.

International telephone, telegraph and telex communications to Katanga must be routed through the central Leopoldville station.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest esteem.

Signed Cyrille Adoula
Prime Minister

The Secretary-General
International Telecommunications Union,
Geneva.

UNITED NATIONS

Press Services
Office of Public Information
United Nations, N.Y.

(For use of information media -- not an official record)

Press Release SG/1279
1 August 1962

ACTING SECRETARY-GENERAL APPEALS TO ALL MEMBER STATES
FOR CONTINUED ASSISTANCE TO PEACE EFFORTS IN THE CONGO

Following is the text of an appeal, dated 31 July 1962, by Acting Secretary-General U Thant, sent to all member states of the United Nations:

The situation in the Congo has been, and is now perhaps more than ever, a very serious problem for the United Nations. It is true, of course, that much constructive work has been done in the Congo since the disastrous state in which that country found itself in July 1960. Nevertheless, after more than two years of intensive effort to assist the Government of the Congo, the stability and territorial integrity of the country remain far from established, and the purpose of the United Nations in it, therefore, far from realized. This situation is particularly crucial in view of the lives, effort and money already expended and currently being expended by the United Nations and the financial crisis into which this unprecedented drain on its resources has brought the Organization.

Although there are many contributory causes to this state of affairs, there can be no doubt that the main cause is the continuing attempt at secession by the province of Katanga. Until a satisfactory and constructive solution to this issue is found, it will be very difficult for the Congolese Government to face successfully its responsibilities and problems, or for the United Nations to assist it very effectively. I assure you that no one can be more desirous than I am to see this solution brought about by peaceful means through processes of conciliation and consultation, and the United Nations continues to employ its very best endeavors to this end. Unfortunately, these endeavors so far have not produced fruitful results, and the situation becomes more and more distressing.

I therefore feel impelled to appeal to all member states to use all the influence and exert all the effort which they can bring to bear to achieve a reasonable and peaceful settlement in the Congo. I do not claim that the blame for the abortive talks in the Congo is altogether on one side. But I do assert that secession of any province is no solution for the Congo's ills, that it would serve no interests other than, possibly, those of the mining companies and certain neighbors, and has neither

(more)

historical nor ethnic justification. I strongly believe that only a unified Congo can give hope for peace and prosperity in Central Africa. In this connection I note with satisfaction the latest proposals of Mr. Adoula for the drafting of a federal-type constitution with the assistance of international experts.

The situation in the Congo has been aggravated and confused by an intensive and skillfully waged propaganda campaign on behalf of Katanga which has never failed to portray the situation in a false light. This campaign, having both money and ability behind it, makes it all the more important to see and portray the Congo-Katanga problem in its true perspective.

The United Nations is very much concerned with the cultivation of useful economic activity everywhere. Indeed, much of its effort in the Congo has been devoted to the protection of the personnel and property of the enterprises which are vital to the Congo's economy. But the situation becomes immensely complicated when one of these great enterprises is found involved, whether intentionally or unintentionally, in disruptive political activities which can be carried on only because of the very large sums of money available. This is a highly undesirable activity, both for the good of the Congo and of the enterprises themselves. Moreover, the overriding importance, both for Africa and for the world community, of the stability of the Congo and the conciliation of the conflicting parties in that country cannot be compared with the short-term and short-sighted interests and ambitions, both economic and political, of a relatively very small group of people. Moreover I have no doubt that, in the long run, the best safeguard for the interests of all concerned, including those I have just mentioned, is the successful establishment of stability and peace in a united Congo.

I appeal, therefore, to all member governments to use their influence to persuade the principal parties concerned in the Congo that a peaceful solution is in their own long-term interest, as well as in the interest of the Congolese people. If such persuasion should finally prove ineffective, I would ask them to consider seriously what further measures may be taken. In this context, I have in mind economic pressure upon the Katangese authorities of a kind that will bring home to them the realities of their situation and the fact that Katanga is not a sovereign state and is not recognized by any government in the world as such. In the last resort, and if all other efforts fail, this could justifiably go to the extent of barring all trade and financial relations. I also appeal to all governments to do

(more)

everything in their power to ensure that bad advice, false encouragement, and every form of military and non-military assistance be withheld from the authorities of the province of Katanga. Such efforts should include all possible attempts to control the entry into Katanga of adventurers who sell their services to the Katangese provincial authorities and whose reckless and irresponsible activities have contributed much to the worsening of the situation.

In making this appeal I wish to make it clear that the United Nations in the Congo, as in the rest of the world, is particularly anxious to preserve and strengthen the economic life of the country. This applies as much to Katanga as to the rest of the Congo. I need hardly add that this appeal is in strict conformity with the resolutions adopted by the Security Council and the General Assembly.

* *** *

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

NEW YORK

CABLE ADDRESS : UNATIONS NEWYORK : ADRESSE TELEGRAPHIQUE

FILE NO.:

PO 230 CONGO

The Acting Secretary-General of the United Nations presents his compliments to the Permanent Representative of to the United Nations and has the honour to convey to him, for transmission to his Government, the attached appeal by the Acting Secretary-General.

The Acting Secretary-General wishes to draw the Permanent Representative's particular attention to his appeal for concrete steps which Governments may usefully take at the present juncture to help towards a peaceful solution of the problem of secession in the Congo and thus to assist in fulfilling the United Nations mandate as laid down by the Security Council and the General Assembly.

31 July 1962

BR

APPEAL BY THE ACTING SECRETARY-GENERAL

The situation in the Congo has been, and is now perhaps more than ever, a very serious problem for the United Nations. It is true, of course, that much constructive work has been done in the Congo since the disastrous state in which that country found itself in July 1960. Nevertheless, after more than two years of intensive effort to assist the Government of the Congo, the stability and territorial integrity of the country remain far from established, and the purpose of the United Nations in it, therefore, far from realized. This situation is particularly crucial in view of the lives, effort and money already expended and currently being expended by the United Nations and the financial crisis into which this unprecedented drain on its resources has brought the Organization.

Although there are many contributory causes to this state of affairs, there can be no doubt that the main cause is the continuing attempt at secession by the province of Katanga. Until a satisfactory and constructive solution to this issue is found, it will be very difficult for the Congolese Government to face successfully its responsibilities and problems, or for the United Nations to assist it very effectively. I assure you that no one can be more desirous than I am to see this solution brought about by peaceful means through processes of conciliation and consultation, and the United Nations continues to employ its very best endeavours to this end. Unfortunately, these endeavours so far have not produced fruitful results, and the situation becomes more and more distressing.

I therefore feel impelled to appeal to all Member States to use all the influence and exert all the effort which they can bring to bear to achieve a reasonable and peaceful settlement in the Congo. I do not claim that the blame for the abortive talks in the Congo is altogether on one side. But I do assert that secession of any province is no solution for the Congo's ills, that it would serve no interests other than, possibly, those of the mining companies and certain neighbours, and has neither historical nor ethnic justification. I strongly believe that only a unified Congo can

give hope for peace and prosperity in Central Africa. In this connexion I note with satisfaction the latest proposals of Mr. Adoula for the drafting of a federal type constitution with the assistance of international experts.

The situation in the Congo has been aggravated and confused by an intensive and skilfully waged propaganda campaign on behalf of Katanga which has never failed to portray the situation in a false light. This campaign, having both money and ability behind it, makes it all the more important to see and portray the Congo-Katanga problem in its true perspective.

The United Nations is very much concerned with the cultivation of useful economic activity everywhere. Indeed, much of its effort in the Congo has been devoted to the protection of the personnel and property of the enterprises which are vital to the Congo's economy. But the situation becomes immensely complicated when one of these great enterprises is found involved, whether intentionally or unintentionally, in disruptive political activities which can be carried on only because of the very large sums of money available. This is a highly undesirable activity, both for the good of the Congo and of the enterprises themselves. Moreover, the overriding importance, both for Africa and for the world community, of the stability of the Congo and the conciliation of the conflicting parties in that country cannot be compared with the short-term and short-sighted interests and ambitions, both economic and political, of a relatively very small group of people. Moreover I have no doubt that, in the long-run, the best safeguard for the interests of all concerned, including those I have just mentioned, is the successful establishment of stability and peace in a united Congo.

I appeal, therefore, to all member Governments to use their influence to persuade the principal parties concerned in the Congo that a peaceful solution is in their own long-term interest, as well as in the interest of the Congolese people. If such persuasion should finally prove ineffective, I would ask them to consider seriously what further measures may be taken. In this context, I have in mind economic pressure upon the Katangese authorities of a kind that will bring home to them the realities of their situation and the fact that Katanga is not a sovereign State and is not recognized by any Government in the world as such. In the last resort, and if all other efforts fail, this could justifiably go to the extent of barring all trade and financial relations. I also appeal

to all Governments to do everything in their power to ensure that bad advice, false encouragement, and every form of military and non-military assistance be withheld from the authorities of the Province of Katanga. Such efforts should include all possible attempts to control the entry into Katanga of adventurers who sell their services to the Katangese Provincial authorities and whose reckless and irresponsible activities have contributed much to the worsening of the situation.

In making this appeal I wish to make it clear that the United Nations in the Congo, as in the rest of the world, is particularly anxious to preserve and strengthen the economic life of the country. This applies as much to Katanga as to the rest of the Congo. I need hardly add that this appeal is in strict conformity with the resolutions adopted by the Security Council and the General Assembly.

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PO 230 CONGO

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31 July 1962

55 35 to Leo

ACTING

APPEAL BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ~~ECONOMIC~~
~~PROCESSES OF CONCILIATION~~

The situation in the Congo has been, and is now perhaps more than ever, a very serious problem for the United Nations. It is true, of course, that much constructive work has been done in the Congo since the disastrous state in which that country found itself in July 1960. Nevertheless, after more than two years of intensive effort to assist the Government of the Congo, the stability and territorial integrity of the country remain far from established, and the purposes of the United Nations in it, therefore, far from realized. This situation is particularly crucial in view of the lives, effort and money already expended and currently being expended by the United Nations and the financial crisis into which this unprecedented drain on its resources has brought the Organization.

Although there are many contributory causes to this state of affairs, there can be no doubt that the main cause is the continuing attempt at secession by the province of Katanga. Until a satisfactory and constructive solution to this issue is found, it will be very difficult for the Congolese Government to face successfully its responsibilities and problems, or for the United Nations to assist it very effectively. I assure you that no one can be more desirous than I am to see this solution brought about by peaceful means through processes of conciliation and consultation, and the United Nations continues to employ its very best endeavours to this end. Unfortunately, these endeavours so far have not produced fruitful results, and the situation becomes more and more distressing.

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I therefore feel impelled to appeal to all member States to use all the influence and exert all the effort which they can bring to bear to achieve a reasonable and peaceful settlement in the Congo. I do not claim that the blame for the abortive talks in the Congo is altogether on one side. But I do assert that secession of any province is no solution for the Congo's ills, that it would serve no interests other than, possibly, those of the mining companies and certain neighbors, and has neither historical nor ethnic justification. I strongly believe that only a unified Congo can give hope for peace and prosperity in Central Africa. X

X The situation in the Congo has been aggravated and confused by an intensive and skillfully waged propaganda campaign on behalf of Katanga ~~and~~ which has never failed to portray the situation in a false light. This campaign, having both money and ability behind it, makes it all the more important to see and portray the Congo-Katanga problem in its true perspective.

X The United Nations is very much concerned with the cultivation of useful economic activity everywhere. Indeed, much of its effort in the Congo has been devoted to the protection of the personnel and property of the ~~enterprises~~ enterprises which are vital to the Congo's economy. But the situation becomes immensely complicated when one of these great enterprises is found involved, whether intentionally or unintentionally, in disruptive political activities which ^{can be carried on} ~~they are able to carry on~~ only because of the very large sums of money available ~~to them~~. This is a highly undesirable activity, both for the good of the Congo and of the enterprises themselves. Moreover, the overriding importance, both for Africa and for the world

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I therefore feel impelled to appeal to all member States to use all the influence and exert all the effort which they can bring to bear to achieve a reasonable and peaceful settlement in the Congo. I do not claim that the blame for the abortive talks in the Congo is altogether on one side. But I do assert that cessation of any provision in no position for the Congo's life, that it would serve no interests other than, possibly, those of the mining companies and certain neighbors, and has nothing

historical nor ethical basis. *In the American I was with*

*Subsistence the latest
of Mr. Adenau
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a federal-type constitution
with the assistance of international
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community, of the stability of the Congo and the conciliation of the conflicting parties in that country cannot be compared with the short-term and short-sighted interests and ambitions, both economic and political, of a relatively very small group of people. Moreover I have no doubt that, in the long-run, the best safeguard for the interests of all concerned, including those I have just mentioned, is the successful establishment of stability and peace in the Congo, by conciliation of the differences between the parties.

I appeal, therefore, to all member Governments to use their influence to persuade the principal parties concerned in the Congo that ~~such~~ a peaceful solution is in their own long-term interest, as well as in the interest of the Congolese people. If, ~~as now appears likely~~, such persuasion ~~can only~~ ^{should finally} ~~be~~ ^{prove} ineffective, I would ask them to consider seriously what further measures may be taken. In this context, I have in mind economic pressure upon the Katangese authorities of a kind that will bring home to them the realities of their situation and the fact that Katanga is not a sovereign state and is not recognized by any Government in the world as such. ^{in the last resort, and if all other efforts fail,} This could justifiably go to the extent of barring all trade and financial relations. I also appeal to all Governments to do everything in their power to ensure that bad advice, false encouragement, and every form of military and non-military assistance ~~be~~ withheld from the authorities of the Province of Katanga.

In making this appeal I wish to make it clear that the United Nations in the Congo, as in the rest of the world, is particularly anxious to preserve and strengthen the economic life of the country. This applies as much to Katanga as to the rest of the Congo. I need hardly add that this appeal is in strict conformity with the resolutions adopted by the Security Council and the General Assembly.

stability and peace in the Congo, by conciliating the conflicting parties in that country cannot be compared with the short-term community, of the stability of the Congo and the conciliation of the and short-sighted interests and ambitions, both economic and political, of a relatively very small group of people. Moreover I have no doubt that in the long-run, the best safeguard for the interests of all concerned, including those I have just mentioned, is the successful establishment of

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~~strations~~ and to the gendarmerie, and whose reckless and irresponsible activities have contributed much to the worsening of the situation.

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Since our last meeting, there has been a new and very encouraging development. I refer to Prime Minister Adoula's communiqué and the progress made by the governmental commission in drafting a new Constitution and the request made to the United Nations by his Government for a team of legal experts to review and polish the draft Constitution, which it is Mr. Adoula's intention to submit to the Congolese Parliament in September.

We are granting Mr. Adoula's request and hope to be able to have the names of three or four legal experts, who have particular knowledge of federal systems, within a day or two. We have not seen the draft Constitution yet and therefore cannot comment on it, but the implications from the Prime Minister's communiqué are that its direction is sound and reasonable.

I would hope that some concrete evidences of a similar earnestness would now come from the Katanga authorities. I may also inform you that it is my intention to submit a written report to the Security Council about the middle of August. The report, I think, will not require in itself a meeting of the Council, and, as you know, I am not inclined to press for one at this time.

UNITED NATIONS

Press Services
Office of Public Information
United Nations, N.Y.

(For use of information media -- not an official record)

Press Release SG/1278
CO/219

30 July 1962

LETTER DATED 28 JULY TO ACTING SECRETARY-GENERAL U THANT
FROM JUSTIN M. BOMBOKO, FOREIGN MINISTER, CONGO (LEOPOLDVILLE) *

(Unofficial translation from French)

It would be very useful if you were to send us, within the framework of the assistance the United Nations gives to the Republic of the Congo, a team of lawyers specialized in public law, and in particular, in constitutions of the federal type.

Three or four African lawyers coming from countries that have chosen the federal type of structure, and are experienced in African problems would, of course, help the whole team in its work.

We already have the first draft of a constitution which could serve as a basis for discussion. This draft provides for the establishment of autonomous states united by legal ties of a federal character. It provides also for common institutions which will be responsible for certain matters such as currency, army and diplomatic representation.

We will also request that this constitution include a chapter providing for the representation of all the member states on an equal footing in one of the Houses of Parliament. The other House will reflect the comparative strength of the political parties.

Since it is urgent that this work be finished as soon as possible, the Congolese Government having promised to submit the new constitution to the Parliament when it reconvenes, we would appreciate it if you could send these lawyers to the Congo without delay.

Please accept the assurance of my highest consideration.

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* Transmitted to the Secretary-General by Robert Gardiner, Officer-in-Charge of the UN Operation in the Congo.

30 July 1962

Dear Sir Patrick,

I enclose my letter of today's date to Lord Home and would be grateful if you could transmit it to the Secretary. A copy of the letter is also enclosed for your files.

Yours sincerely,

U Thant
Acting Secretary-General

His Excellency
Sir Patrick Dean, K.C.M.G.
Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom
to the United Nations
99 Park Avenue, 7th floor
New York 16, N.Y.

30 July 1962

Sir,

see UK Folder
I have the honour to acknowledge your message pursuant to our conversations in London, which was conveyed to me by your Ambassador in Dublin in his letter of 13 July 1962. I thank you for your further thoughts, which I immediately transmitted to my representative in Leopoldville, Mr. Robert Gardiner.

I have noted particularly your suggestion that Nigerian assistance might be helpful in drawing up a new Congolese Constitution and this is being borne in mind in filling the Government's request for legal assistance, which has now been received.

Please accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

U Thant
Acting Secretary-General

His Excellency
The Right Honourable
The Earl of Home, P.C.
Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs
Foreign Office
Downing Street
London