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Title **Items-in-Peace-keeping operations - United Nations Operations in the Congo - letter from Mr. Coomaraswamy, Leopoldville, Director TAB**

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*Handwritten signature*  
29 November 1963

Dear Mr. Secretary-General,

I met Prime Minister Adoula this morning at his residence. Only he and I were present at the interview with the Acting Director of the Bureau of Economic Coordination in his office acting as interpreter.

We had a general discussion on the technical assistance programmes operating in the Congo. The Prime Minister said he was very satisfied with the work being done by United Nations experts, and he appreciates very much the efforts made, and being made, by the United Nations to develop technical services in his country. He attaches high priority to assistance that can be received through the United Nations system.

The Prime Minister then told me he was very concerned by the decision to transfer Habib Ahmed shortly from Leopoldville. He said he could not understand this action being taken at this particular time. He pointed out that the Congo technical assistance programme for 1964 had only just been submitted to the Secretary-General, and also that Ahmed had played a major role in its preparation. He said that this programme has again, very shortly, to be reviewed and revised on the basis of assistance that could be financed from Congo Fund resources. Early next year, (in May 1964) the EPTA programme for 1965/66 has to be negotiated and formulated, and this will be a programme which will also have to be coordinated with the various other programmes operating in the country. He said that the Resident Representative is the one who coordinates the various programmes. It is essential that he should be one who is familiar with the needs and problems of the Congo Government, and one who is also familiar with the other programmes he has to coordinate with. He said that the Congo technical assistance operation was more complicated than those in other countries. He had, of course, no doubt whatever, that whoever the United Nations appoints to take Habib Ahmed's place will be just as competent. But, he said, it will be almost impossible for Ahmed's successor, at very short notice, to be in a position to deal with the immediate revision that may be necessary for the 1964 programme, and to conduct negotiations with all concerned, beginning early next year, for the preparation of the 1965/66 programme. He pointed out that he was not suggesting that Ahmed should stay on

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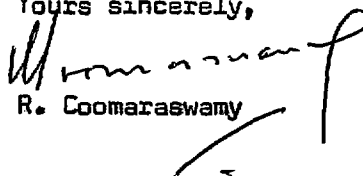
U Thant  
Secretary-General of the  
United Nations  
United Nations Headquarters  
New York

indefinitely in Leopoldville. He said he considered it very much in the Government's interest that Ahmed stays on to finalize the 1964 programme and to formulate the 1965/66 programme.

The Prime Minister asked me to communicate to you urgently his views as expressed to me, and to convey to you his desire that Ahmed's transfer be deferred until the programmes of technical assistance in which he is involved are finalized and formulated.

I informed Mr. Dorsinville of my interview with the Prime Minister and I am passing a copy of this letter to him for his information.

Yours sincerely,

  
R. Coomaraswamy

cc: Mr. C.V. Narasimhan  
Dr. R. Bunche  
Mr. P. Hoffman  
Mr. D. Owen