



S-0875-0004-10-00001

Expanded Number **S-0875-0004-10-00001**

*Title* **Items-in-Peace-keeping operations - United Nations Operations in the Congo - text of Secretary-General's letter to Robert K.A. Gardiner**

*Date Created* **18/04/1963**

*Record Type* **Archival Item**

*Container* **S-0875-0004: Peace-Keeping Operations Files of the Secretary-General: U Thant: United Nations Operations in the Congo**

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18 April 1963

Dear Mr. Gardiner,

I have announced today the appointment of Ambassador Max H. Dorsinville as Officer-in-Charge of the United Nations Operation in the Congo as from 1 May 1963. As you know, this appointment is made in pursuance of the undertaking which I gave to the Economic Commission for Africa during its fifth session in Leopoldville in February 1963 that I would soon make arrangements which would make it possible for you to devote your full time and energy to the Economic Commission for Africa as its Executive Secretary. I am happy to say that with the appointment of Ambassador Dorsinville it has been possible to make these arrangements by the date of 1 May 1963 which I gave to the Economic Commission for Africa.

In announcing the appointment of Mr. Dorsinville, I wish to express to you my great appreciation and gratitude for the outstanding service which you have rendered to the United Nations as the Officer-in-Charge of ONUC. You have been concerned with ONUC since its very inception and have been its Officer-in-Charge since February 1962, and you have loyally and tirelessly carried out your very exacting and complex duties without regard to your personal well-being or risk. As Chief of the U.N. Operation in the Congo, you have played a leading role in the efforts of the United Nations to bring about national reconciliation, to bring back into the framework of Congolese national life the province of Katanga, and to assist the Government and people of the Congo in their many problems and difficulties. While dealing personally with the many and various emergencies which have arisen, you have also directed in detail and with the greatest attention the long-term and fundamental task of the United Nations in the Congo, which is to give technical assistance and advice to its Government in the establishment of sound public administration and of the basis for a prosperous and peaceful future. In serving the best interests of the Congo with all the exceptional ability and courage at your command, you have also served the best interests of the United Nations.

When you have handed over your task as Officer-in-Charge to

Mr. Robert K.A. Gardiner  
Officer-in-Charge  
U.N. Operation in the Congo  
Leopoldville

your successor, I should like you to come to United Nations Headquarters in New York before taking up your future work in Addis Ababa. This visit would not only be for consultations that will be mutually helpful, but also to enable me and my colleagues to convey to you personally and directly our great appreciation for the fine service which you have rendered. I look forward to welcoming you here in New York in the near future.

Once again I would like to convey to you my thanks and my warmest good wishes for the future.

Yours sincerely,

U Thant