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ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES  
AU CONGO



UNITED NATIONS ORGANIZATION  
IN THE CONGO

BOITE POSTALE 7248  
LEOPOLDVILLE  
REPUBLIQUE DU CONGO  
CABLE: ONUC. LEOPOLDVILLE

MIL INFO/370  
HQ KATANGA AREA  
ELISABETHVILLE.

27 December, 1962.

FROM: Chief Mil Info, HQ KATANGA AREA. *McLennan*  
TO: Chief Mil Info, HQ ONUC LEO.  
SUBJECT: MERCENARIES - John B. Swanepoel and J. van Aswegen

1. My signal Mil Info 0710 dated 24th December 1962 refers.
2. Particulars are as follows :-
  - (a) Lt. JOHN B. SWANEPOEL  
South African  
Male  
31 years of age
  - (b) Captured 230200 Dec. 1962 at the Relais Night Club, Eville.
  - (c) UN Security personnel, assisted by two Military Police, made the arrest. Civilian representatives Mr. Valdés and Mr. Sherry present.
  - (d) No arms or ammunition captured.
  - (e) No documents captured at that time.
  - (f) Two rolls of film and one set of film strips being developed at present and thought to be of the utmost importance to Information section.

See paragraph 6 below.

- (a) Volunteer J. VAN ASWEGEN  
Rhodesian  
Male  
24 years of age.

Remaining details same as for Swanepoel.

*File*  
*E.F. 15/1/62.*  
TOP SECRET

VOLUNTARY INFORMATION		
NAME	Initial	Date
OC	<i>R</i>	30
1 (A)	<i>R</i>	31
1 (B)		
1 (C)		
1 (D)		

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AU CONGOUNITED NATIONS ORGANIZATION  
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3. Details of circumstances of capture.

Information was received on 22nd December 1962 from staff member G.W. Kearney concerning the presence in Eville of John Swanepoel, a prominent mercenary, who reportedly took active part in the gendarmerie during the Jadotville operation of September, 1961, and in Kongolo campaign of September/November, 1962. Surveillance was established. At approximately 2 a.m. on 23rd December Swanepoel was apprehended as outlined above within ONUC lines. There was no resistance or disturbance. John van Aswegen, who was with Swanepoel, and who, according to Swanepoel, also was or is a mercenary, was likewise detained.

4. Both mercenaries are being detained by Indian Independent Brigade in accordance with your Mil Info 373 dated 17th December 1962, and your Administrative regulation in this connection is being enforced. They are being interrogated by my staff at present, and a full report of this interrogation will follow in due course.
5. Since capture we have recovered the following documents from Swanepoel :-

- (a) Passport No. D.51374 issued in Durban on 20th June 1955.
- (b) Vehicle Identification Card.
- (c) Two photographs of mercenaries.
- (d) Feuille de Rout No. 169
- (e) Laissez Passez dated 6th December 1962 issued by the Minister of Defence, National Forces, Katanga Army.

The following document was recovered from van Aswegen :-

- (a) Feuille de Rout - Kamina/Jadotville/Kipushi.

Van Aswegen has no Passport, the reason for which will be explained in a further report.

6. With reference to paragraph 7 of your Administrative Instruction No. 373, I wish to point out that a detailed interrogation here is of the utmost importance at present, and it is intended that they be held here for some time. The question of their repatriation is under discussion with civil representatives here and the outcome will be transmitted to you in due course.