



INTER - OFFICE MEMORANDUM

22 November 1960

A:

Mr. S. Linner *SL*
Chief, Civilian Operations

DE:

W. Micuta *W. Micuta*
Civilian Operations Officer for
the Province of Leopoldville

OBJET:

Feelings among the Congolese Population
in Leopoldville today

Today between 12 oclock and 2 p.m. I made an investigation of the popular feelings towards the recent events among the local population. To do this I visited the main African quarters of the town, driving in ~~the~~ private ambulance car. The results of my investigation are as follows:-

The population remains essentially neutral. They are even regretful about the wounded and dead Tunisians. They consider Tunisians as their friends. They look at the affair mainly as between the Congolese army and the UNO troops. Life in the Congolese quarters of the city is absolutely quiet. Proprietors of bars to whom I talked do not expect any serious trouble in the near future. The population awaits the local journal to make up their mind finally about the affair.

I notice, however, that there is mounting tension against Ghanian troops. Here the real danger exists for various kinds of incidents. I was told also that the situation might turn very serious if during any incident a Congolese *civilian* is killed. Then the popular feelings will turn against any soldier or member of staff of ONUC. The same might happen if a Congolese soldier, belonging to the local clan, should be killed. This would also make the given clan seek revenge on ONUC personnel.

The relative calm of the local civilian population differs essentially from the excitement which exists now among Congolese soldiers against ONUC. In the middle of the Bandalungwa quarter I came across severe army control. I saw one large car of American make with Central Government plates being confiscated by the army and I saw this car a few minutes later driving with two civilians and a military escort. It seemed to me quite clear that any UNO car stopped at such control would be confiscated and judging from the excitement of the soldiers UNO personnel would risk illtreatment.

I considered it a part of my duty to gather some first hand information about feelings of the local population towards the events of last night. Having in mind, however, the circular of today and not succeeding in making contact with you, I finally asked Mr. McDiarmid for his opinion. He told me that the circular was not an order but only advice and that he sees no particular reason why I should not go on the tour.

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STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

From: Carl Major Wright
 To: Dr. Sture Linner,
 Chief of Civilian Operations & TAB Resident Representative
 ONUC HQ Leopoldville
 Subject: Visit with Mr. Buissereet on Sunday 20 ~~November~~ November in
 the Afternoon.

Mr. Buissereet is a Belgian independent expert engaged by the Katangese Government to draw up the budget and to make arrangements for the liquidation of the parastatal organizations including the Comité Special du Katanga.

He has no connection either with the Belgian Government or any private interests according to the statement made by him at the time when he arrived here about a month ago.

Mr. Buissereet told me that the question of the conversion of the Congolese franc into Katangese francs has been postponed until the 15th December. It would be preferable for the Government of Katanga to have the new franc introduced into all parts of the Katanga territory at the same time but the U.N. did not seem to be very cooperative in so far as the northern territories were concerned. I said that this was of course dictated by the fact that the right to issue notes was intimately associated with the recognition of the sovereignty of the Government. The United Nations' attitude could hardly be expected to be reconsidered until the status of Katanga within the Congolese Federation had been determined. Mr. Buissereet then pointed out that huge amounts of Congolese francs which at the moment are shifted from the other provinces into Katanga might lead to a major inflation. It is therefore for economic reasons of great urgency that Katanga should disassociate itself from the monetary operations in Leopoldville. I answered that these difficulties might be overcome by the Government of Katanga in the same way as the Belgian Government had been able to overcome the difficulties in Ruanda Urundi. There the conversion of Congolese francs into new Ruanda Urundi francs had been limited to an amount of 8000 frs. I believe, in the case of each family plus any amounts deposited in a bank or savings bank, before the 30th March 1960. In this way the monetary authorities had been able to avoid the conversion of huge amounts of money which had been transferred from the Congo provinces into Ruanda Urundi during the past eight months. I did not see any reason why it should not be possible to apply a similar procedure in Katanga and if this was done the question was not necessarily as urgent as the Katanga authorities were inclined to think.

Mr. Buissereet then told me that the Katangese Government had now taken over the Comité Special du Katanga as its property with Belgian consent. I left him no doubt that I was astonished but I did not give him the reasons for my astonishment in the hope that he would give me more information with regard to the circumstances under which the transfer had taken place. I did however ask if this was an irrevocable decision. He answered that the decision had been taken last week and that the Government decree had already been transmitted for publication in the *Moniteur Katangais* on Thursday. As you may

remember, I found during my stay in Leopoldville, that the Comité Special du Katanga, according to the Belgian Stock Exchange Year Book in 1957, was domiciled in Belgium and not in the Congo and that it was owned in as far as two thirds were concerned by Belgian Congo and one third by a private company, the Company de Katanga. The Comité Special du Katanga was the owner of shares and bonds carrying a right to vote, in the Union Minière, representing almost 36 per cent of the total voting power in that company. As two thirds owners of the Comité Special du Katanga, the agreement of the Government in Leopoldville had been considered necessary when an effort was made to settle the future of the C.S.K. a few months ago. This effort had been given up as there was nobody in Leopoldville to give a valid signature as successors to the Belgian Congo. As I pointed out in my report to you on October 7th on the Union Minière, the political representatives of Katanga at the Round Table Conference in Brussels in May 1960 had put forward the request that in as much as the shares owned by the Belgian Congo largely represented the counter value of the mining concessions in the Katanga it would only be natural that the province of Katanga and not the Central Government should succeed to the ownership of the shares. In the end, only fifty per cent of the shares were claimed by the Province of Katanga.

The Government of Katanga has now reversed to the attitude which originally was put forward at the Round Table in May to claim all shares owned by the Belgian Congo. Hence the consent of the Government in Leopoldville was no longer considered to be necessary. As the Comité Special du Katanga was domiciled in Brussels and the assets held there, it has not been possible for the Katanga Government to proceed without the consent of the Belgian authorities.

I have not been able to analyse the text of the Katangese decree. The new issue of the *Moniteur Katangais* has not yet left the printing shop, but I will make an effort to get a copy through my contacts in Elisabethville.

On second thoughts I have of course asked myself why Mr. Buisseret found it in his interest to tell me about the transfer of the Comité Special du Katanga at a time when it is not yet known to the general public. As an officer of the Government of Katanga he may have wished to get my reaction so as to be prepared for the kind of objections which the U.N. would put forward. As a Belgian it is possible that he may have known that the weak position in which the Belgian Government has found itself vis à vis the Katanga Government has ~~found itself~~ resulted in their giving their approval in the hope that the United Nations would raise strong objections and in that way pull the chestnuts out of the fire.

I do not know how far the Congolese authorities in Leopoldville has been approached on the matter. In any case it may have been dictated by a fear that an effort by the Katanga Government to take over the Belgian Congo share of the assets of the Comité Special du Katanga that Mr. Ndale vice-president du Collège de Commissaires in his radio speech reproduced in the *Essor du Congo* of the 21st November stated "...C'est d'ailleurs l'intérêt le plus direct du Katanga également car le gouvernement du Katanga doit bien comprendre qu'il ne peut s'isoler du reste du Congo et jouir à lui seul des richesses abondantes de son sous-sol. Le Congo n'admettrait jamais pareille solution. Pas plus d'ailleurs qu'une grosse partie du peuple katangais lui-même"

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From: Carl Major Wright

To: Dr. Lerner

Subject: Report on the possibilities of the reopening of the tin mines in Manono.

Date: 18 November 1960.

Yesterday I had a visit with Mr. Desmerville, the Director of the Geonines, the owners of the tin mines in Manono.

The annual production of the Geonines at Manono and the nearby power plant which has a capacity of 40,000 hp, is 4000 tons of tin, about 300 tons of cassiterite and 300 tons of columbite. The tin mine had throughout the war priority number one and the only other source of supply of that metal in sporadic findings in the mines of Bolivia. The Geonines have at the moment a contract with the American Van Steel which also is a buyer for the metal reserve of the United States.

The labour forces employed in the mine are 3500 Congolese workers, the number of Europeans employed at the mine was 160 in 1955 and has now been reduced to 62 as a result of the company's reorganization policy. The Congolese workers are all Belgian, but in spite of this, two scores have been killed by the Geonines Belge during this week. 80% of those who were killed were workers who belonged to the group which was rejecting European technicians. Mr. Desmerville said that for this reason he believes that the Geonines find itself facing a systematic policy directed towards a closing of the mines. He is not able to say how far this policy was carried out by Communists or anti-Whites. Until this moment the major obstacle to the reopening of the mines has been the fact that cars and trucks to the value of 60,000,000 francs and all the petrol supplies of 150,000 litres had been stolen. He said that the company had been reluctant to replace this equipment and supplies as long as there was no guarantee that the stores would be protected against further thefts.

The relationship to the Congolese workers has been most excellent in the past. All labour relations were settled through negotiations with the Council d'entreprises elected by the workers through a secret ballot. The aimed of the Geonines Belge had gradually affected all the parties around the mine but there had been a continued and successful resistance on the part of the miners to join in the movement. With the loss of the most skilled workers, a new obstacle has been placed in front of any effort to reopen the mines.

In as much as none of the mine owners have been punished, the Congolese workers are at the moment waiting away from the mines, the Geonines believe that most of them would return as soon as it was known that production had been resumed. In the opinion of Mr. Desmerville

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Dassonville, nothing would be of greater help to an early resumption of production than an effort to establish a civil authority in Manono which would have control of the military authorities and act as a Government representative in all negotiations between the company and the conseil d'entreprise and all subordinated local authorities. Mr. Dassonville who was a member of the territorial council had been condemned to death in the same way as the other members except Mr. Sabani, and at this moment he is the only one still alive to oppose the Jeunesse Baluba.

✓ C/REC 130/1/3
C/REC 230/2

: Carl Major Wright

: Dr. Linner

: Report on the possibilities of the reopening of the tin mines in Manono.

to : 18 November 1960.

Yesterday I had a visit with Mr. Bessonville, the Director of the Geomines, the owners of the tin mines in Manono.

The annual production of the Geomines at Manono and the nearby power plant which has a capacity of 40,000 hp, is 4000 tons of tin, about 300 tons of tantalum and 300 tons of columbite. The tantalum had throughout the war priority number one and the only other source of supply of that metal is sporadic findings in the mines of Bolivia. The Geomines has at the moment a contract with the American firm Van Steel which also is a buyer for the Metal Reserve of the United States.

The labour forces employed in the mine are 3300 Congolese workers, the number of Europeans employed at the mine was 160 in 1955 and has now been reduced to 62 as a result of the company's africanisation policy. The Congolese workers are all Balubas, but in spite of this, two scores have been killed by the Jeunesse Baluba during this week. 80% of those who were killed were workers who belonged to the group which was replacing European technicians. Mr. Bessonville said that for this reason he believes that the Geomines finds itself facing a systematic policy directed towards a closing of the mines. He is not able to say how far this policy was carried out by Communists or anti-whites. Until this moment the major obstacle to the reopening of the mines has been the fact that cars and trucks to the value of 60,000,000 frs and all the petrol supplies of 150,000 litres had been stolen. He said that the Company had been reluctant to replace this equipment and supplies as long as there was no guarantee that the stores could be protected against further thefts.

The relationships to the Congolese workers has been most excellent in the past. All labour relations were settled through negotiations with the Conseil d'entreprise elected by the workers through a secret ballot. The spread of the Jeunesse Baluba had gradually affected all the parts around the mines but there had been a continued and successful resistance on the part of the

miners to join in the movement. With the loss of the most skilled workers, a new obstacle has been placed in front of any effort to reopen the mines.

In as much as none of the murderers have been punished, the Congolese workers are at the moment shifting away from the mines, but Dassenville believes that most of them would return as soon as it was known that production had been resumed. In the opinion of Mr. Dassenville, nothing would be of greater help to an early resumption of production than an effort to establish a civil authority in Muanza which would have control of the military authorities and act as a Government representative in all negotiations between the company and the conseil d'entreprise and all subordinated local authorities. Mr. Dassenville who was a member of the territorial council had been condemned to death in the same way as the other members except Mr. Shabani, and at this moment he is the only one still alive to oppose the Jeunesse Belge.

C/O R G 130/1/3 FILED OFFICES

17 November

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Mr. S. Linner
Chief, Civilian Operations
W. Micuta
Civilian Operations Officer for
the Province of Leopoldville

Progress Report
14 October - 14 November 1960

1. My work as a Civilian Operations Officer for the Province of Leopoldville started on 14 October 1960, when you presented me to Mr. Kamitatu, the President of the Provincial Government in Leopoldville.

From the beginning I could choose between the two methods of work. I could settle in the office close to the President of the Provincial Government and try to influence overall economic and social policies of the Province by ways of decrees and ordinances. I found, however, that this method did not promise good results at the present political situation. As you know, the President of the Government, Mr. Kamitatu, represents political views different from his two deputies and any coherent economic policy for the Province as a whole is at present unthinkable. I have, therefore, chosen the other method of work according to which I select such social and economic problems which are generally agreed as the most important for the Province and which could be carried on without necessarily formal agreement of the Provincial Government as a whole. I have decided to concentrate my efforts on the three main groups of problems, namely:

- (a) Unemployment in the city of Leopoldville with a particular stress on problems of "jeunesse desoeuvée".
- (b) Agricultural marketing problems.
- (c) Public relations in the Leopoldville Province.
- (d) Various current matters related to political, social and economic life in the Province.

2. In the matter of unemployment I took part in all meetings dealing with programme of public works in the Province as well as working group on methods of financemnt of such work. My work in this field ended at the preparation of a final agreement between ONUC and the Provincial Government on program and public works within the financial limits set by the ONUC for the Province and on the methods of financing of this programme. I have been currently informed by Mr. Van der Oord by further developing in this field.

3. In matters of youth unemployment in the city of Leopoldville I directed my efforts towards the revival of the already existing seven youth labour camps called "chantiers de jeunesse" and administered by the Organization called "Association "J". During the period in question it was possible to:

- (a) Reach agreement among all Congolese and ONUC bodies on usefulness and necessity of the existence of such an Association.
- (b) To prepare organisational and financial plans for renewal of activities.
- (c) Securing necessary funds for the work in the last two months of 1960.

At the time of writing this report, the necessary funds were made available by the Central Government for the purpose, though they did not as yet reach the Association. Simultaneously with the revival of the existing "chantiers" I have started work on the preparation of the broader scheme dealing with efficient employment of youths, which may be called "Voluntary youth civilian service".

The problem of youth unemployment and methods suggested to deal with that problem have been presented to you and with some changes accepted by you in your letter to Sir Alexander McFaguhar on 8 November 1960.

4. In cooperation with the FAO expert on agricultural marketing, Mr. P. Bernhaim I have been trying to promote purchases in agricultural products from the villages. In this respect an investigation has been started on stocks of agricultural produce and the present pattern of sowings in each territory of the district of Bas Congo and Catarracts. Precise questions were put to agronomes of each territory and their responses are awaited. The results of this investigation would make it possible to start organising a rational agricultural market in the Province.

During this work a few of the existing cooperative state farms were visited and their needs surveyed. It was found out by Mr. Bernhaim that some of the cooperatives are working very well though they suffer the lack of short-term credits. These cooperatives were instructed to present necessary documentation which will enable us to intervene in their favour with the financial and banking authorities.

I have started work on agricultural cooperative movements as well as community development in the Province. On my demand I received numerous publications and documents related to the problem and compiled for myself by my colleagues in the Economic Commission for Europe in Geneva.

I am working at present with Mr. P. Tona, Minister of Planning and Economic Coordination of the Province for a selection of pilot projects of community development, one, for the time being, for each district.

I have travelled twice to Thyville to study the possibilities of organisation of a new selling and buying cooperative in this fertile but not properly exploited agricultural region. The study continues.

At the demand of the Minister of Economic Affairs of the Provincial Government, Mr. Balongi, addressed to you and transmitted by yourself to me, I organised, together with Mr. Bernhaim, Mr. Rabat and Mr. Berrutti, the transport of concentrated food (5 tons of powdered milk) to the territories of Kahemba and Feshi in the Kwango district. The copy of your letter to the Minister Balongi, giving conditions for distribution of this food, is attached to this report.

I questioned several people coming from the northern districts of the Province on food production and distribution. The answers to these questions were passed to you in the form of various memoranda.

5. In the field of public relations in Leopoldville Province I presented to you on 2 November 1960 at the Consultative Group Meeting the following proposals:

I think it is quite possible to ameliorate or even change the present unsatisfactory trend of public opinion towards us provided that the ONUC starts a concerted action aiming at explanation of the ONUC targets in the Congo to the local population. I suggest the following elements for such an action:

- (a) Contacts with the existing social, religious, economic and other local organisations. The ONUC should send to them regularly bulletins, press releases, etc. and ask them to reproduce such material in their internal communications.

- (b) Using the members of the ONUC staff to discuss and explain the targets of the ONUC in places of their work. In this respect, the members of staff should be instructed about the timing and substance of such activities.
- (c) Asking the members of the ONUC staff to multiply their contacts with the local population and to adopt such a style of their life as to make them more popular in the Congo. The staff should also be instructed and informed about the local affairs, character, mentality and philosophy of the local people, their habits and their likes and dislikes.
- (d) Publication for the broad circles of the local population of communiqués, press releases, bulletins and booklets. Such publications should be done, however, after consultation with reliable, intelligent Congolese as to the efficiency and presentation of arguments used.
- (e) Periodical conferences for the local press, during which representatives of the Congolese authorities could speak about work done by ONUC for the Congo. The cases of positive approach and understanding between both sides should be presented and results discussed.

In cooperation with local professors and doctors I prepared the first draft of the new instructions which could replace the old one giving details of behaviour of ONUC staff in the Congo. I transmitted this draft to Mr. Rosborough, Chief of the Personnel, on 10 November 1960.

At the Consultative Group Meeting on 9 November 1960 you put into discussion my proposal addressed to yourself on monthly publication dealing with economic and social problems of the Congo.

I organised with your permission, contact between the Assistant of Mr. Dayll and the local Catholic circles. An account of that contact was given by Mr. Kelly in the memorandum sent to you. As you know these contacts had some influence on the local catholic journal.

I am in constant touch with business circles of Leopoldville. On the fortnightly luncheon of the Lion's Club on 5 November I organised the lecture on youth problems in the Province, given by the Secretary-General of the Ministry of Social Affairs, Mr. A. Sita. The speaker stressed the role of ONUC in solving some of the youth problems.

You received also my memoranda on my talks with various people in the Province. Among those memoranda you received copies of the reports of the Minister Delvaux prepared for the Central and Provincial Government and dealing with the various aspects of the political, social and economic life in the district of Kwango.

6. Among my other activities I carried, on your order, the investigation on expulsion of the Red Cross team from Thysville. The results of my investigation presented to you in my memorandum on 12 October 1960 have been since confirmed by other evidence.

7. My work could have been more efficient if I had an office and means of air transport to travel in the Province. Particularly the last item is very important for me. I would like to thank you for your request addressed to the Air Operations of the ONUC to provide me with air transport facilities. However, up to the date it was impossible for me to secure any flight because of lack of suitable aircrafts.

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PRIORITY

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Address(es)

ONUC

STANLEYVILLE

(TEXT & SIGNATURE)

insert prefix & / or number as required

USE DOUBLE SPACING.

ONUC BRZAK PLEASE SEND REPORT ON CIVILIAN OPERATIONS IN YOUR PROVINCE
ON NEXT PLANE TO LEOPOLVILLE STOP URGENTLY NEEDED FOR SIXTH PROGRESS REPORT

LINNER

I. N. 5890 — 200,000 - 7/60

T. O. R.

BY :

T. O. D.

Drafted by : N. Globberman

Authorized :

Date : 16 Nov. '60

4/ORG 1306/3
ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES
AU CONGO



Dr. Langer, please
UNITED NATIONS ORGANIZATION
IN THE CONGO

Return with envelope
BOITE POSTALE 307 B
ELISABETHVILLE
CABLE : ONUC, ELISABETHVILLE

16 November, 1960

*out to Sir Alexander
for Weissmann on 6/12/60*
Dear Sture, *SL*

be forwarded SL
I am enclosing a letter to Ernest Weissmann, the assistant director in charge of physical planning and housing in the Bureau of Social Affairs. If you are in agreement with my suggestions I should like you to forward it to him.

*after Mr
Balinski has
en il*
The entire question of the reorganisation of the O.C.A. would under normal circumstances lend itself to a very close and intimate cooperation with the U.N. As things are at present I think, however, that it would be wiser to limit ourselves to show an interest, in the comparatively neutral way in which I have suggested to Weissmann. As political conditions improve, he may follow the matter up with the people in Brussels. He undoubtedly knows them very well and would be able to approach them on a professional basis when he considers the time to be ripe.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

Wright

C. Major Wright.
p.t. Elisabethville.

Dr. Sture Linner,
Chief of Civilian Operations &
TAB Resident Representative
ONUC HQ
Leopoldville.