

Subject Files Regarding Political and Security Matters
Reports and Correspondence
C/POL/113 (18) - Goma

21/06/1963 - 23/07/1963

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SERIES S-0735

BOX 14

FILE 4

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C/POL 113(3)

ADM 241

23 July 1963

To: Mr. J. Wood, Administrative Officer, Goma
From: M. Dorsinville, Officer-in-Charge
Subject: Radio communications to and from Goma

1. Reference is made to your memorandum of 18 July 1963, subject as above.
2. I regret that our first cables by PTT have taken so long to reach you: according to the Congolese Authorities, this is most unusual and probably due to an error in distribution. They have promised to give greater attention and priority to our cables.
3. You should not despair because of this isolated incident, and I am confident that you will use your initiative to make best arrangements at your end, without having to use chartered aircraft or transmission of messages to Bukavu by road. The latter method may however be used in case of real emergencies occurring when the Goma Airport point to point system is closed down.
4. I would like you to test the PTT at Kisenyi and find out how much time it takes to pass urgent messages to Leo.
5. You should also explore the possibility of transmitting urgent cables through Bukavu, using the courtesy of the ICAO operator at the Goma airport, or the local PTT. Please proceed with tests.
6. Use should be made of combined air/radio transmission for routing cables. Following suggestions are made for despatching cables and urgent messages at your end:-
 - a) Mondays - Pouches by Air Congo to Kindu with onforwarding of cables via UN radio.
 - b) Tuesdays - UN aircraft.
+ Saturdays
 - c) Wednesdays - (and if necessary early on Thursdays)
Pouches by Air Congo to Bukavu with onforwarding of cables by UN radio.
 - d) Thursdays - Air Congo flight to Leo

Thus every day except Fridays and Sundays will be covered if needed by other than local PTT channels.

7. On our side, if we have cables or urgent messages for Goma, we will use following methods:-

a) Mondays + Fridays - UN aircraft

| | | |
|-------------|---|---|
| Wednesdays, | } | Pass cables to Bukavu and request that - they pouch them with the outgoing plane to Goma on same day. |
| Thursdays | | |
| Saturdays | | |

You should therefore make arrangements with Air Congo Goma in order that they inform you immediately of the arrival of pouches, or alternatively have the planes met.

8. By copy of this letter I request your colleagues at Bukavu and Kindu to regularly meet the plane services on which you may despatch a pouch containing cables or urgent mail. You will please communicate with them on details.

cc: Chief Administrative Officer
ONUC Bukavu
ONUC Kindu

OPERATION DES NATIONS UNIES
AU CONGO



UNITED NATIONS OPERATION
IN THE CONGO

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

C/POL 113(3)

18 July 1963.

To: Mr. M. Dorsinville
Officer-in-Charge, ONUC
Leopoldville

From: J. Wood
Administrative Officer
Goma

Re: Radio Communications to and from Goma

Firstly, I should like to acknowledge your cable GO-58 on the above subject. Please rest assured that I appreciate the difficulties, and I and other members of the staff are extremely glad to note that, should the situation improve, there is the possibility of the radio operator being replaced in Goma.

I do not wish to labour the point which has already been made, but it is illustrative that your telegram despatched at 10.45 on 12 July reached this office at 1600 hours today, 18 July. It was accompanied by three others from ONUC Leopoldville, despatched on the same date as yours, together with one sent on 15th. These were all forwarded via the Congolese PTT and all arrived at the local Post Office today.

From this it is reasonable to draw the conclusion that messages to and from Goma would arrive more rapidly either via ONUC radio, Bukavu or through the twice-weekly pouch service; therefore, it would perhaps be as well for Mr. Chapirot to instruct the radio service to take note of the closure times of the pouch for Goma, with which information in hand they could decide whether it would be more expeditious to despatch messages via this service or by radio to Bukavu for onward transmission.

In connection with the onward transmission of messages from Bukavu to Goma and vice-versa, I would ask you to support us in a little difficulty we are having. On Mondays we have a UN air connection, Goma-Bukavu and vice-versa, but otherwise, during the week, there is not normally a contact between the two offices. I have suggested to Bukavu that on Wednesdays and Fridays a vehicle is despatched from this office to the halfway point between Goma and Bukavu, where another vehicle from the Bukavu office would meet it. The two vehicles

would exchange mail, messages and passengers, as necessary. This would at least give us a thrice-weekly communication with Bukavu and the exterior for routine messages. However, the Administrative Officer in Bukavu, who is acting in the absence of Mr. Gaviola as Civil Affairs Officer, was not at all enthusiastic about furnishing transport from his side for this purpose, his reason being the chronic shortage of transport in Bukavu office. I feel - and I hope you agree with me on this point - that a thrice-weekly link with Bukavu is the absolute minimum and should take priority over the use of transport in Bukavu for other matters.

As an alternative, and one which would preclude the necessity of using vehicles to maintain contact, would be the authorisation to use a small Bonanza beachcraft available in Bukavu. The flight to and from Goma costs 2,000 Rwandese francs (\$40). This plane, employed twice a week, would, of course, eliminate the sending of vehicles and would be a much more convenient method of transporting passengers, mail, messages, etc. I gather that some proposition for the use of this aircraft has already been put by the Bukavu office to Administration, Leopoldville, only to be turned down so as to be in line with current economies on the use of aircraft. This is a valid point but it might be reviewed in the light of the increased efficiency resulting from better communications.

As you were kind enough to give the matter of communications in Goma your personal attention previously, I trust that I may trespass upon your good offices once more and ask you to consider the points raised.

cc: Mr. G.J. Chapirot
Chief of General Services
Leopoldville

Mr. C. Gaviola
Civil Affairs Officer
Bukavu

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OPERATION DES NATIONS UNIES
AU CONGO



C/POL 113(3)
UNITED NATIONS OPERATION
IN THE CONGO

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

8 July 1963.

To: Mr. M. Dorsinville
Officer-in-Charge
ONUC, Leopoldville

From: J. Wood
Administrative Officer
Goma

transmitted 10/7/63
GVT/411/63

[Signature]

The President of North Kivu has requested us to transmit the following cable to the Minister of the Interior, Central Government.

"No. 2010/1215/PGP/63 AVOIR APPRIS OFFICIEUSEMENT QU'APRES FORMATION GOUVERNEMENT KIVU CENTRAL STOP DIT GOUVERNEMENT COMPTE VENIR S'INSTALLER A GOMA STOP POUR EVITER COULAGE SANG STOP VOUS PRIE AVISER DANS L'IMMEDIAT KIVU CENTRAL DE N'OSER VENIR A GOMA STOP CAR CELA COMME JE VOUS LE DIS CAUSERA PLUSIEURS MASSACRES STOP A VOUS LE JUGEMENT ET CABLEZ REPONSE MERCI FULLSTOP"

For your information, I think that the contents of the cable are based on an entirely unsubstantiated premise and give no cause for any concern.

N/Réf.: GVT/411/63

Léopoldville, le 10 juillet 1963

Télégramme transmis par l'intermédiaire du Représentant
de l'ONU à Goma, et

adressé à S.E. le Ministre de l'Intérieur du
Gouvernement Central par le Président de la Province du
Nord Kivu.

No 2010/1215/PGP/63 AVOIR APPRIS OFFICIEUSEMENT QU'APRES
FORMATION GOUVERNEMENT KIVU CENTRAL STOP DIT GOUVERNEMENT
COMPTE VENIR S'INSTALLER A GOMA STOP POUR EVITER COULAGE
SANG STOP VOUS PRIE AVISER DANS L'IMMEDIAT KIVU CENTRAL DE
N'OSER VENIR A GOMA STOP CAR CELA COMME JE VOUS LE DIS
CAUSERA PLUSIEURS MASSACRES STOP A VOUS LE JUGEMENT ET
CABLEZ REPONSE MERCI FULLSTOP.

C/AOL 113(3)

Léopoldville, le 21 juin 1963

Cher Monsieur Wood,

A mon retour à Léopoldville, je tiens à vous adresser mes remerciements les plus sincères pour l'amicale hospitalité que vous avez bien voulu m'accorder.

J'ai constaté avec satisfaction le bon travail que vous et vos collègues avez accompli dans des conditions souvent difficiles, et je vous en félicite. J'ai pris note de vos difficultés et je tiens à vous assurer que je m'attacherai à les alléger dans toute la mesure du possible.

Veuillez agréer, cher Monsieur Wood, l'expression de mes sentiments les plus cordiaux.

Max H. Dorsinville
Chargé de la Mission des Nations Unies
au Congo

Monsieur J. Wood
ONUC
Goma