

discussed with the Prime Minister, Mr. Lumumba said in the course of his press conference that this had been done. This suggests a certain lack of candour, to say the least.

5. Mr. Lumumba was very tired when he reached Ottawa. Yet he handled press queries at the airport very creditably. On the following day, he spoke eloquently and forcefully at the luncheon offered by the Speaker of the Senate. There is no doubt that Mr. Lumumba can handle himself effectively in public. While he steadfastly refused to discuss anything but help with us, his attitude as regards the Soviet Ambassador is suspicious. His possible volte-face on aid and his fierce attacks on Belgium and, by implication, Western countries in general, gave some grounds perhaps for the view that his independent recruiting of experts in this country should be watched carefully. Mr. Lumumba is perhaps not unnaturally very concerned about his position and not very considerate of others. While he may not be a Communist, his conduct is equivocal and it is easy to understand that the Belgians must have found it very difficult to get along with him.

6. From the observations we have been able to make in the course of the visit, the elements to reconcile concerning Mr. Lumumba's visit to Canada seem to be the following:

- (a) public professions of friendship;
- (b) unwillingness to confide in us and to explain, even in general terms, his intentions;
- (c) an apparent willingness to talk to Soviet representatives;
- (d) fierce anti-Belgian and, it is suspected, anti-Western feelings;
- (e) urgent requests for bilingual experts.

It is tempting to reconcile these elements by suggesting that Mr. Lumumba wants experts from this country, so that he can get rid of the Belgians and do as he pleases later. He may be afraid, however, that if we were to penetrate his intentions, we might not be willing to cooperate.

7. On the basis of our few contacts with him, to summarize our views, Mr. Lumumba seems to us to be an ardent African nationalist whose attitude as regards occidental countries and the Soviet bloc is still equivocal and warrants careful study. Mr. Lumumba left us with the impression that he is vain, petty, boorish, suspicious and perhaps unscrupulous.

N.A. ROBERTSON

18.

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*Le haut-commissaire au Ghana  
au secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures*

*High Commissioner in Ghana  
to Secretary of State for External Affairs*

TELEGRAM 196

Accra, August 2, 1960

CONFIDENTIAL. OPIMMEDIATE.

#### GHANA AND CONGO

President Nkrumah has asked me to transmit as a matter of urgency following personal message for Prime Minister. "It has been put up to UN that Ghana can help in problem of training Congolese cadets as officers for the Force Publique. Such training should be based on Ghana Military Academy which is at present staffed largely by British. We can do this only if we can obtain French speaking staff from outside Ghana. A first survey showing personnel required are: a chief instructor; three platoon commanders; one company Sergeant-Major; four drill and weapon Sergeants; one physical training instructor; one education non-commissioned