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*Le secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures
au représentant permanent auprès du Conseil de l'Atlantique Nord*

*Secretary of State for External Affairs
to Permanent Representative to North Atlantic Council*

TELEGRAM ME-13

Ottawa, January 20, 1961

SECRET. OPIMMEDIATE.

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Repeat for Information: London, Permis New York, Washington, Paris, Brussels,
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By Bag Capetown, Tel Aviv, Lagos, Accra, Moscow, Dublin from London.

BELGIAN POLICY IN CONGO

The following notes on Canada's attitude towards Belgian activities in Congo could serve as the basis for a Canadian statement in the PAC if one appears to be necessary.

2. Because of its position as one of the few non-African or Asian countries on the Secretary-General's Special Advisory Committee, and the need to maintain a reputation for disinterestedness if it is to play an effective role, Canada has been obliged to take a detached public position as regards developments in Congo.

3. Apart from wanting to see Congo restored to conditions of stability and progress, Canada has two main objectives (a) to ensure as far as possible that UN effort in Congo is impartial and does not repeat not fail and that its capacity to play an effective role in situations of this sort is preserved, and (b) to ensure that Congo is able to maintain its unity and independence and that the situation there should not repeat not become a threat to international peace.

4. As regards Belgian activity and the regrettable lack of co-operation between Belgium and the Secretariat, we recognize that Belgium and Belgian nationals have qualifications for helping Congo out of its present difficulties. To serve this end and without in any way apportioning blame for past misunderstandings, we hope that Belgium will see the advantage of seeking fuller cooperation with UN Secretariat. We would further hope that Belgian Government would exert greater influence with Belgian nationals who are in Congo under independent auspices or intending to return to cooperate fully with UN and its agencies.

5. Insofar as current developments in Congo are concerned, we are encouraged by the efforts of the Conciliation Commission and hope it may make a positive contribution towards bringing the political crisis to an end. We think it important that there should be at the earliest possible date a renewed effort at consultation and conciliation of all Congolese leaders and the proposed round table conference would seem to offer an opportunity for this. We hope that a provisional Congolese government commanding the widest possible measure of political support can be set up quickly.

6. You might find it useful to quote passages from statements by Mr. Nesbitt in UNGA on December 19 as follows: On the importance of supporting UN effort "Canadian Government considers that UN operations in Congo are of a significance which goes far beyond their immediate impact on the situation in that country ... My government could have wished at different times that different courses of action had been pursued in Congo. It could have sought to influence UN operations to serve particular purposes which Canada believed should be served. But we have considered that it was important to resist these temptations and to exercise a degree of restraint even when events were taking place, the immediate results of which were not repeat not to our liking. "In Canadian view, what is at stake in Congo is not repeat not only