

On August 18 there occurred the incident at Njili airport in which Canadian soldiers were manhandled and beaten by the Congolese Force Publique. This action was the subject of vigorous protests from Canada and from the United Nations. The Chief of Staff of the Force Publique has formally expressed regret (to Dr. Bunche in Leopoldville) about the incident. Prime Minister Lumumba, who also expressed some regret, described it as an excess of zeal on the part of Congolese personnel checking the identity of foreigners. He partly blamed Canadians for the incident, although this was not borne out by the United Nations report on the incident. On the contrary, it appeared as part of a planned hostility against the United Nations.

On August 20 Mr. Kuznetsov, the Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister, at a press conference in New York demanded the withdrawal of "armed groups from Canada," because they were allies of the Belgian aggressors. The Secretary-General reported to Mr. Ritchie that Mr. Kuznetsov had taken the line that "now you realize how unwise it was to send Canadian troops to the Congo." The Secretary-General held firm to his policy on the inclusion of Canadians, adding that the only restrictions were that members of contingents (a) should not be nationals of one of the great powers and (b) that they should come from a country which had no involvement in the issues in the Congo. Canada was not affected by either of these.

In his speech in the Security Council on August 21, Mr. Kuznetsov returned to the charge. He vigorously attacked the inclusion of Canadians in the Force. He demanded their withdrawal. He had nothing to say about the Swedes and the Irish who are in the Force in large numbers. He hammered away at the link with Belgium, which he called the aggressor, even though most of the Belgian combat troops have already been withdrawn and the remainder are awaiting only the availability of aircraft.

In reply to Mr. Kuznetsov in the Council the Secretary-General, who in a longer statement explained his action taken to implement the Council resolutions, defended his policy of selecting Canadians for the Force and showed no sign of regretting or changing his position in that regard. He had informed Mr. Ritchie that he would hold to this stand. The Secretary-General considered it unnecessary and perhaps undesirable for Canada to intervene in the Council debate, a view which Mr. Ritchie shared.

In the debate the Congolese representative did not raise the question of including white troops in the Congo Force, nor of withdrawing Canadians. He did reiterate the demand that the airports and ports of entry be placed under Congolese control. He also pressed for the establishment of an advisory committee. The Secretary-General has indicated that he would accept one composed of representatives of countries participating in the Force. The Guineans' representative made an inflammatory speech but he did not raise the question of white contingents in the Force.

The majority of Council members fully endorsed the policies which the Secretary-General had followed in implementing the earlier resolutions. A Soviet resolution was not pressed to the vote. It called for the establishment of an Afro-Asian commission which would assist the Secretary-General in his activities in the Congo, quite different from the advisory committee which he envisages. No resolution was passed but this result is interpreted as full acquiescence in the programme of implementation which the Secretary-General has been following.

The representatives of Argentina, Ceylon, Italy, United Kingdom, United States and Ecuador wholly rejected the Soviet charges about the inclusion of Canadian troops. Mr. Ritchie has reported that the Secretary-General's policy as regards the composition of the Force was fully vindicated.

It seems that the Soviet Union was mainly interested in undermining the United Nations effort in the Congo by trying to depict it as dominated by NATO powers. The Soviet Union