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DEA/6386-40

*Le représentant permanent auprès des Nations Unies
au secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures*

*Permanent Representative to United Nations
to Secretary of State for External Affairs*

TELEGRAM 964

New York, July 19, 1960

CONFIDENTIAL. OPIMMEDIATE.

Reference: Our Tel 957 Jul. 18.†

Repeat London, Washington, Paris, NATO Paris, Brussels from Ottawa (Information).

By Bag Lagos, Accra, Rome from London.

CONGO: APPEAL FOR AIR TRANSPORT

We have obtained from the UN Secretariat some further details concerning the Secretary-General's request for assistance in air lifting supplies for the UN force in Congo from Pisa to Leopoldville.

2. Only Italy and Canada were asked for this particular assistance. The Italians have not repeat not yet replied but on the assumption that the burden is equally shared the Secretariat is asking if we can provide enough North Star aircraft to put down in Leopoldville about twenty-five thousand pounds of freight per day for a thirty day period. This would presumably mean flying two aircraft per day from Pisa to Leopoldville. The thirty day period is the Secretariat's present estimate of the time required before a seagoing supply line can be established.

3. We should emphasize: (a) that the supplies to be airlifted are for the UN Force in the Congo (not repeat not for the Congolese population as was the case with the previous appeal for foodstuffs); and (b) that this air lift (in contrast again to the air lift for the foodstuff) will be on a reimbursable basis, as are all the other services provided for the UN Force.

6.

DEA/6386-C-40

*Note du sous-secrétaire d'État adjoint aux Affaires extérieures
pour le sous-secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures*

*Memorandum from Assistant Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs
to Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs*

CONFIDENTIAL

[Ottawa], July 20, 1960

CONVERSATION WITH THE BELGIAN AMBASSADOR
CONCERNING THE SITUATION IN THE CONGO

The Belgian Ambassador called on me by appointment this afternoon at 3.30 to discuss a message which he had just received from his Government. As the message was dated July 15 in large part it may have been superseded by subsequent developments.

2. The Belgian Ambassador stressed the general point that we are facing in the Congo an East-West struggle and in particular a Soviet attempt to take over. The Belgian officials who were alone in a position to administer the country and the officer personnel who could have turned the armed forces into an effective instrument to maintain order, have now been largely eliminated. There is a danger of a total collapse of the whole structure of Government and of a Communist take-over unless the United States and other friendly countries adopt publicly a firm position.