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

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

CONFIDENTIAL

[Ottawa], August 1, 1960

MR. LUMUMBA

We had few opportunities to form impressions concerning Mr. Lumumba. He was in Ottawa for a short time and he consistently refused, in his conversations with the Prime Minister and with officers to deal with political subjects. The few observations we have been able to make may, however, warrant some tentative conclusions as to his personality.

2. It is interesting to note that Mr. Lumumba decided to cut his visit short, deleting the part which was intended to minimize somewhat the importance of the visit and which provided consequently few opportunities for direct contact with the public. Mr. Lumumba was almost rude in refusing to be drawn into political discussions. When told that the Prime Minister might be waiting for him, he said that this was quite in order; it was up to the Prime Minister to do the waiting. When it was suggested to him that his time of departure had to be delayed because a number of appointments had been made for him in the expectation that he would leave later, and because people were coming from Toronto and Montreal and they would be disappointed, he dismissed this summarily, saying that in five minutes he could dispose of each applicant and that the others could write to him in Leopoldville.

3. Mr. Lumumba was more enlightening in his speech after Mr. Drouin's luncheon. The essence of his argument was that the Belgians were not prepared to understand that the Congolese could run their own affairs; they had not prepared them for independence. The Belgians had calculated that because of this the Congolese would have no choice but to turn to them for assistance, and they would then be in a position to impose political conditions. (This implies a confession that the Congolese realize their weakness and places their request for experts from Canada in a special light.) Mr. Lumumba kept stressing that the Belgians could not conceive that the Congolese could exercise authority over Belgians. When the Congolese had decided after independence to take things into their own hands, the Belgians had accused Lumumba and his supporters of being Communists. Lumumba was very specific in stating that the Congo and the other African states were not and would never be communists. They wanted to enjoy their freedom and to develop their own culture which had been hindered by the Belgians. Mr. Lumumba made the point that while other countries had invested in their colonial dependencies, Belgium was the only metropolitan country which had been enriched as a result of the exploitation of its colonies. While there were some reassuring aspects in Mr. Lumumba's statement, it was noticeable that at the airport he greeted the Soviet Ambassador in a very friendly and warm fashion and he had a long secret interview with him. At his press conference after his interview with the Prime Minister he carefully avoided admitting that such a conversation had taken place. Furthermore, there is some reason to be concerned as to the role of the Guinean Ambassador as a member of the official party.

4. While Mr. Lumumba, in his conversation with Mr. Cadieux, seemed to be pressing for bilateral aid and for a liaison mission from Canada, in the Prime Minister's office he merely requested administrative assistance in recruiting bilingual experts and he dropped the suggestion as to a liaison mission because, he argued, administrative details could be handled through our mission in Leopoldville. While the question of diplomatic relations had not been