

shortcomings of his advisors. In reply to a question from Mr. Cadieux, Mr. Lumumba said that a liaison mission would not be required as our office in Leopoldville could handle all details.

7. From then on the atmosphere of the conversation became cordial. The Prime Minister undertook to provide, in effect, our good offices in the recruitment of bilingual experts. The Congolese representatives, it transpired, were hoping that we might find it possible to screen applicants for them and to give them, in fact, some recommendation as to their moral character and professional qualifications. The Congolese Government were prepared to be generous as to salary and allowances. They felt that it would be helpful if we could give them an indication as to what the appropriate salary might be in specific cases. The Prime Minister suggested that we could provide an indication of average income for the main professions as compiled by our Department of National Revenue. He pointed out that the figures would be lower than in the United States, and perhaps insufficient in individual cases.

8. When the Prime Minister enquired whether Mr. Lumumba had additional requests to make, the latter said that it would be most helpful if three experts could be provided immediately: one on radio (public relations); one on mines, and one on protocol. The Prime Minister repeatedly indicated his sympathy for the Congolese leader's difficulties in nation building, with scant initial resources and undertook to do what he could to assist. Mr. Lumumba expressed full satisfaction with the outcome of the interview.

9. Later, at a press conference outside the Prime Minister's office, Mr. Lumumba confirmed that the interview had been cordial and successful. He refused, however, to discuss his meeting earlier in the morning with the Soviet Ambassador. On the question of diplomatic relations between Canada and the Congo, he was less than accurate: while this had not been discussed with the Prime Minister, he told the press that this had been done; he claimed that before independence, Canada had a Chargé d'Affaires in Leopoldville. He went on to point out that the two countries were already in diplomatic relations and said that the question of an appointment of a Congolese representative in Ottawa would be considered by his Government after his return to Leopoldville.

10. While we can not of course be absolutely certain about this, and while our officials may have been mistaken as to what Mr. Lumumba really wanted, it is possible that he may have experienced a change of heart between his conversation with our officials and the one that he had later with the Prime Minister. On being told that bilateral aid was unlikely to be provided, or at least to be forthcoming immediately, Mr. Lumumba may have decided to settle for less, and to request merely official assistance in recruiting bilateral experts. When he found that we would not be prepared to pay for them, he may have reconciled himself to suggesting that his Government should foot the bill. This would explain his decision to drop the request as to a liaison team and the different terminology in the Prime Minister's office where there was no reference to a bilateral agreement, but merely to authorization concerning recruitment. If this is the case, and our suspicions are increased by Mr. Lumumba's quickness to blame officials for the misunderstanding, this suggests a very disturbing trait and would warrant some caution in cooperation with his recruiting schemes. The whole operation should be undertaken with care, I suggest, until we have some indication as to how the first recruits are treated. In any event, close liaison with the United Nations to avoid duplication will be required.

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