

7. The agreement by independent African states to provide troops for the United Nations force will seriously tax their resources. They might be hard put to maintain their internal security should disorder break out with the risk of serious internal or even international repercussions.

8. The present state of the Congo and what happens to it in the future will be of immense importance to other already independent states in Africa, which seem at present to be showing a surprising and desirable sense of responsibility for events in that country. It will have an even greater effect on the plans and the timetables for the independence of still dependent territories in Africa. Ghana's almost over-readiness to move in with troops and advisers may be an indication of Nkrumah's hope that this will provide an opportunity for him to fulfil his much desired ambitions of leading a federation of African states. If he makes this plain it will obviously arouse jealousies and suspicions in the minds of other African governments. On the other hand, Europeans in South African, Portuguese Angola and Mozambique, the Rhodesias and Kenya must all be saying self-righteously "we told you so."

9. This memorandum has been designed to point out the scale of problem presented by the Congo situation, and not to explore solutions. It is perhaps evident, however, that the search for both immediate and long-term solutions is of the greatest urgency.

4.

PCO

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

*Memorandum from Secretary of State for External Affairs  
to Cabinet*

CABINET DOCUMENT NO. 228-60

[Ottawa], July 19, 1960

SECRET

CONGO: ROLE OF THE UNITED NATIONS

This memorandum contains supplementary information concerning United Nations appeals for specialists to provide administrative services for the United Nations Force in the Congo. The Cabinet may wish to have this information in considering the Secretary-General's enquiry to Canada concerning the United Nations need for personnel and equipment for signal and also for parts of the logistic support for the Force (paras. 8 – 11 of the Cabinet memorandum of July 15 and its enclosure). On July 18 the Secretary-General enquired urgently of the Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations whether a reply in principle on his earlier enquiry would be forthcoming.

2. The need for signals personnel for the Force is most urgent and in response to a query from the Department of External Affairs the United Nations Secretariat has asked General Von Horn, now in Leopoldville, for an urgent assessment of his probable needs as regards signalling personnel and equipment. In the meantime, the Secretary-General has turned to Tunisia for assistance in this regard but has learned that the Tunisians can supply only a small signals unit which would be quite inadequate for the Force. The Secretary-General is anxious to have a Canadian reply in principle, notwithstanding the absence of a detailed request, because he wishes to know whether he should approach other countries in order to obtain the necessary complement of signals personnel with equipment.