

mob which seemingly mistook them for Belgian para-commandos, raised even higher the tension between the United Nations and the Congo Government. After Kasai Province announced its secession, tribal rivalries were further inflamed by savage battles between Lumumba supporters and Baluba tribesmen loyal to Kasai's Premier Albert Kalonji. Then, at the beginning of September, the political rivalry between President Kasavubu and Premier Lumumba exploded into proclamations by which each removed the other from office. In the circumstances, it was difficult to determine which was the legitimate government. At this moment of chaos Colonel Mobutu, Chief of Staff of the National Congolese Army (former Force Publique) seized control, giving both President Kasavubu and Premier Lumumba "leave of absence", suspending the legislatures until December 31, and setting up a Committee of university students to manage affairs until the politicians had settled their differences. Colonel Mobutu then ordered the Soviet and Czech Embassies to close and their personnel to leave the country.

The Security Council met several times to thrash out charges of unwarranted United Nations interference in internal Congolese affairs, but when all substantive resolutions were blocked by use of the veto, it was decided (under the "Uniting for Peace" resolution) to hold an emergency special session of the General Assembly, only four days before the opening of the regular session. Finally, on September 20, a 17-power African-Asian resolution was adopted by 70 votes to none, with 11 abstentions (Soviet bloc, France and South Africa) by which all previous Security Council resolutions were reaffirmed, an appeal was made for contributions to a United Nations Fund for the Congo, all states were asked to channel all military assistance through the United Nations and an African-Asian advisory committee was proposed to help the Congolese solve their political conflicts.

The United Nations had never been confronted with an international salvage operation of such magnitude before. Decisions had to be taken regarding the extent to which the United Nations could legitimately intervene to restore order without interfering in the internal affairs of a state.

Various aspects of the Congo problem were under almost continuous consideration in one United Nations body or another from the outset of the fifteenth session of the Assembly but the Assembly failed to reach agreement on any resolution dealing with the substance of the question. It did, however, take a decision on November 22 to accept the credentials of a delegation nominated by President Kasavubu. Until that time the Republic of the Congo (Leopoldville) was not represented at the United Nations, although the country had been admitted to membership at the beginning of the session. A financing resolution providing funds for ONUC for the six months of 1960 during which the operation had been in existence was also passed. It authorized the assessment of \$48.5 million. It was left to the resumed session to find funds for the operation in 1961.