

his earlier remark that the principal object of the whole exercise was to ensure that ANC would be a factor for peace and order in Congo.

3. Colonel Greene reported that he had on December 28 had discussions in New York with General Rikhye to clarify details of scheme and UN's involvement. Earlier (about December 22) Central Congo Government had sent a note to UN asking that it undertake implementation of the "proposal for modernization and training" of Congo armed forces (i.e. Colonel Greene's plan copy of which was attached to our letter 1652 November 2†) and setting forth specific first steps to be undertaken. English text giving terms of Congolese request is given in our immediately following telegram.†

4. Following Colonel Greene's discussions December 28 a positive response was sent by UN to Central Government indicating that UN will undertake full responsibility for programme and will shortly make specific proposals to Central Government on how it plans to fulfil the request. The next step will be a message from UN to Central Government giving a list of countries it proposes to invite to participate in programme. This list will include Norway, Italy, Britain, Belgium, USA and Canada. After receiving satisfactory response from Central Government Secretariat will proceed to invite countries to participate and to select portions of programme which they wish to take on. Whitehouse noted that in these further steps the list of countries might be altered but he thought it unlikely any would be dropped from present list.

5. In discussing Congolese request to UN Colonel Greene said it covered the broad first steps to be taken in implementing the scheme. He noted that reference in opening paragraph to ANC's "ultimate strength" reflected the difficulties that had arisen with Mobutu on the question of ANC's size. Mobutu was not repeat not willing to commit himself in advance to the envisaged strength of 15,000 and USA had acknowledged that in light of experience with training scheme it might be appropriate to make some adjustment in ultimate goals. Greene recalled that his proposal had been drawn up last summer and changing circumstances may have already made it outdated in some respects. He had pointed out to Mobutu that it would be possible to continue discussion over a long period searching for the perfect scheme but that it was necessary to begin somewhere and allow the scheme to develop and adjust as experience dictated.

6. Colonel Greene described the current over all operational concept of the scheme. He thought that each participating government would likely wish to have a military mission in Congo. Arrangements for these missions would be made by bilateral agreements between governments and Central Congo Government. These agreements would then (and Secretary-General had insisted on this) be passed to UN for approval and would in a sense thus become tripartite agreements involving participating country Congo and UN. There would thus be a series of small national missions (as an example Greene said USA planned a mission of seven; three officers and four enlisted men) whose activities would be coordinated by a small UN staff drawn from participating countries. The Head of UN Staff would be appointed by Secretary-General after consultation with Congo Prime Minister and General Mobutu. (Greene made the personal remark this officer should be ranked not repeat not higher than Brigadier General i.e. less than Mobutu's rank). Mobutu had insisted and UN and USA had agreed that group administering scheme be entirely separate from the present ONUC command; but UN head of scheme would nonetheless be responsible to UN officer in charge in Congo.

7. In describing proposed structure it was apparent that USA officials were using example drawn from their own requirements for a USA military mission. For legal reasons related to provision of equipment and support they would require to have USA mission on the spot and they thought that other countries might have similar requirements. For its part USA expected to establish its presence at a low level and to be occupied mostly with provision of equipment and support for scheme. Greene said also that they planned to undertake the English language