

that Lumumba should be treated by due process of law, including the right to a trial without delay. The point is also made that the U.N. might put off any major initiatives in the Congo until the Conciliation Commission has completed its task and made its report. We have also suggested that concern about inhumane treatment should not be concentrated on Lumumba but should be more generally directed. In view of today's press reports about imminent troop withdrawals from the Congo, a separate memorandum† is being submitted on this subject.

N.A. R[OBERTSON]

6.

DEA/6386-40

*L'ambassadeur en Belgique
au secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures*
*Ambassador in Belgium
to Secretary of State for External Affairs*

TELEGRAM 68

Brussels, January 26, 1961

SECRET. PRIORITY.

Repeat for Information: London, Washington, NATO Paris, Paris, Permis New York.

CONGO

When I called on Foreign Minister today to make representations about Geneva tariff negotiations he took the occasion to speak to me about Canadian policy toward Belgium and Congo.

2. Mr. Wigny said he was concerned that Canada had not repeat not given Belgium more support in UN. Moreover it had seemed to him that at NATO the Minister had attached such overriding importance to UN and to relations with UN members as to give impression that he was attaching less importance to NATO and to relations with NATO members.

3. I replied that I believed there existed a genuine difference of opinion between Belgians and Canada as to how best to promote our common interests. As Belgium's ally and friend Canada felt that given the present political balance in the world and in UN and given Canada's membership on UN Advisory Committee on Congo and Canadian troops in Congo, the best way for Canada to help was to avoid taking sides too openly. I also drew Minister's attention to position Canadian representative took at PAC meeting and said I thought he would there find support for one of main Belgian contentions, the value of Belgian presence in Congo.

4. Mr. Wigny said he welcomed having the matter put to him in this light but he nonetheless hoped that Canada would re-examine the position and reconsider her attitude, and would come to the conclusion that our common interests would best be served by supporting Belgium more openly and fully in UN and elsewhere.

[SYDNEY PIERCE]