

CHAPITRE PREMIER/CHAPTER I
NATIONS UNIES ET AUTRES ORGANISATIONS
INTERNATIONALES
UNITED NATIONS AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL
ORGANIZATIONS

PREMIÈRE PARTIE/PART 1

NATIONS UNIES
UNITED NATIONS

SECTION A

CONGO

1.

DEA/6386-40

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

*Memorandum from Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs
to Secretary of State for External Affairs*

TOP SECRET. CANADIAN EYES ONLY.

[Ottawa], January 12, 1961

Reference: NATO Telegram 47, † Brussels Telegram 23 of January 10. †

REQUEST FOR NATO SUPPORT OF BELGIUM'S CONGO ACTIVITIES

On January 10 Ambassador Rothschild, Belgian expert on African affairs recently returned from the Congo, addressed the Political Advisors' Committee of NATO on the validity of the Belgian action in permitting Colonel Mobutu's troops to enter the Congo from the Belgian Trust Territory of Ruanda-Urundi on January 1, and requested NATO support for Belgium in defending its action.

According to the Belgian account of the incident, Colonel Mobutu asked permission from both the UN and Belgium to send troops into Bukavu in Eastern Kivu Province (now controlled by pro-Lumumba forces) via Usumbura in Ruanda-Urundi. The Belgians state they only just received the message and had not returned any answer before about 200 Congolese troops reached Usumbura on December 30 and 31 from Luluabourg in five aircraft which they had commandeered from the Sabena subsidiary, Air Congo. These troops had with them on arrival at Usumbura a photocopy of the note of the Congolese Foreign Minister requesting permission to use facilities there because those at Bukavu were inadequate. In the circumstances, according to the Ambassador, the Belgian authorities decided to allow the troops to land and to transport them to the Congolese frontier by truck. At least some of the troops were so transported, made an unopposed entry to the Congo, and reached Bukavu. After initial negotiations between this group and the pro-Lumumba forces at Bukavu, a fight developed in which this group of Colonel Mobutu's troops were badly beaten and almost all were captured.

On January 2 the UN Secretary-General charged Belgian authorities in Ruanda-Urundi with complicity in the incursion. On January 7 the USSR permanent representative at the United