

mutinied against their Belgian officers. There followed a period of civil disorder which eventually led the Belgian Government to send troops to ensure the protection and evacuation of Belgian nationals. During this period of anarchy, gold and foreign currency reserves dwindled to virtually nothing. Unemployment sky-rocketed and food became scarce as distribution channels were cut off. Then the Central Government's authority was challenged by the secession of Katanga Province, the source of 60% of the national revenues.

Anxiety mounted when the U.S.S.R. began to accuse Belgium of "imperialist aggression"; thus, when the Government of the Congo appealed to the United Nations for military assistance, the Secretary-General, considering that the situation constituted a threat to international peace, for the first time used his prerogative of calling an urgent meeting of the Security Council. On July 14 a resolution was adopted calling for the withdrawal of Belgian troops from the Congo and authorizing the Secretary-General to provide the Congolese Government with the military and technical assistance necessary to enable the Government to resume control. The Secretary-General immediately initiated a relatively long-term programme of technical assistance, an emergency supply programme to meet the food shortage, and a stop-gap arrangement to restore peace and order by a United Nations military force, composed mainly of African contingents and specifically excluding nationals of the five permanent Security Council members. These military units were put under the command of Major General Carl von Horn, hitherto Chief of Staff of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization in the Middle East. The Force was established on the basic principles of non-interference in the internal affairs of the Congo, shooting only in self-defence, and independent command and control by the United Nations alone.

Technical assistance and other non-military aid for the Congo was organized under Dr. Sture Linner, a Swedish businessman, as Chief of United Nations Civilian Operations, while Dr. Ralph Bunche exercised overall authority as the Secretary-General's Personal Representative in the Congo.

States representing almost all shades of political opinion have made contributions to these operations. Canada, drawing on its experience in the international field as well as on its bilingualism, has been able to give a variety of assistance to the Congo through the United Nations.

The Government sent 20,000 lbs. each of canned pork and whole milk powder to help relieve the initial food shortage; the Canadian Red Cross Society sent two teams of medical personnel—surgeons, physicians specialized in tropical medicine and nurses—all French-speaking; four RCAF North Star aircraft were provided to help transport supplies and equipment for the Force from the staging area at Pisa to Leopoldville; small groups of officers volunteered for secondment from UNTSO in Palestine and UNEF in Gaza