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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*

CONFIDENTIAL

[Ottawa], January 30, 1963

THE SITUATION IN THE CONGO

Mr. Tshombe and his ministers have returned to Elisabethville where they are currently negotiating with Mr. Ileo, Central Government Minister of State in Katanga, about the practical problems of reintegrating the province. Reports from Leopoldville indicate, however, that there are strong pressures within the Central Government to get rid of Tshombe, a move which could lead to a breakdown in the province's administration. The Central Government have also been pressing the U.N. to permit them to send a contingent of the ANC to south Katanga to disarm and integrate the gendarmerie. Meanwhile a considerable number of ANC have already arrived in Elisabethville in civilian clothes.

The Military Situation

2. The present strength of ONUC is approximately 19,000 troops. By the end of April approximately 7,200 Indians, Tunisians and Nigerians will have been repatriated. To offset this decrease, current plans call for the arrival in the Congo by the end of March of approximately 2,340 troops (Indonesians, Ghanaians, Norwegians and Danes). It is possible, however, that some of these projected arrivals will be cancelled.

3. The United Nations have not set a firm date for the repatriation of ONUC forces. However, on January 23 Brigadier Rikhye suggested to the Canadian military adviser in New York that on the basis of the present favourable conditions in the Congo it might be possible to repatriate all U.N. forces, with the possible exception of one unit, perhaps in the size of a battalion group, by August 1963. Brigadier Rikhye hoped that the Canadian Government would not move the Canadian Signal Unit in the very near future although he agreed that should the Canadian Signals Commander and ONUC Headquarters concur New York would be prepared to accept a phased reduction of the Canadian contingent.

ANC Training Programme

4. One of the most urgent problems facing the Congolese Government is the retraining and reorganization of its security forces. You will recall that quite some time ago the U.N. tried to organize a programme on the basis of a multi-national team of U.N. training officers. Canada agreed to provide six or seven officers for this programme. The programme was turned down by General Mobutu, however, on the grounds that its multi-national character would make it inefficient. Subsequently an American, Col. Greene, made a full study of Congolese training requirements. He proposed a programme in which responsibility for each major training requirement (e.g., navy, air force, NCO's, officers academy, etc.) would be assumed by a separate country. The programme would be completely separate from ONUC but would be under the general supervision of the Civilian Officer in charge of the U.N. operation.

5. This "Greene plan" has been accepted in principle by the Central Government and the United Nations, and the Central Government have officially requested the U.N. to arrange a training and re-organization programme along the lines of the plan. Meanwhile, the Americans have been consulting in Washington with countries in a position to participate in the programme. Canada has been approached by the Americans and a member of the Embassy in