

the future of that unhappy country, important though that is, but the continuing effectiveness of UN peace-keeping machinery.”

7. Our view of the activities of Soviet Bloc in Congo “... The real objectives of these propagandistic attacks by Soviet Bloc must surely be clear to all states represented here. These are: to achieve control where they can; to subvert what they cannot repeat not control; and to destroy what they cannot repeat not subvert to their own ends. This applies to UN itself, whose success in promoting the welfare and genuine independence of new states is threatened by such policies. It particularly applies in the case of Congo, where the development of peace, tranquility and self-determination on anything but Soviet terms is impeded by every device at their command which they judge will not repeat not result in the ultimate conflict.”

[H.C.] GREEN

5.

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 25, 1961

RECOMMENDATION OF CONGO ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
FOR RELEASE OF MR. LUMUMBA

In his telegram 126 of January 23† Mr. Ritchie reports on the January 20 meeting of the Congo Advisory Committee at which it was the consensus that the Secretary-General should communicate with President Kasavubu to recommend the liberation of Mr. Lumumba<sup>4</sup> so that he might participate with other leaders in negotiations for a political settlement. The Secretary-General sent such a telegram on January 20, the text of which is contained in Mr. Ritchie's telegram 131 of January 23.† This same telegram contains the text of a message of January 21 from Foreign Minister Bomboko which constitutes a reply to Mr. Hammarskjöld and which in effect rejects the request to release Lumumba. Mr. Bomboko asserts that this effort of the Advisory Committee constitutes intervention in Congo affairs.

This is the first time that the Secretary-General has recommended that Lumumba be released from custody to engage in political negotiations and he has thus raised an issue of considerable importance which will, no doubt, be a subject for continuing discussion in the Advisory Committee and outside it. In the circumstances Mr. Ritchie will require some sort of guidance on the attitude he might be expected to express.

The telegram attached for your approval† sets out some comments for his guidance.<sup>5</sup> It expresses agreement with Mr. Ritchie's view that it would be difficult, particularly in the Advisory Committee, to oppose the liberation of political prisoners in the Congo with the aim of encouraging political conciliation. On the other hand it points out that there are a number of considerations regarding the timing of Lumumba's release. The telegram reinforces the view

<sup>4</sup> Lumumba était emprisonné depuis le 1<sup>er</sup> décembre 1960. Il a été tué le 17 janvier 1961, mais sa mort n'avait pas encore été annoncée.

Lumumba had been imprisoned since December 1, 1960. He was killed on January 17, 1961, but the fact was not yet known.

<sup>5</sup> Note marginale :/Marginal note:

Not sent. [Auteur inconnu/Author unknown]