

Kingdom Government, which may well have felt that its hands were tied in the whole issue as a result.¹ In any event when Tshombe requested assistance from the Federation a few days ago, the United Kingdom Government replied that such a request from a provincial government could not be entertained. Northern Rhodesian troops are, nonetheless, reported to be moving up to the border, ostensibly to protect European refugees.

The revolt of the Katanga raises other international complications. Elizabethville, the provincial capital, was the scene of serious mutiny in the Congolese security forces, and Belgian paratroopers had to be sent (as they were elsewhere) to raise a siege on Belgian officers and other white residents, virtually taking over control of Elizabethville in the process. It was this fact which undoubtedly encouraged Tshombe to make his declaration of independence. There will be a temptation for Belgian business and financial interests to put pressure on their government to ally itself openly with Tshombe. Whether this happens or not the revolt in fact creates a situation of civil war in which there will be strong pressures on European powers to take sides. This might lead to the fall of the Lumumba Government with no alternative national leadership in sight.

We should not lose sight of the fact that during the disorders the central government had done its best to contain the mutiny, to protect Europeans, and to restore normal conditions. This objective, moreover, seems to have been achieved in Leopoldville. The central government has given no indication of not wishing to maintain close and friendly relations with Belgium, and has appealed to Belgian technicians to remain in the country.

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PCO

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

*Memorandum from Secretary of State for External Affairs
to Cabinet*

CABINET DOCUMENT NO. 226-60

[Ottawa], July 15, 1960

SECRET

CONGO: ROLE OF THE UNITED NATIONS

The Secretary-General of the United Nations is taking steps to implement the Security Council resolution of July 14.² To meet the requirements of the situation in the Congo the Secretary-General is following a three-point programme as follows:

(a) A relatively long-term programme of technical assistance to the Congo which in its early stages will involve administrative assistance to the Congolese authorities in re-organizing their internal security forces, which have been disrupted by mutiny and by the removal of Belgian officers. This programme calls for an immediate though temporary secondment of military officers, now serving with the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization in Palestine.

(b) A short-term, stopgap arrangement for meeting the emergency situation in the Congo, through the establishment of a United Nations military force, composed of contingents drawn mainly from French-speaking African states. This Force, expected to number about 2,500, will

¹ Note marginale :/Marginal note:

Canadian eyes only. [Auteur inconnu/Author unknown]

² Voir/See *Documents on International Affairs 1960* (London: Oxford University Press/Royal Institute of International Affairs, 1964), pp. 279-80.