Very interestingly the Prime Minister is accompanied by Mr. Diallo Telli, who is the Guinean Ambassador to the United States, and by the Guinean Press Attaché in Washington. Our Permanent Mission in New York and our Embassy in Washington both report that there is keen rivalry among the representatives of Guinea, Ghana and other African countries in New York and Washington with respect to the provision of initiative and leadership in connection with Mr. Lumumba's visit to the United States. In this struggle the Guineans made the most of the advantage they possess in speaking French. Guinea, while professedly neutral, is, as you know, much oriented toward Eastern Europe. We did not intentionally invite these Guineans who therefore may be regarded as guests of our guest of honour. Departmentally, of course, we shall be civil to the Guineans but we intend to deal with the Congolese directly and not through the Guineans. We can hope that the Guineans will not be a nuisance in respect to the press or the public.

Two Ghanaians who have been travelling with Mr. Lumumba in the United States, have also come here. One is Mr. Quaison-Sackey, Ghanaian Ambassador to the United Nations who expects to become Ghanaian High Commissioner in Ottawa. The other is in an information officer.

Mr. Hammarskjöld has vividly described Mr. Lumumba as "very responsive to friendship and to frankness, impressionable but apt to be swayed by changing influences" and especially by the last person or group to exert influence. He is "ignorant, very suspicious, shrewd but immature in his ideas — the smallest in scope of any of the African leaders" known to the Secretary-General. Our chargé in Washington describes him as socially inept but apparently desirous of pleasing, and "simple and unassuming in private conversation." Our Ambassador to the United Nations found him "tired and bewildered by New York." A short biographical sketch is attached to this brief.†

We know little about Mr. Lumumba's political position among his own people. The press reports that parliament has been recessed. Mr. Kasavubu is President of the republic and is both Mr. Lumumba's colleague and principal rival. We believe Mr. Lumumba not to be a communist although there are a number of communists in his Cabinet. Although observers had forecast possibly serious disorders in the Congo, it cannot be judged how far the present difficulties were communist inspired. The Prime Minister describes himself as neutral in East-West politics. He is in fact playing each side against the other politically and economically and will probably continue to do so as long as he considers this to be profitable.

While perhaps Mr. Lumumba's remarks may make it necessary to discuss with him East-West relations and the international scene generally, it seems to be doubtful whether it would be desirable for us to go into these matters further than his initiative in the conversation may force us to. As to Congolese politics, you are aware that the Belgian Chargé d'Affaires has made strong representations against Mr. Lumumba's visit. Doubtless you will wish to emphasize that we are friends and wish to remain friends of Belgians and Congolese and to assist each of them in what must be their common endeavour to re-establish a peaceful and economically viable country. Mr. Lumumba through inexperience may on his arrival embarrass us, as he has embarrassed the Americans, by attacking the Belgians in public.

The following pages contain a few notes about subjects which Mr. Lumumba may raise. In respect to economic or technical assistance, if any assurances are given it would seem necessary to reiterate that the United Nations channel will have to be used. This is indeed probably the only practicable channel. (We have now learned that this will also be the American procedure.)

It would be helpful if one particular matter could be taken up directly with Mr. Lumumba. Our Acting Trade Commissioner in Leopoldville has asked the Congolese authorities for an agrément to raise the status of our office to a consulate-general and to hope to be able to send