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## PRESS RELEASE

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THURSDAY, AUGUST 18, 1960.

The Prime Minister, the Right Honourable John G. Diefenbaker, today sent the following telegram to Monsieur Patrice Lumumba, Prime Minister of the Republic of the Congo.

"Mr. Prime Minister,

I have learned today with very grave concern that Canadian Service personnel on United Nations assignments have been molested and subjected to humiliating treatment in your country.

Yesterday, another incident occurred in which an Air Force officer and his assistant were prevented from carrying out their duties. We were then inclined to believe that what had taken place must have been due to a misunderstanding as to their identity and the nature of their mission.

The latest incident puts both occurrences in a different light and raises important questions.

As you pointed out during your recent visit to Ottawa, our two countries are already in diplomatic relations and you were hoping that because of special circumstances, cooperation between them might be increased to our mutual benefit. In view of this approach, which I sincerely welcomed, I agreed promptly to your request for facilities in recruiting bilingual experts in this country and emphasized that the Canadian Government and the Canadian people would welcome the opportunity to support any organized United Nations programme of assistance to your country.