

PRESS RELEASE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The representatives of a group of countries who are signatories of the Geneva Conventions of 1949 for the protection of war victims have issued today in Geneva an appeal to all concerned to facilitate the arrival at Stanleyville in the Democratic Republic of the Congo of personnel of the International Committee of the Red Cross so that they may perform their humanitarian services in the Congo including those areas to which they do not now have access.

The object of the appeal is to ensure that elementary humanitarian principles are observed in the treatment of the civilian population, including foreigners, who are affected by the troubles in the Congo.

The group of countries which have so far joined in launching this appeal includes Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Britain, Canada, Denmark, Italy, Haiti, Netherlands, United States of America.

Following is the full text of the appeal:

"The Governments of Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Britain, Canada, Denmark, Italy, Haiti, Netherlands and United States of America welcome the humanitarian efforts of Prime Minister Jomo Kenyatta of Kenya, who is Chairman of the OAU Ad Hoc Commission on the Congo, to save lives in the Congo including foreign civilians. Despite steps which Prime Minister Kenyatta has taken and assurances of safety for foreigners which have been made to him from Stanleyville, it has become clear that the lives of civilians in the Stanleyville area

remain in grave danger.

In furtherance of the objectives of Mr. Kenyatta's humanitarian initiative, these governments, being signatories to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 for the protection of war victims, which govern the treatment of civilians and others in the present conflict in the Congo; and being concerned for the safety of all the civilian population, appeal to all concerned to facilitate an immediate and safe arrival at Stanleyville of personnel of the ICRC, in order that they may perform their humanitarian services throughout the whole Congo including those parts of the Congo to which they do not now have access. If it would help to ensure the success of this mission, these Governments would, for their part, be prepared forthwith to designate their own representative to accompany the ICRC Mission to Stanleyville, and if any OAU member states wish to designate a representative to accompany this mission these Governments would welcome this".