

UNITED NATIONS IN THE CONGO

A Diary of Events

*This is a continuation of the Diary commenced last month giving a history of the relations of the United Nations with the Congo.**

October 11. In Ruanda-Urundi (still under Belgian trusteeship) the Ruanda king protested against 'the enormous build-up of Belgian military forces' in the territory (D.T.).

October 16. A correspondent says gangsterism in Leopoldville is 'causing serious concern and a growing lack of confidence in Col. Mobutu's

ability to protect even his nearest colleagues' (O.).

October 18. In a statement Mobutu said that he had received assurances from Tshombe of full support 'military, financial and economic. . . . There is no question of Parliament meeting. Whether the U.N. want it or the Afro-Asian bloc likes it makes no difference' (D.W.).

October 22. Belgium has rejected a demand of Mr. Hammarskjold that 'about eighteen hundred Belgian technicians still working there be recalled' (G.).

*The items of the diary are compiled under dates of newspapers, which are referred to in parentheses by the following initials: D.T. = *Daily Telegraph*; T = *The Times*; O = *The Observer*; G = *The Guardian*; D.W. = *Daily Worker*; A.P. = *The Associated Press* agency; T. Mag. = *Time Magazine*; D.E. = *Daily Express*; D.H. = *Daily Herald*; Ec. = *Economist*.

October 24. A report from U.N. confirmed that the United States had given 'private backing' to Mobutu, and commented that should the United States stick to Mobutu 'it might find itself backing a loser' (A.P.).

October 27. Mobutu, says a report, has agreed with U.N. officials to withdraw his Congolese troops from Leopoldville 'where they have been terrorising civilians in the African quarter' (G.).

October 28. The Pan African Freedom Movement of East and Central Africa, at its Conference held in Uganda, has issued a 'declaration of support for Mr. Lumumba as rightful ruler of the Congo' (T.). In Leopoldville U.N. officials were concerned about 'increased Belgian "penetration" into the Congolese central and provincial administration in recent weeks . . . their number in Leopoldville had risen from 4,500 in July to 6,500' (G.). Another report said that 'Belgians in key positions in the Congo are attempting to influence local politics by creating anti-Lumumba atmosphere' (D.T.).

October 29. Mr. Yav, the Katanga 'Defence Minister' arrived in Brussels with 47 Army trainees for training in Belgium. He said Belgium 'was the only country in the world which fully understood Congolese problems' (G.).

October 30. Eight Afro-Asian states tabled a resolution calling upon the Secretary General 'to take all useful steps towards facilitating and assuring of a meeting in the shortest possible time of the Parliament of the Republic of the Congo'. It also calls for 'a decision by the Assembly to seat immediately the representatives of "the central Government" of the Congo (meaning Mr. Lumumba's Government)' (O.).

October 31. A report stated Mobutu's 'control of the Army was wavering and everywhere, it seemed, there were plotters trying to push Patrice Lumumba back into power. . . . Tshombe still depends on Belgian aid to keep his government going. Belgian engineers and money still operate the big copper mines, and Belgian advisers and experts on Tshombe's payroll virtually run the Katanga government departments and provide leadership for the army. Every government minister has a Belgian *chef de cabinet* to advise him on every move: more often than not the Belgian summons the minister when he wants him, sits while he stands' (T.Mag.).

November 3. The U.N. reports that J. M. Roberts, an Englishman aged 23, was arrested for violating a U.N. sponsored truce and 'directing reprisal massacres' in Kasai Province. He was recruited by 'a secret recruiting agency for white volunteers' with 'a Belgian colonel in charge' and was given the rank of captain. 'He said: "I did it mostly for the money (£179 a month plus £3 10s. 0d. for every day in action) but also because I did not like what Mr. Lumumba had done in the Congo".' According to the report he said that in one action at a village called Malundu: "'I burnt the village down. There were two hundred huts. . . . Our men opened all the huts and looted some"' (T. and G.).

November 4. A report was presented to the General Assembly from the U.N. Special Representative in the Congo, Mr. Rajeshwar Dayal (who was Indian High Commissioner in Pakistan). He had arrived in Leopoldville on September 6, to replace Dr. Bunche, who had been withdrawn. Dayal had submitted a preliminary progress report on Sept-

ember 21. His next report 'to some extent supports charges which the Russians have been making against the Belgian Government' (D.T.). About Mobutu's army coup: 'The eruption of the Army into the political scene constituted a menace to peace and security and actually inhibited peaceful political activity'. He described Mobutu's Commission of University Students as 'invariably accompanied by numerous Belgian advisers' (G.). Dayal reveals that 'some Belgian nationals are believed to have been actively arming separatist Congolese forces and in some cases Belgian officers have directed and led such forces which, in certain areas, have been responsible for brutal and oppressive acts of violence' (D.E.). The 'report says "a gradual but purposeful" return is being staged by Belgian nationals' (D.H.).

November 5. A New York dispatch said that the U.S. State Department has criticised Mr. Dayal's report, being 'unable to accept the implications of bad faith on the part of the Belgians. The department's remarks seem to derive largely from uneasiness at what is regarded here as support for Mr. Lumumba by U.N. staff in the Congo' (T.).

Writing about the Afro-Asian Conciliation Group: 'It is an open secret that the U.N. has lately been more in conflict with the Colonel (Mobutu) than with Mr. Lumumba. . . . Their first imperative will be to find a way of seeing that the Congo parliament is recalled to take a decision on who is to lead the government. Even if it seems likely that Mr. Lumumba will be able to hypnotise the deputies yet again the risk must be taken' (Ec.).

November 6. A Leopoldville correspondent says: 'Congolese sup-

porters of Mr. Lumumba are, of course, delighted that their campaign for the restoration of Parliament—which Mr. Lumumba can probably control without much difficulty—now has Mr. Dayal's support. It is believed that there can be no political settlement of the present crisis without the participation of Mr. Lumumba, who still commands considerable support in the country.' The correspondent adds: 'there are now Belgian advisers in almost every Government office in Leopoldville. Some Provincial Ministers also have Belgian councillors. . . . The United Nations alleges that these advisers are . . . encouraging the *commissaires* installed by Col. Mobutu . . . to by-pass U.N. advisers and experts . . . that the object of the Belgians is to re-establish themselves as masters of the Congo' (O.).

November 7. It was reported from New York that the U.N. 'conciliation group' has been instructed 'to try to re-establish parliamentary rule in the Congo. If this means merely re-convening the "rump Parliament" over which Mr. Lumumba has shown his mastery, it will amount to restoring him to power.' Brussels states that the Belgian Government has decided 'to reject the United Nations request for the withdrawal of technicians from the Congo' (T.).

November 8. In a report from Leopoldville, Mr. Lumumba said that 'he fully supported the U.N. report by Mr. Dayal. . . . He called on the U.N. to respect and conform to the decisions of the Congolese Parliament . . . he also expressed his "full confidence" in the U.N. and Mr. Hammarskjöld'. Mr. Tshombe in Elizabethville however, 'described the U.N. report as "completely lacking in objectivity"' (G.).

H.R.