

Congo. Correspondence with interested countries A-G (except Ghana): Congo. ...

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Congo (country files)

Correspondence with Australia

The Secretary-General of the United Nations presents his compliments to the Permanent Representative of Australia and has the honour to inform him of the following.

There is an urgent need to provide the Supreme Commander of the United Nations Force in the Congo with additional highly qualified staff officers. The Secretary-General has therefore requested the Acting Chief of Staff of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization in Jerusalem to suggest volunteers among the officers in the UNTSO to go to Léopoldville as soon as possible for a period of about a month. The Secretary-General has been informed that Majors A.H. Lofts and F.A. Gardner are prepared to leave as soon as clearance has been obtained from their Government and provided temporary replacements for them have been sent to Jerusalem.

The Secretary-General would appreciate receiving as early as convenient an authorization from the Government of Australia for Majors Lofts and Gardner to serve in Léopoldville for the above-mentioned period. He would equally appreciate it if replacements for Majors Lofts and Gardner could be sent without delay to Jerusalem for the same period.

27 July 1960



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2nd August 1960

The Permanent Representative of Australia to the United Nations presents his compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to refer to the latter's note of 27th July concerning the temporary transfer of Majors A.H. Lofts and F.A. Gardner from UNTSO to ONUC.

The Permanent Representative would state that the Australian Government has granted authorization for the transfer of these two officers to Leopoldville for a period of approximately one month. However he is further informed that it will not be practicable for the Australian Army to provide replacements with UNTSO for so short a period; the Australian Army would be prepared to reconsider this matter if the duration of the transfer had to be extended. In these circumstances the Permanent Representative would appreciate advice from the Secretary-General as soon as possible as to the probable total period of transfer.

The Secretary-General,
United Nations Headquarters,
New York

AUSTRALIAN MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

AID FOR THE CONGO

The Right Honourable R.G. Menzies (Prime Minister and Minister for External Affairs of Australia), in a statement in Australia on 19th January, commended the private appeals by Australian newspapers, organizations, and individuals for contributions to help aid the Congolese people.

Mr Menzies said that he and members of his Cabinet, in common with many Australian citizens, had been deeply moved by the reports of famine and other abnormal conditions in the Congo. Contributions to Congo aid funds from Australian citizens would be a most valuable and humane complement to the aid totalling £1,504,017 which the Australian Government had already extended or proposed to contribute to the Congo.

Mr Menzies said that the Australian Government's assistance to the Congo had been channelled through the United Nations. Last month (December) the Australian Government had given a cash donation of £334,822 (U.S. \$750,000) for economic and financial aid to the Congo. The Government would soon contribute £386,442 (U.S. \$866,931) towards the cost of general United Nations operations in the Congo and would probably be called on to contribute during this year a further £766,000 (U.S. \$1,718,400) towards the cost of these operations.

The Government had also contributed £15,000 towards the cost of Australian Red Cross teams now working in the Congo. In addition Australia was making regular contributions to United Nations specialized agencies such as UNESCO, the Food and Agriculture Organization, the World Health Organization, the United Nations Children's Fund, and the United Nations Technical Assistance Programme, all of which were giving substantial aid to the Congo.

The Secretary-General presents his compliments to the Permanent Representative of Australia and has the honour to inform him that Sgt. Nigel Osoboan, who is reported to have Australian nationality, was captured by the United Nations Forces in the Congo while he was engaged in military operations for the Katanga gendarmerie directed against United Nations positions in Kabolo.

Sgt. Osoboan is at present in the custody of the United Nations Force at the Kamina base in Katanga.

12 April 1961

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The Secretary-General of the United Nations presents his compliments to the Permanent Representative of Australia to the United Nations and has the honour to refer to his note of 12 April 1961 relating to the capture by the United Nations Force of an Australian citizen who was engaged in military operations directed against United Nations positions held in Katanga pursuant to the Security Council resolutions.

The Secretary-General notes that the individual in question falls within the terms of paragraph A(2) of the Security Council resolution of 21 February 1961 which

"2. Urges that measures be taken for the immediate withdrawal and evacuation from the Congo of all Belgian and other foreign military and para-military personnel and political advisers not under the United Nations Command, and mercenaries".

In view of the provisions of this and the related paragraphs of the Security Council resolution, to which the Secretary-General's letter of 23 February 1961 to the Permanent Representative referred, it is incumbent upon the United Nations and upon all States concerned to give effect to the decision of the Security Council by taking measures for the immediate withdrawal and evacuation from the Congo of the personnel covered by this paragraph. Accordingly, the Secretary-General wishes to request the Australian Government to make immediate arrangements, through appropriate representatives designated to act for it in the Congo, for the repatriation of the captured person in question. Such arrangements should be made in consultation with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in the Congo.

In this connexion the Secretary-General also wishes to invite the attention of the Australian Government to the provisions of paragraph A(3)

of the resolution of 21 February which calls upon all States to take immediate and energetic measures to prevent the departure of the personnel referred to in paragraph A(2) from their territories to the Congo and for the denial of transit and other facilities to them. It is assumed that the Australian Government will take effective steps to implement this provision with respect to the individual repatriated as well as to prevent the departure of other persons from its territory to the Congo in contravention of the Security Council resolution.

14 April 1961

The Secretary-General of the United Nations presents his compliments to the Permanent Representative of Australia to the United Nations and has the honour to make a request for assistance to the United Nations Force in the Congo.

The United Nations is now making an effort to obtain 4 C-130-B aircraft from the United States for the United Nations Force in the Congo. In the event that these efforts are successful the Secretary-General would be grateful if the Government of Australia could provide air crews for these 4 C-130-B aircraft.

The Secretary-General welcomes this opportunity to express his gratitude to the Government of Australia for its assistance to the United Nations Force in the Congo.

17 April 1961

The Secretary-General of the United Nations presents his compliments to the Permanent Representative of Australia to the United Nations and has the honour to refer to his note of 14 April 1961 relating to the capture by the United Nations Force of a group of foreign mercenaries who were engaged in military operations directed against United Nations positions held in Katanga pursuant to the resolutions of the Security Council.

The note of the Secretary-General, basing itself upon a preliminary report cabled by the United Nations Command from Katanga at the time of the capture, referred to the detention of an Australian citizen among this group and requested arrangements on the part of the Australian Government for his evacuation in accordance with the Security Council resolution of 21 February 1961.

Since the date of their capture the foreign mercenary personnel were transferred to the United Nations Base at Kamina and subjected to an extensive interrogation which elicited more accurate information than that contained in statements made at the time of their apprehension.

As indicated in the Report to the Secretary-General from his Acting Special Representative in the Congo Concerning the Interrogation of Thirty Mercenaries Apprehended in Kabalo on 7 April 1961 (A/4732 and S/4790), there does not now appear to have been any Australian citizen among the mercenary personnel detained, and the Secretary-General therefore withdraws the request contained in his note to the Permanent Representative of 14 April 1961.

18 April 1961