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Correspondence with New Zealand

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NEW ZEALAND MISSION
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
630 FIFTH AVENUE, SUITE 530
NEW YORK 20, N. Y.

TELEPHONE
JUDSON 6-6060

19 August 1960

Sir,

Upon the instructions of my Government, and in the absence from New York of the Permanent Representative of New Zealand to the United Nations, Mr Shanahan, I have the honour to bring to your notice a statement issued by the Government of New Zealand on 20 August 1960, commenting on a statement issued by the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on 6 August 1960, in connection with the situation in the Republic of the Congo. The text of the New Zealand Government's statement is enclosed.

Copies of the New Zealand statement have been conveyed, in advance of publication, to the Charge d'Affaires of the Embassy of the Soviet Union in Wellington; and he has been informed of the seriousness with which the New Zealand Government regards this matter.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Deputy Permanent Representative

The Secretary-General

TEXT OF A STATEMENT ISSUED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF NEW ZEALAND
ON 20 AUGUST 1960, COMMENTING ON A STATEMENT ISSUED BY THE
GOVERNMENT OF THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS ON
6 AUGUST 1960, IN CONNECTION WITH THE SITUATION IN THE
REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

At the request of the Permanent Mission of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the United Nations, the Permanent Mission of New Zealand to the United Nations has transmitted to the Government of New Zealand the text of a statement, issued on 6 August by the Soviet Government, on the situation in the Congo. The New Zealand Government is grateful for this opportunity to comment on a disturbing aspect of the Congo situation.

The Soviet Government's statement says, inter alia: "Very alarming is the behaviour of the United Nations appointed command of the troops which were sent to the Republic of the Congo by some states ... the United Nations forces are being used time and again not for what they were intended." Further on, the statement says: "Should the present command of the forces ... persist in disobeying the Security Council's decisions, which oblige it to act solely in agreement with the Government of the Congo and lend it the necessary military aid, this command should be replaced by a new one which will honestly and unswervingly discharge the responsibilities imposed on it by the Security Council's decision."

The New Zealand Government is surprised that a permanent member of the Security Council, which has a special responsibility for the preservation of international peace and security, should thus attack the Secretary-General of the United Nations, who has scrupulously at each turn referred to the Council for instructions, and has acted only in accordance with resolutions for which the Soviet Union has voted. The Secretary-General is in command of the United Nations forces in the Congo; in a situation of the greatest difficulty such a statement can serve only to discredit him in the eyes of the Congolese Government and to incite states which have sent forces there to disregard his command and thereby the instructions of the Security Council.

The New Zealand Government, which attaches great importance to the upholding of the moral authority of the United Nations, is concerned that these attacks on the Secretary-General may tend to bring the whole organization into disrepute, and may create greater chaos in Africa at a time when the newly independent states should be given the opportunity to develop in peace.

The New Zealand Government makes these comments not to bring further controversy into the matter but in the sincere hope that all nations, including the Soviet Union, will endeavour to strengthen the United Nations by supporting the Security Council in its decisions and the Secretary-General in his execution of these decisions.



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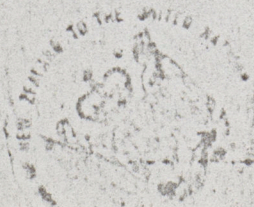
UNITED NATIONS
NEW ZEALAND MISSION
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
630 FIFTH AVENUE, SUITE 530
NEW YORK 20, N. Y.

TELEPHONE
JUDSON 6-0060

The Permanent Representative of New Zealand to the United Nations presents his compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to acknowledge the receipt of the Secretary-General's note of 5 August concerning a replacement for Major C. Hunt in the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization. It is noted also that Major Hunt has been designated as Supply and Maintenance Officer with the United Nations Force in the Congo; and this information has been conveyed to the New Zealand Government.

The Permanent Representative wishes to confirm informal advice, which has already been conveyed to the Secretariat, that the New Zealand Government has approved the assignment of Captain J. Pearson of the New Zealand Armed Forces to UNTSO as a replacement for Major Hunt. Arrangements have been made for Captain Pearson to leave Christchurch for Sydney on flight TE965 on 14 August 1960, and to proceed to Beirut on flight BA705 on 15 August 1960. The Permanent Representative has noted the Secretariat's oral assurance that the necessary travel authorisation will be cabled to Thomas Cook, Wellington.

10 August 1960



Sutser (2)

The Secretary-General of the United Nations presents his compliments to the Permanent Representative of New Zealand to the United Nations and has the honour to inform him that Major C. Hunt of the Armed Forces of New Zealand has been designated as Supply and Maintenance Officer with the United Nations Force in the Congo.

In his note of 22 July 1960, the Secretary-General requested that the replacement for Major Hunt in the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization be designated. If this has not already been done, it would be appreciated if a replacement could be designated as early as possible.

5 August 1960

The Secretary-General of the United Nations presents his compliments to the Permanent Representative of New Zealand 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 Major H.P.T. Willis is prepared to leave as soon as clearance has been obtained from his Government and provided a temporary replacement for him has been sent to Jerusalem.

The Secretary-General would appreciate receiving as early as convenient an authorization from the Government of New Zealand for Major Willis to serve in Léopoldville for the above-mentioned period. He would equally appreciate it if a replacement for Major Willis could be sent without delay to Jerusalem for the same period.

27 July 1960

The Secretary-General of the United Nations presents his compliments to the Permanent Representative of New Zealand to the United Nations and has the honour to refer to the assignment for service with the United Nations in the Republic of the Congo of Major C. Hunt of the Armed Forces of New Zealand, together with twelve officers from other Member States originally assigned for service with the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization in Palestine.

The assignment of these officers has seriously weakened the strength of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization. The Acting Chief of Staff, Colonel Rickert, has drawn attention to the urgent need of maintaining UNTSO at its present strength. Accordingly, the Secretary-General would be grateful to the Permanent Representative for his assistance in securing the assignment by the appropriate authorities of New Zealand, as a matter of urgency, of one officer of the rank of Captain or Major to proceed to Jerusalem at the earliest possible date.

22 July 1960