

# Congo. U.N. Advisory Committee on the Congo - correspondence, statements, p...

*HS L 179:152*



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Congo - 1960

Advisory Committee on the Congo

6 - 7 Dec.

Kasavubu, Joseph (President of the Congo)

- 2 messages to D.H.

8 December 1960

The following is the text of a message received on 7 December 1960 from Mr. Kasa-Vubu, which the Secretary-General wishes called to the attention of members of the Advisory Committee.

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6 December 1960

The Secretary-General  
of the United Nations  
New York

Sir,

On returning to the Congo on Sunday 27 November, I made the first contacts necessary to prepare for the arrival in the Congo of a United Nations Conciliation Commission. I was unable, however, to devote my undivided attention to this task. As you will have learned, Mr. Lumumba escaped in the evening of 27 November, after diverting the attention of the guards assigned to protect him by the United Nations, and, having been duly furnished with a car, succeeded in reaching Kasai. This provoked further needless tension in the country.

A separate communication of today's date gives you greater details on this matter. I would ask you to refer to it.

Mr. Lumumba's arrest will now enable the country to concentrate on the task of reconstruction. It would seem to me inadvisable, however, to speed the arrival of the Conciliation Commission unduly, as a premature arrival would, I fear, prevent it from exercising its good offices to the best effect. The work must be prepared and the Commission's itinerary through the capital cities of the provinces should include meetings with local notables, political leaders and members of the various elected assemblies. This task requires some time, and I cannot see, in view of the forthcoming meeting of African Chiefs of State at Brazzaville, how the preparations can be completed before 26 December.

As a first step, I should be grateful if you would ensure that no further doubt subsists regarding the following:

1. The countries participating in the Commission;
2. The nature of the work to be done by the Commission during its stay in the Congo;
3. The elimination of risks facing the Congo as a result of the strange attitudes of representatives from countries with which the Congo has been obliged to suspend its diplomatic relations;
4. The eventual participation of the Congo in the travel and accommodation expenses of the Commission's members.

I should be grateful if you would give me a clear answer on these various points, within a reasonably short time, so that I may arrange for careful consideration of all the aspects of the Commission's arrival before giving my formal agreement to any date for the same.

I have the honour to be, etc.

(Signed) Joseph Kasa-Vubu  
President of the Republic of the Congo

(Signed) Justin Bomboko  
Commissioner General for Foreign Affairs "

8 December 1960

Following is the text of a communication from Mr. Kasa-Vubu received late on 7 December 1960, which the Secretary-General wishes brought to the attention of members of the Advisory Committee.

The Secretary-General also has asked that members of the Committee be alerted for an urgent meeting of the Committee, which may be called for late today (Thursday) or tomorrow, depending upon the scheduling of other meetings.

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Leopoldville, 7 December 1960

Sir,

Your communication of 7 December informs me of the reactions of the Advisory Committee on the United Nations Operation in the Congo. You have brought to my notice your regret and the disappointment of the members of the Committee; you are not unaware, however, that if no communication was received from the Congo, it was for the good reason that, wishing to pay a last tribute to Lieutenant Colonel Kokolo, I was detained far from Leopoldville until this morning. Your representatives in the Congo were duly notified of that state of affairs, and it was clearly indicated to them that a reply to you would certainly be delivered today. This has been done.

You will understand, I am sure, that I was highly surprised, on reading your message of today's date, to see no reference therein to the cause of my inability to answer before a certain date. My resentment was intensified by the fact that the Conciliation Commission has, on its own initiative, decided to send a number of its members to Leopoldville on 13 December. As you know, 12 December is the opening date of an important conference of French-speaking African Chiefs of State at Brazzaville, where a large delegation from the Republic of the Congo will be present. It will be impossible for me, therefore, to receive the members of the Commission either on that day or on the following days, and I must formally request that they defer their arrival at Leopoldville.

My communication of 6 December asked you to be kind enough to clarify certain specific points before the Commission's arrival. It would certainly be unfortunate if, in the absence of such clarification, all the Commission's work were vitiated by some basic misunderstanding rendering all its subsequent conclusions impracticable. I am sure that you share my desire to work in the clear, and I shall accordingly be grateful if you will give me detailed answers to these preliminary questions before contemplating the arrival of the Commission at Leopoldville.

I have the honour to be, etc.

(Signed) J. Kasa-Vubu  
President of the Republic of the Congo

(Signed) J. Bomboko  
Commissioner General for Foreign Affairs

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