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LETTER DATED 6 DECEMBER 1960 FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE  
DELEGATION OF THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS  
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a statement by the Soviet Government on the situation in the Congo.

I should be grateful if you would arrange for this statement to be circulated without delay to representatives in the General Assembly as an official document of the fifteenth session of the United Nations General Assembly.

(Signed) V. ZORIN  
Chairman of the Delegation of the Union  
of Soviet Socialist Republics

STATEMENT

BY THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT ON THE SITUATION IN THE CONGO

The events of recent days in the Congo show that the colonialist NATO Powers, led by the United States, have openly embarked on a policy of liquidating the Parliament of the Republic of the Congo and the legitimate Government headed by Mr. Patrice Lumumba and of destroying the national independence won by the Congolese people. The arrest and torture of Prime Minister Lumumba, of Mr. Okito, the President of the Congolese Senate, of Mr. Kasongo, the President of the House of Representatives, and of a number of ministers and Parliamentary deputies who have remained true to their people, as well as the terror unleashed in the country by the colonialists and their hired agents, indicate that the imperialist aggression against the Republic of the Congo carried out by NATO under cover of the United Nations flag has entered a new and more acute phase.

The colonialists desire the physical elimination of the leaders of the Congolese State and the political leaders of the Congolese people so that they can be replaced by hirelings of their own like Mobutu and Tshombe. They are employing for that discreditable purpose the traitor to the Congolese people, Kasa-Vubu. They are seeking in effect to hand over the administration of the country to new (United States) as well as old (Belgian) colonialists, who are working hand in glove with one another as well as with the Portuguese, British and French colonial authorities in Africa. Thousands of Belgian colonial officials, "advisers", officers, judges, businessmen and plantation owners who had been driven out by the Congolese people have already returned to the Congo and are running things there under the cover provided by the United Nations Command and Mr. Hammarskjold's official representatives.

In launching their colonialist adventure in the Congo in July this year, the imperialist NATO Powers prepared plans for swiftly snuffing out the independence of the Republic of the Congo and, thereafter, the independence of a number of other African States. Those plans were frustrated by the Congolese people and by the peoples of the socialist countries and the independent States of Asia and Africa which are its friends.

After disarming the troops loyal to the legitimate Lumumba Government and forming hired gangs from the scum of Congolese society and foreign adventurers and mercenaries brought in through Brazzaville, the colonialists are trying to achieve their aims by a new method. The situation that has arisen in the Congo is largely the result of the overt and blatant intervention of the present United States Government in the internal affairs of the Congolese State. It is common knowledge that the criminal activities against the Congolese Parliament and Government are being openly directed by the United States Embassy in Leopoldville; the latter working in co-operation with the Belgians, is acting as a headquarters from which money is flowing lavishly for the purpose of carrying on gangster activities in the Congo in the interests of the colonialists.

What is in effect taking place in the Congo is a reallocation of influence and of share capital among the major colonial Powers, the United States, Belgium, the United Kingdom and France. The despoilment of the Congo's resources is what lies at the bottom of the violence and crimes now being committed by the colonialists and their agents in the Congo. Those primarily responsible for bringing about the Congolese tragedy are the great Belgian, United States, United Kingdom and French monopolies, the gallant knights of the moneybag and the safe-deposit vault. All the rest is window-dressing and stage-setting.

The peoples of Africa, Asia and the entire world see from events in the Congo that, after escaping from one prison, a country may find itself in another, oppressed by the old colonialists acting in league with new ones.

The Congolese tragedy is unfolding before the eyes of the entire world. There is no question that the present events in the Congo are not the end of the matter but the beginning of a tenacious struggle waged in the light of the experience which the peoples have acquired. The peoples will derive important and valuable lessons from the present events in the Congo. What are those lessons?

The events in the Congo demonstrate above all that the colonialists give up nothing voluntarily. Every concession is forcibly wrung from them by the peoples, who must fight every step of the way to freedom. The events in the Congo are rapidly dispelling the outmoded trust still felt in some quarters in the age-old oppressors and their servants - gentlemen like Hammarskjold, Bunche and Kasa-Vubu.

The colonialists are continuing to exploit for their predatory purposes the disunity and discord which exist among tribes, parties and organizations, the complacency and insufficient determination shown by some fighters for national freedom and their naive faith in the laws established by the colonialists, the desire of some individuals to play the leading role in events at all times and their inability or unwillingness to subordinate their own actions and personal interests to the national interests of the common struggle to win and consolidate independence.

The events in the Congo are destroying the slave mentality, the naive belief in the promises made by the colonialists from the podium of the United Nations and the mute submissiveness which persist among certain groups of the African community, and other communities as well, and which are the vestiges of their colonial past. The peoples of Africa are watching with indignation the colonialists and their protégés, who for the time being are gaining the upper hand in Leopoldville. However, the masses of the people are becoming increasingly aware of the need for a radical change; they realize that the colonial system cannot continue, that there can be no compromise between the old order of bondage and slavery and the new system of freedom.

Colonialism regards poverty, disease, ignorance, brutality, treachery, the bondsman's chains and the hangman's rope as its allies in Africa. The colonialist's ideal is a savage and violent reactionary system of the fascist type, a system of colonial slavery. But in our time freedom and independence have become as important to the peoples of the world as the very air they breathe. They have ceased to believe that the shackles of colonialism will endure and have already broken many of those shackles.

That is why in the place of one imprisoned Congolese patriot, tortured or executed by the colonialists and their agents, thousands upon thousands of new and even more resolute fighters will inevitably arise who will be better organized and will have learnt from the experience of their predecessors.

The names of Lumumba, Gizenga, Okito, Kasongo and Mpolo have already become symbols of struggling Africa and that situation cannot be altered.

The independent States of Africa, more particularly Ghana, Guinea, the United Arab Republic, Morocco, the Sudan, Ethiopia and Mali, are playing a vital part in defending the independence of the Congo. No wonder that Mr. Hammarskjold is afraid of the part being played by the African States in the Congo and has sent and is continuing to send there United States, Canadian, Swedish, Irish and other military personnel and officials who faithfully served the big foreign monopolies. No wonder that even now when an attempt is being made to restore the colonial system in the Republic of the Congo the colonialists are concentrating their efforts on isolating it from its most trusted African friends, such as Ghana, Guinea and the United Arab Republic, and on securing the removal of the troops of these independent States from the Congolese territory.

However, the African and Asian Governments did not always preserve the unity which was necessary to safeguard the sovereign rights of the Republic of the Congo after it had fallen victim to imperialist aggression. The colonial Powers adroitly turned to their own predatory ends the occasional differences between those countries and the mistaken faith of some of them in the "impartiality" of United Nations executive organs and in the deliberately false information supplied by the colonial Powers on the situation in the Congo.

If the Asian and African Governments had maintained the unity and determination which, for instance, they showed, together with the socialist countries, at the time of the Suez crisis in the autumn of 1956, the criminal schemes of the imperialists in the Congo could not possibly have been carried out.

Events in the Congo provide clear confirmation of the correctness of the Soviet Government's position since the beginning of imperialist aggression against the Republic of the Congo and of the truth and necessity of the Soviet Union's resolute and consistent criticism of Mr. Hammarskjold, the United Nations Secretary-General, who has played the part of a lackey of the colonialists.

The base role of the United Nations Secretary-General and his representatives in the Congo is eloquently demonstrated by the following fact. When it became known that Mobutu's gangs, formed and paid by the colonialists, had seized Prime Minister Lumumba, the United Nations representatives firmly denied reports that they had tried to prevent the lawless activities of those gangs and to help the Prime Minister. They boasted that they had observed the principle of "non-interference" in the matter. That served to prove yet again the servile role

played by the representatives of the United Nations, or more precisely, the representatives of the colonialists, in the Congo.

When non-interference had in fact been necessary to enable the lawful Government to carry out its functions, the representatives of the United Nations had grossly interfered in the Congo's affairs and had paralysed that Government's effectiveness. But, when need arose to defend the head of the Government and other members of the Parliament and the Government of the Congo from manhandling by the imperialists and colonialists, a policy of "non-interference" - or in reality one of complicity with the imperialists and colonialists - was adopted. Thanks to these actions by the United Nations representatives, including the Secretary-General, they, and the troops under their command in the Congo, troops which were sent there pursuant to a Security Council decision, have not only not carried out the Council's instructions - to put an end to the aggression against the Republic of the Congo and to protect its independence and territorial integrity - but have acted as a tool of the aggressors and colonialists.

The danger which is menacing the Republic of the Congo is at the same time a danger to the independence of Nigeria, Senegal, Ghana, Morocco, Guinea and other African States; it is a danger to the cause of peace in Africa and throughout the world. Consequently, the unity and degree of organization of the peoples struggling against colonialism needs to be strengthened.

The latest actions by the colonialists in the Congo, actions which are aimed at restoring the colonial system in that country, are being carried out at a time when the General Assembly of the United Nations is discussing, at its fifteenth session, the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples submitted by Mr. N.S. Khrushchev, Head of the Soviet Government. The Soviet proposals have received wide support from all the independent countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America. By their actions in the Congo, the colonial Powers are demonstrating their contempt for the opinion of the overwhelming majority of States of the world, for the will of peoples, and for the principles of the United Nations Charter.

The present events in the Congo demonstrate once again how completely justified is the demand for the elimination of colonialism formulated in the Soviet Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and peoples, a document which provides a programme for the struggle of the peoples throughout the world against colonial slavery.

Undoubtedly, the peoples will answer the colonialists' attempt to restore the old order in the Congo by going over to the offensive against the shameful colonial régime, to the struggle for the liquidation of the colonialists' strongholds and military bases in every area of the globe and for the final elimination of colonialism. The colonialists must realize the truth: that today is not the nineteenth century, that not a single colonial expedition, not a single crime such as those which are being committed in the Republic of the Congo will go unavenged, and that every blow directed against the freedom of the peoples will be answered by the peoples of the world with intensified counter-blows. The peoples will learn that lesson in no small measure, from those very crimes of the aggressors and their hirelings.

The peoples are justified in calling upon the United Nations to take decisive steps against the aggressors and colonial bandits who are seeking to stifle the independence of the Republic of the Congo. The situation in the Congo dictates that these steps should be taken without the slightest delay. Above all, it is necessary:

First, to liberate at once Patrice Lumumba, the Prime Minister of the Republic of the Congo, Okito, the President of the Senate, Kasongo, the President of the Chamber of Representatives, and other Ministers and members of Parliament, and simultaneously to take all necessary steps to ensure the resumption of the activities of the lawful Government and Parliament of the Republic of the Congo.

Secondly, to disarm forthwith Mobutu's bands of terrorists, with the help of the forces in the Congo sent to that country by decision of the Security Council.

Thirdly, to establish a special commission of representatives of African and Asian countries with a view to a thorough investigation of the sources from which Mobutu's men have been financed and supplied with arms.

Fourthly, and in accordance with the decisions taken by the United Nations Security Council and by the special session of the United Nations General Assembly, to remove from the Congo all Belgian troops and officials.

Fifthly - with a view to the implementation of these and other urgent measures - the Soviet Government proposes that the question of the situation in the Republic of the Congo should be examined at the earliest possible date by the Security Council and by the United Nations General Assembly at its current, fifteenth, session.

The Soviet Union will extend every possible measure of friendly help and support to the people of the Republic of the Congo in its struggle against the colonialists.

The peoples of the Soviet Union are confident that the Congolese people's struggle for its freedom and independence will be crowned with success and that the colonialists will be driven out of the Congo, as out of all other countries which are still shackled by the chains of colonial slavery. The day is coming when those chains will be shattered and when the sun of freedom will shine forth wherever, today, the stranglers and executioners of freedom have the upper hand.

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