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CABLE DATED 12 JULY 1960 FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO AND SUPREME COMMANDER OF THE NATIONAL ARMY AND THE PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF NATIONAL DEFENCE ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS

The Government of the Republic of the Congo requests urgent dispatch by the United Nations of military assistance. This request is justified by the dispatch to the Congo of metropolitan Belgian troops in violation of the treaty of friendship signed between Belgium and the Republic of the Congo on 29 June 1960. Under the terms of that treaty, Belgian troops may only intervene on the express request of the Congolese Government. No such request was ever made by the Government of the Republic of the Congo and we therefore regard the unsolicited Belgian action as an act of aggression against our country.

The real cause of most of the disturbances can be found in colonialist machinations. We accuse the Belgian Government of having carefully prepared the secession of the Katanga with a view to maintaining a hold on our country. The Government, supported by the Congolese people, refuses to accept a fait accompli resulting from a conspiracy between Belgian imperialists and a small group of Katanga leaders. The overwhelming majority of the Katanga population is opposed to secession, which means the disguised perpetuation of the colonialist regime. The essential purpose of the requested military aid is to protect the national territory of the Congo against the present external aggression which is a threat to international peace. We strongly stress the extremely urgent need for the dispatch of United Nations troops to the Congo.

(Signed) Joseph Kasavubu  
President of the Republic of the Congo and  
Supreme Commander of the National Army

(Signed) Patrice Lumumba  
Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence

CABLE DATED 13 JULY FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO  
AND THE PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF NATIONAL DEFENCE ADDRESSED  
TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS

In connexion with military assistance requested of United Nations by the Republic of the Congo the Chief of State and the Prime Minister of the Congo make the following clarification: (1) the purpose of the aid requested is not to restore internal situation in Congo but rather to protect the national territory against act of aggression posed by Belgian metropolitan troops. (2) The request for assistance relates only to a United Nations force consisting of military personnel of neutral countries and not of United States as reported by certain radio stations. (3) If requested assistance is not received without delay the Republic of the Congo will be obliged to appeal to the Bandung Treaty Powers. (4) The aid has been requested by the Republic of the Congo in the exercise of its sovereign rights and not in agreement with Belgium as reported.

(Signed) J. HASAVUBU, President of the  
Republic of the Congo

(Signed) P. LUMUMBA, Prime Minister and  
Minister of Defence.

