

Congo Leaders Reject Security Council Plans

LEOPOLDVILLE, the Congo (AP)—Congoese Premier Joseph Ileo lined up with Katanga President Moise Tshombe yesterday in rejecting the U.N. Security Council's new Congo plan. He called one phase "a declaration of war."

"The Congoese people are ready to die to defend our sovereignty," Ileo told a news conference. "We are ready to defend ourselves with all means at our disposal. If the UN uses force, we will reply with force." The Katanga government's bitter reaction, however, appeared somewhat eased.

Tshombe, who had ordered a general mobilization in his mineral-rich secessionist province, announced in Elisabethville the United Nations and Katanga have agreed to halt all troop movements "likely to lead to friction."

Unconfirmed reports circulated of political killings at Stanleyville in revenge for the slaying of ex-Premier Patrice Lumumba. British diplomatic sources said a firing squad Monday executed 15 opponents of Antoine Gizenga's Communist-backed Stanleyville regime—men plucked from about 300 Congoese prisoners. An account published in London said one of the victims was Alphonse Songolo, Lumumba's former communications minister who later broke with him.

UN headquarters here had no word about it.

Ileo deplored but disclaimed responsibility for the recent deportations and death of Lumumba and eight of his political followers. He said the deportations—Lumumba and two aides to Katanga and six Lumumba politicians to South Kasai—were carried out before his regime took office two weeks ago.

As for an international inquiry into Lumumba's death, he said "that is a problem which concerns the Congo exclusively." But he said his government is ready to cooperate with the United Nations "provided they respect our sovereignty."

Laos Reds Denounce Neutrality

TOKYO (AP)—Laotian leftist rebels and Red China yesterday denounced King Savang Vathana's attempt to pull Laos through the storm of cold war by steering a neutral course.

Broadcasts from the rebels assailed the Laotian king's declaration of neutrality for Laos and his plan for a three-member commission of neutral nations to prevent foreign intervention.

Foreign Minister Chen Yi of Red China said the proposal for a watchdog commission was the work of the United States and "is not to promote peace and neutrality in Laos," Radio Peiping said.

"This marked the start of the new U.S. scheme to turn Laos into a second Congo and a U.S. colony," he added.

The leftist Pathet Lao forces denounced the plan, saying the king advanced it under armed pressure from the Vientiane government of Premier Boun Oum.

The king's declaration of neutrality and his proposal that Cambodia, Burma and Malaya send a commission to Laos has won support from the United States and raised Western hopes for a political settlement of the civil war.

Both Red China and the Laotian rebels repeated a proposal that 14 nations, four of them Communist, hold a conference on Laos. This plan was rejected last month by the United States and France.

Despite the opposition to the king's plan, informants in London pictured British officials as optimistic over chances of an agreement.

De Gaulle Plans Meeting

PARIS (AP)—President Charles de Gaulle and Tunisian President Habib Bourguiba will meet Monday to explore the chances of peace in Algeria.

The meeting was arranged here by French officials and Bourguiba's information minister, Mohammed Masmoudi.

Smith Refuses Embassy Post In Switzerland

PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP)—Earl E. T. Smith said yesterday he has turned down the post of ambassador to Switzerland because of controversy centering on his former embassy post in Cuba.

The Palm Beach financier said in a statement at his home:

"I have asked the President of the United States to withdraw my name from further consideration as ambassador to Switzerland."

"The President asked me in January to assume this responsibility and I was honored that the President believed I could be of service to my country. However, because of the controversy that has been stimulated I have requested the President to withdraw my name."

Smith was assailed by Fidel Castro as a foe of the Cuban people through maintaining friendly relations with the government of Cuban President Fulgencio Batista, whom the bearded revolutionary forced to flee.

Biddle Awaits Approval

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Senate Foreign Relations Committee is expected to give quick approval to President Kennedy's appointment of Anthony Drexel Biddle Jr., Pennsylvania's adjutant general, to be ambassador to Spain.

The formal nomination has not reached the Senate yet but all indications are that it will be submitted soon.

Kennedy Contacts Nikita

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Kennedy is sending a personal message to Soviet Premier Khrushchev expressing hope that future talks between the two countries will be "fruitful."

Ambassador Llewellyn Thompson was instructed yesterday to hand the message to the Soviet leader upon his return to Moscow.

Thompson left Washington later in the day after two weeks of consultation with Kennedy and members of his administration.

The diplomat has had four conferences with the President since his arrival here Feb. 8. These meetings, the White House said after the final session, "will enable Ambassador Thompson to return to Moscow with a clear understanding of the President's views on the matters discussed for his use as guidance in conversations with Soviet officials."

Thompson went to the White House with Secretary of State

Dean Rusk. In the statement issued afterward, the White House said the envoy is taking "a personal message to Mr. Khrushchev expressing the President's confidence in Ambassador Thompson and the desire that any further conversations between Soviet officials and the ambassador will be fruitful and assist in bringing about better Soviet-American understanding."

Kennedy's expression of confidence in Thompson was understood to mean a restatement of the President's belief in methods of quiet diplomacy. The new administration, officials said, is firmly convinced that the best way to explore new ways to bring about better Soviet-American understanding is to talk with the Kremlin through normal diplomatic channels.

This, however, does not rule out a meeting between Kennedy and Khrushchev at a later stage, officials said, if the Soviet leader should insist on having one or if he chooses to come to the spring

session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

The President himself, at his latest news conference, said he "would make a judgment as to what could usefully be done once we know what Mr. Khrushchev's plans were."

Kennedy's message to Khrushchev was understood to explain the new administration's thinking on outstanding international issues. Officials indicated Thompson will not present anything new when he calls at the Kremlin, but will be in a position to give a first-hand account of the President's philosophy on world problems.

President Appeals To Airline Union

WASHINGTON (AP)—Talking took the spotlight from voting yesterday in the crippling airlines strike. The government hurriedly set up conferences as hope dimmed that the flight engineers would vote to go back to work.

President Kennedy, after appointing a peace-seeking commission, appealed to the flight engineers to return to work. George Meany, president of the AFL-CIO, seconded the appeal.

The engineers union, however, has been slow to respond. It has asked the engineers to vote on the appeal.

But polling and ballot counting is behind schedule, and one union spokesman predicted that members would vote to continue the strike, which has shut down many flights from the nation's airports.

Kennedy and Secretary of Labor Arthur J. Goldberg conferred in the morning. Then, in early afternoon, Goldberg talked for almost an hour with President Ronald A. Brown of the Flight Engineers International Association and other union officials.

After the meeting, Goldberg and Brown appeared grim. Neither would say exactly what they discussed.

Goldberg also asked airline officials to stand by for conferences with himself, the commission, and possibly union officials. Brown and his associates also were asked to stand by.

Commission members rushed to Washington. Goldberg said they planned to start work immediately.

The strike by the 3500 flight engineers, causing the worst airline tieup in history, was touched off by a decision of the National Mediation Board.

The board ruled that the pilots and flight engineers of United Air Lines must vote for a union to represent them. At present each group has its own union.

Nixon Offer Denied

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A newspaper said yesterday that former Vice President Richard M. Nixon may become head of Stanford University. Stanford and Nixon aides promptly denied it.

The Los Angeles Herald-Express, in a story by Political Editor Jud Baker, said Nixon was to meet Stanford officials this weekend in Phoenix, Ariz., to discuss heading Stanford.

President Thomas P. Pike of the Stanford Board of Trustees said: "Nothing could be further from the truth."

Pike said Stanford President Wallace Sterling has done an outstanding job and has plans that can't be sidetracked.



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