

1	2	cms	PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE	ins	1	1	2
Ref: FO 371/46777				87873			
Please note that this copy is supplied subject to the Public Record Office's terms and conditions and that your use of it may be subject to copyright restrictions. Further information is given in the enclosed 'Terms and Conditions of supply of Public Records' leaflet							

CONFIDENTIAL

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO CAIRO

Cypher/OTP

FOREIGN OFFICE AND
WHITEHALL DISTRIBUTION

No. 775

August 20, 1960

D. 12.15 p.m. August 20, 1960

IMMEDIATE

CONFIDENTIAL

CONGO.

The present situation in the Congo is most unhealthy. Having get rid of the Belgian troops, through United Nations efforts, but having discovered that he cannot use the United Nations forces to get rid of Tshombe, Lumumba is taking a tough line with the United Nations, and there is even a danger that he will ask for the withdrawal of its forces. If that should happen there would be excellent opportunities for hostile external influences to establish a dominating position.

2. We are most concerned therefore, to maintain the United Nations presence in the Congo and to avoid a request from Lumumba for their withdrawal. The attitude of other African Governments may influence Lumumba providing it is made sufficiently clear to him. The Ethiopians have made it plain in public that they support the United Nations' effort fully, and that their troops will operate only within the United Nations. Tunisia, Liberia and the Sudan are known to share this view, and probably most other African Governments would agree with them. There is a danger, however, that at the meeting of Heads of Government to be held in Leopoldville on August 25, and which we gather President Nasser proposes to attend, there may be some support for the idea that the United Nations forces should be limited to African troops. Mr. Hammarskjöld would reject this on grounds of principle, and in view of the number of troops he requires it would in any case be impracticable. We hope, therefore, that the independent African states will be able to agree that it is an African interest that Mr. Hammarskjöld should be supported and given a large measure of discretion about how he carries out his duties within the terms of the Security Council resolutions.

3. The attitude of the United Arab Republic does not seem entirely clear, but we assume that Nasser would be cautious about running counter to the opinion of a large majority of African states or in flouting the United Nations. This would certainly happen

CONFIDENTIAL

1	2	cms	PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE	ins	1	2
Ref:		FO 371	46777	87875		
Please note that this copy is supplied subject to the Public Record Office's terms and conditions and that your use of it may be subject to copyright restrictions. Further information is given in the enclosed 'Terms and Conditions of supply of Public Records' leaflet						

CONFIDENTIAL

Foreign Office telegram No. 775 to Cairo

-2-

if he were to support the idea of military aid to Lumumba outside the United Nations operation.

4. I do not know whether it would be helpful or otherwise to discuss these matters with Nasser if and when you see him. But you have discretion to say that a critical point has been reached not only for the Congo, but for all Africa and indeed for the future of the United Nations itself. The United Nations went into the Congo at Lumumba's request and Hammarskjöld has discharged his duties under the Security Council resolutions with commendable speed. There are now no Belgian troops in the Congo except in Katanga where a force of over 8,000 has already been reduced to 3,000 and the remainder are being got out as quickly as aircraft can be made available. The disagreement between Lumumba and Tshombe is a purely internal matter and the Security Council were surely right in deciding that United Nations troops must not intervene in any way in such matters. We regard the constitutional issue as one which the Congolese must work out for themselves. Any other decision would have had implications which the vast majority of United Nations members would undoubtedly reject. If the United Nations were obliged to withdraw their troops before stable conditions had returned to the country, it would be impossible to carry out United Nations technical assistance programmes. We assume that Nasser would agree with the view which appears to be held by the great majority of African states, that the United Nations presence is essential to Congolese and African interests and that it should be supported.

HHHHH

CONFIDENTIAL

1	2	cms	PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE	ins	1	2
Ref:		FO 371/46777		87873		
Please note that this copy is supplied subject to the Public Record Office's terms and conditions and that your use of it may be subject to copyright restrictions. Further information is given in the enclosed Terms and Conditions of supply of Public Records leaflet						

CONFIDENTIAL

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO CAIRO

Cypher/OTP and By Bag

FOREIGN OFFICE AND
WHITEHALL DISTRIBUTION

No. 814

September 5, 1960

D. 8.35 p.m. September 5, 1960

IMMEDIATE

CONFIDENTIAL

Addressed to Cairo telegram No. 814 of September 5.
Repeated for information to Leopoldville

And Saving to UKMis New York No. 1668

Your letter of September 1 to Beith [appointment of
U.A.R. Ambassador to the Congo].

If you speak to Ghaleb you may of course use material in paragraph 4 of my telegram No. 775 (of August 20), though this is somewhat out-dated by the outcome of the Leopoldville conference. You should particularly stress that in present circumstances, we think that all assistance to the Congo should be under the aegis of and, coordinated by the United Nations. This would prevent duplication of effort, and rivalry between donors which might not be in the Congo's best interest. Reports indicate that the Russians are making large contributions to the Congo which appear to be entirely on a bilateral basis. We are concerned lest gestures of this sort should turn the Congo into an arena for East-West conflict and open the way to Communist influence.

4444

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

FROM CAIRO TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Cypher/OTF

RECEIVED IN
 ARCHIVES
 24 AUG 1960
 JB 2251/197(8)

FOREIGN OFFICE AND
 WHITEHALL DISTRIBUTION

Mr. Crewe

No. 652
 August 23, 1960
CONFIDENTIAL

D. 4.40.p.m. August 23, 1960
 R. 4.57.p.m. August 23, 1960

Your telegram No. 775: Congo.
 See my telegram No. 645.

I raised question with Field Marshal Amer, but got nowhere since he seemed totally uninformed. However, the previous day I had talked to Heikal on lines of your telegram and he indicated that U.A.R. attitude was quite close to our own. He confirmed that Nasser had sent a message to Lumumba advising him to cooperate with Hammarskjöld (my telegram No. 644) and said that the U.A.R. authorities fully realized that United Nations interference in the internal affairs of the Congo would raise very grave problems. Indeed, he suggested that the U.A.R. authorities feel that some kind of confederation may eventually have to emerge.

Handwritten initials and date: JB 1074/11, 28/8.

CONFIDENTIAL