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5 April 1961

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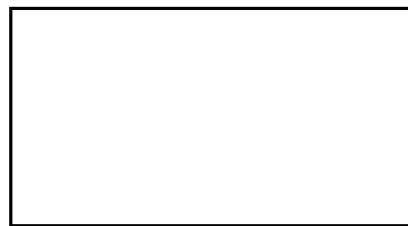
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CENTRAL

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State Dept. review completed

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

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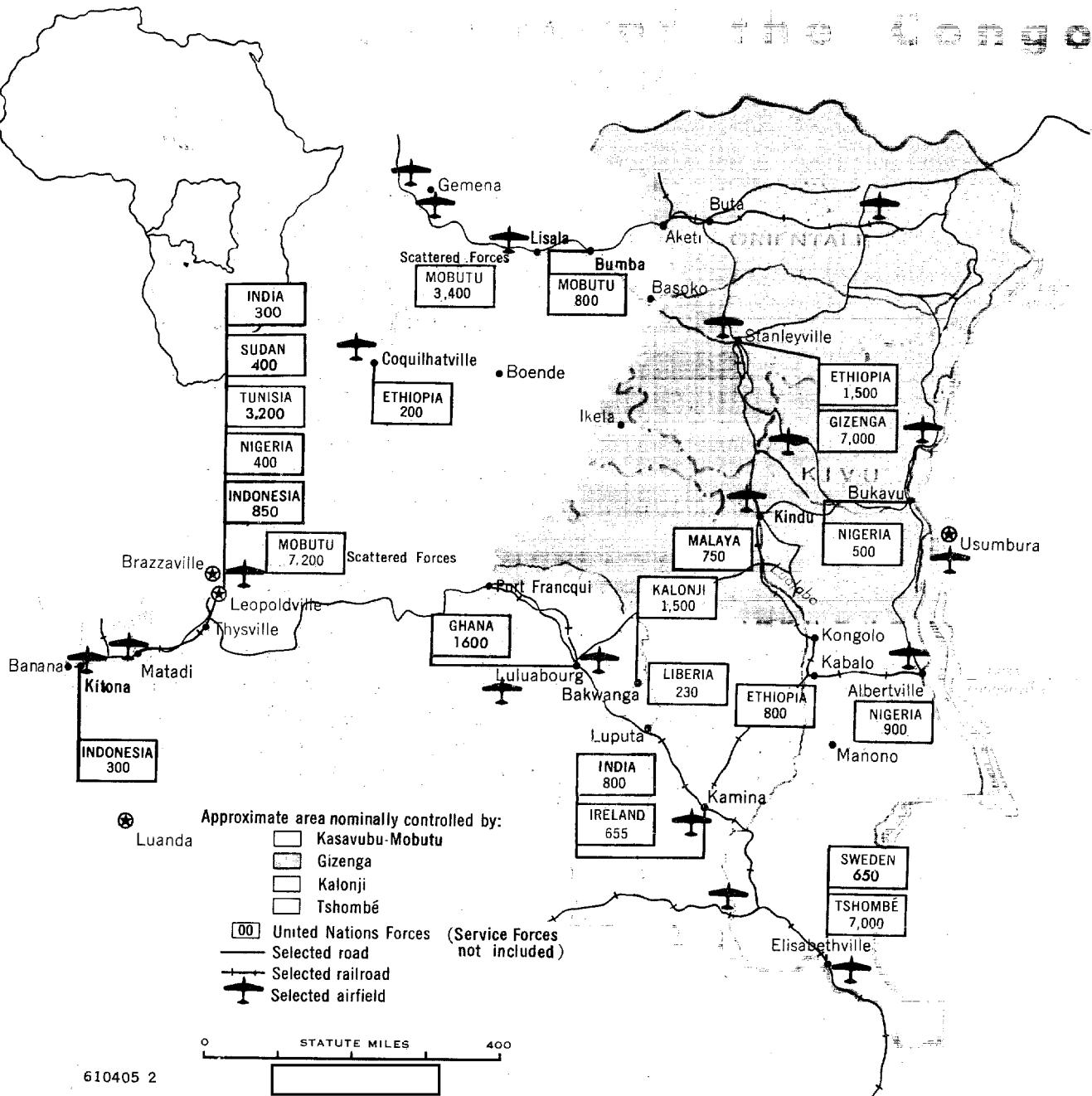
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Congo: An agreement to return to the status quo at Elisabethville airport, with Katangan troops and a Swedish UN contingent exercising joint control, apparently has papered over the immediate cause of the 3 April confrontation between UN and Katangan forces. The incident seems to have been set off by the Katangans, who attempted to block the airport runway and were apprehended and disarmed by the Swedes. Tshombé's regime remains apprehensive that the UN will attempt to airlift Indian troops into southern Katanga from Kamina. This distrust has been communicated to the civilian population and the armed forces, and civilian demonstrations against the UN occurred on 4 April.

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In a discussion in New York with American and British officials, Hammarskjold indicated that he is hopeful relations between the UN and the Leopoldville regime will improve. He remains adamant, however, that UN military units must be readmitted to the port of Matadi in the near future. He disclosed that in an effort to meet Congolese objections, his representative in Leopoldville was being instructed to suggest that the force in the port might be limited to 100 Nigerian police for the time being. He said he was asking for an early answer and stated that if no favorable reply were received, he would bring the question before the Security Council.

Soviet presidium member Brezhnev told the Swiss ambassador recently that the USSR has little interest or hopes in the Congo but is going to use the issue as a means of obtaining its objectives concerning the UN Secretariat, including the removal of Secretary General Hammarskjold.

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(Map)

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DAILY BRIEF

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USSR-India: [M. A. Suslov, member of the Soviet party presidium and secretariat in charge of liaison with foreign Communist parties, is reportedly scheduled to attend the Indian Communist party's sixth congress which opens on 7 April. The decision to send Suslov, who has played a central role in the Sino-Soviet dispute and particularly in the drafting of the resolution at the November 1960 conference of Communist parties, is probably related to the deepening split between those elements of the Indian party oriented toward Moscow and the group which generally follows the Peiping line. Suslov may also be bringing new instructions to the Indian party, reflecting the Soviet Union's concern that India's foreign policy has been shifting toward the West in the past few months.]

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Ceylon - Communist China: Colombo and Peiping on 4 April signed the annual protocol to their second five-year rice-rubber barter agreement (1958-62). The 1961 protocol calls for a return to the higher level of trade which obtained from 1953 through 1959. The resumption of previous trade levels stems more from Ceylonese economic necessity than from the neutralist Ceylonese Government's policy of increasing the bloc's small share of the island's trade. Last year Colombo eventually had to buy considerably more rice from China than the reduced amount specified in the annual contract. The Chinese rice commitment to Ceylon--set at 200,000 tons for 1961--is to be met by re-exports of the rice Peiping is purchasing from Burma.]

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DAILY BRIEF

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Situation in the Congo

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[The tension in Elisabethville is unlikely to interfere with Tshombé's reported plans to move on Kabalo in the northern part of Katanga, although the operation may be delayed somewhat.]

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[white and African units have been airlifted to Kongo, north of Kabalo, and a move southward is imminent. Hammarskjold stated on 3 April that in his opinion, the presence of Indian troops at Kamina had brought Tshombé's offensive to a halt and a resumption of the operation was unlikely. However, the commanders in northern Katanga are likely to base their estimate of UN military effectiveness on the refusal of the Nigerian troops at Manono to intervene in the battle there. The operation thus may be undertaken despite the enlarged UN force in Katanga.]

[Hammarskjold said he believed that the Congolese in Leopoldville were becoming apprehensive of Tshombé's ambitions and are happy to see the UN exerting pressure on Katanga. The 24-hour time limit set by Hammarskjold for a reply from Leopoldville probably is a bargaining position and subject to modification. Hammarskjold does feel, however, that a prompt settlement of the Matadi dispute is a prerequisite for an improvement in relations between the UN and Leopoldville.]

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USSR Reportedly Will Send a Top Leader to Indian Party Congress

Suslov, a leading Soviet ideologist, led delegations to the French Communist party congresses in 1956 and 1959 and to the Italian Communist party congresses in 1956 and 1960. He also visited Great Britain as a guest of the British Parliament in 1947, toured the Brussels World Fair in 1958, and revisited England "informally" at the invitation of the British Labor party to promote Anglo-Soviet relations. His prospective trip to India, the first he has made to an Asian country, points up the seriousness with which the Soviet leaders view the inroads Chinese concepts have made in a party in which USSR has long had the predominant influence.

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[there will be no Chinese delegates at the party congress. The Chinese had apparently intended to have the delegation to the just concluded World Peace Council meeting in New Delhi remain in India to represent them at the congress. The Indian Government--apparently deliberately discriminating against Peiping--reportedly turned down the delegation's requests for visa extensions while approving visas for other foreign delegates. Nehru's government, while highly critical of any foreign influence in Indian political affairs, may hope that the Soviet Communist party, in contrast to the Chinese party, will exercise a moderating influence on the Indian party.]

[The last Indian Communist party congress was held in April 1958 at Amritsar, where the party formally adopted a "peaceful, parliamentary approach to power." Chronic factionalism among the Indian Communist leaders soon led to a renewed struggle over party policy, and the dissension was accentuated by the recent Sino-Soviet ideological dispute. A series of executive meetings in February failed to break the deadlock between the moderate and extremist groups. Leaders of the various factions are preparing for a showdown fight at the national congress in Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh, but the final outcome is more likely to take the form of a compromise designed to hold the party together for the elections]

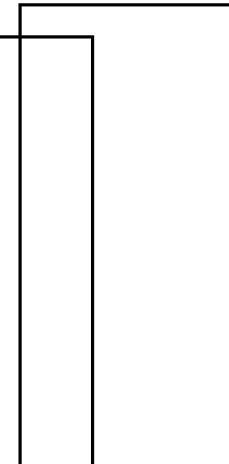
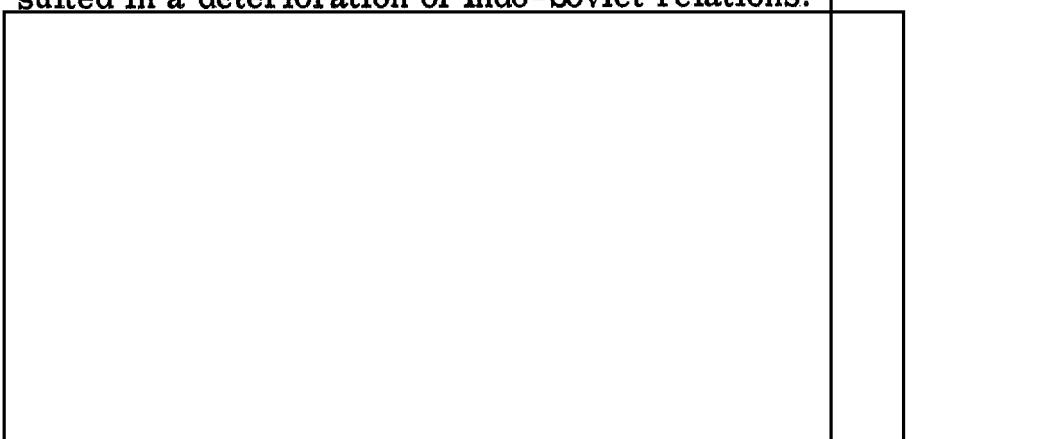
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[early next year. Suslov's presence will increase the pressure on rival leaders to compromise their differences.]

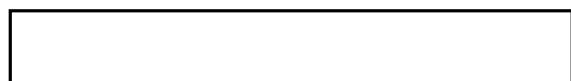
In recent months, Indian policies on the Congo, on the reorganization of the UN Secretariat, and on Laos have resulted in a deterioration of Indo-Soviet relations.

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Colombo and Peiping Sign 1961 Rice-Rubber Contract

The first five-year barter agreement was negotiated in late 1952. The conservative, pro-Western United National party government then in office was motivated solely by economic factors: at that time rice was difficult to obtain and world rubber prices were low.

Colombo has continued the exchange during the past eight years because the arrangement has provided a reliable source of nearly half the island's annual rice import requirements and a steady market for one of its three exports. Since 1953 all the annual contracts except last year's have involved a minimum exchange of about 200,000 tons of rice for 30,000 tons of Ceylon's rubber.

Negotiation of the yearly contract takes place alternately in Colombo and Peiping and normally is a routine process, although there occasionally have been protracted disputes over prices. The lengthy discussions on the 1960 contract marked the only occasion when the talks have taken a somewhat political turn; a few officials in the conservative caretaker regime in power in Ceylon at that time hoped to reduce the island's dependence on the pact, as well as to free for sale at better prices some of the rubber committed to China at fixed prices.

Burma is the other chief source of the island's rice imports.

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