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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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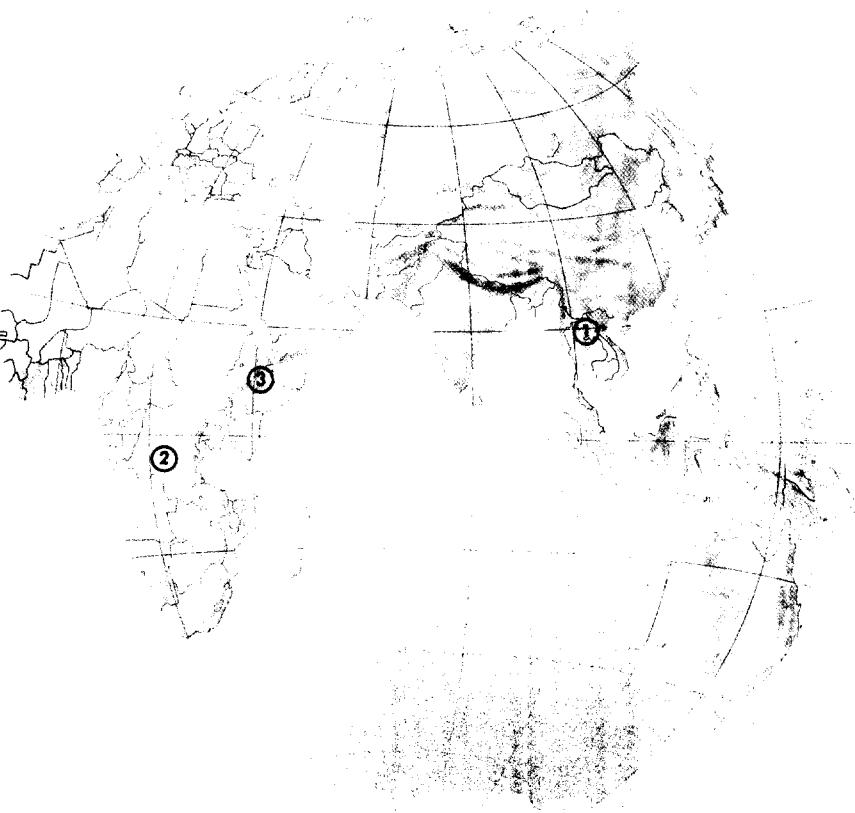
I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

II. ASIA-AFRICA

Laos--Sino-Soviet airlift to Kong Le and Pathet Lao forces increased; Hanoi calls for reactivation of ICC in Laos. ①

Congo--Pro-Lumumba elements continue quest for bloc and Afro-Asian help. ②

Ethiopia--Reprisals expected as elements loyal to Emperor Haile Selassie restore control following attempted coup. ③

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

19 December 1960

DAILY BRIEF

I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

II. ASIA-AFRICA

Laos: The Sino-Soviet airlift continues and is apparently being augmented by three Soviet military AN-12 transports which flew from Irkutsk to Peiping on 17 December and from Peiping to Canton on 18 December.

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5, 6, 7 + 1st
Half of IP 8

"ammunition and supplies" were to be airdropped in an area about 50 miles north of Vientiane on the road to Luang Prabang. Captain Kong Le and his paratroopers have been withdrawing from the Vientiane area in that general direction; after regroupment and resupply, the Kong Le forces may mount a counterattack on Vientiane in conjunction with Pathet Lao forces.] The North Vietnamese Foreign Ministry broadcast a statement on 17 December characterizing events in Laos as "directly menacing" the security of North Vietnam and once again calling for reactivation of the ICC and reconvening the participants of the Geneva Conference of 1954. The statement, however, did not contain any hints of specific counteraction by Hanoi or its bloc allies.

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Congo: The situation in Stanleyville, where a group of Lumumba supporters have established their own regime, appears to be precarious, and the regime is seeking effective military assistance from Ghana and the UAR. Meanwhile, UN Secretary General Hammarskjold is attempting to prevent the disruption of the UN Command in the Congo by requesting Ceylon, Yugoslavia, Indonesia, Morocco, and Guinea to reconsider their demands for the immediate withdrawal of their troops.

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A delegation representing Lumumba is reported joining President Kasavubu and the premiers of Katanga and Kasai provinces at the "summit conference" of chiefs of 11 French-speaking African states now meeting in Brazzaville; this

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conference has as one of its objectives a solution to the Congo crisis. The Moroccan King, who continues to support Lumumba, has proposed that another "high-level conference of the African states concerned" be held soon in Rabat--this suggestion has been endorsed by UAR President Nasir.

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Ethiopia: [The army forces loyal to Emperor Haile Selassie control Addis Ababa and have been mopping up isolated rebel bands. The city is without many public services. Several coup leaders, however, have escaped capture. The slaying by the coup leaders of a large number of hostages--including the ministers of defense, of commerce and industry, and of public works and communications--is expected to lead to reprisals. Already a large number of students who had demonstrated in favor of the rebels have been rounded up and reportedly many have been shot. The Crown Prince was among those present at the Emperor's arrival in Addis Ababa. Haile Selassie made a point of requesting the presence of the US ambassador, to whom he spoke with warm regard.]

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Situation in Laos

The Sino-Soviet airlift continues, with a total of at least 38 aircraft participating, including ten Soviet IL-14s--the last of which arrived on 18 December. At least four of these IL-14s apparently are assisting the Chinese Communist transports in airlifting material from Communist China to Hanoi. Two Soviet IL-14s flew from Hanoi to Canton on 17 December, and two flew to Canton the next day; all returned to Hanoi on 18 December.

The USSR is apparently augmenting the airlift by sending to Hanoi three AN-12 transports from the military airborne forces. These aircraft left the Soviet Union on 17 December, arrived at Canton on 18 December and are scheduled to continue on to Hanoi. Whereas the IL-14 carries only about a 5,000-pound payload, the normal payload of an AN-12 is between 30,000 and 40,000 pounds, and it can carry as much as 50,000 pounds. Thus the AN-12 is capable of carrying heavy military equipment which could not be flown by an IL-14.

At least three North Vietnamese aircraft landed in the Sam Neua area of Laos on 18 December. Five Soviet IL-14s were scheduled to fly to the Vientiane area on that date; since bloc aircraft have not landed at Vientiane since 13 December, these planes will probably deliver their cargo by airdrop.

"Airdrop ammunition and supplies at Phong Hong," substantiates that such airdrops are being carried out. Phong Hong is located about 50 miles north of Vientiane on the road to Luang Prabang.

Captain Kong Le and his paratroopers have been withdrawing northward from Vientiane and are likely to link up with Pathet Lao elements reportedly in the area in considerable strength. After regroupment and resupply by IL-14s, the joint force could counterattack in the Vientiane area or move northward to attack Luang Prabang, the royal capital.

There have been unsubstantiated reports, originating with refugees and captives, that some North Vietnamese troops,

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[have been dropped as well. Although North Vietnam is not known to have a significant number of paratroopers, a limited number of paramilitary personnel may have received jump training. There is also a possibility that small numbers of North Vietnamese cadres may have been brought into Vientiane while the IL-14s still had access to the airfield. In addition to the gunners for the Soviet-provided artillery, supervisory personnel may have been brought in to organize the Kong Le and Pathet Lao elements into a more effective fighting force.]

General Phoumi, having secured control of Vientiane for the Boun Oum government, does not appear to be pursuing the retreating Kong Le forces. His troops will probably remain in the Vientiane area. [Phoumi exhibited unwarranted optimism on the extent of his successes and the degree of his control in the Vientiane area. He thus would appear to have increased his vulnerability to a surprise counterattack.]

A North Vietnamese Foreign Ministry statement of 17 December characterizes events in Laos as "directly menacing the security of the DRV" and once again calls for the reactivation of the ICC and reconvening the participants of the Geneva Conference of 1954.

Chou En-lai, speaking at a Peiping banquet for visiting Cambodian Premier Sihanouk on 18 December, called for "effective measures to ensure that the Geneva agreements be respected." Chou warned that his government was "closely following developments" and was confident that with "support from countries which love peace," the Laotian people will "certainly win final victory." [A similar indication that Peiping anticipates a lengthy civil war is]

[The Burmese report that the Chinese feel that even if Phoumi succeeds in capturing Vientiane, Kong Le's forces will "certainly carry on the struggle, which will be very long."]

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The Congo Situation

The situation for a number of Lumumba's supporters, who have established a regime of their own in Stanleyville, capital of Orientale Province, continues to be precarious. The president of the Congolese Chamber of Deputies, who is a strong supporter of Lumumba and his Congolese National Movement (MNC), has expressed concern over developments in Orientale Province which he fears could easily develop into civil war. He characterizes Antoine Gizenga, who claims to represent the "lawful government of the Congo" on behalf of Lumumba, as a Communist, and says Gizenga's present efforts are ruining any chance to unite the Congo. This view tends to confirm Ambassador Timberlake's estimate that the situation in Orientale is in the hands of a small clique directed by Gizenga and lacking the support of a majority of the MNC.

The Stanleyville regime appears to be making a desperate attempt to enlist support from both Ghana and the UAR.

[redacted] confirmation that the two governments will send aircraft, munitions, and soldiers.

[redacted] the emergency nature of the situation and asked for confirmation "within two days" that assistance would be forthcoming. [redacted] An emissary apparently sent to India by Gizenga to obtain support from Nehru was barred on a technicality and is reported to have proceeded to Cairo. [redacted] An extensive propaganda campaign, possibly under Afro-Asian sponsorship, reportedly is being prepared in Cairo in defense of Lumumba and against the UN policy toward the Congo.

At the same time, Hammarskjold is attempting to prevent disruption of the UN Command in the Congo by requesting to the governments of Ceylon, Yugoslavia, Indonesia, Morocco, and Guinea that they reconsider their demands for the immediate withdrawal of their troop contingents.

A delegation headed by Thomas Kanza and representing the Lumumba faction is reported to be joining President Kasavubu

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and the premiers of Katanga and Kasai provinces at the "summit" conference of 11 conservative, French-speaking, African chiefs of state now meeting in Brazzaville to consider the Congo problem. Fulbert Youlou, President of the Congo Republic (Brazzaville) who is the conference host, was applauded when he advocated in his keynote speech that the UN keep out of African affairs and suggested that the African leaders assembled at the conference could solve the crisis.

Katanga Premier Moise Tshombé is reportedly pleased with the equal treatment accorded him by other conferees, and sees this as another step toward full recognition of Katanga as an independent state. Tshombé has indicated his readiness to support Youlou's concept of an African common market and to cooperate with other African countries toward solving the Stanleyville crisis. While unable to supply troops, he is reported willing to finance the activities of other African troops, should a move against Stanleyville be called for.

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Moroccan King Mohamed V, who is not represented at Brazzaville, has proposed to the heads of state of Ethiopia, Ghana, Liberia, Guinea, Mali, the UAR, and Sudan that a high-level conference of African states be held soon in Rabat to decide on the "action which must be undertaken in the interest of the Congo and Africa." [Inasmuch as the King plans to leave Rabat on 28 December for a six-week visit to Asia, any such meeting would likely be impromptu and devoid of concrete results.] Nasir has indicated his approval of such a conference, as well as his support of Morocco's request to withdraw its forces from the Congo.

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