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INCOMING TELEGRAM

~~FILE COPY~~
Department of State

BUNDY-SMITH
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36

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Action

Control: 20710

AF

Rec'd: May 25, 1963

10:35 a.m.

Info

FROM: Leopoldville

SS

TO: Secretary of State

SP

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NO: 2891, May 25, noon

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ACTION DEPARTMENT 2891 INFORMATION BRUSSELS 1617, LONDON 719,
 ROME 77, STANLEYVILLE, ELISABETHVILLE, BUKAVU UNNUMBERED.

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USIA

DEPTEL 1677

NSC

INR

Congo Oil Refinery

CIA

NSA

COM

INT

RMR

Following is sequence events last weeks in Consortium attempts
 get their refinery proposal approved:

1. Last week Texaco representative reported to Ambassador
 that Adoula had asked Consortium to place Bolikongo on company
 board. Consortium replied that this might eventually be done
 in some form.

2. Mobil representative reported to Embassy officers May 21
 that an intermediary of Kasongo, First Vice Premier and
 Acting Prime Minister, had asked Consortium for two and half
 million dollar bribe to put over refinery proposal. This
 request according to Mobil representative turned down firmly
 but Consortium offered him assistance in creation plastics
 plant as adjunct to refinery which Kasongo has also requested.
 Mobil representative also said he was sure Adoula and others
 had taken bribes from ENI (Comment: Neither Embassy nor CAS
 has received any information tending confirm Mobil representa-
 tive's claim as it concerns Adoula. There is evidence that
 others in government may have received favors from ENI.)

3. Embassy

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-2- 2891, May 25, noon from Leopoldville

3. Embassy officer made representation to Kasongo ~~(#)~~ May 22 to explain USG concern over delay in coming to a decision on Consortium proposal. Kasongo stated he concerned over possible production in excess of country's requirements and ability to export but assured Embassy officer proposal would be accepted (va passer).

4. Mobil representative learned from Minister Finance Bamba that Council of Ministers meeting May 22 considered Consortium proposal but put off making decision. Bamba told him that he now expected considerable delay before decision made.

5. Mobil representative then told me he expected Mobil and possibly other companies involved would now kick off high pressure campaign which would include publishing in world press that Adoula's principal economic advisor (Tona-Masea Deputy Director BCE) is president of the Italian Congo Refinery Company to emphasize corrupt nature Adoula government. Can Department make inquiries with head office US companies whether this latter project has backing of home offices or is reflection local manager's disappointment.

SCP-4.

OSULLIVAN

AJT/19

(#) Omission. Correction to follow.

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