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Memorandum on
General Joseph MOBUTU

General Mobutu is young (32) and personable but somewhat immature and vain. He responds well to flattery and expects recognition of the close and confidential relationship he has enjoyed with US officials. He showed courage in neutralizing extremist politicians, expelling communist diplomats in 1960, and, more recently, in quelling a police mutiny by walking into the mutineers camp and ordering them to lay down their arms.

Although he was once deeply involved in politics Mobutu now prides himself on being a soldier, aloof from politics. He is nevertheless a staunch supporter of Aduala and a member of the pro-Western "Binza" political group which advises Aduala. Mobutu is also proud of his anti-communism.

Mobutu does not admit the ANC is as bad as it is. He thinks that its "modernization" should be accomplished by the assignment of Belgian officers to the ANC who would wear a Congolese uniform and be under his command. He reluctantly accepts the political reasoning for a multi-national training effort and has been delighted with Israeli promises of rapid assistance. He blandly envisages the US participation in the retraining program as a means of getting new equipment for his forces, and does not yet recognize the responsibility the ANC will have under the program to repair and restore existing equipment.

In the course of his visit we hope Mobutu can be made to realize that:

- 1) It is essential to the economic stability of the Congo that the ANC be reduced rapidly to 25,000 men. Mobutu accepts this ceiling but may stall on actual demobilization.
- 2) The future well being of the Congo depends on an intensive effort to restore discipline and bring an end to the outrages perpetrated by his men.
- 3) While the national training contingents will operate under the authority of the GOC and will coordinate with Mobutu, they cannot be made an integral part of the ANC.

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4) The logistics system of the ANC must be reorganized on an austere and efficient basis.

Mobutu has great admiration for the President and forwarded him an autographed copy of "Mobutu, The Man Alone", a biography written by Francis Monheim, a Belgian journalist. The President reciprocated with an autographed copy of "Profiles in Courage."

Group 3

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