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JFK ASSASSINATION SYSTEM
IDENTIFICATION FORM

AGENCY : NARA
RECORD NUMBER : 176-10037-10336
RECORD SERIES : National Security Files: William H. Brubeck
AGENCY FILE NUMBER :

ORIGINATOR : NLJFK
FROM :
TO :
TITLE : John F. Kennedy document Control Record
DATE : 7/26/1962
PAGES : 46
SUBJECTS :
DOCUMENT TYPE :
CLASSIFICATION :
RESTRICTIONS :
CURRENT STATUS :
DATE OF LAST REVIEW : 9/10/2000
OPENING CRITERIA :
COMMENTS : National Security Files, Box 382: Congo 5/62-7/62. Box 5.



S/S-12618

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON
CONFIDENTIAL

Dungan
file Congo

20

July 24, 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. McGEORGE BUNDY
THE WHITE HOUSE

7/24 Orig

SUBJECT: Letter from Prime Minister Adoula

The enclosed hard-written letter to the President from Prime Minister Adoula of the Congo was handed to Ambassador Gullion for delivery just before his departure from Leopoldville for Washington on consultation. A translation is also enclosed.

A suggested reply will shortly be transmitted to you.

W. H. Brubeck
for
William H. Brubeck
Executive Secretary

Enclosures:

1. Letter from Prime Minister Adoula.
2. Translation of letter.

CONFIDENTIAL

My Dear President:

Learning that Ambassador Gullion was called to Washington I wished to profit from his trip to address to you this very personal note.

You have followed the development of the situation in the Congo since the last talks which I had with Mr. Tshombe in Leopoldville. You have certainly been apprized of all the efforts which I have made, first of all to avoid a rupture in the talks -- a rupture which Mr. Tshombe desired at any price -- and then in order to arrive at a peaceful solution to the Katanga problem even when the mandate vested in me by the parliament was not always respected. The point of view of the Central Government was revealed to you I believe by Secretary of State Dean Rusk after the meeting which he had in Washington with Ministers Besheke and Samitata. The disappointments which I am unceasingly confronted with in this affair have considerably affected my morale. My political opponents are profiting from them in order to propagandize against the Government to the extent that the population more and more is losing confidence. For my part, I am becoming pessimistic, if not desparate. I wonder if it would not even be preferable to abdicate my duties if a solution is not forthcoming in the next month.

At the same time, conscious of the necessity of sparing the Congo a new crisis which would only have grievous repercussions on world peace, I struggle still against my conscience to keep my courage and my nerve.

You are not unaware, my Dear President, of how much the problem of the Katanga is tied to peace and especially of the consequences that a failure of the UN operations could engender not only for the Congo but also for all those who have supported this operation. Establishing the numerous

difficulties . ./

DECLASSIFIED
PUBLISHED IN FRUS, 1961-1963
VOL. XX DOC.# 264
By MR NARA, Date 10/11

difficulties lining my path, I still have confidence in the future of my country when I consider the efforts which your Government and you do not cease to expend in our behalf. I know also that your task is not easy. Several of your countrymen did not always understand the problems of the Congo. I know also that my policy of non-alignment is not always understood by the tax-paying American; but the acts which I present should suffice to clarify opinion, since I have never renounced the principles of liberty and democracy which reign in the free world. I would not wish to inject a pessimistic tone in my letter in saying that if a positive result was not obtained in the coming weeks I would be perhaps forced to submit my resignation to the Chief of State. This would be the result of the unfortunate efforts of those who in desiring happiness for the Congolese people continue to pursue their own interests.

I would be ill-served in ending these lines if I did not reiterate to you in my name and in the name of the Congolese people the feelings of gratitude which we owe to you personally as well as to the American people for the material and moral support which you have not ceased to furnish us.

Believe me, my dear President,

Yours very sincerely,

Adoula

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Believe me, my dear President,

Yours very sincerely,

Adoula

~~TOP SECRET~~

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*file
Coyne*

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

26 July 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. DUNGAN

I am enclosing a copy of a memorandum General Taylor prepared based on his discussion today with the President.

I have asked Mr. Parrott to obtain an additional copy of the Central Intelligence memorandum which will be sent to you immediately on receipt.

Your suggestion re Colonel Greene proved to be most valuable.



W. H. BAGLEY
Commander, USN

~~TOP SECRET~~

~~TOP SECRET~~

22a

26 July 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS
THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR AFRICAN AFFAIRS
THE UNITED STATES AMBASSADOR TO THE CONGO

The President has asked me to call your attention to the attached Central Intelligence memorandum, subject: "Assessment of Military Situation in the Congo," which contains a very low estimate of the value of the Congo National Army. I understand that this evaluation is considerably more pessimistic than the judgments expressed during your recent conference with him.

Colonel Michael J. L. Greame, who headed the recent Army/Air Force visit to the Congo to evaluate the National Army, is now in Washington and available for interrogation. I found very useful his firsthand reaction to the military situation in the Congo.

MAXWELL D. TAYLOR ✓

Attachment

(SC No. 05855/62, 5 pp & map)

bcc - Colonel Legere
Mr. Parrott

MDT:ar

~~TOP SECRET~~
TOP SECRET