



UNITED NATIONS
SECURITY
COUNCIL



Distr.
GENERAL

S/4640
26 January 1961

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH/FRENCH

REPORT BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE INTENDED WITHDRAWALS OF CERTAIN
CONTINGENTS FROM THE UNITED NATIONS FORCE IN THE CONGO

The definite decisions of three Governments to withdraw their contingents of troops from the United Nations Force in the Congo, which have been conveyed to the Secretary-General in recent days, have implications for the future of that Force so serious as to need to be called to the attention of the Security Council.

The projected withdrawals, without replacements, are the following.

The Government of Indonesia has notified its intention "to repatriate the Indonesian contingent at the earliest possible date, since in February next it will in any case have to finish its six months field duty". The Indonesian contingent numbers approximately 1,150 officers and men.

The Government of Morocco has communicated its intention to "repatriate, before January 31, 1961" the troops of the Moroccan contingent serving in the Congo, numbering approximately 3,240 officers and men.

The Government of the United Arab Republic has made an oral request for the "repatriation" of its contingent, numbering approximately 510 officers and men, by 1 February.

Previous reductions of the Force have occurred as a result of the withdrawal, now in process, of the contingent of Guinea, approximately 749 officers and men, and of the 21 Yugoslav members, who left at the end of December.

Messages dated 14 December 1960 and 25 January 1961 from the Secretary-General to certain Governments concerning the proposed withdrawals are appended as Annexes I and II.

ANNEX I

Cable message of 14 December 1960 from the Secretary-General
to the Governments of Ceylon, Guinea, Indonesia, Morocco,
Yugoslavia and the United Arab Republic

I am sure that you have been fully informed by your Permanent Representative in New York concerning the statements which I made before the Security Council on 7 and 13 December and particularly the general appeal which I felt it my duty to address to those Governments who had announced their intention to withdraw from the United Nations Force.

As Secretary-General, I feel obliged to underline these public appeals by a personal approach to you. While it is superfluous to reiterate what has already been said publicly in the Security Council, permit me to express to you my deep anxiety about the consequences of a liquidation of the United Nations operation such as may be forced upon the Organization by the threatened withdrawals. Whatever opinion may be held with regard to the extent of the functions of the United Nations operation in the Congo, the elimination or the weakening of the United Nations Force from the Congo would inevitably lead to the situation which in the course of the last five months we have with all our means attempted to forestall, namely a disintegration within the country provoking open and active involvement of major Powers. The threat of such an involvement is likely quickly to become a reality if present intentions to withdraw from the United Nations Force should materialize.

In the light of these very serious prospects, I regard it as the clear obligation of the Secretary-General to appeal to you and to your Government to reconsider the intended withdrawal of your troops from the United Nations Force in the Congo in the light of such further steps as the General Assembly may take for a strengthening of the possibilities of the United Nations to further a peaceful development in democratic forms. I am personally firmly convinced that the threat to peace and security of a substantial part of the world is vitally involved in this question.

ANNEX II

Cable message of 25 January 1961 from the Secretary-General to the Governments of Indonesia, Morocco and the United Arab Republic

I learn with great regret of your Government's definite decision to repatriate the troops of your country now serving in the United Nations Force in the Congo, with no replacements to be provided for them. In this regard, I must express my disappointment that my appeal to you of 14 December to reconsider the intended withdrawal of your troops has been unavailing. I must now again point out to you that the decision to withdraw your contingent results in a serious weakening of the Force, for the consequences of which the responsibility is clearly assumed by those countries which, for whatever reason, have found it indicated to withdraw. In this context may I refer to my statement of 13 December 1960 to the Security Council, in which I warned of the likelihood in the Congo of immediate civil war degenerating into uninhibited tribal conflict and the complete disintegration of the remaining fabric of national unity, should the United Nations Force and operations in the Congo be forced to cease. Nevertheless, the fact must be faced that severe weakening of the Force by reason of withdrawals may make it impossible for it to function effectively and would thus make necessary a proposal for the liquidation of the Force, and in consequence the entire United Nations operation in the Congo.

You will realize, of course, that the attention of the Security Council will need to be drawn in some appropriate manner to the serious threat thus posed to the continued existence of the Force, and this in a context in which it is not at all easy to comprehend what interests are really served by the withdrawals. Obviously, those who now take the decision must bear the responsibility for the resulting developments which, to the best of my understanding, are likely to prove to be, in time, against the interests and wishes they intend to serve.
