

2,500 Baluba Refugees Live Near Elisabethville, Katanga

By IAN MILLAR
United Press International
Elisabethville, Katanga—UPI
—A few miles from the center of Elisabethville, 2,500 Baluba refugees are still living in the squalor that remains of the old Baluba camp the United Nations reported clear the first of August.

Their shelter consists of a few sheets of corrugated iron and old packing cases held together with mud and grass. How they manage to eat and live is anyone's guess.

When the summer rains start soon, most of their pathetic dwellings are likely to be washed away, leaving the United Nations with a refugee problem it thought it had solved.

Dispatched by Train
Keeping the promise made by Robert Gardiner, UN civilian chief in the Congo, the UN airlifted and dispatched by train some 75,000 Balubas to North Katanga and Kasai at fantastic cost.

By August UN headquarters said all refugee Baluba tribesmen who wanted to return to their homes had been given free transport so far as the UN was closed. The thousands of crude huts were burned or torn down.

But as soon as the UN's Irish and Tunisian troops withdrew from the camp area a new horde of natives swarmed in, began constructing shacks and demanded to be fed by the UN until they were relocated.

Agrees to Take Over
The Katanga government agreed to take over the administration of the new arrivals and provide them with food. But the Balubas turned down the offer of assistance from what they claim is "illegal government."

So far the refugees have managed to exist on fringes saved in more prosperous times when some of them were wealthy traders.

According to their leader, who refers to himself as "Monsieur le President," the men refuse to work in town as that would be taken as support for Katanga President Moise Tshombe, whom they despise (one reason why they are refugees).

Intend to Sit Tight
The Baluba leader told me he and his followers intended to sit tight until the United Nations decided to ship them out. He said some of his men did odd jobs for the Indian troops in return for food, but not a single refugee had, or would, take a job in the city.

"All we want is to go home," he said. To him and most of the others in the camp, "home" means the Manono area of North Katanga.

Escorted by an unarmed Tunisian soldier I walked through the new camp that sprawls over about 50 acres

children most of the inhabitants appeared to be equal number of young women and old men. The children were either completely naked or clothed in various assortments of rags. All looked emaciated.

Ambulance Drives Up
As we left a UN ambulance drove up and two medical orderlies from the Italian-staffed hospital got out and collected an old man on a stretcher. The Baluba "president" said that at present 25 people from the camp were receiving treatment there. Whenever there was any sickness they called the Italians and an ambulance came.

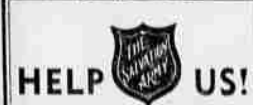
Officially the Tunisian battalion has nothing to do with the camp apart from keeping the peace. However, it provides the squatters with water and gives other help. Recently, to prevent an outbreak of rabies, the Tunisians had to shoot about 4,000 wild dogs that roamed the camp.

Claim To Be Refugees
Another thousand Balubas, who also claim to be refugees, are scattered around Elisabethville itself. About 800 have moved into a row of houses near the Irish lines, about a mile from the main camp. They tell the same story as "Monsieur le President" and share the same hope that the United Nations will fly them to the north.

In an attempt to enforce their demands on the UN about 500 women camped outside the Tunisian headquarters for several weeks on a "hunger strike." None of the women looked any less fed than the refugees in the main camp.

The UN is not alone in thinking that if it starts feeding refugees it will have thousands more on its hands each day demanding food. Even without any apparent food supply, the camp has grown daily.

Whether it wants to or not the UN may find itself forced eventually to take some action or risk the growth of a large undisciplined mob in the city.



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Regulations for Timber Harvest Waived by BLM

Portland — Fast action is needed to salvage over one billion board feet of Douglas fir timber knocked down by an Oct. 12 windstorm which swept through the Pacific Northwest, according to Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall.

In waiving Bureau of Land Management timber harvesting regulations for western Oregon, Secretary Udall said that severe losses could be expected from bark beetles if the wind-thrown timber isn't salvaged expeditiously.

Altogether, there are an estimated five billion board feet of timber on the ground on all ownerships in California, Oregon and Washington. While most of the damage was centered in an area the size of the State of Pennsylvania, small outlying pockets of wind-thrown timber as yet undiscovered, may raise the damage considerably.

O&C Lands Hit Hard
Hardest hit were some two million acres of Douglas fir timber in western Oregon, managed by BLM. These lands are reversioned Oregon and California railroad, public domain, and Coos Bay wagon road grants. The decision to go ahead immediately with salvage cuttings, while trying to minimize the expected impact on timber prices in an already depressed West Coast market was reached after President Kennedy called a meeting of federal and state officials and private landowners in Portland on Oct. 30.

The conferees, who included Interior, Agriculture, Commerce, and State forestry officials, concluded among other things, that risks of spreading beetle infestation from the down material made it imperative that all recoverable salvage be taken out of the woods before May 1964 and that wherever local economy is not jeopardized, timber may continue to be sold. However, where the economy will be jeopardized, salvage sales will replace planned green sales.

BLM foresters believe that most of the estimated one billion board feet on department - administered lands is salvageable. At current timber prices, value of this material is estimated at \$25 million.

Four Steps Adopted
Udall said that four steps have been adopted to meet the emergency in western Oregon. These are waivers to existing regulations applicable only to the affected area during the emergency, or until June 30, 1964.

Existing contracts for cutting standing green timber may be extended as late as June 30, 1964 - or until the end of the emergency, whichever occurs sooner - without the normal reappraisal and payment required, the Secretary said. This change in the regulations was made so that operators can divert work to wind-thrown timber.

Udall explained that the Douglas fir bark beetle will attack downed and broken timber in the spring, and that unless salvage operations are substantially completed by the spring of 1964, epidemics of beetle infestations will move into undamaged trees by June, 1964.

Previous experience with storm damage indicates that without rapid removal of wind-thrown trees, insect damage to standing timber could equal or exceed the direct loss of the storm the Secretary added.

Negotiations Authorized
Authority has been delegated to field officials to negotiate, where appropriate, new salvage timber sales of up to one million board feet. In particular, such sales will be made where salvage material adjoins an existing contract area.

Where warranted, the period for advertising salvage timber sales on department lands during the emergency period will be reduced to expedite quick salvage of wind-thrown timber.

Hard-pressed timber operators will get an adjustment in the final payment requirements on certain existing contracts to reflect extraordinary wind damage losses caused by the Columbus Day storm to standing timber which they had purchased.

This waiver of portions of current regulations is limited to western Oregon and to the period of the emergency, or June 30, 1964, whichever is the earlier.

Presidential Aide Offers Resignation

Washington —UPI— President Kennedy accepted Wednesday the resignation of Howard C. Petersen, the presidential assistant who steered the Trade Expansion Act through Congress last year.

Kennedy told Petersen, "You can take justifiable pride in the important part you played in helping to launch" the trade program. Petersen is returning to his job as president of the Fidelity-Philadelphia Trust Co. in Philadelphia.

College Representatives To Visit Medford High

Representatives of the state system of higher education will answer questions about the Oregon tax-supported colleges at a meeting scheduled Wednesday, Nov. 28, at 7:30 p.m. in the Medford High school auditorium.

The visiting teams will include representatives from the University of Oregon, Oregon State University, Southern Oregon college, nursing education, and Oregon Technical institute.

The representatives from each of the colleges will explain their respective academic offerings and point up each institution's specific requirements. In addition, they will discuss college costs, housing, scholarships, the mechanics of college application and entrance, and the career opportunities provided at each school.

At the close of the meeting, representatives will move to assigned rooms so parents will have an opportunity to meet them personally, and when they will answer questions concerning the college they represent.

The meetings are conducted annually by Medford High school as a part of the regular guidance program. They represent a combined effort by the state system of higher education and the high school to better prepare high school students for their future careers, and to provide parents with accurate and up-to-date information about the state colleges.

The program represents complete information on the educational opportunities provided at public expense with in the state. Parents of all high school students are invited to attend the meeting.



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