

Outward Tranquility Returns To Elisabethville and Katanga; Signs of Discontent Grow

By IAIN MILLAR

United Press International
Elisabethville, Katanga, The Congo — (UPI) — Outward tranquility has returned to this war-scarred capital of formerly secessionist Katanga, but growing signs of discontent may mean it faces more violence in the future.

For the moment, the capital of the mineral rich territory provincial President Moise Tshombe tried to lead out of the Central Congo government is firmly under the control of United Nations troops.

Tshombe is in Paris, reportedly for medical treatment. He emphatically denied on his arrival there that he would attempt to set up a secessionist Katanga government-in-exile.

Damage Repaired
In Elisabethville, the damage caused by the U.S. offensive which opened last Dec. 28 and which seems to have ended Tshombe's 2½-year dream of a separate state has been repaired for the most part.

A precarious "normality" returned here almost before the victorious troops of Indian Brigadier Reggie Noronha left the city in pursuit of routed Katangese forces.

Nightclub owners took stock of their black market supplies of whisky and adjusted prices accordingly. Construction firms ran a house-to-house repair service, offering to patch up bullet holes and replace shattered glass.

Waited for Shipments
Shopkeepers opened their doors again and waited for food shipments from Rhodesia. There were severe shortages, but people with hard foreign currency could satisfy most of their wants on the black market.

Traffic moved as usual, the difference was that policemen were under United Nations rather than Katangese control.

Despite apparent signs of stability, the gnawing question asked here is how long the peace will last.

Neither whites nor blacks in Katanga were fully satisfied with the end of the secessionist movement.

Fear Possible Reprisals
Both feared possible reprisals from the central government when it takes over from the United Nations.

Of the two groups, the whites appeared to accept UN control more readily than the blacks.

"What can we do about it now?" one white merchant asked.

"If the gendarmerie won't fight for Katanga's independence, it is finished. But I have a family to feed, so business comes first, as usual."

"If the UN wants to trade with me, I am ready to serve them."

Worried About Future
Such practical considerations aside, however, many whites were worried about their ultimate future in Katanga.

Many whites fled here from other parts of the Congo when Belgium granted it independence on June 30, 1960. Some returned.

If they have to flee again, many feel that the only place to go is back to Europe for good.

Many ordinary Africans resented the UN takeover and made no pretense about liking it.

For many of them, Tshombe is still the "Tiger of Katanga." When Tshombe handed over the Kolwezi military base following the last U.N. offensive, ordinary Africans flocked to the palace for the ceremony.

Katanga Still Alive

"Tshombe may be working with the United Nations, but while he is still around, Katanga is still alive," one informed observer said. Speaking of the deposed leader, the observer said:

"This is the way they see things and no amount of military defeat is likely to change

that outlook." Many Africans regard the United Nations as a white man's "tool." Moreover, they think the Katanga gendarmerie would have beaten the United Nations in battle had it not been for "bad luck" and UN "trickery."

These feelings — plus resentment at the inability of the white mercenaries to stop the United Nations — have shown signs of turning into a general anti-white sentiment.

Many Africans feel resentful that the European community seemed to suffer comparatively little inconvenience during the UN drive.

Whites had enough food while some Africans starved in the bush.

Most whites here apparently are unconcerned about the anti-white sentiment. But the United Nations has started investigation of it.

UN fears about the problem are wider than Katanga itself.

If an outburst of racial hatred should drive Europeans out of the country, most observers believe Katanga's already tottering economy would collapse completely.

That could bring down the hopes and aspirations of the entire Congo nation.

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Education Leaders Start Budget Talks

Salem — (UPI) — The State Department of Education began defending its budget and its community college program here Tuesday before the Education subcommittee of the Ways and Means committee.

Francis Smith, a member of the State Board of Education for 12 years, said Oregon's present vocational-technical training programs are inadequate.

But he said they could be expanded in existing community colleges, a proposal seconded by Dr. Leon Minear, superintendent of public instruction.

Smith agreed the present community college program has grown faster than expected two years ago.

He said the department tried to "caution a slow bell," but citizens wanted the colleges and came in with the necessary petitions to get them.

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