

# Decay, Depression Permeate Newly-Independent Congo Despite Lush Beauty

**EDITOR'S NOTE** — What has happened to life in the Congo amid the chaos that came in the wake of independence won 16 months ago? This revealing dispatch, last in a series of three on the Congo today, tells what has happened to the economy and the people.

By LYNN HEINZERLING  
LEOPOLDVILLE, the Congo (AP)—The jacaranda and frangipani trees are bursting into gorgeous blossom, but not much else is blooming in the Congo.

Leopoldville today is a city where the fragrance of tropical spring flowers blends with odors from a decaying sewage system.

It is a city where a few Congolese skim past in shining limousines and thousands are without jobs. As in so many other recently freed African colonies, a new affluent class of government employees is being formed.

The reconciliation between the Communist-supported Stanleyville regime of Antoine Gizenga and the Leopoldville government is hardly skin deep. The hearts that harbor hopes of peace are matched by others hardened by tribal distrust and political hate.

A slow deterioration is reported from other provinces. In Stanleyville, diplomatic reports say, water and light facilities are faulty. Garbage collection and street cleaning have been practically abandoned.

In Kivu and Equator provinces the larger plantations are beginning to resume operations, but smaller ones are being slowly throttled by jungle vegetation. In Equator, it is reported, the seed rice has been eaten and there cannot be another harvest until 1963.

The central government continues to live on borrowed money. Its deficit runs about \$16 million monthly. A good deal of this money goes to pay salaries to government employees, including the army. The Congolese have waited a long time to reach the white man's standards of living and they want it all at once.

What they are seeing instead is a sharp increase in wealth and living standards for a few thousand Congolese employed by the government and the same old shacks and dirt roads for themselves. Something of the same development is taking place in other newly independent countries of Africa such as Ghana, Guinea, Nigeria and former French colonies.

United Nations figures show that wages for Africans employed by the central government and provincial administrations (excluding Katanga) in 1959 were about 11 per cent of the total national income. In 1961, the first full year of independence, these wages will represent at least 31 per cent of the total national income.

There are some signs of improvement, but everything in the Congo depends on the tense political situation. As a nation, the old Belgian colony cannot survive unless Katanga with its immense

copper profits comes back into the fold.

Whites, mostly Belgians, have been pouring back into the country and they may succeed in giving impetus to the economy. Stanleyville, once down to a few score whites, now has approximately 1,000. Before independence there were 4,000 Europeans in Stanleyville.

In Leopoldville, hotels are crammed and some are forcing patrons to double up in their rooms. Many of the old villas and apartments have been taken over by newly rich Congolese. Belgians hesitate before moving into suburban homes too far from police protection. Villas outside Leopoldville have been subjected to repeated burglaries.

River traffic on the Congo, once blocked because of the feud between the Gizenga government in Stanleyville and the central government, is again in operation. The first cargoes of tin have moved down the river to Leopoldville and on by rail to Matadi. Agriculture is lagging far behind.

Marcel Bisukuru, minister of foreign trade and a leftwing Lumumba follower, has described the trade situation as tragic. He reported in a recent survey that the Congo in the first six months of 1961 exported only 2,300 tons of cotton compared with 27,000 tons during the same period of 1960—before independence.

Coffee exports during the first six months this year brought in \$5.44 million compared with \$19 million in the same period of 1960.

The drop in mineral exports from a country famous for its buried riches was a scandal, Bisukuru said. In the first six months of 1960, when Katanga was still in the fold, the Congo exported 400,000 tons of mineral

products. The figure for 1961, after the political and military extravaganza that followed independence, is 2,500 tons.

United Nations economists are concerned about another phase of Congo economy. Almost all business concerns, except for smaller establishments, are in the hands of Belgians and other non-Congolese. The Congolese have difficulty accumulating capital to participate in the business life of the country.

One economist said that while the Congo won political independence it was completely colonized economically.

Six commercial banks in the Congo finance Belgian commerce. Nobody finances the industry and commerce of the Congolese.

The alternative to developing a Congolese class of business men could be nationalization. There has been considerable talk of this possibility particularly of certain key industries. It seems a certainty if leftwing Lumumbists came to power.

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**Masons Schedule Region Meet In Medford Friday**

Howard C. Belton, grand master of Masons of Oregon, announces a regional meeting to be held in Medford Friday, Oct. 27, at 8 p.m. Host lodge will be Medford Lodge No. 103, Erwin C. Spence, master. District deputies, masters of lodges and members of the craft are urged to attend this meeting. Master of ceremonies will be David C. Cutting, deputy of the grand master for District No. 11. Assisting Cutting will be Bernace Wilson, Merrill, and Howard T. Edson, Glendale, deputies of the grand master for Districts 21 and 37.

In lieu of 39 district meetings as in the past each year, Grand Master Belton has consolidated them into 11 regional meetings. Purpose of these meetings is to set in motion the aims of the grand lodge and also to bring together the various subdivisions of the grand lodge into a closer bond to areas.

Theme for Masonic activity this year under the grand master is "Unification of The Order." According to Belton, Masonry must exemplify the fundamental truths on which the fraternity and our freedom rests. This country, Belton says, was founded on the same principles and high ideals as are exemplified in the degrees of Masonry.

Subjects for consideration in these regional meetings will be lodge management, the Masonic and Eastern Star Home, educational assistance program, Masonic Blood Bank, public schools program, endowment fund for the home and the future location of the grand lodge.

**Minister's Jet Returns**

VANCOUVER, B. C. (AP)—Canadian Prime Minister John Diefenbaker's Japan-bound jet plane was forced back here Wednesday when undercarriage trouble was discovered 10 minutes after takeoff.

The Royal Canadian Air Force Comet jet made an emergency landing at the RCAF's Sea Island base without incident as crash trucks lined the runway.

Failure of a landing gear door to close was signaled by a red light on the plane's instrument panel and confirmed by the control tower at the Sea Island base when the pilot made a low pass over the field.

The trouble delayed the prime minister's departure for Anchorage, Alaska, on the first leg of the Orient flight about three hours.

It also involved a change of planes and will put Diefenbaker about 10 hours behind schedule on his Tokyo arrival.

The jet pilot, Flight Lt. Gordon C. Macaninch of Ottawa, spent 20 minutes dumping 20,000 pounds of fuel into the waters of Georgia Strait off Vancouver before making the emergency landing at 8 a.m. (PST).

Wing Commander James Borden, in charge of the prime minister's flight to Japan, said the open undercarriage door would have been ripped off at higher speed and altitude.

The Comet normally cruises at 450 miles an hour at an altitude between 28,000 and 40,000 feet.

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By CLAY R. POLLAN

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ARIES MAR. 21-20	1. Gravitating	31. To	61. Your
2.44-48-57	2. Waits	32. Anyone	62. Your
63-66-73	3. Waits	33. Is	63. Be
TAURUS APR. 21-20	4. Don't	34. Not	64. Dat
1-5-8-21	5. News	35. Pleasant	65. Health
27-68-75-88	6. Willing	36. Critic	66. Washable
GEMINI MAY 21-20	7. Changing	37. Day	67. By
8. Or	38. Advisable	68. Included	
9. To	39. Financial	69. Financial	
10. Your	40. Accomplish	70. Important	
11. Opportunity	41. Of	71. To	
12. Present	42. Changes	72. Make	
13. To	43. Some	73. Today	
14. Give	44. Or	74. Optimism	
15. Systems	45. Right	75. Be	
16. Same	46. Or	76. Am	
17. There'll	47. Trend	77. To	
18. Be	48. Trip	78. Avoid	
19. Some	49. Increase	79. May	
20. You	50. For	80. Right	
21. Favorable	51. Slow	81. Be	
22. To	52. Be	82. Candid	
23. Change	53. Down	83. Discomfort	
24. Easy	54. Wise	84. Come	
25. Compromise	55. Lacking	85. Matters	
26. Same	56. In	86. Fairly	
27. Mail	57. Could	87. Developments	
28. And	58. Protect	88. Alert	
29. Adjust	59. Must	89. Avoided	
30. The	60. Moves	90. Today	
31-33-38-41	Good	Neutral	
65-67-80-82	Bad	Adverse	

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