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INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

UPHELD NR01-032-11-1-4 12/06
SEE SANITIZED VERSION (UNZ) 77-235

SECRET

W
Action

Control: 11402
Rec'd: October 15, 1962
1:40 p.m.

SS

023

Info

FROM: Elisabethville

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 631, October 15, 6 p.m.

FILE

ACTION DEPARTMENT 631, INFORMATION LEOPOLDVILLE 535, USUN 387

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In discussion with UK Consul Dodson and myself last night, local UN representative Mathu bitterly criticized local Indian UN commander who he claimed "wanted start fighting so they could kill blacks and go back home with decorations". Dwelt particularly on September 12 patrol incident and October 8 Post Office patrol affair (CONTEL 569). Said he considered substance UN communique both these occasions (which he signed) untruthful. I told Mathu that information on which Noronha acted night of October 8 was from Consulate sources FYI CAS END FYI and that did not consider, given character of information, that we had any real choice but to pass it on rapidly as possible; correct or Noronha any choice but to act on it same basis. Said did not believe slightest intention Noronha's part provoke incident.

Mathu said he glad learn these supplementary facts which Indians had not given him. However, he then resumed criticism of Indians, claiming they told him nothing and harbored secret designs.

It obvious Mathu smarting under criticism from Gardiner during recent visit on failure maintain upper hand over UN military here and similar criticism from Bunche, who apparently sent Gardiner telegram after Post Office affair asking whether Mathu boss in Elisabethville or Indians. As Consulate reporting as indicated, charge that Mathu has not firmly established

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-2- 631, October 15, 6 p.m. from Elisabethville

control over UN military, especially Indians, and that this is evidenced in their repeated failure to inform him promptly and fully, is well based. Believe Gardiner-Bunche approach at this point will help stiffen Mathu and tone down Indians. However, aside from overly professional military posture on which we have commented, have seen no evidence here during past two months to justify charge of separate aggressive Indian policy on part local Indian officers. As frequently, outbreak of dispute over civilian control of military reflects differing capacities of individuals involved. In addition, as previously noted, Mathu lacks organizational back-up to cope with tight, professional Indian staff.

Further, believe as stated Noronha patrol action October 8 justified by circumstances and in no sense evidence of aggressive intent. Should note that attempt was made pass same information Mathu but no answer (Mathu says previously unable hear phone from library at night, had phone installed bedroom two days ago) and that though Indian patrol stationary rather than mobile, men did not descend from trucks, take up positions, or otherwise act in menacing way. Noronha may have had obligation make further effort reach Mathu before ordering patrol but was late at night and operational requirement was immediate. He made typical error, however, of not fully informing Mathu of patrol until 1700 next day.

Above for background only; as far as local situation concerned, do not believe Mathu will at this time take action aggravating personal relations now that has blown off steam. Possible Embassy Leopoldville and USUN may wish consider giving Gardiner and Bunche further details background October 8 patrol if they believe this would reduce unnecessary friction among UN components.

DEAN

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