A PETITION TO THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES

Redeem our country's honor! Send arms to the Katangan people!

Once again the mercenary armies of the United Nations have launched a barbarous aggression against the people of Katanga in an attempt to compel their unconditional submission to U Thant's plan for a centralized Congolese government.

This ruthless UN intervention into a nation's internal affairs is directly counter to the UN Charter as well as to the laws of civilized mankind. The people of Katanga, who have proved their ability to maintain a functioning economy, law and order, have the right to decide themselves, in peace, what relation they shall have to the other provinces of the former Belgian Congo.

The intervention is also illegal from the standpoint of the February 1961 Security Council resolution, on the basis of which the UN's Congo operations are ostensibly conducted.

The UN aggression does grievous injury to the interest of the West and the national interest of the United States. Katanga, under Moise Tshombe's regime, has been the most staunchly pro-Western and anti-Communist part of the former Belgian Congo. From the beginning of Congolese independence the policy of the Soviet Union has been to press for the destruction of the Tshombe government and the submission of Katanga to a centralized regime in Leopoldville.

The UN aggression has been possible only because of aid and support from the United States. Misled by the wish to conciliate an irresponsible UN majority made up of neutralist and uncommitted states and pseudo-states plus the Communist bloc, our government violates the fundamental interests and security of our country. Without United States money, supplies, transport and political backing, the UN aggression could not continue.

You, the Congress of the United States, are the sole appropriating power under our Constitution. It was the 87th Congress that voted the money now being used to smash Katanga.

The ultimate responsibility for future developments now belongs to you, the 88th Congress. Under our system of government the President is the servant of the laws, not their master. You are the law-makers.

Under the foreign aid program you have for many years provided arms for dozens of nations in order, you believed, to help them preserve their freedom and independence.

Do the brave people of Katanga, fighting against enormous odds, deserve arms less than the Indonesians—or the Yugoslavs?

What the people of Katanga need now is not talk or resolutions, but arms to defend themselves, their wives and children and homes and places of work. Past experience proves how urgently they need adequate arms even if the fighting again dies down temporarily.

Vote, promptly and generously, the funds to supply the weapons they need, and to set up an emergency agency instructed by law to get the weapons into Katangan hands forthwith.

American Committee For Aid to Katanga Freedom Fighters

Max Yergan, Chairman

"It is an unspeakable tragedy that the world organization which was set up to prevent war and preserve peace, should now be starting wars and massacring innocent civilians at the behest of an extremist war faction within the UN, which has, apparently, achieved control over the policy and actions of the world organization.

"The attack on Katanga is a flagrant, inhuman act of aggression by the new UN imperialism which now appears to be raising its head in the Congo. Nor can I think of any more senseless or more inglorious war to which the United States has ever lent the prestige of its support.

"... I must challenge the concept that the United Nations, as a peace organization, has the right to intervene by military force in any country to bring about reunification or to compel the acceptance of a constitution. In taking this action in the Congo, the UN is, in my opinion, establishing an extremely dangerous precedent—a precedent that may very well culminate in moral and political disaster."

... SENATOR THOMAS J. DODD
December 31, 1962

"The United States has guaranteed years of disruption and chaos by supporting the arrogant aggression of the United Nations against Katanga.

"The bitterness generated by the unjust United Nations war against the only full-fledged pro-Western leader in the Congo will last for a long time and make effective unification of the area a total impossibility. It is difficult to understand what the administration expects to gain from the African-Asian bloc in the United Nations in return for supporting a policy of armed aggression against an independent state."

... SENATOR BARRY GOLDWATER
December 31, 1962

"The policy of the UN in the former Belgian Congo causes me great anxiety because it proceeds from a total ignorance of the country's problems. It is a grave error to try and unite by force people so profoundly divided among themselves. If Katanga is unwilling to be reunited with the Congo, the UN should respect its wishes and not try to impose its own will at any cost."

... DR. ALBERT SCHWEITZER
October 26, 1962

WE CALL ON OUR FELLOW CITIZENS TO JOIN WITH US IN THIS PETITION. TELEGRAPH OR WRITE YOUR CONGRESSMAN AND SENATORS! ARRANGE FOR PUBLICATION OF THIS PETITION IN YOUR LOCAL NEWSPAPER AND ENLIST THE SUPPORT OF YOUR COMMUNITY. SEND YOUR CONTRIBUTION SO THAT OUR COMMITTEE CAN CONTINUE ITS WORK!

Chairman
Dr. Max Yergan

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AMERICAN COMMITTEE FOR AID TO KATANGA FREEDOM FIGHTERS
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