

*End of Katangan Secession*

The Central Government adopted a conciliatory approach toward reintegration of Katanga. Satisfactory financial arrangements were concluded between the Central Government and the mining concerns of Katanga, and Central Government civil servants assumed appropriate positions in Elisabethville. A major effort was made to reconstruct the Congolese economy and implement a training program for the Congolese Army.

During the winter of 1963-64, rebellion against the Central Government broke out in Kwilu Province. Originating in historical tribal rivalries, the rebellion took an anti-Central Government turn under the leadership of Pierre Mulele, who was an early collaborator of Lumumba and had spent many months in Red China. Central Government forces were never able to extinguish the rebellion, but by mid-February 1964 it had been confined to a relatively small area.

However, the Kwilu rebellion proved to be only a forerunner of more serious rebellions in the eastern Congo. Tribal discontent erupted into open rebellion in the Kivu in April 1964. The rebels were led by leftist followers of Lumumba, who had gone into self-imposed exile in Brazzaville in November 1963 and had set up a Committee of National Liberation dedicated to the overthrow of the Adoula government. They soon were in frequent contact with the Russian Embassy in Brazzaville and the Chinese Communist Embassy in Bujumbura.

Through the exploitation of tribal hatreds and discontent with the Central Government, leftist politicians like "General" Olenga and Gaston Soumialot had by the end of June 1964 extended their authority over most of north Katanga and much of southern Kivu.

*U.N. withdrawal*

With the withdrawal of U.N. troops on June 30, 1964, rebel forces gained military victories throughout the eastern Congo. On August 5 Stanleyville fell to the rebels. By the end of August, rebel forces controlled about two-fifths of the Congo. On September 5 Christophe Gbenye, longtime follower of Lumumba, arrived in Stanleyville and proclaimed himself to be the President of the People's Republic of the Congo.

By the middle of September, however, the fortunes of the rebels began to wane. Central Government forces stiffened their resistance to the rebels and, aided by mercenaries, began to recapture rebel-held cities. During October Central Government pressure on the rebels built up, and in November a series of rapid victories were gained. Between November 24 and 28 a Belgian-U.S. rescue mission evacuated 1,900 non-Congolese hostages from Stanleyville and Paulis. Stanleyville was recaptured on November 24, and during the first week of December 1964 Central Government forces recaptured most of the major towns in ex-Orientale.

Several African States charged that the Stanleyville rescue operation was military "aggression" and called for a U.N. Security Council meeting to consider their complaint. The Council on December 30, 1964, adopted a resolution on the Congo sponsored by two African members, Ivory Coast and Morocco. All members voted for it, except France, which abstained. The resolution called for nonintervention in the domestic affairs of the Congo, a cease-fire, and the withdrawal of mercenaries. It asked the Organization of African Unity to help the Congo Government achieve national reconciliation and to keep the Security Council informed on its efforts. It also asked the U.N. Secretary General to follow the situation in the Congo and report to the Security Council. It is hoped that this resolution will provide a basis for a constructive contribution to a solution of the Congo problem.

Rebel control of the eastern Congo and the military effort to recapture it have severely damaged the economy and administration of this region. Many of the few qualified Congolese administrators were killed by the rebels. Europeans—who were vital to the economic life of the area—have been evacuated in fear of their lives. Following the complete suppression of rebellion the more difficult problems of assuring law and order, creating an effective administrative apparatus, and restoring the economy will remain.