

Mighty Struggle Ahead For Congo

By ROBIN F. MANNOK
LEOPOLDVILLE (AP)—The Congo's lost weekend is over. But Africa's problem child, now in its fourth year of independence, still faces a tough struggle.

Gone are the days when Congo violence, secession, massacre and famine commanded world headlines. Now it must drag itself back from the edge of ruin to its rightful place as black Africa's richest nation.

Fragile national unity has been restored, thanks to the United Nations. The claims of the short-lived "sovereign" governments of Katanga's Moïse Tshombe, Communist-backed ex-deputy premier Antoine Gizenga in Stanleyville and South Kasai's M'Ilouwe (Emperor) Albert Kalonji exist today only on worthless paper money, gaudy postage stamps and dishonored debts.

Today's enemies are political instability, inadequate government, lack of trained and dedicated men, corruption, inflation and the threat of economic collapse.

ARMY ILL-DISCIPLINED

To govern effectively, an ill-disciplined army, desperately short of competent officers, must be taught to use its guns to protect life and property instead of looting and killing. If peace and prosperity are to be restored, the job must be well under way when the last of the

leaves, probably by the end of this year.

The Congo's vigorous young army commander, Maj. - Gen. Joseph Mobutu, thinks it will take foreign instructors about three years to complete the transformation of his 25,000-man force into an instrument of law.

The task becomes even more urgent as talk of new elections next March increases in government circles. Without adequate supervision, balloting to replace the current parliament, whose mandate expires next spring, could result in a new wave of disorder and violence.

Economic renaissance also involves the government in a race against snowballing inflation. The Congo is immensely rich and exports are coming from the interior, but the flood of crisp, new 1,000 - franc notes pouring off government printing presses is ruining the currency.

PUBLIC BEWILDERED

For The Congo's man-in-the-street, the three years since independence have been hard and bewildering.

"If a referendum was held today, 90 per cent of the people would vote for a return to colonial rule," declared Anicet Kasuburua, once one of the Congo's most rabid anti-white demagogues, in a recent speech in parliament.

If the ordinary townsman is lucky enough to have a job—probably half of Leopoldville's labor force is without work—his wife finds his wages buy fewer and fewer goods. Prices of essentials have been rising at eight per cent each month, doubling every nine months.

There is food in the country, but disorder, misgovernment and the lack of goods to buy in village stores has reduced small farmers to growing just enough for their own needs. Cash crops have withered in the fields because trucks, roads, cannot be found to get produce to market.

The Congo, which exported food before independence, must now rely on gifts of U.S. surplus foodstuffs to feed its hungry people.



Eleven fires that destroyed or damaged nine buildings in 10 days have left ruins like this scattered through Freshwater, Nfld., and have terrorized 1,300 citizens. These scattered timbers are the ruins of a small garage owned by Patrick Dunphy, which was burned July 15. Seven of the buildings have been empty. (CP Wirephoto)

FIRES HIT NINE BUILDINGS IN 10 DAYS

Package Deal Idea Feared From Moscow On Test Ban

MOSCOW (AP)—American, British and Soviet negotiators waded overtime Monday trying to remove the barriers in the way of an early signing of a treaty banning most nuclear tests.

Chief barrier was understood to be Soviet insistence on the signing of a non-aggression pact between NATO and the Communist bloc.

Western sources were worried that Premier Khrushchev might insist on tying the two ideas together in a package deal unacceptable to Britain and the United States.

Otherwise, they said, the three powers ought to be able to complete the treaty by Wednesday or Thursday.

Monday's meeting was the longest—three hours and 50 minutes—since the talks began a week ago. U.S. delegate W. Averell Harriman, Britain's Lord Hallam and Soviet foreign minister Andrei A. Gromyko huddled alone for an hour after their aides left ornate Spiridonovka Palace.

COMMUNIQUE TERSE

A terse communique issued after the session said merely that the three made "further progress" on a treaty banning nuclear tests in the atmosphere, space and under water, and that "exchanges of views also continued on other matters of mutual interest."

Excluded in the proposed test-ban treaty are underground blasts. The West insists on-site inspections are needed to cover underground explosions but the Soviet Union disagrees.

The "exchanges of views" were understood to include Khrushchev's suggestion for a non-aggression pact and his idea for international inspections on the ground to prevent surprise attacks.

4 BIG DAYS, WED., THURS., FRI., SAT.

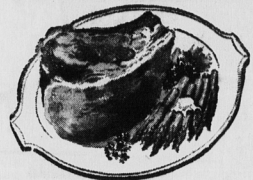
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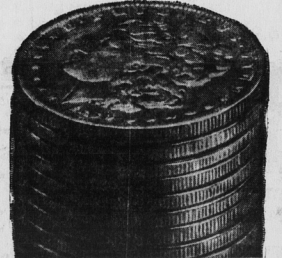
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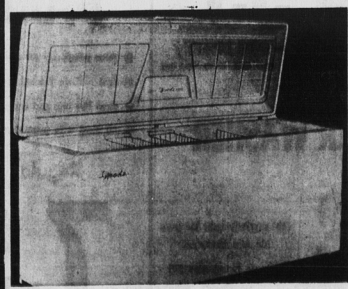
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