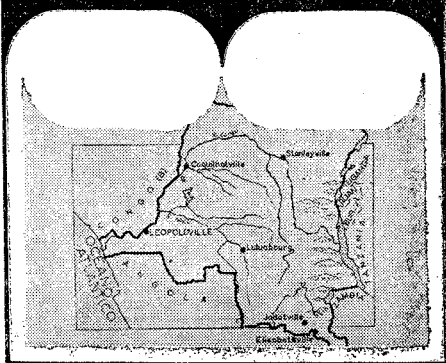


reactionary regime of Méndez Montenegro and the rightist groups which today have as director the noted criminal Colonel Arana Osorio, and again proclaims its support and solidarity with those revolutionary sectors which, inspired by the example of fallen heroes, reaffirm by their decision and their actions the continuation of armed revolutionary struggle to achieve liberation from the imperialist yoke and the ruling classes.

## Congo (L): Complicity of Reactionary Forces



Humanity was shaken on February 13, 1961, by news of the assassination of Patrice Emery Lumumba, leader of the Congolese people and Prime Minister of the Congolese Democratic Republic.

This was the tragic epilogue of long days of captivity during which he suffered horrible tortures and was finally killed together with two of his closest collaborators, Okito and Npolo. His assassins thought they had thus liquidated every attempt to establish an independent Congo, but 20 months later the Congolese people took up arms under the banner of the National Liberation Council and regained more than two-thirds of their territory.

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A country characterized by its dense forests, its flowing rivers, its exceptional agricultural climate, and its incalculable mineral wealth, the Congo (L) possesses the land with the greatest resources on the African continent.

Located in the heart of Africa, the Congolese territory produces 86% of all cobalt extracted on the continent; 60% of the tin; 64% of the diamonds; 53% of the tungsten; 52% of the silver, and 34% of the copper.

Far less than half its population — calculated at 16 500 000 inhabitants in 1968 — can be considered economically active. 85% of the workers are exploited on the large farms and the rest either in mining or industry.

With the discovery of America and the extermination of its indigenous population, the Congo was one of the principal suppliers of slaves for the New World. The control of this inhuman traffic was in the hands of Portugal until 1580 when other colonial powers, France, England, and Spain, invaded Africa with their trade.

Official Belgian occupation of the territory of the Congo (L), whose area is estimated at 2 345 409 km<sup>2</sup>, was effected by means of an agreement made at the Berlin Conference of 1885 for the formation of the Congolese State, which was mercilessly exploited by the Belgian colonialists.

The independence obtained on June 30, 1960 converted the Congo (L) into the Congolese Democratic Republic, but today these terms are only a formality. The puppet regime of Joseph Mobutu amply serves the interests of the United States and Belgian monopolistic groups that ordered the assassination of the leader of the Congolese people, Patrice E. Lumumba.

In 1962 direct United States investments rose to 145 293 million dollars, at the same time that the Belgian company Union Minière du Haut-Katanga was consolidating its control over the copper mines of Katanga province.

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Lumumba's true assassins were the servants of Belgian and North American imperialism who through trickery and opportunism imprisoned him and determined his death and that of thousands of his followers. Tshombe, Kasavubu, Mobutu, Nendaka, Munongo, and Bomboko are among the figures who, under the protection and complicity of UN intervention, assassinated Lumumba.

The years since these events have been marked by the process of supplanting Belgian domination with that of the North American imperialists, and by the appearance of politicians better trained in the practices of neo-colonialism and in efficiently serving

the US monopolies in their so-called "Congolization" of the country's mineral resources.

These years have been characterized also by sharp armed confrontations and the development of the revolutionary movement which culminated in the imperialist intervention in the Congo, a prize coveted by the various forces of reaction that operate in Africa.

In addition to holding the upper hand in influence and penetration in the Congo, the United States has utilized this country as a springboard to penetrate the former French colonies of Central Africa as it is also doing in East Africa.



In the bosom of the Liberation Committee of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), the United States has the important support of the representatives of the Mobutu regime which has distinguished itself, moreover, by the systematic repression of every action of support for the liberation struggle of the Angolan people. Mobutu also serves United States interests by making the Congo the principal base for Israeli activities against the African states south of the Sahara.

The repressive campaign against the Lumumbaist revolutionary movement which has characterized the Mobutu regime, the recent massacre of students of the University of Lovanium in Kin-

shasa, the assassination of dozens of inhabitants in Bukavu, the repression against striking workers and the assassination of Pierre Mulele and his collaborators show the true nature of the Congolese Government and the falseness of all its supposedly Lumumbaist demagoguery.

For these reasons the date of February has been selected to commemorate the Day of World Solidarity with the Struggle of the People of the Congo and to pay tribute to the memory of Patrice Emery Lumumba and, in his name, to all those in the West, the East, and the North of the country who have fallen fighting or who continue fighting to achieve true independence.