

 **Congolese  
President  
Barnstorms  
to Meet  
the People**

**Like politicians everywhere, Gen. Joseph - Desire Mobutu stopped to admire a baby during a visit to Kindu. The city is high on the Congo River deep in the Congolese rain forest.**



# President Addressed a Crowd in the Football Stadium



A flight east over the mountains brought Mobutu to Bukavu on the shores of Lake Kivu. There, he spoke

to a crowd in the football stadium after a church service. He wore a business suit instead of a uniform.

IF FALSE TEETH

Charles Johnson



GET THIS

\$4.00 VALUE



Speaking at Kindu, Mobutu declared his intention to establish a military base there. He also promised "complete pacification" of the area.

POLITICS get down to the grass roots (or maybe bamboo roots) level in Africa as most places. President Joseph-Desire Mobutu of The Congo, for example, recently climbed into his DC3 and charted his own barnstorming tour of the eastern half of his country.

It was a rugged tour geographically, as it led deep into the central rain forest to the city of Kindu and also down 100 miles of ratty dirt road in the mountainous region north of Goma.

The tour was tough politically, too. It took Mobutu to Katanga, the homeland of former Prime Minister Moïse Tshombe and also to Maniema Province, where lack of a governor has paralyzed the provincial government. Mobutu, a 35-year-old general who used the Congolese army to boost himself into power last Nov. 25, was well received at his first stop at Kindu. A couple of speeches at "popular meetings" failed to arouse much enthusiasm, but the tour as a whole is said to have assisted Mobutu in his effort to become a national political leader as well as military head of the state. A long-time denouncer of politicians, Mobutu nevertheless acted like a politician during the tour, as these pictures show. They were taken by Robert Lee, a Minneapolis Tribune staff writer on leave under a William P. Gray foreign correspondent's fellowship.



**On the porch of the governor's house in Bukavu, Mobutu (wearing glasses, third from left) held an audience for local citizens. He also visited a hospital to talk with soldiers wounded fighting in the rebellion. Rebels are still active in an area south of Bukavu as well as around Albertville, in the Stanleyville area and a few other isolated pockets.**



**During a visit to the queen mother of the Bugeshe people, Mobutu had refreshments with president of the senate Mudingay, who chomped on a banana. The queen mother's house, set among native huts, was quite modern. The local population crowded around as Mobutu went in to sip champagne.**

