

Unwary Traveler Finds Tourist 'Taken' in Rome or Leopoldville

1-23-66
By ROBERT LEE

LEOPOLDVILLE, The Congo — The 6½ hours it takes to fly from Rome, Italy, to Leopoldville are the difference between winter and summer, bustle and torpor, squawking horns and chirping birds.

They are also the difference between subtle deception of the unwary traveler and outright thievery from him.

In Rome, you turn up your coat collar to keep out the chilly wind, and you try to keep your umbrella from getting tangled with someone else's on the narrow sidewalks.

In Leopoldville, you cannot wait for a chance to rip off your coat and tie or duck into an air-conditioned building.

In Rome, you risk a traffic ticket if you cross the street against the light, but the chances are good that Roman motorists will have mercy and let you live.

In Leopoldville, signals are few, traffic chaotic. Motorists, preoccupied with the problem of dodging other motorists, cannot be counted on to notice pedestrians.

In Rome, a dozen persons stop to watch a vendor make his tiny mechan-

ical rabbit hop around on the sidewalk. And twice as many people crowd into a small shop to listen to an art auction.

In Leopoldville, 200 Congolese, mostly boys, gather at Traffic Police Headquarters to watch a youth trying to back a truck into a parking space marked by a pair of barricades. The crowd laughs as he fails the first time, then tries again, in his effort to get a driver's license.

In Rome, a line of 15 ice-cream delivery trucks with balloons flying above them speed up one street and down another, honking their horns to attract attention.

In Leopoldville, an elite presidential band plays a mournful melody at the pace of a grandfather's clock as it leads a state funeral procession along the main street of town. Behind the casket of Social Affairs Minister Jules Leon Kidicho, who was killed when his Mustang overturned, march President Mobutu and the other members of his government — all in military uniforms or dark suits and ties despite the 85-degree weather.

In Rome, you rather expect to lose a few hundred lire here and there as you

are "taken for a tourist" and given the benefit of the special prices, for which only tourists qualify.

In Leopoldville, the government simply triples all prices for you from the start. At the airport, you are obliged to change \$20 a day for every day you intend to remain in the country, at the rate of 150 Congolese francs to the dollar. The going rate in Leopoldville is above 400.

ROBERT LEE is a Minneapolis Tribune staff writer on leave under a William P. Gray foreign correspondent's fellowship.

Educational TV For the Congolese

MAR 6 1966
By Robert D. Lee
A Special Correspondent

ELISABETHVILLE,
The Congo.

Elisabethville residents soon are to be taught basic French, beginning arithmetic and hygiene, via television screens.

The classes, now being organized, will be called "tele-clubs," which administrators find has glamorous appeal to Congolese, who are big on clubs and fascinated by television. They will meet daily in groups of 20, each in a numbered seat.

During the televised classes, from time to time, a number between 1 and 20 will be called by the teacher on the screen. In each tele-club a Congolese teacher will see to it that the student in the designated seat answers the question.

With high hope and three years' experience in Zambia, Kenneth Cripwell, 34, a British educator, said recently:

"Many Zambian students following such a program for 10 weeks made as much progress as their colleagues in a normal year-long course.

TEACHERS

"I don't think you can claim that television is better than a good classroom teacher," said Mr. Cripwell, "but where are you going to find all the good classroom teachers that are needed in Africa?"

The television receivers and the teachers who will appear on the screens are being provided by the Union Miniere du Haut Katanga, the giant copper mining firm that dominates economic activity in the province of Katanga.

The company already operates 100 primary and technical schools but, to broaden its effect with television, it hired Mr. Cripwell.

He has queried 80 educational television stations in the United States and is studying responses.

The program is planned to begin in March, with a single receiver in Elisabethville, but is expected to expand to four centers by September. Company officials say that if they are as popular as they hope, there may be 20, 50 or even 100 tele-clubs in a few years.

Then the target will be other towns of the province, including such mining centers as Jadotville and Kolwezi.

STATIONS

This will require setting up new transmitters—the brand new one-kilowatt station in Elisabethville has a range of about 20 miles. To do so, the Union Miniere and the Radio College, a Roman Catholic institution, hope to get government aid.

A year ago, television in Elisabethville was diversion for a few Europeans living in a town where nothing exciting had happened—except for threats of political chaos—since Katanga ended its fling with independence and the United Nations forces pulled out in June, 1963.

The nearest transmitter was 100 miles away, in Kitwe, Zambia, and reception was poor. Nevertheless, there were 102 sets in Elisabethville, by a 1965 official count.

With the one-kilowatt transmitter here now making experimental broadcasts, receiver sales are booming—but only among the relatively rich. A set costs about \$200 in Belgian francs, plus \$170 in Congolese francs for import duties. A skilled workman averages about \$50 a month, so TV is out of his range, and that of his children. But not if they become tele-clubbers.

Mate Selection Is Problem for Educated Congo

By ROBERT LEE

LEOPOLDVILLE, The Congo — Congolese students returning from studies abroad find themselves stymied by the problem of choosing a wife.

There is no shortage of attractive girls in The Congo, but few of them have even high school educations. Only 40 of some 1,500 students at Leopoldville's Lovanium University are girls, and half of these are Nigerian.

Thus, the pickings are slim for a 30-year-old bachelor like Robert Youdi, who returned from the United States in December with a bachelor's degree from the University of Oregon and a master's degree in public administration from the University of Michigan.

HE IS AN assistant to President Mobutu's economic adviser.

Youdi's problem is made all the more difficult by the fact that he is expected to marry someone from his own regional subgroup of the Bakongo tribe.

The subgroup, called the Mukimbungu, includes some 30 or 40 villages around the town of Bidi, from which his family comes, about 60 miles southwest of Leopoldville.

He believes his family might not object too vigorously if he strayed outside the Mukimbungu but stayed within a larger dialect group known as the Manianga.

HE DECLINES to predict what their attitude might be if he were to go outside the Manianga, let alone outside the whole Bakongo tribe, in choosing a wife.

"I think most people would rather see you marry a foreigner than a girl from another part of The Congo," he says. "For this reason, among others, those fellows who brought girls back from the States may have the best answer."

During his five years in the United States, Youdi became partially accustomed to American dating habits — enough so that the customs of his own country now seem strange.

"I can't simply ask a girl here to go to the movies for an evening," he points out. "She would take it as something much more serious. She would assume I had chosen her."

A similar situation arose the night the Mukimbungu living in Leopoldville threw an elaborate homecoming party for Youdi, who is the first member of the group ever to study abroad. About 200 persons attended.

"After the speeches, I was expected to begin the dancing," he remembers. "But if I asked a girl from my own tribe to be my partner, people would think I had selected her as my wife.

"I had to get a friend to find me a girl from an entirely different tribe so that people would know there

was no chance of my marrying her."

For many Congolese, the marriage question is resolved by their parents.

A FRIEND of Youdi returned home after studying at Wayne State University in Detroit, Mich., to find his parents had picked out a 15-year-old bride for him. They had even paid the dowry.

He refused to accept her, but she is still living with his parents since they have paid for her.

Youdi believes his parents, who live in the port city of Matadi, are recon-

ciled to letting him choose his own mate.

HOWEVER, he is not so sure this is true of his mother's brother, who remains in Bidi.

With the Bakongo, inheritance is via the mother's side of the family, and uncles on that side play a role that is in some respects more important than a father's.

It was his mother's brother who decided that Youdi should accept a one-year, extendable scholarship to study in the United States rather than a four-year grant to the Soviet

Union. He says the uncle told him:

"For many years I have heard of that country (the United States). But I have never heard of that other country (the Soviet Union). You should go to that other country (the United States)."

YOUIDI HAD attended an American Baptist Mission school for three years and thus favored the United States himself. He could have and would have gone against the advice of his uncle had that been necessary. But he saw no reason to destroy needlessly his uncle's prestige.

"After all," he says with a laugh, "I have six sisters. I will be an uncle myself many times over."

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apolis Tribune staff writer on leave under a William P. Gray foreign correspondent's fellowship.

SEE DIAMOND SMUGGLING IN CONGO EASED

2-16-66

Army Now Controls Mining Area

BY ROBERT D. LEE
(Chicago Tribune Press Service)
LEOPOLDVILLE, The Congo, Feb. 15 — Military supervision of the Congo's diamond mining region, begun in December, seems to be curbing the multimillion-dollar smuggling operations that have grown to plague this country since independence.

An official of the country's diamond-mining company and nonindustry analysts agree that all signs point to a downturn in smuggling, altho statistics to confirm their impressions are not yet available.

It is estimated that 8 million carats in industrial diamonds, or more than half the Congo's normal annual production, were smuggled out of the country last year.

Go Across the River
Approximately a ton apparently went across the Congo river to Brazzaville, the capital of the former French Congo. Records there show 5 million carats of industrial diamonds were exported in 1965, the fact that Brazzaville has no known diamond resources notwithstanding.

Another important smuggling route is believed to pass through Bujumbura, Burundi. If the smuggled diamonds brought an average of \$2 a carat, they represent a loss in foreign exchange earnings for the Congo of about 16 million dollars. The nation's total foreign exchange reserves are 25 million dollars.

Army Begins Patrols
Shortly after seizing power in a bloodless coup d'etat in December, Gen. Joseph-Desire Mobutu ordered the army to begin policing the diamond mining area, which is located in a south-central province, South Kasai.

He also decreed that persons arrested for violating the concession of the Union Miniere du Bakwanga [M. I. B. A.] or transporting diamonds from the area without authorization would be tried in military courts.

Supervision of the diamond area had previously been the responsibility of provincial authorities, who showed little enthusiasm for strict enforcement of anti-smuggling laws.

Enforcement Is Lax
The laws themselves remained virtually unchanged from the colonial era, when smuggling problems were minimal. But enforcement had grown lax since independence.

As one M. I. B. A. official puts it: "A certain part of the police force . . . well, you know it's possible to get almost anything in this country if you are willing to pay for it."

The acceptance of bribes by government employes, especially on the provincial level, is more the rule than the exception in the Congo.

The army now sends regular patrols into the concession area and a number of foreigners without visible employment have been expelled from the province.

Airport Handshakes Barred
One economic analyst takes comfort in the fact that he sees a large number of Senegalese, Mauritanians, and other West Africans in Leopoldville.

"That means they aren't in South Kasai," he points out. At the Leopoldville airport, it is no longer possible to shake the hand of a departing visitor after he has cleared the customs area. Just how effective are these

efforts to reduce leakage from what has been a sieve will be seen only if and when diamonds already in the smuggling pipeline begin to be devalued. In the meantime, the Congolese economy is bearing the full consequences of last year's illegal exports.

Sales Are Falling Off
Altho smuggling became a

phenomenon of major proportions in 1964, M. I. B. A. was able even then to sell on the world market what it regarded as a normal year's production, 14.7 million carats. But last year the company produced only 12 million carats and could not sell that many.

Consequently, on Jan. 1, it laid off 175 of its 4,000 employes, retired 25 more on company pensions, and transferred 100 men from jobs directly involved in the exploitation of the mines to such tasks as road repairs.

Dam Construction Slowed
A company official said the drop in revenue resulting from declining sales had also forced a slowdown in construction of a

dam that was to provide both the company and residents of the area with increased electric power.

In urging a crackdown on smuggling, the company has pointed out how great are the Congolese government's own losses, not only in precious foreign exchange, but in taxes and profits. *Chicago Tribune*

Congo TV Clubs Form to Further Learning

By ROBERT LEE

ELISABETHVILLE, The Congo—A year ago, television in Elisabethville was for a few Europeans in search of amusement in a town where nothing exciting had happened since the province of Katanga ended its fling with independence and United Nations forces pulled out in June, 1963.

Even though the closest station was 100 miles away in Kitwe, Zambia, and reception was seldom better than mediocre, there were 102 sets in Elisabethville, according to a 1965 count.

This year, with a local one-kilowatt station already making experimental broadcasts, sales of receivers are booming. And television is about to take a first step toward becoming not only a popular entertainment medium but a fundamental tool in a program of mass education in this part of the Congo.

BUYING A SET, at approximately \$200 payable in Belgian francs plus \$170 in import duties payable in Congolese francs, is still out of the question for even a Congolese with a good job. A skilled workman may earn \$50 a month in addition to fringe benefits that usually include free housing and schooling for his children.

But residents of Elisabethville are being given a chance to join Tele-Clubs that will offer courses in basic French, beginning arithmetic and hygiene as well as documentary and commercial films all free of charge.

Despite the name, used because Congolese are as much club-joiners as American high school students, Tele-Clubs are being organized essentially as classes that will meet daily, 20 or so students to a group.

Both the receivers and the Congolese teachers who will appear on the screen are being provided by a giant copper mining company that dominates economic activity in the province of Katanga, the Union Miniere du Haut Katanga.

THE COMPANY already operates 100 primary and technical schools and has hired a pudgy 34-year-old British educator, Kenneth Cripwell, as a special television consultant.

Cripwell plans to make use of techniques he devel-

oped during three years of experimentation in Zambia, putting strong emphasis on student participation.

Chairs in each classroom will be numbered from 1 to 20, and when a given number is called, one student in each room will be expected to respond. There will be a Congolese teacher to monitor responses in each room.

"The most impressive result of such techniques is their holding power," says Cripwell. "Many Zambian students following such a program for 10 weeks made as much progress as their colleagues in a normal year-long course.

"I don't think you can claim that television is better than a good classroom teacher. But where are you going to find all the good classroom teachers that are needed in Africa?"

CRIPWELL HAS queried 80 educational television stations in the United States for advice in setting up the Elisabethville program. Responses to date have been helpful, he says.

The experiment here is expected to begin with a single receiver sometime in March and to expand to four centers in September. Company officials hesitate to guess how fast it might grow next year — perhaps to 20, 50 or even 100 Tele-Clubs, if the idea is successful.

Then the target will be other towns of the province, including such important mining centers as Jadotville and Kolwezi.

HOWEVER, the one-kilowatt transmitter of the Radio College in Elisabethville, a Catholic-run institution, has a radius of only 20 miles, and increasing its power would merely serve to flail the Bush with electromagnetic waves.

The towns are so widely spaced a separate transmitter will be needed for each of them. For this, the Union Miniere and the Radio College hope to enlist government support.

ROBERT LEE is a Minneapolis Tribune staff writer on leave under a William P. Gray foreign correspondent's fellowship.

The Congo Clamps Down on Diamond Smuggling

By ROBERT LEE

LEOPOLDVILLE, The Congo—Military supervision of the Congo's diamond mining region, begun a month ago, seems to be curbing the multimillion dollar smuggling operations that have plagued this country since independence.



Mobutu

An official of the country's diamond-mining company and analysts agree that signs point to a downturn in smuggling, although statistics to confirm their impressions are not yet available.

It is estimated that eight million carats in industrial diamonds, or more than half The Congo's normal annual production, were smuggled out of the country last year.

Approximately a ton apparently went across the Congo River to Brazzaville, capital of the Congo Republic. Records there show five million carats of industrial diamonds were exported in 1965, the fact that the Congo Republic has no known diamond resources notwithstanding.

Another important smuggling route is believed to pass through Bjumbura, Burundi.

If the smuggled diamonds brought an average of \$2 a carat, they represent a loss in foreign exchange earnings for the Congo of about \$16 million. The nation's total foreign exchange reserves are currently \$25 million.

Last month, shortly after seizing power, Gen. Joseph Mobutu ordered the army to begin policing the diamond mining area, which is located in a south-central province, South Kasai.

HE ALSO decreed that persons arrested for violating the concession of the Union Miniere du Bakwanga (MIBA) or transporting diamonds from the area without authorization would be tried in military courts.

Supervision of the diamond area previously had been the responsibility of provincial authorities, who showed little enthusiasm for strict enforcement of antismuggling laws.

The laws themselves remained virtually unchanged from the colonial era, when smuggling problems were minimal. But enforcement grew lax after independence.

As one MIBA official put it: "A certain part of the police force . . . well, you know it's possible to get almost anything in this country if you are willing to pay for it."

The acceptance of bribes by government employes, especially on the provincial level, is more the rule than the exception in The Congo.

The official believes the

measures taken recently by Mobutu, if they are maintained, will be sufficient to stop large-scale smuggling.

The army now sends regular patrols into the concession area, he said, and a number of foreigners without visible employment have been expelled from the province.

One economic analyst takes comfort in the fact that he sees a large number of Senegalese, Mauretians and other West Africans in Leopoldville.

"THAT means they aren't in South Kasai," he points out.

At the Leopoldville airport, it no longer is possible to shake the hand of a departing visitor after he has cleared the customs area.

Just how effective are these efforts to reduce leakage from what has been a sieve will be seen only if and when diamonds already in the smuggling "pipeline" begin to be depleted. In the meantime, the Congolese economy is bearing the full consequences of last year's illegal exports.

Although smuggling became a problem of major proportions in 1964, MIBA was able even then to sell on the world market what it regarded as a normal year's

production, 14.7 million carates. But last year the company produced only 12 million carates and could not sell that many.

Consequently, on Jan. 1, it laid off 175 of its 4,000 employes, retired 25 more on pensions and transferred 100 men from jobs directly involved in the exploitation of the mines to such tasks as road repairs.

A COMPANY official said the drop in revenues resulting from declining sales also had forced a slowdown in construction of a dam that was to provide both the company and residents of the area with increased electric power.

In urging a crackdown on smuggling, the company has pointed out how great are the Congolese government's own losses, not only in precious foreign exchange, but in taxes and profits. Although the government is not a shareholder in MIBA, it divides profits 50-50 with the company.

MIBA is an internationally owned company incorporated in Belgium and an affiliate of the Societe Generale de Belgique.

ROBERT LEE is a Minneapolis Tribune staff writer on leave under a William P. Gray foreign correspondent's fellowship.

2-4-66

The Congo Struggles to Draft Its First Budget in 5½ Years

By ROBERT LEE

LEOPOLDVILLE, The Congo — After 5½ years of living hand-to-mouth, the Congolese government is drawing up an annual budget.

Although an initial attempt at budgeting was made last year, the resulting document was not approved by the Congolese Parliament until September. Thus, it had little effect on spending decisions, and government expenditures exceeded receipts by 50 per cent.

THIS YEAR there is no need to wait on the Parliament. Gen. Joseph-Desire Mobutu, who removed President Joseph Kasavubu Nov. 25, rules the country by decree.

But Mobutu has already had to wait three weeks on his Ministry of Finance to come up with a final budget document based on guidelines established at a Dec. 31 meeting of the Council of Ministers. He has waited impatiently, taking, in the meantime, austerity measures that include:

Arresting the treasurers of both houses of Parliament for paying members their regular monthly salaries. Mobutu previously had decreed that these salaries be reduced.

Dissolving a 500-man government accounting office that his advisers judged was duplicating in too many cases the work of the Ministry of Finance. Called the Cour de Comptes, it was a carry-over from the Belgian colonial system.

Announcing that government officials no longer would be permitted to undertake "missions" — the Congolese equivalent of congressional junkets — to the interior.

He also has assured budget makers that there will be no double payment this year. In the past, money des-

tinued for teachers and other government employes in the provinces has had a way of not arriving. Some of the more fortunate personnel have been paid twice.

Despite such steps toward economy, the new budget calls for operating expenditures of 56 billion Congolese francs, 4 billion less than were spent last year.

(At the official exchange rate of 150 francs to the dollar, this represents a budget of \$400 million; at the more realistic rate of more than 400 to the dollar on the parallel market in Leopoldville, it is about \$150 million.)

However, the government is counting on an increase in revenues from 40 to 51 billion francs to trim last year's 20-billion-franc deficit to 5 billion.

THE INCREASE in revenues will come from new taxes, which have not yet been announced, and from existing taxes, which are expected to generate more revenue as business activity improves. American budgetary support probably will remain about constant at 5½ billion francs, or 10 per cent of anticipated revenues.

The key to making things come out right is agriculture.

The Congolese mining industry, which is the other half of the economic picture here, did well last year and should do even better in 1966 as a result of climbing mineral prices.

AGRICULTURAL exports, on the other hand, were down 25 per cent last year due to continued rebel activity in the northern and eastern regions of the country. Several key transportation routes remain cut.

But the government hopes they can be restored within the next two or three months

and that security can be guaranteed for the regional collection centers where individual farmers bring their products.

Thus, in the general economic outlook for 1966, the first half of the year is regarded as critical. Says one Congolese economist:

"We are very optimistic but everyone agrees that the next six months will call for considerable sacrifice on the part of the people. So far the people have indicated they are willing to accept such a sacrifice."

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Beer, Music, "Popularity"

BY ROBERT LEE

LEOPOLDVILLE, the Congo —Two or three dozen young men slumped in metal lawn chairs sipping orange drink and staring at a maze of loudspeakers, microphones, drums and electric guitars amassed at one edge of the terrace.

"Isn't there supposed to be a Youth Movement meeting here at 4:30?" asked a visitor wandering through the outdoor cafe.

"It's already 4:30."

"But this is going to be a 'popular' meeting," explained one of the youths with a wry smile. "And as you can see, it's not popular yet."

It still wasn't at 5:15.

Then a group of seven musicians in striped jackets who call themselves the Co-Bantou began twanging and thumping,

and waiters started passing out quarts of free beer.

Five tunes and three glasses of beer later, by the time the sun had begun to sink behind the palm trees, the crowd had grown to perhaps 300.

The music stopped. A fat man, his short-sleeved white shirt open at the neck, waddled to the microphone.

"Imperialism is a greater danger for this country," he shouted, "and here to tell you more about it is Colon Gentil, national president of the Confederation of Congolese Youth Movements."

A short man of about 35 in a yellow T-shirt and brown felt hat strutted onto the terrace, waving a magician's wand in his left hand, doffing his hat with his right.

He joked a bit in Lingala, then started over in French.

"All the colonials who came to the Congo did so just to protect their own interests," he said. "They were all witch-doctors." That brought laughter.

"Now, we have complete freedom of expression. Isn't that right?"

"That's right," responded the crowd.

"Do you see any police here today?" he asked.

"No," chorused his listeners.

"Do you see any soldiers here today?"

"No, no, no."

"That shows we have freedom of expression. C'est pas vrai?"

"C'est vrai," agreed the mob, and there were chuckles at the beauty of the logic.

"We must thank the General Motubu," said Gentil "Bravo, General Mobutu. Bravo."

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"Bravo, bravo, bravo," came the echo.

"But why is it that our senators are the puppets of foreign powers?" asked Gentil with a sweep of his three-foot baton. "What do we have to do to make them independent?"

"Fellow warriors, we must throw ourselves into the revolutionary struggle against foreign domination, against the imperialists and the neo-colonialists.

"Now, that's my introduction," he said, hauling out a prepared text and beginning to read. He proceeded to prove himself nearly as generous with the verbal entertainment (60 minutes) as with the liquid (180 quarts).

It was 7:15 when they finally let the Co-Bantou seven take over the noise making once again. But they had scarcely played ten bars, when the curtain came down on the whole show.

National security police arrived and suggested it was time for the Gentil homme to be in bed.

American, 70, Manages Congo Financial Empire

BY ROBERT D. LEE

LEOPOLDVILLE, The Congo — With an overstuffed wallet, a knowledge of 10 languages and a blue plastic fly swatter, a 70-year-old American manages the tiniest details of a financial empire that has made him legendary in the Congo.

To more than 1,500 Congolese, Maurice Alhadeff is "le patron," the boss, the man on whom they depend for their jobs, their homes, even their medical care.

To foreigners in Leopoldville, he is the city's great landlord, the man who bought everything in sight when others were selling madly in the early days of independence. (By his own estimate, Alhadeff owns 50 homes and buildings in Leopoldville; by other estimates, he has many more than that.)

To Alhadeff, a native of the Isle of Rhodes who has been in the Congo off and on since he was 16, Alhadeff is the man who first recognized the artistic and technical capabilities of the Congolese and put them to good use.

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"Where did you learn how to carve?" he asked a slightly built Congolese who drifted into his office one Saturday afternoon. "Did you go to art school?"

"Oh, no, boss," the youth replied.

"Then where did you learn?"

"Why, in your workshops. Right here, boss."

Alhadeff, whose ample figure barely slides into the driver's seat of his four-year-old Continental, turned slightly to his left and gestured with his fly swatter to an intricately carved, seven-foot elephant tusk that formed one-half of an ivory arch above his head.

"Were you making things like that before you came to

me?" he asked, knowing full well the answer.

"No, boss," came the expected reply.

"Well, then. . ." concluded Alhadeff, looking hard at the youth, who just grinned and brought forth an ivory statuette he had made during the week.

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"That's not good work," cried Alhadeff. "Is that all you've done this week? There's no movement. It's too static."

The sculptor nodded glumly, and Alhadeff finally hauled out the big wallet and handed over a couple thousand francs, about \$15, or a week's salary. Alhadeff keeps about 35 Congolese artists on salary and supplies them with materials.

The youth left without a word, but in his place came a painter, a chauffeur wanting money for gasoline, a wood carver, a Greek businessman and a houseboy with some orange drink the "Boss" had yelled for.

"In my shirt factory, there are only Congolese," said Alhadeff between swatting a mosquito and greeting another visitor. "When they learn that a salary is for work and is not a gift they can work like a white man.

"We can produce shirts as intricate as all but the very best manufacturers in the United States, and I mean the very best."

★

His interests grew until they now include in addition to the original import business not only the shirt factory and considerable real estate but factories for work and dress clothes, half ownership of a plastics plant, the Congo franchise for Pepsi-Cola and part interest in a Canada Dry bottling operation.

Congo Youths' Band Beats Political Drum

By ROBERT LEE

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MINNEAPOLIS TRIBUNE

Sun., Feb. 6, 1966

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(60 minutes) as with the liquid (180 quarts).

IT WAS 7:15 when he finally let the Co-Bantou seven take over the noise-making once again. But they had scarcely beat out 10 bars, when the curtain came down on the whole show.

National security police arrived and suggested it was time for the Gentil homme to be in bed.

ROBERT LEE is a Minneapolis Tribune staff writer on leave under a William P. Gray foreign correspondent fellowship.

Congo's Mobutu Pays Visit to 'Constituents'

By ROBERT LEE

ELISABETHVILLE, The Congo — President Joseph-Desire Mobutu climbed into the copilot's seat of his private DC3 and charted his own barnstorming tour of the eastern half of The Congo last week.



Mobutu

The path he plotted was a tough one, both geographically and politically.

It led deep into The Congo's central rain forest and 100 miles of rutty dirt in the cool, mountainous region north of Goma.

IT LED from Maniema Province, where lack of a governor has paralyzed the provincial government, to copper-rich Katanga, the homeland of former Prime Minister Moise Tshombe.

Mobutu, a 35-year-old general who used the Congolese army to boost himself into power last Nov. 25, began his trip with almost reckless confidence.

Asked if he had expected the enthusiastic reception he received at his first stop, in the steamy river town of Kindu, he replied: "Why of course I did. It is Congolese tradition to be hospitable."

HOWEVER, disappointment ran as high as the temperature when Mobutu, before a crowd of thousands, let his minister of the interior respond to the provincial governor's message of welcome, rather than doing it himself.

With a flight east over mountains into Bukavu, on the shores of Lake Kivu, the weather cooled and the general warmed to his political work.

On his second day there, dressed in a dark blue suit instead of his uniform, he began responding to cheers and applause by raising both arms rather than by saluting.

THERE was a marked increase in response.

In neither Kindu nor Bukavu did Mobutu's speeches at "popular meetings" arouse great enthusiasm.

He read them in French, then translated freely into Lingala, although this is not the mother tongue of either community.

But in Goma, at the northern end of Lake Kivu, the general folded up his prepared speech and launched a 45-minute tirade against the president of the provincial assembly of North Kivu, whose welcoming speech had criticized the Mobutu regime

for not living up to its promises.

Without a loudspeaker, Mobutu shouted his reply: He was not to be held responsible for the chaos and financial ruin brought on by five years of rule by "the politicians."

THE GENERAL later refused to accept the assembly president's apologies and abolished the assembly's secretariat, which had reportedly written the speech.

Since he had been denouncing politicians at every turn, there was some questions about how Mobutu would be received when he headed for Elisabethville, the home of one of The Congo's most effective politicians, Moise Tshombe.

The general had repeatedly inferred that Tshombe, purportedly in Belgium for medical treatment, was scheming against the new regime.

Sources close to Mobutu denied that he feared Tshombe's return or that he was concerned about his Katanga portion of his trip. But 12 additional security personnel were quietly added to the presidential party before it took off from Goma.

The general was visibly relieved when he found the largest crowd of his week-old trip waiting for him in Elisabethville.

HE RECEIVED the unqualified endorsement of Godefroid Munongo, governor of

East Katanga and a former right-hand man of Tshombe.

Munongo went so far as to call for a stop to the activities of certain "saboteurs" of the regime. Presumably he was referring to his former boss.

Thus, as the president prepared to head back for Leopoldville, he appeared to have made important progress toward gaining provincial support for his program of "national reconstruction." And he seemed on the verge of becoming a national political leader, as well as a military head of state.

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