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(Drafting Office and Officer)

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Memorandum of Conversation

DATE: 12/14/60

SUBJECT:

PARTICIPANTS: The Irish Ambassador ✓
Charles E. Bohlen, Acting Asst. Secretary, IO ^{OWS}
Woodruff Wallner, Deputy Asst. Secretary, IO
Wm. T. Nunley, EUR

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~~Ambassy Dublin~~

DEC 21 1960

The Irish Ambassador called at his request to discuss two subjects: the Irish disarmament resolution and the Congo situation.

With respect to the former the Ambassador stated that the Irish Foreign Minister, Mr. Aiken, continues to believe strongly in the utility of the resolution designed to prevent a further dissemination of nuclear weapons. He hopes this resolution will come to a vote shortly. He has been encouraged by the Canadian decision to support the resolution and hopes that the U.S. will also change its attitude. The Ambassador then inquired as to the difficulties which prevent the U.S. from supporting the resolution.

Mr. Bohlen pointed out the difficulties confronting the U.S. in connection with unenforceable declaratory resolutions on disarmament, using the nuclear testing resolution as a principal example. Mr. Bohlen also indicated that the Irish resolution might be interpreted as barring our program for a NATO nuclear stockpile despite the fact that this NATO program does not actually call for the dissemination of weapons among non-nuclear powers.

The Ambassador

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The Ambassador then suggested that the Soviets may be supporting the resolution in order to have an excuse for refusing nuclear weapons to the Chinese communists. Mr. Bohlen agreed that this might be the case.

The Irish Ambassador then raised the Congo problem, indicating that Foreign Minister Aiken is seriously disturbed about the failure of President Kasavubu to establish an effective government with a sound legal basis. He reported that even such friendly countries as Tunisia and Nigeria had been gravely disturbed by the lack of stability in the Congo and by the reports that Kasavubu is actually under Mobutu's thumb. The Ambassador also said the Irish Government is curious as to the source of Mobutu's financial support, and reported a rumor to the effect that Mobutu is being financed by mining interests in the Katanga Province.

Mr. Bohlen said that it is very difficult to trace such funds, but added that there is no reason to believe that Mobutu lacks access to Congolese Government funds. With regard to the general situation, Mr. Bohlen agreed that the situation is disturbing and said it is constantly on our minds. We have advised Kasavubu strongly to establish a regular provisional government pending the re-establishment of order and the reconvening of Parliament. However, the situation is very confused, there are few able people to work with, and many of the leaders find it easier to follow through. The U.S. shares Foreign Minister Aiken's view of the need for action and the U.S. is working in that direction, but the process will be slow and painful.

Mr. Wallner observed that the Belgian role in the current Congo difficulties has probably been exaggerated, and that these difficulties have resulted in large part from the fact that UN contingents from other countries have not been truly impartial. On the contrary, they have interfered repeatedly in the Congo's internal affairs and have thus engendered considerable suspicion on the part of Kasavubu and Mobutu.

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