Katanga
January 9, 1962

Dear :

Publicly and privately from a hundred platforms I have protested our action in the Congo and even concurred in the protest developed by a committee in New York. I did, however, feel that I had to disassociate myself from any fund raising activities by that committee to provide weapons for Katanga because this might be regarded as quite improper on the part of an elected official in the United States.

We have blundered in supporting a United Nations Resolution under which troops and weapons were sent to Katanga to dragoon these peaceful people in line and probably a lot more will be added to this story before it is over.

Sincerely,

Everett McKinley Dirksen
KATANGA

August 28, 1962

Dear:

Both publicly and privately I have protested our action in the Congo and did concur in the protest developed by a committee in New York some months ago. I did, however, have to dissociate myself from the fund raising activities of this New York committee because through the press it made a public appeal for funds with which to provide weapons for Katanga. I felt it was improper and might have been regarded as illegal for a public servant to be associated with any group which undertook action of this kind.

Nevertheless, I still protest the proposal to again resort to force in order to compel this province to come under the jurisdiction of the central Congo government in view of all the circumstances which surround this situation.

There are those who believe a central Congo government cannot survive without financial support from Katanga, the richest province in the Congo. However, it would seem to me that if half as much effort was devoted to the development of a satisfactory plan under which these differences can be composed as there is to the free and easy initiation of force in order to solve this problem, a satisfactory solution might have been contrived long ago.

I deeply appreciate your interest.

Sincerely,

Everett McKinley Dirksen