Dear:

I share your belief that it was a mistake for the State Department to deny a visa to Moise Tshombe and especially so in view of the fact that Prime Minister Adoula of the Congo was not only admitted to this country but actually invited and given an opportunity in various places to present his side of the story.

Truth can hurt no one and protests were made to the action taken by the State Department but no action was taken. In the same field the State Department also lifted the visa of Mr. Tshombe's public relations man after he arrived in the United States. This too seemed shortsighted and of sufficient importance to the Senate Committee on Internal Security to have several hearings on the matter, in the course of which we interrogated State Department officials at length in order to fix responsibility for this decision.

It is, of course, an administrative matter and the State Department can maintain its position if it so desires.

Our interest in this problem has not yet been concluded and the Internal Security Subcommittee will give it further attention.

Sincerely,

Everett McKinley Dirksen