

Congo Seeking Troop Aid From 5 African Nations

LEOPOLDVILLE, Aug. 17 — The Congolese government has asked for troops from five African countries to aid in its battle against leftist rebels, sources here said today.

The five countries were reportedly Nigeria, Ethiopia, Senegal, Liberia and Malagasy (Madagascar).

There was no indication how many troops were asked from each country. The sources said this would depend on how many of the countries were willing to help.

U.S. Sending Planes

The request was revealed shortly after a joint announcement here and in Washington that the United States will provide the Congo with a "small number" of B-26 medium bombers. A United States spokesman said the planes will be flown by contract pilots who will not be American citizens.

Congolese Premier Moise Tshombe has also asked G. Mennen Williams, United States Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, for long-range reconnaissance planes. They met again today to discuss the request.

An official of the United States Embassy here said there was no reason why the United States should reject the request for reconnaissance planes and pilots. This would come under the military technical assistance program.

Tshombe wants the planes for reconnaissance missions over such rebel-held centers as Stanleyville, 850 miles away, and Albertville, capital of North Katanga Province.

U.S. Diplomats Safe

The first word in 5½ days from Michael Hoyt, United States Consul in Stanleyville, came today. He reported on a public Telex system that he and four other United States diplomats "are carrying on well. We are all at the Consulate."

Reports from Elisabethville said today that Roman Catholic priests at Albertville had been injured by the rebels. The reports from usually reliable sources said one priest of the White Fathers order was missing, eight were in prison and several others in hospitals.

The reports said foreign diplomats whose nationals were still in Albertville were pressing for government forces to attack the town before more Europeans were hurt.

Radio messages from Kamina military base said Congolese army units had reentered the North Katanga rail junction town of Kabalo, which the rebels occupied for a month but were now reported to have evacuated.

Recapture of Kabalo, 160 miles west of Albertville, would isolate the town from rebel bases in neighboring Kindu Province.