

State Dept. Struelens Action Criticized

Details of Sen. Thomas J. Dodd's anger with the State Department over its handling of visas for a Belgian and a Japanese were disclosed yesterday in testimony taken in 1964.

The Connecticut Democrat, vice chairman of the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee, which released the testimony, accused the Department of according shabby treatment of Michel Struelens, a Belgian spokesman for Congolese leader Moise Tshombe.

In contrast, Dodd said, the Department leaned over backward to help Prof. Kaoru Yasui get a visa quickly although he had to have a special waiver because of connections with a pro-Communist organization.

Dodd called it a "terrible situation," that Struelens, then a university instructor in Canada, got only a three-month visa to visit the United States instead of the normal four-year visa.

"Isn't it rather outrageous to keep after this man . . . because he disagreed with the Department's policy about the Congo?" Dodd asked Abba Schwartz, then Administrator for Security and Consular Affairs, at a hearing in July 1964.

Struelens became a controversial figure during the Katanga crisis when he headed a New York information office Tshombe, who was at that time president of Katanga, the rich secessionist province of the Congo. The United States was firmly against Tshombe's ambitions for independence and supported the

U.N. action to integrate Katanga into the Congo.

Later, Struelens went to Canada to teach and from there asked for an American visa.

Then, when Tshombe became the Congo's Prime Minister, Struelens was named counselor at the Congolese

Embassy in Washington, a post he held until Tshombe's ouster last fall.

The Senator was especially indignant when contrasting the handling of the visa applications of the Belgian and of Yasui.

Struelens, Dodd told Schwartz, is known as a strong anti-

Communist. You harassed him, badgered him, delayed him, plagued him months and months and years, but when this questionable character from Japan applies, everything lights up, lights flash. He is, in 10 days, given a waiver. You can explain it any way you want."