

Tshombe Died of Heart Failure, 11-Man Autopsy

PARIS, June 30 (Agence France-Presse) — Moise Tshombe, the former Congolese died of heart failure last night in Algeria, an official autopsy in Algiers disclosed today.

The autopsy was performed by eleven surgeons, all of whom signed the autopsy report. The report was announced by the Algerian Press Service.

The death of the man who led Katanga Province into secession from the Congo came on the day before the second anniversary of his mysterious kidnapping on plane trip between Ibiza, in the Balearic Islands, and Palma, Majorca.

Mr. Tshombe's private plane was hijacked by Francis Bode-nan, a Frenchman, and landed at Algiers, where the former Congolese leader remained in captivity until his death.

His death also came one day before the anniversary of the Congo's independence from Belgium—June 30, 1960.

The Congolese Government had asked Algeria to extradite Mr. Tshombe, who had been found guilty of treason and sentenced to death in absentia.

But Algeria, embarrassed by her unwanted guest, never extradited him. His death has solved the problem for Algeria.

Flamboyant Seeker of Power

Moise-Kapenda Tshombe pursued a career that took almost as many bends as the Congo River.

But that the flamboyant man who was once the leader of the Congo's secessionist Katanga Province and at another point Premier of the united Congo should die virtually a forgotten man in detention near Algiers could only seem ironic to those who knew of his single-minded quest for power.

In its two and a half years of Katanga's "independence," Mr. Tshombe was its President, made its foreign policy, reviewed its parades and appeared on all its stamps.

To seize and hold these powers and privileges, Mr. Tshombe used tools and methods few other Congolese would have dared employ.

He asked and received assistance from Belgium in staffing his Government and brought Belgian, French, South African and Rhodesian mercenaries in to provide a stiff spine for his army.

Mr. Tshombe was once described by The Observer, a London newspaper, as being "in some ways impressive, in others outrageous."

'Bluffer and Gambler'

"He is shrewd and articulate and undeniably brave," it wrote, "but there is also about him something of the bluffer and the gambler. His manner is flamboyant, even comical. He dresses with foppish elegance [and] fills his private rooms with large paintings of himself in full evening dress."

But it has been suggested that the seed of Mr. Tshombe's



Associated Press
Moise Tshombe

downfall, was not his immodesty but rather the ruthlessness with which he pursued his attempt to convert chaos into power.

Apparently he always had the conviction that anything was permissible as a means to power, combined with a certain contempt for the opinions and sensibilities of his fellow Africans.

This apparent contempt may have had its roots in Mr. Tshombe's childhood, for he was anything but a typical Congolese boy. His father, Joseph, was the most successful Congolese businessman of his time.

Moise was born Nov. 10, 1919, in a village near the provincial capital of Elisabethville—now known as Lubumbashi—in the extreme south of Ka-

tanga. His full first name, Moise-Kapenda, means Darling Moses.

He received the equivalent of a high school education at a Methodist mission school near Elisabethville. He never quite forgot, however, that it was the Belgians who refused to let him go abroad for the law studies that he wanted.

Mr. Tshombe took over his father's business in 1951, after his father had died. Under his direction, however, it began to fail, and three times he was declared bankrupt.

In the meantime, he began to take an active part in politics and community affairs.

In January, 1960, he was one of the leaders summoned to Brussels to plan an independent Congo Republic. Patrice Lumumba, one of the most important leaders in Leopoldville, now known as Kinshasa, was released from jail to attend this conference.

On June 30, the Congo was declared independent with Joseph Kasavubu as President and Mr. Lumumba as Premier.

Near Chaos Follows

Independence was followed by army mutiny and near chaos. Mr. Tshombe waited 10 days after the mutiny broke out. When it was clear that law and order had broken down and that the Congolese Army was powerless to restore it, he declared independence for Katanga, which is the size of California and is the southernmost and richest of the Congo's six provinces.

In its first year, the region was swept by bloody tribal disorders and was occupied in part by United Nations forces.

To many Congolese and Africans, as well as to many delegates to the United Nations, the use of white mercenaries

against his fellow Africans was a sin for which he was not forgiven.

But for Mr. Tshombe it was a practical necessity for the retention of order and power.

Ultimately, despite the foreign advisers and mercenary soldiers, Katanga collapsed under the third onslaught of United Nations troops, in January, 1963. Mr. Tshombe fled to Spain.

Mr. Tshombe made a dramatic return to Leopoldville in June and within two weeks, with the support of General Mobutu, became Premier.

Once back in Leopoldville, he fought vigorously to prevent the disintegration of the coun-

Team in Algeria Reports

try from which he had once seceded.

Mr. Tshombe later became involved in a long, intricate power struggle with President Kasavubu, who feared he was after his job. Mr. Tshombe was dismissed from office on Oct. 13, 1965, and went into exile again in Spain.

In Europe, there were soon signs that he was again plotting a return. However, before he could make an attempt to return—if that was what he planned—he was kidnaped in flight over the Mediterranean, flown to Algiers and imprisoned.

Mr. Tshombe was one of the most anti-Communist of Afri-

can politicians and one of the most criticized by Communist countries.

He was also disliked in nearly every African nation because he was held at least partly responsible for the murder of Mr. Lumumba in 1961. Mr. Lumumba and two companions were slain in Katanga while Mr. Tshombe was its leader.

In addition, many African leaders suspected that American and Belgian money lay behind Mr. Tshombe's success, even though he came to dislike both the United States and Belgium because they backed his opponents in Katanga.

Mr. Tshombe leaves his wife, Ruth. They had 10 children.