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Action AF				May 25,	_FELDMAN _FORRESTAL 1969IRSCH
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L H	NO: 2891, May 25	, noon			PARROTT SAUNDERS
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USIA NSC	DEPTEL 1677	* ***			
INR	Congo Oil Refiner	У			

- Following is sequence events last weeks in Consortium attempts get their refinery proposal approved:
- 1. Last week Texaco representative reported to Ambassador that Adoula had asked Consortium to place Bolikongo on company board. Consortium replied that this might eventually be done in some form.
- 2. Mobil representative reported to Embassy officers May 21 that an intermediary of Kasongo, First Vice Premier and Acting Prime Minister, had asked Consortium for two and half million dollar bribe to put over refinery proposal. This request according to Mobil representative turned down firmly but Consortium offered him assistance in creation plastics plant as adjunct to refinery which Kasongo has also requested. Mobil representative also said he was sure Adoula and others had taken bribes from ENI (Comment: Neither Embassy nor CAS has received any information tending confirm Mobil representative's claim as it concerns Adoula. There is evidence that others in government may have received favors from ENI.)

3. Embassy

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- -2- 2891, May 25, noon from Leopoddville
- 3. Embassy officer made representation to Kasongo (**) May to explain USG concern over delay in coming to a decision on Consortium proposal. Kasongo stated he concerned over possible production in excess of country's requirements and ability to export but assured Embassy officer proposal would be accepted (va passer).
- 4. Mobil representative learned from Minister Finance Bamba that Council of Ministers meeting May 22 considered Consortium proposal but put off making decision. Bamba told him that he now expected considerable delay before decision made.
- 5. Mobil representative then told me he expected Mobil and possibly other companies involved would now kick off high pressure campaign which would include publishing in world press that Adoula's principal economic advisor (Tona-Masea Deputy Director BCE) is president of the Italian Congo Refinery Company to emphasize corrupt nature Adoula government. Can Department make inquiries with head office US companies whether this latter project has backing of home offices or is reflection local manager's disappointment.

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(#) Omission. Correction to follow.

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