

NYC 3 1 FEB 61  
DUNNING COPY MILLER HILL MATER  
FM BROWN COPY NATHAN RANFT PETZALL

U R G E N T

147PM

REUR MUN 170 OF JAN 30, THE RFE SPECIAL BACKGROUNDER ON WEDNESDAY'S UPCOMING UN DEBATE ON CONGO DOES NOT REFLECT A HARD SOURCE. IT REFLECTS THE MOOD AND ATMOSPHERE OF THE UN CORRIDORS AND PUBLIC ROOMS AS FELT BY ENDRST, PLUS HIS PERSONAL DEDUCTIONS AND OPINIONS OF SITUATION. AGREE THE STORY IS SPECULATIVE (BY NECESSITY) AND PESSIMISTIC, BUT THE PESSIMISM AS TO UN MISSION IN CONGO IS SHARED BY MANY AMERICAN JOURNALISTIC OBSERVERS OF PRESS AND RADIO. AGREE THAT THE STORY IS POORLY WRITTEN AND SHOULD NOT HAVE BEEN PASSED IN ITS PRESENT FORM, AND THEREFORE SUGGEST THAT YOU KILL IT. BUT WOULD LIKE TO ADD THAT PRESSURE UPON NEW YORK NEWSROOM TO PRODUCE THESE SO-CALLED "OPENERS" AND SIMILAR THINK PIECES IS BAD PRACTICE AND HAS THE EFFECT OF CAUSING NEWSROOM TO DEPART FROM THE REPORTING OF HARD NEWS, WHICH IN OUR OPINION, SHOULD BE ITS FUNCTION. IT SEEMS TO US THAT WE SHOULD RELY FOR SUCH MOOD AND SPECULATIVE PIECES UPON THE PUNDITS AND FEATURE WRITERS OF THE DAILY PRESS AND THAT THE NEW YORK NEWSROOM SHOULD LIMIT ITSELF TO THE REPORTING OF HARD, FACTUAL NEWS AND CAREFULLY-ATTRIBUTED AND FIRMLY-SOURCED BACKGROUNDERS.  
END MSG.