



**MONUC  
Press Review**

5 March 2003

**Will the plenary convening the ICD Technical Committees take place today as planned? That is the question today's papers in Kinshasa try to answer.**

LE PHARE reports *"the last obstacles on the army and interim constitution were almost sorted out yesterday"*, the government finally subscribed to the general consensus. *"Kinshasa is no longer opposed to the principle of an international neutral force"*, the paper indicates. Referring to the terms of reference of the force to include 3,200 elements, the paper clarifies *"its duty will consist in ensuring the security of the river borders with Congo Brazzaville, Kinshasa airport, the main entry and exit points of the capital, the administrative and commercial centers in Kinshasa, as well as the disarmed zones where movement and carrying arms are banned"*. In principle, the paper further says, *"the United Nations Mission for the DRC should turn out about 400 joint police elements after 8-week training. Monuc has to this end two separate centers"*. The paper thus considers that *"the arduous consensus which the different parties tried to reach on Tuesday was a good omen indicating that the technical committees plenary will be held this Wednesday in line with the calendar initially announced by the mediation"*.

However, FORUM DES AS announces the plenary of the Inter Congolese Dialogue is to start today against the background of uncertainty. Quoting some members, the paper notes people are talking more and more about *"the extension of the session until 15 March"*. The paper maintains that the consultations, planned for a week, *"have not reached an appropriate solution at the appointed days. So, on the eve of the big plenary, many questions remain outstanding"*.

Noting that history repeats itself, L'OBSERVATEUR indicates In Pretoria, we are heading for an extension. The paper reminds Moustapha Niasse should convene today, the 66 signatories to the Global and Inclusive Agreement in a plenary. But, the paper highlights, this is contingent upon the 3 March meeting.

LA REFERENCE PLUS points out the last decisive hours in Pretoria are marked by a *"list of the bones of contention between the belligerents that keeps getting longer"*.

LE PALMARES notes, in turn, that the mediation did the work of the technical committees in place of the Congolese, since they proved *"irreconcilable"*. *"However, they effectively used their intellectual resources to produce different reflections that*

*helped to make the summary – reports issued by the mediation, we therefore owe them some credits for giving a legal form to the constitution and the law to rule on the new army”, indicates the paper.*

L'OBSERVATEUR accuses Moustapha Niasse of trying to *“deprive (Joseph) Kabila of his remits as head of state”, with his “legalism closer to witchcraft than law”*. The paper notes that *“everything proposed by Mr. Niasse in his synthesis is unrelated to the expected global and inclusive agreement”*.

In the same development, L'AVENIR echoes the Mai-Mai's position, denouncing the idea of the 3,200 soldiers for the security of the transition players, *“a shady business against Kinshasa”*. According to the paper, *“all the agitation around what we call presidential space is for the sole aim of taking power and robbing the head of state”*.

In another development, LE POTENTIEL publishes the Special Representative's interview to RFI this Tuesday, Amos Namanga Ngongi. The latter answered questions about the fresh fights in Ituri, atrocities perpetrated in the North East of the country, as well as the Pretoria session. Mr. Ngongi confirmed the fights in the North East, sparked by the two UPC factions controlling Bunia, the capital of Ituri. Asked about the rebels' willingness to come to Kinshasa with some consistent forces, MONUC chief responded: *“if we have thousands of troops in Kinshasa, that may cause tensions”*.

LE PHARE reports that following the recent massacre blamed on the RCD-ML, *“ a special MONUC Investigation team will be dispatched in the next few days to Bogoro where 500 people were massacred”*. According to the paper, *“UN staff mission will consist in collecting information about the massacre”*.

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