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Note on the conversation between H.E. Mr. Kosygin and the Vice-President of India, on Monday the 20th February, 1961.

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After exchange of pleasantries the conversation turned on to Congo. Both agreed that Lumumba's murder was a matter of disgrace and shame. Mr. Kosygin went on to say that the U.N. had not been effective in putting the bandits in order in Congo. On the contrary, the Secretary General was trying to let Belgians retain their influence. If only the U.N. was differently composed with a triumvirate in place of one Secretary-General, all questions could have been solved amicably.

The Vice-President said that the Prime Minister had already clearly enunciated India's point of view ~~that~~ that the Congolese Parliament should meet and that Belgian forces should be withdrawn and the President and the Prime Minister elected by the Parliament should be able to function. Instead, the Vice President observed, ~~that~~ the UN recognised Kasavubu as the President and did not take up Lumumba's case although he was also elected by the Parliament. With all this happened, it was natural that people were losing faith in the United Nations. Furthermore, U.N. forces in Congo were also not given enough authority. He added that the Russian point of view had been expressed very well by Mr. Krushchev in the United Nations. He added that he liked him for his frankness. For instance, he said that "we spy but do not say that we have a right to".

The Vice-President observed that in 1959, when he met both President Eisenhower and Mr. Krushchev within a short interval in India, both had told him how much they trusted each other. Shortly thereafter came the summit break and the whole situation changed. Mr. Kosygin replied that this only showed that there was no honesty in maintaining contacts. In the whole history of the USSR there was not a single case when a Soviet plane might have approached the U.S.A. Even after the U-2 flight, more planes were sent by the USA. Even at the time of the U-2 incident, instead of admitting it straightaway, contrary statements were made by President Eisenhower and other US authorities.

The Vice-President said that he agreed that President Eisenhower should have admitted the mistake straightaway. If this had happened to a Russian plane in USA, there would have been much more uproar.

The Vice-President further observed that with the election of Mr. Kennedy as the President of the USA, there was very good opportunity of breaking the walls of suspicion. Mr. Kennedy wanted to do better than Mr. Eisenhower. He had ambition and the Soviet Union had the power and it should not be impossible for both the countries to get together in the interests of humanity. Countries like India stayed and waited and would offer morale support for any such efforts. President Kennedy had even said that he would even apologize for the U-2 incident.

Mr. Kosygin said that the desire of the Soviet Government and the people was to have normal relations with the USA both in the political and economic fields and that they did not want the cold war to persist. The Soviet Union on her part had, in fact, agreed to forget the incident and by releasing the airmen, Mr. Krushchev had given a positive proof of the same. However, only a short time has passed since new President was elected in the USA and it will be too premature to say how things may take shape. After all Mr. Kennedy had also his difficulties. As for

India, the Soviet Union respected her opinion on International issues and valued it high.

The Vice President replied that whatever India could do, she will continue to do. However power counted today and it was, therefore, necessary for the two great powers to get together and come closer. The Soviet Union should continue her efforts towards world peace without losing heart. And in that she will have the goodwill and support of Asian and many other ~~countries~~