

# The Final Days of Patrice Lumumba

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February 1, 1961  
Velky Grob Czechoslovakia

Lumumba was already deceased by the time this card was mailed, that fact was unknown to the world because the government in Katanga had not yet made an official announcement.

## Patrice Lumumba Advocacy Post Card

As African nations attained their independence emerging leaders sought beneficial political alliances. Patrice Lumumba first turned to the west and the United Nations, when rebuffed he turned to the Soviet Union.

While there is some disagreement on *exactly* what transpired during Lumumba's final days, there is no dispute that he was executed with the help of Belgian separatists on January 17, 1961. The west, including the CIA, actively worked to undermine Lumumba hoping to install a leader more sympathetic to the west.

By the time these cards were sent there was long history of groups organizing post card campaigns to advocate for their various causes to the Secretary General of the United Nations.

These two advocacy post cards were fashioned from newsprint. The "card" was printed on paper then the sender cut out the image and pasted it on a card for mailing. The card is addressed to United Nations Secretary General Dag Hammarskjöld seeking support for Lumumba.

February 14, 1961  
Rimavska Sobota  
Czechoslovakia

The death of Lumumba  
was announced on  
February 13, 1961.

The mailer crossed out  
"LIBERTY for" and added a  
black stripe to the lower  
right corner of his picture,  
thereby turning this into a  
mourning card.

