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Belgians Begin Their Evacuation of Zaire

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Belgian paratroopers today were evacuating **Belgians** from Zaire's riot-torn capital to **Congo's** capital, Brazzaville, the **Belgian** news agency **Belga** said.

More than 300 **Belgian** paratroopers have arrived in **Congo**, joining French soldiers poised to evacuate foreigners from Zaire's capital, Kinshasa. Zaire's President, Mobutu Sese Seko, who is staying in his remote northern stronghold at Gbadolite, gave clearance on Friday for French troops to enter Zaire on humanitarian grounds, but said soldiers from **Belgium**, the former colonial power, were not welcome.

The downtown area of Kinshasa was plundered by military and civilian looters in riots started by soldiers on Thursday, diplomats said. The rioting began after shops and markets refused to accept soldiers' wages paid in new banknotes.

About 300 **Belgians** and other foreigners took refuge in the **Belgian** Embassy after the soldiers went on the rampage. At least 45 people, including Ambassador Philippe Bernard of France, are reported to have died in fighting as units loyal to General Mobutu regained control of the city.

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