

AFRICA

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S U M M A R Y
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GENERAL INFORMATION

Lagos : Kodjo : "Africa is dying economically"	1
Geneva : Job creation	2
Paris : Communications programme	2
Maersta : Safe delivery	3
Bandung : External forces	3
Washington : Haiti's "irregularities"	4
London : Police in dock	4
Canberra : An older life...	5
Peking : The monkey-man...	5
Hamburg : The most needy	6
Tokyo : Wildlife ratification	6
Perth : Vindictive racism...	6

OIL & ENERGY

Paris : Looking to coal	7
Dar-es-Salaam : Tanzania using less	7
Athens : Largest solar plant	7
Blantyre : Ethanol finance	8
London : Back to wind power	8
Rome : New gas link	8
New York : Saudis near ceiling	9
New York : Exxon 102%	9
Tokyo : Shipments stop	10
Teheran : Rumania paying	10
Moscow : Technical aid	10

MIDDLE EAST

Belgrade : Arab walkout	10
Luxembourg : EEC blocking arms	11
Teheran : War warning	11
Tokyo : Japanese restrictions	11
Washington : Bases : "Highly secret"	12
Washington : Call-up vote	13
Jerusalem : Irish move out	13
Washington : Rescue bid aborted	14
Paris : Gromyko : "Adventure"	14
Paris : Lives in danger...	14
Teheran : "Close gulf" threat	15
United Nations : Council condemns Israel	15

NORTH AFRICA

Sahara :	
- Students on trial	15
- Republic is sure of OAU majority	16
- Break with Cuba	17
- Shamefully falsified...	17
Tunisia :	
- Cabinet changes	18
Algeria :	
- Berber clashes "part of plot"	19
Libya :	
- Missile launcher	20

S U M M A R Y (2)
=====

NORTH AFRICA

Sudan :		
	- Electricity boost	20
Egypt :		
	- Temples "drowning"	20

WEST AFRICA

Liberia :		
	- First executions were "too hasty"	21
	- "Spare them" plea	21
	- Doe promises elections	22
Nigeria :		
	- Probe recommended	23
	- Iron ore, marble	23
Ghana :		
	- Mutiny charge	23
Senegal :		
	- Luis Fonseca	23
Cape Verde Islands :		
	- Deep-sea shipyard	24
Gambia :		
	- Warning to Moscow	24

EAST AFRICA

Uganda :		
	- Coup rumours persist	24
	- Commonwealth "rescue"	25
	- Missionary murdered	25
Kenya :		
	- New industries	25
	- Elephants doing well	25
Tanzania :		
	- Self-enrichment...	25
	- Sack for 116	26
	- Transport hit	26
Ethiopia :		
	- Aid from EEC	26
Somalia :		
	- Chinese agreement	26

CENTRAL AFRICA

Zambia :		
	- Railway help	26
Chad :		
	- Cash from OAU	27

SOUTHERN AFRICA

Zimbabwe :		
	- Political violence...	27
	- Resettlement and rehabilitation	28
	- Lome welcome	28
	- IMF candidate	28

S U M M A R Y (3)

SOUTHERN AFRICA

<u>Republic of South Africa :</u>	
- Schools unrest goes on	29
- Safe investment	29
Namibia :	
- 13 guerrillas	29
- S.A. using "every means", says SWAPO	30
- Repairs "ridiculous"	30
- S.A. hunters sentenced	31
Botswana :	
- 34 M. from W. Germany	31

INDIAN OCEAN

<u>Mauritius :</u>	
- 5.7 M. from Kuwait	31

KODJO : "AFRICA IS
DYING ECONOMICALLY"

LAGOS, April 23 - Organisation of African Unity (OAU) Secretary-General Edem Kodjo has warned that in economic terms Africa is dying and called on OAU members to take action to keep the continent alive.

Speaking yesterday on the second day of a preparatory meeting here for next week's first OAU economic summit, Mr. Kodjo strongly criticised economic development methods imported from outside Africa and called for self-sufficiency in food production and creation of an African economic community.

"Africa is passing through such terrible times that the question is now one of survival. The future remains unclear", he said, adding that there were "violent somersaults everywhere that are too quickly attributed to political policies, but are in reality a translation of the slow and continuing decline of our economies".

He said : "The cause of the social disorders that surprise us by their brutality must be sought at least to a large extent in the confrontation between needs and resources".

Through having to look to the world outside, Africa had "lost its internal bearings", he went on. "We are being cheerfully told that should things continue as they are, only eight or nine African countries out of the 50 OAU members could still survive a few years from now".

Prey to dispersion

Mr. Kodjo also said that in Africa "immense physical and human possibilities are neutralized by an outward-looking strategy", and indispensable development aid was prey to "political dispersion, if not ideological fragmentation."

But he also held out hope if Africans moved towards "a new way of seeing Africa".

Outlining some of the problems, he referred to a predicted doubling of the continent's population by the year 2000 to more than 800 millions, coupled with an annual increase in gross national product of 4.3 per cent.

The number of those without full-time work would go from 60 millions to more than 70 millions in the same period, according to the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, Mr. Kodjo added.

Monetary "failure"

He said that the main themes of the preparatory meeting would involve an overall food development plan, integrated industrial development plans, creation of an African energy commission and the foundations of an African economic community.

Referring also to a partial or total failure of international monetary negotiations regarding the continent, he mentioned a more long-term plan for an African monetary system and an African monetary fund. (A.F.P.)

JOB CREATION

GENEVA, April 23 - Representatives of donor organisations and under-developed countries began a meeting here yesterday to study financing of job-creation programs in Asia and Africa.

The conference, sponsored by the International Labour Organisation and the United Nations Development Program, is expected to increase substantially the amount already earmarked by donor groups 32,000,000 dollars - for public works projects in Bangladesh, India and Nepal in Asia and in Africa notably Mali, Rwanda, Tanzania and Sierra Leone. (A.F.P.)

COMMUNICATIONS PROGRAMME

PARIS, April 23 - An inter-governmental conference has agreed "by consensus" here to set up a United Nations programme to aid developing countries in all fields of communications and news.

A compromise programme was worked out after sharp differences between the developing countries and industrialized nations led by the United States at a week-long conference here at the U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

The discussions were "rough" at times, commented UNESCO Director-General Amadou Mahtar M'Bow, of Senegal.

The programme, which still requires adoption at the UNESCO general conference in Belgrade next September, is a step toward "a more just and effective new world order in news and communication" sought by Mr. M'Bow.

The U.S. delegation made a major concession by agreeing to place UNESCO in charge of the programme. But the "Group of 77" developing countries failed to win agreement to set up a fund to aid them in communications fields. Washington opposed that idea, and West European countries were neutral.

Sharp disagreement

A key point was left unsettled after sharp disagreement how to select a council of 35 governments to oversee the programme. Western countries wanted the leading industrial countries to be on the council. The Group of 77 wanted membership determined along geographic lines.

(Western newsmen have expressed fear about entrusting international press freedom to UNESCO because many of its member governments do not allow freedom of the press in their own countries.

Observers noted when the conference closed Monday night that the programme will give UNESCO the main voice in all fields of communications aid. Mr. M'Bow stressed in his closing speech that "communication is the field where the main problems confronting humanity arise today and where they could be solved tomorrow".

He assured countries worried that the UNESCO programme might threaten freedom of the press and information that "our task is not to guarantee the freedom of a few to the detriment of the others, but on the contrary, and in spite of the difficulties, to contribute to systematic extension of that freedom so it becomes a reality for all". (A.F.P.)

SAFE DELIVERY

MAERSTA, Sweden, April 23 - A letter posted by a Swedish soldier in Turkey on November 1, 1711 has reached its destination, after a 269-year hold-up in the Danish mail.

Posted by E. Damin, a soldier in Charles XII's army, to his sister "Dame Margaretha Nilsson" in the little town of Maersta, the letter made it safely to Copenhagen - but was then held there as Denmark was at war with Sweden.

The letter was recently unearthed in Danish archives and sent to Maersta. Unable to trace Mrs. Nilsson's descendants, the local postman handed the letter into the safekeeping of the town's museum. (A.F.P.)

EXTERNAL FORCES

BANDUNG, West Java, April 24 - The strength of Asian and African nations will disintegrate if they allow themselves to be used by external forces in a struggle for influence, Indonesian President Suharto warned here today.

He was addressing the commemoration ceremony for the 25th anniversary of the historic Asia-African conference attended by delegates from 42 Asian and African countries. (A.F.P.)

HAITI'S "IRREGULARITIES"

WASHINGTON, April 24 - The Inter-American Human Rights Commission has called on the Duvalier family, which has ruled Haiti for the past 23 years, to end the killings, torture, arbitrary arrests and other irregularities which it says are still going on nine years after the death of the dynasty's founder, François "Papa Doc" Duvalier.

In a 76-page report, the Commission says President-for-Life Jean-Claude Duvalier, Papa Doc's son, has "not kept" his promise to improve the human rights situation, despite some minor changes.

(Over the past two weeks, more than 1,000 Haitian "boat-people" fleeing the poverty-stricken Caribbean republic have landed on the beaches of Southern Florida, adding to the 11,000 others who have made their way there illegally since 1972).

The Commission urged the Haitian regime to guarantee basic rights to education, jobs and medical care, rights which it said were "practically inexistent". This would enable human rights to be respected, it said. But it noted that the Duvalier family controlled most of the country's economic resources and trade.

Haiti has long been the poorest country in the Americas and one of the 25 poorest in the world. (A.F.P.)

POLICE IN DOCK

LONDON, April 23 - Britain's National Council for Civil Liberties (NCCL) charged Tuesday that it had reason to believe that a young New Zealand teacher who died during an anti-Fascist demonstration in a London suburb last year had been killed by a member of a police special patrol group.

In a 200-page unofficial report, the NCCL accused the police of having used "excessive and unnecessary violence" during the demonstration, which ended in the death of the teacher, Blaire Peach.

It strongly criticized the Director of Public Prosecutions for taking no action on the matter.

Mr. Peach was in a group of Anti-Nazi League demonstrators who opposed the holding of an election meeting by the rightist anti-immigrant National Front in the suburb of Southall, which is heavily populated by Indian and Pakistani immigrants.

The NCCL, which said it had been unable to obtain any evidence from the police themselves, urged a halt to the use of the special patrol group during demonstrations. (A.F.P.)

AN OLDER LIFE...

CANBERRA, April 23 - Australian geologists claim they have found the oldest evidence of life on earth in a remote corner of North-West Australia near Marble Bar.

Geologists of the University of Western Australia are publishing a report in scientific journals claiming signs of life 3,500 million years old, which is 500 million years older than anything previously found.

Leading scientist is Roger Buick, who is supported by the Bureau of Mineral Resources in Canberra.

This discovery puts the origin of life earlier in the history of the earth and supports theories that the planet was formed 4,500 million years ago and bombarded by meteorites until about 3,900 million years ago. (A.F.P.)

THE MONKEY-MAN...

PEKING, April 23 - A photograph of the first "monkey-man" ever to be studied scientifically in China - a creature born of a human mother but which walked on four feet, could not talk and was covered in brown fur - has appeared in the Shanghai daily Wenhui Bao.

The newspaper also published Chinese scientists' first theories about the hybrid, known as Tu Yunbao, which lived in Sichuan (South-Western China) from its birth in March, 1939 until its death from a fever 23 years later.

The picture showed the monkey-man squatting, its face distinctly human but its arms abnormally long for a man. The body, except for the face, was covered with brown fur.

Tu refused to wear clothes and only ate raw food, favouring corn particularly.

Its mother, Zhang Guangxiu, now 72 years old, was the butt of many jokes by peasants in the region who said she found herself pregnant with a monkey-baby shortly after having been lost in the neighbouring mountains for about three weeks.

But Professor Liu Minzhuang of Shanghai University's biology department said nothing further about a possible encounter between Mrs. Zhang and a monkey. And Chinese scientists explained the phenomenon as a genetic throwback.

The creature stood 1.40 meters tall (about four feet seven inches) and had a skull combining the characteristics of both a monkey and the first primitive men, contemporary with so-called Peking Man, who lived 500,000 years ago. Its brain weighed about 350 grams (12.25 ounces). (A.F.P.)

THE MOST NEEDY

HAMBURG, April 24 - The United States was roundly criticised here today for delaying legislative action required to keep up the flow of concessional aid to the most needy third world nations.

U.S. Treasury Secretary William Miller had to listen to critical remarks by finance ministers of both developing countries and some U.S. Western partners at a meeting here of the joint development committee of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank.

World Bank Vice-President Ernest Stern told the committee that the latest forecasts showed that economic growth in Black African countries might not exceed one per cent on average this year. Most of the world's poorest countries are located in this continent.

Participants quoted Mr. Stern as saying that some of the poorest African countries might experience zero growth, while the average rate for the better-off developing countries in other regions could be as high as 5 per cent.

"This illustrates the problems that we are facing", an African delegate told Agence France-Presse.

Mr. Miller, who heads the U.S. delegation to the joint development committee and the IMF interim committee, which starts a two-day session tomorrow, simply explained that the U.S. Administration was not in a position to influence the procedures of the U.S. Congress, conference sources said. (A.F.P.)

WILDLIFE RATIFICATION

TOKYO, April 25 - The Japanese Diet (Parliament) today approved a treaty on trade in endangered wildlife, known as the Washington Convention, which Japan signed seven years ago.

Ratification had been delayed because of fierce opposition from animal traders, importers, furriers and others. The pact was expected to become effective around this autumn.

The treaty, covering 400 kinds of wild animals and plants including Indian elephants, leopards and tigers, is aimed at cutting down on the trade in rare and protected animals, and their skins and other products.

Japan is the 60th country to ratify the agreement. (A.F.P.)

VINDICTIVE RACISM...

PERTH, April 25 - The Liberal-dominated Western Australian Government was accused today of vindictive racism against Aborigines. The charge was made by Labour opposition leader Ron Davies in response to the State Government's ban on granting further pastoral leases to Aborigines. (A.F.P.)

LOOKING TO COAL

PARIS, April 23 - World coal production will have to be tripled by the year 2000 to meet energy needs, the International Energy Agency (IEA) said late yesterday.

Its consultative committee for the coal industry was meeting here yesterday and today.

Experts in the industry are to study the real potential of coal in the next 20 years and draw up a list of obstacles - mainly concerning the environment and transport - preventing expansion of coal use. Its workable reserves worldwide total 500,000 million tonnes that is, enough for 200 years' production at the present rate.

"Without additional efforts by the Western countries, production of coal will only double by the end of the century", said Ulf Lantzke, Executive Director of the IEA. The consultative committee was formed in May 1979 to encourage greater production and consumption of coal and groups the leading 20 Western countries except France (A.F.P.)

TANZANIA USING LESS

DAR-ES-SALAAM, April 23 - Fuel consumption in Tanzania has dropped by 11.4 per cent, thereby saving 44.7 million shillings (5.6 million dollars) in foreign exchange, since the Government introduced fuel conservation measures last August, the Daily News reported Tuesday.

Quoting a spokesman for the Tanzania Petroleum Development Company, the paper said consumption of super grade petrol fell by 9.6 per cent, regular grade by 16.2 per cent, and diesel fuel by 9.4 per cent.

The Government measures last year included a ban on Sunday driving, petrol rationing and restricted weekend petrol sales. Last year Tanzania spent 987 million shillings (120 million dollars) on fuel imports. This year, the cost is expected to soar to 2,500 million shillings (300 million dollars) because of higher world oil prices. (A.F.P.)

LARGEST SOLAR PLANT

ATHENS, April 23 - The world's largest solar energy station is to be set up in Greece soon, Stavros Dimas, Secretary of State for Economic Coordination, announced today.

He said that the 20-megawatt station would be built in cooperation with the West German Ministry of Research and Technology, which had already studied the project. Greece is also sharing, with eight other countries, in the construction of two types of solar thermic stations, each with a power of 500 kilowatt hours. (A.F.P.)

ETHANOL FINANCE

BLANTYRE, April 24 - Malawi is to receive 7.8 million dollars from the International Finance Corporation (IFC), a World Bank affiliate, to help build an ethanol fuel plant expected to start operations late next year.

Disclosing this Wednesday at the end of an official visit here, George Thomson, leader of a three-man United States delegation, said the plant would produce motor fuel from molasses from the Dwangwa Sugar Corporation, one of Malawi's two sugar-producing companies.

Mr. Thomson said the first phase of the plant would replace about 10 per cent of Malawi's imported motor fuel.

Local financial organizations and oil companies in Malawi would be shareholders in the venture, Mr. Thomson said. (A.F.P.)

BACK TO WIND POWER

LONDON, April 23 - A return to wind power for ship propulsion by means of a windmill-type system, boosted by a stand-by power unit in calm weather, appears to be commercially feasible today on some routes, a recent study showed.

The study, made for the ship and marine technology requirements board of the British Department of Industry, investigated the use of modern, vertical-axis wind turbines mounted on a ship's deck.

An economic comparison with conventional power was carried out for the St. Helena Shipping Company, based on the route now run by the 4,000-tonner St. Helena between Britain, Ascension Island, St. Helena and Cape Town. It showed that, for a wind-turbine ship of comparable size, an average of 12 knots could be achieved with a 40-ton fuel saving on the two-month voyage.

Weighing the fuel savings against the extra cost of running the turbine, the report concluded that the concept was economically viable on windy routes. (A.F.P.)

NEW GAS LINK

ROME, April 24 - A gas pipeline section was completed early today between Tunisia and Sicily to carry gas from Algeria to Northern Italy.

The gas will in due course flow from Hassi R'Mel in Algeria through Bizerta in Tunisia, via Sicily and the Strait of Messina, to Minerbio near Bologna in Northern Italy.

Total distance will be 2,500 km (1,500 miles). The link will be completed shortly and gas will start flowing next year. By 1985 throughput will reach 12,300 million cubic metres a year. This gas is being supplied by Sonatrach of Algeria to Italian ENI under a 25-year deal. (A.F.P.)

SAUDIS NEAR CEILING

NEW YORK, April 24 - Saudi Arabia can only increase its oil production slightly beyond its current 9.5 million barrel-a-day rate, Clifton C. Garvin, President of the Exxon Oil Company, said Wednesday.

He said a rapid production increase by as much as 15 per cent was impossible.

Exxon, along with Mobil, Texaco and Standard Oil of California, owns Aramco, which is responsible for almost all Saudi oil production.

Saudi oil accounts for about seven per cent of United States oil needs.

Meanwhile, the construction of two large distilleries for the production of ethyl alcohol from maize as a motor fuel additive was announced here. Both would be used to make "gasohol", a mixture containing 10 per cent alcohol and 90 per cent gasoline.

One project, undertaken jointly by Ashland Oil Co. and Publicker Industries Inc., would produce 230 million liters (about 60 million gallons) a day in South Point Ohio. It would consume 24 million bushels of maize - about one-sixth the annual harvest of Ohio - and 180,000 tons of coal a year.

Another oil company, Cities Service Corporation, announced the construction of a plant of similar size in Indiana with the cooperation of the American Maize Products Company.

In another development, Occidental Petroleum Corporation announced in Washington an agreement in principle with Rumania for the sale of about 40 million tons of coal for more than 1,000 million dollars. The contract would run over 20 years. (A.F.P.)

EXXON 102%

NEW YORK, April 23 - Profits of Exxon, the world's largest oil firm, increased by 102 per cent in the first quarter of this year, compared with the corresponding period of 1979, to 1,925 million dollars, company results showed today.

Turnover amounted to 27,600 million dollars against 18,800 million dollars in the first three months of 1979.

Exxon President Clifton Garvin said the profits included 314 million dollars resulting from the firmness of the dollar on the foreign exchange since the beginning of the year.

Exxon and Texaco, members of the Aramco consortium, obtain their oil from Saudi Arabia at 26 dollars a barrel, which is less than other producers charge. (A.F.P.)

SHIPMENTS STOP

TOKYO, April 23 - Iran has stopped oil shipments to Japan, Mitsubishi Shoji, a leading Japanese trading firm, said Monday.

A spokesman for Mitsubishi said the state-run National Iranian Oil Corporation (NIOC) notified Japanese oil refiners and trading companies Monday of the Iranian decision and shipments of Iranian crude to Japan were halted.

Iranian Oil Minister AliAkbar Moïnfar said in Teheran Sunday that Iran would stop oil shipments to Japan immediately unless Japanese importers accepted the proposed Iranian oil price of 35 dollars a barrel and opened import letters of credit by Sunday. Three Japanese oil tankers were said to be anchored at oil terminals in Iran at present.

Sunday was the deadline set by Iran for the current negotiations between NIOC and Japanese importers over the Iranian plan to boost its crude price by 2.50 dollars to 35 dollars per barrel.

(In Washington, the State Department said the United States was studying the possibility of helping Japan to meet its oil deficit.

(Department spokesman Hodding Carter said the Japanese Government's decision to refuse to pay the "exorbitant" price asked by Iran for its petroleum was "a courageous step which should be emulated by others"). (A.F.P.)

RUMANIA PAYING

TEHERAN, April 23 - Iran will sell 100,000 barrels of crude oil a day, or 60 per cent more than previously, to Rumania under a new agreement, Radio Teheran said today.

Rumania will pay the new rate fixed on April 2, the radio said, quoting Oil Minister Akbar Moïnfar. (A.F.P.)

TECHNICAL AID

MOSCOW, April 24 - The Soviet Union will provide technical assistance to Algeria for a new 630 megawatt power station and a tin and tungsten enrichment plant, Tass news agency reported today.

The USSR will also help in the extension of the Algerian Oil and Gas Institute, which takes up to 15,000 students. (A.F.P.)

MIDDLE EAST

ARAB WALKOUT

BELGRADE, April 24 - Arab delegations were taking no further part in the world trade union conference here after a refusal by the chairman to bar Egypt from attending. (A.F.P.)

EEC BLOCKING ARMS

LUXEMBOURG, April 23 - The foreign ministers of the nine European Economic Community (EEC) member nations decided Tuesday to block arms sales to Iran and to take diplomatic measures including the reduction of Embassy staffs.

The ministers also promised to take a series of measures beginning May 17 leading up to an export embargo, excluding food and medicines, if the American hostages are not released after the May session of the Iranian Parliament. Other strong measures were promised if there was no progress in the hostage affair.

The EEC decision virtually coincided with the announcement in Teheran of an Iranian-Soviet trade pact designed to offset the impact of economic sanctions imposed by the United States and its allies. The agreement reportedly included the Soviet shipment of industrial and food products to Iran. (A.F.P.)

WAR WARNING

TEHERAN, April 23 - European economic and political sanctions "will make the hostage problem more difficult, far from helping solve it", Iranian Revolutionary Council Secretary Ayatollah Mohammed Beheshti said today.

The Ayatollah told a press conference that the European Economic Community (EEC), whose foreign ministers decided on joint sanctions yesterday, should have "taken into account that similar U.S. experiments have always ended in failure", adding that "the world is larger than Europe and yesterday's measures could lead to a third world war". (A.F.P.)

JAPANESE RESTRICTIONS

TOKYO, April 24 - Japan today decided to reduce its Embassy staff in Teheran, restrict the issuance of visas for Iranians and strengthen its control on Japanese exports to that country.

The Government held a meeting this morning to study sanctions against Iran, and also decided to work together with the European Economic Community (EEC) countries in asking the United States not to resort to military action against Iran over the continued detention of American hostages at the U.S. Embassy in Teheran.

At the meeting, attended by Prime Minister Masayoshi Ohira Foreign Minister Saburo Okita, Ambassador to Iran Tsutomu Wada and other officials concerned, the Government reaffirmed its past stand to act in concert with the EEC in actions to be taken in respect to Iran. (A.F.P.)

BASES : "HIGHLY SECRET"

by Didier Fauqueux

WASHINGTON, April 23 - Highly secret negotiations for U.S. forces to use military bases in Kenya, Somalia and Oman have nearly been finalized despite various difficulties, informed sources said here.

Breaking the silence maintained for weeks by the American Government, State Department spokesman Tom Reston said yesterday that in general the U.S. was satisfied with progress in the negotiations.

They had been going on since the start of the year, with the U.S. trying to get assurances from the three Indian Ocean countries that U.S. forces could use their ports and airfields in the event of conflict in the Gulf region.

The countries had already given their agreement in principle. But thrashing out details of U.S. military and economic aid in exchange for this "service" was another matter.

Politically, none of the three countries wanted its "alliance" with the U.S. to be too open. And according to one White House official, Oman even warned Washington that any announcement of an agreement would quickly be denied.

While negotiations with the Horn of Africa country, Somalia, were progressing more slowly because of what the U.S. saw as "exorbitant" demands, those with Kenya and Oman were practically at agreement stage, U.S. official circles said.

According to unofficial figures circulating here, Oman would receive military and economic aid of around 100 million dollars and Kenya aid of about 50 million dollars, over the next two years.

Airports, seaports

In Oman, the U.S. Air Force would reportedly use the airports of Seeb, Thamarit and Masirah Island. U.S. naval vessels, for their part, need use of the ports of Mutrah and Salahah to facilitate their operations in the Gulf region.

In Kenya, the American Navy, which already puts into Mombasa harbour, would like to improve the port there.

It is also envisaged that U.S. aircraft use Nanyuki airbase, north of Nairobi, built to take the Kenyan Air Force's 12 F-5E fighter planes.

Somalia, which has offered to make available its port and airbase of Berbera, built by the Soviets before Somalia expelled them in 1977, has reportedly asked the U.S. for military aid valued at hundreds of millions of dollars.

Careful study

High U.S. officials said Washington is hesitating to provide such massive aid for fear, particularly, of seeing it involved in the conflict in Ogaden.

This Ethiopian province, claimed by Somalia, is the theatre of violent fighting between insurgents and the Ethiopian armed forces, which receive Soviet and Cuban aid.

The Pentagon estimates there are 15,000 Cuban soldiers in Ethiopia, with another 1,500 Soviet and East German military and civilians.

The nature of military aid that the U.S. may grant Somalia in exchange for the use of Berbera is being carefully studied by the U.S. Government.

Once negotiations with Kenya, Oman and Somalia have produced a definitive agreement, the Pentagon envisages spending more than 100 million dollars to adapt the countries' military bases to meet U.S. forces' needs. (A.F.P.)

CALL-UP VOTE

WASHINGTON, April 23 - The House of Representatives Tuesday approved President Jimmy Carter's request for the registration of about four million 19 - and 20-year-old men in case the military draft is re-instated.

The House voted 218 to 188 to appropriate 13.3 million dollars for the registration of men born in 1960 and 1961. The Senate has yet to vote on the measure.

A non-military governmental body, the Selective Service System, was responsible for conscription before the draft was abolished in January, 1973. All 19- and 20-year-old Americans would be registered at post offices. Violators of the registration law would be liable to a 10,000 dollar fine and a five-year prison sentence.

Because of congressional opposition, women were not included in the registration bill. (A.F.P.)

IRISH MOVE OUT

JERUSALEM, April 23 - Irish military in the United Nations Interim Force in South Lebanon have evacuated four positions in the areas held by Major Saad Haddad's rightwing Christian militia, Israeli Radio reported today.

At the same time, the radio reported, the Irish sector in these areas has been reinforced by Fijian and Ghanaian elements of the U.N. force.

A violent clash between Irish soldiers and Christian militiamen last April 12 was followed by the slaying of two Irishmen and the wounding of a third April 18. (A.F.P.)

RESCUE BID ABORTED

WASHINGTON, April 24 - A bid to rescue the U.S. Embassy hostages in Teheran was called off last night after an "equipment failure", which was followed by the collision of two aircraft on a remote Iranian desert airstrip during withdrawal, the White House said today.

Eight Americans on board the planes died and others were hurt in the crash as they were preparing to leave Iran. President Jimmy Carter had personally cancelled the operation because of the equipment failure.

The White House said there were no military hostilities and no Iranian casualties.

"This mission was not motivated by hostility toward Iran or the Iranian people... Preparations (for it) were ordered for humanitarian reasons, to protect the national interest of this country and to alleviate international tensions", a statement added.

It went on : "The United States continues to hold the Government of Iran responsible for the safety of the American hostages (and) remains determined to obtain their safe release at the earliest possible time". (A.F.P.)

GROMYKO : "ADVENTURE

PARIS, April 25 - The Soviet Union "remains resolutely opposed" to any military action against Iran, Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko told newsmen heretoday.

Mr. Gromyko said that when he first heard today of the abortive American "adventure" to rescue the Teheran Embassy hostages, "at first I did not believe it".

He added : "Then I had confirmation. I must repeat that we are resolutely opposed to any military action of any sort by the United States against Iran".

He was speaking at a news conference at the end of a two-day visit to Paris. (A.F.P.)

LIVES IN DANGER...

PARIS, April 25 - Iranian Ambassador in Paris Shams El Din Amir Alai charged today that U.S. President Jimmy Carter's aborted rescue mission in Iran had "put the lives of the hostages in danger".

Speaking in a French radio interview, Mr. Amir Alai described the mission as "a failure for Mr. Carter. He is making things difficult for the students and fanning the fire - it is very awkward on his part". (A.F.P.)

"CLOSE GULF" THREAT

TEHERAN, April 25 - Iran today confirmed it would close the Gulf to all oil movements in the event of an economic embargo against Iran or the mining of Iranian ports.

The Foreign Ministry said in a statement broadcast over Teheran Radio : "We shall take actions that will spread fear through the (West) European Community if the United States provocations continue and Europe persists in demonstrating its dependence on America , refusing to listen to our legitimate demands". (A.F.P.)

COUNCIL CONDEMS ISRAEL

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., April 24 - The Security Council today adopted a resolution condemning Israeli intervention in South Lebanon and its military support of Major Saad Haddad's Christian militias in that area.

The United States, the Soviet Union and East Germany abstained.

The resolution also reiterated that the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon had the right to make use of its arms when under attack.

The resolution, presented by Tunisia, was adopted by a vote of 12 in favour, with the three abstentions. China, which in general does not take part in votes concerning U.N. peace-keeping operations, was among supporters of the resolution. (A.F.P.)

NORTH AFRICA

Sahara

STUDENTS ON TRIAL

RABAT, April 25 - Seven Southern Moroccan students accused of acting against internal state security appeared in court here this week after being held since 1977 without trial.

They are said to be members of the banned Marxist-Leninist movement "Ilal-Amam", and are alleged to have tried to form a cell here of the Polisario Liberation Front, which is battling Moroccan forces for control of Western (ex-Spanish) Sahara.

The alleged ringleader is arts student Fatna Bouih, who caused a stir in the public gallery when the trial opened Wednesday by affirming that "the Sahara is not Moroccan". She added that the independence of the judiciary did not exist in Morocco.

All seven accused come from Tan-Tan and Tarfya in Southern Morocco near areas where Polisario has operated.

Reliable sources reported that a further group of Marxist-Leninist students charged with trying to form a Polisario cell in Casablanca had been jailed for five years by a court at Settat.

The trial here has been adjourned for a week.(A.F.P.)

REPUBLIC IS SURE
OF OAU MAJORITY

LAGOS, April 23 - The Arab Saharan Democratic Republic (ASDR) intends to apply for membership of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) at the OAU annual summit meeting to be held in Sierra Leone in July, the self-proclaimed Republic's Foreign Minister, Ibrahim Hakim, said here today.

Mr. Hakim, who is heading the Saharan delegation at a preparatory meeting here for the OAU economic summit, said he was convinced that there would be the necessary majority of the OAU's 50 member states who would have recognised his Government to assure its admission.

"We are sure that we are going to become members of the OAU and we are convinced of the failure of missions sent to Africa by Morocco threatening to leave the organisation if the Democratic Saharan Arab Republic is accepted", he said.

The Republic has been set up in Western Sahara by the Polisario Front, which is fighting occupying Moroccan forces. These annexed the territory after the withdrawal of Spain from its former colony.

Mr. Hakim said 22 African states had so far recognised his Government. "We are seeing the ever-increasing isolation of Morocco in Africa because it is in a state of open rebellion against decisions of the OAU", he asserted.

He pointed also to recognition of his Government by Cuba, Iran and Arab states of the Steadfastness Front, which groups Algeria, Libya, Syria, South Yemen and the Palestine Liberation Organisation. (PLO official Abu Adib yesterday denied the PLO had recognised the Republic).

Looting of wealth...

Mr. Hakim said his Government had decided that the OAU economic summit concerned them as an African people. "We are one of the producers of phosphates, an important product, and any African policy on phosphates must involve us as well", he said .

"In our opinion, politics and economics are linked, and the Saharan problem will inevitably one way or the other hold the attention of heads of state, because it is one of the most disputed points in Africa.

"This is all the more so because the occupation of part of the Sahara by aggressor Moroccan forces opens the way for a looting of the Sahara's wealth, which is also Africa's wealth".

Sahara

International conspiracy...

Mr. Hakim accused the Moroccan authorities of playing a part in "an " international conspiracy aimed at exhausting the continent of primary materials".

He added that the Polisario would refuse to allow any phosphate exploitation by Morocco in Western Sahara. These resources would be tapped after total independence, he said. (A.F.P.)

BREAK WITH CUBA

RABAT, April 23 - The Moroccan Government yesterday announced that it had cut diplomatic links with Cuba over the country's recognition of independence for the Western Sahara.

On Friday, Morocco severed diplomatic links with Libya for the same reason.

Morocco claims sovereignty over the former Spanish territory. For four years, Morocco has fought the Polisario, a guerrilla movement seeking independence for the desert zone.

Moroccan Foreign Minister Mohamed Boucetta today informed the Cuban Ambassador here of the decision to cut diplomatic relations. Observers here said the decision had been expected for a number of weeks.

Cuba recognized the disputed area's independence January 21. (A.F.P.)

SHAMEFULLY FALSIFIED...

FEZ, Morocco, April 23 - Palestinian National Council Vice-Chairman Abu Adib has denied that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) recognised the Democratic Saharan Arab Republic during the recent Steadfastness Front summit meeting.

Mr. Abu Adib, who is also a Fatah central committee member, "solemnly affirmed" at a press conference here last night that the text of the resolution on the Sahara issued at the close of the meeting on April 15 had been "shamefully falsified".

"I want also to assure the brother people of Morocco that the PLO has not and never will recognise the pseudo-Saharan Republic" Mr. Abu Adib added.

(The Republic has been set up in Western Sahara by the Algerian-backed Polisario Front, now fighting occupying Moroccan forces in the former Spanish territory. At least 36 countries have reportedly recognised the Republic. According to a communique issued after the meeting of the Steadfastness Front grouping Algeria, Libya, Syria, South Yemen and the PLO in Tripoli, member states decided to recognise the Republic).

The PLO official was speaking after a meeting lasting more than an hour-and-a-half with Moroccan King Hassan Two.

Sahara

Over-riding cause

Mr. Abu Adib also attacked what he called "the one-upmanship and the pressures" to which the PLO was being subjected to make it take a stand on inter-Arab conflicts.

"It is important that the Algerian-Moroccan dispute ends, for we cannot tolerate the shedding of any more Moroccan and Algerian blood which we greatly need to defend our over-riding cause, the liberation of Arab Palestine", he said.

Mr. Abu Adib also said that the PLO had been acting as mediator between Algeria and Morocco over the Saharan conflict. He revealed that he met Algerian President Chadli Benjedid in Algiers at the beginning of January, and King Hassan on March 12 in Marrakesh.

The Moroccan ruler's reply to the Algerian President's proposals had been passed to President Chadli by Yasser Arafat while the Algerian President was in Damascus on March 22, he said, but revealed no details of the exchanges.

The PLO official concluded with a tribute to "13 years of effort" by the Government and people of Morocco in support of the Palestinian cause. (A.F.P.)

Tunisia

CABINET CHANGES

TUNIS, April 24 - Tunisian President Habib Bourguiba reshuffled his Cabinet today following yesterday's appointment of Mohammed Mzali as new Prime Minister, but left main portfolios including Foreign Affairs unchanged.

The new Ministers included former disgraced Minister Mongi Kooli, who resigned from the Government in December 1978 but now rejoins it as Minister attached to the Prime Minister's Office. He also becomes director of the ruling Destour Socialist Party, replacing Mohamed Sayah, who takes over the Supplies and Housing Ministry.

In other changes Justice Minister Slaheddin Baly moves to National Defence, replacing Rashid Sfar.

The new Prime Minister, Mohammed Mzali, yesterday replaced the ailing Hedi Nouira, 69 - who suffered a stroke on February 26 - as both Premier and Party Secretary-General.

Mr. Mzali had recently been Acting Premier, or "Coordinator of Government Activities".

Unaffected by today's reshuffle were Foreign Minister Hassen Belkhodja, Interior Minister Driss Guiga and Presidential Special Adviser Habib Bourguiba Junior. (A.F.P.)

BERBER CLASHES

"PART OF PLOT"

ALGIERS, April 24 - Forty people were injured and 32 arrested during disturbances this week in the town of Tizi Ouzou, capital of the Berber (non-Arab) region of Kabyle, the official Algerian newspaper El Moudjahid reported today.

The paper denied reports circulating among students here that deaths had occurred in clashes with security forces who moved in to clear Tizi Ouzou University after it had been closed by the authorities last weekend.

El Moudjahid said that student riots in support of official recognition of a separate Berber culture had been managed by agitators as part of "a plot prepared overseas and using agents in our midst".

Infiltration

Meanwhile Further Education Minister Abdelhak Brerhi repeated statements two days ago by the Algerian News Agency that the arrests had smashed an organisation which had infiltrated among the students in Tizi Ouzou.

Mr. Brerhi said on television last night that the organisation had an office in Paris, whose exact address and bank account number were known to the authorities. Further details would be made public later, he added.

The Minister accused the organisation of backing a "tiny number" of students in a bid to harm national unity under a prepared plan using "fringe problems" such as the use of the Berber language, dialects and "the Algerian popular heritage".

Foreknowledge

Mr. Brerhi pointed out that the events in Tizi Ouzou, where foreign journalists have been barred, followed the visit to Paris of King Hassan II of Morocco - in dispute with Algeria over the Western Sahara problem - and his talks with French leaders.

He accused the King of having foreknowledge of what would happen in Tizi Ouzou - which reportssaid had involved much of the general population in a general strike - when he said that the Sahara problem "was on the way to being settled".

Mr. Brerhi spoke in favour of dialogue on Algerian culture on democratic lines within the universities and existing institutions but he condemned "the minority of students trying to create instability in the country under the guise of Berber culture". (A.F.P.)

Libya

MISSILE LAUNCHER

PARIS, April 23 - Libya has taken possession of a missile-launching patrol ship, the first in a series of "sophisticated vessels acquired by the Libyan Navy", according to the Libyan news agency JANA monitored here.

Neither the name of the country providing the ships nor the number to be acquired was given. (A.F.P.)

Sudan

ELECTRICITY BOOST

LONDON, April 23 - Britain is to grant Sudan aid totalling 135 million dollars to help it boost electricity production, it was announced here today.

Sudanese industry suffers frequent power cuts, particularly in the area of the capital, Khartoum, and the electricity shortage is viewed as the main obstacle to economic and social development there, observers said.

Spread over five years, the British contribution will be part of a project estimated to cost 276 million dollars and aimed at boosting output by 184 megawatts. West German involvement is also envisaged.

The British cash will finance construction of two power plants, a four megawatt diesel one at Burri, near Khartoum, and a 60-megawatt steam plant scheduled for the north of the capital. British companies will provide the material for the plants.

The aid puts Sudan in second place, after Kenya, as a recipient of British aid. (A.F.P.)

Egypt

TEMPLES "DROWNING"

CAIRO, April 24 - The Pharaohs' temples, standing for 7,000 years on the banks of the Nile, could collapse any day owing to underground water seepage, a parliamentary commission has reported.

Al Ahram daily reported today that the archaeological sites were in danger because of a rise in the underground water level following the construction of the Aswan Dam in Upper Egypt.

Under Karnak temple, Al Ahram said, water was only a metre and a half (yard and a half) below the surface, and the stone walls were eaten by salts. The article added that grass was growing in cracks, the walls were so damp. Meanwhile the Abu Simbel temples, saved by an international campaign, are now threatened by high humidity caused by the Aswan Dam's artificial lake, the report noted. (A.F.P.)

Liberia

FIRST EXECUTIONS
WERE "TOO HASTY"

MONROVIA, April 25 - The executions this week in Liberia of the first 13 officials of the ousted Tolbert regime to be tried since the April 12 military coup were "too hasty", the New Liberian, official organ of the Information Ministry here, said in an editorial Thursday.

"Almost everybody had expected that some would be executed after a thorough probe and after they were found guilty", it said. "But the executions on Tuesday took everybody by surprise... Our contention is that the execution of the first set tried was too hasty"

Asking that there be no more executions, the New Liberian acknowledged however that "the feeling on the home front is that if there are going to be no more executions, then certain persons - some still at large and some arrested but not yet tried - have been left out".

The paper named in particular former police chief Varney Dempster, National Security Minister Burleigh Holder, and onetime Justice Minister Oliver Bright, and commented that "in this case, the PRC (ruling Military People's Redemption Council) is torn between international opinion and national feeling".

The paper cited unconfirmed reports that the military tribunal hearing charges against ex-Tolbert officials, ranging from corruption to human rights violations, had acquitted five of 14 people it tried before Tuesday's executions. (A.F.P.)

"SPARE THEM" PLEA

LAGOS, April 23 - The Council of Ministers of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) today appealed to Liberia's new ruler, Master Sergeant Samuel Doe, to spare the lives of senior officials of the ousted Tolbert Government now awaiting trial.

In a message which followed yesterday's public execution of 13 ministers and party organisers of the old Government, the Council asked for "restraint on purely humanitarian grounds".

The Council of Ministers is meeting here to prepare for next week's first OAU summit conference.

The message, however, acknowledged "the right of any member state to change its Government in any way it sees fit," but appealed for "respect for the principles of human rights in dealing with the officials of the former Government presently in detention".

"The Council further appeals to Your Excellency to ensure adherence to due process of the law in determining the fate of those still held in detention and awaiting trial", the message said. (A.F.P.)

DOE PROMISES
ELECTIONS

MONROVIA, April 23 - Liberia's new military ruler, Master Sergeant Samuel Doe, said here Tuesday that as soon as things returned to normal the Armed Forces would decide when to hand power back to civilians.

There would then be general elections, he told foreign newsmen at a brief press conference.

Sgt. Doe said that on the night of the military coup last April 12 he had tried to have President William Tolbert arrested.

"But he refused, so I had no alternative but to have him killed", he said. Mr. Tolbert had been killed by Corporal Harrison T. Pennue, who was now a colonel and Assistant Chief of the Armed Forces, he added.

Sgt. Doe, dressed in camouflage uniform and wearing a bush hat, was presented to the press as Head of State, Chairman of the ruling People's Redemption Council "and also chairman of the Organisation of African Unity" (OAU), a post Mr. Tolbert held at the time of his death.

Corruption, repression...

Sgt. Doe recalled that corruption, absence of democracy and repression of the opposition had provoked the coup.

"All decisions were made between the President and his main co-workers", he said. "The judiciary was a mockery because cases were determined by how much money one could offer".

He added : "We do not consider our problems automatically solved as a result of the revolution, but we do consider it as a very good opportunity to build a nation for all to enjoy without discrimination".

The economy would continue to be a mixed one, "guided by principles of fair play and honest effort", he said.

For country's good

Good relations would be maintained with all countries and with foreign investors, as long as they did not exploit the people but encouraged development for the good of Liberia as well as for themselves, Sgt. Doe said.

(In Washington Tuesday, former Democratic presidential candidate Senator George McGovern condemned " in the strongest possible terms" Tuesday's public execution in Monrovia of 13 former ministers and officials of the ousted regime.

(It raised "serious questions about the standard of justice which the new regime claims to uphold", he said). (A.F.P.)

Nigeria

PROBE RECOMMENDED

LAGOS, April 23 - Senior officials of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) could face a parliamentary investigation of their private bank accounts and capital assets following the reported loss of 2,800 million dollars from the Corporation's accounts.

The move is recommended in an interim report by a special committee from Nigeria's House of Representatives, set up on January 15 following revelation of the loss in an audit of NNPC accounts by independent accountants.

The special committee report confirmed that allegations of loss or misappropriation of the 2,800 million dollars were based on a draft report by the external auditors of NNPC accounts for the period April 1, 1977 to December 31, 1977. (A.F.P.)

IRON ORE, MARBLE

LAGOS, April 24 - New deposits of iron ore and marble have been discovered in the south-west corner of Plateau State, in Central Nigeria, Mines and Power Minister Alhaji Ibrahim Hassan has announced.

The Minister said the ore, in an area about 10 kms (six miles) south of the proposed new federal capital at Abuja, had been shown to be suitable for steel manufacture. (A.F.P.)

Ghana

MUTINY CHARGE

ACCRA, April 24 - Seven soldiers and a civilian went on trial at a general court martial here yesterday charged with offences related to "mutiny", the Ghanaian Armed Forces public relations directorate announced.

The official statement said the accused were arrested on March 29. (A.F.P.)

Senegal

LUIS FONSECA

DAKAR, April 23 - Senegalese singer Luis Fonseca, known throughout Africa, has died here after a long illness.

Born on August 25, 1927, he was a member of the African Ballets of Keita Fodeba. He then carved out a career in Europe as singer, choreographer and actor before settling in Brussels, where he opened a cabaret, the Black Angels. (A.F.P.)

DEEP-SEA SHIPYARD

BRUSSELS, April 24 - The European Investment Bank has loaned the Cape Verde Islands 3.5 million units of account (about 4,750,000 dollars) to help build a shipyard to repair deep-sea fishing vessels and smaller ships at Mindelo, the main port.

The shipyard, which will come into operation in 1982, will employ some 700 people and provide about 80 per cent of the export revenue of the islands, which lie in one of the world's major fishing areas. (A.F.P.)

Gambia

WARNING TO MOSCOW

BANJUL, April 22 - Gambia will not participate in the Moscow Summer Olympics unless there is a significant change in the situation in Afghanistan before May 22, the Gambian Olympic Committee announced today.

The Committee appealed to African countries to reconsider the decision they reached at a recent meeting of the Higher African Sports Council to participate in the Moscow Games.

Gambia broke cultural relations with the Soviet Union in the wake of the Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan. (A.F.P.)

EAST AFRICA

Uganda

COUP RUMOURS PERSIST

KAMPALA, April 24 - There was growing anxiety in the Ugandan capital today as a result of persistent rumours of an imminent military coup.

The rumours, which began to circulate more than a month ago, were boosted today in a special edition of the often well-informed opposition weekly The Citizen, which reported that President Godfrey Binaisa would be toppled on April 27 unless his Government acted swiftly to defuse the plot.

The Citizen said the pretext for the coup would be divisions within the ruling Ugandan National Liberation Front (UNLF), widespread corruption, economic stagnation and the high crime rate.

According to the newspaper, top officers in the Tanzanian Army, which remained in Uganda after the overthrow of dictator Idi Amin just over a year ago, knew about the plot. "One could safely assume that maybe (Tanzanian) President Julius Nyerere should be aware of the plot", The Citizen said, adding that "most observers believe that the coup will pave the way for (Amin's predecessor Milton)Obote to come to power". (A.F.P.)

Uganda

COMMONWEALTH "RESCUE"

LONDON, April 23 - The nations of the Commonwealth should intervene, militarily if necessary, to rescue Uganda from the "political and economic disaster" which has overcome it, the magazine of the Royal Commonwealth Society said today.

Commonwealth governments, "individually or collectively, should not barge into Uganda unmasked", it said, "but the experience and prestige gained in Zimbabwe by the Commonwealth should not be wasted and an offer to the Ugandans should be made". (A.F.P.)

MISSIONARY MURDERED

LONDON, April 25 - British missionary Father Francis McGrath of Birmingham was shot dead in a raid on a school in Eastern Uganda, the Mill Hill Missionaries said here today. (A.F.P.)

Kenya

NEW INDUSTRIES

KHARTOUM, April 24 - The Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa has given five million dollars worth of credits to Kenya to promote medium and small industries under an agreement signed here Wednesday. The sum is repayable over 12 years at seven per cent interest, with a three-year period of grace. (A.F.P.)

ELEPHANTS DOING WELL

NAIROBI, April 24 - Kenya now has an elephant population of 80,000 and has wiped out poachers from its national parks through a strengthened anti-poaching field force, Natural Resources and Environment Minister Andrew Joseph Omanga told conservationists here today. (A.F.P.)

Tanzania

SELF-ENRICHMENT...

DAR-ES-SALAAM, April 23 - Parliamentarian D.B. Zimbihile has been barred from holding any senior post in Tanzania's only party, the Chama Cha Mapinduzi (Revolutionary Party), for five years. The Government-owned Daily News said Mr. Zimbihile, Member for Muleba district in the West Lake region, was found guilty by the party central committee yesterday of teaming up with capitalists and using his position to enrich himself. (A.F.P.)

Tanzania

SACK FOR 116

DAR-ES-SALAAM, April 23 - Tanzania's Harbours Authority has sacked 116 port workers and is looking into the jobs of others over "inciting" workers to strike, the Government newspaper Daily News said here today. Strikes and lockouts are illegal in Tanzania. (A.F.P.)

TRANSPORT HIT

DAR-ES-SALAAM, April 24 - Tanzania's Government-owned National Bus Company will suspend all services from May 1 because of an acute shortage of tyres and tubes, it was learnt here today.

The sole supplier of tyres and tubes in the country is the Arusha-based General Tyre Factory. This stopped production on March 28 because of a shortage of raw materials, but said production would resume next month. (A.F.P.)

Ethiopia

AID FROM EEC

ADDIS ABABA, April 24 - The European Economic Community (EEC) is to give between 336 and 424 million dollars in development aid to Ethiopia over the next five years, according to an agreement signed here today. In addition, the EEC will allocate up to 420 million dollars for development projects started by Ethiopia in association with neighbouring countries. (A.F.P.)

Somalia

CHINESE AGREEMENT

HONG KONG, April 24 - China and Somalia signed a trade agreement in Peking yesterday, the New China News Agency (NCNA) reported today. NCNA said the agreement was signed by Chinese Foreign Trade Minister Li Qiang and visiting Somali Commerce Minister Ahmed Mahamed Mohamud. (A.F.P.)

CENTRAL AFRICA

Zambia

RAILWAY HELP

LUSAKA, April 24 - Sweden has donated 300 rail wagons worth about 14 million U.S. dollars to Zambia Railways to help alleviate the country's transport problems.

The wagons were assembled at Zambia Railways workshop in Kabwe, north of here, with the help of Swedish experts.

Early this month, South Africa threatened to stop transporting Zambian goods until all its wagons had been returned to South Africa. (A.F.P.)

Chad

OM OAU

Organisation of African Unity (OAU) on dollars to the Chad Transitional a neutral African force to be re- a, OAU spokesman Peter Onu said

discussions held Thursday by countries n last August's agreement signed d to end 13 years of intermittent a month ago. Represented were Nigeria ic, Sudan, Libya, Niger, Benin and

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Mr. Onu said they were trying to establish appropriate conditions for the peace-keeping force to return to Chad. (Under last year's agreement, Congo, Benin and Guinea were to supply troops. Only Congo did so, and its contingent pulled out when fighting erupted again in Ndjamena last month). (A.F.P.)

SOUTHERN AFRICA

Zimbabwe

POLITICAL VIOLENCE...

SALISBURY, April 24 - Leaders of newly-independent Zimbabwe's two main political parties have met against a background of apparently politically-inspired violence, but so far their efforts to halt it have only resulted in acrimonious public debate.

At least seven persons have died and more than 50 have been injured in violence in the country's black townships.

Supporters of Prime Minister Robert Mugabe's Zimbabwe-African National Union-Patriotic Front (ZANU-PF) and Home Affairs (Interior) Minister Joshua Nkomo's Patriotic Front (PF) are generally conceded to be responsible.

But at a meeting between the two sides, PF Vice-President Josiah Chinamano blamed the violence on supporters of Mr. Mugabe, whose party won an overwhelming victory in the recent pre-independence elections, according to the capital's main newspaper, the Herald.

It quoted Mr. Chinamano as saying : "We cannot describe it as inter-party violence, because as far as the PF is concerned it is not attacking anyone".

But Eddison Zvobgo, a spokesman for Mr. Mugabe's party, told the Herald : "There is evidence that some ZANU-PF supporters have participated in these events and there is evidence that the PF have also participated and continue to do so, as have the (Bishop Abel) Muzorewa people. Let us not be sanctimonious". (A.F.P.)

RESETTLEMENT AND
REHABILITATION

SALISBURY, April 23 - Sweden is to give Zimbabwe direct monetary aid of more than 15 million U.S. dollars over the next 14 months, Labour and Social Affairs Minister Kumbirai Kangai announced here Tuesday.

Mr. Kangai said in a statement that a development cooperation program had been discussed between the two countries during the past few days.

As a result, Sweden had pledged immediate support of about four million dollars for the war refugees resettlement and rehabilitation program recently worked out between the Zimbabwe Government and the United Nations High Commission for Refugees.

Further talks

Sweden would then provide 12,5 million dollars between next July and June 1981. Further discussion on the use of these funds would be held in August, the statement said.

During the war, Sweden supported both wings of the Patriotic Front with humanitarian aid which has amounted to about 20 million U.S. dollars. In addition, more than nine million dollars were channelled towards support for refugees from Zimbabwe. (A.F.P.)

LOME WELCOME

BRUSSELS, April 23 - Foreign ministers of the European Economic Community (EEC) today "favourably welcomed" Zimbabwe's formal request to join the Lomé Convention, which governs co-operation between the EEC and 56 African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) nations.

A decision on Zimbabwe's application will be taken at the Nairobi ministerial meeting of the Convention members on May 8 and 9. (A.F.P.)

IMF CANDIDATE

HAMBURG, April 22 - African countries hope Zimbabwe will be able to join the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank by the time the two bodies hold their annual meeting in Washington late next September, African officials said here today.

They said an IMF mission was expected in Salisbury shortly to examine the state of the country's economy as part of the "processing" of its entry application.

The application was filed by Britain on behalf of the former Rhodesia before the country became independent last week. (A.F.P.)

Republic of South Africa

SCHOOLS UNREST GOES ON

JOHANNESBURG, April 24 - Thousands of high school and university students, most of them colored (mixed-race), boycotted classes today in a nationwide protest against the inferior quality of education for colored people - a protest viewed as the most serious movement of its kind since the Soweto revolt in June 1976.

In the port city of Durban, in the south-east, one coloured schoolgirl had to be hospitalized and several other pupils suffered bruises after police used batons and teargas in dispersing a silent protest by about 500 schoolchildren, according to a witness.

Yesterday, unconfirmed reports said, 42 persons were hospitalized when police charged a peaceful student demonstration at Eldorado Park, near here.

The Star newspaper today reported that a memorandum to the authorities submitted nine months ago by the Regional Transvaal Education Board listed such grievances as insufficient qualifications of teachers, their poor salaries and working conditions, the high proportion of flunked exams and the high school students' resulting discontent with what they felt was their "inferior" type of education. (A.F.P.)

SAFE INVESTMENT

JOHANNESBURG, April 25 - South Africa will be a safe country in which to invest for the next four or five years, U.S. investment analyst Howard Ruff said here yesterday.

Mr. Ruff was the last official speaker at the week-long conference of the American National Committee for Monetary Reform (NCOMR) held here since April 20.

He said the economic upswing in South Africa was likely to postpone any political unrest in the short term, and South Africa was a good place for short-term investment, particularly in precious metals. (A.F.P.)

Namibia

13 GUERRILLAS

WINDHOEK, April 24 - South African troops hunted down and killed 13 Namibian nationalist guerrillas in the north of the territory last week, a military spokesman said here today.

The guerrillas were members of the South-West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO), which is fighting a low-key war in the region near the Angolan border.

South African statistics put at 246 the number of SWAPO guerrillas killed this year, for the loss of 27 of their own men. Twenty-five civilians have also been killed. (A.F.P.)

Namibia

S.A. USING "EVERY
MEANS", SAYS SWAPO

COPENHAGEN, April 23 - South Africa is trying by every means possible to hang onto Namibia and is therefore strongly opposing the United Nations plan for the territory's independence, a spokesman for the South-West African People's Organization (SWAPO) said here Tuesday.

The official, Moses Gardeb, who is part of a SWAPO delegation touring Scandinavia in search of support for SWAPO's guerrilla struggle in Namibia after the victory of the guerrillas in Zimbabwe, warned that no quick solution to the future of Namibia was at hand.

The battle would be a long one, as it had been in Zimbabwe he said.

Mr. Gardeb had talks Tuesday with Danish Foreign Ministry officials and said afterwards Denmark's attitude towards Namibia was positive.

He also conferred with leaders of the ruling Social Democratic Party and officials of the Danish third world aid body, Danida. Danida had promised that the humanitarian aid it had been sending to the guerrillas in Zimbabwe would now go to SWAPO, he said.

Mr. Gardeb accused South Africa of lying about Namibia's total population in order to back its arguments that Namibia was too small to be an independent state.

Pretoria claimed there were half a million people there, but by SWAPO estimates the territory's population was 3.5 million, including 100,000 whites, he said. (A.F.P.)

REPAIRS "RIDICULOUS"

WINDHOEK, April 23 - Namibia's guerrilla-damaged electric line feeding the capital here from the Ruacana hydro-electric power station near the Angolan border will only be repaired when authorities here can guarantee to protect it.

South-West Africa Water and Electricity Corporation Director Polla Brand said that the line, which was sabotaged on Sunday night, plunging the capital into total darkness, had already been sabotaged on April 3 by South-West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO) guerrillas. It would be ridiculous to repair it before receiving assurances that effective surveillance would be mounted, he said.

But Windhoek received its electricity again Monday, with power being fed in from various thermal power stations in the country.

SWAPO is waging a guerrilla war against South African forces in this Pretoria-administered territory. (A.F.P.)

Namibia

S.A. HUNTERS SENTENCED

OPUWA, April 24 - The local magistrates court today sentenced a South African Army major and a former policeman to fines with alternative prison sentences for illegal hunting.

Major Jurie Lombaard , Commanding Officer of South African Forces in Kaokoland, North-West Namibia, and Lodewikus Lombard, the former security police chief for the area, were each fined 600 rands (about 738 dollars), with an alternative of 12 months in prison with two-thirds of the sentence suspended for three years - after they admitted killing a lioness and a highly-protected species of zebra.

Major Lombaard, who told the court that the local people were "very primitive", said they wanted to use the dead zebra to lure the lioness after farmers asked for help to stop the lioness killing cattle. (A.F.P.)

Botswana

34 M. FROM W. GERMANY

BONN, April 23 - Botswana will receive 69,900,000 marks (34 million dollars) in non-reimbursable aid from West Germany in 1980 and 1981, it was announced here today.

Most of this money will go towards improving transportation, and the rest to geological training and research work in the Kalahari region. (A.F.P.)

INDIAN OCEAN

Mauritius

5.7 M. FROM KUWAIT

KUWAIT, April 23 - The Kuwaiti Fund for Arab Economic Development announced a 5.7 million dollar loan to Mauritius Tuesday to help finance an electrification project. (A.F.P.)

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