

AFRICA

SEMI-WEEKLY INTERAFRICAN NEWS SURVEY

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P A N O R A M A

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POPE PREPARES FOR AFRICAN JOURNEY

by Raymond Perrot-Minot

VATICAN CITY, April 26 - Pope John-Paul II leaves for Africa on May 2 to, in his own words, pay tribute to a continent which, one hundred years after the arrival of the first missionaries, counts 52 million Roman Catholics.

In 10 days, he will travel more than 18,000 km (11,000 miles). His fifth major foreign tour since assuming the head of the church 18 months ago will take him to Zaire, Congo, Kenya, Ghana, Upper Volta and Ivory Coast.

He is sure to repeat to the people of these different countries of differing cultures, ethnic origins and political regimes what he said to Africans in Rome last February.

It was not, he said in effect, a matter of ignoring these differences, but rather of recognising and respecting them, a matter of a certain solidarity and above all, of finding common moral positions and agreeing plans capable of assuring Africans' lasting happiness and their human and spiritual progress.

His words then set the aim of his tour, which is to address himself to a continent undergoing great social transformation and population expansion, and which is the object of competing political and economic systems.

He added in his address then the hope that the people of Africa will know how to make the necessary changes that are often imposed on them by circumstances with the maximum of intelligence and humanity, safeguarding and developing the true values of the African spirit.

In the African countries Pope John Paul II will be visiting, there will certainly not be the crowd-scenes of his visits to Poland, Mexico or Ireland. Zaire with 45 per cent of catholics out of a population of 26 million, and Congo with 37 per cent of its million and a half, have been the most evangelised. But both these two countries have shown deep anti-catholic reactions in recent years.

Great vitality

In March 1977, the Archbishop of Brazzaville was assassinated, and Zairese ruler General Mubutu Sese Seko's banning of Christian holidays and religious schools has not gone unforgotten.

Only in Kenya will the pope meet a clear majority of Christians - more than 60 per cent and possibly nearly 70 per cent, of which about 20 per cent are Roman Catholic.

Since the 1960s, during which most African countries gained independence, the church has, however, with the reforms of the second Vatican Council, shown great vitality.

Africa's catholic population, 12 per cent of the total, should increase by two million per year until the year 2,000, according to UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) calculations. And African presence within the church, one per cent at the beginning of the century, 7.5 per cent in 1975, should reach 18 per cent by that year.

Africa's episcopate is 70 per cent African, with black bishops heading 246 of the 353 church dioceses. The transformation of the formerly "colonial" church, competing since the start of the century with Islam for a population whose faith was eroding, was vital for Catholicism.

Nine cardinals

Black Africa is represented at Rome's sacred college by nine cardinals, who played an important role in Karol Wojtyla's election to the Papacy in 1978. The best-known are Cardinals Bernardin Gantin (Archbishop of Cotonou in Benin, West Africa, and president of the Pontifical Justice and Peace Commission), Hyacinthe Thiandoum (Archbishop of Dakar, Senegal) and Paul Sougrana (Archbishop of Ouagadougou, Upper Volta).

Pope Paul VI told African bishops in 1969, "you should and will have an African Christianity". There is no doubt that Pope John Paul II will take up this theme during his trip. (A.F.P.)

OAU ECONOMIC SUMMIT OPENS

LAGOS, April 29 - Pan-Africa's first summit devoted specifically to economic matters opened here in the Nigerian capital Monday at a heads of state conference of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU).

The continent's very survival was at stake, OAU Secretary-General Edem Kodjo insisted, repeating a warning he delivered at last week's preparatory ministerial discussions on the agenda and draft resolutions.

Africa had to be capable of showing solidarity, especially with the members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), Mr. Kodjo said.

Africa was also on its own, and to break out of its isolation it had to shatter ideological barriers, the OAU leader said.

United Nations Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim told the opening session that for the formation of a more equitable economic order, almost all that needed to be done was to accept fully the consequences of interdependence - but unfortunately that notion was being interpreted as an admission of domination or dependence on either hand.

Exchange terms

Mr. Waldheim said inter-dependence had no meaning if it failed to include an equality of benefits - for example, if African initiatives for a collective autonomy of developing countries could contribute to reducing inequalities on a global scale, the result would be to the advantage of all states.

Ivory Coast President Felix Houphouet-Boigny told his fellow heads of state - some 25 out of the OAU's 50-nation membership are here - to be on the alert regarding industrialised countries, given a constant deterioration of the terms of exchange between rich and poor nations.

For as long as Africa failed to process its agricultural and mineral resources, the continent would remain defenceless against those very terms of exchange that they were constantly criticising in vain.

Political rivalries were irrelevant if the continent wanted to break away from under-development and build the "Africa of tomorrow" - and it would still for a long time require outside aid until it could meet its own needs, the Ivory Coast president said.
(A.F.P.)

AFRICA "A VICTIM OF EXPLOITATION"

LAGOS, April 28 - Nigerian President Shehu Shagari today called on the developed world to help Africa work out an "equitable redistribution of the world's wealth".

Alhaji Shagari, speaking at the inaugural session of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) Economic summit conference here said that "the third world will not accept to continue to live in abject poverty. We have been victims of mass exploitation".

Nigeria, which is hosting this first OAU summit to be devoted to economic problems, is demographically and financially the giant of black Africa, and one of four African members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

"We are entering the second phase of Africa's struggle for freedom", President Shagari said. "The first phase was political freedom. With the victory in Zimbabwe and impending liberation of Namibia and Azania (South Africa) in the very near future, the end of the struggle for the political liberation of Africa is in sight".

The Nigerian leader added that "in the search for solutions to the current world economic problems we as African people must make our own positive contributions by reorganising our economic priorities and by encouraging contact and cooperation.

"It is perhaps too much to expect that this first economic summit will provide all the answers to all the economic problems, But we must at least not fail to set the guidelines for future action", he said. (A.F.P.)

TALK IS NOT ENOUGH, SAYS NYERERE

LAGOS, April 28 - Tanzanian President Julius Nyerere today warned his fellow African leaders that resolutions alone were not enough to solve Africa's economic problems.

In a speech to today's opening session of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) economic summit conference here Dr. Nyerere called on OAU members to pay outstanding subscriptions to existing African organisations. "We must not play politics in our African economic institutions", he said.

The Tanzanian leader said that poverty in Africa was the result of colonialism. There were five major problems to be faced, he said, which were self-sufficiency in food production, development of transport and communications, coordination of industrial policy, conservation of energy and development of inter-African trade. (A.F.P.)

11 NATIONS POISED TO GO NUCLEAR

GENEVA, April 26 - Eleven nations are on the brink of becoming atomic military powers, according to a recent report of the University Institute of High International Studies here.

Published yesterday, the report cited Argentina, Brazil, Egypt, India, Iraq, Israel, Libya, Pakistan, South Africa, South Korea and Taiwan as potential nuclear powers.

It said that Pakistan, India and Taiwan could obtain a limited atomic arsenal in a brief period of time, and singled out Pakistan as capable of carrying out atomic tests within a few weeks or months.

Israel, Libya and South Africa could begin perfecting atomic weapons within a slightly longer timespan, the report said.

It added that if the atomic weapons Non-Proliferation Treaty lost its validity due to rapid "nuclearization" of these countries, West Germany and Japan could be forced to review their attitude on atomic weapons. (A.F.P.)

3,000 EAST GERMANS WORKING ABROAD

BONN, April 26 - East Germany has 3,000 advisers, mostly military personnel, working abroad, West German parliamentary Secretary of State for Defence Andreas Von Buelow told parliament here Friday.

The biggest contingents are in Angola, Mozambique, Ethiopia, Algeria and Libya, he said.

Other East German advisers are stationed in South Yemen, Syria and Iraq, and in Vietnam and Laos. Mr. Von Buelow said their main work covers assistance with military and para-military training. (A.F.P.)

AMERICANS ON TERRORIST TRAINING CHARGES

WASHINGTON, April 26 - Three Americans, two said to be ex-CIA agents, have been indicted by a Federal Grand Jury on charges of organising terrorist training for Libyan leader Colonel Moamer Kadhafi.

Details of the charges released here Friday said that in 1976-77, the trio recruited former members of the U.S. special forces and ex-army explosives experts to train terrorists.

They were said to have supplied small explosives that could be secreted in everyday utensils like ashtrays, lamps, alarm clocks and vases.

The accused are Francis Terpil, 41, Edwin Wilson, 52, and Jerome Brower, 60. Terpil is described as one of the world's main suppliers of weapons to terrorists. He is on bail after a New York court found him guilty of trying to sell submachine-guns to secret agents. (A.F.P.)

INSURERS SEEK HIGHER PREMIUMS ON TANKERS

LONDON, April 28 - London marine insurers will ask higher premiums in future for vessels rated over 75,000 tons, owing to the large number of tanker disasters recently, insurance sources said here today.

The increase will cost at least 50,000 dollars more annually for ships without facilities for neutralizing explosive gas left in tanks after unloading.

The Joint Hull Committee, which acts for Lloyds and others will ask an extra 0.25 per cent for the vessel's insured value in the case of these ships, and 0.1 per cent for others.

In the last 12 months, 14 supertankers have been lost at sea including nine due to explosion or fire. These losses have cost more than 500 million dollars. The frequency of such disasters has tended to rise in the past few months, the sources said.

The International Chamber of Shipping has ordered an urgent investigation into the causes of explosions on board ship. (A.F.P.)

NEW 27-SYMBOL ALPHABET FOUND

MOSCOW, April 28 - A new 27-symbol alphabet with letters resembling neither those of the Greek nor Cyrillic alphabets has been discovered on the walls of Kiev's Saint Sophia cathedral in the Ukraine, Novosti press agency said today.

Specialists believe it dates from between the 10 th century and the 11th, when the Cyrillic alphabet (used in Russian and other Slavic languages) was introduced.

The find will help researchers understand the development of Slavic languages during a period when new letters were added to the alphabet so that phonetics could be more easily translated into writing, the agency added. (A.F.P.)

U.S. BOOSTS GULF FLEET- TASS

MOSCOW, April 28 - The United States has increased its naval strength in Iranian coastal waters, Tass news agency today reported.

In a dispatch from Washington quoting U.S. sources, Tass said the aircraft carriers Constellation and Eisenhower with an escort of eight warships, including the missile-carrying cruisers South Carolina and Virginia, had arrived in the Gulf.

With their arrival, current U.S. naval strength there now totals 34 fighting ships, the agency said. (A.F.P.)

MORE BUREAUCRATS THAN ATHLETES AT OLYMPICS

PARIS, April 27- More countries will probably be represented by bureaucrats than by athletes at the Moscow summer Olympics as a result of the olympic boycott to protest Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan.

Only about 60 countries will be taking part, estimate olympic authorities, about half as many as competed at Munich in 1972 and about two thirds as many as at Montreal in 1976 when African nations boycotted the games.

Olympic authorities view a boycott by a large majority of western European countries as inevitable.

But sports authorities from all over the world will be pouring into Moscow.

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) will hold its plenary session there from July 15 to 18, and international sports federations have pledged to be at Moscow once the olympics open on July 19 to assure the smooth functioning of the events and to hold a general meeting.

This inequity between the international representation of bureaucrats Vs. Athletes should raise questions for the IOC on its 1981 congress scheduled for Baden-Baden in West Germany as well as the 1984 Olympics scheduled for Los Angeles, California. (A.F.P.)

"DETECTION" BOMBS ARE PLANNED

WASHINGTON, April 28 - New ways to help identify terrorists or criminals from the bombs they plant were predicted in a report to the United States Congress published today.

The report suggested that microscopic particles could be included in dynamite and other explosives, enabling their origin to be traced after they had exploded. Bombs could also be made to give off an odorous warning gas which would allow them to be detected and defused.

The report, which said that studies still had to be completed, was in connection with possible future regulations for explosives manufacturers. (A.F.P.)

SUBMARINE NEGOTIATIONS UNDER WAY

HAMBURG, West Germany, April 28 - A West German shipyard is currently negotiating the sale of several submarines to India after Iran reneged a contract, it was reported here.

Howaldtswerke-Deutsche WERFT headquarters here refused to say how far talks had gone, explaining simply that the company was seeking a buyer for six submarines following cancellation of an Iranian order. The pro-Moscow English-language Daily Patriot said in New Delhi today that India was likely to buy submarines from Sweden and West Germany and not from France or Britain, as was expected earlier. (A.F.P.)

FRESH DEBATE ON PALESTINIAN STATE

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., April 26 - The question of the right of the Palestinian people to a sovereign state will come up again before the Security Council next week, council sources said here Friday.

The special council for the exercise of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people first brought the problem before the council on March 31, at the request of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

But discussions were interrupted a fortnight ago when Lebanon raised the issue of the latest incidents in Southern Lebanon.

No draft resolution has yet been lodged, but semi-official versions already circulating propose that the Security Council proclaim a Palestinian right to a sovereign state and reject any autonomy process arising from the Camp David Mideast peace arrangements between Egypt and Israel.

Western European countries in particular have said debate on the issue would be premature before Expiry of the May 26 date set for the end of Egyptian-Israeli negotiations on Palestinian autonomy.

But PLO observer here Zehdi Labib Terzi has insisted that debate resume. He expects non-aligned countries on the council to submit a resolution concerned essentially with a Palestinian right to an independent and sovereign state. (A.F.P.)

BEGIN URGES IRISH TO RECONSIDER PLO ISSUE

DUBLIN, April 28 - Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin has appealed to the Irish government to reconsider its decision to recognize the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO).

In an interview with an Irish radio station yesterday, Mr. Begin said : "Ireland's recognition of the PLO is an act of hostility against Israel".

"I appeal to the Irish government and people to reconsider and withdraw recognition", he added.

Comparing the PLO to a "Nazi" group, the Israeli leader noted : "I cannot understand why civilized countries recognize them (the PLO)".

He also rejected any Israeli responsibility for the recent death of two Irish members of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) in South Lebanon. The two Irish UNIFIL soldiers were reportedly killed by Israeli-backed Conservative militiamen of Lebanese army rebel major Saad Haddad. (A.F.P.)

HADDAD ENDS COOPERATION WITH UNIFIL

METULLA, Northern Israel, April 29 - Leader of the South Lebanese Christian militia Major Saad Haddad said today he was ending all cooperation with the headquarters of the United Nations Interim Forces in Lebanon (UNIFIL).

In a statement to newsmen here Major Haddad said the Israeli-backed militia would maintain its contacts at unit level but was protesting over a UNIFIL spokesman's statement yesterday on incidents between militia and UNIFIL's Irish contingent earlier this month "as if they were fresh news".

"By giving the impression that they were new incidents it has increased tension, endangered relations between South Lebanon and UNIFIL and risks lives on both sides", Major Haddad added.

He blamed the spokesman's comments on the clashes between April 6 and 13, which left three members of the Irish contingent dead, on the Dublin government on the eve of a conference organised by Ireland of countries with troops in UNIFIL.

"UNIFIL and its chief, General Emmanuel Erskine, have completely lost control of the situation and any UNIFIL officer or official does what he likes", Major Haddad said.

Earlier a militia spokesman said that some of Major Haddad's troops had mounted a raid early yesterday on the village of Heniya, south of Tyre, after passing through the zone controlled by the Dutch contingent in UNIFIL.

The militia, who captured several Palestinian guerrillas and blew up the home of a villager who supported them, made the raid in reprisal for the killing near Haniya last Friday of a 17-year-old Shiite moslem fighting alongside the Christians. (A.F.P.)

IRAQ ORDERS FIVE WARSHIPS

KUWAIT, April 29 - Iraq has reportedly ordered five warships for delivery in 1983 from Italian shipyards, the Kuwait daily paper As Siassa said today.

The paper said other ships would be bought from European economic community countries, including missile-carrying patrol boats, submarines, cruisers and coastguard vessels which would form the spearhead of an Arab fleet with responsibility for security in the Gulf. (A.F.P.)

TWO HELD AFTER SHOTS FIRED AT GHOTBZADEH

KUWAIT, April 29 - Shots were fired at the motorcade of Iranian Foreign Minister Sadegh Ghotbzadeh today as he was being driven to the Emir of Kuwait's palace.

Two people were arrested afterward in an American-made car from which the shots were fired, a well-informed source said, and another American-made car was discovered loaded with explosives parked 500 meters (yards) from the palace.

Security forces defused the explosives, which were linked to a detonator, and found guns and grenades in the second vehicle, the source said.

The shots shattered a door window of a police car escorting the minister. A policeman was slightly wounded. The nationality of the prisoners was not disclosed.

The attack took place at the precise spot where Iraqi leader Hardan Takriti was assassinated in 1974 - half way between the state visitors' residence and the palace.

Mr. Ghotbzadeh arrived yesterday from Lebanon, where he urged Palestinians and Lebanese to unite in fighting Israel. He is touring Arab capitals to offer Iranian support against Israel and seeking Arab support for Iran. He went to Syria first, and was scheduled to leave here today for Bahrain.

Today's attack came as tension has been running high between Iran and Iraq as well as between Iran and the United States. Iran has accused Iraqi armed bands of sabotaging oil installations in Iran, and accused Iraqi authorities of executing Iraq's Shia Moslem spiritual leader.

Baghdad has accused Teheran of trying to stir up Iraq's shiites. On Sunday, Iran announced that Iraqi President Saddam Hussain was killed in a coup. Iraqi authorities denied any coup or assassination of the president.

Kuwait has a large foreign population including Iraqis, Iranians and Palestinians. (A.F.P.)

OIL & ENERGY

OPEC HEADS TO MEET

NICOSIA, April 28 - The Organization of Petroleum Exporting countries will hold a second summit conference, attended by leaders of all OPEC nations, on November 1 in Baghdad, the Middle East Economic Survey said in its latest issue.

The first summit was held in March, 1975. (A.F.P.)

IRAN'S OIL EXPORTS DROP TO 1.3 M. BARRELS

TEHERAN, April 27 - Iranian oil exports have dropped to 1.35 million barrels a day following a decision by several oil companies to follow the U.S policy of boycotting Iran, Iranian Oil Minister Ali Akhbar Moinfar admitted today.

Mr. Moinfar told Agence France Presse that Japan's halt to Iranian purchases "did not bother Iran", though at 530,000 barrels a day, Japan was among Iran's main clients.

The Minister said Iran had decided to cut production and had found other customers, notably "Eastern European, Latin American and Asian countries". He refused to name the new customers, invoking "military secrets".

Mr. Moinfar added that Iran would sell 50 per cent of the crude turned down by the Japanese on the spot market.

Oil circles here noted today that Iran had never before admitted to such low exports. Until today, Mr. Moinfar had claimed regularly that the country's exports were stable at around two million barrels a day. (A.F.P.)

ANOTHER SOVIET N-TEST

UPPSALA, Sweden, April 26 - The Soviet Union has triggered its third underground nuclear test blast of the year, the seismological observatory here reported today.

The explosion took place at 0357 GMT yesterday near Semipalatinsk. It caused a force 6.3 earthquake on the Richter scale.

The United States has also resorted to four test blasts this year, and France, two. Last year there were 28 Soviet test blasts, 15 American, nine French and one British. (A.F.P.)

BIG NUCLEAR PROTEST DEMONSTRATION

WASHINGTON, April 27 - An estimated 25,000 demonstrators marched in the rain from the capital to the Lincoln Memorial here to protest against construction of nuclear power plants and nuclear weapons, police said.

It was part of four days of demonstrations, including meetings with congressmen and senators yesterday and a "sit-in" planned in front of the Department of Energy offices and the Pentagon.

The events were organized by ecological groups, organizations opposed to registration and conscription of young Americans for military service, revolutionary students and solar energy advocates (A.F.P.)

WEST GERMANS PREPARE FOR OIL SHOCK

by Emmanuel Fessy

BONN, April 25 - Alone among West Europe's motorists, the West Germans are allowed to drive as fast as they like along the autoroutes. But they may not be doing it much longer.

Iran has threatened to cut off oil supplies to West Germany if West Germany applies sanctions against it, and Economy Minister Otto Lambsdorff has said he "cannot rule out speed limits if our energy supplies worsen".

At present 14.7 per cent of this country's oil comes from Iran. Accounting for 11.7 per cent of consumption. The figures are different because some of the Iranian oil is re-exported after refining

The Western nations in the International Energy Agency (IEA) have an oil sharing plan that in theory automatically comes into operation if any member, and that includes West Germany, loses seven per cent or more of its oil supplies.

A three-stage plan is ready for dramatically curbing energy consumption in West Germany if need be. Its oil bill is currently some 65,000 million marks a year (15,000 million dollars) or 4.5 per cent of gross national product, and a further rise in oil rates would give a worrying boost to inflation.

It would also worsen the payments deficit, which is already forecast at 20,000 million to 25,000 million marks this year. The mark would lose in value as a result.

Government officials and the oil companies say supplies could be obtained elsewhere if Iran stops its flow.

West German BP, which deals a lot with Iran, says it would turn to Norway and Britain which supplied 18.1 per cent of West Germany's oil in the first quarter of this year, or to Saudi Arabia which provided 17.3 per cent. (A.F.P.)

SOVIET HINT AT ENERGY BLOCKADE

MOSCOW, April 25 - The Soviet Tass news agency today brandished the threat that the Soviet Union might cease supplying energy to West Europe.

The agency said that the West currently imports 100 million tons of oil equivalent from the Soviet Union and raised the "risk" that these supplies might be halted "if importing European countries should give way to U.S. pressure aimed at drawing them into its policy of economic blackmail against the Soviet Union".

Commenting on America's desire to see its European allies join the economic embargo against Iran, Tass said "The White House has not taken into account the growing solidarity of independent oil countries which could set up a counter embargo in support of Iran". (A.F.P.)

Egypt

INFLATION IS EGYPTIANS MAIN WORRY

CAIRO, April 27 - Inflation rather than the problems of the peace talks with Israel are now the main concern of most Egyptians who saw the cost of living rise 22 per cent in the 12 months to March.

In a country where an ordinary government official or policeman earns about 23 dollars a month, a young university lecturer 60 dollars and an experienced white collar worker less than 150 dollars, the smallest price increase is painfully felt.

But prices go up almost daily and this uncertainty is a major preoccupation for most Egyptians. Official figures indicate that the cost of living rose by 10 per cent in the first three months of this year alone.

While a year ago a factory worker had to work for two days to buy a kilo (2.2 lbs) of subsidised meat from a co-operative, today he must work for nearly three days.

Eggs are almost as expensive as in Western Europe, while the lower wage earner must work for nearly three hours to buy a packet of local cigarettes.

In the space of a few months the price of non-alcoholic drinks has nearly doubled, fruit and vegetables have gone up by between 50 and 100 per cent and top grade petrol by 60 per cent.

Housing project

The problem facing many families is how to make ends meet for six people for example when the father earns 30 dollars a month in a factory.

One mother wrestling with such an apparently insoluble problem explained: "My husband gives me two pounds (three dollars) a week" adding that out of this she pays 1.75 pounds a month in rent for a room in a municipal housing project on the city outskirts.

By buying 15 loaves of bread each day and boiling a vegetable with a bone, she manages to feed her family.

She explained: "Living like this we can't send the children to school as it costs 1.50 pounds (2.25 dollars) each a year in school fees".

Only essential foods have been spared from price rises and the government continues to pour millions of pounds into subsidies for bread, rice, sugar, oil, flour, and imported Australian meat sold at a quarter of cost price to the poor.

But the existence of these subsidised foodstuffs has created a class of food speculators who use bribes and employ people to queue for cheap food from the cooperatives.

Egypt

Supplies are much better than a few years ago partly because the government has opened up the economy, but this has also meant Egypt has been exposed to some of the ills of a liberal economy and notably inflation.

Imports are increasing at the rate of six per cent a year while exports are growing by only one per cent.

However the government is trying to deal with the chaotic economic situation. In January it raised pay by ten per cent and granted public employees a cost of living allowance. This ranges from three pounds (4.50 dollars) for a single person to ten pounds for the father with a large family.

The only people whose pay outstrips inflation are those fortunate enough to find employment with a foreign company.

For example, a cook working for a non-Egyptian concern can earn double the salary of a university professor and a secretary 10 times the wage of an Egyptian bank employee. (A.F.P.)

CAIRO ORDERS MIG-21s FROM CHINA

CAIRO, April 27 - Egypt has ordered a number of Chinese-built Soviet-designed MIG-21 fighter aircraft from Peking, Egyptian Air Force Chief General Mohammed Shabana said in an interview published today in the Daily Gumhuria.

The order, concluded last month, provided for the delivery of the aircraft by the end of this year, General Shabana said.

Peking has already supplied Chinese-built versions of the earlier MIG-19. (A.F.P.)

SADAT TO OPEN SINAI TUNNEL

CAIRO, April 27- The first tunnel under the Suez canal linking Sinai with the Nile delta is to be opened on April 30 by Egyptian President Anwar Sadat.

The five km (three mile) tunnel will have a capacity of 2,000 vehicles an hour in both directions.

It has been built 17 kms (ten miles) north of Suez City. Work began in 1975, and four other tunnels are due to be dug beneath the canal. (A.F.P.)

Libya

KADHAFI ISSUES "FINAL WARNING"

PARIS, April 27 - Libyan leader Colonel Moamer Kadhafi yesterday gave a "last warning" to "survivors of the old regime living abroad" to return home immediately or "be liquidated", according to Radio Tripoli today monitored here.

Colonel Kadhafi, addressing cadets at the military academy, said that Libyans living abroad should "immediately report to 'people's bureaux' (diplomatic missions) and their return will be facilitated".

"It is their last hope", he said, "Either they return to Libya where they will be safe and sound or they will be liquidated wherever they are". (A.F.P.)

Sahara

SWAZILAND RECOGNISES SAHARAWI REPUBLIC

LAGOS, April 29 - Swaziland has recognised the self-proclaimed Saharawi Arab Republic announced by the Polisario Liberation Front four years ago at the outset of its guerrilla war for control of Western (ex-Spanish) Sahara.

The Front's Foreign Minister Ibrahim Akim said the Swazi delegation leader at the OAU economic summit here had informed him of the decision, giving 23 African states' recognition.

According to Organisation of African Unity (OAU) statutes, the approval of 26 countries is needed for OAU acceptance of Polisario. The OAU - with Zimbabwe (Rhodesia) the latest member - has 51 states. (A.F.P.)

Sudan

"SELF-RULE" ELECTIONS UNDER WAY

KHARTOUM, April 29 - Elections have started in Sudan under new "self-rule" policies devised to decentralize power and extend autonomous regional rule.

Voters moved to the booths here Sunday to elect members of a fresh national People's Assembly (Parliament) for the whole country while in southern Sudan, already autonomous, voting was under way for the regional assembly sited in the local capital Juba.

President Gaafar Nimeiry dissolved both houses two months ago as a prelude to providing Sudan's five other regions with autonomy. Their regional assemblies are scheduled to be set up nearly next year. (A.F.P.)

Liberia

LIBERIA WAS ON EDGE OF BANKRUPTCY

MONROVIA, April 26 - The Tolbert government ousted two weeks ago in a military coup here had only five million dollars of monetary reserves, new Planning and Economic Affairs Minister Togba Nah Tipoteh told newsmen Friday.

There was an overdraft of 25 million dollars at the National Bank of Liberia. Foreign credits stood at nearly 700 million dollars.

The minister said there was a week's reserves of rice, the country's staple food, and a two-week reserve of petrol. The amounts had now been raised to 10 weeks and two months respectively.

Mr. Tipoteh said no structural changes in the economic sphere were planned for the moment. That included a possible abandonment of the dollar as the national currency. (The Liberian dollar is at par with the American dollar).

The new government intended to run a mixed economy, the Minister said. Commitments already made abro ad would be respected. There would be no changes without mutual agreement among all the parties concerned. This applies to the question of flags of convenience which make Liberia the "owner" of the world's biggest merchant shipping fleet, the Minister specified.

Mr. Tipoteh said too much should not be expected too quickly from the new government, because of the previous regime's bankruptcy.

Mr. Tipoteh is head of the Movement for Justice in Africa, until the coup an unofficial opposition party, and is director for Africa of the Association of Third World Economists. (A.F.P.)

EX-OFFICIALS ARE FREED

MONROVIA, April 26 - Sixty-four officials of the former Liberian government arrested after the April 12 coup d'etat were released last night, official sources said here today.

Their release followed a statement by Justice Minister Chea Cheapoo yesterday, who published a list of 138 people of the regime of assassinated President William Tolbert who were wanted, had been arrested or already executed.

Those released were not on the list. They could still, however, be called before a special tribunal if a basis for charges against them is found later, Mr. Cheapoo said.

A note attached to the list has caused anxiety in diplomatic circles here. It says in effect that foreign officials of Liberian state enterprises will be assigned to their homes for inquiries. The move could affect about 20 ex-patriates, diplomatic sources said. (A.F.P.)

Liberia

CHAPLAIN SPEAKS OUT FOR MODERATION

MONROVIA, April 28 - A vigorous appeal for moderation made by the chaplain of the Liberian Armed Forces here Sunday night closed a week of prayer decreed by new head of state Master Sergeant Samuel K. Doe.

Broadcast live, the ceremony was attended by Sergeant Doe's deputy on the ruling People's Redemption Council and some ministers, and was regarded as intended to show support for the new regime from the country's various Protestant sects, which have great power in urban Liberia.

Chaplain-General J. Edwin Lloy presented the coup two weeks ago as an expression of the will of a god weary of seeing his people suffer. In typical Liberian style on such occasions, the large congregation interjected "o yea" as he made his points.

Stupefaction was complete when the padre then addressed himself to Master Sergeant Doe : "God is God, He has made you head of state, but remember He has not made you God... If you don't listen to the word of God He has the power to break you down".

Liberia was a country blessed by God - "stop killing and killing and killing", the Rev. Lloy exhorted.

"Let us not be afraid of preaching the word of God", he continued. "I am proud that He has chosen me to speak, and I am going to speak when I am tied to the pole, and I am going to speak when a rope is round my neck. I am going to speak until the last word".

Pressure groups

The chaplain said he had been born well before the members of the new government. He had seen the capital's "market women" and other Liberians acclaim the assassinated President William Tolbert as the man for them.

The same voices had called for the death penalty for members of the then opposition Progressive Alliance, whose leader Gabriel Bacchus Matthews was today Foreign Minister.

Those same voices were now telling the new regime "You are our men" - and it was by their actions they would be judged.

After the ceremony, a redemption council spokesman read a message from Sergeant Doe : "Christian friends and friends of other faiths, we thank God first for your prayers giving us success... we will continue to support strongly holy religious activities".

Observers saw the reiteration of those sentiments, already voiced from the early days of the seizure of power, as evidence that Master Sergeant Doe was aware he had to take account of the country's religious pressure groups. They anticipated that chaplain Lloy's sermon could have some influence on the future course of events here.
(A.F.P.)

NEWSMEN ORDERED OUT OF COURT

MONROVIA, April 28 - Justice Minister Chea Cheapoo today issued a severe warning to foreign journalists covering developments in post-coup Liberia to base their stories on official government reports.

In a separate development correspondents covering the special military tribunal now trying officials of the ousted William Tolbert government were told to leave the area and not return.

Mr. Cheapoo told a press conference that they were provided with official reports on government business. "It is the government that knows what it is doing and not somebody else in the street. Any evidence about what the government is doing from somebody outside the government...would be unreliable. That is against journalism principles and ethics", he said.

Brief hearings

The new government came to power in the April 12 coup in which President William Tolbert was assassinated. Thirteen of his ministers and senior officials were subsequently executed after brief hearings before the special tribunal, which began sitting four days after the coup. Journalists had been allowed in to all tribunal sessions until soldiers cleared them away today.

The minister denied reports that the tribunal had not found all the executed officials guilty, but declined to reply when asked if there would be further executions, saying that was up to the tribunal.

"Our Government... is run on the basis of law. It is not run on emotion. We don't have disagreement on policies", he said.

Mr. Cheapoo also refused to provide figures for the number of people under arrest on the grounds that the figure could vary from day to day which, he said, would make any statistics purely academic. However, he conceded that some arrests could occur without the knowledge of his ministry because of lack of coordination. (A.F.P.)

CURFEW IS EASED

MONROVIA, April 28 - The curfew on the city of Monrovia, clamped down following the April 12 successful military coup, has been shortened by five hours, the Liberian news agency announced today.

The agency said that the curfew would now be between 11.00 p.m. and 6.0 in the morning following an appeal from the Ministry of Labour Youth and Sports for more normal hours for schools and small-scale industries. (A.F.P.)

Liberia

GOVERNMENT-IN-EXILE TO BE FORMED

ABIDJAN, April 28 - The former vice-president of the ousted government of the late William Tolbert has decided to set up a government-in-exile, he said here today.

Bennie D. Warner, who was visiting the United States at the time of the April 12 military coup, said that Liberia's new rulers were leading the country to disaster and depriving the people of their most elementary rights.

He said that he had decided to set up an exiled government of national union to work for "reconstruction, rehabilitation and reconciliation and to oppose the actual anti-democratic regime".

Mr. Warner, who arrived in Abidjan last night, said that he was ready to go underground in Liberia and hoped to obtain aid from other governments. However he said that he did not expect any material aid from the U.S. (A.F.P.)

Nigeria

BIG PROBE INTO MISSING OIL FUNDS

LAGOS, April 27 - Five general managers of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) have been sent on "compulsory leave", the government-owned New Nigerian paper reported Saturday.

It said the measure was intended to facilitate the work of a judicial commission of inquiry into the alleged disappearance of 2,800 million naira (5,000 million dollars) from the corporation's coffers. The court probe was ordered last week by President Shehu Shagari.

Eleven other NNPC officials have been transferred, the paper said. The absented managers headed the commercial, exploration and exploitation, finance, oil market and engineering services of the NNPC. Corporation chairman A.K. Hart has already been suspended for the duration of the 60-day inquiry.

It was reported earlier this year that the missing money had been traced to a private bank account in London, where it had allegedly been placed "by mistake", and then transferred to the corporation's own account in London. (A.F.P.)

SIX GENERALS RESIGN

LAGOS, April 26 - Six generals in the Nigerian armed forces have resigned from their posts, official sources said here today.

They are major-generals Joseph Garba, Olu Bajowa and George Innih, Air Commodores Dan Suleiman and K. Falope and Brigadier General S.B. Akinola. The resignations follow president Shagari's replacement of army, navy and air force chiefs of staff and of his appointment of former Army chief of staff Talani Akinrinade as armed forces Chief of Staff. (A.F.P.)

Senegal

10 STUDENTS HURT IN MALI SHOOTING

DAKAR, Senegal, April 27 - Security forces wounded at least 10 pupils when they opened fire on students at Mali's biggest secondary school in the capital Bamako two weeks ago, according to concurrent reports here by visitors from Mali.

They said the incident was the latest in Mali's troubled schools sector, marked by a boycott of classes from last November to this March and the arrest of students and some teachers during demonstrations.

The shooting on April 14 occurred, the travellers said, after students at Badalabougou college stormed the premises to try to catch a student leader they accused of filching money contributed for the "victims" of the protest demonstrations in March.

A police squad called by the college authorities to restore order was stoned by the students and had to withdraw. Security men were summoned and opened fire, wounding at least ten pupils, according to school sources quoted by the visitors here.

The students then staged a three-day strike. When classes resumed, pupils at all Bamako's secondary schools decided at a series of meetings to press the government to restore recognition to the union of Mali pupils and students, which was dissolved in January, a Mali student source here said.

They also wanted the "immortalisation" of student leader Abdoul Karim Camara, who died while in detention last month, and the punishment of those responsible for his death. Camara was arrested following a demonstration in Bamako on March 8 which was seen as an attempt to embarrass the military government of General Moussa Traore while it was hosting an African summit meeting on the Western Sahara conflict.

Gen. Traoré said at the end of last month that, following representations for clemency from his ruling party and the Mali Employers' Association, which backed him against the student protests, all arrested students would be released and allowed back to class.
(A.F.P.)

Sierra Leone

STEVENS' "CONCERN" OVER EXECUTIONS

FREETOWN, April 27 - President Siaka Stevens of Sierra Leone has voiced concern about the execution in Monrovia last week of senior members of assassinated President Tolbert's administration in Liberia.

In a personal message to Master Sergeant Samuel K. Doe, chairman of the people's Redemption Council, President Stevens said that in view of the special ties of friendship between the two neighbor nations, he "felt constrained to express the growing concern" in Sierra Leone

Ethiopia

TEAM TO PROBE DROUGHT AREAS

ADDIS ABABA, April 28 - A ministerial team left the Ethiopian capital yesterday to investigate the effects of drought in three of Ethiopia's southern provinces, reports said here today.

The team, headed by Interior Minister Taye Tilahun, will tour Gamo Goffa, Sidamo and Bale provinces, Preliminary reports from the southern regions have indicated an unknown number of deaths among the population and at least 80,000 cattle dead.

The party, which has been on a similar mission to northern Wollo, Tigre and Eastern Harrar provinces over the past month, has already found 1,780,000 people suffering effects of the drought, with tens of thousands of cattle dead or dying.

At least five of Ethiopia's 14 provinces are already believed to be drought-stricken, including northern parts of central Shoa province.

The drought threatens to rival in seriousness the 1973-74 famine in Wollo which killed more than 200,000 people.

Relief and rehabilitation commission Shimelis Adugna has already made a national appeal for contributions toward emergency relief efforts.

Earlier this month, the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) called for increased international aid to Ethiopia. (A.F.P.)

Kenya

MINISTER LOSES HIS SEAT

NAIROBI, April 28 - The parliamentary election of Cooperative Development Minister Matthew Ogutu was ruled invalid today by a Kenyan court, forcing Mr. Ogutu's resignation from the Kenyan Government.

The Kenyan constitution requires ministers to be members of Parliament.

Mr. Ogutu, who was member for Ugenya, Nyanza Province in Western Kenya, is the second minister to lose his seat as a result of court challenges to the results of general elections in November 1979.

Last month Information Minister Daniel Mutinda was found guilty of electoral fraud and banned from parliament for five years, though Mr. Ogutu will be able to stand for re-election.

The Ugenya results were cancelled because of procedural irregularities. The court ruled that 500 voters were kept out of the polling booths and that the vote-counting procedure was irregular.

In Mr. Ogutu's case, the court decided that the administration was responsible for the irregularities. (A.F.P.)

Kenya

PAPER HITS OUT AT LIBYAN NEWSMAN

NAIROBI, April 27 - The Kenyan Sunday Nation today alleged that the Libyan news agency Nairobi bureau chief has had goods smuggled into Kenya on his behalf through the Libyan embassy.

The newspaper said it had documentary evidence that the Libyan Embassy had been importing duty free goods from abroad on behalf of correspondent Hadi Hadi Dabaa who, the paper said, did not have diplomatic status.

Among goods smuggled duty free into the country for Dabaa were a large number of electric lamps and textiles from the Netherlands the paper said.

The Sunday Nation said : "Although the Libyan charge d'affaires in Nairobi, Abass Misurati, told this paper that Dabaa had ordered the goods for the embassy, he was unable to explain why Dabaa, a non-diplomat, was allowed to order goods for the embassy".

The Kenyan press recently reported that Dabaa had been engaged in various enterprises including attempts to establish a continent-wide newspaper called "Voice of Africa".

The Sunday Nation's sister paper the Daily Nation earlier reported that until last October, Dabaa had been driving around Nairobi in a Libyan embassy car bearing diplomatic number plates.

The Kenyan Foreign Ministry intervened with the Libyan Embassy to stop the practice after the report. (A.F.P.)

UNIVERSITY TO REOPEN

NAIROBI, April 25 - Nairobi University will reopen on June 2 after being closed for more than three months following campus riots, it was announced here today.

The students had protested against general conditions at the university and particularly the quality of the food. The disturbances in February led to the second closure of the university during this academic year, which began last September. (A.F.P.)

NJONJO TAKES SEAT

NAIROBI, April 26 - Kenya's former attorney-general, Charles Njonjo, was today elected unopposed as Member of Parliament for Kikuyu constituency (about 14 miles west of here).

Mr. Njonjo will be officially declared the member for Kikuyu on May 19, this year.

The Kikuyu seat fell vacant after the resignation of the Former MP for the area, Amos Nganga, who was also an assistant minister for Transport and Communications. (A.F.P.)

JUMBE OPENS LANGUAGE CENTRE

DAR-ES-SALAAM, April 27 - Many independent African states are still using foreign languages as their official languages because many local tongues are, in their present form, unsuitable for effective official communication, Tanzanian vice-president Aboud Jumbe said Saturday.

Mr. Jumbe made the statement as he was officially opening the Eastern African Centre for Research on Oral Traditions and African National Languages (Eacrotanal).

He noted that it was not easy for African states to select one language out of many in a given society without eliminating a large section of the people. With the establishment of Eacrotanal, he said much could be done to develop and promote comprehensive programs at the national and regional level to remedy the situation.

He said African concepts of culture should not be "morally and mainly" limited to traditional songs and dances. "We should aim at a whole way of life", he indicated.

Stressing that Eacrotanal could contribute "significantly" to the promotion of African culture and language, he called on the center to hold regular consultations with the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to make its programme up-to-date and with a Panafrican and international perspective.

Eacrotanal, located in the Tanzanian Island of Zanzibar, was established last year to promote the cultural development and unity of East African countries. (A.F.P.)

STATE SHARE-OUT OF LONRHO COMPANIES

DAR-ES-SALAAM, April 27 - The Tanzanian Government is to share out among state bodies the 19 companies in the country belonging to the Lonrho conglomerate which were nationalised at the end of 1978, deputy Industries Minister Chrisant Mzindakaya announced.

Tanzania halted Lonrho activities in June of that year because President Julius Nyerere felt the British group's chief executive, Roland "Tiny" Rowland, was "meddling" in Southern Africa affairs, particularly in Rhodesia (Zimbabwe).

A three-month period for negotiating the sale of Lonrho's assets to the Tanzanian National Development Corporation expired without agreement being reached.

The minister said the State Motor Corporation, which has a monopoly on vehicle imports, would operate the 12 firms in Lonrho's automobile sector from next Thursday (May 1). The remaining Lonrho holdings, including tea and cotton concerns, would be run by various para-statal bodies. (A.F.P.)

Tanzania

MILITARY DELEGATION IN BULGARIA

SOFIA, April 27 - A military delegation from Tanzania, led by Defence Minister Rashidi Kawawa, arrived here on a visit yesterday at the invitation of Bulgarian Defence Minister General Dobri Djurov.

The Tanzanian minister met with his Bulgarian counterpart but the press in Sofia today gave no details of their talks. (A.F.P.)

Uganda

THREE ARMY BARRACKS ATTACKED

KAMPALA, April 26 - Simultaneous attacks were made on three army barracks in Kampala last week, but no casualties were mentioned according to reports in two Kampala independent newspapers today.

Both the influential weekly "Topic" and vernacular Kampala daily "Taifa" said Malire, Makindye and Mbuya army barracks were attacked simultaneously on Friday night last week - the night of some of the heaviest shootings heard in Kampala for sometime.

All three military installations lie within a three-mile radius from the centre of the Ugandan capital.

The "Topic" devoted just one paragraph to the story. It quoted from a speech said to have been made earlier this week by the army Chief of Staff, Brigadier Oyite Ojok before Uganda's interim parliament, the National Consultative Council (NCC).

He gave no details of who made the attacks or why. (A.F.P.)

FRANCE OFFERS \$30 M. AID

KAMPALA, April 25 - France is to give Uganda financial aid worth 122 million francs (almost 30 million dollars), the Finance Ministry announced today.

The aid, which comes under an agreement signed in Paris earlier this month, is part of a packet which includes an outright grant, a long-term loan with a 10 year period of grace and long-term commercial credits to be guaranteed by the French government.

The bulk of the money - 100 million francs - will be used to buy signalling and communications equipment for Uganda railways and the remainder will be used to buy vehicles and equipment for the Ministry of Health.

The railways corporation recently bought a number of locomotives and rolling stock from France which are expected to be delivered soon. (A.F.P.)

FRENCH TROOPS BEGIN PULL-OUT

PARIS, April 28 - French troops which today began leaving Ndjamen, the capital of Chad, will be redeployed in coming weeks in neighbouring African countries with which France has military cooperation agreements, such as Cameroun and Gabon, an informed source here said.

The 1,100 troops plus additional command and support elements in Chad were withdrawn to their base in Ndjamen before fighting broke out on March 21 between forces of transitional government President Goukouni Weddeye and those of former Defence Minister Hissene Habre in a power struggle for the capital.

The withdrawal has begun four days after a visit to Ndjamen of French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing's African affairs adviser, Martin Kirsch. It also follows a Chadian cabinet meeting on Friday which reportedly decided to sack Mr. Habre and other ministers supporting him "for reasons of rebellion".

Military presence

Withdrawal of the French military presence in Chad was one of the elements of an agreement signed in Lagos last August 21 by 11 of Chad's different politico-military groups.

The Lagos agreement also called for demilitarization of Ndjamen and installation of a neutral force from Benin, Congo and Guinea. However, only Congolese forces ever arrived on the scene, and these withdrew soon after the latest outbreak of fighting.

French sources here were maintaining strict secrecy on the details of the troop withdrawal, but informed sources believed that the troops' first stop would be the Gabonese capital of Libreville or the Cameroun port of Douala.

It is not the first time that the French authorities have withdrawn their forces from their former colony. They were completely withdrawn in 1976 under the regime of the previous President of Chad, General Felix Malloum.

French troops returned in July 1977 after an offensive by the northern Chad-based Frolinat movement, now split, which had occupied Bardai, the most important oasis in Chad's northern desert region of Tibesti.

The French presence was further strengthened to 2,000 men in April 1978 after the collapse of an agreement signed in the Libyan port of Benghazi by Frolinat and the then-government of Chad. (A.F.P.)

"MINISTERS" DISPUTE SACKINGS

PARIS, April 28 - One of the ministers dropped from Chad's transitional government last week, Finance Minister Mahamat Saleh Ahmat, dismissed the measure as null and void, saying it had no legal basis and no practical application, in a statement to AFP Sunday.

He was sacked along with Defence Minister Hissene Habre and Reconstruction Minister Hadjero Senoussi by a special government meeting in Ndjamena chaired by President Goukouni Weddeye, whose forces have been locked in battle there for the past five weeks with the troops of Mr. Habre.

Mr. Saleh said that the meeting was not a proper cabinet session "but only a council of war of the six factions of the anti national coalition".

Mr. Saleh handles external relations for Mr. Habre's Armed Forces of the North. Speaking to AFP from the Ivory Coast capital Abidjan, he said the only result of President Weddeye's move would be to break last year's Lagos agreement setting up the transitional government of national unity.

Mr. Saleh said the legitimacy of that agreement grouping the 11 factions in Chad was indivisible.

Turning point

At the special meeting of Chad's transitional government on Friday Defence Minister Hissene Habre and the other ministers were sacked "for reasons of rebellion".

The cabinet meeting was attended by Southern Chadian leader Vice-President Colonel Wadal Abdelkader Kamougue and most other ministers from southern Chad.

A decree signed by President Goukouni said that the three ministerial portfolios were "reattached" to the presidency of the transitional government of national unity which resulted from the reconciliation agreement signed in Lagos.

The removal of Mr. Habre and those ministers who have been openly supporting him in his power struggle against President Goukouni is considered a turning point in the bloody power struggle in Chad.

It is clear that following his success in calling the first cabinet meeting of the Chadian government since February 9, the latest moves are aimed at reaffirming Mr. Goukouni's legitimacy against Mr. Habre's rebellion.

The moves, which could also make more difficult any negotiated solution to the conflict, did not come as a surprise. On April 10 President Goukouni announced his intention to "interpret exactly" the agreements signed in the Nigerian capital on August 21. (A.F.P.)

WOMAN KILLED IN MORTAR BLAST

NDJAMENA, April 28 - A French woman civilian was killed when a mortar shell hit her home here during the night, it was learned today as French troops began withdrawing from this civil war-ravaged town.

News of the withdrawal was raising deep doubts amid the few remaining civilians in Ndjamenena as to whether they can stay any longer.

About 1,000 French civilians have left here since fighting erupted between the Armed Forces of the North (FAN) of former Defence Minister Hissene Habre and the Peoples Armed Forces (FAP) of President Goukouni Weddeye on March 21.

Those who have stayed have helped ensure a minimum of facilities in Ndjamenena, such as the power station which now only supplies one part of the town and the French military base, and the airport which has been closed to civilian traffic since the fighting began.

It would be "suicidal" to want to stay under the present conditions, said one French civilian here today.

Observers here believe that it would be dangerous to try to maintain some kind of French civil presence in Ndjamenena now that its last military backing is leaving, observers here believe.

The woman killed in the mortar explosion was the second French national killed in the latest fighting in Chad. On March 21, a young French soldier here was shot dead. (A.F.P.)

WEDDEYE LOOKS FOR A CONQUEROR

LAGOS, April 29 - Chad can only be saved if a conqueror emerges from the fighting there, Chadian leader Goukouni Weddeye said here, adding that he favoured a military solution and did not want an inter-African force sending to his central African country yet.

President Goukouni Weddeye, whose troops are fighting those of his sacked Defence Minister Hissene Habre, told Agence France Presse here in the Nigerian capital: "The only solution which can save the Chadian people is that a conqueror emerges from this combat. I am in favour of a military solution".

Opposing the sending of an inter-African force to Chad "for the moment" - a question which had been raised on the fringe of two preparatory meetings here for the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) economic summit which opened yesterday - the Chadian leader said the conflict was rebellion against the legal government.

"Hissene Habre's ambition is clear. To take power by force of arms", he said, adding that Mr. Habre was the only one to have violated the Lagos agreements signed by 11 of Chad's different factions and that any solution involving a meeting of leaders of these factions would only detract from the problem". (A.F.P.)

Zambia

SOUTH AFRICANS WITHDRAW UNDER WESTERN PRESSURE

LUSAKA, April 27 - South Africa has withdrawn two troop battalions equipped with tanks and armoured cars who were occupying parts of Zambia's Western Province, President Kenneth Kaunda said in a filmed television interview shown today on the eve of his 56th birthday.

President Kaunda said that the South Africans decided to pull out two of their battalions from Western province because of pressure from Britain, West Germany, France, the United States, and Canada.

The five states make up the contact group involved in talks with the South African government for the independence of Namibia.

"After pressure from these Western countries, South Africa has now left small pockets of soldiers scattered through the province", he said. Adding that Zambia was grateful to the five countries for putting pressure on the South African authorities.

Early this month, Zambia lodged a formal protest with the United Nations Security Council over South Africa's "occupation of parts of Western Province".

Zambia demanded that the Security Council take Practical steps to force South Africa to withdraw its troops from Western Province.

It also called for economic sanctions against South Africa in the event of there being no response to its demand that South Africa withdraw its troops from Zambian territory. (A.F.P.)

"FUGITIVE" JAILED FOR YEAR

LUSAKA, April 25 - A white South African claiming to be an anti-government fugitive was jailed here today for a year for entering Zambia illegally.

Paul Kelvin, 19, of Johannesburg told the court he was wanted in South Africa where he claimed to have taken part in an attack on a police station and to have burnt several government vehicles.

He said he was trying to get to his organisation's headquarters in Angola and "came to Zambia because I thought it was the easiest way I could go to Angola".

The magistrate, sentencing him to 12 months in jail, said that while Zambia was sympathetic to freedom fighters in South Africa it did not accept anyone as a refuge simply because he was a freedom fighter. (A.F.P.)

POLICE ARREST HUNDREDS OF PUPILS

JOHANNESBURG, April 29 - South African police with dogs moved into a coloured (mixed race) high school today in western township near here and arrested hundreds of pupils who were boycotting classes, informed sources said here.

They added that police chased striking pupils through the streets of the coloured township in what appears to be the most serious incident in the two week old protest by thousands of young coloureds and Indians against "racist and inferior education".

Police also made several arrests in the African township of Mamelodi, near Pretoria, where four black high schools yesterday joined the boycott for the first time and where incidents occurred early today.

Meanwhile, more than 100,000 coloured and Indian students across South Africa continued their boycott of classes in protest against "inferior and racist education" reserved for non-whites.

In the Johannesburg region, they were joined yesterday by about 300 teachers in coloured schools who are striking in solidarity.

The two-week old movement began in coloured schools in the Cape region and last week spread to other parts of the country and to schools reserved for Indians. But it has not so far spread to significantly include young black Africans.

Minister for Coloured and Indian Affairs Marais Steyn last week threatened to close schools if the movement continued. He has not yet responded to the resumption of the movement, but the authorities have carried out a wave of arrests among anti-apartheid activists in recent days.

40 ARRESTED IN MEMORIAL MARCH CLASHES

JOHANNESBURG, April 27 - One policeman was hurt and 40 Africans arrested near Pretoria today in a clash sparked by a memorial ceremony for a young black nationalist guerrilla, Solomon Mahlangu, hanged a year ago in Pretoria.

The clash came as police intervened in a procession of several hundred people going from the home of the hanged man's family in the black township of Mamelodi to his grave in the neighbouring township of Atteridgeville.

~~Police said that the demonstrators threw stones at a~~
police checkpoint.

Only a few of the demonstrators were able to participate at the ceremony in the cemetery, where a memorial to Mahlangu was unveiled.

Among those arrested was a journalist of the black daily newspaper Post, Willie Bokala. Mahlangu, a member of the banned African National Congress (ANC) was condemned to death for participating in a shoot-out in Johannesburg. (A.F.P.)

Republic of South Africa

POLICE ARREST 15 BLACK MILITANTS

JOHANNESBURG, April 27 - Fifteen black nationalists have been arrested in South Africa since Friday, bringing the number of arrests of black militants since the beginning of last week to 27, the African paper Sunday Post reported today.

Although the reasons for the arrests were not known, observers noted recent statements by South Africa's Minister for Coloured (mixed race) Affairs, Marais Steyn.

The Minister has blamed the mass boycott of classes by coloured students in South Africa in recent days on propaganda efforts, and said the police would take action regarding the "agitators".

According to the Sunday Post, those arrested since Friday include David Johnson, Tyrone Hammond, Derrick Hughes, Mario da Costa, Charles Peterson and three others named as Colleen, Shinnez and Manus. (A.F.P.)

STUDENTS' LEADER IS JAILED

JOHANNESBURG, April 26 - The former secretary-general of the Soweto Students League (SSL), Kedibone Mathabe, 21, has been sentenced to nine years' imprisonment under South Africa's anti-terrorism laws, it was learned here today.

Three other young black SSL members were also jailed by the court at Kempton Park, near here. Colin Kotu, 23, was sentenced to seven years' imprisonment. Elias Modiga, 19, was sentenced to six years', and Simon Mashigo, also 19, was sentenced to five years.

All four had been accused of using Molotov cocktails to set fire to a school in the black township of Soweto, near Johannesburg, in 1978.

At Port Elizabeth, in South Africa's Cape province, eight Africans accused under the anti-terrorism laws of links with foreign based anti-apartheid guerrillas have been acquitted after the judge expressed doubts about the circumstances of their alleged confessions to police.

Their trial, which followed an 18-months wait in detention, lasted 71 days. (A.F.P.)

NO ACTION AGAINST BIKO DOCTORS

PRETORIA, April 26 - No disciplinary action is to be taken against the three doctors who attended "black consciousness" movement leader Steve Biko, before his death in detention in 1977.

The South African Medical and Dental Council decided Friday that there was no evidence of improper or disgraceful conduct on the part of the doctors: Dr. Benjamin Tucker, Dr. Ivor Lang and Dr. Colin Hersch. The Council examined a complaint about the doctors' conduct made by Eugene Roelofse, ombudsman of the South African Council of Churches. (A.F.P.)

PLEA FOR END TO VIOLENCE

SALISBURY, April 28 - Politically-motivated thugs and armed criminals are defying Prime Minister Robert Mugabe's warning - echoed by other leaders - that tough action will be taken against lawbreakers in newly-independent Zimbabwe.

With black civilians the main target of politically inspired violence and straight robbery, a white policeman was killed by a dissident guerrilla armed with a Soviet-made rifle and another policeman was wounded in the leg while trying to break up a political meeting here yesterday.

Black civilians continue to be the main target of the politically motivated violence and armed robbery.

A woman has died after a beating ordered by a kangaroo court formed by a committee of Mr. Mugabe's ZANU party. Police said she had been accused of being a witch.

And a black storekeeper had both eyes and his tongue cut out by two armed men, who stole cash and goods worth 1,000 Zimbabwean dollars (U.S. dollars 1,600).

Beaten up

Against this background Home Affairs Minister Joshua Nkomo, whose ministry covers the police, is the latest to appeal for calm and an end to the violence which he says is harming the newly-independent state.

A coloured (mixed race) soldier was abducted at gunpoint in Salisbury over the weekend, taken out of town and beaten up by a group of young blacks, the police said.

Concerned about the continuing violence, extra police have been on duty in several black townships, particularly at weekends. Black civilians report that the youth wing of Mr. Mugabe's party has been responsible for several incidents in which people have been assaulted.

Several incidents of armed robbery have also been reported in the black townships.

Official sources say the violence is part of general unrest and tension following the February elections and the independence ceremonies this month which were also marred by violence and in which three people were killed.

In a recent national radio and television broadcast, Mr. Mugabe said he had given offenders "his last warning". (A.F.P.)

Zimbabwe

FIRST ENVOYS TO PRESENT CREDENTIALS

SALISBURY, April 28 - The first eight envoys to be accredited to independent Zimbabwe will present their credentials here tomorrow, the Foreign Ministry announced today.

The accreditation ceremony, the first to be staged since Zimbabwe became independent on April 18, will be held at government house. The new envoys will present their credentials to President Canaan Banana, who will be accompanied by Foreign Affairs Minister Simon Muzenda, the Ministry said.

Of the eight states, four are represented at Ambassador level : Mozambique, Egypt, Guinea and Sweden. Tanzania, Britain, Zambia and Canada have High Commissioners.

The ceremony is expected to be the first of several needed to allow foreign government representatives formally to establish their presence in the new state.

The influx of foreign government representatives and their staff has caused a shortage of office space in the capital. Several reported having difficulty in finding suitable offices, caused mainly by a cut-back in the building of city centre office blocks in recent years.

Prices of residential homes have also risen sharply since independence, with real estate agents reporting a rise of between eight and 15 per cent.

Top price paid so far for an "ambassadorial residence" was 375,000 Zimbabwean dollars (U.S. 600,000) for a mansion in one of the city's most exclusive areas. The buyer's name has not been revealed.

Zambia is reported to have bought a score of houses in various parts of the city for its High Commission staff, more than any other government so far. (A.F.P.)

NINE KILLED IN BUS CRASH

SALISBURY, April 29 - Nine black passengers of a bus were killed and about 50 injured, some seriously, when their vehicle collided with a lorry in the middle of a narrow bridge over a river near Umvuma, about 200 kms (125 miles) south of the Zimbabwe capital here, it was learned today.

The lorry is believed to have been an Army vehicle. (A.F.P.)

Africa : Semi-weekly Interafrican News survey : Date April 29, 1980, No.2684

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