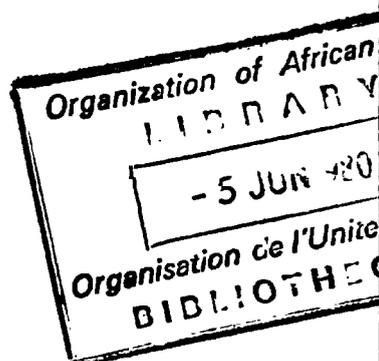


AFRICA

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PTA "SPRINGBOARD"

ADDIS ABABA, May 28 - The early creation of a preferential trade area (PTA) for Eastern and Southern Africa would be a major step toward the creation of an African common market by the year 2000, a leading economist said here today.

Adebayo Adedeji, the Nigerian Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), told negotiators for the sub-region that the PTA could come into being before the end of the year if the draft treaty was finalized immediately.

Mr. Adedeji was addressing the opening session here of a 10-day inter-governmental negotiating meeting, attended by 64 delegates from 14 nations.

He said the meeting assumed "a new dimension" coming as it did in the wake of last month's special Organization of African Unity (OAU) economic summit which approved the Lagos plan of action covering the next two decades.

Ethiopia's Permanent Secretary for Foreign Trade, Yosef Wolde Michael, formally opening the conference, said the PTA would "create a springboard for a much broader movement" leading to self-sustaining economic development for the continent.

Six protocols

Mr. Adedeji welcomed Zimbabwe to the meeting as the 18th member of the regional economic group and congratulated the Government and people of that country for their successful war of liberation.

Madagascar, Malawi, Seychelles and Somalia were absent from the opening, while Rwanda attended as an observer.

The meeting, switched from the Ugandan capital Kampala, is expected to negotiate 6 of 14 remaining protocols, including the revised draft treaty for the establishment of the PTA. Its conclusions will go before the second special conference of ministers of trade, finance and planning scheduled to meet in August this year.

Heads of state of the 18-nation grouping are expected to sign the treaty before the end of the year. (A.F.P.)

COCOA GLUT

LONDON, May 29 - While sugar prices are at five-year highs because of the growing shortage of the commodity, the depression is worsening on the cocoa market. Not only will there be a world glut in 1980 for the third year running, but estimates of the surplus have been raised again in recent weeks and some analysts are already anticipating a fresh surplus next year.

In addition, demand remains very thin despite the low prices. (A.F.P.)

PANA : "DECOLONISATION
AND DEMONOPOLISATION"

DAKAR, May 29 - The Pan-African News Agency (PANA), a step towards the "decolonisation and demonopolisation" of news, will hopefully come into operation in July during the forthcoming Organisation of African Unity (OAU) summit in Freetown, Sierra Leone, Angolan Information Minister Lucio Lara said here.

Mr. Lara was addressing the opening of a special three-day meeting yesterday at which the agency's Inter-Governmental Council will discuss creation of the agency's technical, administrative and financial structures.

PANA Director Sheikh Ousmane Diallo told the Council that third world countries had no control over the type, treatment and distribution of news provided daily by foreign news agencies.

He also expressed regret that the agency's activities in the financial and administrative sphere had so far been characterised by the "slowness" with which member states paid their contributions.

The PANA Inter-governmental Council consists of representatives of the 50 OAU member states. (A.F.P.)

GENSCHER : "THREAT
OF DEPENDENCES"

BONN, May 28 - West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher today called on non-aligned African states to intervene more in favour of world peace, in particular in Asia and the Middle East.

Mr. Genscher, speaking at a reception marking the foundation of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), noted that the Afghan crisis was over a member of the non-aligned movement.

The Soviet intervention in Afghanistan "opened eyes" and demonstrated "where the threat of new dependences comes from", he said.

The West German Minister welcomed recent decisions made by Southern African states in Lusaka and by an OAU economic summit meeting in Lagos, "regional cooperation perhaps being the decisive contribution for the unity, peace and stability of the region".

"We are convinced that solution of the last problem in Southern Africa, the Namibian question, is now close. Zimbabwe has shown that negotiated solutions lead to success and national reconciliation", he added.

"Those that are still holding back realization of the United Nations plan for Namibia are only delaying a development that they cannot, however, prevent". (A.F.P.)

KGB NEWS NET...

LONDON, May 28 - All Soviet news correspondents abroad are agents of the KGB (intelligence service) "to a greater or lesser extent", the Times of London was told by Tass news agency's former chief foreign editor Ilya Dzhirkvelov, who defected to Britain last month.

In a report based on exclusive interviews with him, the Times said Mr. Dzhirkvelov was a full-time KGB officer until 1956. Then he was a Tass correspondent in Zanzibar and Sudan. Finally he was information officer for the United Nations-affiliated World Health Organization (WHO) in Geneva until last month. During all these assignments he said he reported to the KGB.

Some foreign correspondents were "pure journalists" who sent dispatches to Tass, he was quoted as saying, while others were KGB agents using journalism as a cover. But both were intelligence agents whether they worked directly for the KGB or not, he commented.

In Khartoum, he met every morning with a KGB agent to report in detail on his conversations with Sudanese officials. But Moscow tended to prefer reports that indicated the Communist cause was making progress, and ignore less palatable reports and inconvenient facts, he told the Times.

"He was dismayed to discover in 1971 that Moscow took the quite unfounded view that Sudan was ripe for a pro-Soviet coup", the newspaper said. He claimed to have advised the KGB to the contrary. Yet a Communist coup took place in July 1971. The conspirators were rounded up and shot.

Soviet citizens interested in politics were growing aware of the "gap between objective truth and the Soviet version" because 99 per cent of them listened to newscasts of the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) or the Voice of America, Mr. Dzhirkvelov said. (A.F.P.)

PEACH : MISADVENTURE

LONDON, May 28 - Anti-Nazi League protester Blair Peach died by misadventure in last year's Southall riots, the inquest jury decided in a unanimous verdict after a retirement of four hours 40 minutes yesterday.

The inquest on the 33-year-old New Zealand teacher and anti-Nazi League protester, who died after a blow to the head during the anti-National Front riots in Southall, West London, last year, was entering its fifth week. The jury added riders which inevitably called into question the organisation of the controversial Special Patrol Group (SPG) of Metropolitan Police officers. This group was in action to deal with the Southall demonstration against a rightwing National Front election meeting. (A.F.P.)

1,600 M. HIKE IN
THIRD WORLD AID

VIENNA, May 28 - Finance ministers from the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) Tuesday agreed in principle to a hike in aid funds for the third world from 2,400 to 4,000 million dollars, but they failed to agree on how the 13 OPEC members would share extra payments to the fund.

After the meeting, OPEC Secretary-General René Ortiz said it would be up to Ibrahim Shihata, managing-director of the fund, to agree with each of the 13 finance ministers on their respective allocations, which are voluntary contributions.

OPEC oil ministers had recommended at their Caracas conference last December an increase of resources of the aid fund, which until last January had received a total 2,400 million dollars.

Iran, which until the advent of the Islamic revolution contributed 25 per cent of the fund capital, indicated yesterday that its falling oil production and exports did not allow it to contribute as much as in the past.

Iranian Finance Minister Reza Salami proposed a change of the sharing-out scheme of contributions based on the volume of a member's oil exports. But the proposal was turned down and payments of each of the 13 members could not be fixed. (A.F.P.)

OIL & ENERGY

CURBING THE OUTPUT

PARIS, May 28 - Thirteen members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), including Saudi Arabia, have endorsed plans to curb their oil output in the medium term, the pro-Socialist Paris daily Le Matin reported today.

The paper, which said it had obtained a copy of OPEC's recently adopted report on long-term strategy, said the organisation felt developments on the oil front in the past 17 months had increased the likelihood of an energy crisis before 1985.

It said OPEC's "immediate" objective was to establish a "floor price" for crude reflecting inflation, exchange rate variations and real economic growth in the industrialised world. Saudi "Arabian Light" crude would no longer serve as the "benchmark" for OPEC prices.

A longer-term objective would be to raise crude prices to levels close to the cost of alternative energy sources in order to encourage a switch away from oil, the paper said. (A.F.P.)

POLLUTION PLANNING

MONTE CARLO, May 28 - Advance planning to fight oil pollution on the Norwegian continental shelf now appears to be the world's best, an oilman from Phillips Petroleum Exploration U.K. Ltd. told a conference on petroleum and the marine environment here today.

More than 20 countries are represented at the conference, called Petromar 80, which is sponsored by the European Association of Oil Industry Interests and the International Arctic Committee.

Norwegian operators have responded quickly to the need to meet public concern over potential pollution, and have put a strong emphasis on adequate equipment, according to the Phillips representative, K.A. Westby.

He added that Norway held operators responsible for oil pollution on behalf of licence holders, explaining that an emergency plan manual envisaged 18 different contingency plans covering all possible accidents in offshore operations.

The Norwegian Government had set up an action command committee, Mr. Westby said, commenting that the Norwegian plan "seems to represent the ultimate in oil spillage preparedness with today's technology". (A.F.P.)

THE YEAR'S TOLL

MONTE CARLO, May 28 - Oil accidents last year killed 250 people, 50,000 birds and 270,000 fish, and led to the loss of 328 million gallons of oil, a U.S. expert said here today.

Richard S. Golob, manager of the American publication Oil Spill Intelligence Report, said the oil loss figure was 56 per cent up on 1978.

Some 73 per cent of oil loss was the result of four disasters : the Ixtoc One disaster in the Gulf of Mexico, Forcados in Nigeria, Galverton in Texas and the Bosphorous collision in November.

The worst disasters in history were Ixtoc One and the Amoco Cadiz grounding in Brittany in March 1978, the spills being respectively 140 million and 68 million gallons. (A.F.P.)

GABONESE RISE

LIBREVILLE, May 28 - Gabon has announced that its various categories of crude oil will go up two dollars in price, back-dated to May 15.

This was designed to align prices with those of the other members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), officials said. (A.F.P.)

SOVIET ADDS TWO

LONDON, May 27 - The Soviet Union has increased the price of its crude oil by two dollars per barrel for all exports outside of the Comecon (the Eastern countries' common market), according to sources in the London oil market.

The Soviet Union thus aligned itself with other oil exporting countries, following the worldwide increases begun 10 days ago by Saudi Arabia.

Moreover, Saudi Arabia will hike its crude prices soon, according to Europ-Oil Prices, an oil trade newspaper. This could take place "on the eve or during the (Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries) ministers' meeting June 9, and this time it will not be two dollars but five dollars or more", the newspaper predicted.

The reason for the anticipated hike, according to the paper, is that Saudi Arabia suffered its third failure in its continuing attempts to standardize prices within OPEC. "It is now obvious", the newspaper stated, "that the Saudi policy of low prices and high production, which was aimed at moderating the stance of OPEC's hawks, has failed". (A.F.P.)

RICE BARTER

NEW DELHI, May 29 - India will supply 500,000 tons of rice to the Soviet Union in exchange for crude and petroleum products of the same value, the Financial Express reported today.

The paper said that a barter deal to this effect had been finalised and an official announcement was expected soon.

The quantity of rice to be exported to the Soviet Union was expected to cost about 187.5 million U.S. dollars.

The Soviet Union was badly in need of foodgrains, particularly after the stoppage of supplies by the United States, and its foodgrain production had dropped considerably, the paper said. (A.F.P.)

LOAN DEAL

NAIROBI, May 29 - Kenya has undertaken to buy its oil direct from Iraq in return for a 30 million dollar loan, Kenyan President Daniel Arap Moi said here after his return yesterday from visits to Iraq and the United Arab Emirates.

The Kenyan President said that the United Arab Emirates had granted Kenya a 29 million pound sterling (approx.64 million dollar) loan.

The money would help finance road building projects and the development of geothermic energy at Olkaria in the country's Rift Valley Province, he added. (A.F.P.)

CHINA SEA SHARE

PEKING, May 29 - The French oil companies Total and Elf today signed deals here for prospecting and exploitation in the China Sea off-shore oilfields.

The contracts are "shared risk". Elf will operate a 9,400 square km (3,760 square mile) zone in the Bohai Gulf in the North China Sea, and Total a 10,192 square km (4,077 square mile) zone north-west of Beibu Gulf in the South China Sea.

The companies will each have a 49 per cent share. Duration of the contracts and the money involved was not divulged. Prospecting will start in the next few weeks.

Total and Elf are covering for each other by sharing part of the profits while retaining independent control in their particular zones. (A.F.P.)

URANIUM FIND

PARIS, May 28 - Ore containing some 20,000 tons of uranium metal, equivalent energy-wise to 200 million tons of oil, has been found near Bordeaux in the south-west French region of Coutras. It is equal to one-fifth of France's known uranium reserves, said COGEMA, a subsidiary of the Atomic Energy Commissariat. (A.F.P.)

MIDDLE EAST

FACILITIES ONLY...

WASHINGTON, May 28 - The United States is still studying the possibility of using Egyptian air bases, but does not plan to station F-15 fighter jets or other military units-permanently there, the Defense Department announced Tuesday.

Pentagon spokesman Thomas Ross said proposals to that effect made by Egyptian President Anwar Sadat - the Egyptian leader reiterated them in a recent interview - were still welcome.

He reaffirmed that Washington wanted access to Egyptian facilities only in case of possible intervention in the Gulf area.

He stressed that there was a difference between the establishment of bases and "using other people's facilities without an elaborate permanent structure".

Mr. Loss also noted that similar negotiations were under way with Kenya, Somalia and Oman. But contrary to these three countries, he added, Egypt had, of its own initiative, offered the use of its bases to the United States.

He indicated that U.S. Awacs "flying radars" aircraft had recently taken part in training missions over Egypt - but he refused to confirm reports that C-130 transport planes used during last month's aborted U.S. raid to free the American hostages held in Iran had stopped over in Egypt. (A.F.P.)

SIX MORE FOR
BUFFER ZONE...

TEL AVIV, May 28 - Six Jewish settlements will be built in Southern Gaza which, with the existing three, will form a "security buffer zone" to compensate for evacuation of Israeli villages in North Sinai under Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty terms, according to the Israeli newspaper Haaretz.

The new settlements will be in the south-west, near the international frontier, according to the report, which said that the World Zionist Organization had started leveling the earth for the first settlement.

Reacting to the report, Israeli Deputy Meir Payil sent an urgent message to Prime Minister Menachem Begin asking that the settlement plan not be executed.

Mr. Payil emphasized in his message, communicated by radio, that "these settlements will undergo the same fate as those of North Sinai". Saying that perhaps they, too, would have to be evacuated, the Deputy said that meanwhile "they hinder the progress toward peace and trouble an already heavily burdened economy". (A.F.P.)

NO HURRY, SAYS BURG

JERUSALEM, May 29 - Israel does not contemplate resuming negotiations with Egypt on Palestinian autonomy in the near future, chief Israeli negotiator Yosef Burg told American Ambassador Samuel Lewis last night.

There was "no hurry", Mr. Burg told newsmen afterwards, and Israel was concentrating on the political problem of reshuffling the Cabinet in the wake of Defence Minister Ezer Weizman's resignation.

Mr. Burg added that the latest Egyptian and American suggestions for resuming the negotiations did not satisfy Israel. He will meet with Mr. Lewis again next week in the search for agreement on how to resume negotiations. (A.F.P.)

20,000 M. LAWSUIT...

LONDON, May 28 - Two American Moslem lawyers announced here today they planned to sue the producer of the television documentary "Death of a Princess" and the British and United States networks that screened it for 20,000 million dollars in damages.

They said they would do so in the name of their coreligionists. The film, a reconstruction of events leading to the execution for adultery of a Saudi princess, brought a protest from Saudi Arabia and a cooling of Anglo-Saudi relations. (A.F.P.)

DAVID "NOWHERE"

LONDON, May 29 - King Hussein of Jordan dismissed the entire Camp David approach to a Palestinian settlement as mistaken, in an interview here, saying it provided no hope for a lasting peace in the Middle East.

"The whole of the Camp David approach (to Palestinian self-determination) is wrong, and will lead nowhere", the King told the London-based Arabic-language newspaper Al Majallah. The U.S.-sponsored peace talks between Egypt and Israel were an "Israeli tactic" designed to gain time and block any real peace, and isolated Egypt from the rest of the Arab world, the Jordanian monarch said.

Jordan's position, he said, remained the same as in 1967, when Israel occupied Jordan's West Bank: "To restore the lands to their rightful owner, the Palestinian people, and not to Jordanian sovereignty as before 1967".

Only after Israel accepted this would Jordan join in negotiations, he said. (A.F.P.)

KENYA AND PLO

NAIROBI, May 30 - The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) bureau here said today the Kenyan Government had granted it full diplomatic status. There was no official Kenyan announcement.

The bureau has until now only been accorded full diplomatic status by two United Nations bodies which have their headquarters here, the U.N. Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Center for Human Settlements (Habitat). (A.F.P.)

WATER FOR SINAI

CAIRO, May 28 - The Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Butros Ghali, has told the Ethiopian Ambassador that Egypt has the "absolute right" to pipe its share of water from the Nile into the Sinai Peninsula.

Ethiopia has formally complained about the Egyptian project to the Organisation of African Unity, but Egypt maintains that Ethiopia's action constitutes unacceptable interference in Egyptian affairs.

The Ethiopian complaint followed the inauguration last month by President Anwar Sadat of a tunnel under the Suez Canal that is to take Nile water to Sinai and allow the cultivation of several thousand hectares of desert.

In a recent interview with the Washington Post, Mr. Sadat said the water would not be sent to Israel. (A.F.P.)

Libya

ALARMING, SAYS AMNESTY

LONDON, May 29 - Recent murders of Libyans in Europe are only one illustration of "alarming" violations of human rights in Libya, where the deaths of seven people in detention have been reported to Amnesty International, the human rights organisation said here today.

In a statement, the Nobel Prize-winning body recalled the "revolutionary committees" February meeting in Benghazi which called for the "physical liquidation" of the Libyan regime's opponents living abroad, and for that of "elements, in Libya, obstructing revolutionary change".

Amnesty International said that three of the seven deaths in detention had been confirmed. All the dead were lawyers, former members of the Baath Party.

All lawyers were under strong pressure in Libya and laws were being prepared to make the defence role more difficult, the organisation said, adding that an Amnesty member recently attended the trial of 18 writers and newsmen accused of belonging to a Marxist organisation - the maximum penalty for which was death. (A.F.P.)

Egypt

98.96 PER CENT

CAIRO, May 28 - Egyptian voters have overwhelmingly approved a referendum to amend the 1971 constitution.

Interior Minister Nabaoui Ismail announced that 98.96 per cent of the voters, or 10,339,055 of the 10,467,442 people who went to the polls, agreed to the changes. Only 108,657 voted against them. Egypt has 12,038,462 registered electors, according to Mr. Ismail's figures. (A.F.P.)

Algeria

CHAINS, BARS, TRUNCHEONS

ALGIERS, May 28 - Law students clashed here violently on Tuesday, fighting for three hours with motorbike chains, iron bars and truncheons at the Ben Aknoun faculty on the heights of the city.

Eyewitnesses said the trouble started when undergraduates favouring the use of French tried to force Arabic-language adherents to join a strike for the release of 24 people due to appear before Algeria's State Security Court on charges arising from agitation in Tizi Ouzou, the chief town of the country's Berber (non-Arab) region.

Yesterday's clash followed a raid Saturday by Arabic-speaking students on the university's science section at Bab Ezzouar at the other end of town to break up a student strike. About 30 people were injured then. Students in all faculties have over the past week been staging meetings for and against the boycott of courses. (A.F.P.)

FREE TRADE AREA
SET FOR 1981

LOME, May 28 - The 16-nation Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) will become a free trade area for regional products next year, a two-day ECOWAS summit conference decided here.

The decision, announced today in the final communique of this fifth ECOWAS summit, means that member countries are now determined to implement the programme on liberalisation of trade exchanges drawn up at the inaugural ECOWAS conference held in Lagos in May 1975.

The deadline set by the conference for the lifting of customs duties and barriers on local raw materials was May 28 next year.

The 12 heads of government and three other delegation leaders here drew up an eight-year timetable for liberalising movement of industrial products with priority to be given to certain goods produced by the more advanced member states.

(The Liberian delegation, led by new Head of State Master Sergeant Samuel Doe, was excluded from the meeting. During the April 12 coup which brought him to power the sitting Organisation of African Unity Chairman, President William Tolbert, was assassinated).

Defence need

On the question of an ECOWAS defence pact, described by Togolese President Gnassingbe Eyadema at the conference opening session as a "logical follow-up to the signing of the non-aggression protocol", the final communique said that the conference agreed on an urgent need for a common defence organisation to safeguard community institutions.

A ministerial committee was formed by eight members - Cape Verde, Ivory Coast, Liberia, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo - to produce a final draft of a mutual aid protocol debated in Lagos last February.

During preparatory discussion, several countries (Mali, Benin, Cape Verde and Guinea-Bissau) raised objections to the existing project.

In other fields the heads of government agreed on both short-and long-term programmes to develop regional transport and telecommunications systems.

Turning to the situation in post-coup Liberia, the final communique announced that Sierra Leone, Togo, Guinea and Ivory Coast had been mandated to watch developments in that country and report back to next year's summit. (A.F.P.)

General Information

FLAGRANT VIOLATION...

MONROVIA, May 30 - Liberian Ambassadors to Nigeria, Sierra Leone and the Ivory Coast have been recalled for consultations following a refusal to allow Head of State Samuel K. Doe to take part in this week's summit meeting of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Liberian Foreign Minister Gabriel Bacchus Matthews announced last night.

Mr. Matthews also announced recall of Ambassador T. Ernest Eastman, Secretary-General of the Mano River Union, which has its headquarters in the Sierra Leone capital of Freetown.

The Minister was speaking in a national radio and television broadcast on the fifth ECOWAS summit in the Togolese capital of Lomé on Tuesday when, he said, Nigeria and Ivory Coast strongly sought exclusion of the Liberian delegation.

Mr. Matthews said that the Liberian Government was asking Nigeria to reduce immediately its nine-man mission in Liberia to two officials, the same level as Liberian Embassy representation in Lagos.

The Foreign Minister added that Liberia was suspending all its obligations to ECOWAS until its rights were restored.

Liberia viewed the refusal to allow Master Sergeant Doe to attend the ECOWAS summit as unfriendly and detrimental to the goals of the Community, he said, while debarring Liberia from exercising its rights of participation constituted a flagrant violation of the ECOWAS treaty. (A.F.P.)

TWO GET LOANS

WASHINGTON, May 30 - The World Bank announced 57 million dollars' worth of loans to two African states Thursday.

They included 32 million dollars for a rural development program in Nigeria's Ondo State and 25 million dollars for road construction in Ghana. (A.F.P.)

Guinea

FREEDOM FOR 50

DAKAR, Senegal, May 28 - President Ahmed Sekou Touré freed 50 Guinean prisoners during February and March, according to an issue of the Government Gazette that reached here from Conakry.

The publication also said that death sentences against six Guineans had been commuted to hard labour for life, and that sentences of hard labour for life against nine Guineans had been reduced to 20 years.

There was no indication whether the persons affected were political or common law prisoners. (A.F.P.)

Liberia

BRIBERY CHARGE

MONROVIA, May 30 - Two law enforcement officers have been arrested after one of them allegedly gave the other 5,500 dollars to obtain the release of three political prisoners, including Winston Henries, son of the former Speaker of the House under the deposed Tolbert regime.

Announcing this at a press conference here yesterday, the co-chairman of the ruling People's Redemption Council, Maj. Gen. Thomas Weh Syen, Gen. Thomas Quinwonkpa, Defense Minister Samuel Pearson and Justice Minister Chea Cheapoo condemned the incident as anti-revolutionary and against the interest of the Liberian people.

They said the money was given by Immigration Officer Beatrice Bao to Army Corporal Amos Gee in an effort to win the release of the three prisoners - Winston Henries, Lester Parker and Louis Russ - all detained for high treason and corruption. Officer Bao is the sister-in-law of Winston Henries, the son of Richard Henries, the former Speaker who was among 13 Tolbert officials executed in April. (A.F.P.)

ASSETS PROBE

MONROVIA, May 30 - Liberia's People's Redemption Council (PRC) has announced that all Government officials must declare their assets before their appointments are confirmed by the Council.

An announcement by the PRC spokesman, Brig. Gen. J. Nicholas Podier Jr., added that officials would be required to face a confirmation hearing before their appointment and commissioning by the Head of State.

Observers here believe the new rule will help lay a sound basis for the eradication of rampant corruption. (A.F.P.)

Ghana

MUTINEERS JAILED

ACCRA, May 29 - A court-martial in Ghana has sentenced seven soldiers and a civilian to jail terms ranging from five to 15 years on mutiny charges, the Armed Forces Public Relations Directorate disclosed here Tuesday night.

A lieutenant and a lance-corporal got 15 years, a sergent, two corporals and the civilian 12, and two leading aircraftmen 10 and five years respectively.

The court-martial ended 11 days ago, the Directorate said. It followed the arrest late in March of the eight accused on charges of "conspiracy to cause unrest". (A.F.P.)

Nigeria

DEARER TRAVEL

LAGOS, May 28 - Nigerian Airways is to increase fares on all international routes except Lagos - New York by 17 per cent as from June 1, it was announced here.

The fare for the Lagos - New York route was still under review, an airways spokesman said, explaining that the hike followed an increase in operating costs. (A.F.P.)

EAST AFRICA

General Information

THE WISE ENCLAVE...

PARIS, May 29 - Djibouti is the country in the troubled Horn of Africa region which has best overcome its problems, French Foreign Minister Jean-François Poncet said here Wednesday at a Quai d'Orsay dinner for the former French colony's President Hassan Gouled, in Paris for a two-day official working visit.

The French Minister hailed the "wisdom and moderation" of Djibouti under Mr. Gouled, whom he termed the "father" of the tiny enclave state between Ethiopia and Somalia. It became independent in 1977.

Mr. François-Poncet noted that Djibouti's part of the world, a meeting place for Europe, Africa and the Moslem world, had all the aspects of a trouble spot. Mr. Gouled stressed his country's non-aligned stance. Regarding development, he said, it sought not only finance but technical aid.

Some observers do not rule out that Djibouti may be able to mediate in the conflict between Ethiopia and Somalia, and may play a part in arranging a conference of all the region's countries, which has been suggested by France. (A.F.P.)

ALL FIELDS, ALL TIMES...

ADDIS ABABA, May 29 - Ethiopia and Sudan, in a joint communique following a four-day official visit to the Sudan by Ethiopian Head of State Mengistu Haile Mariam, have reaffirmed their determination to strengthen and deepen their relations and to consult each other "in all fields and at all times".

Lieutenant-Colonel Mengistu returned home yesterday after the first visit by an Ethiopian leader to Khartoum since the overthrow of former Emperor Haile Selassie in 1974.

The visit was aimed at healing a three-year rupture in relations between the two countries, stemming from Khartoum's support for secessionists in Ethiopia's northern Eritrea Province. The long communique, however, made no direct reference to the Eritrean problem. (A.F.P.)

Uganda

HEAVY GUARD FOR
THE TOP EXILE

KAMPALA, May 29 - Former President Milton Obote returned to the Ugandan capital today for the first time in more than nine years, heavily protected by both Tanzanian and Ugandan security forces.

Mr. Obote, who spent most of the nine years in neighbouring Tanzania after he was overthrown by his own army commander, the then Brigadier Idi Amin, in January 1975, ended his exile on Tuesday when he flew into Mbarara, South-Western Uganda, to address a political rally in nearby Bushenyi.

When his Tanzanian Air Force transport plane landed at the capital's Entebbe airport this afternoon, under unusually tight security he was greeted by his close political supporter, Paulo Muwanga, Chairman of the six-man Military Commission which seized power almost three weeks ago by ousting President Godfrey Binaisa.

Mr. Binaisa was the second Ugandan Head of State in 13 months of post-Amin Uganda, which has been marked by chronic political insecurity.

Bitter memory

Mr. Obote was heard to say "thank you, thank you" as he embraced Mr. Muwanga before shaking hands with the rest of the reception committee, which included members of his old Uganda Peoples Congress (UPC), some Cabinet Ministers and the two top-ranking officers in the Uganda National Liberation Army, Brigadier David Oyite Ojok and Major-General Tito Okello, both of whom are regarded as Obote supporters.

The 25-mile (40 kilometre) road from Entebbe to Kampala, in the heart of a region which is recognised as being hostile to the former President, was heavily guarded.

Armed soldiers were particularly obvious in the streets of the capital, where Mr. Obote is remembered bitterly for the abolition of the traditional kingdoms in 1966.

The opposition

The other main political party, which like the UPC is reconstituting itself in preparation for general elections before the end of the year, is due to hold a rally in Kampala on Saturday. The Democratic Party (DP), which formerly found most of its support among the country's Roman Catholics, is now seen by some observers as a rallying point for those who do not want Mr. Obote to return as President.

Mr. Obote is expected to make a tour of his homeland in the north next week before returning briefly to Dar-es-Salaam. (A.F.P.)

100 DEATHS A DAY

by Nick Worrall

KAMPALA, May 28 - People are dying of hunger at the rate of at least 100 a day in the Karamoja region of North-East Uganda, where some 140,000 people face a similar fate and relief organisations are struggling to provide sufficient emergency food.

This weekend at Moroto, the principal Karamoja town, neither the Catholic mission nor the local Red Cross headquarters had any food whatsoever with which to feed more than 2,000 hunger-driven tribes people waiting around in huddled groups. The last food arrived nearly three weeks ago.

Young children were rooting around the ground searching for grass seeds to eat.

The situation of Karamajong refugees who have struggled to make their way to Moroto in search of food is desperate. The first to die have been children under five years, some of whom have been eating hard, dry cow peas. Brought three weeks ago, supplies of these have since been exhausted.

Although the drought in principal ended when rains began to fall five weeks ago, it will be three months for more before newly-planted maize and sorghum can be harvested.

"The next 45 to 60 days will be critical in the relief operation if thousands more people are not to die", said one Red Cross observer who went to Moroto.

"But it looks especially bad for the children. Cow peas are indigestible eaten dry and uncooked by children in this malnourished condition", she added.

Food trucks hijacked

A Church of Uganda official who also went to the town said that since the beginning of January an average of less than 2.3 kilograms (about five pounds) of food per person at risk had reached the area.

Trucks carrying food had been hijacked, sacks of food stolen while en route and statistics of food deliveries were "inaccurate and confusing", he said. Some lorries have armed soldiers aboard in case of raids on convoys by bandits.

More than three-quarters of Karamoja's estimated cattle population of about 400,000 is believed to have been stolen by raiders armed with automatic rifles and anti-tank grenades taken from the Moroto armoury after it was abandoned by Idi Amin's fleeing soldiers last year.

And thousands of head of cattle are believed to have been taken across Uganda's borders into Kenya and Sudan for sale, sometimes for slaughter as butcher's meat.

Uganda

They're too weak

Missionaries at Moroto said that on average less than two cupfuls of seed per family had been made available for planting. The minimum needed for each family to cultivate an acre of land and fill its granary for six months was four kilogrammes of seed.

"This is a devastating problem that we think cannot be solved in the short term... and it is unlikely to be solved in the long term either because there will still be far too little food available after the harvest", said one priest.

He added that when people did have seeds they were often too weak to plant and hoe so they had simply eaten them.

Said one Red Cross official : "By Somali or Cambodian standards, this is not a big crisis, but you cannot measure tragedy by numbers. People are dying here and it seems that not enough is being done about it.

"We will go back to Europe now and appeal for a bigger effort. The world has not been told enough about this terrible situation (A.F.P.)

FOUR-WAY SUMMIT

KHARTOUM, May 28 - Tanzanian President Julius Nyerere has agreed to Sudan's proposals for a quadripartite regional summit conference to discuss chronic political instability in Uganda, the daily Al Sahafa reported today.

The newspaper said Mr. Nyerere, who still has some 10,000 troops in Uganda following last year's overthrow of Idi Amin by a liberation army spearheaded by Tanzanian units, agreed to Sudanese President Gaafar Nimeiry's call for a meeting of the Sudanese, Tanzanian Kenyan and Ugandan leaders during a meeting in Dar-es-Salaam on Monday with Sudanese Ambassador Kamal Mustafa Al Mekki.

No date has been set for the conference. (A.F.P.)

Ethiopia

DISASTER TALKS

ADDIS ABABA, May 29 - A mission from the United Nations Disaster Relief Organization (UNDRO) has begun talks here with Ethiopian authorities on future aid for more than 5 million Ethiopian drought victims.

The team arrived here yesterday to visit areas most seriously affected and to assess damage caused.

Its aim is to determine present and future effects of drought on the local population and to estimate the short and long-term relief aid needs of victims. (A.F.P.)

Djibouti

60 M. FROM IRAQ

DJIBOUTI, May 28 - Iraq has granted this Horn of Africa republic almost 60 million dollars in aid, part of which will go towards helping drought victims, a presidential communique announced here today.

More than half the aid was in the form of a gift, according to the communique, which followed a visit to Iraq by Premier Barkat Gourad.

Mr. Gourad, who returned on Saturday, said later on radio that Iraqi agricultural and drilling experts would be arriving. He said Iraqi aid to drought victims, a gift, would total 1.4 million dollars.

Iraq would also fund the construction of housing, supply a laboratory for the Higher Institute of Scientific and Technical Studies, help finance a cement processing plant and give Air Djibouti a Boeing jet, he added.

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein had also given President Hassan Gouled a plane for his personal use, he said. (A.F.P.)

CENTRAL AFRICA

Zambia

N. KOREAN EXPERTS

LUSAKA, May 28 - Zambia and North Korea have signed protocol covering creation of an irrigation system, construction of an institute for training 1,000 Zambian cadres and conditions of service for Korean experts here.

The irrigation system is planned to cover 1,000 hectares (approx. 2,500 acres) in the Mumbwa area west of here.

North Korea has also agreed to construct a pump factory, supply equipment and provide technical personnel for a rural reconstruction centre.

The protocols were signed here yesterday by National Development and Planning Commission Minister of State Unia Mwila and Korean representative Han Tae Yol. (A.F.P.)

GO-SLOW DEATHS

LUSAKA, May 30 - Premature babies have died at the university teaching hospital here as a result of a go-slow by junior doctors, the Times of Zambia said today.

The front-page report, quoting a reliable source at the hospital, said that 16 out of 26 babies born prematurely at the hospital between the weekend and Wednesday died because they were not incubated in time. The doctors began their go-slow on May 20, saying they were living in horrible conditions and demanding better pay. Efforts to persuade them to resume normal hours of work have so far failed. (A.F.P.)

TEN-YEAR FOOD
PROGRAMME

LUSAKA, May 28 - Zambia is embarking on an intensive 10-year mechanised national food production programme costing an estimated 500 million dollars.

President Kenneth Kaunda told a news conference at State House that the programme would be largely financed by foreign countries and international organizations. It was intended to make Zambia self-sufficient in food by the end of the 10-year period.

Among countries backing the programme were Austria, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Finland, France, West Germany, East Germany, India, Iraq, Norway, Sweden, Russia, Britain, the United States and North Korea, Dr. Kaunda said.

The European Economic Community (EEC), the Christian Council of Zambia and the Roman Catholic Church would also be concerned in the programme, he added.

Foreign personnel

Under the programme, two state farms, each of about 20,000 hectares (500,000 acres) will be established in each of Zambia's nine provinces. These are to be managed by foreign personnel.

President Kaunda said that the country's present so-called national service farms would be "rejuvenated" and enlarged up to 20,000 hectares or more, and new ones would be established where there were none at present.

Zambia's rural construction centres would be converted into cooperatives and these would be managed by skilled expatriate personnel, he said.

Speaking of the new establishments, the President said: "In the past these things failed because we did not prepare the skills, but now we are off to a good start". They would have social amenities such as schools, clinics, recreation centres and shops, he added.

"Fantastic" conditions

An elaborate training programme for Zambian manpower had already been established.

The foreign countries backing the programme would provide aid consisting either of cereals to meet this year's food deficit, or fertilizer, or agricultural equipment or qualified personnel, Mr. Kaunda said, adding: "Their conditions of payment are fantastic, with a long grace period of payment up to 10 years".

There would also be extended repayment periods of up to 25 years with interest ranging from two to five per cent "or no interest at all", Dr. Kaunda said. Some payment would be made in kind.

Zambia

Incentive for whites

President Kaunda also announced that farmers would be given an incentive to use fertilizer through a price reduction of about 2.4 dollars on a 50-kilogramme bag.

The Cabinet had also instructed Zambia's Finance Minister to devise an incentive for white commercial farmers to be paid in foreign exchange, he said.

There would be a premium of 0.4 dollars per bag of fertilizer for those who delivered more than 5,000 sacks of maize, wheat or soya to the buying organizations.

Zambia, which needs 700,000 tonnes of maize as staple food for a population of some 5,000,000, has so far this year had to import 200,000 tonnes ahead of the harvest which begins next month.

The country's agricultural policy came in for severe criticism last year from French agronomist René Dumont, who spent a lengthy period in Zambia at President Kaunda's invitation. (A.F.P.)

INCITEMENT CHARGE

LUSAKA, May 28 - External forces have been inciting the Zambian Army to overthrow the Government, according to Army Commander Lt-General Benjamin Mibenge.

Gen. Mibenge told an officers' seminar that if the outside forces, who had been working with people inside the country, had succeeded they would have "plunged this nation into a situation which should have been too ghastly to contemplate".

He said that throughout the 1970s officers had been "bombarDED" with documents, purportedly coming from Zambian students in London, inciting the Defence Force to "rise against the people". These circulars had dwelt on the problems which faced the Defence Force, such as lack of accommodation.

Lt-General Mibenge told the seminar : "To the local internal collaborators and perpetrators of such tactics, I wish to caution that nobody would stand to win in the event of the Defence Force being alienated against the party and the nation". (A.F.P.)

MINE KILLS 13

LUSAKA, May 29 - Thirteen people were killed and two seriously injured when a Landrover they were travelling in hit a landmine planted near Siavonga on the border with Zimbabwe during the pre-independence Rhodesia bush war, police said today.

The dead and injured were Zambian employees of Agip SPA, an Italian company prospecting for uranium in the area, a police spokesman added. Official sources meanwhile said Army experts would be sent to Gwembe district, which includes Siavonga town, to uncover landmines planted by Rhodesian soldiers during the seven-year bush war. (A.F.P.)

Chad

200,000 REFUGEES

YAOUNDE, Cameroun, May 29 - The number of Chadian refugees who have fled to the Cameroun town of Kousseri from war-torn Ndjamaena has topped 200,000, according to figures released by the President's Office here.

Members of the Cameroun committee organising relief for the refugees found the population of Kousseri, which is opposite the Chadian capital, had swelled from less than 10,000 to between 200,000 and 230,000.

Observers said the findings of the committee, which ended a five-day fact-finding tour of the town last Monday, showed that the present relief effort, geared to help an estimated 80,000 refugees, was insufficient.

The plight of the refugees was likely to worsen with the approach of the rainy season, they added. Food, shelter and means of ensuring adequate hygiene would all be needed in greater quantities, they said.

Reports from the Chadian capital meanwhile said fierce fighting between forces backing President Goukouni Weddeye and the Armed Forces of the North (FAN) of Hissen Habre had resumed on Monday after a weekend of relative calm. (A.F.P.)

Central African Republic

GENERAL STRIKE THREAT

by Hubert Marie Djamanay

BANGUI, May 29 - The Government of President David Dacko, after almost unceasing social agitation among state employees since it assumed power some eight months ago, is now faced with the threat of a general strike.

Yesterday, Mr. Dacko, who became President in a French-backed coup d'Etat on September 21, appealed to Centrafricans to end a mounting wave of discontent and strike threats, involving both state and semi-state workers and sharpened by the arrest of some 10 strikers in the Social Security Department.

Workers in the Republic have been seriously taking up questions of democracy and expressing some of the elementary principles associated with the concept of liberty since the overthrow of dictator and self-styled Emperor Jean-Bedel Bokassa the First.

Not a month goes by without a work stoppage or strike by administrative workers, and an unending series of complaints from different Ministries has been recorded by a Public Service Council set up by Mr. Dacko recently to review the condition of state workers.

Central African Republic

A misunderstanding...

The arrests of the Social Security strikers came just a few days before the Centrafrican General Workers' Union held its statutory congress. And on Saturday, the executive bureau of the country's sole labour union threatened to call a general strike if the acting Justice and Labour Minister did not resign.

In an attempt to defuse the crisis, President Dacko met yesterday with the workers' representatives. But while "conscious of the misunderstanding" between the Government and the union, he made it clear he would not allow the union to usurp his authority. He also called on the country's teachers, reported to be preparing to strike during exams at the end of the academic year, not to spare any effort to ensure that the exams go ahead normally. (A.F.P.)

Angola

MAIZE AGREEMENT

LUANDA, May 28 - Angola and Yugoslavia have concluded an agreement on improving maize quality, it was announced here today.

Yugoslav experts will work with the Angolan Agronomy Institute to improve maize strains, sowing methods and training. (A.F.P.)

SOUTHERN AFRICA

Zimbabwe

WOMEN v. POLICE

SALISBURY, May 30 - Police baton-charged a crowd of 400 women, many carrying babies on their backs, as they demonstrated outside Parliament here yesterday.

The peaceful demonstration turned to violence when police arrived on the scene in anti-riot trucks and military lorries. The women threw stones and shoes and took off their clothes in protest at what they called "police harassment".

They were demanding higher minimum wages than those set Wednesday by Labour Minister Kumbirai Kangai for industrial workers, farm labourers and domestic servants. Some were only 30 dollars a month (about 45 U.S. dollars).

They also demanded changes in the law about hawkers. At present the women are not allowed to sell vegetables in township streets and fines of 15dollars (23 U.S. dollars) are imposed - more than a woman can expect to earn in two weeks.

The crowd gathered peacefully in Cecil Square, near the House of Assembly, and sat in a group as they were addressed by Members of Parliament. They appeared about to disperse when some 30 police arrived and tried to persuade them to leave. But the women reacted angrily, and the stoning and baton attacks followed. There were no reported arrests. (A.F.P.)

GOD IS OUTVOTED...

SALISBURY, Many 29 - Old Rhodesian war wounds were opened in Zimbabwe's Parliament here Wednesday when two white MPs, a Christian and a Jew, proposed that a clause be inserted in the constitution to acknowledge God as Supreme Being.

Africans, who make up the majority in the House, were offended because they saw in the motion by Dennis Walker and John Landau the "perpetuation of colonialism", and provocation. Led by Health Minister Herbert Ushewokunze, the black MPs threw out the motion by 41 votes to 13 - a straight black and white split.

MP Simbarashi Makoni said the motion had nothing to do with allegiance to God but was "political mischief" to try to discover who among blacks were atheists and anti-God. (When the 100 MPs in the Assembly were sworn in last week, 11 chose to attest instead of taking the oath on the bible or other holy book).

Minister of Lands Sydney Sekeremayi told the white MPs: "You are the Christians who used to go to church on a Sunday after sending bombers to kill children in Mozambique, and say to each other 'we have got the day off to a good start'." And Dr. Ushewokunze, leaning on the dispatch box and pointing a finger at ex-Premier Ian Smith, said: "We worship through our ancestral spirits and through our prophets. When the colonialists first came they hanged our prophet Nehande, who to us is omnipotent. The missionaries brought the bible first. Then came the brandy and the bullets".

Said a dejected Mr. Walker afterwards: "There is little hope of reconciliation now. I had hoped to see whether we could work together. But if we keep digging up the past, our future might be destroyed". (A.F.P.)

MINIMUM WAGE RISE

SALISBURY, May 28 - Labour Minister Kumbirai Kangai today announced that the minimum monthly wage in the industrial and commercial sectors would be raised by almost 20 per cent with effect from July 1, from 70 Zimbabwe dollars to 85 Zimbabwe dollars (about 128 U.S. dollars).

Farm workers will get a minimum of Zimbabwe dollars 30 (U.S. dollars 45) a month, and domestic employees the same. Mr. Kangai recognised that, while these bottom limit wages were still low, they were often supplemented by free accommodation, food and medical care.

Today's pay hikes followed a post-independence period of industrial unrest, with thousands of workers in different sectors throughout the country downing tools for more pay..

Mr. Kangai said 80 per cent of industry in Zimbabwe currently paid less than the new minimum, and a "large proportion" of house employees were paid less than 30 dollars a month. It would be an offence to sack a worker rather than pay the new rates, he warned, and the Government would take steps to stop the increases being reflected unduly in food prices, rents and fares. (A.F.P.)

Zimbabwe

WORK OR ARREST...

SALISBURY, May 30 - The Zimbabwe Government told strikers Thursday to return to work or face arrest.

The ultimatum was issued by Labour Minister Kumbirai Kangai to more than 5,000 workers on wildcat walkouts in Salisbury, Bulawayo and Midlands towns. Striking is illegal in Zimbabwe unless all specified arbitration moves have been exhausted.

The men are demanding higher wages - more than double in some cases - and the sacking of some managers and foremen. Mr. Kangai said the Government "has been patient up to now, but it can no longer tolerate illegal stoppages of work which are harmful to the country". All Government negotiating teams had been withdrawn, and would only resume when the workers return to their jobs. Their claims would then be taken up through workers' committees, Mr. Kangai said.

Zimbabwe has been plagued by strikes since majority rule independence two months ago. Black workers had expected immediate benefits, but they found themselves with continuing low wages and the same bosses. (A.F.P.)

OUTSTANDING EXAMPLE...

SALISBURY, May 29 - The Zimbabwean House of Assembly today unanimously agreed to rejoin the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association after being excluded from it for 15 years. Foreign Minister Simon Muzenda read a statement to the House from the Association, expressing its confidence that Zimbabwe would prove to be "an outstanding example" of a multi-racial society and parliamentary democracy. (A.F.P.)

Republic of South Africa

LIONS "RESPECTABILITY"

LONDON, May 30 - British Labour Party General Secretary Ron Hayward today called for the cancellation of the present British Lions rugby tour of South Africa.

Mr. Hayward said : "With the killing of schoolchildren in Cape Town and the arrest of 53 clergymen, the South African regime has reacted with its accustomed savagery to perfectly reasonable protests against its iniquitous educational system".

"We call on the South African Government to heed the protests of the schoolchildren and institute change, not repression. It is indefensible for the Government to spend ten times as much on each white child as it does on black children", continued Mr. Hayward. "That the Lions should be touring South Africa lending respectability to the regime shows a callous disregard for the situation". (A.F.P.)

GOVT. IN THE WAY...

by Pierre Haski

JOHANNESBURG, May 28 - South African Council of Churches (SACC) General Secretary Bishop Desmond Tutu has warned the Government that it stands in the way of the Christian search for a "just and non-racial society".

Bishop Tutu, one of 53 clergymen arrested Monday when they marched on police headquarters here to demand the release of one of their colleagues, was speaking to journalists yesterday at a religious service organised after the churchmen were provisionally released on charges of riotous assembly.

The clergymen, who also included the Anglican Bishop of Johannesburg and a visiting Canadian priest, spent last night in jail before a local court released them without bail until July 1.

The unprecedented march on police headquarters was organised to demand the release of former SACC General Secretary John Thorne, a coloured (mixed-race) priest.

The Reverend Thorne, who was detained last Saturday, was also charged with riotous assembly yesterday.

Following the release of the clergymen, riot police stood quietly by after ordering a crowd of 200 praying and hymn-singing well-wishers to disperse.

At the church service at SACC headquarters Bishop Tutu was welcomed back by black and white Council employees singing "Onward Christian Soldiers", the hymn which the clergymen had been singing as they were arrested in Central Johannesburg Monday.

Laws of God...

The Bishop said that for the first time leaders of several churches had shown that their consciences had been guided by their will to "obey the laws of God", even if it meant a confrontation with the state. "We have only one loyalty, to Jesus Christ", he said.

Bishop Tutu described the march as something of importance which the Government should not ignore. "The SACC is no insignificant grouping", he said. "It represents 15 million Christians".

The SACC official, who warned the Government against taking any repressive measures against the Council, added: "We are not looking for a confrontation with the Government, but it so happens that in looking for a just and non-racial society we find the Government in our way. We tell the people in power: jail and guns are not going to solve the problems of this country. They delude themselves if they believe we blacks will remain an oppressed group". (A.F.P.)

MOTHERS AND BABIES

JOHANNESBURG, May 29 - A white South African woman has appeared before a court here for allowing the baby of her black home help to stay with her.

Pat Van Rensburgh was found guilty of infringing a law forbidding black domestic servants living in residential areas reserved for whites to keep members of their family with them.

She was released after a warning.

Mrs. Rensburgh said after the trial this week : "I am no longer prepared to merely criticize the wickedness of apartheid - a system that separates mothers and babies.

"She has looked after my children as if they had been her own. I feel now that it is my duty to stand by her and her baby".

The servant, Grace Ntsimane, added : "If she had gone to jail, I would have been more than ready to take over the running of the home while she was away". (A.F.P.)

ALEXANDER CAN GO

BONN, May 29 - South African dissident Neville Alexander will be allowed to take part in an international cultural symposium in the West German capital, Assistant Foreign Minister Hildegard Hamm-Bruecher said here today.

Mr. Alexander, a black, was arrested in Cape Town, South Africa, on May 24 as he prepared to board a plane for Bonn. He was bearing authorization to leave the country.

The West German Government sharply criticized the move by the South African security forces against Mr. Alexander, saying that it would adversely affect relations between the two countries.

The 450 symposium participants for their part sent a telegram to South African Prime Minister Pieter Botha protesting against the action. (A.F.P.)

OMINOUS THINGS...

DAR-ES-SALAAM, May 28 - Tanzania has warned that the choice now facing the Government of South Africa is between "genuine changes in the apartheid policy or bloodshed".

An editorial in the Government newspaper Daily News on South African student unrest said : "The protests of the students are but a foreboding of the ominous things to come".

The impact of the liberation movements was being felt in South Africa and the militancy of the black youths had to be translated into "full-scale revolt against apartheid", it added. (A.F.P.)

SCHOOL STRIKE SPREADING

JOHANNESBURG, May 30 - Three schools in the giant black township of Soweto on the outskirts of Johannesburg have joined the strike by thousands of coloured (mixed-race) high school students across South Africa against racist and inferior education.

The massive wave of protest against South Africa's racial education system began six weeks ago and grew to take in more than 100,000 students. Many returned to classes last week but resumed the strike a few days later after the authorities closed the African university of Fort Hare in the Cape region.

The fact that Soweto students have joined the movement has raised fears of further serious conflicts between the students and security forces. In 1976 student riots in Soweto arising out of opposition to compulsory official use of the Afrikaans language left more than 600 dead.

Three schoolchildren have so far been killed in the present protests when police opened fire on demonstrators said to have thrown stones at them. (A.F.P.)

U.S. CONDEMNS

WASHINGTON, May 30 - The United States has condemned the "growing use of force by the South African Government" against the black, Asian and coloured communities in that country.

State Department spokesman Tom Reston said yesterday there was "growing concern" here over recent events in South Africa. The escalation in violence "can only serve to influence an already volatile situation", he added. It was "likely that the South African Government's repressive measures will set back the necessary dialogue between the white minority and the black, Asian and coloured majorities". (A.F.P.)

Namibia

S.A. TERRITORY

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., May 30 - South Africa's U.N. Ambassador, Adriaan Eksteen, has reaffirmed his country's sovereignty over 12 islands along the coast of Namibia and rejected statements by the U.N. Council for Namibia proclaiming them "an integral part of Namibia".

The South African position was reiterated in a letter to U.N. Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim : "The 12 islands along the coast of South-West Africa/Namibia, namely Ichaboe, Hollamsburd, Mercury, Long, Seal, Penguin, Halifax, Possession, Albatross Rock, Pomona, Plum Pudding and Sinclair's (formerly also known as Roast Beef) are South African territory and South Africa exercises full sovereignty over these islands". (A.F.P.)

Namibia

PRETORIA ORDERS NAMIBIA

COUNCIL REVAMP

WINDHOEK, May 29 - The Council of Namibia's South African-appointed Administrator-General Gerrit Viljoen is to be transformed into a ministerial council with executive powers at the beginning of July, Mr. Viljoen said here Wednesday.

The Council would be able to take joint decisions, but there would be no individual portfolios for each minister, he said.

The present Council comprises members of the National Assembly formed at elections in 1978 organised unilaterally by the Pretoria Government. The South-West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO) boycotted the poll, which was also condemned by the United Nations. The U.N. has proposed next June 15 as the date for U.N.-supervised elections in the territory.

Stalemate again

But South Africa appears unready to have the elections take place just yet, wanting first to try to ensure that no party hostile to it wins. The latest U.N.-Pretoria contacts are once again stalemated, a major sticking point being South African insistence on maintaining 20 bases in the U.N.-proposed demilitarised zone along the Namibian border with Angola and Zambia.

Observers consider that South Africa wants to give Mr. Viljoen's Council the possibility of introducing reforms on its own authority. The hope would be that the Council, formed of members of the pre-Pretoria Democratic Turnhalle Alliance, would gain a certain credibility with electors that would enable it to face SWAPO in the U.N.-supervised poll, they say. (A.F.P.)

WARNING FROM WALDHEIM

ALGIERS, May 29 - The United Nations Council for Namibia opened a special session here Wednesday to draw up new recommendations to the world body to expedite the independence of the South-West African territory from South Africa.

U.N. Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim sent a message outlining steps he had taken to get the U.N. independence plan of 1978 implemented.

He repeated his earlier analysis that the situation had reached a point when indispensable political decisions should without delay move from the discussion stage to action. If the present opportunity for a rapid peaceful settlement were to be lost, the likelihood was that there would be the most serious consequences for the region's peace and stability, Mr. Waldheim warned. (A.F.P.)

NUJOMA : "STEALING
OUR RESOURCES"

PARIS, May 29 - Western European and American oil companies, mining concerns, banks and engineering firms came under attack for their connexions with South Africa in a speech here Wednesday night by Sam Nujoma, head of the South-West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO).

He was speaking at an "African Week" organised by the International Diplomatic Academy and African ambassadors in France. Mr. Nujoma said companies "stealing the resources of Namibia" - he was referring to its uranium deposits - included Aquitaine (France), Getty Oil (United States), Urenco (The Netherlands, Britain, West Germany), and Euratom, the European atomic agency.

Suppliers of oil to the South African Army were France's Total, Royal Dutch, Britain's Shell and BP, and America's Caltex and Chevron.

The British banks Barclays, Standard and Hill Samuel, and West Germany's Dresdner, Bayerischer, Berliner and Commerz Banks were continuing to finance Pretoria's "racist regime", the SWAPO leader said.

Engineering companies "collaborating with apartheid" he named as U.S. Flour, West Germany's Deutsche Babcock, Lurgi and Linde, and France's Air Liquide and Spie Batignolles.

Mr. Nujoma, who at a meeting Tuesday with French Foreign Minister Jean François-Poncet complained about French military material in South Africa, said he was astonished that people who had fought against the Fascism of Hitler and Mussolini had governments today "which fully support the Pretoria regime, comparable in every way to the Hitler regime".

He alleged that South African forces were using chemical defoliants of the type used in Vietnam, particularly in the border areas in Namibia earmarked for demilitarization under a U.N. independence plan. (A.F.P.)

SIX CIVILIANS

WINDHOEK, May 28 - Six civilians, including two children, were killed in the Northern Ovamboland region of this South-African administered territory when a land mine exploded under the vehicle in which they were travelling, it was announced here today. Three other people in the vehicle were injured.

The incident happened 20 kms (about 14 miles) from Ondangwa, the main town in Ovamboland, the area where South-West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO) guerrillas are most active. (A.F.P.)

Swaziland

14 POLITICALS GO FREE

MBABANE, May 29 - The Swaziland Government has released 14 political prisoners, opponents of King Sobhuza Two, following the personal intervention of Prime Minister Mabandla Dhlaminio, it was learnt here today.

The prisoners, some of whom had been held for two years, were freed yesterday from prison in Matsapa, the kingdom's second city.

European human rights organisations recently indicated that they would start campaigns to publicise the conditions of political prisoners in Swaziland. (A.F.P.)

INDIAN OCEAN

General Information

SHIPS FOR GARCIA

LONDON, May 30 - Six or seven U.S. cargo ships, refitted with military equipment, will be sent to the American-leased British base of Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean to allow the rapid deployment of American Air Force troops in the region, the British Foreign Office announced Thursday.

The deployment of the ships, which are expected to arrive in July, signifies the growing importance of the island air-and-naval base following the crisis in Afghanistan and Iran, military experts here said. (A.F.P.)

Seychelles

S. KOREA BREAK

VICTORIA, May 20 - Seychelles has broken diplomatic relations with South Korea with immediate effect because of "repressive measures" and "massacres" there, the Foreign Affairs Ministry said in a communique here today.

"The repressive measures and massacre of countless citizens who rose up against a brutal dictatorship can in no way be condoned", it added. (A.F.P.)

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