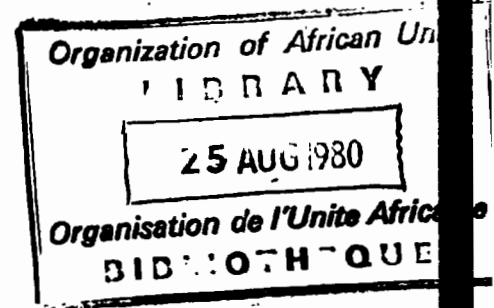


# AFRICA

SEMI-WEEKLY INTERAFRICAN NEWS SURVEY



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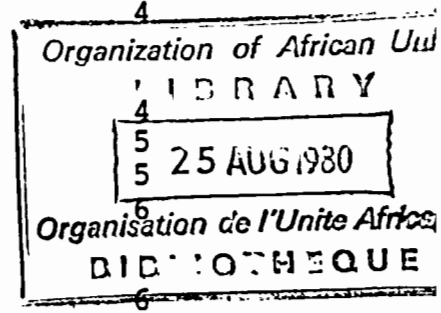
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P A N O R A M A

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EQUATORIAL  
GUINEA :

AID FOR MAIMED  
ECONOMY

by Jean-Marie Wetzel

MALABO, Equatorial Guinea, August 16 - It has taken a whole year for Guineans to realise that their long-time President Francisco Macias Nguema was really overthrown by the Army in August 1979, with his body today lying in an unmarked grave.

For 11 years Macias kept a bloody hold on his people by black magic and witchcraft.

Ironically, he might still be alive today if three years ago he had not sacked his Cuban bodyguards, supplied personally by Dr. Fidel Castro. They made the mistake of laughing at the magic rites he held in his native village, Mongomo, near the Cameroun border.

Macias was overthrown by a mere handful of Army rebels led by Lt.Col. Obiang Nguema Mbasogo - he is today President - supported by a few dozen elite Moroccan soldiers who formed part of the bodyguard of President Omar Bongo of Gabon.

Local Guineans refused to fight Macias because they were afraid that he was able to turn into a lion and eat them.

Even when Macias was sentenced to death by a special court, local troops refused to be members of the firing squad. He was shot by the Moroccans.

The evil spirit

Even after his execution, together with half a dozen of his Ministers, local people could not believe the tyrant was really dead.

But on August 3 a service was held at the cathedral to celebrate the first anniversary of his overthrow, and this seems to have exorcised the Macias evil spirit in the minds of local people.

Today they really accept the fact that his bullet-riddled body lies under a nameless tombstone, itself already half hidden under tropical vegetation in a small Malabo cemetery.

But the evil that he committed lives on.

### Grinding halt

Equatorial Guinea, a former Spanish colony which became independent in 1968, consists of the island of Biokó, formerly Fernando Po, with a population of about 30,000, and the mainland, with a population of about 250,000.

Main pre-independence annual exports were 40,000 tons of cocoa and 300,000 tons of timber. Under Macias they fell to 4,000 tons of cocoa and 50,000 tons of timber.

Even so they were worth 25 million dollars and this amount was in the state treasury when Macias was overthrown. By then he had stopped paying civil servants, teachers, police and the Army, closed down banks and post offices and in effect totally halted all state administration.

### Off-shore oil

His reign of terror is estimated to have slaughtered 50,000 people, and the same number fled abroad to neighbouring Gabon and Cameroun or to Spain.

The little country could now, however, become thriving, as foreign aid pours in.

Off-shore oil has been discovered, and this could be a big boost to its maimed economy.

Meanwhile, Spain has sent 400 technical advisers - half of them in health and education - and total financial aid of 72 million dollars. It includes food, transport and medicine (24 million dollars), trade credits (20 million dollars), development purposes (24 million dollars) and four million for the fishing industry.

### Europe, China, Russia

The European Common Market is providing seven million dollars for health, agriculture and public works. France is giving 11 million francs (about 2,500,000 dollars) for university scholarships, fishing, geological prospecting and Malabo port facilities. China is building the local telephone exchange, roads, a radio station and a hydro-electric dam.

The Soviet Union, thrown out after Macias's downfall, is still represented here by an Ambassador and 100 advisers - Moscow is selling the county oil at lower than the world price.

So Equatorial Guinea lives again. (A.F.P.)

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THREE CLASSES OF "HOME STUDENTS"...

COLOMBO, August 15 - British Education Minister Mark Carlisle has not committed himself to reconsidering increases in fees charged to overseas students, the Minister said today, two days after the end of the Commonwealth education conference here.

Britain's decision on the higher fees was one of the topics discussed during the conference, attended by more than 250 delegates, including 30 Commonwealth Education ministers.

Delegates recommended that Britain and other developed Commonwealth countries consider setting reasonable fee levels for students from developing member countries.

They also suggested that developed Commonwealth countries should create three classes of students as "home students" for tuition purposes : scholars under the Commonwealth scholarship plan, students on scholarships from their own countries or from recognised international agencies, and an agreed number of students from developing Commonwealth countries that do not have adequate educational facilities.

"I will report back to my Cabinet colleagues the views expressed at the conference and privately on the fees issue by the other Commonwealth ministers", Mr. Carlisle said. "I cannot say what steps may be taken as a result". (A.F.P.)

RICH-POOR GAP  
"ALARMING"

GENEVA, August 18 - The gap between rich and poor in Africa is widening, with increases in the number of poor people on the continent reaching "alarming proportions", the International Labour Organisation (ILO) warned here today.

The ILO, in a study published today, said that in several African countries 20 per cent of the population possessed two-thirds of the country's total revenue, while six out of ten Africans lacked the means to satisfy their food, clothing, education and health needs.

The percentage of poor Africans was even worse in rural areas, in particular in tropical Africa, it added.

The ILO said that the per capita income in Ghana, Madagascar, Niger, Senegal, Somalia and Chad had dropped between 1960 and 1976.

Even in countries like Ethiopia, Kenya and Zambia, where average wages had risen, there was a drop in real incomes among the under-privileged, it added. (A.F.P.)



THE POVERTY "BOMB"

LAGOS, August 18 - Nigerian President Shehu Shagari opened the sixth Commonwealth law conference here today with a call for a new and equitable international economic order.

The conference, the first to be held in Africa, is being attended by more than 1,000 delegates from over 30 countries. Mr. Shagari told them the time was ripe to show conviction and courage in rectifying economic imbalance in the world, using law as one of the weapons in the battle against the widening gap of economic inequality.

The wealthy Northern Hemisphere countries seemed to be concerned only about nuclear proliferation, he said, and warned that "poverty, like the nuclear bomb, has the potential to destroy the world". (A.F.P.)

INDIGENOUS FREEDOM

CANBERRA, August 18 - The third General Assembly of the World Council of Indigenous Peoples (WCIP) will be held in Canberra from April 27 to May 2 next year.

It will be hosted by the National Aboriginal Conference (NAC) with 90,000 Australian dollars' support from the Federal Government.

The theme will be "Indigenous Freedom Now" and primary focus will be on the development of an international convention on the rights of indigenous peoples.

The first Assembly was held in Canada in 1975, the second in Sweden in 1977.

WCIP has United Nations non-government organisation status and is designed to further the economic self-sufficiency and self-determination of indigenous people throughout the world. (A.F.P.)

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OIL & ENERGY  
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BOOST FOR SUDAN

KHARTOUM, August 18 - A new oil well has come on line in Sudan, the Sudanese News Agency (SUNA) announced here today.

Quoting Energy Minister Sharif Tuhami, SUNA said the well, the fourth to be found by the U.S. Chevron oil company in the country's south-western region, was already yielding between 2,800 and 3,600 barrels per day, raising total output for the four wells to 15,000 barrels a day - almost half of Sudan's daily oil consumption. The agency quoted Chevron's top official here as saying that drilling on the sixth well in the same area started two weeks ago, while drilling on another was to start next week. (A.F.P.)

OFF-SHORE WARNING

PRAIA, Cape Verde Islands, August 18 - Guinea-Bissau has warned Guinea against going ahead with off-shore oil prospecting in a disputed sea zone.

The warning came from the permanent committee of the ruling African Party for the Independence of Guinea-Bissau and the Cape Verde Islands (PAIGC), meeting here for four days this week .

The committee said any unilateral moves to exploit natural resources in disputed areas would be regarded as illegal by Guinea-Bissau and could only aggravate relations with Guinea.

In January, the Conakry Government signed an agreement with Union-Texas Petroleum to form a joint oil prospecting company, and announced late last month that a first phase of the oil search was starting.

It said the prospecting area was wholly within Guinean waters, with the northern limit set at a latitude agreed to in 1886 by the then-colonial powers, France and Portugal.

The Bissau Government disputes that demarcation. It has refused Guinea's request that a helicopter taking part in the oil search be allowed to use Orango Island in the Bijagos Archipelago south-west of Bissau.

The committee's warning, issued yesterday, followed a meeting here in mid-July between Cape Verde President Aristides Pereira, who is PAIGC Secretary-General, and Guinean Premier Beavogui Lansana.

Guinea-Bissau plans to carry out its own oil prospecting in non-disputed zones at the end of next year. (A.F.P.)

EXPERTS WANTED

BAGHDAD, August 17 - An invitation to Arab nuclear experts to settle in Iraq to contribute to the country's nuclear development was issued today by the Secretary-General of the Command Council of the Iraqi Revolution, Tarek Hamid Al-Abdallah, the Iraqi News Agency reported.

Commenting on Israel's campaign against Iraq's nuclear industry, Mr. Abdallah recalled that "the Hebrew state refused to sign the nuclear non-proliferation treaty of which Iraq is a signatory".

He added : "Iraq continues with its efforts with the aim of using nuclear know-how for peaceful purposes". (A.F.P.)

OPEC's LOWEST

NEW YORK, August 18 - Oil production by members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) fell in June to its lowest level in four-and-a-half years because of a worldwide drop in demand, Petroleum Intelligence Weekly said in its latest issue.

OPEC oil output that month was some 27.3 million barrels a day, the lowest since January 1976, when it hit 26.7 million barrels, the paper said. The decrease came although Saudi Arabia continued to produce 9.5 million barrels daily - one million more than the official OPEC ceiling.

During the first six months of the year OPEC countries produced an average 28.4 million barrels daily, substantially less than the 30-million-barrel level maintained for several years.

World oil consumption fell appreciably following recent price increases which have boosted oil rates 130 per cent since the end of 1978. (A.F.P.)

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MIDDLE EAST  
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ISLAMIC BOYCOTT

CASABLANCA, August 18 - The Islamic Conference's Al-Qods (Jerusalem) committee today decided to boycott economically and politically any countries that recognise Jerusalem as Israel's capital.

The committee, convoked after the Israeli decision to make Jerusalem its "eternal capital", reiterated the Arab and Islamic undertaking to "liberate" Jerusalem and make it the capital of an independent Palestine.

Observers here saw the committee as treading a middle path between hardline proposals from the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and more moderate ones from Jordan and host country Morocco. The compromise, reached after prolonging the session, was symbolised at the closing ceremony, observers said, by an embrace between King Hassan II and PLO chief Yasser Arafat. (A.F.P.)

4-POINT RAID

BEIRUT, August 19 - Fourteen Palestinians including a civilian were killed in last night's Israeli raid on four central points of South Lebanon, press correspondents reported from the region today. The reports said shots were being exchanged across the border today between Israeli troops and Progressive Palestinian forces. (A.F.P.)

UAE : "ARABS  
COULD NOW WIN"

ABU DHABI, August 18 - United Arab Emirates President Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahyan said today that Arabs, "better armed than in the past, could today conquer Israel".

In a statement to the newspaper Al Wehda, quoted by the Gulf News Agency, Sheikh Zayed said that "threats of breaking off diplomatic and economic relat-ons with countries recognizing Jerusalem as the capital of the Hebrew state are insufficient".

His comments followed a UAE Foreign Ministry announcement on Saturday that the country would support Saudi Arabian Prince Fahd's call for Jihad (holy war) to free Jerusalem and the occupied Arab territories from Israeli control.

Sheik Zayed suggested that an Islamic summit be held to review the problems of Jerusalem and Jewish settlements in the West Bank.

On possible danger to the oil states of the Gulf, Sheikh Zayed said that there was "nothing to fear in this region, from the East nor the West".

He expressed surprise over Washington's concern for the region. "Whoever asked the United States to protect us?" the Sheikh queried. "The oppressive insistence of the Americans to reclaim military facilities in the Gulf could be taken as an aggressive move against our sovereignty".

(Kuwait and Bahrain have also announced support for Jihad). (A.F.P.)

THE ANNEXATIONISTS

TEL AVIV, August 18 - An opinion poll released yesterday by the "Parliamentary Lobby for the Annexation of Golan" says 77.5 per cent of Israelis favour immediately annexing the Golan Heights, compared with 11.1 against and 11.4 with no opinion.

To accentuate the survey's release, 44 deputies belonging to the "Lobby", which includes two-thirds of the 120 Members in the Knesset (Parliament), made a visit to a plateau that overlooks positions Israel held before the "six-day war" in June 1967, and which it has occupied since.

The occupied territory has an area of about 1,200 square km (about 460 square miles). Part of it, including the largest population center, Kantara, was ceded back to Syria provisionally in a 1975 agreement.

In the last 13 years, Israel has established 25 settlements (kibbutzim), cooperative villages and administrative centers, which this year had a combined population of about 4,000. (A.F.P.)

EGYPT "INTERFERING"

JERUSALEM, August 18 - Israel has blamed Egypt and the Camp David Mideast talks as major causes for the new Israeli law making a unified Jerusalem the country's capital.

In a lengthy statement yesterday, the Israeli Foreign Ministry said that the Camp David talks failed to settle the Jerusalem issue, and an accompanying exchange of letters showed that Egypt "broke the Camp David accords in seriously interfering in the state of Israel's internal affairs concerning Jerusalem"

"The adoption by the Knesset (Israel's Parliament) of the law on Jerusalem constituted in a large measure a response to this interference", the Ministry said.

"Jerusalem is the fundamental symbol of Israeli sovereignty and one of the essential factors in the self-determination of the Jewish people as a nation", the statement continued, adding that for more than a century Jews have made up the vast majority of Jerusalem's population and "it is regrettable that a number of governments persist in refusing to recognize this reality".

The document said that Israel would continue to guarantee free access to the holy city by Moslems and Christians. (A.F.P.)

"NO" TO SUMMIT

JERUSALEM, August 17 - The Israeli Cabinet today rejected the idea of a tripartite summit proposed by Egyptian President Anwar Sadat in a 43-page message to Prime Minister Menachem Begin, Israeli Radio said.

The broadcast said that Interior Minister Yossef Burg, who heads the Israeli delegation in Palestine autonomy talks, and some of his colleagues protested against the harsh tone of Mr. Sadat's letter and asked that the Israelis reply in similar fashion.

The Cabinet also concluded during its five-hour debate that the proposal was in violation of normal procedure, since neither the United States nor Israel had been consulted.

Cabinet Secretary Arien Naor would not give details about the debates. It was believed that a radio correspondent had access to leaks among the Cabinet Ministers.

Mr. Begin received the message on Friday, one of a series of letters exchanged between the two leaders since the Israeli Parliament's decision on July 30 to make all of Jerusalem the capital of Israel. (A.F.P.)

### ECONOMIC BREAK

BAGHDAD, August 17 - Iraq has decided to break diplomatic and economic relations with countries keeping embassies in Jerusalem, the Iraqi news agency INA reported yesterday.

Citing an Iraqi Foreign Ministry spokesman, INA said the decision conforms to a joint Iraqi-Saudi communique released August 5. It was communicated to permanent representatives to the United Nations of countries which would be affected.

Besides the Netherlands, which was informed of the Iraqi decision by an intermediary at its Embassy here. About 10 Latin American countries have Embassies in Jerusalem.

The text of the joint Iraqi-Saudi communique was sent to U.N. Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim as well as to all Iraqi diplomatic missions in the world. An English translation of it was delivered to diplomatic missions accredited in Baghdad. (A.F.P.)

### 3 FOR W. BANK

JERUSALEM, August 15 - Three new Israeli settlements - one civilian and two military - will be set up on the West Bank of the Jordan within the next few months, following a decision by the ministerial committee on settlements and the World Zionist Organization settlement department.

The three areas would be the first of 10 that Prime Minister Menachem Begin said would be the final West Bank settlements, a Ministry of Agriculture spokesman said. Agriculture Minister Ariel Sharon is head of the settlement committee.

The Civilian settlement, the third in the north-west sector of Samaria, is expected to be ready for habitation in eight months.

The two military camps will be built in a desert area south of Hebron. (A.F.P.)

### FREE MOVEMENT

METULLA, Northern Israel, August 15 - The United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) has authorized eight Palestinian guerrilla officers to move about freely in the UNIFIL-controlled sector, according to photos supplied by a spokesman for Major Saad Haddad's Christian militia to journalists at Metulla.

Photos of the officers are posted at all UNIFIL checkpoints, the spokesman said, so that the Palestinians may pass without problems. The Palestinian officers' ranks are clearly visible in the photos shown by the spokesman, which show, too, that they have kept their weapons. Israel is expected to protest the free circulation of the eight Palestinians, which is said to be contrary to accords signed by Israel, UNIFIL and the Christian militia. (A.F.P.)

19 PLOTTERS...

TEHERAN, August 15 - Nineteen persons, including 15 convicted of taking part in the coup attempt announced by authorities on July 10, were executed at the Evin prison here at dawn today, Iranian Radio said.

Among the 15 "plotters" were General Seyed Mahdeyun, ex-Commander-in-Chief of the Air Force, who was said to be one of the two top planners of the alleged coup attempt.

Eight others were military men, including a colonel and two lieutenants.

The Evin prison executions bring to 64 the number of people put to death for taking part in the coup attempt. Between 200 and 300 people are believed to have been arrested for involvement, and Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini has demanded the death sentence for all, "without exception".

The plot, according to the Government, involved taking over an air base, bombing the homes of Ayatollah Khomeini and President Abolhassan Banisadr, and setting up a provisional military government until Shapur Bakhtiar - the last Prime Minister in the Shah's regime - could return from Paris and take power. (A.F.P.)

SADAT : "HERESY"

CAIRO, August 17 - President Anwar Sadat, in a message to King Hassan II of Morocco, has accused Ayatollah Khomeini of religious heresy, it was reported here today.

The message, which was sent yesterday and whose text was released today, attacked the Iranian leader's "heretical" remarks on the Prophet Mohammed and the awaited new Messiah.

"In the past", Mr. Sadat said, "this kind of heresy would have been settled by the sword".

Mr. Sadat also attacked those Moslem heads of state who had remained silent over the Ayatollah's "ramblings".

He asked : "How can the Moslem world and the faithful have confidence in heads of state incapable of defending religion and acting always through fear and ignorance ?"

Egypt, Mr. Sadat continued, "cannot give its hand to those of heads of state who remain indifferent to the genocide perpetrated by the aggressors in Afghanistan".

He singled out those Arab Heads of state who, he said, were "doing their utmost to justify this aggression and who are hoisting very high the 'red flags' of the anti-Islamic forces". (A.F.P.)

RETALIATION THREAT

CAIRO, August 19 - Egyptian President Anwar Sadat said yesterday that the flow of Soviet weapons into Libya created a dangerous situation for Egypt, and he threatened retaliation if Tripoli attacked his country.

Quoted by the Egyptian press, Mr. Sadat said Egypt "does not covet Libya, but we will not leave (Libyan leader Moamer) Kadhafi alone if he once again commits the same error as in July 1977". (Cairo has accused Libya of attacking Egypt at that time and killing a number of Egyptians).

"Because of the danger constituted by such a situation", Mr. Sadat said about the Soviet weapons, "I will not hesitate to punish Kadhafi if he dares to act in the same way again as in 1977". Earlier this year, Egypt declared a state of emergency along its border with Libya, saying that Egyptian security was threatened by a Libyan troop buildup there). (A.F.P.)

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Libya

UPRISING "INCONCEIVABLE"

PARIS, August 18 - Reports of an attempted Army uprising and state of emergency in Libya were today denied by the JANA news agency, in an official statement monitored here.

The agency said an uprising in Libya was "inconceivable" because the country's affairs were "treated democratically through debate in the People's Congresses".

Concerning Tobruk, where diplomatic sources in Casablanca said that more than 400 persons were killed or wounded in continuing fighting, the agency said life was going on normally "in a beautiful summer atmosphere", with the local people "spending the summer on soft, sandy beaches". A state of emergency, the agency said, could be proclaimed in Libya only by the People's General Congress, which last met in 1979. (A.F.P.)

KADHAFI ON CHRIST

BEIRUT, August 15 - Libyan leader Moamer Kadhafi said in an interview today Arab Christians should embrace the Moslem faith.

He told the Lebanese newspaper As Safir the ten million Christian Arabs had European minds in Arab bodies and were on Israel's side : "The Christian Arabs have an Israeli spirit because they followed the prophet sent to the Jews. (Christ) and whom even the Jews rejected. Why do the Christians punish themselves by following the teachings of Christ, who originally was sent to the Jews to punish them ?". (A.F.P.)



S.A. "COLLUSION"

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., August 15 - Majid Abdullah, representing the Polisario Front guerrillas, has denounced "collusion" between South Africa and Morocco over the war in the Western Sahara.

Speaking before the U.N. decolonization committee yesterday, Mr. Abdullah said that the Polisario had captured dozens of South African-made tanks from the Moroccan Army. He called for a delegation of U.N. experts to see the tanks for themselves.

Mr. Abdullah also accused Morocco, which is battling the Polisario for control of the Western Sahara, of "reviving its old contentions with Mauritania" and thereby practicing "politics of destabilization and infiltration".

He said the Polisario guerrillas on August 2 shot down a Mirage F-1 plane on its way to attack Mauritania and that the "debris of the plane offered irrefutable proof against the authors of this aggression".

(The Polisario has previously said that the plane belonged to the Moroccan Air Force).

Mr. Abdullah also accused Spain of working with Morocco to try to "pillage" natural resources in the Western Sahara, a former Spanish colony that was annexed by Morocco and then declared a republic by the Polisario.

Mr. Abdullah called Spain's policies "a serious error" that ignored the aspirations of the Western Saharan people, and a "violation of our territorial waters".

He also called on the international community to continue to support "the legitimate exercise of our people's right to self-determination" and warned Morocco against ignoring requests from the Organization of African Unity for direct negotiations over the disputed area.

He expressed confidence that the guerrillas would win the conflict, saying that Morocco would inevitably give up and "recognize the Polisario as the sole and legitimate representative of the (Western) Saharan people". (A.F.P.)

FIRST ANNIVERSARY

DAKHLA, Western Sahara, August 16 - The Moroccan Government this week again demonstrated its determination to maintain its hold on the disputed Western Sahara by celebrating the first anniversary of the "recovery" of the province of Oued Ed-Dahab. (A.F.P.)

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Sahara

ANGOLA UPGRADES

LUANDA, August 19 - Angola has decided to exchange ambassadors with the self-proclaimed Sahrawi Democratic Arab Republic in the Western Sahara, Sahrawi Health Minister Salek Bobbih said here.

The move would upgrade Angolan recognition of the Republic, he told newsmen at the end of a three-day visit here.

The Algerian-backed Polisario Saharan nationalists who proclaimed the Republic are fighting Morocco for control of the phosphate-rich former Spanish territory. (A.F.P.)

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Sudan

MRS. T. ACCEPTS

KHARTOUM, August 18 - British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher has accepted an invitation from Sudanese President Gaafar Nimeiri to visit Sudan, the Sudanese News Agency (SUNA) said here today.

Preparations for the visit are understood to be under way already, although the exact dates have yet to be announced.

Mrs. Thatcher's visit would be her second trip to the African continent and the first official one to any African or Arab country since she took office. (A.F.P.)

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Egypt

SUGAR BINGE

CAIRO, August 17 - A new plague has hit Egypt which was never listed in the Old Testament of the bible - drunken rats.

Millions of rats who recently devastated thousands of hectares of wheat and vegetables in the Nile Delta region have reached the Upper Egypt area.

Instead of wheat and vegetables, the rats are attacking sugar cane fields and getting drunk on the juice, according to the daily Al Ahram here today. (A.F.P.)

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WEST AFRICA

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Ivory Coast

FROG FARM

ABIDJAN, August 16 - Ivory Coast is to start producing and exporting tree frogs.

A special breeding farm has been established in swampland about 60 km (38 miles) from here to raise this local delicacy, whose popularity is spreading abroad. (A.F.P.)

BRIBERY DENIED

LAGOS, August 19: - The Chairman for Nigeria of the International Telephone and Telegraph Company (ITT), Chief M.K.O. Abiola, has denied a Washington Post report that the U.S. multinational firm bribed Nigerian political figures to win major sales contracts.

The paper alleged that Chief Abiola had paid out considerable sums to Nigerian politicians.

In a front-page statement yesterday in his own paper in Ogun State, Western Nigeria, Chief Abiola said the ITT "has not bribed anyone to obtain any contract in Nigeria at any time... Every contract that ITT has won in Nigeria has been through open competitive tender, not by negotiated bids".

Chief Abiola is chairman in Ogun State of the ruling National Party.. (A.F.P.)

"OILGATE" TURNABOUT

by Alain Boebion

LAGOS, August 17 - A scandal in Nigeria over the last 11 months has turned out to be nothing but a hoax. "Oilgate", as it has been called, never did exist.

The saga, during which fantastic rumours were set flying, and which sorely tried Nigeria's newly-elected Government, began with "a wrong interpretation" of figures.

On September 19 last year an independent daily paper announced that 5,000 million dollars had disappeared from the accounts of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC).

The shocked public found it difficult to believe that such a sum - equal to one third of Nigeria's annual revenue - could have ended up in the pockets of certain individuals. And the accusations, based on the report of a firm of private accountants brought in to audit the NNPC's books, were quickly denied by the Corporation's management. No money had ever disappeared, it said.

The newspaper that came out with the story then made its excuses and all was forgotten - for a while.

But some months later, newspapers misinterpreted remarks of a Senator of the ruling Nigerian National Party (NPN) to mean the money presumed missing had been paid into a private bank account in London.

International angle

On April 16, President Shehu Shagari announced the setting up of a commission of inquiry presided by a Supreme Court judge to examine the Corporation's oil sales from 1976 to 1979.

It soon appeared that the money in question had never been in London or elsewhere, and that it would have been impossible for anyone to transfer such a huge sum to a private bank account.

But the inquiry then took a new turn, touching upon the international organization of the NNPC, and also upon its contracts with the multinational oil corporations operating in Nigeria, the world's fifth largest producer of crude oil.

It looked during public hearings as if the multinational oil companies were going to be the scapegoats. But the tone of the final report and Government comment has been more varied.

The commission concluded there was no disappearance of 5,000 million dollars, and that the NNPC management should be completely reorganized.

The report established that none of the companies had signed a participation agreement with the NNPC, but announced that the three most important in Nigeria - Shell, Gulf, Mobil - owed it some 182 million barrels of crude.

Door left open

This figure corresponds, according to the inquiry, with what would have been the NNPC's share of production between 1975 and 1978 but for a glut on the world market.

The Government had, the report said, asked the companies to reduce production, take their allotted 45 per cent of scheduled output, and leave the share corresponding to the reduction and belonging to NNPC in the ground.

The commission has recommended that Shell, Gulf and Mobil designate the oil wells to be handed over to the Corporation for it to recover its oil.

The Government's comments, however, published on August 8 in a white paper, are more moderate, and seem to leave the door open for future negotiations with the companies. The companies themselves put the amount of oil which NNPC is owed at 80 to 100 million barrels.

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NNPC Acting Director Odoliyi Lolomari moreover stated on Friday that there had been no fraud by Shell (production 1.2 million barrels a day in June) or Gulf (371,000 barrels a day) or Mobil (211,000 barrels a day).

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Nigeria

UPN not satisfied

It was the Government that told them to do what they did, and it should enjoy an increase in revenues of more than 4,000 million dollars when the oil was finally delivered, he said.

Mr. Lolomari also said that the strategy followed in 1975-78 would be repeated if that proved necessary.

The present state of the world market is tending towards that of previous years. But if Nigeria were to adopt the same tactic as before, the oil companies would, according to informed sources, refuse to play.

At the same time the search for the scandal continues. Though the Government has come out a winner - it argued that press reports on the affair showed ill will and aimed at "destabilizing" Nigerian society - the opposition Unity Party (UPN) has said it is not satisfied with the inquiry.

Others, linked to the UPN, are talking about a new scandal : that of a retired general belonging to the ruling party who recently allegedly made a deal with a Japanese company to deliver a big load of crude oil. (A.F.P.)

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Liberia

TREATMENT FOR TWO

MONROVIA, August 18 - Two Liberian Ministers who have been out of the country for almost three months are having medical treatment in the United States, Minister of State for Presidential Affairs George Boley said in a television interview here Sunday night.

Mr. Boley was denying rumours that the two Ministers, both of whom had been in the overthrown civilian government of the late William Tolbert, had fled abroad.

Luzeni Dunzo, Minister of Action for Development and Progress, was receiving psychiatric treatment and would be in the U.S. for six months, Mr. Boley said.

Public Works Minister Gabriel Tucker, who left Liberia at the end of May, was also still abroad, but "as far as I am concerned Mr. Tucker has not officially tendered his resignation", Mr. Boley said. (Only one other Minister, Mrs. Kate Bryant (Health), remained in government after the April 12 military coup). (A.F.P.)

5 M. FOR RICE

MONROVIA, August 15 - The United States has approved a five-million-dollar loan to Liberia to buy rice, the basic food in the country, official sources indicated here. According to an agreement signed here Wednesday, Liberia must repay the loan by the year 2000. (A.F.P.)

NEW PRESS CONTROLS

FREETOWN, August 18 - Newspaper proprietors in Sierra Leone will have to obtain a Government-approved certificate of registration to publish their newspapers as from next month.

A bill introducing the new press controls went through Parliament early this year and became law on July 25 when President Siaka Stevens gave his assent.

Under the new law, the Minister for Information and Broadcasting is empowered to refuse to grant a certificate of registration to any newspaper. Even when he grants the certificate, the Minister can suspend or cancel the registration.

Proprietors who are refused registration or whose registrations are cancelled may appeal the Minister's decision before the High Court. A publisher of an unregistered newspaper will stand liable to a fine equivalent to about one thousand pounds sterling or a year in prison, or both. (A.F.P.)

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Guinea-Bissau

TRIAL ADJOURNED

BISSAU, August 19 - The trial of 22 persons accused of attempted assassination and sabotage was adjourned here indefinitely yesterday, without explanation.

The trial opened before a military tribunal on August 6, and a verdict was expected last Thursday. The prosecutor had asked for the death sentence against three of the accused,

Arrested in November 1978 at the border between Guinea-Bissau and Senegal, the accused allegedly planned to kill a number of top leaders of the ruling African Party for the Independence of Guinea-Bissau and the Cape Verde Islands (PAIGC), and to carry out sabotage, allegedly in connection with a failed coup in November 1978. (A.F.P.)

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EAST AFRICA

General Information

FLEXIBILITY PLEA

LAGOS, August 18 - Nigerian President Shehu Shagari today appealed to both Somalia and Ethiopia to show flexibility during this week's Organisation of African Unity (OAU) committee meeting seeking a negotiated settlement of the Ogaden conflict. At the opening of the three-day meeting of the eight-nation "good offices committee", he said he believed the time had come for "the necessary sacrifice in order to facilitate the achievement of peace and reconciliation between our brothers and sisters in Ethiopia and Somalia." (A.F.P.)

THE OGADEN HUNDREDS

by Louis Marie Tattevin

LUGH, South West Somalia, August 17 - Hundreds of them cross the frontier from Ethiopia into Somalia each day.

Ravaged by hunger and disease, they have come to join more than a million other refugees who have already fled the Ogaden.

"They killed my father and my brother, they would have killed me too". Everywhere it is the same story as the refugees, stripped of all their possessions, settle down to wait, perhaps years, for an eventual resolution of the Somali-Ethiopian conflict.

According to Somali statistics there were 1.5 million of them at the end of July, 765,000 in camps along the border and 800,000 swallowed up elsewhere in Somalia.

The United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) believes these figures to be exaggerated, particularly the second. But the UNHCR representative in Mogadishu, Otto Hagenbuchle, reckons that there are at least one million, which means one refugee for every four inhabitants, one of the most tragic displacements of people ever known.

In the Gedo district surrounding the small town of Lugh, 360 kms (220 miles) south-west of the capital, seven camps accommodate almost half the total of Ogaden refugees. Thousands of makeshift huts, built with branches covered with tarpaulin, cover the semi-desert plain where a few thorny shrubs grow in the sand.

Direct food aid

U.N. officials and volunteers from some 15 independent relief agencies distribute aid, evaluated at 120 million dollars for this year, coordinated by UNHCR. Some two-thirds of this is in direct food aid, about 160,000 tons of rice, corn, milk and sugar.

In Dorimey Camp Francois Decayet of the French humanitarian organisation "Doctors without Frontiers" said that 80 per cent of his patients were suffering from malnutrition, But he is also dealing with measles (a killer in Africa), tuberculosis and dysentery.

Some of his patients in any case die a few days later because they can no longer eat, after a native doctor has treated them by cutting off their uvula, the lobe that hangs from the back of the soft palate.

The same problems

Dr. Decayet is also treating the people of Lugh, who have no doctor of their own. Like his colleagues, he said it was impossible to distinguish between the refugees and Somali nationals. They face the same health and hunger problems.

The doctor admitted that some of the international relief aid was side-tracked, but added : "I am not shocked by that. In any case, everyone here is in need".

It is certainly true that the convoys have been tampered with before they reach the distribution centres, and Mr. Hagenbuehle concedes that this is a problem.

Tinned chicken donated by the Netherlands can be bought in stores in Mogadishu for 35 shillings (five dollars). But another French doctor, H el ene Bourgade, said that the refugees themselves were sometimes involved in the relief traffic.

"They eat only part of the food we distribute and sell the rest in local markets in the hope of starting a new herd. And that is a good thing because it shows they have not lost hope and at the same time lessens the risk that they will become totally dependent", she said.

The same customs

Dr. Bourgade has also been struck by the similarities between the refugees and Somali nationals. "They speak the same language and share the same customs", she said. "The camps are open and everyone is free to come and go as they please".

Bob Craaven, an American doctor, said that while massive international aid had staved off one disaster a fresh one could appear at any time. All it needed was a new drought, an epidemic or a small delay in the arrival of the next food shipment.

He also remarked that the forced stay in refugee camps was leading to a breakdown of the traditional ways. Fewer than 9 per cent of the refugees are men, 30 per cent women and 60 per cent are under 15 years old.

The rest of the men have either been killed or have joined the guerrillas of the Western Somali Liberation Front, backed by Mogadishu, fighting Ethiopian forces in the Ogaden. (A.F.P.)

BACK FROM SUDAN

ADDIS ABABA, August 15 - About 1,880 Ethiopian refugees returned home recently from the Sudan, bringing to more than 2,000 the number to return in the last three months.

During a visit to Sudan last May, Ethiopian leader Mengistu Haile Mariam gave assurances that the refugees would be welcomed. (A.F.P.)



ITALY IN DOCK

ADDIS ABABA, August 15 - An Ethiopian national daily newspaper today warned Italy of "grave repercussions" in its relations with Ethiopia if it continued to arm Somalia even for defensive purposes.

The English-language Ethiopian Herald rejected an Italian Government explanation Wednesday that it was unaware that Italian-supplied weapons to Somalia had been used for aggressive purposes against Ethiopia.

Rome was not being "honest to itself" when it argued that it was arming Mogadishu only to defend itself, the paper said.

"Somalia does not need to defend itself against anybody because she has nobody to fear... be it revolutionary Ethiopia, Kenya or Djibouti, all of which are targets of Mogadishu's annexationist designs", the newspaper said in an editorial.

Noting that Somalia's expansionist policy was publicly-declared, the newspaper said it was thus illogical to expect to exercise restraint.

"What concerns us most, as far as the Italian Government is concerned, is whether it has not become a direct accomplice in enemy plots aimed at undermining Ethiopia's national independence, unity and revolution", the newspaper said.

Italy, with a "long record" of infringement of the sanctity of Ethiopian independence, was least entitled to support fresh aggression against it, the newspaper said.

Ethiopia had demanded explanations of the Italian Government of the use of Italian-supplied weapons in the reported attacks against Ethiopia's Ogaden region by Somalia between May 27 and July 17.

Rome replied on Wednesday that it had in turn demanded explanations from Mogadishu of why weapons intended purely for defensive purposes had been employed in the attacks. (A.F.P.)

RED CROSS AID

ADDIS ABABA, August 15 - Fifteen medical doctors, representing Red Cross societies, have arrived here to care for the millions of Ethiopian victims of drought and the Ogaden war, reports here said yesterday.

They are to work over the next three months in Harrar, Bale, Sidamo and Gamo Gofa Provinces, among the hardest hit by drought and the continuing conflict with Somalia. More than 3 million Ethiopians are the victims of drought and about 1.8 million were displaced by the Ogaden war. (A.F.P.)

"RAPID" BASE

LONDON, August 17 - The United States and Somalia are to sign an agreement in Washington this week on the use by the U.S. Air Force and Navy of the base at Berbera for a "rapid deployment force" in the Horn of Africa, according to The Observer.

The Sunday newspaper said the agreement would complete President Jimmy Carter's plan to provide necessary facilities to the rapid deployment force, which is in the process of being quickly constituted in the Indian Ocean, in the Gulf and in the Red Sea. The weekly also said that Washington had obtained a commitment from the Government of President Siad Barre that the Somali Armed Forces would not intervene in operations in the Ethiopian Province of Ogaden as they did in 1977 and 1978. (A.F.P.)

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Ethiopia

E. GERMAN TREATY

BERLIN, August 15 - East Germany and Ethiopia have formally ratified the friendship and cooperation treaty to which they agreed last November.

Ethiopian Ambassador Berhanu Jembere and East German Foreign Minister Oskhr Fischer exchanged the ratification documents yesterday in East Berlin. The treaty was concluded on November 15, 1979 during an official visit to Ethiopia by Erich Honecker, the East German Head of State. (A.F.P.)

FLOODS, STORMS

ADDIS ABABA, August 15 - Heavy floods have killed 25 people and injured five others in Ethiopia's drought-prone northern Wollo Province, it was reported here today.

Nearly 200 head of livestock were said to have been swept away in the floods, accompanied by hailstorms, which also damaged crops and other property.

Nearly one-fifth of Ethiopia's five million victims of drought in the last three years are in Wollo Province. An estimated 200,000 died of hunger there at the height of the 1972-73 drought. (A.F.P.)

HOSTEL ATTACK

LOERRACH, Baden-Wuerttemberg, August 17 - A hostel for Ethiopians seeking asylum in West Germany was attacked during the night here. First reports by local police said a woman was injured in the face by flying glass and hospitalized. (A.F.P.)

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Ethiopia

RAS IMRU DIES

ADDIS ABABA, August 18 - Ras Imru Haile Selassie, a cousin of former Emperor Haile Selassie, died here last night after a long illness. He was 87.

Regarded as a radical by the old regime which the ruling Military Council (DERG) deposed in 1974, Ras Imru was cashiered off by the Government and for many years held no official post.

He was a Socialist when the word was anathema in this country, having won popular sympathy - and Haile Selassie's chagrin - for distributing his vast personal lands free to his tenants. Only his family ties to the deposed Emperor saved him from imprisonment, exile or death, though a close watch was understood to have been kept over him for most of his life.

When the country finally turned Socialist, he was too old to play a role. He was bedridden for several years, suffering from paralysis. (A.F.P.)

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Somalia

W. GERMAN GIFT

BONN, August 15 - West Germany will give Somalia 136 million marks (75 million dollars) in non-reimbursable credits in 1980 and 1981, the Ministry of Economic Cooperation announced here. About 80 million marks of the credits will go to finance the construction of the Barbera dam on the Juba River in Southern Somalia. (A.F.P.)

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Uganda

MADHVANI MOVE

KAMPALA, August 16 - Four brothers have filed a petition here claiming that the Government of former Ugandan President Godfrey Binaisa "arbitrarily and unjustifiably" handed over 80 per cent of the family's assets, estimated at several million dollars, to their nephew, the Kampala Weekly Topic has reported.

The four are brothers of Jayant Madhvani, who died in 1972 shortly before Idi Amin expelled Asians from Uganda and seized the family's 20,000-acre sugar estate and several other family industries.

The Binaisa Government, overthrown in May by the now-ruling Military Commission, signed a contract earlier this year with Jayant Madhvani's widow, Meena, and their son, Nitin, to revive the sugar estate and five other enterprises which were badly run down during the Amin regime. The newspaper also reported that a family member has told solicitors in London to institute proceedings against Nitin. The family estimates that 60 million dollars is needed to build up the huge Kakira sugar estate and the Madhvani interests in steel, glass, candy and other industries. (A.F.P.)

FRENCH FLY IN

KAMPALA, August 17 - The Army officer commanding France's emergency support operation for relief organisations in Uganda's famine-stricken Karamoja region today denied that his 30-man unit and its two helicopters would be helping the Ugandan Army bring security to the area.

Speaking after a French Air Force Transall aircraft landed his men at its chosen rear base, the central town of Soroti, 50 miles (80 kms) from the border with Karamoja, Lieutenant-Colonel Alain Pfister said : "You can see we have no weapons".

Nearby, Tanzanian Army soldiers, who guard the airfield and who last week opened fire on a Swiss medical relief helicopter that tried to land at Soroti, looked on quietly.

After the attack last week, in which pilot Van Smith of Nairobi-based "Helimissions" escaped unhurt, no chances were taken that the airport security force was not notified of the French arrival. The two Puma helicopters that will be used for the operation have yet to arrive. One being assembled in Nairobi is due this week while the other was airfreighted to Entebbe, outside Kampala, without an essential part and cannot yet be flown.

Lt-Col. Pfister said his operation, to take food and medical supplies to French humanitarian organisations working in Karamoja, would now start on Friday instead of tomorrow as had been planned.

Meanwhile, food convoys organised by the United Nations, which resumed on Friday after a three-week ban because of dangers from armed raiders, drove to the Karamoja town of Moroto Saturday with armed soldiers in each truck and Landrover-mounted guards in front and behind.

At the same time a Church of Uganda convoy left Soroti for Karamoja without an escort after the church lorry drivers said they "felt safer without them". (A.F.P.)

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Kenya

MALARIA DENIAL

NAIROBI, August 15 - The Kenyan authorities have denied a report that a new type of malaria parasite, resistant to traditional anti-malaria drugs, has been found in Kenya.

The parasite in question "has been tentatively identified as of a type called Babesia", they said in a statement here yesterday.

This was "a well documented parasite which infects animals in many parts of the world, and which is transmitted between animals by ticks". It described a Kenya News Agency report earlier this month as "a gross misinformation on the subject". (A.F.P.)

TWO-MAN PATROLS

DAR-ES-SALAAM, August 18 - Extra police and people's militia have been put on street patrol here in a bid to control a wave of robbery and other crime, the ruling party newspaper Mzalendo said. State radio put the number of reinforcements at 3,000.

The paper, in a report yesterday, said five bandits, including one notorious criminal known as "King Machakos", had so far been arrested in the city's Tandika district. Rejoicing Tandika residents had gathered round to catch a glimpse of the bandits, it said.

Quoting Police Commander E. Mwamakafu, the paper added that the move was proving effective insofar as residents now felt safe to move about the city. Police and militiamen were patrolling the city in pairs, it said. One man was carrying a gun, the other a club, it added.

(Last week Vice President Aboud Jumbe warned citizens to be on the lookout for people seeking to overthrow the Government or advocating disunity. Tanzania would continue to oppose people using "economic difficulties to encroach on our independence and frustrate the Socialist cause", he said. But he noted that Tanzania had increased production since July despite the world-wide recession). (A.F.P.)

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CENTRAL AFRICA

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General Information

COLONIAL ISSUES

LUSAKA, August 19 - President Kenneth Kaunda will meet President Mobutu Sese Seko of Zaire in October to discuss the occupation by Zaire of a part of Zambian territory, according to Zairese Ambassador here Colonel Efomi Efe' ni Aonga.

The two Presidents were studying recommendations submitted by the Zambia-Zaire joint permanent commission after its meeting in Lubumbashi in June, the Ambassador told newsmen here last night.

Last week, the Times of Zambia reported that the Zairese flag had been hoisted over the Kaputa district in Zambia's Northern Province on the border with Zaire.

The Zairese Ambassador said yesterday that the problem at Kaputa and that of Lake Mweru in Zambia's Luapula Province on the border with Zaire were long-standing issues dating back to the British and Belgian colonial administrations. The issue dated back to 1897 and the partition of Africa in Berlin when the two colonial administrations drew borders for Zambia and what was then the Congo. At the time they failed to set up borders at Kaputa and Lake Mweru, the Ambassador said. (A.F.P.)

Gabon

PRIVILEGED POSITION

LIBREVILLE, August 17 - Gabonese President Omar Bongo said yesterday that he was determined to forge ahead with development efforts despite current political and economic tensions that are "particularly strong on our continent".

In a message to the nation to mark Gabon's 20th anniversary of independence, Mr. Bongo also deplored what he termed the lack of positive results from international economic negotiations. He expressed hope for more action from the North-South Dialogue, economic talks among Africa, Europe and the Arab world, and from the coming United Nations session on development strategy.

The strong recession now hitting developed countries was having severe adverse effects on the economies of developing nations, Mr. Bongo said. But Gabon was in a relatively privileged position with its exports of oil, uranium, manganese and wood, he noted.

Mr. Bongo vowed that Gabon would pit itself against such economic problems as closed markets and the rapidly rising cost of modern technology and equipment, which he said was needed for the country to boost exports. But, he warned, it was necessary "to first count on ourselves".

The President gave a run-down on Gabon's social legislation and said that the country had the highest minimum wage on the continent. (A.F.P.)

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Zambia

FUEL CRACKDOWN

LUSAKA, August 15 - Zambian Government Ministers who use more fuel than they are allotted for their official cars will have to pay for it themselves, the Transport and Power Minister said.

The Minister, Gen. Kingsley Chinkuli, told Parliament yesterday that this was one of the stringent measures the Government would be taking to promote fuel conservation by all sectors, public and private, and by individual motorists.

He said measures had been taken to reduce the amount of fuel supplied to Ministries. Permanent Secretaries also were affected by the new steps. "Conservation of fuel... touches everyone, even the private user", Gen. Chinkuli said. "If we want to succeed, we have to include everyone". In a bid to brake the rapid rise in Zambia's oil import bill, a number of industries would be encouraged to use coal, he said. Zambia Railways, for instance, now used steam engines for shunting at Livingstone, on the border with Zimbabwe. (A.F.P.)

Zambia

LANDMINE CLEARANCE

LUSAKA, August 16 - Zambia has acquired sophisticated landmine detectors from West Germany for clearing mines in the Luangwa and Siavonga areas planted by Rhodesian forces under the Smith and Muzorewa regimes. The landmines had reportedly prevented the exploitation of uranium. (A.F.P.)

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Angola

INCURSION TOLL

PARIS, August 15 - The Angolan authorities today said that South African military incursions into Angola last month caused the death of 20 Angolan soldiers and 11 civilians.

A communique issued by the Angolan Embassy here added that another nine Angolan military and 16 civilians, including five children, were injured during the same period. South Africa lost five soldiers, it said.

(In Luanda, the Agriculture Ministry today estimated damage to Angolan agriculture as a result of South African attacks since 1978, including livestock lost, installations and crops destroyed and land that had to be abandoned, at close to 36 million dollars). (A.F.P.)

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Chad

NO NIGERIANS

LAGOS, August 16 - Nigeria yesterday denied that it had sent combat troops into Chad.

In an interview with the Nigerian News Agency (NAN), Defence Minister Iya Abubakar said there were no Nigerian soldiers on Chadian territory and that Nigeria had not occupied islands in Lake Chad.

But Mr. Abubakar was quoted as saying that a small contingent of Nigerian reinforcement troops had gone into the border area "to protect Nigerian citizens from Chadian incursions". (In June, two Chadians were arrested in the Nigerian Borno region following attacks that left five Nigerians dead and 11 wounded). (A.F.P.)

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SOUTHERN AFRICA  
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Zimbabwe

GUN AND CASH

SALISBURY, August 17 - Three armed blacks robbed a white farmer at Goromonzi near here of his gun and cash during the night, an official source said. Police said they were investigating the incident, the latest in a crime wave that has swept the wealthy farming area in recent months. (A.F.P.)

TEKERE GETS BAIL

SALISBURY, August 19 - Manpower Planning Minister Edgar Tekere was released on 50,000 Zimbabwe dollars (sterling 32,500) bail here today after Prime Minister Robert Mugabe gave a personal assurance that Mr. Tekere would present himself for trial on murder charges at the appropriate date.

Mr. Tekere, 43, has been charged together with six of his bodyguards with the August 4 killing of 68-year-old white farmer William Adams.

Other conditions of Mr. Tekere's bail were that he surrender all travel documents, remain within 20 kilometres (13 miles) of the centre of Salisbury, does not possess firearms or explosives, does not get in touch with any of the state's witnesses and does not make any statement to the press. (A.F.P.)

WALLS : "NICE TO  
COME HOME"

SALISBURY, August 19 - Retiring military strongman Lt. Gen. Peter Walls returned here late yesterday refusing to comment on the current controversy over statements he made in recent foreign television interviews.

Gen. Walls, returning from a week-long visit to South Africa, told newsmen at the airport : "It's always nice to come home". He said nothing more.

The controversy arose after Gen. Walls admitted in a BBC television interview that he asked British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher to scrap the February independence election results, alleging that they followed widespread intimidation of black workers by Prime Minister Robert Mugabe's supporters.

In the same interview, Gen. Walls also revealed that a military coup was among the "possibilities" considered by former Rhodesian military leaders, when Mr. Mugabe's landslide victory began to emerge.

In Parliament last Friday Information Minister Nathan Shamuyarira bitterly attacked Gen. Walls, saying the Government planned to take legal or administrative action against him. (A.F.P.)

NKOMO : "NO MILITIA"

SALISBURY, August 17 - Home Affairs Minister Joshua Nkomo has condemned plans to form a peoples militia in black rural areas, asserting that Zimbabwe needs only the police and the army to maintain law and order. (A.F.P.)



500 MURDERS...

SALISBURY, August 17 - More than 500 people in Zimbabwe are awaiting a High Court trial for murder, the highest figure in the country's history, Secretary for Justice M.F. Garnett said here today.

The figures came out of a survey taken last month because of complaints about the length of time it took for people accused of serious crimes to get to court. Some were held four months or longer. (A.F.P.)

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Republic of South Africa

PIK BOTHA : "WHAT SPEED ?"

LONDON, August 17 - South African Foreign Minister Pik Botha said in a television interview here today that his Government could not "morally defend discrimination based on the colour of a man's skin alone".

Mr. Botha, who admitted that Pretoria faced a "great dilemma" over a programme to introduce reforms in its policy of separate racial development (apartheid), added : "That's why we are committed to remove the wage gap. That's why we are prepared in labour relations to effect major changes... in sport, in the socio-economic field".

The former South African Ambassador to the United Nations, speaking via satellite from Johannesburg in an interview with Britain's Independent Television, said that South Africa wanted to "remove the colour humiliation in our practices and in our laws, but there is one thing we cannot remove. We cannot remove the urge of our people to live and survive according to their values".

Asked if South Africa was on the right path, he replied : "It must be the right one if a Government seeks to come to an agreement with all people irrespective of colour.

"It must be the right one if we seek justice for everyone and equal social economic opportunity for everyone".

But he told his interviewer : "Where you've got a point which creates a great dilemma for us is how to go about it and at what speed".

In an impassioned defence of his Government's policy, Mr. Botha said : "South Africa is exporting food to many African countries. Is this a government that hates blacks?"

He added : "We are white Africans and we are going to play a constructive and positive role in assisting black Africans to make progress where they simply don't now make progress at all". (A.F.P.)

### SQUATTER VIOLENCE

CAPE TOWN, August 16 - The violent clashes last week in the African township of Crossroads, near Cape Town, have once again thrown this squatters' town into the international headlines.

The trigger to the latest violence, which cost the lives of two blacks and two whites, was the continuing boycott by blacks of the private buses which take commuters to the city from the outlying townships.

For two months now the people of Crossroads, Nyanga, Langa and Guguletu have given the buses a miss, complaining of their prohibitive fares.

Crowded six or seven, sometimes eight, into a friend's car, or perhaps using communal taxis, the workers of the townships still manage somehow to get to work and back. It may even cost them more than if they went by bus, but for most of them it has become a matter of principle to continue the boycott.

On Monday police arrested one of the taxi drivers, and the people of Crossroads were unable to contain their violence. For the police, the taxi driver was exploiting the commuters, for the travellers themselves it was a case of police intimidation. (A.F.P.)

### MANDELA'S PRIZE

JOHANNESBURG, August 18 - The two daughters of imprisoned black nationalist leader Nelson Mandela, sentenced to a life-term in 1964, will travel to India to receive the Jawaharlal Nehru Award on his behalf, the Johannesburg evening paper The Star reported today.

The Indian Government awarded the prize to Mr. Mandela for his work for freedom, justice and peace.

Mr. Mandela's wife Winnie, who was to have received the award, has been refused a passport by the South African authorities.

The Star said the daughters, Zinzi Mandela and Mrs. Zeni Dlamini, did not anticipate having passport or visa problems, Mrs. Dlamini already holds a Swazi passport. (A.F.P.)

### BLACK DIRECTOR

JOHANNESBURG, August 15 - A naturalized American black of South African origin, Absalom Vilakazi, has been named a director of the industrial and mining giant Anglo-American Corp., which employs hundreds of blacks in this country where labour unrest is a growing phenomenon.

Mr. Vilakazi, who left South Africa in 1957, took U.S. citizenship and later returned, was one of three new directors announced today by an Anglo-American spokesman. (A.F.P.)

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Namibia

NO "LANCASTER"

WINDHOEK, August 19 - Dirk Mudge, Chairman of the South African-installed Namibian Council of Ministers, today categorically rejected any "Lancaster House" style initiative to lead this territory to independence.

The Lancaster House settlement talks, which led Rhodesia (Zimbabwe) to independence, were a "fiasco", Mr. Mudge told Die Republikein, the official newspaper of his Turnhalle Democratic Alliance party.

Reports that South Africa was currently considering a settlement concurence of this type were "absolute speculations", he said. (A.F.P.)

SWAPO : "NO CHOICE"

BERLIN, August 15 - The leader of the South-West Africa Peoples Organization (SWAPO), Sam Nujoma, said in East Berlin today that his movement was still ready to accept a truce with the authorities in South Africa and to cooperate with the United Nations to implement its resolutions on Namibia.

But he added, in an address to reporters here, that "in the meantime, SWAPO has no other choice than to continue the armed struggle because of the refusal of South Africa to grant Namibia complete independence without racial domination".(A.F.P.)

THREE CIVILIANS

WINDHOEK, August 18 - Three civilians - two women and a man - were killed in Northern Namibia Friday when their vehicle was blown up by a land mine, a spokesman for Northern Ovamboland Province said here today. (A.F.P.)

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TWO BOMBS

Lesotho

MASERU, August 18 - Two bombs exploded today in the northern district of Butha-Buthe, damaging a general store, Radio Lesotho reported here. It said the bombs were the work of exiled members of the opposition Basotho Congress Party. (A.F.P.)

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