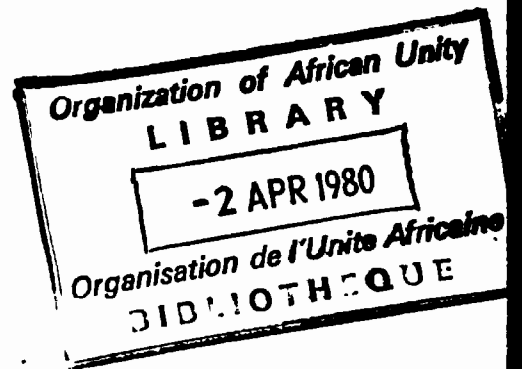


AFRICA

SEMI-WEEKLY INTERAFRICAN NEWS SURVEY



**MONTHLY SUBSCRIPTION FEE (WITHOUT REPRODUCTION RIGHTS)
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11.13.15, PLACE DE LA BOURSE 75002 PARIS TEL: 233.44.86 TELEX 210064**

DATE March 25, 1980

N° 2674

Agence France-Presse

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S U M M A R Y

PANORAMA

Republic of South Africa : Chinese might be "honorary whites" 1

GENERAL INFORMATION

New York : Water by ship 2
Addis Ababa : Least-developed action for decade 3
London : Coffee : Brazil hits Africa 3
Bonn : Visa requirement 4

OIL & ENERGY

London : Keeping prices up... 4
Kuwait : Kuwait's new conditions 5
Paris : Gabonese uranium 5
Jeddah : Saudi complex 5
Versailles : "Big 7" trying to avoid the shocks 6
Perth : The sacred site 7
New Delhi : Water gush 7
Stockholm : Swedes okay the N- programme 8
Harrisburg : 3 - Mile aid asked 8
Bonn : W. German deal 9

MIDDLE EAST

Jerusalem : Begin : "They can't drink it" 9
Cairo : Profound irritation 10
Riyadh : A full partner... 10
Orleans : Giscard in dock 10
Teheran : Shah's "escape" to Egypt 11

NORTH AFRICA

General Information :
- Frontier doubts 11
Sahara :
- "Damning" S.A. dossier 12
- Battlefield executions... 12
- Two 'copters down... 13
Sudan :
- Emirates loan 13

WEST AFRICA

General Information :
- Fishing dispute 13
Mali :
- Shot, bayoneted, tortured... 13
- "Cabral" death confirmed 14
- Aid from Cuba 14
- Death for fraud 15
Guinea :
- Investment call 15
Nigeria :
- Storm havoc 15
- Texaco chief "unfit" 16
- Double states, says Zik 16

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

EAST AFRICA

General Information :	
- New Ogaden threats...	16
Kenya :	
- Disease threat to tourist trade	17
Ethiopia :	
- Illegal activities...	18
- Mediation call	18
- Talks in Moscow	18
- Public execution	19
Uganda :	
- More violence	19
- Only one party in elections	20
- Britain "studying"	21
- Special EEC loan	21
- 6 die in raid	22
- Amin compensation	22

CENTRAL AFRICA

Central African Republic :	
- Justice minister goes	22
Zambia :	
- Economy revamp	23
- 125 M; from French	23
- Demons in the yard...	23
- Troops to move	23
Angola :	
- Full solidarity with Afghans	24
Zaire :	
- Talks in Peking.	24
- Death for six	25
Chad :	
- Europeans getting out	25
- Children shot to death...	26
- Guard duty	27
- Newsman killed	27

SOUTHERN AFRICA

Zimbabwe-Rhodesia :	
- Compensation talks	28
- Quelling violence	28
Republic of South Africa :	
- Loans policy	28
- Heroes day call	29
- Mange : French protest	29
- Rugby readmission	29
Namibia :	
- Nigeria's backing	29
- Trooper, tribal chief	30
- "End cooperation" call	30
Malawi :	
- Export record	30

S U M M A R Y (3)

=====

SOUTHERN AFRICA

Lesotho :

- Churchman held 31

INDIAN OCEAN

Madagascar :

- Riceless day 31

P A N O R A M A

This section of the survey highlights one particular country, region, organisation or philosophy, updating the record of political, social and economic development

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REPUBLIC OF
SOUTH AFRICA :

CHINESE MIGHT BE
"HONORARY WHITES"

by Pierre Haski

JOHANNESBURG, March 22 - South Africa's 9,000 ethnic Chinese could become "honorary whites" in their country, 15 years after the privilege was conferred on ethnic Japanese living here.

The change could arise from the recent visit of Taiwan Premier Sun Yun-Suan to South Africa, and the signature of a large contract under which South Africa will supply Taiwan with uranium.

Mr. Sun said on leaving that he had been assured that improvements would be made in the condition of the Chinese community. South African Interior Minister Alwyn Schlebusch confirmed that "adjustments" would be made in the legal status of Chinese.

These statements irritated the white opposition, which expressed surprise that the visit of a foreign premier was needed to get the Government to take another look at the position of some of its citizens.

"It appears that what the Japanese managed to achieve with pig iron a few years ago, the Chinese are now doing with uranium", an opposition spokesman said. "Honorary white" status was conferred on the Japanese with the signature of a contract to send iron ore to Japan.

Separate community

The Chinese have always formed a separate community in South Africa. Descendants of immigrants who arrived between 1920 and 1940 from mainland China through Hong Kong and Mauritius, the Chinese officially are considered a sub-group of the mixed-race (colored) people under apartheid law.

Already, in some respects, Chinese are treated like whites. They can go to cinemas, theaters and restaurants set aside for whites, play sports with them, go to the same private schools, attend at least five white universities and be treated in white hospitals.

Job discrimination

But they are not allowed to vote and are not subject to mandatory military service as are the whites. The Chinese must obtain a special permit to buy a house in a whites-only area and the immorality and mixed-marriages laws forbid them from having sex with or marrying whites.

Only in Port Elizabeth is there a neighbourhood reserved for Chinese. In other towns they can live where they want to - but only after having obtained permission from the authorities, who first consult the future neighbours.

The Chinese suffer from job discrimination. A study has shown that Chinese doctors make 30 per cent less than their white colleagues, while Chinese businessmen are under many handicaps because of their racial classification.

The Chinese community is generally very well educated, and as a result many have chosen emigration in preference to discrimination. More than one-fourth of the Chinese of South Africa keep Taiwan passports, and many have left for Australia, the United States or Hong Kong.

Because they have access to white educational institutions, the Chinese have gradually become separated from their traditions and their language. Few of today's young people, third or fourth-generation South Africans, speak Chinese and even fewer write it.

Important ties

The Chinese have always preferred to avoid publicity, and have stayed out of the political emancipation struggle of the majority of South Africa's non-white peoples.

The Citizen, a pro-Government newspaper, summarized the issue this way : "Our ties with the Republic of China after the visit of Mr. Sun are going to be extremely strong - as important to us as Taiwan. Let's make our links with our local Chinese just as important by normalizing their lives in every respect". (A.F.P.)

GENERAL INFORMATION

WATER BY SHIP

NEW YORK, March 24 - Japan's Mitsui company plans to ship water to Arab desert sheikhdoms in the supertankers which arrive in Japan laden with crude oil, according to the current issue of Newsweek magazine.

The magazine quoted Mitsui as saying the seaborne water would cost less than desalination procedures, and that the trade could begin next year after tanker conversion work to prevent contamination. (A.F.P.)

LEAST-DEVELOPED
ACTION FOR DECADE

ADDIS ABABA, March 24 - A five-day conference on the economies of Africa's 20 least-developed countries ended here over the weekend after adopting a report which defined their strategies, priorities and action programs for the next decade.

The Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), co-sponsor of the meeting with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), said the action programs would enable the nations concerned to achieve viable economies and to promote the welfare of their populations.

Attending were representatives of Benin, Burundi, Cape Verde, Chad, Comoros, Ethiopia, Gambia, Guinea, Lesotho, Malawi, Niger, Rwanda, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda. Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea-Bissau and Ivory Coast, whose least-developed status is under review by the United Nations, attended as observers.

Details of the final report were not available at the end of the closed-door meeting, whose results will be submitted to a conference of ECA ministers here early next month.

Africa's least developed countries contain 123 million people, or 41 per cent of the continent's estimated total population. (A.F.P.)

COFFEE : BRAZIL
HITS AFRICA

LONDON, March 22 - African producers of Robusta coffee have been particularly hard hit by coffee sales from Brazil, which has already sold 4.3 million sacks of its coffee out of a target for this year of 15 million sacks, London coffee dealers Wallace Brothers said.

Brazil's rebate system also worked to the African producers' detriment, the dealers said in their latest market review. The review said that Brazilian coffee was currently being sold for less than most other Mild Arabica varieties and less even than some Robusta varieties, which are normally the cheapest, encouraging coffee-roasters to alter their blends.

The European Coffee-Roasters Association recently said that Brazil could increase its share of the West German coffee market by 15 per cent, and similar sales increases in North America and West Europe as a whole are predicted by London dealers should other producers not lower their prices. Cameroun and Ivory Coast have been holding back sales while awaiting a recovery of the world market, Wallace Brothers said.

Full of cocoa

They added that Ivory Coast was facing problems because its warehouses were full of cocoa and the coffee would have to stay in the plantations where it risked damage in the end-of-April rainy season.

In Latin America, El Salvador and Mexico were late with their coffee sales, the review said.

The dealers said that Brazil could exploit present shortages of Robusta varieties arising from the lack of supplies from Cameroun and Ivory Coast.

The review added that as a result of Brazil's commercial policy, under which it has already taken export orders for next May, coffee roasters found themselves in the somewhat unusual situation of being able to buy coffee at a relatively low price.

The dealers advised their clients to buy before the usual rise in world markets begins in 10 weeks' time. (A.F.P.)

VISA REQUIREMENT

BONN, March 22 - Tourists from Afghanistan, Ethiopia and Sri Lanka will now need visas to enter West Germany, as a result of legislation passed by the Bundesrat (Upper House of Parliament) yesterday.

Until now, no visa had been necessary for visitors announcing that they would spend less than three months in West Germany and would not take a job.

The Interior Ministry specified that, despite the new rule, visas would not be needed for individuals allowed to travel to West Germany for "humanitarian reasons". (A.F.P.)

OIL & ENERGY

KEEPING PRICES UP...

LONDON, March 22 - The oil countries have prepared plans for cutting output during periods of glut in order to keep prices up, according to the Financial Times.

Agreement in principle was reached at last month's meeting of the long-term strategy committee of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), it said.

Oil industry executives recalled that no such agreement was announced after the meeting. Participants simply said that a long-term strategy was laid down for a new pricing system.

They also said links would be closer with industrialized countries and the third world. Prices would in future be calculated on the basis of a currency "basket" and periodically reviewed in the light of bank rates, inflation and the gross national product (GNP) of industrial countries. (A.F.P.)

KUWAIT'S NEW CONDITIONS

KUWAIT, March 23 - Kuwait will sell its crude oil to oil companies "under certain new conditions," Oil Minister Sheikh Ali Al Khalifa Al Sabah said in an interview published today.

Al Qabas, the Kuwaiti daily in which the statement appeared, added that this would include demanding that oil companies observe boycotts against Israel, South Africa and Rhodesia.

"The firms that do not accept these conditions when new contracts are being finalized will have to go elsewhere because we are determined to apply them", the oil official said.

Quoting "trustworthy" sources, the newspaper specified that Kuwait would require that "boycott decisions against Israel, South Africa and Rhodesia be respected". The main companies affected would be British Petroleum, Shell and Gulf.

The oil-producer plans to require "the freedom to change prices and amounts of crude sold, as it wishes, to limit the length of contracts to two-and-a-half years instead of five years, to specify the country to which the sold product is destined and to get a commitment from the company concerned not to change the oil's destination while en route", Al Qabas reported.

Kuwait would "reduce the payment period for crude from 90 to 30 days" and eventually "refine 50 per cent of its production on site before selling it", the newspaper added. (A.F.P.)

GABONESE URANIUM

PARIS, March 22 - South Korea, France and Gabon have signed an agreement to prospect for uranium in the central region of the Central African country, it was announced here yesterday.

The agreement, between the Korean Electric Company, the Cogema company run by France's state-owned Atomic Energy Commissariat, and the Gabon Government, also covers mining operations if prospecting is successful.

The 5,600 square km (2,240 square mile) concession lies between the towns of Lastourville and Mounana, where a uranium mine already produces 1,000 tonnes of concentrate a year. Under yesterday's agreement, Cogema is the mining operator in the new concession. (A.F.P.)

SAUDI COMPLEX

JEDDAH, March 22 - An agreement for Japan to build a 2,200 million dollar petro-chemical complex in Saudi Arabia will be concluded in Tokyo on April 2, informed sources said here today. (A.F.P.)

"BIG 7" TRYING TO
AVOID THE SHOCKS

By Jan Kristiansen

VERSAILLES, France, March 24 - Industrial nations must accept a gradual rise in the cost of energy in order to avoid sudden "oil shocks" that unsettle their economies, reliable sources said as economic policymakers of the "Big Seven" ended private weekend talks here Sunday.

High-level representatives of the United States, Britain, Canada, France, West Germany, Italy and Japan spent the weekend together in a hotel at Versailles just outside Paris to exchange views on the impact of energy on their economies as a whole.

The "seminar" was held at the initiative of Emile Van Lennep, Secretary-General of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), who told reporters that participants had looked at the changes in the international oil market in recent years.

They sought to determine how to make sure that industrial countries would have better energy policies both in the short and the medium term, he added.

Price mechanism

Mr. Van Lennep noted that it was the first time that senior economists of the OECD and experts of the International Energy Agency (IEA) had met jointly for an exchange of views with top officials of the leading industrial countries. He said that using the energy price mechanism was the only way of adjusting the Western economies to the higher cost of oil.

Participants were reluctant to comment on the tenor of their talks, insisting that they had simply exchanged ideas without defending "national positions". Charles Schultze, President Jimmy Carter's chief economic adviser, who drove straight to the airport to catch a plane back to Washington, merely said the talks had been "very interesting".

Much higher cost

Reliable sources said the officials who shape the economic policies of the leading Western countries believe there is more reason for concern about the effects of sharp oil price hikes than short supply of crude over the next four to five years.

Their thinking appears to be that "shocks" of the kind caused by last year's doubling of oil prices involve a much higher cost to the market economy countries than the actual increase in their oil import bills.

Restrictive policies

The IEA member countries stand to pay about 64 per cent more for imported oil in 1980 than they did last year. But as dearer oil fuels inflation, governments are compelled to adopt restrictive policies leading to slower growth.

"Billions of dollars are lost for every one percentage point by which growth is reduced", one participant in the "seminar" said.

In addition, there is an incalculable "social cost" in the form of a rise in unemployment as a result of anti-inflationary policies. (A.F.P.)

THE SACRED SITE

PERTH, March 22 - Aborigines have succeeded in legal moves to delay oil drilling on Noonkanbah station in the isolated Kimberley region of Western Australia, a sacred site of the Aborigine community.

A Supreme Court judge here yesterday granted the Noonkanbah Aborigines a seven-day interim injunction restraining the Amax Iron Ore Corporation from activities on most of the land within a five-kilometre (three-mile) radius of a site known as Pea Hill.

During the court hearing the company admitted that it was breaking the law by being on a site at Noonkanbah.

The firm's lawyer said that although the company had applied, it had not yet received permission to be on the site.

The site is in a region which the Western Australian Museum has recommended should be declared a registered site under the Aboriginal Heritage Act.

Because of this, the company must obtain permission from the Museum trustees to be on the land. (A.F.P.)

WATER GUSH

NEW DELHI, March 24 - Radioactive water gushed out of a pipeline after an accident recently at the Tarapur atomic power station near Bombay in Western India, the Economic Times newspaper reported today.

"The mishap occurred when the ice plug, which had been formed in order to transplant a section of the bypass loop, where cracks were discovered, gave way", it said in a front-page report.

"The accident took place on March 14, presumably due to welding heat that resulted in melting of the ice plug... With the giving way of the ice-plug, there was a sudden gush of radioactive water from the pipeline through the opening into the containment area of the reactor".

As a result of the accident, re-commissioning of the plant would be delayed, it said. (A.F.P.)

SWEDES OKAY THE
N - PROGRAMME

STOCKHOLM, March 24 - Sweden's nuclear referendum yesterday could have more far-reaching political than economic or ecological consequences, observers agreed here today.

Despite months of frantic campaigning by pro and anti-nuclear factions, one Swede in four ignored the poll, but the two "nuclear" lines together collected 58.2 per cent of votes, relieving the country's nuclear energy programme.

Line three, which called for dismantling the six stations already in operation over a 10-year period, gained far more than a token ecological vote, with 38.5 per cent ticking this option.

However, though the referendum was not binding, the Government will now go ahead with its scheduled 12 nuclear power stations in 25 years, exposing Sweden for an extra quarter century to the risks of a nuclear disaster. This possibility was first brought home to Swedes last year after the accident at Three Mile Island in the United States, when radioactivity leaked into the atmosphere.

Dismantling the power stations would have cost the nation 25,000 million crowns (6,000 million dollars) - 10 times more according to some estimates - which the Swedes refused, after investing 21,000 million crowns (5,000 million dollars) in the programme. (A.F.P.)

3 - MILE AID ASKED

HARRISBURG, Pennsylvania, March 25 - The Pennsylvania State Public Utility Commission on Monday demanded federal aid for the cleanup and decontamination of the Three Mile Island nuclear reactor.

In a letter addressed to President Jimmy Carter, the Commission said the Federal Government had never "formally recognized its responsibility for the economic consequences of the nation's worst nuclear accident".

The letter said the costs of the accident last March had been estimated to far exceed the costs of the most serious natural disasters in recent years.

Officials of Three Mile Island have estimated it would take four years and 400 million dollars to decontaminate the plant. Federal and private experts have estimated the cost at twice that.

The reactor was crippled by a nuclear accident which began last March 28, leaking low level radiation into the atmosphere and resulting in the evacuation of thousands of residents from the area. (A.F.P.)

W. GERMAN DEAL

BONN, March 22 - Petromin of Saudi Arabia will supply five million tons of crude oil annually to West Germany's Avia Mineraloel under a deal announced here yesterday by Economy Minister Otto Lambsdorf.

The customer acts for 30 medium sized distributors of petroleum products in this country. The arrangement is for three years.

Saudi Arabia is its top oil supplier. Last year it supplied 17,900,000 tons of West Germany's total intake of 107 million tons. (A.F.P.)

MIDDLE EAST

BEGIN : "THEY
CAN'T DRINK IT"

JERUSALEM, March 22 - Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin has accused Europeans who have called for Israeli negotiations with the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) of adopting expediency to ensure oil supplies.

Rejecting the idea of a Palestinian or Jordanian-Palestinian state, he warned that either would be dominated by the PLO. Israel's people would be under fire from enemy cannon and Palestine would be a Soviet base, he told European news correspondents.

Mr. Begin commented that Arab oil producers could not drink their petroleum, so they would be obliged to sell it to the West despite Israel's refusal to grant self-determination to the Palestinians.

Those in Europe backing Palestinian self-determination did not know what they were exposing themselves to, he said.

For Europeans to go to the Gulf oil region and say Israel should recognize the PLO to ensure their oil supply was a policy of "expediency", he added in an apparent reference to recent Middle East visits by French President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing and British Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Douglas Hurd.

PLO massacres

Mr. Begin defended the new Jewish settlements on the Israeli-occupied Arab inhabited Jordan River West Bank by saying the Jewish people had an "inalienable" right to live in Judea and Samaria. The settlements also were a barrier against PLO massacres of the Israeli people.

Mr. Begin said he again invited the Palestinians (outside the PLO) to join negotiations but could not force them to negotiate. (A.F.P.)

PROFOUND IRRITATION

CAIRO, March 24 - Egypt last night expressed "profound irritation and vigorous condemnation" after the Israeli Government's weekend decision to set up two religious study institutes in the heart of the West Bank Arab city of Hebron.

A Foreign Ministry communique said the Israeli decision "puts into question the capability and the desire of (Prime Minister Menachem) Begin's Government to face up to a critical new phase in the peace negotiations".

The communique also condemned the timing of the Israeli decision, taken just before this week's scheduled renewal of Israeli-Egyptian talks on Palestinian autonomy. (A.F.P.)

A FULL PARTNER...

RIYADH, March 23 - Britain and fellow members of the European Economic Community (EEC) consider the Palestine Liberation Organisation a full partner in eventual Mideast peace talks, Minister of State at the British Foreign Office Douglas Hurd said in an interview published here today.

The PLO was capable of bringing the Palestinian people's hopes to fruition and would have to join the negotiations at a certain stage, he told the Saudi daily Al Jazira. (A.F.P.)

GISCARD IN DOCK

ORLEANS, France, March 23 - Discontent with French President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing's Middle East policy emerged at the conference here of his Union for French Democracy (UDF), which groups several centre parties and shares power with the Gaullists in Parliament.

A former Christian Democrat Minister, André Monteil, yesterday voiced fears that the President's recent support for Palestinian self-determination was a threat to Israel, and consequently a threat to "the freedom and survival" of France.

He said that "so long as the PLO in its fundamental charter has as its final aim the disappearance of Israel, no French Government worthy of its name should permit Yasser Arafat to come to Paris".

And left-of-centre Radical Socialist Party Chairman Didier Bariani said the "least risk" to Israel affected France's honour and credibility, and called for military and economic aid to Tel Aviv.

Observers found it significant that Foreign Minister Jean François-Poncet chose not to attend the conference, thus avoiding a barrage of awkward questions from party faithful, many of whom support Israel and the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO). (A.F.P.)

SHAH'S "ESCAPE"
TO EGYPT

TEHERAN, March 25 - Thousands of demonstrators, led by religious figures, descended on the United States' Embassy here today to protest the deposed Shah of Iran's move to Egypt.

"Traitor Shah, how long will you hide from God's justice... for how long are you going to escape?" the demonstrators chanted outside the Embassy compound, where 50 Americans have been held hostage for 141 days to back demands for the Shah's return.

The first public protest at the ex-Shah's flight to Egypt yesterday was organised by religious teachers in the holy city of Qom, home of the country's revolutionary leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, Teheran religious progressists, revolutionary guards and the Khomeini committees.

Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlavi left his exile home in Panama late Sunday only 24 hours before lawyers were to present an Iranian demand for his extradition for alleged crimes during his reign. He arrived in Egypt yesterday, where he was to have surgery to remove an enlarged spleen.

(The Shah has accepted an offer to remain permanently in Egypt, President Anwar Sadat said in Cairo today. He explained that accepting the Shah was in "the true tradition of Islam", adding that what Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini was preaching in Iran was not Islam as this did not include "hatred and vengeance". Mr. Sadat said the Shah would live in Egypt "among brothers and friends"). (A.F.P.)

NORTH AFRICA

General Information

FRONTIER DOUBTS

CAIRO, March 23 - Egypt had no intention of attacking Libya but was not sure Libya's intentions were as pacific, Egyptian Army Chief of Staff General Ahmed Badaoui said in an interview published in the daily newspaper Al Ahram today.

"If there are units of the Egyptian Army at the western border, it is only to assure our defense and put us in a position to respond to any Libyan military operation", he told the newspaper.

But he said Libyan Army troops had built major fortifications and air bases near the border between the nations, adding that he would not rule out the possibility of a Libyan attack on Egypt.

He said Libya had been transformed into a "veritable military arsenal to better serve Soviet interests in the region". (A.F.P.)

Sahara

"DAMNING" S.A. DOSSIER

ALGIERS, March 24 - Morocco is using South African weaponry and instructors in its war against the Western Sahara nationalist guerrillas, the Polisario Front charged here Sunday.

Polisario Information Minister Salem Ould Salek told a news conference that the guerrillas would present a "damning" pictorial and factual dossier to the United Nations, the Organization of African Unity and the non-aligned movement, to prove it.

According to evidence from Moroccan prisoners captured in the battle of Ouarkaziz, in Southern Morocco, earlier this month, a number of AML-90 and ARV MK5 and MK 6 armoured cars made in South Africa under French licence arrived in Morocco in late December and early January, Mr. Ould Salek said .

With them were eight South African technicians and instructors. Orders were given to erase the tell-tale Afrikaans-language marking on the vehicles, he said. But some had been captured by Polisario forces with their markings still intact. (A.F.P.)

BATTLEFIELD EXECUTIONS...

ALGIERS, March 23 - The Polisario Front today said that Moroccan General Ahmed Dlimi, in a rage, shot 10 Moroccan soldiers who had fled from Polisario guerrillas during the battle of the Draa River in Southern Morocco early this month.

In a statement issued here, the Polisario said that General Dlimi was "furious to see his troops flee in disarray" on March 10 and had ordered, from his helicopter, the roundup of several Moroccan soldiers by military police.

About 10 soldiers were assembled and taken to Ouinet Torkaz, beyond the Ouarkziz Mountains at the base of which the fighting took place, the Polisario said.

"When he got out of his helicopter, General Dlimi fired at point-blank range on the 10 soldiers, including a Sergeant-Major. He then demoted several non-commissioned officers and officers in the presence of Moroccan armed forces units", the Polisario statement said. General Dlimi is King Hassan's top military adviser.

The Algerian-backed Polisario, which is fighting to establish its Saharan Arab Democratic Republic in the Western Sahara, claimed it had put 2,000 Moroccan soldiers out of action in the Draa fighting March 1-11. Foreign journalists who were taken on a battlefield tour by the Polisario saw heaps of bodies in Moroccan uniforms and burnt-out armoured vehicles. The Moroccans have acknowledged that a battle took place, but have derided the Polisario's victory claims and kill count. (A.F.P.)

Sahara

TWO 'COPTERS DOWN...

ALGIERS, March 22 - Two Moroccan helicopters were shot down and their pilots killed in Southern Morocco on March 18 and March 20, a communique from the Polisario Front guerrillas said here today. The two aircraft were taking supplies to the Zag base, under siege for several weeks by Polisario forces who had cut off land access, the communique said. (A.F.P.)

EMIRATES LOAN

Sudan

KUWAIT, March 24 - The United Arab Emirates has agreed to lend Sudan 150 million dollars, the daily Kuwait newspaper Al Anbaa said heretoday.

In a report from Abu Dhabi, the newspaper said two loans - of 50 and 100 million dollars - had been decided during last week's official visit to the Emirates of Sudanese President Gaafar Nimeiry. Part of the money would be used to extend Khartoum airport. (A.F.P.)

WEST AFRICA

General Information

FISHING DISPUTE

DAKAR, March 23 - Gambian authorities have seized two Senegalese fishing boats for allegedly fishing in Gambian territorial waters, according to the Senegalese News Agency. It said Gambia was holding the manager of the company which owned the boats, as well as one of the vessels, until a fine of 22 million CFA francs (90,000 dollars) was paid. (A.F.P.)

Mali

SHOT, BAYONETED, TORTURED...

LONDON, March 25 - At least 18 people, mostly teenagers, have been shot, bayoneted or tortured to death, including a young girl, in Mali where hundreds of others have been arrested in a Government crackdown on student unrest, according to reports received by Amnesty International.

The human rights body cited eyewitness accounts of police beatings of large numbers of youths in the streets of Bamako and said it had asked President Moussa Traoré for assurances about the safety of some of those arrested.

According to reports received by Amnesty, student leader Abdul Karim Camara Said, who was arrested about March 15 and whose death in custody the Government announced March 21, was beaten repeatedly and hung by his feet. Amnesty has asked for an official inquiry into his death, and for official information about Rokya Kouyate, a girl pupil reported to have been tortured to death after she was arrested in March. (A.F.P.)

"CABRAL" DEATH CONFIRMED

BAMAKO, March 22 - Malian student leader Abdul Karim Camara, known as "Cabral", died in detention after a March 8 demonstration here that was vigorously broken up by security forces, it was confirmed here.

Some fellow demonstrators caught committing acts of vandalism were drafted into the army, the Government newspaper L'Essor said.

The Political Secretary of the ruling Peoples Democratic Union (UPDM) said the death occurred after the demonstration by students and schoolchildren outside the hotel here where a six-nation summit on the Sahara was being held.

UPDM Political Secretary Sory Coulibaly told a party meeting the UPDM strongly regretted the death of Cabral, according to L'Essor.

The party had apologised to the parents of Cabral, who was Secretary-General of the dissolved National Union of Pupils and Students, Mr. Coulibaly was reported as saying.

According to the report of the meeting, there had been no other deaths, contrary to "the most fantastic rumours which have circulated about the condition of students and pupils arrested on the night of March 8". Those arrested had been released, it said.

But the paper added that "those arrested while committing vandalism have been drafted into the army under legislation in force".

Leaders of the former Pupils and Students Union had also been arrested and would appear before the appropriate judicial authorities, it said, adding that teachers arrested at a training college for holding an unauthorised meeting would be tried. (A.F.P.)

AID FROM CUBA

BAMAKO, March 22 - The Cuban Communist Party has contributed financial aid and 50 tractors to Mali's ruling party, it was announced here after a visit to Cuba by a party official.

Mali is in the throes of a budget squeeze, and has been seeking overseas help. The tractors are to be used by village farming associations that are to be created.

Colonel Amadou Baba Diarra, Deputy Secretary-General of the Mali People's Democratic Union, visited Cuba from March 10 to 16, a statement said. He saw President Fidel Castro and other Cuban leaders, discussing "non-alignment, the situation in Africa, the exchange of experiences between the parties of Mali and Cuba, and the strengthening of their relations". (A.F.P.)

Mali

DEATH FOR FRAUD

BAMAKO, March 22 - A special state security court yesterday sentenced father of 12 Nouhoum Dembele, a customs inspector, to death for embezzling more than 167 million Mali francs (about 420,000 dollars) although he had repaid nearly two thirds of the sum.

His accomplice in the fraud, Shell Oil company local director Karamoko Keita, was sentenced to death in his absence.

The court heard that Mr. Dembele, 42, had managed to repay more than 111 million Mali francs (277,000 dollars).

Under Malian law, embezzlement of large sums is treated as a state security offence. (A.F.P.)

Guinea

INVESTMENT CALL

LONDON, March 22 - Guinean Industry Minister Mamady Kaba today called on British firms to invest in mining operations in his country.

Mr. Kaba said Guinea would do all it could to encourage British investors and said the country had uranium, gold, bauxite, iron ore and also fertile lands with a good rainfall.

Mr. Kaba and his six-man delegation are here at the invitation of the Foreign Office.

He said British firms would be investing "in association with Guineans", but emphasised that the Conakry Government recently put up new guarantees for the protection of foreign interests. (A.F.P.)

Nigeria

STORM HAVOC

LAGOS, March 24 - Winds hitting 150 kph (94 mph) and torrential rain swept the Nigerian capital here last night, whipping roofs off houses, flooding huge areas with water and mud, and bringing down trees and power and telephone pylons.

The storm was the worst to hit this city of five million in Africa's most populous nation for 20 years.

Thousands of houses were badly damaged as winds tore corrugated iron roofs and slats from them. Maroko region between the lagoon and the sea was under water.

All the main roads from town, notably on Victoria Island - the residential region - and Central Lagos Island were cut by felled trees. And many parts of the city were without electricity as pylons, both wooden and concrete, were brought down in the wind, adding to the already difficult communications. (A.F.P.)

TEXACO CHIEF "UNFIT"

LAGOS, March 23 - Nigeria's National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) has called for the removal of the American director of the majority state-owned oil company Texaco Overseas, Herbert Bush, in connection with a well explosion which polluted the Niger River Delta recently with 15,000 tonnes of oil.

In a statement yesterday in the Government-owned paper New Nigerian in Kaduna, the Corporation, which is 40 per cent owned by the Nigerian Government, said Mr. Bush was "unfit to solve the problems arising from the pollution", which occurred between January 17 and February 1 when the wellhead, some 10 kms (six miles) offshore, blew up. (A.F.P.)

DOUBLE STATES, SAYS ZIK

LAGOS, March 23 - Former President Nnamdi Azikiwe, leader of the Nigerian People's Party, has called for the number of states in the country to be doubled - from the present 19 to 39 - to strengthen the political balance he said was vital to national unity.

In a university lecture at Enugu, in his home state of Anambra, Dr. Azikiwe said recent developments in Nigeria, whose 80 million people make it Black Africa's most populous country, had convinced him of this need.

A week ago, the President of the Federal Senate, Joseph Wayas, announced he had appointed a Senate committee to look into requests for the creation of new states. (A.F.P.)

EAST AFRICA

General Information

NEW OGADEN THREATS...

MOMBASA, Kenya, March 24 - There are new threats to Ethiopia's territorial integrity in the Ogaden region, Ethiopian Foreign Minister Feleke Gedle Giorgis said today.

Colonel Feleke, who was addressing a meeting of the two countries' ministerial consultative committee meeting which opened here today, described the threat as "unfortunate", adding, in an apparent reference to Somalia's claims on Ogaden, that Ethiopia had noted signs of war preparations.

The Ethiopian Minister said his country was interested in peace and good neighbour relations.

Col. Feleke called on all Ethiopia's neighbours to follow the example of the good relations existing between his country and Kenya, whose North-Western Province is also claimed by Somalia. (A.F.P.)

Kenya

DISEASE THREAT
TO TOURIST TRADE

by Louis-Marie Tattevin

NAIROBI, March 23 - A wave of cancellations has hit Kenya's important tourist industry after three infectious diseases were reported in the country and shortages of electricity, water and certain food were felt in the hotels.

No cancellation statistics have been made public. But the situation was worrisome enough for the Minister of Tourism, Gilbert Mmbijjiwe, to release on Friday a statement aimed at reassuring travel agencies and their clients.

In February, two cases of Marburg Fever - known as Green Monkey disease - were discovered in Nairobi. One was fatal. Quick action was taken to avoid an epidemic of the fever, which killed some 400 people in Zaire and Sudan in 1976.

Early this month, plague in Nairobi hit newspaper headlines. After confirmation of several cases - one fatal - health authorities began a cleanup in the affected slum. Medical officials think now that there is little risk of a large-scale outbreak.

Cholera, which is reported to have killed between 30 and 40 people in Tanzania this year, has also hit Kenyan districts along the Tanzanian border. Over the past two years, the disease has killed a couple of dozen Kenyans in isolated rural areas.

"I would like to reassure all tour operators, local as well as overseas-based agents, that there is no risk of any of their clients contracting any of these diseases while holidaying in Kenya", Mr. Mmbijjiwe said.

Many cancellations

Earlier in the week, the coast branch of the Kenya Association of Hotelkeepers and Caterers had raised the alarm, speaking of "many cancellations" in the region's hotels. With the Mombasa international airport nearby, they account for two-thirds of the 2.6 million hotel nights sold annually in Kenya.

Tourism officials fear that it may take years for holidaymakers to regain confidence in Kenya. Tourists from West Germany are the most numerous - accounting for 29.5 per cent of hotel nights last year - with British, Swiss, Italian and French tourists following.

The hotel operators also expressed the "deepest concern over the terrifying number of complaints" from clients inconvenienced by shortages. (A.F.P.)

ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES...

ADDIS ABABA, March 22 - Ethiopia and the Sudan agreed Friday "in principle" to jointly control the "illegal activities" along their common border, in a further bid to normalize their strained relations.

The agreement came at the end of a three-day visit to the Eritrean provincial capital of Asmara by a Sudanese delegation headed by the Commissioner of the Eastern Kassala Province of Sudan, Suliman Fagiri.

A communique released here said Mr. Fagiri and the Ethiopian Administrators of Eritrea and Gondar, both adjoining Kassala, also agreed on the "urgent establishment" of channels of communications to facilitate exchange of information and meetings between their representatives.

It was not clear what "illegal activities" meant, given the fact that Ethiopia's main worry in that area is the free movement of Eritrean rebels locked in an 18-year-old war of secession with Addis Ababa, and until now openly backed by the Sudan.

According to the communique, both sides further agreed to respect the principles of good neighbourliness, particularly non-interference in each other's internal affairs and the strengthening and consolidation of national unity.

It said representatives of the border regions would work towards establishing economic and cultural relationships, and create a climate for tourist development.

A similar agreement was reached here last week following the official visit to Ethiopia of Sudanese First Vice-President and Defence Minister Abdel Majid Hamid Khalil. (A.F.P.)

MEDIATION CALL

AJMAN, United Arab Emirates, March 24 - The Secretary-General of the Eritrean Liberation Front (ELF), Osman Saleh Sebbi, called on Sudan Sunday to mediate in the conflict between Ethiopia and secessionist Eritrea.

In an interview with the UAR news agency WAM, Mr. Sebbi, who earlier conferred with the ruler of Ajman, Sheikh Hamid Ben Rashed Al Nehmi, said that since Sudan had decided to strengthen its ties with Ethiopia it could play a part in settling the drawn-out Ethiopian-Eritrean conflict. (A.F.P.)

TALKS IN MOSCOW

ADDIS ABABA, March 24 - A top-level Ethiopian economic delegation returned here from Moscow Sunday after what they described as "fruitful" talks with Soviet officials. (A.F.P.)

Ethiopia

PUBLIC EXECUTION

ADDIS ABABA, March 22 - An Ethiopian Airline purser was publicly executed here yesterday for the "premeditated and savage" murder this week ago of his home-based inflight supervisor.

The Ethiopian News Agency said Behailu Kebede faced a firing squad in a suburb of the capital after his sentence of death by the first bench of the general court martial was confirmed by the Head of State.

The victim, Melaku Kirubel, died from pistol shots fired at point-blank range in his own office on Wednesday.

The speedy trial, verdict and execution was apparently aimed as a deterrent. Ethiopian Airlines is currently going through a management change. Its new executives are reportedly determined to take drastic action to pull it out of its financial straits. (A.F.P.)

Uganda

MORE VIOLENCE

KAMPALA, March 22 - The Deputy Minister for Information under former President Yusef Lule has been attacked by armed men here in the third violent attack in a week on prominent supporters of the former Ugandan leader.

Robert Ssebunya, his wife and brother were ordered out of their car by four armed men at 8.30 p.m. Thursday night, an hour and a half before the beginning of the curfew in the capital.

The men, three of them in army uniform and carrying automatic guns, fired a number of rounds. One bullet grazed the forehead of Mr. Ssebunya.

He said that the men took all his possessions and a large amount of money, adding that he believed they meant to warn him to stop campaigning on behalf of Mr. Lule.

Supporters of Mr. Lule, the university professor who took over as Head of State after the ousting of Ugandan dictator Idi Amin last April but was himself replaced by President Godfrey Binaisa, say that a death list has been drawn up by political opponents including a number of former Lule Cabinet Ministers.

William Lubwama, a Kampala businessman and close ally of Mr. Lule, was shot dead on Sunday night.

Gaster Nsubuga, the owner of a pro-Lule weekly newspaper in Kampala, who was wounded in the same incident, has since survived two more attempts to kill him in the city's main Mulago hospital before friends smuggled him out of the country to neighbouring Kenya. (A.F.P.)

ONLY ONE PARTY
IN ELECTIONS

KAMPALA, March 24 - A Ugandan Cabinet Minister confirmed over the weekend that elections would be held late this year, months ahead of schedule, and, in an apparent warning to former President Milton Obote, said that the ruling Uganda National Liberation Front (UNLF) would be the only party in the ballot.

The statement was made to a farmers' meeting in Southern Uganda by Dan Nabudere, who also heads the Front's political and diplomatic committee. It backed up President Godfrey Binaisa's comment to reporters last Wednesday in Kampala that he believed general elections could take place in October or November.

The balloting was to have been in June 1981 - two years after Mr. Binaisa's installation as the second UNLF President, succeeding Yusufu Lule. Mr. Lule had been placed in power after a Tanzanian-UNLF expeditionary force overthrew Idi Amin in April 1979.

Conflict danger

Mr. Obote, who was deposed by Field Marshal Amin in 1971, has indicated that he would return from exile in Tanzania to run for president in the elections. But Mr. Nabudere's statement - coming after President Binaisa had raised the possibility of one-party elections - appeared to mean that Mr. Obote, who has his own party (the Uganda People's Congress), would have to try to stand under the UNLF banner if he sought the presidency.

"If people vote within different political parties there will be conflicts", Mr. Nabudere told the farmers. "In the forthcoming elections, all of us will vote within the UNLF, and the Government which we shall elect will have the powers to enable it to overcome the present difficulties".

Private armies...

President Binaisa's Government has been plagued by tribalism, corruption, inability to deal with inflation and reports of private armies plotting to overthrow it, and Mr. Nabudere said that the nation's difficulties "had to be resolved with dispatch by a government carrying the mandate of the people".

"That government and the legislature will prepare the constitution which will govern the country in the time to come afterwards", he said.

Mr. Nabudere warned that anyone who tried "to put himself in power by employing force to remove those who have been democratically elected will be fought by all of us".

Uganda

In close touch

The weekly newspaper Ngabo reported earlier this month that forces loyal to Mr. Obote were training in Northern Uganda, in his native area, with the aim of rising against the Binaisa Government and the UNLF-run National Consultative Council (Parliament).

The UNLF was formed early in 1979 in Tanzania by 28 political groups opposed to Marshal Amin. Mr. Obote, who is a close friend of Tanzanian President Julius Nyerere, did not join the UNLF Government at Amin's downfall, but he is reported to have kept in close touch with Ugandan affairs.

President Binaisa said last week that he believed President Nyerere would by September pull out all 20,000 Tanzanian soldiers and police who remained in Uganda as a peacekeeping force, and the Ugandan Government is reportedly trying to arrange for a Commonwealth force to replace them. (A.F.P.)

BRITAIN "STUDYING"

LONDON, March 24 - A British Foreign Office spokesman refused to confirm or deny Sunday a report that Britain might be willing to send troops to Uganda to help keep President Godfrey Binaisa in power after the expected withdrawal of 20,000 Tanzanian soldiers and police who helped to oust former President Idi Amin a year ago.

The spokesman said simply that Britain was "now studying" the difficulties Mr. Binaisa would face after the scheduled Tanzanian withdrawal.

He refused to comment on a report in the Sunday Telegraph here that Britain told two secret emissaries from Mr. Binaisa in London 10 days ago that it might be willing to send troops to Uganda as part of a Commonwealth peacekeeping force.

The paper, quoting African diplomatic sources, said Mr. Binaisa had made similar requests to Nigeria, Kenya and India.

Tanzanian President Julius Nyerere is thought to favour the return to power of former President Milton Obote, who has been in exile in Tanzania since he was overthrown by Idi Amin in January 1971. (A.F.P.)

SPECIAL EEC LOAN

BRUSSELS, March 22 - The European Economic Community (EEC) has made a special loan of 300,000 European units of account (417,000 dollars) to Uganda to help overcome the effects of drought in the north and east of the country, sources close to the European Commission said here.

The EEC is also to provide Uganda with 700 tonnes of powdered milk and 222 tonnes of maize flour. (A.F.P.)

Uganda

6 DIE IN RAID

KAMPALA, March 24 - Six Ugandans were shot dead Sunday night at a village on the outskirts of Kampala in what villagers alleged was a new Tanzanian reprisal raid.

Police sources confirmed today that the six villagers were shot dead by heavily armed men in military uniforms, who had arrived at Banda village, six miles (three kms) from the centre of the city by bus.

One villager reported that a Tanzanian soldiers had been accidentally runover in a road accident on Friday night, after which Tanzanian soldiers had been heard to threaten the destruction of the village before March 29, when they are due to leave the country for home.

Last week Ugandan President Godfrey Binaisa announced the setting up of a judicial commission to inquire into a Tanzanian raid on the Kibuli area of Kampala last Monday in which homes were set on fire and property stolen.

The raid followed a shooting incident in which one Tanzanian and five Ugandans were killed. The setting-up of the commission came at a time when the Ugandan authorities are concerned about reported misbehaviour by the 20,000 Tanzanian soldiers, half of whom are leaving for Tanzania this month.

The Tanzanians invaded Uganda and overthrew the regime of Idi Amin last year. (A.F.P.)

AMIN COMPENSATION

KAMPALA, March 22 - The Ugandan Government has set up a committee to handle compensation claims from the 40,000 Asians and others who had their businesses and properties seized by former dictator Idi Amin.

The official Uganda Times newspaper said today that any person who had property expropriated under Marshal Amin - deposed in April 1979 - may submit claims for compensation. (A.F.P.)

CENTRAL AFRICA

Central African Republic

JUSTICE MINISTER GOES

BANGUI, March 24 - Central African Republic President David Dacko has sacked Justice Minister Francois Gueret, it was announced here today.

No explanation was given for the sacking, which followed the show trials of henchmen of ousted Emperor Jean-Bedel Bokassa, six of whom were condemned to death. Michel Gallin-Douathe, Minister of State at the Prime Minister's Office, has been appointed temporary Justice Minister. (A.F.P.)

ECONOMY REVAMP

LUSAKA, March 24 - Zambia is to cut fertiliser and seed prices, end import duty on foreign agricultural machinery and set up cooperatives and major state farms in a move to revamp its economy after 15 years of supporting the liberation struggle in Southern Africa.

Announcing the measures last night, President Kenneth Kaunda said his country was also to set up an emerald and precious stones mining and marketing industry. He commented : "It is very painful to watch our brothers from Senegal and Mali come here in great numbers because of our emeralds".

Speaking on radio and television, the Zambian leader said the Government wanted to reduce the price of fertiliser and seeds to attract more peasant farmers.

The Government would set up state farms in each province and provide facilities for those who wanted to go into farming, he added. (A.F.P.)

125 M. FROM FRENCH

LUSAKA, March 22 - The French Foreign Trade Bank will lend 500 million francs (about 125 million dollars) to Zambia for projects in the country's third development plan under an accord signed here today by Zambian Finance Minister Kebby Musokotwane and Bank Director Gilbert Lacan. (A.F.P.)

DEMONS IN THE YARD...

LUSAKA, March 24 - A blackman proclaiming himself to be Jesus Christ is organising a religious movement at Kitwe on the Copperbelt, the newspaper Times of Zambia reported today.

The movement is led by Chanda Sema, from Chinsali in Zambia's Northern Province, who declared that the yard at his house at Kitwe was the "Holy Land".

He has chosen 12 men as his disciples and will not be talked to except through his disciples. He claims : "I am the real Jesus. I have come back now in a black skin and I have come to stay for ever".

Other religious groups have warned their followers to keep away from the black "Jesus" as he has "demons in him". (A.F.P.)

TROOPS TO MOVE

LUSAKA, March 24 - Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda announced here last night that Zambian soldiers who were deployed along the country's border with Rhodesia would now be moved to Western Province to counter-attacks by South African soldiers. Speaking on national radio and television, the President said that, now that Rhodesia was free, Zambian soldiers would move to Western Province to protect the people and their property from attacks by South African soldiers.

Angola

FULL SOLIDARITY

WITH AFGHANS

HAVANA, March 23 - Cuba and Angola, both major recipients of Soviet aid, stopped short of approving the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan in a joint communique here yesterday after an official visit by Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos.

When he arrived last Monday, Mr. dos Santos said "threats of aggression" had justified Afghanistan's "legitimate" recourse to foreign military aid.

But yesterday's communique simply expressed Angola's and Cuba's "full solidarity" with the Afghan people and condemned "the manoeuvres of imperialism and its allies aimed at undermining the revolutionary process of April 1978".

The communique declared Cuba's "firm and unshakeable support" for Angola and its revolution, confirming Cuban President Fidel Castro's pledge earlier to continue Cuban military and civil aid to Angola "at all levels".

Latest unofficial figures here put Cuban troops in Angola at 19,000 plus 6,500 civilians.

The joint communique said the "excellent and solid" Cuban-Angolan ties had stood up to "insults, intrigue, intervention and all foreign manoeuvres and attempts to introduce splits and divisions".

In Luanda yesterday, President dos Santos said that, after five years of concentration on reconstruction after the civil war, Cuban aid to Angola should now switch to a higher plane, to take in development projects, the creation of joint companies and more aid in health and education. (A.F.P.)

Zaire

TALKS IN PEKING

PEKING, March 25 - President Mobutu Sese Seko of Zaire today met Chinese Vice-Premier Deng Xiaoping to discuss international and African affairs on his second day of talks in Peking.

The New China News Agency said Premier Hua Guofeng strongly criticised the Soviet Union's role in Africa yesterday when he welcomed President Mobutu to Peking.

China gives Zaire military, economic and technical aid. It sees President Mobutu as a powerful opponent of the development of Soviet, Cuban and other such influences in Central Africa, observers said. (A.F.P.)

Zaire

DEATH FOR SIX

KINSHASA, March 23 - Four Zairese soldiers and two civilians were condemned to death yesterday by Kinshasa's Higher Military Tribunal, Zaire Radio said today.

It said the six had been convicted of association with criminals, arbitrary arrests, armed robbery, extortion, inciting soldiers to illegal acts and "dissipation of munitions and arms of war".

The radio said a sergeant was acquitted. (A.F.P.)

Chad

EUROPEANS GETTING OUT

NDJAMENA, March 25 - For the fourth successive day, fighting erupted here at dawn between Chad's rival factions, as three French military aircraft evacuating Europeans from the battle-divided capital waited on the runway in neighbouring Cameroun to return here.

So far, the Transall aircraft have evacuated 189 refugees to Douala, but with the runways here being too close to the fighting the pilots are awaiting guarantees of safe landings before continuing to bring out the war-trapped Europeans.

Fighting between soldiers of Defence Minister Hissene Habre's Armed Forces of the North and President Goukouni Weddeye's Popular Armed Forces was at a lower tempo today than previous days, suggesting that ammunition stocks were running low and that both sides were waiting for reinforcements. So far, it is impossible to tell if any of these have arrived.

Mr. Habre's troops, under pressure from the Popular Armed Forces, have lost several positions they held earlier in the capital, in particular the Camp of April 13, on the outskirts of the African quarter.

(Meanwhile in Paris, informed sources said that the Chadian Armed Forces (FAT) of southern leader Colonel Wadal Abdelkader Kamougue had not yet been able to cross the Chagoua Bridge, held by Mr. Habre's forces, to enter the city.

(An estimated 200 Europeans fleeing the fighting have arrived in Cameroun by car from Ndjamen, crossing the frontier River Chari on a ferry built by French troops stationed in the Chadian capital.

(They, and the 189 men, women and children - mostly French - who were flown out are being put up by French families, in the French Dominique Saviot College, whose pupils are on holiday, or in hotels in North Cameroun).

Chad

Appeals for ceasefire

Meanwhile, in Ndjamena the leader of the Muslim community, Imam Ibrahim Moussa, has called on the French authorities to try and get negotiations started between Mr. Habre and Mr. Weddeye to end the fighting.

Saudi Arabia's King Khaled has sent a message to the Imam to be given to the leaders of the rival factions calling for a halt in the hostilities.

Fighting in the city died down during the night except around midnight, when violent artillery blasts could be heard - attributed by some to Col. Kamougue's forces on the other side of the Chari River.

(Paris sources said the Armed Forces of the North had captured positions earlier held by President Weddeye's men between Abeche and Ati in the east of the country, but had lost some of its own between Ati and the capital). (A.F.P.)

CHILDREN SHOT
TO DEATH...

DOUALA, Cameroun, March 25 - White refugees from Chad, most of them French, arrived here from battle-torn Ndjamena with tales of children shot to death and a general intention not to return.

"The fighting certainly has killed hundreds, and how many children. I saw some lying dead on the sidewalks, killed by stray bullets", said one Frenchman who had been providing technical assistance in the former French colony.

"It's a sight you do not forget", he said.

He was among 189 whites who were flown out yesterday aboard French Transall troop transports to this Cameroun port. Another 280 or so whites crossed the Chari River from Ndjamena into Cameroun by car on a ferry built by French military engineers. Most of the 900 whites in Ndjamena were French, with scatterings of Americans, West Germans, Swiss and other nationalities.

Waiting for lull

Those who have not gotten away from the fighting, which has been going on since Saturday morning between private armies of President Goukouni Weddeye and Defence Minister Hissene Habre, are waiting at the French military base for a lull that will allow the Transalls to fly back in.

The refugees arrived here without luggage, for the most part, and visibly shaken by their hours under the guns.

Chad

The second time

A United Nations official, carrying just an attache case in which toiletries had replaced papers, said that he, like many others, was being evacuated for the second time in 13 months.

(Fighting in Ndjamenena killed thousands of Chadians in February 1979 and brought down Felix Malloum's Government, which was replaced in December by the Goukouni "National Unity" Administration that now seems to have broken down).

The U.N. employee said that after last year's evacuation he had stayed in Yaounde, the Cameroun capital for five weeks.

"When I got back, my house had been emptied of everything", he recalled. "Now, it's all beginning again".

A French family said that when the first shells began to fall, they headed for the French base - where 1,100-1,200 French soldiers are stationed - without stopping to pick up anything.

"We don't regret it because our neighbourhood is now at the center of the fighting", the father said.

A Swiss family was able to leave home for the base on Sunday night during a brief period of calm.

"From Saturday on, we had been flat on the ground, with our kids, in the least-exposed room", the father said. "There was no electricity, no water, no food".

"My wife was getting ready to go out to the market", he said with wry humor, "but we waited, because the fighting was heating up everywhere".

Most of the refugees said they would not go back, and as one put it: "We want to forget this nightmare of Ndjamenena and return to our country as soon as possible". (A.F.P.)

GUARD DUTY

PARIS, March 22 - The total number of French soldiers presently in Chad is about 1,100, informed sources said here today.

The troops, from the 11th Parachute Division and the 9th Marine Division, were deployed around the Chadian capital of Ndjamenena to guard the airport and protect Europeans. (A.F.P.)

NEWSMAN KILLED

NDJAMENENA, March 24 - The Sudan News Agency correspondent here, Mohamed Osman Abdelrahman Azzuma, was shot dead last night, it was learned today. Mr. Azzuma was killed during shooting between Chad's warring factions. No other details were available. (A.F.P.)

COMPENSATION TALKS

MAPUTO, March 25 - The interim British Governor of Rhodesia, Lord Soames, left Maputo today for Salisbury after ruling out British compensation for the massive damage done in Mozambique by the Rhodesian Army during the guerrilla war.

The Governor, however, said that he hoped the European Economic Community (EEC) would contribute to repairing the Salisbury-Maputo railway, badly damaged during the war. He also indicated that the British Government would encourage British private enterprise to set up business in Mozambique.

Lord Soames was ending a two-day official visit at the invitation of Mozambican President Samora Machel. (A.F.P.)

QUELLING VIOLENCE

SALISBURY, March 23 - Prime Minister Robert Mugabe has sent his guerrilla forces Commander-in-Chief, Rex Nhongo to the white farming area of Arcturus, near Salisbury, as part of moves to quell violence and intimidation in the area, a police spokesman said here today.

Mr. Mugabe held talks with Assistant Police Commissioner Ian Hogg today about the activities of about 500 Zimbabwe African National Liberation Army (ZANLA) guerrillas who have been stationed at Arcturus, east of here, on a former white farm bought by Mr. Mugabe party.

Three whites and several blacks in the area have allegedly been beaten up by the guerrillas.

Police confirmed that General Nhongo had already visited the farm, occupied by guerrillas who have been brought to Salisbury to practice parade drill for next month's independence celebrations.

They have arrested four men for allegedly assaulting several black men and women at the Goldstone mine at Arcturus.

Police were continuing investigation into assaults on three whites. One of them, Phyllis Willoughby, 70, is in a hospital with a broken rib and a punctured lung. (A.F.P.)

Republic of South Africa

LOANS POLICY

NEW YORK, March 25 - The National Council of Churches (NCC) and several other United States religious organizations announce Monday that they were withdrawing 63 million dollars in deposits from Citibank of New York because it had refused to change its policy on loans to South Africa. (A.F.P.)

HEROES DAY CALL

JOHANNESBURG, March 24 - Anti-apartheid groups, commemorating the Sharpeville massacre of blacks by police 20 years ago, called yesterday for black South Africans to "follow the example of Robert Mugabe in Zimbabwe" and launched a "decade for freedom" in South Africa.

They met in a Catholic church in Soweto, the huge black township near Johannesburg, to celebrate "Heroes Day" in honor of the 67 black demonstrators killed at Sharpeville, near Johannesburg, on March 21, 1960. (A.F.P.)

MANGE : FRENCH FROTEST

PARIS, March 23 - French Communist Member of Parliament Pierre Juquin has been refused a visa to go to South Africa to express support for black nationalist James Mange recently condemned to death there for subversion, the party newspaper Humanité reported Saturday.

In a letter of protest to the South African Ambassador in Paris, Mr. Juquin said the visa refusal "confirmed the injustice" of Mr. Mange's trial and death sentence. (A.F.P.)

RUGBY READMISSION

LONDON, March 22 - The International Board of Rugby yesterday readmitted South Africa but said that because of a tight schedule of matches the Springboks would not be able to tour Europe before the 1987-88 season.

The decision was instantly condemned by Emlyn Jones, Director of Britain's Sports Council, who warned there would be a Black African backlash. "This decision could leave Britain in a state of sporting isolation", he said. (A.F.P.)

Namibia

NIGERIA'S BACKING

LAGOS, March 24 - South-West African People's Organisation (SWAPO) President Sam Nujoma conferred here over the weekend with Nigerian President Shehu Shagari about continuing Nigerian aid to guerrillas fighting against South African rule in Namibia, according to official sources.

The local press meanwhile quoted President Shagari as telling a press conference in Niamey (Niger) last Friday that "after Zimbabwe, Nigeria will fight for the independence of Azania (South Africa) and Namibia". (A.F.P.)

Namibia

TROOPER, TRIBAL CHIEF

WINDHOEK, March 24 - A South African soldier was killed yesterday in Northern Namibia near the Angolan frontier, battleground of the low-key guerrilla war between Pretoria and the nationalist South-West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO).

Today's announcement by a military spokesman here followed one yesterday that SWAPO guerrillas had killed a tribal chief from Namibia's Northern Ovambo region.

Official figures for the death toll in this South African - administered territory show that 21 South African soldiers, 22 civilians and 195 guerrillas have been killed this year in the war which started in 1976. (A.F.P.)

"END COOPERATION" CALL

PARIS, March 23 - France's biggest trade union federation, the Communist-led CGT, called on the French Government yesterday to end "all cooperation" with South Africa because of the "development of repression" in Namibia, which it said South Africa was "illegally occupying".

The union called for the release of political prisoners and trade unionists, including union leader Paavo Marx Kapuka. (A.F.P.)

Malawi

EXPORT RECORD

BLANTYRE, March 24 - Malawi expects to raise a total revenue of approximately 170.3 million kwachas (127.73 million dollars) for its operational budget in the next financial year ending March 31, 1981, the Government announced over the weekend.

Presenting his budget statement in Parliament, Finance Minister Louis Chimango, said total exports - mainly tobacco, tea, sugar, groundnuts (peanuts), cotton and rice - increased by 20.7 per cent in 1979 to a record high figure of 190 million kwachas (142.5 million dollars).

Out of the expected total revenue, six million kwachas (4.5 million dollars) would be transferred to the development budget, he said. Financing of the development budget continued to depend on external sources, he added.

The Minister thanked the various governments which had helped during the fuel crisis, including Tanzania, Mozambique and Zambia, as well as South Africa and the European Economic Community, who financed air-freighting of fuel to Malawi last year. (A.F.P.)

Lesotho

CHURCHMAN HELD

MASERU, March 25 - The Chairman of the Ecumenical Fund of the World Council of Churches, MacDonald Mabote, is being held by Lesotho security police under the country's 60-day detention law, it was disclosed Monday.

Mr. Mabote, who is principal of Peka High School in Northern Lesotho and Vice-Chairman of the Lesotho Evangelical Church, was arrested on March 15, a member of his family said.

No reason was given for his arrest, the family member said. Police searched his office and house, he added.

According to local press reports, several students of Peka High School have left the country to engage in "subversive activities" abroad. (A.F.P.)

INDIAN OCEAN

Madagascar

RICELESS DAY

ANTANANARIVI, March 23 - Madagascar's Rural Development Minister has asked his countrymen to skip eating rice one day a week in an effort to reduce imports of the food.

Radio Madagascar reported yesterday that the Minister, Simon Pierre, made the appeal at a seminar held by the Malagasy national committee of the World Campaign against Hunger.

The radio said Mr. Pierre asserted that observance of a riceless day would save 250,000 tons of rice a year. Madagascar imports 150,000 tons annually.

The Minister was quoted as saying that inhabitants of the island ate between 12 and 13 kilograms (26-29 pounds) of rice per person per month, ahead of even China, which he said had a per-month personal consumption figure of 8.7 kg (19 pounds).

Mr. Pierre said that Madagascar produced 2.26 million tons of rice a year on 1.1 million hectares for its 8.5 million inhabitants and that at the current rate of population growth the island would have to double the amount of land set aside for rice by the year 2000. (A.F.P.)

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