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DEFENCE FORCE VITAL...

ADDIS ABABA, May 8 - The creation of an African defence force is an "imperative necessity" for the maintenance of peace and security and the safeguarding of the independence of African states, a top Organization of African Unity (OAU) official said here today.

Africans would not be the target of the major powers, nor kill each other as in Chad if such a machinery existed, acting OAU Secretary-General Peter Onu told the opening session of a meeting of experts mandated to study the implications of establishing such a force.

"We often find ourselves impotent in the face of many acts of aggression and foreign interventions in Africa and repeated attacks perpetrated with impunity against front-line states by minority racist regimes of Southern Africa", Mr. Onu said.

Such attacks had occurred against Angola, Mozambique and Zambia. There were also conflicts between independent African states, he added, that sometimes had been settled with the use of force, very often with the support of extra-African powers.

The meeting of experts, postponed yesterday for lack of a quorum, proceeded today with a simple majority of 23 delegates present.

Its task, cut out by the OAU Monrovia summit last year, is to undertake a detailed study of the legal and financial implications for the creation of an OAU defence force. Its establishment in principle has been approved by the Heads of State.

Following their eight-day meeting, the experts are expected to come up with a draft protocol or convention which will go before the next OAU Summit in Freetown, Sierra Leone, in about two months' time. (A.F.P.)

COMMON INTERESTS...

PEKING, May 9 - Cooperation between Africa and France is based on common interests despite certain contradictions and difficulties, the New China News Agency (NCNA) said today.

The official Chinese news agency was commenting on the opening of the 7th French-African summit meeting in Nice.

It said the meeting was being held in an "increasingly turbulent" international atmosphere both economically and politically in the wake of the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan.

Africa was important for the marketing of French exports and in return France received significant raw materials from Africa, it said, adding : "Africa plays a very important role in the survival and development of France". (A.F.P.)

CONCERN OVER RIGHTS

NICE, Southern France, May 8 - The human rights organisation Amnesty International has declared its concern over human rights in Africa on the occasion of the seventh Franco-African summit meeting opening here tomorrow.

As delegates started arriving here amid tight security, Amnesty revealed it had addressed a document to each participant "appreciating the significance and importance of initiatives taken... in Africa to promote effective guarantees of human rights".

It pointed particularly to a planned African charter of human rights and creation of an African commission of human rights.

Amnesty recalled the decision of the last Franco-African summit, in Kigali, Rwanda, to set up a jurists' commission to inquire into human rights violations in Central Africa under the regime of Emperor Jean-Bedel Bokassa, now deposed.

The organization's French section called for the Nice meeting to take "individual or collective initiatives" to effectively promote human rights. (A.F.P.)

CUBANS CAUSING PROBLEMS

FORT WALTON BEACH, Florida, May 9 - The flow of Cuban refugees reaching the Florida coast over the past 18 days passed 25,000 Thursday, triggering serious law and order problems in overcrowded processing centers.

In this Northern Florida camp, Immigration, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) officials are able to process a maximum of 500 persons a day, while more than 2,000 refugees arrive daily. (A.F.P.)

3 M. MORE REFUGEES

NEW YORK, May 9 - Some 16 million people became or were already refugees last year, three million more than in 1978, according to a report issued here by the American Committee for Refugees.

The figures did not include Afghans who had fled their country since last December's Soviet intervention, or the current exodus of refugees from Cuba.

Asia had the most refugee movements with a total of 7.3 million displaced persons in 1979, including four million Cambodians. The 1978 total had been 6.3 million.

Africa held the second position - four million refugees last year compared with 3.4 million in 1978, chiefly from Ethiopia and Somalia. The report indicated, however, that the figures could decrease next year with the expected return home of refugees to Zimbabwe. (A.F.P.)

POPE : "BURDEN OF
5 M. REFUGEES"

NAIROBI, May 8 - Pope John Paul II, who arrived in Ghana today on the fourth leg of his current six-nation African tour, appealed to the world here Tuesday to help Africa bear the burden of its five million refugees.

Speaking to the diplomatic corps at the half-way point in his 10-day tour, he urged countries outside Africa to give aid to relieve the "terrible sufferings" of the refugees. The countries they fled from could often remove the cause of their flight, he added.

Progress had been made, he said, on the allied and "persistent problem" of racism, but there were still "too many instances" of institutionalised racism in Africa.

Racism was indeed, in the words of the late Pope Paul VI, an "inadmissible affront to the fundamental rights of the human person," he said.

Colonialism's end

He said the world rejoiced that, "with a few painful exceptions", the era of colonialism was "now drawing to a final close", though the "various achievements" of the period were not to be denied.

The danger now was other forms of dependence, which already existed or were "at least a threat", the Pontiff said.

With political freedom went "economic independence and freedom from ideological domination", he said. The Pope warned against the "subtle threat of interference of an ideological nature", adding that the Church's stand was that "an atheistic ideology can never be the moving and guiding force" for advancing human society.

Human values

He praised Africa as "a real treasure-house of authentic human values" and urged Africans to share them with the world so that every country would "see more clearly the rights and needs" of Africa and help Africans to fulfil them "without having to accept new forms of dependence".

The Pope was met on his arrival here Tuesday by two African Presidents, Kenya's Daniel Arap Moi and Ugandan Godfrey Binaisa, who had flown here specially to meet him. (A.F.P.)

THIRD WORLD QUANDARY

by Danielle Eyquem

PARIS, May 8 - With the death of Marshal Tito, the 95-nation non-aligned movement risks disintegration if the third world cannot produce another leader capable of overcoming their differences.

The fact that so many Asian and African chiefs of state attended the funeral in Belgrade today is a testimony to the late Yugoslav leader's status as a champion of national independence. It is also an indication of their uneasiness over the void created in their movement by his death. The non-aligned nations are especially concerned by Soviet intervention in Afghanistan, the revival of the U.S.-Soviet cold war and the world-wide economic crisis.

The movement was in crisis even before Marshal Tito's death, as was shown at the last summit meeting in Havana. A struggle developed between Cuban President Fidel Castro, who argued that the East-bloc countries were the natural allies of the non-aligned nations, and the moderates, who were exasperated by the way in which the movement's directing bodies had been taken over by the "progressives".

Only Tito's moderation and persistence kept the meeting from ending in disaster. He constantly insisted that the only cement that could hold so many countries with so many different social and political systems together was the refusal to serve as the "channel" for any power.

104 to 18

Since the Havana talks, events in Afghanistan have led the third world to condemn the Soviet Union. Only 18 countries - unconditional supporters of Moscow - have defended the Soviet intervention, while 104 nations have denounced it in the strongest terms. More recently at Islamabad, the Islamic nations, all members of the non-aligned movement, went even further in condemning the "Soviet invasion" by calling for a boycott of the Olympic Games in Moscow.

Even Mr. Castro, who is president of the non-aligned movement until the next summit scheduled for 1982 in Baghdad and who had originally approved the intervention, has more recently called unconditionally for the withdrawal of Soviet troops. The Cuban leader, who is anxious to maintain the cohesion of the non-aligned movement, now says the Afghan situation has weakened the movement.

He has also urged a normalization of relations between Kabul and Islamabad, both non-aligned countries.

Constant destabilization

Conditions now appear to favour a revival of the non-aligned movement. It is a period of constant destabilization in Latin America, Africa, the Gulf and Iran. The maneuvers of the superpowers seem to be condemning the developing countries, whether they are immensely rich from oil revenues or miserably poor, to be pawns on the world chessboard.

Political analysts are now asking themselves if Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, who despite Soviet blandishments is seeking "a third way", Algerian President Benjedid Chadli or Iraqi President Saddam Hussein will step forward to take President Tito's place.

The solution of the leadership question may determine the future role of the non-aligned countries. Although they contain much of the world's supply of raw materials, they do not count in the opinion of certain Western economists, who argue that East-West relations will determine the future of humanity. (A.F.P.)

AID "BARELY TRICKLING"

NAIROBI, May 7 - The 59 countries of the African-Caribbean Pacific (ACP) grouping must step up their fight for better trade terms with their European partners, Kenyan Economic Planning and Development Minister Zachary Onyonka said here Tuesday.

Mr. Onyonka, opening a meeting of the ACP Ministerial Council, said the European Economic Community (EEC) must be made to realise that ACP countries were not happy with the prices they got for their raw materials.

The Minister complained that the aid promised by the EEC was barely trickling and industrialisation in ACP states was stagnant. Hunger and poverty continued to stalk the peoples of the third world, he said.

He called on the ACP to translate into action their bitterness over the poor deal the ACP got in the recently-signed Lome-2 trade convention which links the ACP and the EEC.

The Council Chairman, Papua-New Guinea Foreign and Trade Minister Noel Levi, welcomed, amid cheering, delegations from Zimbabwe, Angola and the Cook Islands, who were all admitted as observers for the meeting.

Absent were Liberia, Chad and the Comoro Islands. Djibouti sent apologies, while Tuvalu and the Solomon Islands were represented by Fiji.

The Council meeting was in preparation for the ACP-EEC ministerial meeting here tomorrow and Friday. (A.F.P.)

BETTER WORLD CROPS

ROME, May 8 - The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Wednesday forecast appreciable increases in world cereal and oilseed crops this year.

These optimistic estimates are based on both greater sowings and the good weather conditions which have prevailed until now in many regions. The situation should remain fairly good during the remainder of 1980.

After a fall of 4 per cent in 1979, production of wheat and secondary cereals should increase to 1, 208 million tonnes, the FAO said in its latest bulletin, "Food Prospects". It slightly increased its estimate of secondary cereals in 1980, from 755 million tonnes last month to 758 million tonnes, that is, 3 per cent more than in 1979. The wheat forecast remained unchanged at 450 million tonnes, 7 per cent more than last year. (A.F.P.)

MINING MISTAKES...

MELBOURNE, May 7 - The Australian mining giant, Conzinc Rio Tinto of Australia (CRA) has admitted that in its search for diamonds it has drilled on two sacred Aboriginal sites in the far north of Western Australia.

CRA Chairman Sir Roderic Carnegie told the annual meeting of the company in Melbourne yesterday the drilling had occurred because CRA had been unaware of the significance of the sites at the time.

He added that when the error had been discovered a special effort had been made to rehabilitate the area. He said that in such a large area in Western Australia it was not always known where sites of special Aboriginal significance were until after a mining company had identified a mineral there.

"We did do some damage and we have tried to correct that damage," Sir Roderick said. "Our policy has been and will continue to be to consult with Aborigines in areas where we are active". CRA is the leading partner in the Ashton consortium which has discovered a valuable diamond deposit in the Kimberleys region. (A.F.P.)

HAITIANS STARVING...

WASHINGTON, May 8 - Thousands of Haitian "boat people" are "dying of hunger" in Florida or are refused entry to the U.S. while refugees from neighbouring Cuba are freely admitted and even given government financial aid, a Haitian refugee spokesman charged here Wednesday. The spokesman, Gerard Jean-Juste, head of the Haitian refugee centre in Miami, told a press conference that after arriving on the beaches of Southern Florida in leaky overloaded boats the Haitians were arrested and sometimes held in jail for months. (A.F.P.)

CHINESE GOING
FOR OFFSHORE

by Elizabeth Chang

PEKING, May 8 - China, already one of the world's top ten oil producers, is going all out to develop this asset as it embarks on an ambitious and costly modernisation programme.

China, which only produced a few hundred thousand tonnes of oil in 1960, has in 20 years become a major force on the petroleum scene with a production last year of 106.15 million tonnes and considerable reserves that have not yet been fully explored.

For the time being, Chinese oil is almost entirely produced onshore. The biggest oilfield is at Daqing in North-Eastern China, which alone supplies half of China's present production.

Bulk is heavy

Next in importance are the Shengli oilfield in Shandong Province, East China, with an annual production of about 20 million tonnes, and Renqiu, south of Peking, which produced about 10 million tonnes last year.

Other smaller oilfields are at Karamay in the western province of Sinkiang and at Liaohe in the North-East. A few minor fields in various parts of the country account for the rest of Chinese production.

The bulk of present production is "heavy" oil with a low sulphur content. The extraction and transporting of this type of oil poses many problems because of the very harsh climatic conditions in the regions where the oilfields are situated.

Recent studies have shown that China has very large oil reserves in even more remote and inhospitable areas such as the Qinghai Plateau, Tibet and Sinkiang.

China's total petroleum reserves last year were estimated at about 15,000 million tonnes, or three to four times more than the reserves of the United States, according to a report to the U.S. Senate.

This figure includes the reserves, still mostly unexplored, off China's coast. Some estimates have put these as high as 5,000 million tonnes, but the Chinese themselves have not yet given any figures on estimated offshore reserves.

However, the authorities are pinning great hopes on the development of offshore oil resources and are planning to start production around 1984-1985. (A.F.P)

NEW CONCESSIONS

LONDON, May 8 - The British Government will grant 90 new oil search concessions around the Shetlands, in the Channel and elsewhere off-shore late this year, the seventh series since prospecting began in 1964.

It originally planned to grant 70 concessions, but the oil companies persuaded it to add another 20.

Discoveries around Britain so far are expected to meet Britain's oil needs for a decade with some oil to spare for export. It is hoped that new finds will mean self-sufficiency for Britain until the end of the century.

Although most of the new concessions will be in the North Sea, some are in the Channel. Specially promising zones have been located off the Isle of Wight, Cornwall and Southern Ireland.

A feature is the opening up of concessions north of the 62nd parallel for the first time, notably around the Shetlands, where new technology will be needed due to the depths involved. The state's British Oil Corporation will have rights on 51 per cent of output. (A.F.P.)

ELECTRIC ANALYSIS

MOSCOW, May 8 - A new Soviet electric discharge method of analyzing oil deposits on land and off shore was reported by the Novosti news agency here.

Developed by research workers at Kharkov in Ukraine, the technique consists of discharging electricity stored in capacitor banks. Signals come back to show the shape and contents of the deposit. (A.F.P.)

HELP FOR CUBA

VIENNA, May 8 - The Council of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has approved Cuban guarantees on the application of technical and economic help from the Soviet Union, the IAEA said here today. The Soviet aid is for the construction of an 880 megawatt nuclear power station in Cuba. (A.F.P.)

INDIA OKAYED

WASHINGTON, May 8 - President Jimmy Carter's decision yesterday to allow the sale of nuclear fuel to India despite New Delhi's refusal to guarantee it would not be diverted to military purposes was aimed at showing U.S. determination to improve its relations with India, senior White House sources said. Mr. Carter ordered the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to approve the sale of about 40 tons of nuclear fuel to India, which was enough to keep the Tarapur reactor going for two years, the sources added. (A.F.P.)

LOWER IEA TARGET...

BONN, May 7 - The United States wants to lower the target for 1985 oil imports set by the 20 member countries of the International Energy Agency, U.S. Deputy Energy Secretary John Sawhill indicated here today.

Mr. Sawhill, who was having talks here in preparation for the agency's next meeting, told journalists that the U.S. held that a downward revision was essential because of reduced oil supplies from Iran.

Last December the agency agreed on total imports of 26.2 million barrels a day, but Mr. Sawhill said this should be cut to 22 million barrels. The proposal would be raised at the agency's next meeting and at the summit of seven leading industrialised countries in Venice on June 22 and 23.

Mr. Sawhill recalled that last year the U.S. reduced its oil consumption by 2.4 per cent and petrol consumption by five per cent, suggesting that greater efforts at economy were needed from Europe and Japan. (A.F.P.)

KUWAITI DENIAL

TAIF, Saudi Arabia, May 8 - Kuwaiti Oil Minister Sheikh Ali Khalifa Al Sabah denied on Wednesday reports that his country had decided to increase its prices, the Saudi Press Agency (SPA) said. The Sheikh brushed off as "pure invention, devoid of any foundation" reports that Kuwait would boost its price by five dollars per barrel. (A.F.P.)

FREIGHT SAILERS

LONDON, May 7 - Soviet engineers have designed a river and sea-going sailing ship, according to Lloyd's List.

Prototypes will shortly be launched on the River Dnieper in the Ukraine and will make their way to the Black Sea, the shipping journal said quoting a Soviet weekly.

The ships, which also have engines, are expected to go half way from Kiev to Odessa under sail only, when they could reach speeds of 15 knots. The main mast can be lowered to go under bridges.

Following prototype development, an ocean-going freight-only ship is planned, with seven 230-foot masts, able to carry 150,000 square feet of sail. Computer control will take into account the speed and direction of the wind to set the best course for the vessel, Lloyd's said.

Vessels of this type are being considered for the Europe-Japan-Australia routes, where prevailing winds could give a cruising speed of 13 knots and a maximum speed of 20 knots. (A.F.P.)

3-MONTHLY LOOK
AT FLOOR PRICE

by Jean-Louis Lemarchand

TAIF, Saudi Arabia, May 8 - The Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries today accepted the principle of a three-monthly adjustment of the floor price for oil, but three countries - Iran, Algeria and Libya - opposed the mechanism approved by the ten other countries.

The majority at the two-day special conference here approved a system proposed by the OPEC long-term strategy committee and aimed at bringing some stability to the price of crude.

More OPEC meetings will be necessary in coming months to try to smooth over difficulties raised through the opposition of Algeria, Iran and Libya so that agreement can be reached before the OPEC summit in Baghdad early in November.

Saudi Oil Minister Sheikh Ahmed Zaki Yamani said the delegations agreed on most of the proposals put forward by the strategy committee.

However, the Algerian, Iranian and Libyan ministers said the proposed price fixing system did not provide adequate guarantees for advancing the buying power of a barrel of oil.

The "basket" values

The system envisages three-monthly price increases taking account of three factors :

1° The effect of inflation on international trade, based on retail price indices and the price of exports by Western members of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

2° Changes in the values of a "basket" of nine currencies, together with the dollar. The nine are the currencies of Belgium, France, West Germany, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Sweden, Britain and Switzerland.

3° Growth rates in member countries of the OECD.

Conference sources said that Algeria, Iran and Libya argued that the price indexing formula should take account of the cost of products imported by OPEC rather than of items exported by the West.

They said the growth rates of OPEC countries and of the developing world should also be taken into account in the calculations.

The three-monthly price fixing mechanism was the main proposal put forward by the strategy committee.

Other proposals unanimously accepted by the 13 countries concerned relations with industrialised countries and support for the third world. (A.F.P.)

ALI : "BEYOND MAY 26"

CAIRO, May 7 - Egypt will continue negotiations with Israel on Palestinian autonomy after May 26 - the date considered up to now Egypt's deadline for an agreement.

This was announced here today by Defence Minister General Kamal Hassan Ali on his return from the Egyptian-Israeli-United States talks at Herzliyya, Israel.

"That date", said Gen. Ali, "can be considered a target, and we shall try if possible to reach an agreement before then. If we do not succeed, the negotiations will continue intensively until an agreement is reached".

Prime Minister Mustafa Khalil, who headed the Egyptian delegation at Herzliyya, said there was still a "wide gap" between the Egyptian and Israeli positions.

On the question of security, the stumbling-block of the negotiations, there had been only "very minor progress", he said.

This was in the form of the setting up of a working group to examine the security question. The U.S. had played no part in helping the Egyptians and Israelis to reach this preliminary understanding, he said. (A.F.P.)

BEGIN : "LIFE OR DEATH"

JERUSALEM, May 7 - Israeli Premier Menachem Begin insisted last night that security in the occupied Jordan West Bank should remain in Israeli hands after the granting of Palestinian autonomy.

"This principle must be accepted if the negotiations on autonomy are to reach a conclusion", Mr. Begin told the Liberal Party assembly in a speech which received a long ovation for its energy and firmness.

He said Israel had proposed Palestinian autonomy for reasons of justice and equity. "But security will not be entrusted either to our neighbours or our partners. It will be our exclusive domain", Mr. Begin added.

The security question might be one of politics for others, but for Israel it was one of life or death, he said, adding that there was nothing in the Camp David accords to say that security of the West Bank should be entrusted to anyone but Israel. "On this point we will make no compromise", he declared.

The Liberal Party is one of the members of the majority Likud coalition headed by Mr. Begin. (A.F.P.)

THE WOMAN WHO SERVED...

TEHERAN, May 8 - The only woman ever to be an Iranian Cabinet Minister was executed by a firing squad here today.

Mrs. Farrakhru Parsa, 58, the ex-Shah's Education Minister for 10 years, was shot along with a woman accused of running a prostitution ring and a man convicted of narcotics trafficking.

The Iranian Radio reported that Mrs. Parsa was found guilty in a week-long trial of making the Education Ministry dependent on imperialist culture, creating an atmosphere of prostitution in the Ministry by "presenting beautiful girls to the imperial court", stealing the "people's wealth" and sacking staff who opposed the Shah. (A.F.P.)

NORTH AFRICA

Libya

THREAT TO WEST

TRIPOLI, May 9 - Libyan leader Moamer Kadhafi said today Libya is seriously considering halting oil supplies to Britain and the United States, the Libyan News Agency reported.

The agency also quoted Colonel Kadhafi as saying Libya would reclaim from Britain, West Germany and Italy thousands of millions of dollars in compensation to repair damage to Libya caused during the North African campaigns of the Second World War.

The fighting "transformed Libyan soil into a theatre of international terrorism" to serve the interests of those countries which did not concern Libya in any way, Col. Kadhafi said.

He warned that if Libya could not receive damages through negotiations it would seize what would compensate it by force.

(Libyan relations with the U.S. and Britain are currently strained following a warning by Col. Kadhafi that Libyans living abroad who were hostile to his regime would be liquidated.

(Washington has ordered the expulsion of four Libyan diplomats accused of ordering Libyan students to carry out Col. Kadhafi's threats, but the four have refused to emerge from the Libyan Embassy, which has diplomatic immunity. They claim that they are not diplomats but students, and cannot be expelled without a court hearing.

(The U.S. has warned that the Libyan mission will be closed if the four are not handed over, and has withdrawn all its staff from its Embassy in Tripoli, sacked three months ago by demonstrators alleged by Washington to be acting under Col. Kadhafi's orders. Relations have not been officially broken off, but the 2,000 Americans in Libya, mainly businessmen, have been advised to leave as soon as possible.

Libya

In London streets

(In Britain, two prominent Libyan opponents of the Kadhafi regime were killed in London streets last month. Arrested suspects are also Libyan students

(Reports today said that Britain had suspended plans to deport some Libyan diplomats or even close Tripoli's Embassy in London pending the outcome of a message to Col. Kadhafi asking for a solemn undertaking that attacks on Libyan exiles would cease immediately.

(The British newspaper The Guardian said a senior civil servant at the Foreign Office had been sent to Libya, but "there was no meeting of minds" when he saw Libyan Premier and Interior Minister Salam Jalloud.

("The Libyans have since let it be known that they regard executions of citizens living in exile as a purely Libyan matter", The Guardian said). (A.F.P.)

Morocco

WIDER REFERENDUM

RABAT, May 9 - The right to take part in referendums in Morocco has been extended to the police and the armed forces, and to Moroccans working abroad, Parliament decided in a vote approving draft legislation presented by the Government.

The Socialist and Communist opposition parties did not take part in the vote.

Political sources said a referendum was likely around May 23 on whether to extend Parliament's term from four to six years.

Also at issue would be a change in the Regency Council allowing the formal induction of the Crown Prince at the age of 16 instead of 18 as at present stipulated in the constitution, the sources said. (A.F.P.)

Sahara

FRENCH ASKED TO GO...

DAKAR, May 7 - Mauritania has reportedly asked France to withdraw its garrison of some 200 troops from the strategic port of Nouadhibou, on the border with Western Sahara.

Official sources here said the demand had come after a cooling of relations between Mauritania and France. The troops were posted there last December after a request by Mauritanian Head of State Lt-Col. Khouna Ould Haidalla, who visited Paris in September.

The withdrawal demand did not concern the 60-odd French military advisers training the Mauritanian Army, the sources said.

There are several hundred French citizens working in Nouadhibou, which is the shipping point for the rich iron ore deposits at Zouerate, Mauritania's chief natural resource. (A.F.P.)

MOROCCAN OFFENSIVE

RABAT, May 8 - Morocco's two crack strike forces have gone onto the offensive in South Morocco to try and dislodge Polisario fighters from the Ouarkziz region, south of Oued Draa.

Fighting erupted in the area on Tuesday after two months of calm, with units from the specially-created Ouhoud and Zellaka mobile forces meeting up with other units from Zag and crushing several pockets of "rebel" resistance, a Moroccan communique said here.

Morocco's first offensive in this rugged region last March ran into unexpected resistance from the Polisario forces, which are fighting the Moroccan presence in Western Sahara and are powerfully entrenched and very well armed.

The Algerian-backed Polisario stated later in Algiers that 1,357 Moroccan military had been put out of action, a claim derided by Morocco, whose King Hassan II put his forces' losses at 82.

Rabat said its troops on Tuesday also took some Polisario positions and captured a considerable amount of equipment.

The Moroccan royal armed forces appeared this time to have succeeded, after a two-month pause and preparation, in the operation which failed in March, observers said here.

They pointed to the speed with which Rabat had announced the operation - contrasting with the normal discretion of official circles - as a strong indication that the Moroccan forces had scored a real success.

The official Moroccan communique said the "general clean-up operation in Ouarkziz" was continuing, indicating that Tuesday's offensive was only the first stage of a wider offensive.

This will enable the Zag garrison to be relieved after being under strong pressure for several months, observers said.

(The Algerian-backed Polisario, which has proclaimed an Arab Sahrawi Republic in Western Sahara, has been fighting since the territory was given up by Spain in 1975 and annexed by Morocco in two stages). (A.F.P.)

SPAIN WARNED

BRASILIA, May 7 - Visiting Moroccan Prime Minister Maati Bouabid warned Tuesday that Morocco would "draw the appropriate conclusions" if Spain continued to receive leaders of the Saharan nationalist guerrilla movement Polisario, which opposes Moroccan occupation of Western Sahara. Moroccan officials suggested there could be moves affecting Spanish fishing in Moroccan waters. (A.F.P.)

EMERGENCY DROUGHT AID

ROME, May 9 - Drought victims in Senegal and Gambia are to get emergency aid worth just over one million dollars through the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation's (FAO) world food programme following cereals crop failures.

Gambia has lost more than half its groundnut crop and has an overall 12,000 ton deficit, which an FAO relief mission has recommended be covered by international aid.

The tiny West African state is to get 3,000 tons of sorghum from the food programme for distribution to 56,000 people over four and a half months.

The mission proposed 45,600 tons of cereals from the international community for Senegal for one million people in the worst affected drought areas.

FAO Director-General Edouard Saouma has authorised food programme supplies of 5,000 tons of sorghum and 2,800 tons of maize-based foodstuffs for 370,000 people during three months, given that bilateral aid has already been sent, the FAO headquarters here announced Thursday. (A.F.P.)

SENGHOR - SHAGARI

LAGOS, May 9 - Senegalese President Leopold Senghor will visit Nigeria officially for four days from next Sunday after attending this week's Franco-African summit in France.

Two private meetings with host President Shehu Shagari to discuss bilateral matters are planned, an official communique here said.

The Senegalese leader is Chairman of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and expects to discuss its various problems with Mr. Shagari. The next ECOWAS summit is scheduled for the end of this month in Lomé, capital of Togo. (A.F.P.)

Mali

AGRICULTURE DOWN

BAMAKO, May 7 - Agricultural production in Mali is falling because of drought, Rural Development Minister Nfagnanama Kone said while opening a meeting of the National Agricultural Research Committee here yesterday.

He said that this year's production of sorghum, millet and maize was estimated at 950,000 tons against an average of 1,900,000 in 1970-1979. Groundnut production was estimated at 109,000 tons against 125,000 and rice at 185,000 against 250,000.

However, the Minister said that production of cotton - planted in well-watered districts under more controlled conditions - was continuing to grow. (A.F.P.)

CHEAP FLAG WILL
GO ON FLYING

MONROVIA, May 8 - Liberia's new military government will not change the country's long-established policy of cheap shipping registration which brought in 13.5 million dollars revenue last year, Finance Minister Major Perry G. Zulu said here Wednesday.

"We will shoulder our responsibilities as the world's leading maritime nation", he told a press conference. About 20 per cent of the world's cargo ships fly under a Liberian flag.

But he said a study was being made with a view to making a "reasonable increase" in fees which, at 1 dollar 20 cents a ton for registration plus 10 cents per ton annual tax, had stayed the same for 31 years.

Maj. Zulu repeated Head of State Master-Sgt. Samuel Doe's assurance that all foreign contracts would be honoured by the new regime. Loans were being repaid on time and the Government recently obtained four million dollars from the International Monetary Fund's trust fund proceeds, as well 8.2 million dollars worth of special drawing rights.

There were no plans to change the tax system, he said, although the Finance Ministry would have more power to combat fiscal fraud. (A.F.P.)

EDITOR IS FREED

by Jean-Paul Dufour

MONROVIA, May 7 - The editor of the Government-owned daily Redeemer, Rufus Darpoh, was released from detention Monday night after a 10-hour interrogation following the newspaper's publication of a letter criticising the lifestyle of Liberia's new military leaders.

Mr. Darpoh said his release followed the personal intervention of Head of State Master-Sergeant Samuel Doe.

However, he said that early yesterday he was manhandled and police stripped off his shirt and shoes and threatened to give him 25 lashes when he was taken to the Ministry of Justice for a lecture from Justice Minister Chea Cheapoo on "the responsibilities of a journalist, particularly an editor-in-chief".

Mr. Darpoh and three other Redeemer journalists were detained after the paper published a reader's letter accusing the military rulers of driving around in the luxury limousines of the government they overthrew, and criticising the exuberant celebrations by members of the Krahn ethnic group to which the Head of State and most members of the Military Council belong.

Where lies freedom...

All the journalists have now been released, and according to reliable sources the military leaders are likely to call a press conference to define their interpretation of the "press freedom" which they had pledged to defend after the April 12 coup.

Journalists working for the Ministry of Information accepted the pledge as it was offered, and the Government press immediately embarked on a policy of constructive criticism.

Mr. Darpoh in particular had called in an editorial for clemency formembers of the former regime, shortly before 13 of them were executed by public firing squad.

Official releases

However, Justice Minister Cheapoo later issued a warning to journalists, particularly askingforeign correspondents to stick closely to official press releases when they reported on Government affairs.

Mr. Darpoh, who has worked for the Information Ministry for nearly 20 years, is a prominent member of the Liberian press corps. He was imprisoned under President William Tubman in 1968, and twice sacked by the ousted government of the late William Tolbert for publishing editorials seen as too critical of the administration. (A.F.P.)

ENTER THE PRO
MAGISTRATES

MONROVIA, May 9 - Liberia's courts have been re-formed, Justice Minister Chea Cheapoo announced here Thursday.

The old Supreme Court is replaced by a Supreme Tribunal of the People comprising seven members named by the ruling Military Council.

They and the members of the assizes courts and administrative tribunals are generally professional magistrates. The Minister said they had been carefully chosen so that all Liberia's ethnic groups would be represented in a balanced way.

He said the special military tribunal set up to try senior officials of the ousted Tolbert regime would continue its work, and would also act as a court-martial to try military offenders.

The former regime's members found guilty of high treason would have all their goods confiscated according to Liberian law, Mr. Cheapoo said. The rights of spouses and the family concerning joint property wouldbe safeguarded, and the wife of a condemned man would keep at least a house as aresidence, he said. (A.F.P.)

Liberia

REBEL MAJOR
HUNTED DOWN

MONROVIA, May 9 - A Liberian Army major who took to the bush after the coup here last month in opposition to the new regime was killed on Thursday as he tried to swim the Mano River to neighbouring Sierra Leone, an official military source reported.

He was Major William Jerbo of the Special Strike Force, and was regarded as one of the Army's crack officers. Reliable Liberian sources said he was trained by the Israelis.

With troops loyal to him, he staged an ambush two days after the coup, killing artillery commander Isaac Jurwah. Thirty-six troops arrested then were disarmed and freed after swearing allegiance to the new military government.

With a handful of remaining supporters, Major Jerbo subsequently wandered through the country, exacting food from villagers, and was spotted a few times near the border with Guinea in the north-west, Army headquarters sources said. He was alleged to have killed some of his men who wanted to quit.

Unarmed, alone...

Two civilians arrested at Mano River when he was killed yesterday have been freed after interrogation by Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief General Thomas Quiwonkpa. They were the driver and a passenger in a taxi the major commandeered to take him to the Sierra Leone frontier.

The major was said to be unarmed, alone and in civilian dress when killed. His body was brought to Barclay Training Centre here, the capital's principal military camp, yesterday afternoon. (A.F.P.)

Ghana

POPE DRUMMED IN

ACCRA, May 8 - Pope John Paul Two was met by a large, enthusiastic crowd when he arrived here today from Nairobi on the fourth leg of his six-nation African tour.

To the background of African drums and a 21-gun salute, the Pope knelt down and kissed the soil, repeating the gesture that started his historic African tour last Friday in Zaire.

In the intense heat, the Pope was welcomed at the airport by Ghanaian president Hilla Limann, other government officials and the country's religious leaders. (Out of the 10,475,000 people registered in 1977 in Ghana, whose religion is Islam, some 1,260,000 Catholics were recorded living in nine dioceses). (A.F.P.)

THE "HAPPY EVENT"

ABIDJAN, May 9 - All prisoners in Ivory Coast will have their sentences cut to mark Pope John Paul Two's visit, the President's Office announced.

Petty offenders will have complete remission, while those jailed for serious crimes will have their prison stay halved.

The aim is to give inmates, especially minors, a chance to take part in the "happy event" of the papal visit, a communique said. (A.F.P.)

Senegal

TEACHERS RESTIVE

DAKAR, May 9 - Teachers in Senegal have been asked to strike next Tuesday to support demands including an extended housing allowance, improved work and study conditions and establishment of a national teaching reform commission. (A.F.P.)

EAST AFRICA

General Information

REFUGEE "POSE"

ADDIS ABABA, May 8 - More than 7,500 refugees in camps in Somalia have died recently of starvation and disease, Ethiopian News Agency correspondents reporting from the Ogaden region said today.

Quoting Ethiopian refugees returning from Somalia, they said the dead were all Somali nationals posing as refugees from Ethiopia's Ogaden region.

Some 1,200 refugees had returned from Somalia in one week recently, they reported. More would return but for systematic intimidation by the Somali authorities, they added.

The reports quoted returning refugees as saying they had been "abducted" into Somalia in the first place, and had been deliberately hidden from visiting foreign correspondents and representatives of international organizations. (A.F.P.)

Ethiopia

PRESSING NEED

ADDIS ABABA, May 7 - Large-scale emergency relief aid is "a pressing need" to help the Ethiopian Government fight the effects of serious drought in three provinces, according to representatives of international welfare organizations based here. The representatives, back from a four-day tour of eastern Harrar, southern Bale and Gamo Goffa Provinces, told the official Ethiopian News Agency they would appeal to their headquarters and the international community for massive supplies of food, clothing, medicines and transport. (A.F.P.)

RALLY DEFIANCE

KAMPALA, May 7 - The two former major political parties in Uganda today announced that they intended to go ahead with planned rallies despite a Government ban on party political activities.

Internal Affairs Minister Barnabas Kununka, speaking after the separate announcements by leading members of the old Uganda Peoples Congress (UPC) of exiled former President Milton Obote and the once predominantly Roman Catholic Democratic Party (DP), threatened to use police to break up any illegal political rallies.

Mr. Kununka said the ban on political activities had been decided by the National Consultative Council (NCC), a partly-elected partly-nominated body originally formed in exile at the start of last year's war to remove Idi Amin.

President Godfrey Binaisa and the NCC recently decided that elections first scheduled for June 1981 would now be held next December in a bid to end the deteriorating political and security situation in post-war Uganda.

They also announced that the elections would be held under the umbrella of the Uganda National Liberation Front (UNLF), a loose coalition of the different groups which worked together immediately before the overthrow of Amin. Other political organisations would not be allowed to campaign in the elections.

The Internal Affairs Minister said that if the two parties went ahead with their plans "we will have to use the police." "Defying the NCC means confrontation, because these people have guns", he said.

Just bluffing...

Leaders of the two parties announced their intention to go ahead with the rallies at separate news conferences earlier in the day.

UPC representatives said that they intended to hold a public rally in Bushenyi, South-Western Uganda, next Saturday. (Mr. Obote announced in Dar-es-Salaam today that he had decided to return to Uganda on May 27).

A party spokesman said that attempts by police to break up the rally would be resisted, and suggested that the Government was "merely bluffing". And a veteran UPC supporter, Chris Rwakasisi, who is also an NCC member, said that unless the Government backed down "there will be civil war in Uganda".

A DP spokesman said : "Should police action be threatened we are prepared to face any eventualities". (A.F.P.)

OBOTE : "I'LL SERVE
IN ANY ROLE"

DAR-ES-SALAAM, May 7 - Former Ugandan President Milton Obote announced here today that he would return to Uganda on May 27 next.

He added he would not necessarily fight for the presidency although he was ready to serve the country in whatever capacity the people wished.

(Uganda is scheduled to hold presidential and legislative elections early in December).

In his second press conference since he went into exile in Tanzania after being overthrown by Idi Amin in 1971, Dr. Obote said that he had not been invited by the present Ugandan Government to return.

Local people

But Ugandans throughout the country wanted him to go back, he said, adding that "local people have sent delegations from time to time for me to return home".

Announcing his plans at his seaside house close to that of Tanzanian President Julius Nyerere, Dr. Obote said : "I am now ready to return to Uganda to join my fellow citizens for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Uganda".

He added : "It does not matter to me in what level I play that role". (A.F.P.)

HALF A MILLION
ARE DYING...

ROME, May 8 - Nearly half a million people are dying of hunger and cholera in Northern Uganda's Karamoja region, former Italian Premier Giulio Andreotti said here Wednesday.

Mr. Andreotti, Chairman with Bishop Enrico Manfredini of the "Friends of Uganda" Committee, told a press conference that his group had no intention of replacing international humanitarian aid organizations. All efforts were needed to see that people did not starve in Uganda.

An Italian priest from Gulu, Uganda, Vittorio Pastori, described the situation in Karamoja : hundreds of children had been reduced to skeletons, there were bodies on roadsides, and cholera sufferers jamming the hospital.

The priest, who has made multiple journeys to Uganda with aid, said the latest planeload of supplies and medicine would leave Italy for that country on May 15. (A.F.P.)

UNION BOSS LOSES

NAIROBI, May 7 - The long-time Secretary-General of the powerful Mombasa Dockworkers Union, Juma Boy, was defeated yesterday for re-election and will, as a result, lose his post as Secretary-General of Kenya's Federation of Trade Unions.

The defeat at the local level means that Mr. Boy will not be allowed to seek re-election to the union congress post - which he has held for five years - when voting is held in August. He has been Secretary-General of the Dockers Union for 15 years. (A.F.P.)

BABY POPES

NAIROBI, May 9 - Most of the baby boys born here during the Pope's visit will be named after him, the Kenyan daily paper The Standard reported.

The mothers of most of the 37 infants said they would name their sons either "Pope" or "John Paul", the paper said. (A.F.P.)

CENTRAL AFRICA

Angola

SLUGGISH EXPORTS

LUANDA, May 9 - Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos yesterday sacked the head of the State Export Board (EXPORTANG), Jose Manuel Cerqueira, the Government News Agency reported.

The Exportang chief was dismissed for negligence and because the company's handling of exports was "excessively sluggish".

Exportang was blamed for the rotting of 2,000 tons of crushed peanut residue which would have been worth some 364,000 dollars, the President noted. He warned against too high a rate of spending from the country's financial reserves. (A.F.P.)

500 NICARAGUANS...

LONDON, May 7 - An Angolan opposition movement-in-exile claimed today that Nicaragua had sent 500 soldiers to Angola in the last half of April at Cuban President Fidel Castro's request.

The European office of the Angola National Liberation Front (FNLA), which is led by Holden Roberto, said that the Nicaraguans were sent to reinforce the thousands of Cuban soldiers in Angola "during a period of internal trouble" in Cuba.

Cuba supported the Sandinist rebels who overthrew Anastasio Somoza, the Nicaraguan dictator, last year, and now govern the country.

Cuban troops have been in Angola since 1975, when they arrived to help the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola win the civil war in the newly-independent country against the FNLA and Jonas Savimbi's South African-backed Union for the Total Independence of Angola. (A.F.P.)

HABRE'S MEN GO
ONTO OFFENSIVE

by Marc Pondaven

NDJAMENA, May 9 - Troops loyal to faction leader Hissene Habre appear to have gone onto the offensive in this embattled Chadian capital where fighting has been raging since March 22 with neither side being able to advance.

After some of the fiercest exchanges in the two-month war erupted on Wednesday, dawn yesterday brought a resumption of violent clashes on the front line cutting the city in two between Mr. Habre's Armed Forces of the North (FAN) and those backing President Goukouni Weddeye.

By early last night more than 200 shells had exploded in fighting concentrated round the Habre-held April 13 camp and to the north of the town near the airport.

FAN soldiers appeared to be trying to push towards the French base in the airport, from which France is scheduled to pull its troops out within the next two weeks.

Early this week Mr. Habre accused France of "folding its arms" while Libya perpetuates the civil war.

In an interview with Agence France-Presse, he rejected statements by his adversaries that he was responsible for the fighting.

Over the last few months, he said, Libya had caused the incidents that eventually led to the failure of the agreements on national reconciliation in Chad that were signed in Lagos last August by the 11 major armed parties.

Libyan protector...

Mr. Habré said that his Armed Forces of the North had the upper hand in the fighting that broke out in Ndjamenana on March 22, "contrary to the calculations of the coalition of Goukouni Weddeye, Acyl Ahmat, Mahamat Abba (Said) and (Vice-President Wadel Abdelkader) Kamougue and their Libyan protector" - an apparent reference to Libyan leader Moamar Kadhafi.

Mr. Habré said that most of Ndjamenana was under his men's control, and that the only reason Mr. Goukouni's forces still held the European quarter and the Farcha suburb was because of the presence of the military base, where 1,100 French troops are stationed.

Fighting was going on at present in Central Chad as well, said Mr. Habre, who was fired on April 25 as Defense Minister by a Cabinet decision that he says was invalid because not all factions in Government were at the meeting.

Chad

Goukouni reinforcements

He said that "a Libyan column" was routed after it had tried to attack the towns of Ati, 400 kilometres (250 miles) east of Ndjamena, and Houm Adjer, near the border with Sudan. There also have been reports of recent arrivals in Ndjamena of reinforcements for Mr. Goukouni from Northern Chad and Libya.

"The war has been, in its origin and development, fed by Libya", Mr. Habré said. He added that it was not in the interest of Chad that the fighting go on and that a realistic solution should be found to end it by peaceful means.

He saluted efforts -so far unsuccessful - by the Organization of African Unity and Togolese President Gnassingbe Eyadema to bring about a ceasefire in Ndjamena.

Mr. Habré said that the decision to withdraw the French troops was France's right, but that "this decision was taken in a unilateral manner without consulting all the parties concerned".

Perpetuation

He said that he did not reject the idea of a French presence in Chad in the future, but said that "as long as France folds its arms before the perpetuation of the war by Libya... we do not see how the French presence can help us".

He said that, from the military standpoint, the French soldiers constituted "an obstacle to the movement of (our) troops into pockets still held by (Mr.) Goukouni's" and that the base provided the Goukouni fighters with "an incontestable logistical support". (A.F.P.)

SOUTHERN AFRICA

General Information

CHOLERA OUTBREAKS

MAPUTO, May 7 - Cholera has broken out in Mozambique for the first time since 1975, with 60 cases including three deaths in the Maputo region and other outbreaks in the north of the country, it was reported today.

Health Minister Pascoal Mucumbi announced that, after the Maputo-area outbreak, a massive vaccination campaign had begun around the capital and among workers who handled food.

Informed sources said that the other reported cases were in Zambezia Province, which borders Malawi.

The last cholera outbreak began in 1972 and was controlled only three years later. Authorities said they believed the disease was reintroduced to Mozambique from Tanzania and Zimbabwe. (A.F.P.)

MUGABE BURSTS
MINES "BUBBLES"

SALISBURY, May 7- Premier Robert Mugabe today said he was determined to show the world a multiracial society could be motivated to contribute collectively to the welfare of states.

And he denied his Government planned to take a 35 per cent share in Zimbabwe's mining industry and have workmen's committees running mines.

Addressing the Chamber of Mines annual meeting, Mr. Mugabe said : "I categorically deny that any such policy is contemplated by my Government".

He described external reports claiming this as "speculative bubbles bursting before the emergence of our country's new administration".

Mr. Mugabe said he wanted to reassure the mining industry that the Government had no intention of making changes to mining laws of control at this stage.

"In future, however, changes may be necessary, but no change for the sake of change, only changes which will contribute to the policies of the Government and especially to the betterment of the welfare of the masses of our independent nation", he said.

Any changes would only be made after careful consideration and consultation with the industry, Mr. Mugabe said.

Essential ingredient

"The mining industry is regarded as one of the essential ingredients of the foundation on which my Government wishes to build and from which the economic and social aspirations of the people of Zimbabwe will be moulded", he said.

The Prime Minister said that "as a prime foreign currency - earner and a large employer of manpower, the mining industry therefore has the full blessing of my Government to operate efficiently". This would encourage expansion projects and new mining ventures which would benefit the country and create job opportunities.

Mr. Mugabe also reassured potential investors that the Government did not intend to block the repatriation of profits "but rather to invite investors to join in the spirit of our Zimbabwean programme".

He said he wanted to allay fears caused by his speech opening the Zimbabwe trade fair this week that the Government would demand that all profits be reinvested in the country. (A.F.P.)

EXPORT JUMP

SALISBURY, May 9 - The value of Zimbabwe's exports jumped 65 per cent to 76,607,000 Zimbabwe dollars (80,437,350 U.S. dollars) in January this year compared with January 1979.

Imports in the same period increased by 45.3 per cent to 55,526,000 Zimdollars (58,302,300 U.S. dollars), leaving a visible balance of 21,081,000 Zimdollars (22,135,050 U.S. dollars) - an increase of 165.7 per cent on a year ago.

The latest issue of the monthly Digest of Statistics carries a summary of the country's external trade for the first time since sanctions were imposed in 1965.

The breakdown of exports into commodities shows that in January gold far outstripped other exports : 1,427 kilograms of the metal were sold for 16,879,000 Zimdollars (17,722,950 U.S. dollars). (A.F.P.)

NEW STRIKES

SALISBURY, May 8 - A new wave of strikes has hit key industries in Zimbabwe with more than 10,000 men walking off the job.

The Labour Ministry reported a strike today by 8,000 men at the Triangle Sugar Estates in the south-east of the country, scene of a stoppage last week by 9,000 cane cutters on the Hippo Valley Sugar Estates who were persuaded by Labour Minister Kumbirai Kangai to return to work at the weekend.

A Ministry statement said the triangle workers were demanding pay increases of between 200 and 400 per cent. The management was negotiating with local MP Nelson Manema, a Ministry statement said.

Meanwhile, 1,378 workers at the Wankie coal mine on the western border with Zambia have returned to work but another 3,000 workers have stayed out, the Ministry said.

The Wankie mine management has declared the installation "off-limits" to reporters and officials are refusing all comment on the eight-day old strike by most of the workers.

The Wankie miners are demanding a pay increase from two dollars a day to 16 dollars (U.S.25) which mine spokesmen have labelled "totally unreasonable". The major stake in the mine is held by the South Africa-based Anglo-American Corporation.

The Wankie and Hippo Valley Estate strikes last week ended a lull in industrial disputes which erupted soon after the February general election which brought Premier Robert Mugabe's ZANU party to power. (A.F.P.)

Zimbabwe

GUARD FORCE GOING

SALISBURY, May 7 - Zimbabwe Army 's 7,000-strong Guard Force is being disbanded and should be completely dismantled by June 30, a unit spokesman said today.

The force was formed in 1976 to protect the civilian population in rural areas and to man the "protected villages" during the guerrilla war. It later expanded its operations to cover farm protection and that of key installations such as rail lines.

The spokesman said the action was being taken under the Government's programme of dismantling some security force units, including the crack Selous Scouts tracker unit.

The 400 white part-time members of the Guard Force would be transferred to other units which would be "basically army", the spokesman said.

There would be "virtually no absorption into other units of regulars except on a selective basis", he said.

Between 200 and 300 Pay Corps men have meanwhile been called up to document the 25,000 former guerrillas in the ceasefire camps who are awaiting induction into the new national army.

The new standing army is to be formed from among regular troops and the former guerrillas, and although the programme has started with two pilot joint training schemes the Government has not said how large the new force will be.

Military sources said the new army was unlikely to have more than 20,000 men, which meant that the Government had the difficult task of finding civilian jobs or places in educational programmes for the remainder of the guerrillas.

The Government is being aided in forming the new army by British military advisers. (A.F.P.)

Republic of South Africa

FIVE WOMEN STRIKE

JOHANNESBURG, May 8 - Five women held for "terrorist activities" have been on hunger strike for eight days in Potchefstroom prison, the African readership newspaper Post said today, quoting a South African Prisons Department official.

The Department refused to identify the women or give a reason for their strike, but sources here suggested that one of the hunger-strikers could be Sibongile SuZan Mthembu, a former member of the now-banned Soweto Students Representative Council. (A.F.P.)

SEPARATE BLACK
COUNCIL PLAN

CAPE TOWN, May 8 - South Africa should have a 60-member, white, coloured, Indian, Chinese - but not black - Presidential Consultative Council, with a separate council for black citizens, a committee of inquiry into the South African constitution urged today.

In an interim report, the committee - headed by Interior Minister Alwyn Schlebush - also suggested that the Senate should be abolished and 20 extra seats created in the Assembly, and that South Africa should have a Vice-President.

Four of the 23-strong committee, which was formed from the four parties with seats in Parliament, dissented.

The four, members of the parliamentary opposition Progressist Federal Party, said in an annexe to the report : "Our major objection to the proposed council is that black South African citizens are disqualified from membership of the council.

"... The consequential creation of a separate council for black South African citizens will not promote the process of peaceful constitutional development in the Republic".

The main report called for the council to be set up with 60 members and a chairman, named for a five-year period by the South African President and composed of nationally-recognized experts in their respective disciplines and recognised as leaders by their respective communities.

According to the report, the President would be able to dissolve the council in a period of 90 days after the general election of Assembly members.

Serious conflict...

It said the council would be a consultative one, could advise the President, and "in its discretion consult with a council consisting of black South African citizens and established under an act of Parliament or with any committee of such council".

The committee stressed that under South Africa's current administration, the system of universal suffrage (one-man-one-vote) would probably lead to majorities dominating the minorities and produce serious conflict between various population groups.

The report urged that consultation and negotiation between the various groups should be held within as large a framework as possible to produce proposals which would be the most acceptable.
(A.F.P.)

NON-WHITE ROLE

PORT ELIZABETH, May 7 - Afrikaaner businessmen will have to accept that non-whites have an important role to play in South Africa's economy, the President of the Afrikaaner Chamber of Commerce said today.

Martin Van Den Berg added that it was inevitable that non-white South Africans would participate more fully in the prosperity of the country, but that these changes would not always be easy for the Afrikaaner community.

Mr. Van Den Berg stressed that the structural changes in the economy would have a permanent character and would assure the future of South Africa.

He said South African authorities believed that free capitalism was the best way to ensure jobs and a better standard of living for the entire population. (A.F.P.)

NZ BAN MOOTED

WELLINGTON, May 8 - New Zealand trade unions are considering imposing a full trade ban on South African goods.

The action has been called for at the country's Federation of Labour Unions conference, and unions which would impose the ban will now study the issue.

About ten million NZ dollars' worth of South African goods were imported by New Zealand last year. (A.F.P.)

HOME-MADE MISSILE

JOHANNESBURG, May 7 - South Africa today indicated its ability to produce its own arms, issuing details of the lethal power of a new home-produced sea-to-sea missile.

Newspapers showed photographs of an old South African naval destroyer cut in two by the new missile, which was tested for the first time off the Cape in March and now equips South African-made 450-ton patrol boats.

Technical data remained secret, but naval chief Vice-Admiral R.A. Edwards said: "The new era in the South African Navy arrived the moment the missile struck the target".

Newsmen were shown a film of the missile test and reported today that the missile had been able to sink the old destroyer, the SAS Jan Van Riebeeck, in a single strike.

The director of naval operations, Commander G. Syndercombe, said the missile and the fast patrol boats provided "a credible deterrent which every major naval force will in future have to take into account". (A.F.P.)

NO PROSECUTION

PRETORIA, May 8 - The 711 schoolchildren and other people arrested on April 29 during a school boycott demonstration near Johannesburg will not be prosecuted, it was announced here Wednesday.

The Attorney-General of the Transvaal, J. Nothling, decided to withdraw the case against the children, who were arrested by police on a charge of attending an illegal gathering.

The demonstration was part of a nationwide campaign, now four weeks old, by some 100,000 Coloured (mixed-race) and Indian schoolchildren for an end to "racist and inferior education". (A.F.P.)

SAVAGE HIPPO

DURBAN, May 9 - An African attacked by a hippo three years ago is claiming 18,000 dollars in damages from the Natal National Parks Administration.

Villager David Mdhele told the Supreme Court here he was savaged by the hippo when returning to his home near a natural reserve about 100 kms from Durban. He said a tribal council had already asked the park authorities to remove the hippo because it was "striking fear into the hearts of local tribesmen". (A.F.P.)

Namibia

INTENSIVE OPERATIONS

WINDHOEK, May 9 - South African troops killed 15 nationalist guerrillas and lost two dead during intensive operations following weekend guerrilla attacks on police posts in Northern Namibia, it was announced here.

The attacks, by guerrillas of the South-West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO), caused no casualties but brought a rapid-pursuit operation by South African forces up to the Angolan frontier.

(In Pretoria, military headquarters announced that a South African Impala jet crashed recently in Southern Angola during a hot pursuit anti-guerrilla operation. The pilot ejected after an engine caught fire because of technical malfunction but returned to base safely, the communique said, without giving further details.

(The raid into Angola had never been officially announced, observers pointed out). (A.F.P.)

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