

AFRICA

SEMI-WEEKLY INTERAFRICAN NEWS SURVEY



MONTHLY SUBSCRIPTION FEE (WITHOUT REPRODUCTION RIGHTS)
FRENCH FRANCS: 225
(AIR MAIL POSTAGE CHARGES EXCLUDED)
11, 13, 15, PLACE DE LA BOURSE 75002 PARIS TEL: 233.44.66 TELEX 210064

DATE December 19, 1980

N° 2751

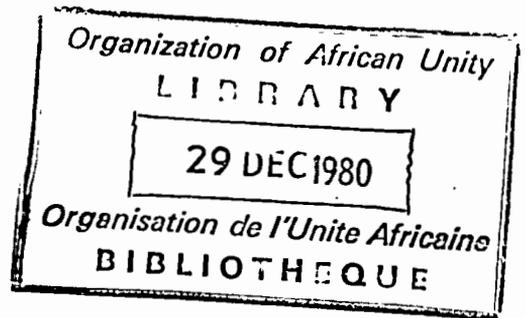
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UGANDA :

BACK FROM THE
WILDERNESS

KAMPALA, December 17 - Once an unpopular President deposed by a more unpopular dictator, Milton Obote returned to power in Uganda this week after nearly a decade in the political wilderness.

Revered by some of his countrymen and hated by others, 56-year-old Mr. Obote is nevertheless considered by some as Uganda's most skilful politician and best bet to rescue the country from its political and economic miseries.

Mr. Obote, overthrown by Idi Amin in January 1971, is also one of the few political leaders to win back through the ballot box what he lost in a coup d'etat.

Nearly 10 years ago, the people of Kampala were dancing in the streets to celebrate his downfall at the hands of his then-Army Chief Amin, who went on to preside over one of the world's bloodiest regimes.

Mr. Obote fled to neighbouring Tanzania which sent thousands of troops into the country early last year to help chase Marshal Amin out of Kampala, although the political, social and economic chaos in Uganda continued after the Amin era.

Mr. Obote returned to the country soon after a Military Commission headed by Paulo Muwanga ousted President Godfrey Binaisa in May, Mr. Binaisa himself having taken over after the brief rule of Yusufu Lule.

One of nine

Uganda's new leader was one of nine children born to a poor peasant couple who belonged to the Lango tribe of the country's northern bushlands.

He attended the University of Makerere but was denied a scholarship by the then-British colonial power to continue his studies. He went to Kenya to work as a farm hand and then a salesman.

But politics soon attracted him and he helped Jomo Kenyatta form his Kenya African Union Party.

.../

The Buganda dispute

On his return to Uganda in 1955, Mr. Obote was elected as the Lango representative to the country's Legislative Council. A short time later he founded the Uganda People's Union and became its President in 1960.

He was Prime Minister when Uganda became independent in 1962 but two years later became embroiled in a dispute with the Federal Head of State : the Kabaka, or King, of the southern Kingdom of Buganda.

In February 1966, Mr. Obote suspended the constitution, abolished the monarchies and assumed all power with the help of then-General Amin, proclaiming himself Head of State the following April. He later banned political parties and ordered arbitrary arrests.

Mr. Obote also alarmed business interests in Uganda and some foreign governments with policies aimed at redistributing wealth and his nationalization of 60 per cent of the most important companies. His popularity on the decline, Mr. Obote found himself the target of several assassination attempts, the most serious in December 1969 when he was wounded in the face.

Mr. Obote was ousted by Gen. Amin while out of the country in January 1971 at a British Commonwealth conference in Singapore. A year later he launched an abortive bid to mount a counter-coup.

Since his return to Uganda, Mr. Obote has made several conciliatory gestures aimed at healing past regional and ethnic divisions and to reassure foreign business interests in the hope of attracting their investments.

Investment vital

But although Mr. Obote's electoral success was smoothed by support from the press, and the Military Commission's Mr. Muwanga, his chances of bringing some political stability to Uganda depend on several factors. Observers here say the key will be his ability to make peace with the people of Buganda, whose King he overthrew 14 years ago.

Also seen as vital is investment from abroad to rebuild the economy in a country where thousands of people starve to death in areas such as Karamoja in the north-west.

Mr. Obote further faces the long-standing mistrust of the authorities to the east in Kenya, landlocked Uganda's principle outlet to the Indian Ocean, as well as those in Sudan to the north.

The governments of both countries have kept a wary eye on Mr. Obote since his return to Ugandan politics. But he can expect to count on the support of President Julius Nyerere of Tanzania, a loyal friend who has kept some 10,000 Tanzanian troops stationed in Uganda since the downfall of Marshal Amin. (A.F.P.)

NORTH-SOUTH : IT'S
STILL DEADLOCK

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., December 18 - The U.N. General Assembly adjourned Wednesday night on the same note sounded at the opening of its session three months ago : persisting deadlock over how to resume meaningful North-South Dialogue on the "new international economic order" which the third world (South) wants from the industrialized countries (North).

The suspended 35th ordinary session was scheduled to resume on January 15.

The session had opened on September 16 in a mood of bitterness over the failure of a preceding extraordinary session which was called to try to get North-South talks back on the rails.

But the latest assembly was essentially a waiting session for other reasons as well :

Doubt about U.S.

First there was doubt over the outcome of the United States presidential elections, and then there remained uncertainty about the incoming Reagan Administration's view of the U.N.'s role in international relations - particularly in the economic sphere.

The Iraq-Iran war, with its economic and political repercussions, also weighed heavily on the session.

Before the suspension, the Assembly voted a 91-million-dollar budget increase, a seven per cent rise over the 1,248 million dollars approved earlier for 1980-81. The 19 countries opposing the increase included the United States, the USSR and the Soviet Bloc, Western European countries, Japan, Canada and Israel. (A.F.P.)

MEAT APPEAL

ROME, December 18 - The U.N. Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) has issued an appeal to all nations to sweep aside tariff and non-tariff barriers to the importing of cattle.

A specialized FAO committee, whose members represent 75 per cent of meat output and 95 per cent of trade, said at the close of a meeting here yesterday that developed countries in particular should modify their meat market policies so as to prevent excessive price swings.

FAO experts noted that protectionism in the meat sector had increased in recent decades, especially in market economy nations located in the northern hemisphere.

They also found that meat price support schemes currently cost developed nations more than 10,000 million dollars annually. (A.F.P.)

U.S. AID 5,000 M.

WASHINGTON, December 17 - President Jimmy Carter signed a law Tuesday authorizing expenditure of 2,900 million dollars in United States foreign aid in the 1981 fiscal year.

Most of the expenditure (2,100 million dollars) will go to development aid, 665 million being for military purposes and 118 millions for the Peace Corps.

Total U.S. help abroad approved by Congress for 1981 amounts to 5,000 million dollars.

But Mr. Carter voiced strong reservations about one of the clauses in the law passed by Congress, giving the two Houses power to question a sale of U.S. arms abroad already approved by the President. (A.F.P.)

30,000 T. FROM BRITAIN

LONDON, December 18 - Britain will send a further 30,000 tons of cereals to African countries facing serious food shortages, the Government announced Wednesday.

Lord Trefgarne, a Foreign Office spokesman, told the House of Lords the food would go to Somalia, Mozambique, Zambia and Kenya. Britain had already sent 40,000 tons to needy African countries, he said.

The announcement came during a debate on the United Nations and followed criticism of the Government's cuts in overseas aid. (A.F.P.)

CHEAPER LOANS

WASHINGTON, December 18 - The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has finalized details of a subsidized fund from which the world's 69 poorest nations can get loans at three per cent below the current IMF rate of 11-1/4 per cent.

IMF sources said the fund would initially contain 1,000 million special drawing rights (SDR's), equivalent to some 1.2 billion dollars. The creation of the new fund was decided at the last annual IMF meeting here in September. (A.F.P.)

QUAKE 2,916

NAPLES, December 17 - The earthquake that shook southern Italy November 23 killed 2,916 people, including 302 bodies still remaining below the rubble, according to revised Government figures announced Tuesday.

The earthquake also left 8,807 injured, of whom 1,279 are still hospitalized. (A.F.P.)

GISCARD UNDER FIRE

by Patrick de Polge

PARIS, December 17 - Strong political attacks are being made on the way that President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing governs the country "as though he were a king".

He is accused of being remote, far from the madding crowd and abusing the vast powers of the presidency. These attacks are intended to damage him because the presidential elections will be held in April 1981 and the campaign season is already here, although the President himself has not yet announced his candidature.

Socialist leader François Mitterrand, who is a candidate, accused the President of being "a sovereign monarch with absolute power". He went on : "The entire powers of the executive and legislative bodies and a large part of the judiciary as well as the mass media (radio and television) belong wholly to the President of the Republic".

This swingeing attack is supported by such hard-line Gaullists as former Premier Michel Debré, who helped draw up the present constitution of the Fifth Republic in 1958.

Mr. Debré, also a presidential candidate, claimed recently : "There is an abuse of the presidency... all state affairs are handled by the President".

Personal power...

Jacques Chirac, a former Premier and currently Mayor of Paris and head of the Gaullist R.P.R. party - France's largest - has in turn denounced the "concentration of all powers of decision in the sole hands of the Head of State".

Another poll rival, Marie-France Garaud, a former close adviser to President Georges Pompidou, has written a letter to Mr. Giscard d'Estaing - widely published in the press - in which she mentions her "disappointment" over the President's "policies and exercise of personal power". She noted : "The class which is in power at the moment resembles the aristocracy of the old days".

Ironically, 13 years ago Mr. Giscard d'Estaing reproached President Charles de Gaulle for his "solitary exercise of power" under the same constitution. He is today being criticised for being too Gaullian in this respect himself, but has declared he intends to "preserve intact the efficiency of the democratic institutions created by de Gaulle" which he says are the envy of France's neighbours and rivals. And he insists he is "an incurable liberal". (A.F.P.)

NEWS ARRESTS,
DEATH THREATS

LONDON, December 18 - Arrests and death threats are two of the most frequent forms of "harassment" suffered by journalists in Africa, the International Press Institute said in its annual report here today.

But the most serious violations of press freedom, according to the report, were committed in South Africa, where, it said, more than 100 laws limited press freedom.

Harassment of journalists by South African security forces was also frequent, the report added.

The Institute, a watchdog body aimed at furthering and safeguarding press freedom, also criticised difficulties encountered by foreign journalists trying to obtain entry visas to certain African countries where press freedom is generally absent.

In Uganda, according to the report, many local journalists had been the object of death threats in "anonymous pamphlets" distributed in the capital.

In Zambia and the Central African Republic, journalists had been arrested, notably journalists representing Agence France-Presse and Reuters, it said.

State control...

The report also highlighted numerous attempts by the Government of President Hilla Limann in Ghana to impose press control. It added that in Zimbabwe Prime Minister Robert Mugabe's Government, despite its stated aim to "establish a free and independent media", still envisaged state control of the press.

The Institute said that newspapers in Nigeria, Black Africa's richest and most populous country, were slowly beginning to regain their freedom. But it added that the only major source of Nigerian news for foreign journalists was still the National News Agency of Nigeria. (A.F.P.)

SCSA ADMISSIONS

FREETOWN, Sierra Leone, December 18 - The Executive Committee of the Supreme Council for Sport in Africa (SCSA) today admitted Botswana and Zimbabwe as provisional members of the SCSA.

Official admission will have to await for the Council's general assembly next year.

The martial arts sport, Taekwondo, also won recognition from the Council with the admission of the African Taekwondo Union to the SCSA. (A.F.P.)

COFFEE QUOTA DOWN

LONDON, December 18 - A fresh automatic reduction in the global quota of coffee exports under the international agreement will come into force today, it was learned here Wednesday.

The cut of 1,400,000 60-kilo bags will bring the global quota down to 54,100,000bags in the 1980-81 coffee year, compared with estimated consumption requirements of about 55,000,000 bags, trade sources said. It was caused in particular because the price fell below an average of 120 U.S. cents a pound (weight) in the last 20 marketing days. (This is the second reduction since the agreement was concluded early in October. The first, also of 1,400,000 bags, was in mid-November. The aim of the agreement is to stabilize world prices between 115 and 155 cents per pound). (A.F.P.)

TEA THE FAVOURITE

LONDON, December 18 - Tea is still the favourite drink in Britain, according to trade figures issued today.

In 1979 the British drank 179,000 tons, which was 70 per cent of all drinks, the Tea Council said. The cost of a cup of tea is still very low, one and a half pence. But many caterers provide a poor quality beverage, the Council added. (A.F.P.)

OIL & ENERGY

ADEQUATE SUPPLIES

NEW DELHI, December 17 - Adequate uranium and other raw material resources to meet requirements of the current nuclear power programme have been discovered in India, Parliament was told today.

Junior Minister for Science and Technology C.P.N. Singh told the Lower House that intensive surveys and exploration conducted by the mineral division of the Department of Atomic Energy had resulted in the identification of a number of new uranium deposits, in addition to the already known Singhbhum thrust belt in Bihar State. (A.F.P.)

CEMENT SUFFERS

WARSAW, December 17 -Seventy of Poland's 91 cement works have been closed since yesterday due to lack of coal and oil fuel, press reports said today.

Total cement output this year will be around 19 million tons instead of the 20,700,000 tons expected earlier. Output of prefabricated cement components has ceased. Workers at the shut-down cement plants are "on compulsory holiday" or are doing repairs and maintenance. Newspapers said the situation was likely to be normal again around mid-February. (A.F.P.)

AGREEMENT WAS QUICK

by Jean-Louis Lemarchand

BALI, December 17 - The Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) this week survived the most serious crisis in its 20-year life by achieving a quick agreement on prices despite the sharp tension between Iran and Iraq : the war, now in its fourth month, failed to paralyze discussion although the Iranian delegation had declared it would try making this the central feature .

The 13 oil ministers needed just over 24 hours to agree a system of pricing that was sufficiently flexible to suit every delegation. The chief dove, Saudi Arabia, will not raise its price above 32 dollars a barrel, this being the reference price.

Iran obtained agreement for the ceiling for the Arabian Light category, which matches its own, to be raised to 36 dollars. One minister said the Iranian team could not be allowed to go home with a frozen price. Iran's current price is 35.37 dollars a barrel.

As to the Africans, Libya, Algeria and Nigeria are allowed to raise their rates to 41 dollars, which experts here say is the top price the market will bear.

Hitherto only Saudi Arabia has announced its increase, from 30 to 32 dollars effective November 1. At the present output figure of 10 million barrels a day, this brings the Saudis an extra revenue of 20 million dollars.

More balanced

Delegation comments indicated that, except for Saudi Arabia and Iran, no other OPEC members will immediately take their price to the authorized ceiling.

Since November, following the scare due to suspension of Iranian and Iraqi exports, the international market has been more balanced. As the industrialized countries dipped into their huge stocks, the Gulf countries increased their flow a little more.

Between now and the summer, the international oil market should show a surplus, Venezuelan oil Minister Humbert Calderon Berti believes. In late May at Geneva the 13 OPEC minister will hold another half-yearly meeting.

The 10 per cent rise (amounting to two to four dollars) is judged excessive by some industrialized countries. Indonesian Minister Mr. Subroto considers it moderate and in line with international inflation.

And last night Algerian Minister Belkacem Nabi said : "Do not forget that the OPEC countries earn most of their export revenue from oil". (A.F.P.)

YAMANI : "MULTI-SOURCES"

CANBERRA, December 18 - Saudi Arabian Oil Minister Sheikh Ahmed Yamani today urged the United States to avoid establishing bases in the Middle East, telling the National Press Club here that "Russia does not need an invitation in the Middle East".

"It needs the oil of the area to operate its satellites, so my advice to the West in answer to your questions is strengthen your allies in the area, so the Soviet Union will not be provoked to establish itself more firmly around the Gulf", he said.

Looked forward to a new era of multi-sources of energy, he said Saudi Arabia must be industrialized by using alternative sources of energy until there was a new era for the whole world of energy from solar, uranium and other sources : "We in Saudi Arabia are giving much research to solar energy. We already have two towns where everything excepting automobiles derives from solar energy, in which we are especially interested because we have an abundance of sun. We are co-operating with Australia in research in this area".

(Sheikh Yamani is here investigating possible areas of investment in Australia by Saudi Arabia to assist industrialization and diversification of energy resources. He told the National Press Club that 15 per cent of Saudi Arabia's overseas income went to help third world countries). (A.F.P.)

MIDDLE EAST

IMMEDIATE, TOTAL...

UNITED NATIONS, December 17- The U.N. General Assembly on Tuesday passed a resolution calling for immediate, total and unconditional Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories.

The resolution, adopted by 101 to 13 with 30 abstentions, came within the framework of the Assembly's discussion of the Middle East in general. A similar resolution was voted 24 hours earlier in connection with the body's more specific consideration of the Palestinian problem. (A.F.P.)

KOLLEK OBJECTS

JERUSALEM, December 17 - Jerusalem's Mayor Teddy Kollek has expressed "strong opposition" to a projected Jewish settlement at Nebi Samwill, north of the capital, in a letter to Interior Minister Yosef Burg, informed sources said today.

The aim of the project, announced earlier this week by the Lands Administration, is to establish a continuous Jewish belt from Ramot to Guivon, two new suburbs on the northern city limits. (A.F.P.)

TANKS BY THE DOZEN

AMMAN, December 18 - Jordan has received from Iraq dozens of tanks in perfect condition captured from Iranian forces during the Gulf war, Jordanian King Hussein said Wednesday.

The King also said borders between Jordan and Iraq left imprecise for decades had been finally clarified thanks to an initiative taken by Baghdad. Authoritative sources said officers from both countries would meet next week to exchange documents tracing the frontiers.

In another development, well-informed sources here said Wednesday that the King had postponed indefinitely a long-delayed trip to the Soviet Union. The move was believed linked to Jordan's recent border tension with Syria, which two months ago signed a friendship and cooperation treaty with Moscow.

The new signs of Amman's friendship with Iraq were made public in an official announcement that said King Hussein had thanked Iraqi President Saddam Hussein for the border clarification as well as the Iranian tanks. "These tanks are living proof of the heroism of your soldiers, and of the union of our peoples and our armies", the King told the Iraqi leader. He further thanked Mr. Hussein for Iraq's contributions to funds to support inhabitants of the occupied territories and Jordan. He said the contributions represented the share owed by Libya for 1979 and 1980 and that owed by Algeria for last year. (A.F.P.)

UNIFIL EXTENSION

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., December 18 - The Security Council Wednesday extended until June the mandate of the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). (A.F.P.)

NOT A FALL

LEEDS, England, December 18 - A private autopsy conducted here Wednesday proved that Helen Smith, a 23-year-old nurse, did not die of a fall during a party 18 months ago in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, as officially claimed, her father said.

According to the official reports, Miss Smith and Dutch sailor Johan Otten died after falling from a sixth-floor balcony while attending a party in the apartment of British surgeon Richard Arnot and his wife Penelope. The nurse's father, former policeman Ronald Smith, charged that his daughter was raped, then killed, and did not die from injuries suffered in the fall. He also charged that Mr. Otten, a potential witness, was murdered, too. (A.F.P.)

PRAISE FOR PROGRESS

JERUSALEM, December 18 - Egyptian President Anwar Sadat and Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin today praised the progress made in tripartite Israeli-Egyptian-U.S. talks on Palestinian autonomy.

They said important progress had been made in negotiations aimed at realising objectives of the Camp David agreements, which they again termed the only viable path towards comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

The two leaders made their comments in a joint statement marking the end of Sol Linowitz's mandate as President Jimmy Carter's special envoy in the Middle East. (A.F.P.)

QUAKE HITS IRAN

TEHERAN, December 19 - At least 24 people died in an earthquake which hit Central Iran last night, according to casualty figures on Teheran radio today. The dead were in outlying villages around Qom, Iran's holy city, the radio said. (A.F.E.)

ALGERIAN APPROVAL

RIYADH, December 18 - Algeria has approved resolutions taken at the recent Arab summit in Amman which it boycotted, Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Ibn Faisal said today.

It made the move from its desire to "safeguard the unity of the Arab ranks", he told the Saudi News Agency SPA after talks here with visiting Algerian Foreign Minister Mohamed Ben Yehya. (Algeria joined with other member countries of the Steadfastness Front in boycotting the Amman summit in protest against Jordan's support of Iraq in the Gulf conflict). (A.F.P.)

NORTH AFRICA

General Information

MILITARY, POLITICAL

PARIS, December 18 - Lieutenant-Colonel Abu Bakr Younes Jaber, head of the Libyan Armed Forces, today had talks with Saharan Republic Defense Minister Ibrahim Ghali, the Libyan JANA news agency said in a report monitored here.

The two men discussed military and political developments in the Western Sahara, where Polisario Front nationalists have been fighting Morocco for control of the former Spanish territory. (A.F.P.)

Libya

UNION COMMITTEE

PARIS, December 18 - A joint committee has been set up to define the terms of union between Syria and Libya, the official Libyan news agency (JANA) reported in a dispatch received here Wednesday night.

The committee emerged from top-level discussions in Tripoli this week between Syrian President Hafez Assad and Libyan leader Moamer Kadhafi, following up the "merger" plan they announced three months ago.

The main representatives on the joint committee will be Syrian Premier Abdel Rauf Kassem and Information Minister Ahmad Iskandar Ahmad and Libyan Lieutenant-Colonel Mustapha Al Kahrrubi and Jadallah Azzuz Al Talhi, JANA said.

In working to define the form of the united state and its institutions, the committee would take into consideration Libyan and Syrian "revolutionary experiments". (A.F.P.)

ITALIAN LINK

ROME, December 17 - Preparations are under way for a visit to Italy by Colonel Moamer Kadhafi, unofficial sources said here today.

The project is an apparent outcome of talks here yesterday between Ahmed El Shahati, a ranking Libyan official in charge of foreign relations, and Italian Foreign Minister Emilio Colombo.

Colonel Kadhafi's visit, the sources said, might be preceded by visits to Libya by Italian Foreign Trade Minister Enrico Manca early in the New Year and by Mr. Colombo. (A.F.P.)

Sahara

FREEDOM FOR 36

ALGIERS, December 17 - The Polisario Front, fighting Morocco for control of the Western Sahara, has agreed to release 36 Spanish trawlermen after winning a declaration of support from Madrid for self-determination in its former colony, it was announced here today.

Talks leading up to the agreement started here at the end of October between Polisario representatives and a Spanish delegation comprising senior Foreign Affairs Ministry official Jose Cuenca and Ambassador to Angola Emilio Cassinello.

The Spanish fishermen were captured by the Polisario off the Saharan coast in May and October.

(In Madrid, Foreign Ministry Under-Secretary Joaquin Ortega said the Polisario had undertaken "implicitly" not to harrass fishermen off the Sahara Coast). (A.F.P.)

Egypt

WIDER AND DEEPER

PORT SAID, December 17 - Work to enlarge and deepen the Suez Canal was officially ended here yesterday at an imposing ceremony attended by Egyptian President Anwar Sadat.

While guns boomed out an official salute, President Sadat, dressed in the uniform of a grand admiral, declared Egypt would make the canal available to every country in the world.

The work on the Canal means that 150,000-ton tankers, or 375,000-tonners in ballast, will be able to sail between the Red Sea and the Mediterranean. Daily passages are expected to rise from 60 to 100.

The Canal will be able to take ships with a 53-foot (16.5 metre) draught instead of the previous 38 feet (12 metres). The width of the Canal has also been increased from 85 metres (yards) to 160 metres.

Until now the maximum was 70,000 tons, cutting out a large portion of the world's supertankers running between the Gulf and Europe and reducing the Canal revenues. Yesterday President Sadat sailed down one of three new by-passes which will allow two convoys to use the canal in different directions along 75 per cent of the route.

The 1,270-million dollar cost of the work was financed by loans from Japan, the World Bank, the U.S. Development Agency and some Arab funds.(A.F.P.)

SADAT FOR JAPAN

ISMAILIA, December 17 - President Anwar Sadat has accepted an invitation from Japanese Foreign Minister Masayoshi Ito to visit Japan, probably in a year's time, sources said at the end of talks between the two here today.

The talks covered the general world situation and particularly the Middle East. Egypt and Japan agreed that the Palestinian question was the crux of a solution to the problem.

Vice-Premier and Foreign Minister Kamal Hassan Ali told Mr. Ito that Egypt had no objection to Jordan taking part in peace negotiations provided it accepted the Camp David agreements.

Mr. Ito and Mr. Ali also discussed bilateral relations and the application of Japanese technology to food production in Egypt. Mr. Ali was also invited to Japan, but no date has yet been fixed.

Mr. Ito arrived in Egypt yesterday for a four-day visit on the occasion of the conclusion of the first phase of enlargement of the Suez Canal. Japan has loaned 270 million dollars for the five-year project, much of which was undertaken by Japanese companies.(A.F.P.)

Morocco

SEA ECONOMICS

RABAT, December 19 - The Moroccan Parliament voted unanimously Thursday in favour of a 200 nautical mile economic zone giving the country exclusive economic rights over 1.1 million square kilometres of water in the Mediterranean and Atlantic, equivalent to a larger area than Morocco itself.

Apart from proclaiming Morocco's sole right to exploit resources on and beneath the seabed, the new law also claims the zone as an exclusive fishing area for ships sailing under the Moroccan flag or owned by Moroccans. (A.F.P.)

Algeria

JAPANESE EXPERTS

TOKYO, December 16 - Japan today decided to send experts to Algeria to look at ways of helping the authorities there take steps to limit future damage from earthquakes, officials said here.

The Government reached the decision today following a visit by a Japanese fact-finding team to the El Asnam region, where at least 2,600 people were killed in a quake in October. The Government also decided to invite several Algerians here to study seismology next summer. (A.F.P.)

WEST AFRICA

Gambia

DEATH SENTENCE

BANJUL, December 17 - A soldier of the Gambian Field Force, the West African country's army, was condemned to death here today for the killing of the Force's Deputy Commander in October.

The 12-member jury in the trial, begun last Friday, sentenced Trooper Mustapha Danso to hang for having killed Emmanuel Mahoney with two shots in the Field Force's camp October 27.

The accused claimed he did not remember firing the shots and that he learned what had happened by hearing conversations around him shortly after Commander Mahoney's death. Medical experts testified that Trooper Danso was mentally normal, although he had been officially described as a drug addict after the shooting.

The death of Commander Mahoney came three days before Gambia broke relations with Libya, claiming Tripoli was giving military training to young Gambians in Libya, banned two opposition parties and called Senegalese troops into the country as a security measure. The Senegalese remained for 10 days.

There has not been a single execution in Gambia since it became independent of Britain in 1965. Several people have been condemned to death, but President Dawda Jawara has commuted all their sentences. Sir Dawda will have to decide whether to do so in the Danso case as well. (A.F.P.)

SHAGARI CONFIDENCE

KANO, December 17 - The ruling National Party of Nigeria maintained its confidence in its conservative wing headed by the country's President, Shehu Shagari, at its three-day conference that finished here yesterday.

The party overcame apparent differences that had emerged at its last congress in June to give overwhelming support to two "Shagari men" - Chief Ama Akinloye, re-elected as Chairman, and Suleiman Takuma, named party secretary in preference to "progressive" sociologist Ibrahim Tahir.

The congress, attended by 3,000 delegates from Nigeria's 19 states but postponed 24 hours because bad weather made access to Kano difficult, also elected two Vice-Chairmen. They are Sherrima Ali Monguno from Northern Nigeria and Briggs Lulu from the south.

The easy victory for the conservatives surprised observers, who saw an eve-of-vote threat from Chief M.K.O. Abiola, party Chairman in the western state of Ogun and President of the Nigerian subsidiary of ITT, and founder-member Mr. Tahir.

Chief Abiola was counting on his greater popularity in the north to gain the national chairmanship over his fellow Yoruba Chief Akinloye. He considered himself better equipped to combat the leader of the main opposition Unity Party of Nigeria, Abofemi Awolowo, who is the Yoruba head chief.

A motion of no confidence in Chief Akinloye proposed by his rival's supporters from the northern state of Kaduna failed to win support. But another northern figure, Bashir Othiman Tofa, managed to oust Isiyaku Ibrahim, a former Interior Minister and a Shagari supporter, from the party Treasurer's post. (A.F.P.)

Ghana

CHOLERA "ALARMING"

ACCRA, December 17 - Nine people have died of cholera and many others have been hospitalized in Ghana's Eastern Region, 100 kms (60 miles) east of Accra, it was reported here.

A delegation that went to the scene reported that the epidemic broke out about 10 days ago and that the situation had become "very alarming".

More people were expected to die, the report said, despite the efforts of a medical team sent in. Anti-cholera medicines were lacking in the region's hospitals, the report said. (Cholera also has been reported in the Central Region, 100 kms west of Accra). (A.F.P.)

2 MORE COURT
ARRESTS

MONROVIA, December 17 - Liberia's ruling People's Redemption Council Tuesday arrested and dismissed from the Army two more members of the military court trying nine soldiers accused of plotting to oust Head of State Samuel Doe.

The arrests followed that of Brigadier-General Frank Senkpeni, chairman of the five-member court, last Thursday, the day before he was to announce the verdict.

No official reason was given for the action against the two detained Tuesday, Col. Samuel Taylor and James Coleman. Gen. Senkpeni was detained on the orders of Sgt. Doe on charges of withholding information obtained from political prisoners and because of delays over their appearance before the court. The nine officers were arrested in May.

Two retired officers, Col. Joseph Somo and First Lieut. Alfred Flomo, have been named to replace the two ousted colonels on the court, the Defense Ministry said.

Certain errors...

Publication of the court verdict has now been delayed until further notice, but General Joseph Nimley Blamo, 75, the new court chairman, has told the official paper, the New Liberian, that he foresaw no retrial of the treason case, but the court would work to "rectify certain errors".

The nine accused include Gen. Rudolf Kolako and Col. Arthur Bedell, who were respectively Director of the Armed Forces Chief of Staff and Air Force Commander at the time of their arrest.

The Liberian News Agency meanwhile reported Tuesday that National Bank Governor Charles Greene had cabled his resignation to Finance Minister Maj. Gen. Perry Zulu from the United States, where he has been on official business and then vacation for the past five weeks. (A.F.P.)

Upper Volta

ARMS BAN

OUAGADOUGOU, December 19 - Upper Volta's ruling Military Committee for National Recovery has banned the import, sale and transfer of ownership of all firearms until further notice, according to a decree published here.

The decree stipulated that resident and visiting foreigners who owned firearms would have to register them with their respective consulates and with local police stations. (A.F.P.)

PEREIRA RESHUFFLES

PRAIA, December 18 - President Aristides Pereira has reshuffled the Government, naming Colonel Silvino da Luz, previously his Armed Forces, Defense and National Security Minister, as Foreign Minister.

Mr. Pereira, in a special edition of this Atlantic Ocean archipelago's official journal, also named Colonel Honorio Chantre as Defence Minister and Colonel Julio de Carvalho as Interior Minister.

All three men were leading figures of the liberation war for independence from Portugal, achieved in 1975, and leading members of the ruling African Party for the Independence of Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde, the PAIGC.

Col. Chantre and Col. de Carvalho are both former deputies to the Chief of General Staff in the sister state of Guinea-Bissau, where a Revolutionary Council seized power on November 14.

Abilio Duarte, President of the National Assembly, was previously Foreign Minister but under a recently-adopted constitution he can no longer hold both positions.

Mr. Pereira, according to the journal, also announced the abolition of the post of Secretary of State for Internal Administration, Public Service and Labour, held by Jose Luiz Fernandes. Col. Silvino's post of Army, Defense and National Security Minister was also abolished. (A.F.P)

Mauritania

MULTI-PARTY...

NOUAKCHOTT, December 18 - Mauritania could be on the road to a multi-party system, according to the West African state's new Prime Minister Sid'Ahmed Ould Bneijarai, head of the civilian Government.

"To my mind, the establishment of democratic institutions supposes that citizens exercise a free choice between different programmes and different political organizations", Mr. Ould Bneijara said in an interview with the Nouakchott newspaper Chaab.

"From then on, it will be up to the people to create judicial and political forms aimed at providing them with sufficient guarantees against arbitrary actions and to remove definitively from our social and political system the spectre of dictatorship and oppression".

The Prime Minister explained that the ruling Military Committee for National Salvation "remains responsible for monitoring the orientation of Government activity" and that the Military Committee and the Government "constitute a sole and single system of leadership". (A.F.P.)

ABO FRONT PUTS

KENYA IN DOCK

MOGADISHU, December 17 - The Somali Abo Liberation Front, which is fighting for the secession of the Bale and Sidamo regions from Ethiopia, has accused Kenya of arresting Abo refugees fleeing "Ethiopian atrocities".

At a news conference here Tuesday, the Front's Secretary-General, Wakow Guto Uso, charged that Kenyan authorities were stopping the refugees as they tried to cross through Kenya into Somalia and sending them back into "the hands of their Abyssinian (Ethiopian) enemies" where, he said, they were massacred.

Both Bale and Sidamo, in South-Central Ethiopia, border on Kenya.

Mr. Uso, whose organization is backed by Somalia as is the Western Somali Liberation Front fighting against Ethiopian rule in the Ogaden, appealed to Kenya to stop sending Abo refugees back to Ethiopia.

"The Kenyan Government must also refrain from interfering in the current conflict between the Addis Ababa regime and the oppressed nationalities struggling for ... their inalienable rights", he added.

Open alliance...

The Abo leader also condemned the Kenyan-Ethiopian joint communique signed early this month, which, he said, was "an open alliance against Somalia". (In the communique, both countries vowed "to take appropriate measures against Somalia's expansionist policies" in order to achieve "durable peace, stability and security.. in the Horn of Africa region"). (A.F.P.)

TRIPARTITE TALKS

NAIROBI, December 18 - Kenya, Sudan and Ethiopia are to hold a tripartite ministerial meeting in the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa some time next year, Kenyan President Daniel Arap Moi said here today.

"Our aim is to see peace and prosperity in the Eastern African region", he told journalists on his return here from a four-day state visit to Sudan.

Mr. Moi, whose visit came against a background increasing Somali isolation in the troubled Horn of Africa, called for African countries to live peacefully with one another as good neighbours.

"If Somalia wants its independence to be meaningful, it should stop going back to old things which happened even before our grandfathers were born", he said. (A.F.P.)

REGIONAL AIM

ADDIS ABABA, December 19 - Ethiopian leader Mengistu Haile Mariam yesterday stressed his country's desire to develop relations with Djibouti even further as part of Ethiopia's aim of strengthening regional cooperation.

He said Ethiopia had moved effectively to improve its ties with neighbouring Kenya and Sudan, and was even willing to extend peace feelers to Somalia provided that country renounced its territorial ambitions in the Horn of Africa.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mengistu made the remarks during a meeting here yesterday with visiting Djibouti Minister of Trade Transport and Tourism Adem Robleh Awaleh. Mr. Awaleh, who arrived here last weekend, conveyed the best wishes of Djibouti President Hassan Gouled Aptidon during the meeting.

He is the highest ranking Djibouti official to visit Ethiopia since the round of consultations between the leaders of Kenya, Sudan and Ethiopia in recent weeks. (A.F.P.)

Uganda

DP WON'T BOYCOTT

KAMPALA, December 18 - The leader of the Democratic Party (DP), the main loser to President Milton Obote's Uganda Peoples Congress (UPC) in last week's general elections, said today that his party would not stage a parliamentary boycott to protest about the results of the poll.

Paul Ssemogerere, the Party President, told a news conference here that his party would ask the courts for a ruling on results in constituencies where it felt that voting had been tampered with to help Mr. Obote's party.

The DP national executive council, which has been discussing the matter behind closed doors here since Tuesday, had decided against calling on its 51 representatives in the new Assembly to stay away from Parliament, he said.

Instead, the party would provide the opposition to Mr. Obote's party, he added. He did not say how many results his party would contest through the courts.

Mr. Obote, speaking after taking the oath as Uganda's new President, appealed to the Democratic Party not to boycott the new Parliament. Mr. Semogerere, after making his announcement today, said that any other decision could have led to chaos.

(Results of last week's poll, which gave the UPC the right to name Mr. Obote president, have been declared for all but two constituencies). (A.F.P.)

VALID EXERCISE...

LONDON, December 17 - The Commonwealth observer team that monitored the general election in Uganda last week has concluded that it was generally "a valid electoral exercise", members said in London today.

But in its final report the team expressed "deep unease" about certain aspects of the election won by the Uganda People's Congress (UPC) of President Milton Obote.

It said these aspects should be dealt with by the Uganda courts through applications from opposition parties, which have charged that the UPC engaged in electoral fraud.

Copies of the observers' report are being printed and will be sent to governments shortly.

Britain and other countries represented on the team have already established normal diplomatic relations with Mr. Obote's new regime. (A.F.P.)

BINAISA IS FREE

KAMPALA, December 17 - President Milton Obote of Uganda, as one of his first official acts, has released former President Godfrey Binaisa, who was overthrown by the pro-Obote Military Commission in May and placed under house arrest.

Mr. Obote said the release was unconditional and was "the first expression of a new era" for Uganda. He said Mr. Binaisa was free to move about as he pleased and could request police bodyguards if he wished.

Mr. Binaisa, who was President for 10 months in the period following the fall of Idi Amin, appeared to be in good health. He told journalists in Entebbe, where he had been confined, that it was "a very emotional moment".

He was invited to Mr. Obote's inaugural reception at State House in Entebbe, 40 kms (25 miles) south of Kampala.

Mr. Obote was sworn in as President Monday morning, nearly 10 years after his overthrow by then-General Amin. Mr. Obote, whose Uganda People's Congress won last week's national elections and will control Parliament, vowed to work for national reconciliation and reconstruction after the abuses of the Amin dictatorship and the political and economic chaos that has remained the rule since Amin's fall in April, 1979.

Mr. Binaisa succeeded President Yusufu Lule in June 1979. Mr. Lule was removed from office after two months by the interim Parliament. (A.F.P.)

OBOTE NAMES

HIS TEAM

KAMPALA, December 18 - Ugandan's new President, Milton Obote, announced his full Cabinet Wednesday as life returned to normal here after a week of turmoil caused by the general election which Mr. Obote won.

The Cabinet, headed by Prime Minister Otema Alimadi, the former Foreign Minister, included 12 members of the outgoing Government named by the Military Commission which organized the elections.

The Commission's head, Paulo Muwanga, has already been named Vice-President and Defence Minister by Mr. Obote. Another Commission member, William Omaria, was named Interior Minister. Mr. Obote himself took the Foreign Ministry.

It was not clear what the respective powers of Vice-President Muwanga and Prime Minister Alimadi would be.

Mr. Obote named the following Ministers Wednesday, in addition to those he appointed last Monday :

- Prime Minister	:	Otema Alimadi
- Foreign Affairs (Minister of State)	:	Picho Owiny
- Internal Affairs	:	Lule Luwizi Ra Kirunda
- Internal Affairs (Minister of State)	:	William Omaria
- Agriculture	:	Sam Mugwisa
- Local Government	:	Lawrence Kalule Setala
- Housing & Urban Development	:	Abraham Waligo
- Tourism	:	Ntege Lubwana
- Attorney-General	:	Stephen Ariko
- Planning and Economic Development	:	Sam Odaka
- Regional Cooperation	:	Sam Tewungwa
- Education	:	Professor Isaac Ojok
- Culture & Community Development	:	James Rwanyarare
- Lands	:	Max Choudry

Last Monday, Mr. Obote named the following Ministers :

- Defence	:	Paulo Muwanga
- Presidency (Ministers of State)	:	Chris Rwakasisi and Peter Otai
- Information	:	David Anyoti
- Supplies	:	Dr. Apiliga
- Rehabilitation	:	Masete Kuuya
- Health	:	Mr. Nkwasiabwe
- Industry	:	Ado Tiberondwa
- Cooperatives and Markets	:	Yona Kanyomozi.

ROLE FOR PARTIES

BANGUI, December 16 - The Central African Republic appears set to return to a multi-party system more rapidly than President David Dacko had originally intended, as a result of an open forum called by Mr. Dacko that ended here yesterday.

The "national reflection seminar" decided during its week's work that political parties should play a part in Central African public life, notably in contesting elections next year whose schedule the seminar also set.

There is to be a referendum on a new constitution in the last half of January and presidential elections in March. Mr. Dacko, who came to power in September 1979 at the fall of Emperor Bokassa, plans to run. Then there are to be legislative and municipal elections in June.

A statute is to be drafted governing the formation and, if necessary, dissolution of political parties, the seminar decided. These parties will have to respect the principles of democracy and national unity, it was decided.

After arresting Ange Patassé, head of the leading opposition party, Mr. Dacko said in November 1979 that the country would return to a multi-party system only after ethnic-based party rivalries had been eliminated. He said he would wait two years, to allow the country to recover from the ravages of the Bokassa era, before allowing several parties to function.

In the meantime, Mr. Dacko formed the Centrafrican Democratic Union as the sole authorized party. He went so far as to tell reporters, after the party's first congress in March, that African countries where a multi-party system had been tried had run into trouble.

Recently, however, Mr. Dacko has begun a process of political liberalization that included the release from prison of Mr. Patassé, who reportedly is in poor health. Mr. Dacko had accused Mr. Patassé of plotting to overthrow his young Government shortly after the fall of the Bokassa regime. (A.F.P.)

Angola

DOS SANTOS CONFIRMED

LUANDA, December 17 - Angola's ruling Marxist party began a special congress today and immediately confirmed Jose Eduardo Dos Santos as President of the country and of the party.

Lucio Lara, a member of the political bureau of the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola-Workers Party (MPLA), told the opening session that all members of the party had expressed confidence in Mr. Dos Santos at provincial and municipal meetings. (A.F.P.)

Zambia

COPPERBELT SWOOP

LUSAKA, December 19. - Zambian security forces yesterday unearthed 90 automatic rifles and 112 magazines from a house in Ndola on the Copperbelt.

The raiding party was shown the house by a detainee who was flown to Ndola, 320 kms (about 200 miles) north of Lusaka, in a Zambia Air Force plane.

The detainee, who was not named by police, is among Zambians and foreigners rounded up by security forces in connection with an attempted coup plot last October and the arms cache is allegedly part of the plotters' arsenal.

The coup plot was foiled on October 16 when security forces raided a farm near Chilanga, south of here, after a tip-off from villagers. During the raid two of the insurgents were killed and one seriously injured.

Prominent Lusaka lawyer Edward Shamwana, former Bank of Zambia Governor Valentine Musakanya and other Zambians including a number of Army officers have been detained and are expected to appear in court in connection with the coup plot. (A.F.P.)

Chad

NEW LAGOS TALKS

YAOUNDE, December 17 - A new conference on Chadian national reconciliation will be held in Lagos on December 23, Cameroun President Ahmadou Ahidjo announced here Tuesday night.

All the conditions laid down by Nigerian President Shehu Shagari for a conference to be called had been met following Chadian former Defence Minister Hissen Habré's signature yesterday of a ceasefire agreement drafted in Lomé with the help of an Organisation of African Unity (OAU) committee, observers here noted.

Mr. Shagari had also insisted on an end to fighting in the capital, Ndjamena, and this had happened at the beginning of the week following the withdrawal from the city of Mr. Habre's Armed Forces of the North (FAN) following the latest offensive by troops loyal to Goukouni Weddeye, President of the Transitional Government of National Union.

Mr. Habre signed the Lomé ceasefire agreement almost three weeks after Mr. Weddeye had accepted it. Observers here expected the rebel leader to take part in the Lagos conference, when, for the first time since the latest war broke out nine months ago, he would come face to face with Mr. Weddeye and his Vice-President Abdelkader Kamougue, who have since gained the upper hand in the fighting.

Chad

Highest level

In view of the importance of the Lagos conference, which will be the fifth round of talks on Chadian reconciliation to be sponsored by Nigeria, observers expected members of the OAU committee and delegations from Chad's neighbours to be represented at the highest level.

The Lagos talks would provide Mr. Habré with his best forum to denounce Libyan "occupation" of Chad, and would similarly give Mr. Weddeye an opportunity to redefine his attitude towards Libyan aid. Observers noted that Mr. Weddeye's nationalism was not questioned and that he would not be prepared to turn Chad into a vassal state of any foreign government even if it had provided decisive help in his war against Mr. Habré. (A.F.P.)

FRENCH "NONSENSE"

NDJAMENA, December 18 - The Chadian Transitional Government (GUNT) last night accused France of organising this week's signing of a ceasefire agreement by rebel Defense Minister Hissen Habré with the intention of "jeopardising the victory of Government forces over the rebellion".

A statement issued after a Cabinet meeting here said that Mr. Habré's acceptance of the ceasefire after his Armed Forces of the North (FAN) were pushed out of Ndjamenena on Monday was "nonsense dictated by France".

GUNT President Goukouni Weddeye signed the ceasefire agreement three weeks ago soon after it was drafted by representatives of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) ad hoc committee on Chad.

Also last night, the Government announced that the eastern town of Abéche, which had been Mr. Habré's main stronghold, had fallen. Meanwhile a four-hour night curfew has been imposed on Ndjamenena.

The statement said that it should be clearly understood that during the next Lagos conference on Chadian reconciliation, which has been announced for December 23, there could be no question of Chad being represented by factions.

"The rebellion ended on Tuesday, December 16 at 8 a.m. with the fall of Abéche", the statement said, adding that it would be more appropriate for the Lagos conference to consider an aid programme for reconstruction and the repatriation of refugees.

In an appeal for national reconciliation, the GUNT President said that to take punitive action following the defeat of Mr. Habré's forces would only "increase the already unbearable burden of the losses and sacrifices unjustly endured by the Chadian people". (A.F.P.)

MONITOR FORCE PLEA

PARIS, December 19 - The Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) has called for "technical and financial" assistance from the United Nations to send an all-African force to monitor the situation in Chad.

In an interview with the African-news daily Le Continent to be published here today, Edem Kodjo said he had asked U.N. Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim to be ready to provide assistance in the event the OAU was unable to mount a peacekeeping force on its own. "Thus, all the necessary steps have been taken so that the (U.N.) Security Council will be able to rapidly debate this question and decide on sending to Chad a force composed of Africans under the aegis of the United Nations", Mr. Kodjo said in the interview.

He said the ceasefire agreement signed three weeks ago in Lomé (Togo) by Chadian President Goukouni Weddeye called for the formation of a monitoring force composed of soldiers from Benin, Congo, Guinea and Togo, all parties to the OAU-sponsored agreement, along with Sierra Leone. But he said the agreement contained a provision allowing the OAU to turn to the U.N. if the African organization was not immediately able to put a force together.

He said the OAU had turned to the U.N. because the latter body had more experience in mounting forces to monitor ceasefires and keep peace. "I don't see that there would be any obstacle, even if Libyan troops are in Chad, to the establishment there of a neutral force", Mr. Kodjo added. He was hopeful that "the end of the battle of Ndjamena was the end of the war in Chad". (A.F.P.)

SOUTHERN AFRICA

General Information

OAU : "NO COMPLACENCY"

ADDIS ABABA, December 17 - The Organisation of African Unity (OAU) has appealed for special attention to the struggle for independence in Namibia and the total eradication of apartheid in South Africa.

The new appeal came in a message marking the 20th anniversary of the adoption of a United Nations declaration on the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples. The OAU said that, while the independence of many African countries during the 1960s had contributed to democratisation of the U.N., there should be no complacency over South Africa's continuing defiance of the declaration. (A.F.P.)

Zimbabwe

NIGERIAN COOPERATION

LAGOS, December 18 - Nigeria and Zimbabwe signed a cooperation agreement on agriculture, trade and industry here yesterday following Zimbabwean Prime Minister Robert Mugabe's arrival on Tuesday for a four-day official visit to Nigeria.

The agreement came after a day of talks between the visiting delegation and Nigerian officials.

At a dinner given in his honour last night Mr. Mugabe said that his visit came at a crucial stage in Zimbabwe's efforts to establish economic ties with African countries.

Opening the talks, President Shehu Shagari said Nigeria was prepared to assist Zimbabwe in manpower, agriculture, health and transport. (A.F.P.)

Republic of South Africa

COMPREHENSIVE
AND MANDATORY

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., December 17 - The U.N. General Assembly Tuesday night approved 18 resolutions condemning apartheid, including a call to the Security Council to impose "comprehensive and mandatory" sanctions on South Africa, notably an embargo on oil shipments.

The demand for an oil embargo, passed by 127-7 with 13 abstentions, urged member countries to take "effective legislative and other measures" to this purpose.

It said such steps should include "end-users agreements" to stop direct or indirect oil supplies to Pretoria, action against companies or individuals breaking the embargo and seizure of home-registered or owned tankers used to ship oil to South Africa.

It also recommended a ban on all technical aid to Pretoria for the oil-from-coal plants the country is building to make up for its lack of oil deposits, and on the import of such technology from South Africa.

In addition, member states should block efforts by South African businessmen to "maintain or expand" their holdings in oil interests outside South Africa, and ban persons and firms from participating in all aspects of the South African oil industry, the resolution said.

The United States, Britain, France, West Germany, Canada, Belgium and Luxembourg voted against the resolution. The Scandinavian countries voted in favour, but said they would not seize any ships unless the Security Council imposed mandatory sanctions.

Trade, loans, investments

Another resolution, passed 115-10 (the United States and the nine European Economic Community countries) and 20 abstentions, called on member states who had not already done so to break off all "diplomatic, military, nuclear, economic, cultural, academic, sports and other relations" with Pretoria.

This should include a ban on all trade, loans or investments in South Africa and on that country's investment in member states, a ban on the sale of South African Krugerrand gold coins and denial of facilities to airline or ships travelling to or from South Africa.

The resolution called on all international financial and aid bodies to "deny all assistance and commercial and other facilities" to Pretoria and to suspend South Africa from membership.

Other resolutions condemned military and nuclear cooperation with South Africa. One, passed 103-19 with 21 abstentions, criticized Israel, whose representative said his country was strictly observing the existing U.N. arms embargo on Pretoria. A U.N. report on nuclear cooperation with Pretoria only devoted one paragraph to Israel, he said.

Included in other resolutions were a condemnation of the granting of paper independence to "African homelands" inside South Africa, and appeals to step up campaigns to free political prisoners, boost aid to liberation movements, draw up a convention against apartheid in sport and boycott cultural events concerning South Africa.

One resolution, sponsored by Scandinavian states and passed 137-0 with nine abstentions, called on the Security Council to take effective and speedy measures to stop investments in and loans to South Africa.

South African representative Adriaan Exsteen said later that the resolutions were an "annual ritual and a blind vendetta" which violated the U.N. principle of settling disputes peacefully. South Africa was excluded from the General Assembly in 1974. (A.F.P.)

ISRAELI DOUBLE

JOHANNESBURG, December 18 - South Africa's trade with Israel has almost doubled over the past two years, South African Finance Minister Owen Horwood said here Wednesday on his return from an official visit to Israel.

He said his visit had been "fruitful" and his talks with Prime Minister Menachem Begin and his Ministers "frank and productive". (A.F.P.)

CISKEI'S "YES"

ZWELITSHA, December 18 - Residents of the Ciskei tribal homeland voted by a large margin for paper "independence" from South Africa in a referendum whose results were announced Wednesday.

Officials responsible for the December 4 referendum said that out of a total ballot of 299,731, some 295,891 Ciskei "citizens" voted for independence and 1,642 voted against. There were 2,198 spoilt papers.

If South Africa declares Ciskei independent, it will be the fourth homeland (Bantustan) to get this status, after Transkei, Venda and Bophuthatswana. No nation other than South Africa has recognized the independence of these homelands.
(A.F.P.)

Namibia

1,800 ANGOLANS

LUANDA, December 19 - A total of 1,800 Angolan soldiers and civilians were killed and 3,000 others wounded during South African raids on Angola over the past three years, President Jose Eduardo dos Santos said here Thursday.

Angolan units had shot down 11 bombers and two helicopters during the 290 air raids and 70 ground attacks registered by the Government over the same period, the President said. (A.F.P.)

Lesotho

BCP ATTACK

MASERU, December 17 - Two adults were killed and two children wounded in an attack at the weekend by the banned Basotho Congress Party (BCP) on a village in the north of the country, Radio Lesotho reported.

The radio added that the BCP's military wing also tried to blow up several buildings in Maseru, but failed.

According to the radio, the rebels deliberately timed their attack to coincide with an official visit to Lesotho by Graca Machel, wife of the President of Mozambique, Samora Machel. (A.F.P.)

Malawi

TRIAL ADJOURNED

BLANTYRE, December 18 - A trial for sedition of Malawi's former Minister of Youth and Culture Gwanda Chakuamba was adjourned today for the second time this week because of the defendant's ill health, and is now scheduled to resume on January 5. (A.F.P.)

Seychelles

AID LINK PROTEST

VICTORIA, December 18 - The Seychelles Government has strongly protested against "an attempt" by Japan to link its aid to the Seychelles' stand at the International Whaling Commission.

Seychelles had asked Japan to help provide a fisheries research and training ship but in reply the Japanese Government had pointed out that the fisheries industries in Japan strongly opposed the grant in view of the Seychelles attitude at the International Whaling Commission.

(Seychelles totally supports a campaign to ban commercial whaling). (A.F.P.)

Comoros

MASSACRE JAILINGS

MORONI, December 18 - Three former Army officers accused of organizing a massacre under the regime of ousted President Ali Soilih were jailed for life here today.

The court sentenced two other Army officers of the former regime to 20 years' jail and two to 18 years' jail in connection with the "Iconi massacre" of March 1978, in which 12 people died.

Seven others were given sentences ranging from six months' jail suspended to three years for their part in the killings.

The 14 accused were also ordered to pay a total 3,000,000 francs CFA (about 12,000 U.S. dollars) compensation to families of six of the massacre victims.

The case was brought by the regime of President Ahmed Abdallah, which overthrew the Government of Mr. Soilih with foreign backing later in 1978.

The three accused of organizing the massacre, Mohamed Ahamada, Hassan Kassim and Aboubacar Issa, who were said to have been the "brains" behind the killings, asked for forgiveness during the trial and admitted their "errors". (A.F.P.)

Printed by
AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE
13, place de la Bourse
75002 PARIS

Under the Management of
Henri Pigéat
President Managing-Director of
A.F.P.

Registered at the Commission Paritaire des Publications
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1980

Semi-weekly interafrican news survey

December 19 1980

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