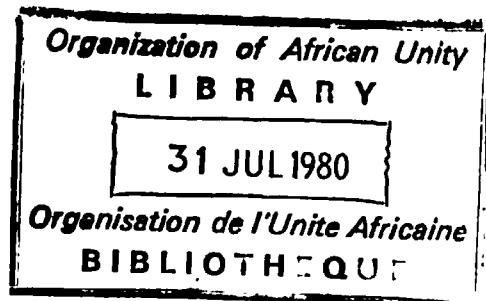


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S U M M A R Y

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PANORAMA

Tanzania : Burden of a new capital

GENERAL INFORMATION

Nairobi : Moi's crisis call
Tokyo : Amnesty : urgent action
Copenhagen : Crimes against women
Chattanooga : Klan "joke"
Yaoude : The whole truth
Brussels : EEC and sugar
Washington : Grim world coming...
Washington : 7,100 m. foreign aid
Peking : No ape-man proof

OIL & ENERGY

London : British curb
Bonn : Brink of ruin
Dar Es Salaam : Major companies eye Tanzania
Peking : Rig collapse
Sydney : Silent power
Haifa : Libya asks for N -specialists
Goteborg : "Defective" tankers
Valletta : Malta-Iraq

MIDDLE EAST

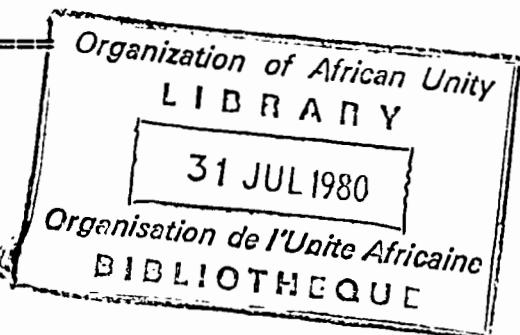
Cairo : Sadat : "liquidate settlements" 9
Washington : U.S. opposition 10
United Nations : Mauritius : action blue print 10
Brussels : EEC contacts 11
Teheran : Mass execution 11
Teheran : People's servant... 12
Jerusalem : Nigerian dies 12
Washington : Billy & Iran 12

NORTH AFRICA

Sahara : - Lisbon denies recognition 13
Libya : - Billy probe 13

WEST AFRICA

Ivory Coast : - World Bank loan 14
Nigeria : - Alloy & steel 14
- S.Korean link 14
- U.S. agreeent 15
- Newsman let in 15
Liberia : - Tough labour line 16
Cape Verde Islands :
- American review 17
Senegal : - Air assistance 18



..../....

S U M M A R Y (2)

EAST AFRICA

General Information :

- Shiftas training in border area...	18
- Superpower threat...	19
- Development plan	19
Tanzania : - Nyerere again	19
Kenya : - Unity pledge	20
Uganda : - Obote's "hooligans"	20

CENTRAL AFRICA

Angola : - 28 on trial	21
------------------------	----

SOUTHERN AFRICA

General Information :

- Constellation experts	22
Zimbabwe : - Farm murders	22
- Chambati once more	23
- The army argument	23
- A people's budget	25
- Role for French	26
- 51,000 refugees	26
Republic of South Africa :	
- Todd kept out	26
- Assassination not necessary	27
Namibia : - SWAPO expulsions	27

INDIAN OCEAN

Comoro Islands :

- The "politicals"	28
--------------------	----

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P A N O R A M A

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

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TANZANIA :

BURDEN OF A

NEW CAPITAL

by François Cros

DODOMA, July 24 - Economic difficulties in Tanzania are seriously delaying work on the development of Dodoma, the new capital in the center of the country.

In 1973, Tanzania decided to move its seat of government to Dodoma, which then had 35,000 inhabitants, in an attempt to halt the growth of Dar Es Salaam, where nearly a million people live.

The cost of the operation was then estimated at 3,700 million shillings (about 530 million dollars) to be spread over 10 years. The population of Dodoma was to increase to 170,000.

But the cumulative effects of several periods of drought, increasing energy prices and the cost of the war in Uganda against Idi Amin have placed a heavy financial burden on Tanzania, whose budget has not balanced for two years.

The next harvest of food crops will be about 70 % o of last year's and profits from exports are mainly absorbed by the oil bills, which make up 10 % of the external debt.

So it is not surprising that less than a third of the planned budget has been spent and that only the Prime Minister's Office and that of the ruling party are functioning at Dodoma, which now has 80,000 inhabitants.

Limited resources

But work continues and President Julius Nyerere recently approved the detailed plan of the city centre, which will include 22 Ministries as well as commercial buildings.

Pedestrians will be given preference, and buildings will be suited to a country of limited resources : no more than three storeys high, so no need for lifts that devour electricity, with natural ventilation and therefore no need for air conditioners.

Official's nightmare

Dodoma, 1,115 metres (3,350 feet) above sea level on the Central Plateau, has a dry, relatively fresh climate in contrast with the warn humidity of Dar Es Salaam on the Indian Ocean.

But because of the semi-aridity of the region, water has to be brought from farther and farther away as Dodoma grows. Paradoxically, in the rainy season drainage is difficult and a drainage system is one of the first priorities.

Dodoma's main industry is wine-making. Grapes have been grown in the area since 1934.

The wine is mainly for local consumption but it still brings in an appreciable revenue for the peasants. They can get two harvests a year if they obtain enough water, but they must compete for it with the city dwellers.

Although the presidential residence at Chamwino 50 kilometers (30 miles) from Dodoma is nearing completion, there is still not enough housing in the new capital, so this must be built at the same time as the public buildings.

All this is a nightmare for officials who are transferred there and often have to spend many months living in lodgings.

At the present rate, it will be five years before six of the 22 ministries can move there, and at least 10 years for the whole Government to be set up in Dodoma.

But Tanzanian authorities are still determined to continue with the operation, and sooner or later Dodoma will become a reality.

Countries represented in Tanzania will then have to move their Embassies from the former seat of government in Dar Es Salaam, in the same way as Brasilia replaced Rio de Janeiro and Islamabad supplanted Karachi in Pakistan.

But the diplomats still have a long time to prepare their move, as a quarter of the Embassies do not yet appear on the master plan of Dodoma. (A.F.P.)

GENERAL INFORMATION

MOI'S CRISIS CALL

NAIROBI, July 23 - Kenyan President Daniel Arap Moi today called on industrialised and oil producing countries to hold a joint meeting to help solve the current world economic crisis.

Mr Moi, speaking at a reception here for a visiting delegation from West Germany, said such a meeting would put the world in a better position to overcome current economic problems. (A.F.P.)

AMNESTY : URGENT ACTION

TOKYO, July 23 - Amnesty International's Japanese branch has set up a center here to help political prisoners sentenced to death or facing torture in foreign countries.

The center, called "the Urgent Action Group", will call on Japanese to join it in sending letters and cables to authorities urging the release of prisoners jailed for political reasons and better treatment for them, a spokesman for the center said.

He said that 217 people in 54 countries, including the United States, the Soviet Union and China, were listed last year as cases needing urgent action by Amnesty International.

Fifty-two of them were released and the penalties of 32 others were commuted, following appeals from the London-based human rights organization, the spokesman said. (A.F.P.)

CRIMES AGAINST WOMEN

COPENHAGEN, July 23 - A court for "crimes against women" has been proposed by feminist and former U.S. Congresswoman Bella Abzug at a meeting of 200 participants in the world conference on women here.

Mrs Abzug and two other feminists, writer Betty Friedan and Dorothy Height, organized the meeting last night in Central Copenhagen to examine how to avoid the politicisation of women's conferences.

Mrs Friedan said that it was tempting to think that governments manipulated the conferences by submitting political proposals so as to prevent women from speaking between themselves about their problems.

Mrs Abzug said she believed in parliamentary procedure, but that she was against such procedures that were an obstacle to the women's cause. (A.F.P.)

KLAN "JOKE"

CHATTANOOGA, (Tennessee), July 23 - Two of three members of the Ku Klux Klan were acquitted by an all-white jury here today on charges of participating in an incident in which four black women were wounded by a shotgun.

Marshall Thrash, the third accused, was given a 20-month prison sentence and fined 225 dollars for doing the shooting.

Harry Hill, spokesman for a local black organization, called the verdict "a joke", adding that the state had done all it could "to make fun of us".

According to the prosecution, the four women were coming out of a bar when they were fired on from a car. (A.F.P.)

THE WHOLE TRUTH

YAOUNDE, Cameroun, July 25 - Journalists "should be told the whole truth to avoid the publication of half-truths," Zimbabwe delegate Justin Nyoka told African information ministers here yesterday.

Speaking at an inter-governemental conference on communications policies (AFRICOM), which opened on Tuesday under the auspices of UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization), Mr Nyoka also urged that African news media cooperate more among themselves and break away from dependence on the "white South".

There was unanimous agreement at the AFRICOM session that a "new order" was overdue in the field of news and information in Africa.

Manuel Augusto Fragata de Morale of Angola said it was time to put an end to "the monopoly of the multinationals linked to the Western countries".

A real weapon

He said it was urgently essential to set up a Pan-African News Agency (PANA), which would become "a real liberation weapon for our continent".

Burundi delegate Gerard Wakarerwa stressed the need for "decolonization" of news in Africa, while Benin Information Minister Martin Dohou Azontho said information on the continent should be based on "a refusal to accept the by-products of the developed countries and the absurd versions of Africa which they present". (A.F.P.)

EEC AND SUGAR

BRUSSELS, July 25 - The European Economic Community has asked the EEC Council of Ministers for permission to seek to join the International Sugar Agreement, sources close to the Commission said here Thursday.

The EEC considered until recently that the quotas offered to it were insufficient. But, following an improvement in world prices and poor crops anticipated in Cuba and elsewhere, the sources said, the EEC believed that it could now join the agreement under favourable conditions and benefit from large export quotas.

Notwithstanding its own production, the EEC has undertaken to buy each year 1.3 million tonnes of sugar from India and the 59 African, Caribbean, Pacific countries associated with the Common Market under the Lomé Convention. The cost would be linked to the price of sugar in the Common Market. (A.F.P.)

GRIM WORLD COMING...

WASHINGTON, July 24 - The world in the year 2000 will be a grim place to live, according to an official U.S. Administration forecast published today.

A world population explosion, a growing gap in the wealth of rich and poor nations, and a reduction in natural resources will result in a world more vulnerable to natural disasters and the danger of war if current trends continue, the report said.

The study was made at the request of U.S. President Jimmy Carter by the State Department and the Council for Environmental Quality in conjunction with 11 Government agencies including the Energy Department, the Agency for International Development and the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).

The study, begun in 1977, concluded that if current trends continue, by 2000 the world will be overpopulated, more polluted, ecologically less stable and more vulnerable to disaster.

It said that hundreds of millions of desperately poor people would have no greater hope of better food supplies and other essentials, and for many the outlook would be worse.

The report said the world's population would grow from 4,000 million in 1975 to 6,350 million in 2,000 -- an increase of more than 50 per cent. Of this increase, 92 % would occur in the third world and 5,000 million of the total would live in developing countries.

A population movement from rural areas to cities would create almost inconceivable over-population in urban areas of the third world, with Mexico City having more than 30 million inhabitants, Calcutta nearly 20 million and Cairo Jakarta and Seoul between 15 and 20 million by the year 2000.

The gap between gross national product per capita would grow from 4,000 dollars in 1975 to 7,900 in 2000.

The study said the changes that were necessary were beyond the capacity of a single nation, adding that it was necessary to develop cooperation among developed and third world countries in a spirit of generosity and justice.
(A.F.P.)

7,100 M. FOREIGN AID

WASHINGTON, July 25 - The U.S. House of Representatives' appropriations committee approved a 7,100-million-dollar foreign aid bill yesterday for the fiscal year starting October 1.

The bill could be submitted to the House some time next week. (AFP)

NO APE-MAN PROOF

PEKING, July 24 - Scientists seeking to prove whether a half-man-half-ape creature exists in a forested region in Central China have failed but instead have found some of the world's rarest animals there, the Guangming daily newspaper said today.

The forest's rare inhabitants include white bears, vultures and white-coated squirrels and deer, the newspaper said.

Peasants have several times reported seeing "apemen" in the Shennongjia region in Hubei Province. But none of the scientific expeditions sent there over the last few years has been able to provide conclusive proof that the hybrid half-man half-ape creatures exist.

They have, however, discovered its unusual animal life. Several white bears living at over 1,700 metres (nearly 6,300 feet) altitude have been sighted or captured by the local people. Other than their colour, the bears are similar in appearance and eating habits to the brown bear, the daily said.

Scientists have not yet been able to give reasons why so many white-haired creatures live in the region but believe it could be related to the special climatic and geological conditions there. (A.F.P.)

OIL & ENERGY

BRITISH CURB

LONDON, July 24 - The Government intends to curb the extraction of North Sea oil and gas so that Britain can, if possible, remain self-sufficient in these hydrocarbons until the end of the century, Energy Minister David Howell told Parliament.

Self-sufficiency in oil is expected to begin shortly when output attains 1,700,000 barrels a day or 85 million tons per annum.

Mr Howell said that a small amount of oil would still be available for export so that Britain could meet its international pledges, particularly to the International Energy Agency (IEA) and European Economic Community (EEC).

Output targets recently laid down by the Government were : 90 to 120 million tons for 1982, 95 to 130 million tons for 1983 and 95 to 135 million tons for 1984. But Mr Howell indicated that the proposed curbs would doubtless mean maximum figures below these. (A.F.P.)

BRINK OF RUIN

BONN, July 24 - The non-petroleum producing countries of the third world are "on the brink of ruin" because of the oil bills they must pay, West German Aid Minister Rainer Offergeld said. He called for increased aid by industrial and oil-exporting countries. (A.F.P.)

MAJOR COMPANIES

EYE TANZANIA

DAR ES SALAAM, July 23 - Many major world oil companies have shown keen interest in acquiring oil exploration rights in Tanzania following recent surveys in a number of on and off-shore locations, Water, Energy and Minerals Minister Al Dash Noor Kassum has said here.

Seismological surveys had shown evidence of "reasonable" prospects, he added yesterday as he presented a Petroleum (Exploration and Production) Bill to Parliament.

Mr Kassum, whose remarks were quoted in the Government newspaper Daily News today, said on-shore surveys had been in the Ruvu, Bingwa and Kimbiji regions as well as in certain parts of Zanzibar. Off-shore surveys had been in the Mafia Channels, he added.

Mr Kassum warned that petroleum development required substantial capital and sophisticated technology. The Government favoured negotiations of joint venture agreements with selected major oil firms on terms acceptable to the Government, he said. (A.F.P.)

RIG COLLAPSE

PEKING, July 23 - A Japanese-made oil-drilling rig collapsed on November 25 in the Gulf of Bohai off the north-eastern Chinese coast killing 72 people, it was learnt here.

The accident occurred as attempts were being made to tow the platform during stormy weather and was the worst of hundreds of accidents which have occurred during Chinese off-shore oil operations.

Yesterday, the official Chinese press placed full responsibility for the disaster on top officials of the Petroleum Industry Ministry.

It also accused the same officials of sharing "at least partial responsibility" for the 1,043 accidents which occurred in off-shore oil-drilling operations between 1975 and last year.

The accident, which resulted in the loss of the oil-rig Bohai 2 also caused losses of 37 million yuan (over 24 million dollars), the People's Daily newspaper said. The platform collapsed leaving only two survivors. (A.F.P.)

SILENT POWER

SYDNEY, July 23 - An electric motor car is now under production here by the Silent Power Company, which hopes to be producing soon at a rate of 500 vehicles annually.

So far it has orders for 12, but hopes the New South Wales Government will buy for its various fleets. (A.F.P.)

LIBYA ASKS FOR
N-SPECIALISTS

HAIFA, July 23 - An advertisement in an American technical magazine seeking nuclear specialists for a Libyan university has caused a stir in Israel.

Sources here link the need for personnel at Tripoli's El Fatah University to France's provision of enriched uranium to Iraq.

Jacques Goldberg, an electronics engineer of French origin who works at Haifa's Technological Institute, brought the advertisement to the attention of the press.

Mr Goldberg said the advertisement, in the most recent issue of the magazine Spectrum, had requested 25 electronics and nuclear engineers for the University, promising excellent benefits for all. Applicants were asked to respond quickly, by telegram if possible, to a Washington address.

Mr Goldberg said that all the positions listed were essential for the function and maintenance of a nuclear reactor. (A.F.P.)

"DEFECTIVE" TANKERS

GOTEBORG (Sweden), July 24 - Svenska Varv shipyard here paid 37 million dollars for three 153,000-ton oil tankers auctioned off because the Libyan General National Maritime Transport Company refused to take delivery.

They were ordered from the shipyard's sister yard Gotaverken in 1973, but the Libyan customer said they were defective.

It had paid 92 million dollars, or three-quarters of the contract price. The auction was allowed after hearings by the International Chamber of Commerce in Paris and the Swedish Supreme Court. The Libyan firm intends to appeal. (A.F.P.)

MALTA- IRAQ

VALLETTA (Malta) - July 23 - Malta has completed arrangements to import oil from Iraq, it was learned here following a nine-day visit to Iraq by Maltese Health Minister Vincent Moran.

Mr Moran also discussed bilateral co-operation in the medical field with his Iraqi counterpart Ibrahim Hussein, who will visit Malta later this year to sign a reciprocal health agreement.

Mr Moran had talks with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and with other Iraqi Ministers during his visit. (A.F.P.)

SADAT : "LIQUIDATE
SETTLEMENTS"

CAIRO, July 23 - Egyptian President Anwar Sadat called Tuesday for the "liquidating" of Israeli settlements on the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Mr Sadat also said he would be ready to renounce the Camp David Mideast peace accords if other Arab nations could propose an alternative solution for the Palestinian autonomy question.

"The settlements are illegal and must be liquidated", he said during a speech in Alexandria to mark the anniversary of Egypt's 1952 revolution.

Observers said it was the strongest language President Sadat has used on the settlement issue. Previously he said there should be a "freeze" on the settlements.

Mr Sadat painted a dark picture of the state of negotiations on Palestinian autonomy in the occupied territories, saying "the gap is great" between Egypt and Israel.

"But I refuse to follow Arabs who do nothing but cry when they are 2,000 kms from the occupied territory", he added.

Mr Sadat severely criticized the Syrian, Iraq i and Libyan regimes, saying it was a "very serious" matter that the Syrian regime had called on the Soviet Union to protect it.

"But the Soviets cannot fight all the Syrian people", he said, adding that Syrians were being repressed "by fire and iron".

President Sadat said he thought Syria was behind the murder Monday in Paris of Salah Al-Bitar, former Syrian Republic Premier and co-founder of the Baath Party. He said he was "very saddened" by Mr Bitar's death.

Christian "catastrophe"

Mr Sadat attacked Libyan leader Colonel Moamer Kadhafi as making decisions "that no sensible person could believe".

But he made no mention of Egyptian-Libyan border tension. (Last month he reinstated a state of emergency along the border, citing a Libyan military buildup in the area).

He also said that "constitution of a Christian state in Lebanon would be a major catastrophe for that country and for the Arab world".

The recent attack by the Lebanese Phalangists against the National Liberal Party was a catastrophe, Mr Sadat said: "The Christian state of (Phalangist leader) Pierre Gemayel is on view to become an example of fanaticism and of confessiona-lism." (A.F.P.)

U.S. OPPOSITION

WASHINGTON, July 24 - The State Department reaffirmed U.S. opposition to any unilateral change in the status of Jerusalem, following the one-sided first-reading vote in Israel's Knesset (Parliament) on Wednesday proclaiming Jerusalem the "eternal and indivisible" capital of Israel.

"Our position on Jerusalem has been stated often before," said a State Department spokesman. "We have consistently opposed unilateral acts which seek to change the status of Jerusalem outside a negotiated settlement."

The spokesman refused to speculate on the consequences the vote could have on the pursuit of the Camp David accords on Middle East peace.

(In Cairo, Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamal Hassan Ali said Egypt's position on Jerusalem's status remained unchanged. "Any measure adopted by Israel concerning (Arab) Jerusalem is besmirched with invalidity", he said. (A.F.P.)

MAURITIUS : ACTIONBLUE PRINT

UNITED NATIONS, New York, July 24 - Mauritius asked the special session of the U.N. General Assembly on Palestine yesterday to adopt a "blueprint for action" to solve the Middle East problem.

Envoy Radha Krishna Ramphul said : "We have a unique forum in which all parties -- those divided on ideology, those divided on power aspirations, those divided on diplomatic tactics can unite in one single effort at long last to give birth to a common plan for peace : a plan, I might add, in which even Israel can join provided it accepts the basic premises of the United Nations and international law".

Mr Ramphul described the draft resolution being prepared by third world countries as "a plan for an orderly transition from occupation to liberation, for a preparation of the West Bank for the return of the refugees to the establishment of a Palestinian independent state, the whole project to be carried out under the supervision of the U.N. under the implementation and authority of our esteemed Secretary-General."

Business-like...

He called this plan "business-like", adding that for Israel the implication was the assumption of an enduring Israeli state. "Israel accepted this statehood when she assumed her responsibility as a United Nations member state, and should have no difficulty in reverting to this international status", Ambassador Ramphul said. (A.F.P.)

EEC CONTACTS

BRUSSELS, July 23 - European Economic Community (EEC) foreign ministers reiterated here yesterday the principles for a Middle-East solution adopted by the recent Western summit in Venice.

They gave EEC President Gaston Thorn (Luxembourg) the mission of on-the-spot contacts to enable the EEC to determine the form of an EEC peace initiative.

According to some EEC sources, Mr Thorn has been given considerable latitude in the organisation of his Middle East tour, which should include meetings with Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leaders.

Mr Thorn, it is understood, will visit Israel, Egypt, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria. He is also expected to have another meeting -- in Tunis -- with Arab League Secretary-General Chadli Klibi following their meeting in Luxembourg Monday. (A.F.P.)

MASS EXECUTION

TEHERAN, July 24 - Twenty officers implicated in an alleged coup against Iran's current regime and a leftist leader accused of murdering a rival progressive leader were executed this morning at Evin prison, Radio Teheran reported.

The executions brought to 25 the number of persons who have died as a result of the coup.

The mass execution was the second since the return from exile of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini in February 1979. Two months after he came to power, 21 "old regime collaborators" faced the firing squad.

The death sentences were intended as examples, observers said here today, adding that the association of Taghi Shahran, the leftist leader, with the 20 officers seemed to show the Government's wish to link together all "enemies of the revolution".

These executed included four captains, two lieutenants, nine second lieutenants, one officer cadet and four lower-ranking men whose ranks were not released.

Five of them were Air Force pilots, involved in a plot to bomb the residences of Ayatollah Khomeini, President Abolhassan Banisadr and the Theological School in Qom, according to the official version of events.

Mr Shahran attended only the first day of his trial, after challenging the legitimacy of the presiding revolutionary court, as these tribunals were originally intended to try only crimes of the old regime. (A.F.P.)

PEOPLE'S SERVANT...

TEHERAN, July 23 - Ayatollah Khomeini has rejected President Abolhassan Banisadr's proposal to appoint the Ayatollah's son Ahmed -- himself a member of the clergy -- Prime Minister.

"I do not wish", the Iranian leader said in a letter to Mr Banisadr, "that persons connected with me should take that post".

His son, he said, was "the people's servant" and better able to serve them if he remained free from the "constraints" of the premiership. (A.F.P.)

NIGERIAN DIES

JERUSALEM, July 23 - A Nigerian soldier serving with the United Nations Interim Forces in Lebanon (UNIFIL) died "on duty", a U.N. spokesman said here.

The cause of the soldier's death was not given.

He became the 44th International soldier to die on UNIFIL service and the fourth Nigerian. (A.F.P.)

BILLY & IRAN

WAHHINGTON, July 23 - Billy Carter, the President's brother, served as an intermediary between the United States and Libya in an attempt to resolve the Iranian crisis, the White House said Tuesday.

But in a brief statement the President condemned his brother's activities as an agent of the Libyan Government and denied that the White House had intervened to warn Billy that he faced prosecution by the Justice Department unless he registered as an agent of a foreign nation.

The White House said Billy had arranged a meeting between Presidential National Security Adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski and Libyan Ambassador to Washington Ali El Houdari on November 27, 1979 at Mr Brzezinski's request.

The meeting, the White House took pains to point out, took place three weeks after the hostage-taking in Teheran, at a time when "the United States was exploring every possible avenue of contact with the Iranian leaders".

Billy Carter was asked to arrange the meeting "because of the cool official relations existing between the United States and Libya", the White House said.

President Carter said in his statement : "I do not believe it is appropriate for a close relative of the President to undertake assignment on behalf of a foreign government. Facts relating to the existence of any such relationship should be fully and publicly disclosed". (A.F.P.)

Sahara

LISBON DENIES
RECOGNITION

LISBON, July 25 - The Portuguese Foreign Minister has denied that his country recognized the Polisario Front's provisional Government in the Western Sahara in exchange for the release of 15 Portuguese fishermen by Polisario guerrillas. He said Portugal had agreed only to make a statement favoring self-determination for the people of the territory.

The fishermen, who were taken prisoner on June 4, were freed on Wednesday, arrived in Algiers yesterday, and were expected in Lisbon today.

The Minister, Diogo Freitas do Amaral, said on television last night that the joint communique signed by the special Portuguese negotiator in Algiers "went beyond, on certain points and in the way it was phrased, the position of the Government in Lisbon".

According to report from Algiers, where the Polisario has its headquarters, Portugal in the communique recognized the Front as the "sole and legitimate representative of the Saharan people".

The communique was published yesterday by the self-styled Saharan Arab Democratic Republic that the Polisario is fighting to set up in the Western Sahara. The former Spanish colony has been annexed by Morocco.

Mr Freitas do Amiral said that recognition of the Polisario Republic by Portugal "would be premature and could be considered as a hostile action toward Morocco". Twenty six African nations -- a majority in the Organization of African Unity -- recognize the Polisario Government. (A.F.P.)

Libya

BILLY PROBE

WASHINGTON, July 25 - The U.S. Senate decided unanimously yesterday to set up a committee to investigate both Billy Carter's relationship with Libya and White House involvement in the affair.

Senate majority leader Robert Byrd said that the situation involving President Jimmy Carter's brother "requires this investigation".

"This is a matter that is not going to go away", the Democratic Senator added.

White House spokesman Jody Powell said President Carter was prepared to reply to the committee's questions, and that he would "instruct all members of the White House staff to cooperate fully".

Libya

Privilege out

The spokesman said the President would not invoke executive privilege to avoid answering "requests for information about the relationship between Billy Carter and the Government of Libya, as well as about any contacts between any member of the White House staff with Billy Carter or with the Department of Justice relating to Billy Carter".

The Senate panel is to render its findings before October 4 -- which falls just one month before the U.S. presidential elections.

Meanwhile, Attorney-General Benjamin Civiletti said the Justice Department was ready to work with any congressional investigation into the affair. He told a press conference that the only accusation against the President's brother was that he had waited until June 11 to let investigators know about 220,000 dollars he had received from Libya. (A.F.P.)

WEST AFRICA

Ivory Coast

WORLD BANK LOAN

ABIDJAN, July 24 - The World Bank has granted Ivory Coast a 33 million-dollar rural electrification loan; the Fraternité Matin newspaper reported today.

The project calls for the construction of an electricity transmission network centered on the town of Man, 500 kms (300 miles) north-west of Abidjan, and the training in Ivory Coast and abroad of 45 Ivorian technicians and electrical engineers.

The loan, which has a four-year grace period, is reimbursable in 17 years.

Nigeria

ALLOY & STEEL

NEW DELHI, July 23 - Birlas, a leading Indian industrial company, is expected to set up an alloy and special steels plant in Nigeria, it was reported today.

The Economic Times said the project, estimated to cost 200 million U.S. dollars, will have a production capacity of 50,000 tonnes a year. (A.F.P.)

S.KOREAN LINK

SEOUL, July 24 - Nigerian President Shehu Shagari has expressed his Government's desire to step up economic and political relations with South Korea.

A personal letter was delivered by Nigerian Ambassador to Tokyo Abubakar Balewa to South Korean President Choi Kyu Fah at a meeting here today. (A.F.P.)

Nigeria

U.S. AGREENT

by Alain Boebion

LAGOS, July 23 - The United States and Nigeria today signed an agricultural cooperation agreement, concluding the fifth round of bilateral economic talks opened here yesterday under the chairmanship of U.S. Vice-President Walter Mondale.

The two delegations also initialled a memorandum of intent to indentify ways in which they could cooperate in the future in the energy sector.

Under the agricultural agreement, the U.S. and Nigerian Governments will set up a working group, scheduled to meet for the first time next September, to select cooperation projects.

A joint agricultural consultative committee, grouping members from the relevant private and public sectors in each country, will work in parallel to promote relations between American and Nigerian businessmen in the agricultural field. An initial plan for U.S. technical assistance in carrying out a survey of Nigeria has already been accepted.

The memorandum of intent signed by Mr Mondale and Nigerian Vice-President Alex Ekwueme listed several ways in which the two sides hoped to improve cooperation in the energy sector, including protection of the environment in oil-producing areas, mining and exploitation of Nigeria's coal, the construction of a solar energy research centre in Nigeria, and training of oil refinery and water development technicians.

On the question of the Bonny liquefied natural gas (LNG) project in Rivers State, which Nigeria hopes to bring on line in 1984-5, the Americans said that existing problems could be resolved if the Nigerians were prepared to meet U.S. market conditions. The LNG project aims at eventual daily production (over 20 years) of 800 million cubic metres, with exports split evenly between Europe and the U.S. A sixth round of bilateral economic talks has been set for next year in Washington. (A.F.P.)

NEWSMAN LET IN

LAGOS, July 23 - An American reporter expelled from Nigeria last Saturday after arriving to cover the visit of U.S. Vice-President Walter Mondale was yesterday allowed into the country following direct intervention by the Nigerian Foreign Ministry.

Pranay Gupte, who is based in Nairobi and covers African affairs for the New York Times, arrived in Lagos last Friday but was forced to take a flight to London the next day. (A.F.P.)

Liberia

TOUGH LABOUR LINE

MONROVIA, July 23 - A new get-tough approach to labour relations by Liberia's military rulers could sow the seeds of social and political explosion in this West African republic, observers said here.

The new hardline approach, in a decree from the ruling Peoples Redemption Council (PRC) dated June 30 but published yesterday, outlaws strikes and restates tough labour regulations introduced by ousted President William Tolbert.

It comes as workers are growing more and more restive because many of their high expectations following the April 12 military coup remain unfulfilled.

Yesterday's announcement followed a major press conference Saturday by trades union representatives at LAMCO, the country's main iron ore mining company where 63 of the 4,000 workers were laid off last September and October after a strike.

Govt. orders..

On July 1, new Head of State Master Sergeant Samuel Doe ordered the company to reinstate the 63 workers in the higher interest of the state. Most of the 63 were trades union officials or militants.

But on Saturday the LAMCO trades union representatives told newsmen that order had not been carried out apparently on the orders of the Government and despite the fact that LAMCO management had said it was ready to comply.

While expressing support for Sgt. Doe and the PRC, they denounced what they called "counter-revolutionary elements" within the Government whose interests were other than the "supreme interest of the state".

No going back...

Their comments were seen here as a warning that they would not accept any going back on the July 1 directive from Sgt. Doe and that such a move could lead to worker unrest.

Trades union circles here have been avoiding any official reaction, pointing out that it risked being misinterpreted.

Observers close to the trades unionists do not, however, disguise their view that the new Government approach carried with it certain dangers. This was particularly so given the fact that trades union officials, aware of the country's current economic problems, were limiting their demands to call for improved working conditions or, as in the case of LAMCO, the setting right of certain injustices, they said.

Liberia

Wild-cat stoppages

These observers noted that, without rushing things, major companies could be required to bring in social reform plans, even if they were only long-term plans.

Economic circles, however, stressed that strikes and stoppages, more often than not wild-cat stoppages, had increased since the coup.

Workers had staged these strikes to back demands for major pay increases or for measures against company managers -- more often than not foreigners -- who took decisions they did not approve of, they said.

When the Government came to power in April it doubled wages for soldiers and civil servants. Most workers, having seen this, now expect similar increases for themselves, at least in the long term.

But according to observers, many companies, in particular those like Firestone that run the important rubber plantations here, only remain profitable because of the low level of wages.

This is seen as one explanation for the new hard-line Government approach.

Observers noted that these foreign companies make no secret of the fact that they could not continue if faced with very high wage demands.

Their departure from the country would prove catastrophic for the Liberian economy, which was weak even under the previous regime, the observers said. (A.F.P.)

Cape Verde Islands

AMERICAN REVIEW

PRAIA, July 24 - U.S. Vice-President Walter Mondale ended a four-nation West African tour with a brief stopover here on his way back to Washington, holding talks with Cape Verde Premier Pedro Pires.

Mr Mondale said the good relations between the United States and the republican archipelago could serve as an example for links with Africa's other Portuguese-speaking countries.

He said his visits during the past week to Senegal, Niger, Nigeria and Cape Verde were made to reaffirm U.S. respect for their independence and territorial integrity.

Also in view was a determination to help with solutions to all African problems and to end social injustice in South Africa, the Vice-President said.

Mr Mondale reviewed America's aid to Cape Verde, covering irrigation, desalination of sea water, food supplies, fishing and tourism. (A.F.P.)

Senegal

AIR ASSISTANCE

DAKAR, July 25 - A group of U.S. civil aviation officials is here on the first stop of an African tour for talks on U.S. assistance in air traffic control, airport modernization and personnel training.

The U.S. delegation, which arrived in Senegal yesterday, will go on to Mali, Nigeria, Kenya, Tanzania, and Ivory Coast, ending its tour next Wednesday.

Heading the delegation are the Deputy Director of the Federal Aviation Administration, Quentin Taylor, and a member of the Civil Aeronautics Board, George Dalley. (A.F.P.)

EAST AFRICA

General Information

SHIFTAS TRAINING

IN BORDER AREA..

NAIROBI, July 25 - More than 300 shiftas (guerrillas) are undergoing military training at Dolo in Somalia on the Ethiopian border near North-East Kenya and three of them armed by Somalia recently surrendered inside Kenya, the Kenyan Standard newspaper reported here today.

The trio told Kenyan authorities conducting an intensified anti-guerrilla campaign that the leader of their insurgent group was operating in Kenya's Wajir District, the paper added.

This district is in the North-Eastern province seen by Somalia as part of the "Greater Somalia" it wants to build by uniting Somali-speaking sections of Ethiopia and Kenya with Somalia's present territory.

Between 1963 and 1967 shiftas from Somalia terrorized parts of North-Eastern Kenya. The conflict ended after mediation by Tanzania.

Nomad disguise

Guerrilla war has been going on in Ethiopia's south-Eastern Ogaden Province for three years, with the Somali-backed Western Somali Liberation Front fighting Ethiopian Government troops.

Many refugees from the Ogaden conflict are quartered in camps in the Dolo area, in South-Western Somalia.

Earlier this month, the Standard reported that about 1,500 Somali soldiers disguised as nomads tried to cross into Ethiopia through Kenya, but were forced back into Somalia by soldiers based at Mandera on the Kenya-Somalia border. (A.F.P.)

General Information

SUPERPOWER THREAT...

DAR ES SALAAM, July 23 - Tanzanian President Julius Nyerere has expressed his country's concern about the increasing American military presence in the East African region.

In a speech to Parliament which covered Soviet intervention in Afghanistan and the subsequent development of U.S. bases in the Indian Ocean and on the East African coast, Dr Nyerere said that hostility between the superpowers was threatening the unity of the non-aligned movement and the independence of small countries.

Tanzania was willing to resume trade with its neighbours including Kenya, "a country with which our traditional ties are very strong", but efforts should be made to settle assets and liabilities of the defunct East African Economic Community, Dr Nyerere said.

The Tanzanian President also announced that, despite the high costs involved, his troops would remain in Uganda for as long as they were wanted by that country. (A.F.P.)

DEVELOPMENT PLAN

ADDIS ABABA, July 24 - Djibouti and Ethiopia are to establish a joint committee to promote development in tourism between the two countries, the easing of customs formalities and the improvement of hotel facilities, it was announced here today.

The agreement follows the seven-day visit to Djibouti last week of Ethiopian Tourism Commissioner Abebe Worku and an agreement made here last December with Djibouti Trade, Transport and Tourism Minister Aden Roble Awalie. (A.F.P.)

Tanzania

NYERERE AGAIN

DAR ES SALAAM, July 23 - The Tanzanian Parliament has unanimously adopted President Julius Nyerere as sole candidate in the forthcoming presidential elections here on October 26, the Government newspaper Daily news said here today.

Vice-President Aboud Jumbe was chosen as sole candidate for elections the same day to choose the leader of the Indian Ocean island of Zanzibar, the paper added. Zanzibar formed a union with the Tanzanian (then Tanganyikan) mainland in 1964.

President Nyerere, who has been in power since independence in Tanganyika in 1961, will be seeking reelections for a fifth successive term of office.

Mr Jumbe took over as President of Zanzibar after the 1972 assassination of the island's strongman, Sheikh Abeid Amani Karume. (A.F.P.)

Kenya

UNITY PLEDGE

NAIROBI, July 23 - A two-day national leadership conference ended here with a renewed commitment by the conference participants, drawn from all walks of Kenyan leadership, to foster unity within the country.

Quoting conferences sources, the official Kenyan News Agency (KNA) said yesterday that "as if in an exorcising ceremony, leader after leader admitted that he or they (the leaders) were the root of all problems now afflicting Kenya and pledged their loyalty to President Moi".

The conference delegates gave the Kenyan President a new mandate to removeanyone whose activities could sow seeds of disunity in the country.

The ruling Kenya African National Union (KANU) party also pledged to look out for those Members of Parliament whose activities and utterances deviated from the Government's declared policies and goals.

In reply, Mr Moi told the conference : "We go home now with a new spirit of togetherness and we cannot affordto look backwards. We have a big job to do of building a strong and united Kenya nation in which every citizen, including the youth, will feel proud to live". (A.F.P.)

Uganda

OBOTE'S "HOOLIGANS"

KAMPALA, July 24 - Leaders of two of Uganda's four political parties are flying to Dar Es Salaam to inform Tanzanian President Julius Nyerere about what one party source described as "threats, intimidation and hooliganism" by supporters of former Ugandan President Milton Obote during the current Ugandan election campaign, it was learnt here today.

Uganda Patriotic Movement (UPM) leader Yoweri Museveni flew today to Maputo, Mozambique, to see his friend President Samora Machel. A UPM source said here that Mr Machel was considered to have considerable influence in Tanzania and it was hoped that the five-man UPM delegation would be able to persuade him to ask Dr. Nyerere to restrain Dr Obote and his followers.

Mr Museveni is Vice-Chairman of the six-man Military Commission which took power in May from President Godfrey Binaisa and which cleared four parties to contest the Ugandan elections on September 30, the country's first for eighteen years. From Maputo, Mr Museveni will fly to Dar Es Salaam to see Dr Nyerere.

Uganda

Stones and guns

The second party leader heading for Dar is Paulo Ssemogerere of the Democratic Party (DP), the strongest traditional opposition to Dr Obote's Uganda People's Congress (UPC) and which Dr Obote banned when in power in Uganda in 1969.

Mr Ssemogerere will lead a nine-man delegation flying to the Tanzanian capital tomorrow. Party sources said the delegation will inform the Tanzanian leader about recent acts of violence at DP rallies in which several people were stoned by UPC supporters and two were reported shot dead. The two delegations are visiting Dar Es Salaam independently of each other.

Democratic Party sources said here today that the delegation would suggest that the 10,000 Tanzanian troops and police still in Uganda might be deployed as a neutral force along with Ugandan police at party rallies to keep rival supporters apart in the event of trouble. The sources said that this had worked well at a rally last week in the eastern town of Mbale when police intervened after UPC and DP supporters clashed and ten people were injured.

Party sources said the UPM executive had drawn up a list of recent acts of violence and intimidation by UPC supporters. These included the shooting in the leg of the party's General Secretary, Cabinet Minister Bidandi Ssali, the gun attack on an organising secretary in which his bodyguard was shot dead and an attack on the home of a rally organiser who escaped death by fleeing into the bush.

The sources said the document also listed occasions on which UPC members had promised or actually given out essential commodities, food and vehicles as bribes to entice voters. People had also been told that since the "UPC controls the Uganda Army, it would be dangerous for them to vote for another party".

The UPM also criticises the use of Government-owned mass media to promote the UPC above other parties. (A.F.P.)

CENTRAL AFRICA

Angola

28 ON TRIAL

LUANDA, July 24 - The state prosecutor has asked for death sentences on 21 of 28 Angolans on trial before a revolutionary tribunal here.

They are accused of carrying out numerous bomb attacks in the country since 1978 which have killed a number of people.

All the accused have said they belonged to UNITA (Union for the Total Independence of Angola), the ruling party's rival for power at independence, which is continuing to attack Government troops in Southern Angola and has South African support. (A.F.P.)

General Information

CONSTELLATION EXPERTS

PRETORIA, July 24 - South African Prime Minister Pieter Botha has announced the formation of a committee of experts to coordinate economic and financial matters for his proposed "constellation" of Southern African states.

He disclosed this first practical step for the proposed inter-dependent economic community at the first "summit" here of the four countries so far involved in the concept -- South Africa itself and the three Bantustans (black homelands) of Transkei, Venda and Bophutatswana.

The Government here has accorded them independence, starting with Transkei in 1976, but no outside country has recognised them.

Mr Botha said last year he envisaged an eventual association of countries spreading as far as the Great Lakes region south of the Congo, because they were an economically inter-dependent geographic entity South Africa could usefully service with industrial and logistic support.

Mr Botha has insisted there is no ideological underpinning to his idea and that the "constellation" is not supposed to set up a system of "satellite states".

But the black "front-line" states, putative partners in Pretoria's design, met immediately after Rhodesia became independent as Zimbabwe in April and decided to form a "counter-constellation" destined to achieve their own economic and logistic independence of current reliance on "racist" South Africa.

Official spokesmen here have not found that move too great a setback, arguing that a counter-constellation could initially make sense as a way for its members to develop mutual assistance.

Mr Botha yesterday outlined unifying measures in the monetary, fiscal and customs spheres, and plans for community industrial and agricultural development.

He named Central Bank Deputy Governor Gerhard de Kock as head of the committee of experts. (A.F.P.)

Zimbabwe

FARM MURDERS

SALISBURY, July 23 - Five men, three of them former guerrillas, are to appear in court in the near future charged with murdering two white farmers last Saturday, a police spokesman said here. A woman will appear in court on the same charges, the spokesman added.

The 76-year wife of one of the murdered men meanwhile died in hospital early today from injuries she received while the farmers tried to stop a robbery at their Goromonzi farmstead. (A.F.P.)

Zimbabwe

CHAMBATTI ONCE MORE

SALISBURY, July 24 - Unknown attackers fired about 40 automatic rifle rounds last night at the Salisbury home of Ariston Chambati, a top official in the political party of Home Affairs Minister Joshua Nkomo, police said today. No one was in the house at the time, just before midnight, a spokesman added.

The attack came a few hours after Parliament, at Mr Nkomo's request, agreed to renew the 15-year-old state of emergency for another six months because of the worrying security situation in Zimbabwe and the number of incidents involving the use of firearms.

The future of Mr Nkomo's Patriotic Front in the coalition Government of Prime Minister Robert Mugabe has been called in question recently with repeated denunciations of Mr Nkomo and his party by Mugabe Ministers.

It was the second assault at Mr Chambati's home in the last two years. On the first occasion, armed men tried to get in to his house at the University here, but fled after slightly injuring a guard. Mr Chambati, who was a University lecturer at the time, left for Britain shortly afterward and came back with the transition from white-ruled Rhodesia to black-ruled Zimbabwe. (A.F.P.)

THE ARMY ARGUMENT

by Ian Mills

SALISBURY, July 24 - Argument among members of Zimbabwe's coalition Government had seriously held up moves to form a new National Army and this was the main reason forces Supreme Commander Lieutenant General Peter Walls was retiring, military sources said today.

Gen. Walls had not publicly revealed the true reasons for retiring because he did not want to harm the new Government's chances of putting the country back on its feet after seven years of bitter armed struggle, the sources said. The 54-year-old forces commander goes on long leave at the end of the month pending retirement later this year. The sources said Gen. Walls had effectively left his post and would not return.

Prime Minister Robert Mugabe is currently deciding on a successor, and official sources say he will probably look to the "old Commonwealth" for a replacement rather than black Commonwealth nations such as Nigeria and Ghana.

Military sources close to Gen. Walls said he had pinpointed the recent attacks on Home Affairs Minister and Patriotic Front party leader Joshua Nkomo by two of Mr Mugabe's senior Cabinet Ministers as the main reason for his early retirement.

Zimbabwe

Rifts, resignations

Gen. Walls believed that the attacks had seriously damaged moves to form the new Army from among the guerrilla forces of Mr Nkomo and Mr Mugabe and the old Rhodesian Army. The attacks had caused serious rifts between the two guerrilla forces and prompted a flood of resignations from the former Rhodesian Army, the sources said.

Gen. Walls had been dismayed by the steep rise in resignations from his forces, the sources said, adding that 64 per cent of the old Rhodesian Army had resigned.

The new Army had to be built on the structure used by the Rhodesian Army, neither of the two guerrilla armies having the essential administrative and logistical base for such a complex task, the sources said.

Gen. Walls was known to have warned Mr Mugabe of the adverse effects on morale and cooperation caused by the attacks on Mr Nkomo by Finance Minister Enos Nkala and Manpower Planning Minister Edgar Tekere.

Mr Mugabe is reported to have attempted to allay Gen. Walls' fears by saying the outbursts were "just hot air".

But recently the real impact of the looming rift between the Government coalition partners had clearly made itself felt among the new Army's rank and file drawn from the two guerrilla forces, the sources said.

Violent reprisals

The attacks on Mr Nkomo had prompted violent reprisals by members of his forces in which several of Mr Mugabe's ZANU-PF party officials had been attacked and murdered, the sources said.

If resignations from the old Rhodesian Army continued at their present rate it would be impossible to form an efficient national army and the whole exercise would collapse, the sources said.

This raised the spectre of chaos and a dangerous security situation, and Gen. Walls had decided to retire to underline the serious situation facing the country and its new leaders, the sources said.

Gen. Walls hoped his retirement would "bring Mr Mugabe to his senses" and persuade him to muzzle radical Ministers in his Cabinet, they said, adding that the General had been particularly concerned about a recent statement by a Government spokesman that the country's whites were only being used until they were no longer needed. (A.F.P.)

Zimbabwe

A PEOPLE'S BUDGET

SALISBURY, July 25 - Zimbabwe Finance Minister Enos Nkala produced a record 1,400-million-dollar (about 2,100 million U.S.) "people's budget" yesterday that avoided increases in direct taxation.

Mr Nkala revealed in his two-hour budget speech that the country faced a deficit on revenue spending of 518 million Zimbabwe dollars that could not be fully covered by borrowing. The gap would be partly filled by extending the 10 % sales tax to several new areas, bringing in 42 million dollars in a full year, he said.

Whites found the budget lenient. They had been expecting the new socialist-leaning Government of Prime Minister Robert Mugabe to raise income taxes to help pay for the multi-million dollar reconstruction programme.

In a move to attract foreign risk capital, Mr Nkala announced major changes in the exchange control policies. In future investors would be able to repatriate all capital investment after two years, less the income remitted during that period.

But at the same time he cut dividend payments to non-resident shareholders not domiciled in Britain, the United States and Canada to 50 % of after-tax profits. The move particularly affects South African shareholders, who have until now received 100 % dividends.

The blocked funds

Mr Nkala also warned that the financial curbs on emigrants would be kept. "Those who emigrate must accept that first priority has to go to those who live permanently in the country", he said.

"For some time to come, therefore, it must be expected that, as hitherto, a major portion of emigrants' capital will be blocked initially," he said.

It was also impossible at present to release the "very large sums" of blocked income, mainly dividends and profits due to companies registered in Britain, the U.S. and Canada, that had accrued since 1965 and the unilateral declaration of independence by the former Smith Government, Mr Nkala said.

"It is quite impossible, because of balance of payments considerations, to contemplate releasing these funds in the immediate future", he said. But the Reserve Bank was working on the problem and the Government would announce its policy on blocked funds as soon as it could, he said. (A.F.P.)

Zimbabwe

ROLE FOR FRENCH

SALISBURY, July 25 - A four-day visit to Zimbabwe by a delegation of 24 French businessmen has shown that France could play a major role in the reconstruction and development of this country's economy, delegation leader Jean Dromer said here today.

The top-level team from the French Federation of Industries (Conseil National du Patronat Français) has been examining Zimbabwe's development needs and meeting Government Ministers.

The discussions touched on the financing of the multi-million-dollar Wankie thermal power scheme in the west of Zimbabwe but no firm decisions were made on French participation, Mr Dromer said.

Talks were also held on French training for Zimbabweans in several sectors.

Mr Dromer stressed the importance of the banking representatives in the French mission to Zimbabwe because of the leading position of French banking. (A.F.P.)

51,000 REFUGEES

GENEVA, July 25 - More than 51,000 war refugees have been repatriated to Zimbabwe from neighboring black states this year and others have returned on their own, the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said here today.

The repatriation of 12,000 children who stayed in Zambia to finish the school year began on Monday, the UNHCR office said.

It said that a resettlement and rehabilitation program had started for those returning and for displaced persons within Zimbabwe. In the Mashonaland and Manicaland provinces, seeds, fertilizers, pesticides and agricultural implements had been distributed, the UNHCR office said. (A.F.P.)

Republic of South Africa

TODD KEPT OUT

JOHANNESBURG, July 24 - South Africa has refused to allow former Rhodesian Prime Minister Garfield Todd, a supporter of the black nationalists during the Ian Smith regime and now a Zimbabwe Senator, to come speak at a university here.

The Government told the Student Council at the University of Witwatersrand last night that it had turned down Mr Todd's request to visit South Africa. He was to have spoken next month at a memorial lecture at the university, an English-language institution whose student leaders have traditionally been at the forefront of South African liberalism and anti-apartheid politics. A spokesman for the Student Council said no reason had been given for the refusal. (A.F.P.)

Republic of South Africa

ASSASSINATION

NOT NECESSARY

LUSAKA, July 23 - African National Congress (ANC) President Oliver Tambo denied a report that his banned South African nationalist organisation is plotting to assassinate Kwazulu Chief Gatsha Buthelezi.

The ANC "has no intention, no plans, not even the need to assassinate Buthelezi or anybody else for that matter", he told a press conference here.

His comments followed a report in the Johannesburg Sunday Times which said the ANC had threatened to kill the Chief. The report quoted South African Chief of Security Police Brigadier Johannes Coetze.

Brig. Coetze said the threats had been made in a Radio Tanzania broadcast monitored in Pretoria.

Mr Tambo accused the South African Government of capitalising on an ANC statement issued by its London-based Secretary General to create division among the people of South Africa.

The statement criticised Chief Buthelezi for calling on members of his influential Inkatha movement to force secondary school children in South Africa to end a schools boycott lauched to protest inferior education for non-whites.

It said those who opposed the boycott, strikes and demonstrations that they would face the same fate as those they served.

Mr Buthelezi told the Sunday Times that Mr Tambo has assured him in London when they met eight months ago that the ANC did not intend to take his life. (A.F.P.)

Namibia

SWAPO EXPULSIONS

LUSAKA, July 23 - The South West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO) has expelled its Vice-President Mishake Albert Muyongo and eight other organisation members, a spokesman for the Namibian nationalist guerrilla organisation said here today.

The nine had been expelled for organising a break-away movement in an area in Eastern Namibia taking in the Caprivi Strip, spokesman Peter Katjavivi added.

The SWAPO central committee decided to expell the nine at a three-day meeting at Ndalantando, Kwanza Norte, Angola, that ended last Saturday, he said.

The other expelled members were named as Lemmy Matengu, Jackson Mazazi, Ignatius Matnagu, David Mutabelezi, Dennis Kachilombwe, Ernest Likando, Ben Mabuku and Calvin Songa. All were senior SWAPO men.

Namibia

Breakaway the target

A SWAPO communique said : "Elements have been engaged in counter-revolutionary and secessionist activities aimed at dismembering Namibia's national territory.

"They have actively been advocating for the breakaway of the eastern region".

The SWAPO central committee also appointed Bredan Simbwaye as Vice-President. Marxist leader Sam Nujoma remains President and Davis Meroro National Chairman.

Mr Katjavivi said the committee had reached its expulsion decision on the basis of "concrete and documentary evidence placed before it".

This largest purge in the SWAPO hierarchy follows the expulsion in 1976 of SWAPO Information Secretary Andreas Shipanga on similar charges.

Mr Shipanga fled to Britain after being detained by the Zambian Government under the preservation of Security Act.

He was later reported to have joined the South African-backed Democratic Turnhalle Alliance.

The SWAPO central committee today also condemned what it called "racist South Africa's unprovoked aggression against (the) African independent states of Zambia and Angola".

SWAPO rejected as illegal, null and void the imposition on the people of Namibia of a "puppet Ministerial Council" in the Namibian capital Windhoek, dominated by the Democratic Turnhalle Alliance.(A.F.P.)

INDIAN OCEAN

Comoro Islands

THE "POLITICALS"

PARIS, July 23 - Comoro Islands Ambassador to France Said Ali Kemal has resigned to protest his Government's policies, particularly over political prisoners, he announced here yesterday.

Mr Kemal, who made public a letter of resignation sent three days ago to President Ahmed Abdallah, also revealed that he had turned down an appointment as Minister of Justice because he would have become responsible for the fate of political prisoners in the islands. (A.F.P.)

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