

AFRICA

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KODJO "FULLY SATISFIED"

LAGOS, April 30 - Africa's first economic summit "fully satisfied" the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) top official, Secretary-General Edem Kodjo, who said today it could lead to an energy common market on the continent by 1990.

Mr. Kodjo told a news conference after the summit, which wound up last night, that although everything had not been achieved the essentials had been. Africa would now be the only "guilty" one if its leaders did not show themselves able to get under way the necessary means of realising the different decision which were taken.

(The heads of state and government reaffirmed the creation of an African economic community by the year 2000 on the basis of a treaty still to be formulated. They set out two 10-year stages, with the coming decade being scheduled for the strengthening of existing economic groupings and the formation of others in Central, East, Southern and North Africa, and the second on still greater integration sector by sector. The emphasis in the two stages is to be on acquiring increasing self-sufficiency and harmonisation, nationally, sub-regionally and eventually on a continent-wide basis in food production, energy, industry, transport and communications).

Community effort

The Secretary-General stressed the importance of the "Lagos action plan" adopted by the summit, which he said laid out precisely Africa's short, medium and long-term needs. And for the first time the concept of national effort was linked closely to community effort in each of the plan's sectors.

Priorities had been clearly defined - a necessary step, as Africa did not want to lose its political liberty through the loss of its economic freedom.

The OAU's top official said he had not come to Lagos with the idea of leaving with a common market "in his pocket". But he had been given a mandate to prepare "a treaty, a charter" which would be put to the heads of state at the next economic summit.

Mr. Kodjo stressed that realism had dominated the summit's work and that it was not impossible that Africa would have an energy common market between now and 1990.

He admitted there had been difficulties with one or two oil-producing countries at ministerial level, but those countries' heads of state during the summit had asked for studies to be pursued on the subject. (A.F.P.)

15 M. CHILDREN DIED

KARACHI, April 30 - More than 15,000,000 children died throughout the world last year, most of them from malnutrition and poverty-related causes, James P. Grant, Executive Director of the United Nations Childrens Fund (UNICEF), said here yesterday

Speaking at the Pakistan Medical Association, he said it was most urgent to solve the problem of hunger and malnutrition in the poor countries because of the population explosion and declining food resources. He advised the scientists in the developing countries to do more research on poverty-related health problems.

At present 95 per cent of medical research in the advanced nations was being done on rich people's medical problems such as heart disease and cancer. Only five per cent research was related to the health problems of the poor, he added. (A.F.P.)

DIAMOND SALES UP

JOHANNESBURG, May 1 - Sales of diamonds by the Central Selling Organisation this year should exceed the 1979 total of 2,740 million dollars, Harry Oppenheimer, Chairman of the South African company de Beers, which controls the CSO, said Wednesday.

In his annual report for last year, published here, Mr. Oppenheimer said diamond sales early this year were greater than in the similar period of 1979. He considered that this trend would continue for the remainder of 1980, but he stressed that demand for small diamonds was slight .

Mr. Oppenheimer is also Chairman of the Anglo-American Corporation, the principal shareholder of De Beers. (A.F.P.)

GROWING COPPER SURPLUS

LONDON, May 2 - Recessionary trends in the Western world will create a growing surplus of copper in 1980 and 1981, after two years of deficit, Amalgamated Metal Trading (AMT) estimated in its review Copper Trends published Thursday.

AMT believed that there would be surpluses of 138,000 metric tons and 522,000 tons respectively.

Western world refined metal production should increase by 2.4 per cent to 7,168,000 tons in 1980, even allowing for a decline in the United States of 243,000 tons due to an assumed six-week strike and lower production from secondary sources.

Mine production in 1980 should be "significantly higher" in Mexico, Canada, South Africa and the Philippines, as well as in Zaire and Zambia, the review said. (A.F.P.)

POPE'S LONGEST TRIP

ROME, May 2 - Pope John Paul Two left here today for a six-nation ten-day tour of Africa, his fifth and longest trip abroad.

Arriving at Rome's Fiumicino airport by helicopter from the Vatican, the Pope stressed in a brief address to Italian Government representatives, the diplomatic corps and a small crowd of Christians, the religious and missionary character of his African journey.

He emphasized "the importance and original role of contemporary Africa in international life because of its political, economic and social problems and the dynamism of its inhabitants who are in the course of building their history amid tensions".

The Pope will be away from the Vatican until May 12, covering 17,720 kilometres (11,075 miles) by plane, car and boat.

During his visits to Zaire, Congo, Kenya, Ghana, Upper Volta and Ivory Coast he is scheduled to give more than 70 addresses. He will overfly Algeria, Mali, Nigeria, Cameroun, the Central African Republic and Uganda. (A.F.P.)

164.5 M. FOR FIVE

WASHINGTON, May 1 - The World Bank today announced loans totalling 164.5 million dollars to be distributed among five African countries .

The biggest share, 69 million dollars, went to Egypt to improve textile production. Kenya received 46 million dollars to develop small farms, Nigeria's Cyo State was given 28 million for an agriculture programme, Burundi 15 million for education and Upper Volta 6.5 million for a rice project. (A.F.P.)

16 CENTURIES TO GO

CAIRO, April 29 - The prison term of a building contractor sentenced to 16 centuries in prison has just been confirmed by the Alexandria Appeals Court .

The contractor, Ibrahim El Sayed Morsi, built several apartment buildings in Alexandria. He was paid off by 462 would-be renters of flats in the buildings.

For each bribe he took, Mr. Morsi was given three years in prison : a total of 1,386 years. The court sentenced him to an additional 231-year prison term for giving the renters incomplete leases to sign.

Under the court's ruling, Mr. Morsi will be a free man in the year 3597. (A.F.P.)

NIGER CHAIRMAN

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., May 1 - The West African state of Niger takes over chairmanship of the Security Council here for this month.

In keeping with the system of alphabetical rotation, Niger representative Ide Oumarou succeeds Mexico's envoy Porfirio Munoz Ledo. (A.F.P.)

SEA-LIFE RESERVE

MOSCOW, May 2 - The Soviet Union has set up its first sea-life reserve, in Peter the Great Bay near Vladivostok on the east coast, it was announced today.

The reserve covers 63,000 hectares (150,000 acres), has warm and cold currents and has more plant and animal life than other Soviet waters.

Fishing will be strictly controlled. (A.F.P.)

OIL & ENERGY

COAL COMEBACK

LONDON, April 30 - Coal will return to drive ships in a big way five years from now, according to fuel experts at a seminar run here by the magazine Shipping World.

The cost differential between oil and coal is not large enough yet to justify converting engines, but in 1985 coal should forge ahead on most routes, especially for large bulk carriers.

Even today coal is cheaper for 120,000-ton vessels on certain routes. These include Australia-Japan, South Africa-Europe, South Africa-Japan and the U.S. East Coast-Europe.

The experts think coal power will begin its come-back for the transport of coal and grain. They point out that it will take some time to set up coal stocks at ports.

The Australian National Line is believed about to order two coal-powered ships, Australia being a major coal producer. (A.F.P.)

IVORY SEA FIND

LONDON, April 29 - A new oil deposit has been found in the Ivory Sea, off West Africa, by a consortium made up of American Phillips Petroleum (with 57.5 per cent ownership), Italy's Agip (22.5 per cent) and the Ivory Coast firms Petroci and Sedco (10 per cent respectively).

The well was yielding between 2,900 and 4,915 barrels of oil a day and also contained gas, Phillips said. A series of wells will be drilled to determine the extent of the deposit. (A.F.P.)

ONE-FIFTH NUCLEAR

PARIS, May 1 - Nuclear energy has for the first time in any month provided more than one-fifth of France's electricity, the electricity authority said today.

Statistics for March showed that 21.3 per cent of the nation's electricity was of nuclear origin.

Nuclear output came to 4,800 million kilowatt-hours out of a total production figure of 22,500 million kilowatt-hours.

Conventional thermal plant accounted for 51.6 per cent and hydroelectric plant 27.1 per cent.

The March nuclear figure is a big jump from March last year, when nuclear-energy accounted for 14 per cent, or 3,000 million kilowatt-hours. (A.F.P.)

CHINA SEA DEAL

PARIS, May 1 - Compagnie Française des Pétroles (CFP) and Société Nationale Elf-Aquitaine, the two French oil groups in which the state has a share, announced two research and production agreements covering the China Sea.

These agreements were initialled in Peking on April 28 and 30 with the Chinese Oil Company, which will be associated with the two French firms. (A.F.P.)

1,045 M. PROFIT

LONDON, April 30 - Shell U.K., a subsidiary of Royal Dutch Shell, made a gross profit of 476 million pounds (about 1,045 million dollars) in 1979 compared with a loss of 26 million pounds in 1978. The firm has paid a 100 million pound dividend to its parent company, the first since 1975.

The marked improvement after three loss-making years was due to doubled output from the North Sea to seven million tons, higher oil prices, improved market conditions and greater efficiency, it said. (A.F.P.)

MIDDLE EAST

BRITISH ENVOY OUT

LONDON, May 1 - James Craig, British Ambassador to Saudi Arabia, today returned to London, one week after Saudi authorities declared his presence in the country undesirable after the film "Death of a Princess" was shown on British television.

Britain has expressed its regrets that the film, about the execution of a Saudi princess for adultery, was shown.

But relations between the two countries continue to remain strained. (A. EP.)

HEAVY EQUIPMENT

WASHINGTON, May 1 - The decision of the American Army to start stocking heavy equipment for 11,000 Marines in the Indian Ocean as from June suggests the United States fears conflict in the region, military sources opined here Wednesday.

A week after the failure of the Teheran hostage rescue mission, the Pentagon has confirmed the imminent departure for the base on Diego Garcia Island of supply ships carrying complete equipment for the Marines.

In a crisis these troops could get to the area in less than 48 hours, and would find ready for them tanks, amphibious craft, artillery and helicopters.

The deployment of this material is part of a vast logistic reorganisation made necessary by the formation of a new rapid intervention force of 100,000 men, with the 11,000 Marines providing the bridgehead. (A.F.P.)

HOSTAGE "COMPLICATION"

TEHERAN, May 2 - The seizure of hostages in Iran's Embassy in London two days ago will complicate the situation of the American hostages in Iran, the Islamic students holding them warned today.

The Iranian Radio reported the students issued a statement that "Carter and his partisans should know such actions (as the one in London) will not succeed in deviating the revolution's thrust".

The students also announced that they had transferred some of their approximately 50 hostages to a ninth Iranian city - Mashhad in the north-east 80 kilometers (50 miles) from the Soviet border.

The other cities to which the hostages have been dispersed to prevent their rescue by U.S. forces are Qom, Yazd, Najafabad, Esfahan, Shiraz, Tabriz and Jahrom. Some hostages are still in Teheran.

The students reaffirmed that they would only release their prisoners if the Shah and his fortune were handed back to Iran. (A.F.P.)

EGYPT WANTS FREEZE

JERUSALEM, May 2 - The Egyptian delegation to the tripartite talks on Palestinian autonomy has demanded a freeze on Jewish settlements in Israeli-occupied territory and legislative powers for a Palestinian Council, Israeli Radio reported yesterday.

The broadcast added that Egypt wanted the question of Arab East Jerusalem to be among the negotiating points. (A.F.P.)

AMERICAN VETO

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., May 1 - The United States last night vetoed a draft resolution in the U.N. Security Council affirming the Palestinian people's right to establish an independent state.

The draft said that the Palestinian people had to be given the ability to exercise its inalienable national right of self-determination, including the right to set up an independent state in Palestine.

The resolution was offered by Tunisia. It received 10 "yes" votes and only one negative vote (the United States, one of the members with veto rights). France, the United Kingdom, Norway and Portugal abstained.

American U.N. Ambassador Donald McHenry justified the negative U.S. vote as necessary if the process for peace efforts in the Middle East contained in the Camp David accords was to be given a chance to work. (A.F.P.)

NORTH AFRICA

CANAL TUNNEL

Egypt

CAIRO, April 30 - President Anwar Sadat today opened the end of the first stage of the Ahmed Hamdi tunnel under the Suez Canal which in October will link Sinai with the rest of Egypt.

The five km (three mile) long tunnel is situated 17 kms (11 miles) north of Suez City. (A.F.P.)

WEST AFRICA

Mali

PARTICULARLY DIFFICULT...

BAMAKO, May 1 - Mali celebrated this May Day under particularly difficult conditions, according to President Moussa Traoré.

Speaking on Radio Mali yesterday, Gen. Traoré praised what he called "the particularly positive role" of the National Union of Malian Workers in "solving" recent student and pupil protest against his regime which rocked the country.

He also declared himself in favour of continuing a "largely constructive" dialogue with Mali's trade (labour) union representatives. These are calling for a 40 per cent wage increase, while the Government has offered ten per cent.

The President added that the Government had made moves to define a national employment policy and to improve working conditions and job security, and he announced the opening "soon" of negotiations for new collective agreements.

It was decided that May Day in Bamako this year should be marked only by a mass meeting rather than the traditional workers' procession. (A.F.P.)

Guinea

SANGARE SACKED AGAIN

DAKAR, May 1 - Guinean Minister for Posts and Telecommunications Toumani Sangare has been dismissed "for having tolerated a demonstration of a tribal character" in his department, Radio Conakry monitored here reported.

Mr. Sangare, who since November 1978 had been one of 15 members of the ruling Guinea Democratic Party's political bureau, has been relieved of "all his leadership functions" until the next meeting of the National Council of the Revolution, the highest ruling body outside Party Congress, the radio added, quoting the political bureau.

In 1976 he was sacked as Youth and Sports Minister following the defeat of the Guinean Hafia Club football team during the African Club Champions Cup competition. (A.F.P.)

Liberia

DOE : "NO MORE
EXECUTIONS"

MONROVIA, April 30 - Liberia's new military government has decided to end executions, coup leader Master Sergeant Samuel K. Doe announced here Tuesday.

After trial by a military tribunal on charges of corruption and human rights violations, 13 senior members of the deposed Tolbert regime were executed by firing squad here a week ago.

Master Sergeant Doe acknowledged that the executions had provoked appeals for clemency from many parts of the world. But the ruling People's Redemption Council had also received the backing of the people "expressing satisfaction with the work of the tribunal".

Liberians felt "the executions so far are now enough to set examples", he added.

Sgt. Doe commented : "We thank the many foreign governments, heads of state and international organisations for showing such great concern for the protection of human rights this time".

But it was regrettable that they had been "completely silent about human rights when poor people were suffering and being murdered in cold blood right here, in our country, for over 100 years, particularly during the corrupt Tolbert administration", he added.

Sgt. Doe said the widow of assassinated President William Tolbert, detained the day of the coup on April 12, had been released, but had been "asked to remain at her residence for the time being because of security reasons".

Liberia

Speedy and fair...

Diplomatic representatives from Zaire, Ethiopia, Haiti, Cameroun, Ivory Coast, Ghana and the United Nations were present for the Liberian leader's announcement, although it was understood that all embassies had been invited to attend .

Sgt. Doe made no mention of the formation of a government-in-exile announced Monday in the Ivory Coast capital Abidjan by former Vice-President Bennie Warner, who was in the United States at the time of the coup.

Sgt. Doe said a team of government and private auditors would begin work this week "as a contribution to the holding of speedy and fair trials" for the remaining Tolbert officials in detention, charged like the first group with corruption and human rights violations.

Sgt. Doe said the new Government had managed to reduce the country's economic problems in its first three weeks of work, and temporary restrictive banking regulations would be completely removed within a very short time. (A.F.P.)

EAST AFRICA

General Information

DISASTER WARNING
ON REFUGEES

WASHINGTON, May 1 - The situation in refugee camps in Somalia is already difficult and could become "disastrous" within a few months unless relief aid is supplied rapidly by the outside world and the United States in particular, two American Congressmen warned here Wednesday.

Democrat Representatives Pat Schroeder (Coloradi) and Andrew Maguire (New Jersey), back from visiting a refugee camp in Southern Somalia, said the refugee problem in that country was the most acute of its kind anywhere in the world.

Making the appeal with them here for urgent U.S. help was Somali Local Government and Rural Development Minister Jama Mohamed Galib, in charge of looking after the refugees.

He said there were some 650,000 of them, from the east and south of neighbouring Ethiopia, driven out by fighting in disputed Ogaden Province. Latest figures showed that around 3,800 people a day were streaming into Somalia in the last two weeks of February, Mr. Galib said.

Mrs. Schroeder and Mr. Maguire said material conditions in the camps were "deplorable" because Somalia lacked resources to meet the refugees' needs. (A.F.P.)

DROUGHT AFFECTS
FIVE MILLION

ADDIS ABABA, April 30 - A top Ethiopian relief official has appealed for urgent aid from the international community to help fight a drought affecting five million Ethiopians.

Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner Shimelis Adugna said 5,089,000 people in nine out of the country's 14 provinces were drought-stricken.

He made the disclosure to a meeting of diplomats of foreign nations which he called Monday to stress the gravity of the situation, according to reports here.

Mr. Shimelis appealed for massive material support to the Ethiopian relief effort, listing the following requirements : 253,000 metric tons of grain, 6,120 tons of butter oil, 4,580 tons of sugar, 920 tons of tea, 1,272,250 blankets, 1,000 tents, 2,600 water tankers 160 trucks and clothing.

Mr. Shimelis, who recently visited Geneva and New York to appeal for relief assistance from United Nations agencies, said this excluded relief provisions by the Ethiopian Government.

The 9 provinces

He said the worst hit provinces were Eritrea and Harrar, with more than a million victims each. The others were Tigray (population 963,000), Wollo (950,000), Bale (515,000), Sidamo (270,000), Gamo Goffa (227,500), Gondar (90,000) and Central Shoa (70,000).

It is the first time in more than six years that a catastrophe of this magnitude has hit the country. An estimated 200,000 people died at the height of the 1973-74 drought in Wollo, which also affected millions of others throughout the country. (A.F.P.)

TIGRE AMBUSH

KHARTOUM, May 1 - Guerrillas of the Tigre Liberation Front killed 98 Ethiopian soldiers and captured 123 others in an ambush yesterday near the capital of Tigre Province, the Tigre Popular Liberation Front (TPLF) claimed here today.

A TPLF communique said that the guerrillas ambushed a government convoy in the Amba-Lagie pass about 50 kilometres (30 miles) south of the provincial capital, Makale. Eighteen lorries as well as guns and rocket-launchers were destroyed in the action, the TPLF claimed. (A.F.P.)

GUNFIRE AT DAWN

KAMPALA, May 2 - Gunfire erupted at dawn today in the Ugandan capital and was continuing after more than three hours, while banks, shops and the main market remained closed and soldiers turned back vehicles heading for the city centre.

At least one man is known to have died in the shooting, which came from Ugandan Army troops who made a pre-dawn swoop on several Kampala suburbs.

In the city, offices remained empty and telephones unanswered in a tense atmosphere.

An official statement broadcast on Radio Uganda said the military operation was aimed at finding illegal arms and ammunition. It urged people to be calm and to cooperate with the troops. (A.F.P.)

JAIL STARVATION

KAMPALA, April 30 - At least 59 prisoners have died from starvation at Uganda's Luzira central prison near here, and many more will die soon unless food is rushed there, according to the daily newspaper Munno.

Quoting prison sources, the paper said that 40 prisoners died at the beginning of the year, 13 more three weeks ago and six other bodies were seen being carted out of the prison Monday, bringing the total to 59.

The Luganda-language paper said a doctor at the prison's hospital confirmed that the cause of most of the deaths was hunger, "since the food they get is so little that they fight over it and it is finished within one minute". (A.F.P.)

Kenya

PARDON BY MOI

NAIROBI, April 30 - Two former Members of Kenya's Parliament jailed for five years with one stroke of the cane for stealing coffee were yesterday pardoned by President Daniel Arap Moi after serving 26 months.

The two were Jesse Mwangi Gachago, former Member for Makuyu (in Murango district, north of the capital here) and Godfrey Muhuri Muchiri, former Member for Embakasi (on the eastern suburbs of Nairobi). (A.F.P.)

WORK PERMITS ORDER

NAIROBI, April 25 - Kenya's Home Affairs Minister Stanley Oloitiptip has directed that all non-Kenyans employed or self-employed in the country must obtain work permits within a month or face legal steps. He stressed that according to President Moi's recent directive "only vacancies which can not be filled by Kenyans will go to non-Kenyans". (A.F.P.)

Tanzania

MINIMUM RAISE 40 %

ZANZIBAR, May 2 - Tanzanian President Julius Nyerere announced increases in the minimum wage of up to 40 per cent at a May Day rally here Thursday.

The wage had gone up not because the economy was good but because the value of money had fallen, he said.

There would be a food shortage, he warned, but the country could be on the way to feeding itself if the weather was good and there were "no major upsets" between now and next May.

Tanzania's Socialist policies were not responsible for the country's poor economic plight, he added.

Only workers

The minimum monthly wage for mainland urban areas and Zanzibar will now be 480 shillings (60 dollars), up from 380 and 400 shillings respectively. In mainland rural areas, it went up 40 per cent, from 230 shillings (30 dollars) to 340 shillings (42.5 dollars). The minimum wage was last raised five years ago.

Only people who turned up at their offices and worked would be paid, Mr. Nyerere said. Those who reported for work and then smoked cigarettes would not be, the President said. (A.F.P.)

DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

DAR-ES-SALAAM, April 30 - West Germany will give Tanzania a 91.5 million-dollar grant to finance various development projects during the financial year 1980-81.

The projects include water supplies, road and railway bridge construction, and industries.

An interest-free loan of 5.1 million dollars is also forthcoming from the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries' special funds to finance power transmission projects in Morogoro and Iringa regions. (A.F.P.)

CHOLERA : 7 MORE

DAR-ES-SALAAM, May 1 - Cholera has killed seven people in Maswa district, Western Tanzania, and one in a village in Mbeya region, Southern Tanzania, the Government newspaper Daily News said today.

At least 79 people have now died from the disease this year in Tanzania. In 1978 more than 1,000 people died of cholera throughout the country. (A.F.P.)

Chad

FOR AFRICA'S SAKE...

LAGOS, April 30 - Chad President Goukouni Weddeye has agreed to an inter-African peacekeeping force being sent to his civil war-torn capital Ndjamena "for the sake of Africa", Organisation of African Unity (OAU) Secretary-General Edem Kodjo said here today.

Mr. Kodjo, speaking to a press conference called to mark the successful conclusion here last night of a two-day OAU economic conference, said that Mr. Weddeye - who 24 hours earlier had said that only a military solution was possible - had accepted the proposal "because Africa asked him to".

The Chadian President switched his stand during an early morning meeting with the heads of state of neighbouring countries plus Benin, Congo and Guinea - which had offered troops for a peacekeeping force - and Senegal and Togo.

The OAU Secretary-General said that the leaders of countries which signed the August 1977 Lagos accord meant to end 13 years of civil strife in Chad had now given themselves until the next OAU summit conference due to be held in Freetown in July to agree on a way to finance the neutral force. (A.F.P.)

SOUTHERN AFRICA

General Information

ACTION PROGRAMME

LUSAKA, April 30 - The Pan-African Youth Movement has drawn up a programme of action in support of the liberation struggle in Namibia and South Africa.

The Movement will also work for economic independence on the continent and fight colonialism and racism in South Africa, Assistant Secretary-General Joseph Timmy said today.

Commenting on Zambia's role during the war in now-independent Zimbabwe, he said: "Despite the difficulties you went through, Zambia continued to render material and moral support". (A.F.P.)

EXPORTS START MOVING

MAPUTO, May 1 - Zimbabwe this week moved an initial "independence" batch of exports through this main Mozambique port for the first time since the outlet was cut off during the Rhodesian guerrilla war.

A shipment of 1,100 tons of sugar and 5,000 tons of steel which would normally have gone to the South African port of Durban was sent here instead.

Agents for Zimbabwe's Iron and Steel Corporation and for the firm Sugar Sales said all their exports would transit through Mozambique once the Limpopo rail link between the two countries was fully repaired. (A.F.P.)

Zimbabwe

100 PF ABSENTEES

SALISBURY, April 30 - About 100 former guerrillas from both wings of the Patriotic Front (PF) are under close arrest for being absent without leave, a military spokesman said today.

The men are undergoing a joint training programme at Shaw Barracks near the southern city of Bulawayo as part of an exercise to form a new national army using former regular troops and guerrillas.

The spokesman said some of the men had left the barracks without permission up to three weeks ago. About 50 failed to parade last Monday but returned the same night. (A.F.P.)

EIGHT FOREIGN ENVOYS

SALISBURY, April 30 - Eight foreign envoys to newly-independent Zimbabwe today presented their credentials to President Canaan Banana.

They were Mozambique's Rafael Maguni, Tanzania's Anthony Nyakyi, Britain's Ronald Byatt, Egypt's Taha Mohamed Farnawany, Zambia's Wamweni Mayondi, Guinea's Mami Kouhate, Sweden's B. Heineback and Canada's T.O. Bacon. (A.F.P.)

Republic of South Africa

GOVT. SOFTENS ON

COLOURED STRIKE

CAPE TOWN, May 2 - The Government softened its hard line Thursday towards hundreds of thousands of non-white school children who have been on a nationwide strike for the past two weeks and said it was prepared to meet with their leaders.

A spokesman for the "Committee of 61", which has been organizing the protest of the coloured (mixed-race) students against the country's "racist and inferior education system", said Police Minister Louis Le Grange had sent word to some of the committee that he wanted to see them. Security police broke up a meeting of the committee in Cape Town Wednesday.

(In Johannesburg yesterday, four coloured women laid assault charges against the police, saying they had been physically assaulted as 860 students were rounded up .

(In Parliament, Prime Minister Pieter Botha has indicated that he will instruct television to cut back its coverage of "subversive elements", and appealed to editors "to sit down and formulate a policy to prevent revolutionary and radical activities from making the headlines as they are at present".

(He has also accused Marxists of "hiding behind the uniforms of schoolchildren"). (A.F.P.)

LOCAL "ORGAN"

CAPE TOWN, May 2 - South Africa has developed a multiple-rocket launcher similar to the Soviet "Stalin organ", Prime Minister Pieter Botha announced here Thursday.

Mr. Botha told Parliament that the new weapon was 100 per cent locally built, and military sources said later that it used 127 mm rockets. (A.F.P.)

NO FRATERNISING

LONDON, May 1 - British Embassy and Consular officials in South Africa have been banned from officially fraternising with the "British Lions", whose rugby union tour starts there on Saturday. The team left here today.

In a repeat of the Labour Government's bar in 1974 - the last time the "Lions" were in the Republic - a Foreign Office spokesman said today : "In view of the Government's opposition to the tour, it is thought inappropriate for Embassy staff to offer entertainment to the players in the Lions team". (A.F.P.)

TOO MUCH PUFF

PRETORIA, May 1 - Wardens today removed eight new-born but deadly puff adders from the cage of a man trying to beat the 50-day snake-sitting record.

Austin Stevens had already spent 34 days in the cage at Hartebeestpoort Dam when the new generation of puff adders was born last night.

Assistant Curator Roy Trandler said the snakes were very active and "to be fair to Austin, we removed them from the cage. He already has his hands full with six black mambas, six puff adders, six boomslangs and six Egyptian cobras, which is the regulation quota of snakes for the world record attempt".

Puff adders are not hatched but born alive, and they are as poisonous as their parents from birth. (A.F.P.)

OPEN-HEART SERIES

CAPE TOWN, May 2 - Professor Marius Barnard, brother of South African heart surgeon Christian Barnard, is to go to Poland this month to carry out a series of open-heart operations on Polish children.

Prof. Barnard, who like his brother led an international team of doctors and technicians specialising in heart operations at Groote Schuur Hospital near here, is going to Poland at the invitation of the Cardiac Centre of Lodz as part of a project financed by a group of Danish and West German businessmen. (A.F.P.)

Namibia

13 GUERRILLAS DIE

WINDHOEK, May 2 - South African forces killed 13 guerrillas of the South-West African Peoples Organisation (SWAPO) during the past week, according to a South African military spokesman here Thursday.

South African statistics for total casualties this year put SWAPO losses at 269 against their own loss of 27 soldiers and 28 civilians. (A.F.P.)

Mozambique

7 NATIONALISATIONS

MAPUTO, April 30 - The Mozambique Government has nationalised seven Portuguese-owned local companies, it was announced here today.

A joint statement by the Ministries of Finance and Industry and Energy said that the companies had either been run contrary to the "interests of the national economy" or abandoned.

They were named as Impescal, Promar, Copesca, Emopesca, Camaronex, Arpem and Amilet Marterra. (A.F.P.)

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