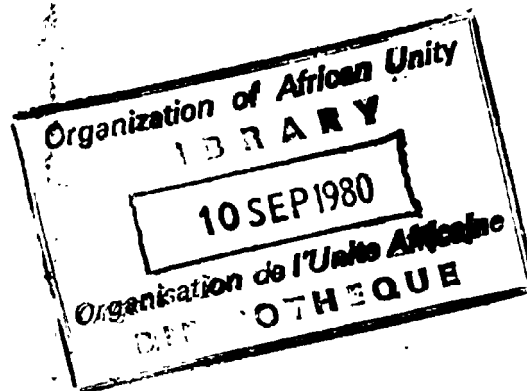


AFRICA

SEMI-WEEKLY INTERAFRICAN NEWS SURVEY



MONTHLY SUBSCRIPTION FEE (WITHOUT REPRODUCTION RIGHTS)
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11, 13, 15, PLACE DE LA BOURSE 75002 PARIS TEL: 233.44.66 TELEX 210064

DATE September 2, 1980

N° 2720

Agence France-Press

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P A N O R A M A

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LESOTHO :

DIAMONDS ON

AFRICA'S ROOF

by Hervé Guilbaud

LATSENG, August 31 - Snow is falling on the "Roof of Africa" here, site of the world's highest diamond mine, as the small twin Otter plane of Lesotho Airlines comes in to land.

The mine Latseng-La-Teral - meaning "The Place where the Wind Blows" in the local Sesotho language - is remote from civilisation at a height of 3,200 metres (about 10,000 feet).

It is situated in the Republic of Lesotho, a mountainous enclave within the Republic of South Africa, and the mine map reference is where the 29th latitude south meets the 28th longitude west.

The mine is exploited by the Anglo-American Corporation, which opened it in 1977 and has so far invested 36 million rand (about 50 million dollars) in equipment, buildings and labour. The Lesotho Government receives 25 per cent of all diamond sales.

This should be a big boost to the little country's revenue, for the Latseng mine is getting a reputation for supplying big diamonds.

Its biggest stone of 299 carats, found last April, was sold in London for half a million dollars.

Big, beautiful

Last month miners found a 180-carat stone and earlier this month another of 80 carats.

The mine's production is relatively mediocre compared to other mines in South Africa and Botswana, but according to its manager, Mike Taylor : "It contains an unequalled number of really big beautiful stones."

There are 800 workers and administrative staff here, and the miners are divided into three shifts working eight hours daily, night and day.

Hardwork, no strikes

They earn a minimum of 115 rand (141 dollars) monthly with free board and lodging. Every two weeks they are driven in trucks to their home villages in the valleys for a seven-day leave before coming back.

Observers in Maseru, capital of Lesotho, said that the miners were content with their conditions and there had not been a single day lost by strike action since the mine opened in November 1977. But the work is hard. Every day 4,000 tons of rock and earth are loosened with dynamite, and on average it takes about 100 tons of it to produce three carats. Diamond sorting takes place in the mine's main building measuring about 200 metres (yards) by 40 metres (yards), half buried in the ground as protection against mountain gales, and this is the real brain centre of the site.

It is a veritable cathedral of concrete and corrugated iron. In a dim light seeping through plexiglass windows and in an atmosphere of unbelievable noise, picked miners closely watch the sifting operation as rock is brought by giant trucks, night and day.

Several metres underground, half a dozen experts carefully examine with X-ray machines the few kilos of possible diamond-bearing rock. They wear rubber gloves, giving an impression of surgeons in an operating theatre. They are the last link in the mine's diamond chain.

Suspended from the roof, closed circuit television cameras watch every movement for the "Big Brother" operators seated in a control room nearby. Today there are no big stones, but tomorrow.... (A.F.P.)

GENERAL INFORMATION

SNAKEBITE TALKS

NAHA, Japan, September 1 - An estimated 500,000 people are bitten by deadly snakes throughout the world each year, about 40,000 of them fatally, it was reported here today.

These figures were given at an international conference on poisonous snakebites being held here under the sponsorship of the World Health Organization (WHO).

A Japanese delegate said that though 350 to 400 people were bitten by deadly Habu snakes in Okinawa each year, few died thanks to Japan's advanced technology.

The highest figure for deaths from poisonous snakebites was in India, with between 10,000 and 15,000, and the next highest was Burma, with 800 to 1,000 deaths. (A.F.P.)

KODJO : "WE EXPECT

ADEQUATE EFFORTS"

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., August 31 - Africa expects much "but not all" from North-South negotiations planned for 1981, Organisation of African Unity (OAU) General Secretary Edem Kodjo told Agence France Presse here.

Mr. Kodjo, in New York for the special General Assembly economic session aimed at relaunching the stalled dialogue between a new world economic order.

"What we expect from the North are adequate efforts that do not neutralize the efforts made by the underprivileged countries themselves", he said, adding that Africa now realised that it had to take the road towards "self-orientated, endogenous" development.

This idea of development from within formed the basis of the OAU Lagos declaration in April. The declaration called for an African economic community by the year 2000.

Mr. Kodjo stressed the importance of a "regionalization" of development efforts, a key concept in the Lagos declaration, which aims at regional self-sufficiency.

The North-South Dialogue would itself be more "balanced" if the rich and the poor countries decided to base their talks on the development of several large regional entities, he said.

Export revenue

Mr. Kodjo said Africa's number one priority in the negotiations will be to obtain fair and guaranteed export revenue for its raw materials.

He described energy as a very important issue for Africa, noting that the deficit experienced by the continent called for a "particular effort".

But, stressing the need for greater recycling of oil-created surpluses to importing countries, he said "speeches on energy development are long-term speeches".

Mr. Kodjo called for a "less illusory, more stable" world monetary system. Floating currencies were not the best thing in the world, he said, noting that a juster system that did not give priority to one particular currency (the dollar) was needed.

He himself envisages some form of decentralized, possibly regional, system and has called for discussions within the North-South negotiations on monetary reform.

Not just quotas

At present, the voting rights of International Monetary Fund (IMF) member countries are based on "quotas" which are themselves based on the contribution each country makes to the Fund. "What is needed is framework in which something other than quotas make the law", he said.

On aid, Mr. Kodjo charged that the industrialized countries had never fulfilled their undertakings within the framework of the UN's first two development plans.

While stressing the need for third world unity, he also branded the "Group of 77" developing countries a "façade". Alluding to newly-industrialized members of the "77" - Brazil, South Korea and so on... - he noted that there was a world of difference between their interests and those of the most under-privileged countries.

Africa, which accounts for about one third of the UN membership, has the most poor countries in the world. For this reason, Mr. Kodjo believes that the OAU Lagos declaration and the principles embodied in it are particularly important.

The ideas behind the declaration, in particular the idea of regional economic development, should both be highlighted in the forthcoming negotiations, he said. (A.F.P.)

SEA AUTHORITY

GENEVA, August 30 - The United Nations law of the sea conference ended here Friday with major decisions by 143 participant nations on how to go about exploiting the immense wealth which lies under the sea.

After five weeks of debate, delegates decided that sea-law decisions concerning waters outside national jurisdiction, but including areas within national jurisdiction, will be made by the board of an "international authority".

A consensus will be necessary for most important decisions, three-quarters majority for financial decisions and a two-thirds majority for other decisions.

The area to be governed by this organization contains hydrocarbon reserves estimated at 10 times the size of those on land as well as staggering quantities of so-called polymetallic rock containing nickel, manganese, cobalt and copper.

The international authority will be financed by all signatory countries, with amounts pro-rated on each member's UN contributions. In addition, the third UN law of the sea conference's 1980 session decided to hold another meeting starting March 6, 1981. The convention text is expected to be ready next year but it is doubtful that the next session will be the last, a Western source said. (A.F.P.)

MURDER INDICTMENT

PHILADELPHIA, August 30 - A white policeman responsible for the death of a young black Philadelphia man will be indicted for murder, Public Prosecutor Edward Rendell said Friday.

Seventeen-year-old William Green's death on Sunday caused violent incidents in which some 15 persons were injured Monday and Tuesday night when young blacks attacked police with stones and looted several boutiques.

Referring to the policeman in question, Mr. Rendell said "Ziegler knowingly, recklessly or negligently killed Green in conscious disregard of the value of human life".

Philadelphia officials announced on Thursday that the policeman had been suspended for 30 days and could be dismissed from the force.

Mr. Green, whom the police suspected of automobile theft, had been beaten after a high-speed chase. Police said death came accidentally when the policeman was hitting the youth with a nightstick. An autopsy showed that the youth had two skull fractures but that they did not cause his death. (A.F.P.)

"ALARMING" POLLUTION

WASHINGTON, August 29 - Atmospheric pollution has reached "alarming" proportions in Washington for the first time since 1978, the National Meteorological Service said today.

The city has been in the grip of the heatwave for nearly two months and the weather experts say that the current combination of humidity and heat with feeble winds is responsible for an abnormally high concentration of ozone in the atmosphere.

With temperatures often reaching 40 degrees centigrade (104 Farenheit) in the shade, the weathermen have advised people with lung or heart conditions to stay indoors. (A.F.P.)

NEWS DOMINATION...

JAKARTA, September 1 - President Suharto today called for steps to remove what he said was an imbalance in world reporting.

"Whether you like it or not, we must admit that the world mass media is dominated by the advanced countries. We are flooded with news and opinions which are coloured by the interests of the advanced countries," the President told about 400 delegates of the first international Islamic mass media conference.

Such reporting, he said, did not suit the interests of the developing nations, including the Moslem world. (A.F.P.)

SOCCKER ENCOURAGEMENT

NAIROBI, September 1 - The International Football Federation (FIFA) is committed to encouraging football in developing countries, FIFA President Joao Havelange said here today.

Addressing participants at the FIFA-Coca Cola-sponsored International Coaches Academy, Mr. Havelange thanked the Kenyan Government for its efforts in making the Academy, attended by delegates from Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Somalia, Sudan, Ethiopia and Egypt, a reality.

Earlier, FIFA Senior Vice President Harry Cavan said in an opening address that the joint FIFA-Coca Cola Academies were intended to import new knowledge and experience in football to the participants and to create a unified method for teaching football in Africa.

He also disclosed that Africa had been offered two places in the finals of the world youth football tournament to be held in Australia in October next year. (A.F.P.)

TECHNICAL TRAINING

ADDIS ABABA, September 2 - Nigeria has become the 8th member state of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) to sign the constitution establishing the African Institute for Higher Technical Training.

Visiting Nigerian Minister of State for Education Alhaji Usman signed the document for his country at ECA headquarters here yesterday. At the same time, he handed over the ECA Deputy Executive Secretary Marc Manirakiza a cheque for 156,671 dollars as Nigeria's contribution to the Institute's 1980-81 budget.

The project, to be based in Nairobi, requires adoption by 13 ECA member states before it can start operations. (A.F.P.)

WESTERN SATISFACTION

VATICAN CITY, September 1 - The Vatican newspaper Osservatore Romano today printed the text of the free trades union agreement with the Polish strikers and commented on the "Western world's satisfaction" over it.

Osservatore Romano also printed excerpts from strike leader Lech Walesa's address and said: "Public opinion in Western nations learned with great satisfaction of the solution to the long Polish conflict", adding: "The Polish workers' claims reflect the just aspirations of peoples for liberty". (A.F.P.)

RECORD WESTERN STOCK

NEW YORK, September 1 - Western countries will chalk up a record stock of 5,8 billion barrels of oil by the autumn, the Petroleum Intelligence Weekly reported in its latest issue.

The stocks would be such that Saudi Arabia could cut its oil production by one million barrels a day and the West would not feel the pinch for one year, the oil trade magazine said.

It said that the stocks represented the equivalent of 120 days of oil consumption in Europe, 110 in Japan and 75 days in the United States.

The stocks, the weekly said, represented "a strong unexpected (energy) base" for Western countries, reeling from the effects of a 132 per cent increase in the price of oil since the beginning of 1979. (A.F.P.)

INFLATION PEG...

LONDON, August 31 - The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) is considering raising the price of crude oil by at least 10 per cent a year and pegging the price to inflation, the Sunday Times reported here.

If the OPEC plan were adopted, oil would cost about 60 dollars a barrel by the mid-1980s, the newspaper computed.

At present, oil prices vary depending of the country of origin, but the average price is about 32 dollars a barrel.

The plan, subject to approval by OPEC member nations at a meeting in Vienna in two weeks, would also peg the price of oil to the value of money and to economic growth in Western countries, the British weekly said, adding that it called for the price to be raised three times a year at regular intervals and represented part of OPEC's new strategy for the current decade.

Saudi Arabia, one of the key OPEC nations and the world's leading oil producer, was firmly backing the scheme, the Sunday Times said. (A.F.P.)

IRAN WANTS CUT

TEHERAN, August 30 - Iran will try to pressure Iraq and Saudi Arabia into reducing their oil production when members of OPEC meet for a november conference in Baghdad, Iranian Oil Minister Ali Akbar Moinefar said today. Pars news agency quoted Mr. Moinefar as saying that the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries conference would not be discussing oil prices. (A.F.P.)

N - SHUTDOWN

KIEL, West Germany, August 30 - An emergency shutdown yesterday of the Brunsbüttel nuclear power station on the Elbe River about 40 miles (64 kilometers) south-west of here will last at least until October 31, despite the plant management's contention that a defective measuring instrument was the only reason for the move.

The instrument was outside the reactor area, and did not lead to any radioactive leak, said Werner Hartel, director of the plant. It could have been repaired and the station returned to service immediately but, he said, the management decided to carry out the shutdown since an inspection of the generator was to take place within a few days.

The Lüneburg administrative court, which allowed the station to resume generating only August 20, told the Hamburg Electric Company, which runs the station, that its authorization had been suspended until October 31. The station was closed down in July 1978 after 100 tons of slightly radioactive water leaked out of the cooling system. It reopened only last Sunday. (A.F.P.)

NOONKANBAH ANGER

PERTH, September 1 - Angry Aborigines at Noonkanbah in the far north of Western Australia claimed today said that a sacred native site had been damaged by oil drilling.

Richard Skinner, an Aboriginal spokesman, said the damage was one of the reasons why Aborigines refused to speak to Western Australian Premier Sir Charles Court when he visited the station yesterday to inspect drilling progress. Sir Charles, however, has claimed that no sacred sites have been affected by the drilling and has charged that the Aborigines are being manipulated by interfering outsiders. (A.F.P.)

GARBAGE POWER

TOKYO, September 1 - The heat from garbage disposal plants is becoming a popular power source in Japan, as energy costs continue to rise.

At the end of March, 28 garbage treatment complexes had plants capable of producing a combined 79,000 kilowatts of power, the Health and Welfare Ministry said today.

The Ministry subsidizes a quarter of the cost of constructing a garbage-power system. (A.F.P.)

RIG EXPLODES

PORT O'CONNOR, Texas, August 30 - Two people were killed, six injured and three were missing today following the explosion of an offshore oil rig in the Gulf of Mexico about 60 kms (36 miles) from here.

Since the development of offshore oil exploitation there have been increasing numbers of oil rig accidents - 10 major ones in the last five years, with five of these in or near the Gulf of Mexico.

The worst occurred this year when the Alexander Keilland rig overturned in the North Sea on March 27, killing 123 people. (A.F.P.)

SLICK FIGHT

MANAMA, August 31 - Nearly 600 men from Bahrain's security forces have been fighting for three days to contain a 27-kilometer-long (17 miles) oilslick that has reached the north-western and central coasts of the archipelago in the Gulf, it was reported today.

The crude oil escaped from the offshore Saudi Arabian wells at Ras Tannurah about 60 kilometers (38 miles) to the north-west. (A.F.P.)

MIDDLE EAST -----

SAUDIS : "JIHAD NEEDED"

TABUK, Saudi Arabia, September 2 - Saudi Defence Minister Sultan Abdul Aziz yesterday reiterated a call for a Moslem holy war against Israel, saying one was needed to "defend ourrights, liberate Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967 and permit the return of the Palestinian people".

At a news conference broadcast by the Saudi News Agency (SPA), Prince Sultan said a holy war was also needed because of "Israel's intransigence and the proclamation of Jerusalem as capital of the Jewish state".

He was expanding on Saudi Prince Fahd Abdul Aziz's recent call for a Jihad (holy war) against Israel. "This appeal does not signify immediate war, but there must be a Jihad before there is peace in the Mideast," Prince Sultan said.

Saudi defence policy called for a diversification of arms supplies, he went on, stressing the need for cooperation among Arab nations to build an arms industry. There were several armament factories in Al-Kharj, in Central Saudi Arabia, he noted. (A.F.P.)

ARAFAT OPEN TO

TRANSITION

BEIRUT, September 1 - Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat said today that he was open tot the idea of a short transition phase of United Nations presence in the Israeli-occupied territories leading up to the creation of a Palestinian state.

In an interview with the French-language daily L'Orient-Le Jour here today, Mr. Arafat expressed readiness to accept intermediate steps before the occupied territories became fully self-governing.

These included "a transitional U.N. phase of three to six months before power devolves on the Palestinian people".

Mr. Arafat added : "In this way the transfer of powers from the Jewish state to ourselves would not be direct". He went on to say that Iran had renewed its offer to send between 30,000 to 40,000 volunteers to help with the struggle against Israel and that he would be forced to accept the offer if the Israeli military build-up continued in South Lebanon. (A.F.P.)

GUSH SEIZURE

HEBON, Israeli-Occupied West Bank, August 30 - The radical Gush Emunim Movement, which favors Israeli settlements throughout the West Bank, has seized a second building in down town Hebron, Israeli Radio reported today.

The building, adjacent to one occupied last year by members of the movement, has been taken over by six families and 15 theological students.

For many years the building was a dispensary for needy persons, until Israeli troops took it and several others over after an attack on Israeli settlers last June in which six died.

Deputy Hebron Mayor Mustapha Abd El Nabi has said he will lodge an official protest with the Israeli Military Governor against what he calls a "new arbitrary act by the Israeli colonialists in the town". And one Hebron community leader, Doctor Ahmed Hamzeh Natshe, told Agence France Presse today that the town's population "condemns this escalation of tension by occupying the dispensary", adding that this measure would "pose additional obstacles to a just peace". (A.F.P.)

NO MERCY FOR

BROTHERHOOD

by Antoinette Chalabi

DAMASCUS, September 1 - The Syrian Government, after unleashing a violent offensive to wipe out the illegal extremist Moslem Brotherhood, has turned to bitterly attacking certain Arab countries for supporting them.

Syrian newspapers are attacking these Arab countries for directly or indirectly supporting the Brotherhood's "reactionary agitation".

These charges coincide with yesterday's claim by President Hafez Al-Assad that "the Brotherhood has breathed its last breath".

President Assad, speaking in the north-west town of Deir Ez Zor, said that there would be "no mercy" shown to any militants.

Meanwhile the semi-official daily Al Saoura is accusing the United States, Israel and reactionary Arab states - this term usually refers to Egypt - of giving support to the Brotherhood.

For this reason, the daily continued, Syria looked on the Brotherhood as a "foreign political force and a great problem".

It went on : "The fight against it is a social and individual duty for all members of the Baath party, defence forces and the masses". The Baath is the ruling party in Syria.

Anti-reactionary...

The semi-official daily Tchrine on Saturday accused certain Arab governments of giving the Brotherhood "arsenals of heavy weapons" to "embarrass" Syria while it was confronted with Israel. "These arsenals, discovered by security forces in secret hiding places in the country, certainly did not grow in Syrian wheat or cotton fields", Tchrine said sarcastically.

These press criticisms against certain Arab countries are going hand-in-hand with a Syrian appeal to "mobilise the Arab masses and form alliances between Arab national progressive forces faced with reactionary regimes dependent on the support of foreign powers".

As part of the vast campaign against the Brotherhood - membership is punishable by execution - the Syrian Government has called up "armed units" of the Baath party aided by professional bodies to "liquidate and exterminate" it. More of these units have been formed in the northern Aleppo region because of increased acts of sabotage, according to the press. (A.F.P.)

LIBYA

THE PRICE OF
RADICALIZATION

PARIS, September 1 - Libya, which celebrates the eleventh anniversary of its revolution today, is facing reported domestic unrest and deteriorating foreign relations seen as resulting from its own turbulent diplomacy.

Observers said Libya's accelerated radicalization brought a rich array of controversy during the last year - the most glaring example being the "physical liquidation of the enemies of the revolution" living abroad.

Relations with Senegal, Gabon and the Mediterranean nation of Malta were the latest to deteriorate. Malta expelled Libyan military advisers this week in a dispute over offshore oil drilling. Senegal President Sedar Senghor has accused Libya of training Senegalese in its military camps, and broke off diplomatic relations during early July. Gabon then took the same action.

Observers noted numerous other manifestations of Libyan leader Moamer Kadhafi's radicalism as well :

- A commando raid from Libya on the Southern Tunisian town of Gafsa left about 50 persons dead and damaged Libya's relations with Tunisia and France.

- Relations with the United States became more tense after four members of the Libyan Embassy, or "People's Bureau", were expelled for allegedly intimidating Libyan opponents of Col. Kadhafi living in the U.S. A Libyan diplomat in London was likewise expelled for approving of the murder of two Libyans by "revolutionary committees".

Kadhafi line

- Morocco broke diplomatic relations with Tripoli because of Libya's recognition of the Saharan Arab Democratic Republic, the state set up by Polisario guerrillas who are fighting Morocco for control of the Western Sahara region.

- The Kadhafi regime closed Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) offices in Libya and expelled the PLO representative there.

- On the domestic scene, revolutionary committees, set up in 1978 to assure that people's committees adhered to the Kadhafi line, launched a campaign last winter against "elements that are hindering revolutionary transformations". The human rights organization Amnesty International reported that seven Libyan lawyers died in prison.

Libya

Ammo explosions

On August 27, the National Libyan Democratic Movement, an opposition group, claimed responsibility for alleged explosions in ammunition depots near the Kufra airport in South-East Libya.

According to a statement released in Paris, the explosions were "an extension of the military uprising last August 6 in the Tobruk region", 150 kms (90 miles) west of the Egyptian border.

Libya has formally denied that there was any uprising and invited foreign journalists to examine the situation there. (A.F.P.)

USE OF FORCE...

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., August 31 - Malta has formally requested a meeting of the United Nations Security Council following a reported Libyan naval attack in the Mediterranean on an Maltese oil exploration rig, it was announced here Saturday.

In a letter to the Security Council, V.J. Gauci, Malta's Ambassador to the UN, accused Libya of avoiding "recourse to legal procedures" and relying "on the use of force" in the dispute between the two countries over rights to an underwater shelf.

Mr. Gauci said his Government was requesting the Security Council to "ask Libya to desist from making further provocative threats and from taking any menacing actions".

The dispute concerns claims to the Medina Bank, 96 kms (60 miles) south of Malta. According to the Maltese, a Libyan naval unit surrounded the oil-prospecting ship Saipem II, belonging to the Italian Company ENI, on August 21 as the vessel made tests along the bank.

The Saipem was carrying out research for the U.S. petroleum company Texaco, which has a concession from the Maltese Government. Malta charged that the Libyan naval commander handed a letter to the Saipem's captain which claimed Libyan jurisdiction over the area. Maltese officials said the Saipem's captain withdrew from the area rather than risk a violent confrontation.

In his letter to the Security Council, Mr. Gauci said Libya and Malta agreed in 1976 to submit their dispute to the International Court of Justice. He said that agreement had not been ratified but Malta decided it could wait no longer. It began exploration of the area but instructed prospectors to remain north of the median line between the two countries. (A.F.P.)

Libya

UNIONIST PLAN

PARIS, September 2 - The People's General Congress (Parliament) is to be asked to approve of a union between Libya and Syria, Libyan leader Colonel Moamer Kadhafi said in a speech Monday marking the 11th anniversary of the revolution in his country.

Col. Kadhafi's speech was broadcast by Radio Tripoli, monitored here. He said Syria was "the last bastion of resistance to Israel, following the fall of Egypt". If his country did not become "unionist" and share the lot of those countries facing up to Israel, he would leave it to go and fight at the battlefront, Col. Kadhafi said.

He asked revolutionary committees to march on Libyan Embassies in Arab countries and turn them into "offices of brotherhood". A similar appeal last September saw the Embassies in Paris, London, Washington, Bonn, Madrid, Rome and Valletta turned into "People's Bureaus", while last May the same process took place at the Libyan Embassies in Communist capitals (except in Moscow) and in Vienna, Brussels and Ankara.

Col. Kadhafi said he would propose to People's Committees that confrontation with Egypt or any other Arab country be refused. Libya had sufficient arms to destroy Egypt, but refused to go to war against the army built up by Gamal Nasser, he said.

He would propose to the Libyan people that the desert separating Libya from Egypt be turned into an agricultural zone, "and if Egyptian soldiers cross the frontier, well then we will ask them to take part in transforming that desert into fields of wheat", Col. Kadhafi said. (A.F.P.)

ARMS DENIAL

MANILA, September 2 - The Libyan Government today denied it was providing arms to the Moslem secessionist Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) which has been fighting for independence in the Southern Philippines for the past eight years.

In a speech before Manila's University District Rotary Club, Libyan Ambassador to the Philippines Moustafa Dreiza said that the assistance Libya had been providing for the Filipino Moslems was economic, social and educational.

He said Libyan assistance came mostly in the form of schools and hospitals which benefitted both the Moslem and Christian population of Southern Philippines. The Islamic Conference recognized Libyan-based Nur Misuari as the only MNLF leader, he added. (A.F.P.)

Sahara

FISHING AGREEMENT

ALGIERS, September 1 - The Polisario Liberation Front has documents proving that a fishing agreement between Morocco and Spain takes in the coast of Western Sahara, the Front's representative in Algeria, Omar Mansour, said here Sunday.

He distributed papers to newsmen showing that fishing permits had been issued for trawlers and lobster boats to fish south of Noum, under the terms of provisional arrangements made in June and December last year and March this year by the Spanish and Moroccan Governments.

Mr. Mansour said the papers were seized when Polisario naval units boarded and captured Spanish fishing vessels off the Saharan coast.

He said the release of a 14-man Spanish trawler crew held since May after capture in what the Front claimed as territorial waters depended on the attitude of the Madrid Government. He accused that Government of sending the fishermen "into a war zone on the basis of an accord with the Moroccan occupier which has no sovereignty over the territorial waters".

Spain had to choose between "complicity" with Morocco or respect for the sovereignty of the Saharawi Republic proclaimed by Polisario, Mr. Mansour said. (A.F.P.)

CREWMEN SEIZED

ALGIERS, August 31 - Polisario Saharan nationalists last week sank a Moroccan fishing boat off the disputed Western Sahara and took the crew of 42 prisoners, the Algerian daily El Moudjahid said here today.

The boat, the Sindibad Javons, was seized on Monday, the paper added, quoting a communique from the self-proclaimed Saharan Arab Democratic Republic. (A.F.P.)

MOZAMBICAN LINK

MAPUTO, August 30 - Mozambique and the self-styled Saharawi Democratic Arab Republic have established diplomatic relations at ambassadorial level, it was announced here.

A Foreign Ministry communique said the two regimes hoped to "strengthen their support for the struggle of peoples against racism, neo-colonialism, apartheid and imperialism".
(A.F.P.)

Egypt

MODERN ELECTRICITY

CAIRO, September 1 - The United States will spend 102 million dollars to finance several projects in Egypt, including the modernization of electricity systems, according to the terms of six economic agreements Egypt and the United States signed yesterday.

The agreements also provide for a study of the development and modernization possibilities of the country's administrative and fiscal system.

The accords were signed by the American Ambassador in Cairo, Alfred Atherton, and by Egyptian Deputy Prime Minister for planning and the Economy Abdel Razzak Abdel Meguid, Electricity and Energy Minister Mohamed Maher Abaza and Industry Minister Taha Zaki. (A.F.P.)

SADAT BANS MEAT

ALEXANDRIA, September 1 - President Anwar Sadat today banned the sale of meat for one month, saying this was to stop "criminal" price rises on the market.

He also called on the public not to eat too much poultry or too many eggs. He assured them there was enough meat in stock for the Al Adha feast next month. "One month is not a long time. We shall not die of hunger if we eat no meat", he said over the radio. (A.F.P.)

Sudan

10 M. FOR ROAD

KHARTOUM, August 31 - The United States has made Sudan a 10 million dollar grant to help build a road in the south of the country, the Sudanese News Agency (SUNA) said here.

Sudanese National Planning Minister Nasr Eddin Mustafa and U.S. Ambassador William Kontos signed an agreement to this effect here yesterday, the Agency added.

The road is part of an all-weather gravelled highway planned to link Juba in Southern Sudan to Lodwar in North-West Kenya. It will give Sudan easier access to the Kenyan port of Mombasa. (A.F.P.)

WEST AFRICA

IMPORT AID

Mali

DAKAR, August 30 - Japan has given Mali a 500 million yen (more than 2,2 million dollar) subsidy to help offset the cost to the sprawling land-locked West African republic of shipping in imports. The money will help reduce overland transport and distribution costs for imports arriving from the African coast, which boost the final price of the imports by more than 50 per cent (A.F.P.)

Liberia

STRICTLY MILITARY,

WARNS SGT DOE

MONROVIA, August 31 - Anyone working against the interests of the revolution in Liberia will be subject to immediate arrest, head of State Master Sergeant Samuel K. Doe warned in a tough broadcast here last night.

He accused some members of the Cabinet of "not living in line with the objectives of the revolution". It was time for Liberians to realise "the Govern ment now in power is strictly military", Sgt Doe said. He warned Ministers and administrative heads to stop holding unauthorized meetings.

Some Ministers and religious leaders, especially Liberia's two Roman Catholic bishops, have appealed of late for the release of political prisoners. Appeals have also appeared in the press, often in the form of letters from readers. These seemed to be one main factor behind Sgt. Doe's comments, observers said.

No visitors

Sgt. Doe said the Government would not permit any church member to intercede for prisoners, save in the form of private letters addressed to the Governement, nor would it allow anyone to go to the Post Stockade prison to visit any political prisoner.

Sgt. Doe said the Vice President, the Speaker of the ruling People's Redemption Council (PRC) and members of the security forces were empowered to "quickly arrest and consign any group or individual encouraging and participating in meetings against the Governement and the state, or seeking to sabotage the operations of the PRC Government... while the Government is attempting to bring relief and free education to the masses". (A.F.P.)

MUCH TO LEARN

MONROVIA, August 30 - Liberian leader Master Sergeant Samuel K. Doe returned here yesterday from an official visit to Marxist-oriented Ethiopia and said his country had much to learn from the East African nation, where the Army seized power in 1974.

"We were particularly impressed with the youth camps, with the training and discipline of young people, with the adult literacy programme, with the treatment and rehabilitation of war victims, and with facilities for militia training, " Sgt. Doe said.

The Liberian party also went to Tanzania, a socialist nation. (A.F.P.)

Liberia

"IMF" DEFICIT

MONROVIA, September 2 - Liberia's ruling People's Redemption Council has approved a budget of 372,5 million dollars for fiscal 1980-81.

Government revenues are estimated at 251,5 million dollars. Officials said the deficit would be reduced to 75 million by taking into account grants of 25,5 million dollars and amortisation of the country's debt (20,2 million).

The 75 million dollar deficit is the maximum allowed by the International Monetary Fund for Liberia to be able to get aid from it of 85 million dollars in special drawing rights over two budget years. (A.F.P.)

EAST AFRICA

General Information

GUERRILLA SLOWDOWN

by Louis-Marie Tattevin

BORAMA, North-West Somalia, September 1 - Under increasingly heavy pressure from Ethiopian forces, Somali guerrillas operating in the Ogaden region have lost much of their freedom of movement.

Military leaders of the West Somali Liberation Front (WSLF), speaking in camps along the Somali-Ethiopian frontier, say that Ethiopian troops, backed by Soviet and Cuban advisers, have recently received reinforcements and fresh equipment. Many of their operational bases are only a few kilometres (miles) from the border with Somalia.

The WSLF relies heavily on the people of the Ogaden - virtually all of whom are ethnic Somalis - for support in its continuing war to liberate the "Ethiopian colony".

Badly equipped, confronting a superior opponent and without any real outside support, the Ogaden guerrillas are clearly reduced to small-scale sabotage operations, harassing the enemy and, when possible, subterfuge aimed at taking in any passing correspondents. A few days ago, about 20 kms (14 miles) from here, representatives of the Liberation Front led me to one of the WSLF camps "a few kilometres inside Ogaden". Eventually my guide conceded that we were still in Somalia, adding, with a smile: "But you know, the frontier zig-zags a lot".

The Liberation Front staff insist that the struggle continues unabated. But, after coming close to winning control of the Ogaden in 1977, with the help of regular Somali forces, it would seem that the WSLF is further from its objective today than it has ever been. (A.F.P.)

General Information

APPROPRIATE MEASURES...

ADDIS ABABA, August 30 - Ethiopia's Council of Ministers today strongly denounced the recent agreement between Washington and Mogadishu giving the United States a military base at Somalia's Horn of Africa port of Berbera, and said it had decided on "appropriate" measures.

"The agreement is tantamount to a direct invasion against progressive countries and peoples of the region in general and the independence, unity and very survival of Ethiopia in particular", an emergency session of the Council declared in a statement after meeting here today.

The Council, presided by Head of State Mengistu Haile Mariam, had adopted the "necessary decision on the appropriate measures to be taken", the statement said. It did not elaborate on what these measures might be.

In an apparent reference to the Italian invasion of Ethiopia from its former colony of Somalia in 1936, the statement said that Somalia had been the launching pad for World War II, and it warned of the dangers inherent in the arrangement now reached by the "arch imperialist" in the area.

An emergency meeting of the Council of Ministers is rare in post-revolutionary Ethiopia. It was seen here as intended to stress the Ethiopian Government's deep concern at developments in the Horn. (A.F.P.)

EARLY PEACE CALL

ADDIS ABABA, August 30 - Liberia and Ethiopia today condemned "expansionists" and attempts by "international reaction" to slow down normalization of relations in the troubled Horn of Africa.

The two countries called for an early and durable peace in the region based on respect for the inviolability of state frontiers and adherence to the charters of the Organization of African Unity, the United Nations and the non-aligned movement.

This common stand came in a communique released simultaneously here and in Monrovia following a four-day official visit to Ethiopia by Liberian Head of State Master Sergeant Samuel K. Doe.

The two countries also denounced reported production of nuclear weapons in South Africa and Israel as a threat to international peace and security. (A.F.P.)

General Information

THREAT, SAYS ADEN

ADEN, August 30 - The security and stability of South Yemen and all the Gulf region are directly threatened by Somalia's offer of military base facilities to U.S. forces, President Ali Nasser Mohamed warned here yesterday.

He said the offer would produce tension and instability in the whole region. South Yemen had condemned the presence of U.S. bases in neighbouring Oman (where the Aden regime has supported insurgents) and was likewise opposed to the new U.S.- Somali arrangements, Mr. Ali Nasser said.

The South Yemeni leader was speaking at the closing session of the first conference of his country's Socialist Party. He urged the Armed Forces to redouble their vigilance to face any danger that might threaten the region, and said South Yemen was ready to defend itself against attack.

Mr. Ali Nasser paid tribute to the Soviet Union and its Communist Party as friends who were supplying South Yemen with all the equipment and military experts required to confront external dangers (A.F.P.)

DJIBOUTI WOULD HOST TALKS

PARIS, August 30 - Djibouti President Hassan Gouled Aptidon has appealed for a truce and a negotiated peace in the Horn of Africa, the Djibouti Embassy announced here yesterday.

In the appeal, the Djibouti leader, who is on a private visit to France, said he was "seriously concerned by the persistence of armed conflicts in the Horn of Africa and the danger of expansion they represent".

He urged Ethiopia and Somalia to agree to a "truce which would make possible the search for a general, negotiated settlement of their differences".

Djibouti, "faithful to its policy of international neutrality", was prepared to facilitate talks toward that end, he said.

He suggested regional development conventions on nomad movements and water holes, freedom of travel for property and persons in the Ogaden and the establishment of joint economic infrastructures.

The Djibouti leader also urged the major powers to support peace efforts and to avoid allowing the Horn of Africa to become a site for confrontation. (A.F.P.)

Ethiopia

EPLF SLAMS ELF

KHARTOUM, August 30 - The largest of the secessionist movements fighting the Ethiopian Government for control of the province of Eritrea has accused its main partner of breaking a unity agreement reached three years ago.

The charge came in a communique from the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF) delivered to AFP in the Sudanese capital yesterday, and confirmed by its local spokesman.

It said that the Eritrean Liberation Front (ELF), a long-standing rival until the October 1977 agreement, was "deliberately provoking clashes" with the EPLF and had "unleashed a concerted propaganda campaign aimed at slandering" the EPLF.

ELF had also withdrawn its forces from positions alongside EPLF guerrillas on Eritrea's northern Sahel front. That had happened in July at the precise moment that the Ethiopian Government was preparing an "all-out nerve gas offensive" against the secessionists, the communique said.

The pullback effectively ended the agreement, as the presence of ELF units was the only practical remaining result of the agreement, the EPLF commented. It said the withdrawal was made without informing the EPLF High Command in the field.

Provisions of the agreement included formation of a joint military command and a single National Democratic Front, as well as information, cultural and economic committees. (A.F.P.)

Tanzania

UNIVERSITY PROBLEM

DAR ES SALAAM, August 30 - Tanzanian President Julius Nyerere has questioned the appropriateness of spending public money on the country's sole university.

Speaking Friday at graduation ceremonies marking the 10th anniversary of the founding of Dar Es Salaam University, Mr. Nyerere said it cost as much to educate 3,400 students at the university as it did to provide primary schooling for 640,000 pupils.

He asked : "Is this a socialist allocation of resources ? Is it by any criteria a just allocation of resources ?"

The university's cost represented 31 per cent of the National Education Ministry's total annual budget, the President said.

The university opened in 1970 with 2,065 students and has to date turned out 7,500 graduates. Enrollment of 3,403 undergraduates in 1978 was an increase of almost 65 per cent, Mr. Nyerere noted. (A.F.P.)

Kenya

U.S. LABOUR PLOT...

NAIROBI, August 31 - The United States Embassy in Nairobi has been working to sabotage current trade union elections in Kenya, Chairman-General Frederick Omido of the country's Central Organization of Trade Unions (COTU) said in an interview published here today.

The Embassy was carrying out the plot through its Labour and Political Attaché, Robert Hare, and the American-African Labour Centre (AALC), Mr. Omido, also a member of Kenya's Parliament, was quoted as saying in the Sunday paper the Nairobi Times.

He accused the Attaché of having held a number of meetings with certain Kenyan labour leaders and AALC representative Peter Kennen in Nairobi hotels in connection with American-backed candidates in the elections.

"The United States Embassy in Nairobi has been working with the American-African Labour Centre to sabotage the trade union elections currently going in the country", he was quoted as saying.

Mr. Omido also spoke about a meeting between Mr. Hare and former COTU Secretary-General Denis Akumu, now General Secretary of the Accra-based Organization of Africa Trade Union Unity (OATUU).

During the meeting, Mr. Hare attempted to convince Mr. Akumu to use his influence among workers and labour leaders in Kenya to get AALC-sponsored candidates elected in their respective unions, he alleged.

Mr. Akumu turned down the American proposals, Mr. Omido told the paper.

Finance charge

The question of possible involvement of the AALC in the Kenyan labour movement arose several months ago when opponents of current COTU Secretary-General Juma Boy, including Assitant Minister for Commerce Shariff Nassir, accused him of being financed by the organization.

Mr. Nassir also charged that some embassies in Nairobi had been trying to impose candidates of their choice upon the country's trade union movement against the workers' wishes.

The U.S. Embassy here has denied the charges. "We have learnt a long time ago not to interfere in the internal affairs of any labour movement in any country", the Embassy's Deputy Chief of Mission, Robert Houdek, was reported to have said. (A.F.P.)

Uganda

FEET DRAGGING

KAMPALA, September 2 - The Democratic Party, traditionally the main opposition party to former President Milton Obote's Uganda People's Congress (UPC), today accused the ruling Military Commission of dragging its feet in preparing for elections first promised for the end of this month.

A statement by DP General Secretary Francis Bwenge said today that the party believed that as a result the election could be delayed by at least a month.

Mr. Bwengye accused Attorney General Stephen Ariko, who is also legal adviser to the UPC, of using his government position "to introduce UPC tactics of rigging the votes".

He said the postponement of the election had been caused by Government's delay in importing appropriate equipment and materials. He also blamed the Electoral Commission for taking too long to appoint and train registration officials.

Mr. Bwengye accused the Attorney General of attempting to introduce four ballot boxes at each polling station despite an earlier all-party agreement that only one ballot box should be used.

Military Commission Chairman Paulo Muwanga has consistently refused to discuss a possible delay in the election.

At a press conference last week, he said election arrangements were in the hands of the Electoral Commission and any change of date would be announced by that body. (A.F.P.)

APPEAL FOR PEACE

NAIROBI, August 31 - Kenyan President Daniel Arap Moi today expressed great concern over deteriorating security in Uganda and the apparent inability of the country's leaders to restore peace.

He appealed to all Uganda's leaders to think at least for once about the youth of their country whose future, he said, they were now throwing away.

Speaking in Nakuru, 155 kms (95 miles) north-west of here, following a briefing by Kenyan Government officials on the Kenya-Uganda border situation, he said: "These youths will for ever be grateful to us leaders in this region if we would prepare for them a solid future. But they should not be expected to forgive us if, through our selfish inclination, we bequeath them a country where misery and death is the order of the day". (A.F.P.)

Uganda

MUSEVENI SUES

KAMPALA, August 30 - An opposition leader is suing former President Milton Obote and the editor of the Government-owned Uganda Times newspaper for libel in connection with a report of an Obote speech.

Yoweri Museveni, who is both Chairman of the Uganda Patriotic Movement and Vice Chairman of the ruling six-man Military Commission, has accused the two of defamation of character in a report of a speech by Dr. Obote headlined "Museveni ordered executions".

The suit holds that the article injured Mr. Museveni's character, credit and reputation and gave the impression that he was "not fit to rule". The article alleged that he ordered the executions of four people in the South-Western Ugandan town of Mbarara during the liberation war early last year.

Mr. Museveni, 35, is considered a strong contender in the elections promised in Uganda in just over a month's time. He is opposed to former President Milton Obote and his Uganda Peoples Congress in the elections.

The editor of the Uganda Times is Illakut Ben Bella.
(A.F.P.)

CENTRAL AFRICA

Chad

FRENCH NEUTRAL

PARIS, September 1 - The French Foreign Ministry today categorically denied that it had supplied arms to the forces of Chad's President Goukouni Weddeye.

A Ministry statement recalled there was a "French policy of neutrality" in the Chadian civil war.

The accusation came from the Armed Forces of the North (FAN) led by former Chadian Defence Minister Hissene Habre, who have been fighting forces backing Mr. Goukouni for more than five months. (A.F.P.)

PERFIDY, SAYS AWO

LAGOS, September 1 - The leader of the opposition Unity Party of Nigeria (UPN), Chief Obafemi Awolowo, today said possible Nigerian involvement in the civil war in Chad was "wrong" and a "perfidy". He told reporters here that the war in Chad was in internal affair and the business of nobody else.

Defence Minister Iya Abubakar last month denied that Nigerian combat troops had gone into Chad, but said some troops had gone to a border area in Borno region "to protect Nigerian citizens from Chadian incursions". (A.F.P.)

Chad

HABRE BLAMES

LIBYA, FRANCE

DAKAR, September 2 - Libya is directing the Army of Chad President Goukouni Weddeye through the intermediary of Palestinians sent to the country by Libyan leader Moamer Kadhafi, ex-Defence Minister Hissene Habre alleged here yesterday.

Mr. Habre leads the Armed Forces of the North (FAN), which have been fighting presidential troops for control of Chad's capital Ndjamena since March. He had talks here yesterday with Senegalese Prime Minister Abdou Diouf.

"Chadians are actors in a war imposed from outside", Mr. Habre said, blaming Libya and France.

He said Libya's oil would dry up in a few years. But in the Aouzou Strip in Northern Chad annexed by Libya there were deposits of oil, silver, tungsten, diamonds and gold. The Strip also had uranium deposits, "needed by Kadhafi, who wants to equip himself with a nuclear weapon", Mr. Habre told a press conference.

He said Chad's then-President Ngarta Tombalbaye (killed in a coup) had ceded Aouzou to Libya in exchange for "liquidation of Chad's revolutionary movement".

Tons of arms...

Colonel Kadhafi was now "pouring tons of arms" into Chad for the coalition of the Transitional Government headed by Mr. Weddeye and was sending in mercenaries from Niger and Sudan, Palestinians, and Northern Chadians recruited forcibly as subserives when they sought work in Libya, Mr. Habre charged.

He added that Mr. Weddeye was from Aouzou, and said his uncle had Libyan nationality. Mr. Habre denied that he had ever received money from Col. Kadhafi. "I have never even met him - God save me from that", he remarked.

France for its part had vast interests in Libya, Mr. Habre said, supplying it with warplanes, equipment and personnel and buying its oil. It therefore avoided countering Libyan ambitions in Chad, he charged.

He said France favoured a federal system for Chad, but that would be "an open door to secession".

An inter-African force to separate the belligerents in Chad after a new agreement among the various politico-military factions "would not be a bad idea, provided it is well chosen and has no other aim than to help Chad get peace". (A.F.P.)

HELP FOR TAZARA

DAR ES SALAAM, September 1 - China has agreed to send 150 railway experts and a quantity of spare parts to help improve maintenance on the Chinese-built Tanzania-Zambia (Tazara) railway, Tanzanian Transport and Communications Minister Augustine Mwingira has said here.

Mr. Mwingira, speaking on his return from a meeting in Lusaka of Tanzanian, Zambian and Chinese officials involved in the cross-border railway, said that the Chinese spares would come from other countries.

Under a separate agreement, West Germany was to provide 14 locomotives, the Minister said, adding that the original Chinese engines had not been performing satisfactorily and China was sending experts to modify them.

Other improvements to the Tazara included rebuilding of the line between Mlimba and Makambaku at a cost of 40 million shillings (eight million dollars) with a loan from the European Economic Community, he said. (A.F.P.)

NAMBOARD CUT

LUSAKA, August 31 - The Government plans to cut back radically the National Agricultural Marketing Board (NAMBOARD), Zambia's main marketing organization, handing most of its work over to cooperatives, the Sunday Times of Zambia reported today.

NAMBOARD would have no more than 1,000 employees by the beginning of next year as against 8,000 at present, the paper said, quoting Government sources.

Despite a reorganization in 1978, NAMBOARD has continued to suffer serious financial problems, the latest report from Zambia's Central Bank stressed. The position was aggravated by the fact that NAMBOARD's status meant its deficit must be met by the state. (A.F.P.)

CENSUS SNAGS

LUSAKA, September 1 - Zambia's latest census is running into snags a week after it was launched, because of inadequate transport facilities in some regions.

Also lacking are forms for the 15,000 census takers, most of them secondary school pupils, the local press reported here yesterday.

The last full census was in 1969, and a partial population poll was taken in 1974, estimating the number at some 4,700,000. Given a birth rate calculated at around three per cent a year, the population is now put at some six million. (A.F.P.)

Zambia

35 DOCTORS GO

LUSAKA, August 30 - Thirty-five doctors resigned from the Ministry of Health between December last year and August this year, according to the Government Gazette. About 200 junior doctors at three main hospitals in Lusaka, Ndola and Kitwe went on a three-month go-slow strike to protest against conditions of service. (A.F.P.)

SOUTHERN AFRICA

Zimbabwe

BAIL FOR BODYGUARDS

SALISBURY, September 2 - Seven men facing a murder charge with senior Cabinet Minister Edgar Tekere have been released on bail following a personal assurance from Prime Minister Robert Mugabe that they would appear for trial.

Mr. Tekere, Minister of Manpower Planning, and seven of his bodyguards have been charged with last month's murder of 68-year old white farmer William Adams during a military-style attack on his homestead. Mr. Tekere was released last month on 50,000 dollars bail (30,000 sterling) after Mr. Mugabe gave a similar assurance.

The bodyguards were released into the supervision of Minister of State Emmerson Mnangagwa and the commander of Mr. Mugabe's ZANLA forces, Rex Nhongo. Bail conditions were that they be restricted in their movements, do not interfere with state witnesses, do not possess firearms and that Mr. Mnangagwa give a signed guarantee for 10,000 dollars (6,500 sterling) each.

Acting Attorney-General Chistopher Glaum initially opposed bail but with drew his objections when told of Mr. Mugabe's assurance. Mr. Nhongo told the bail hearing that all the bodyguards were former ZANLA (Zimbabwe African National Liberation Army) guerrillas. While on bail they would be supervised by ZANLA personnel and he guaranteed that they would be present at their trial. (A.F.P.)

COUP WHICH WAS N'T...

LONDON, September 1 - Senior Rhodesian Army officers tried to mount a coup against then-Premier Ian Smith in mid-1978, The Guardian reported here today, citing authoritative sources.

It said Lieutenant-General Peter Walls, Armed Forces Supremo during the Smith regime's fight against guerrilla nationalists and Commander of Zimbabwe's Defence Forces until his resignation in July, was understood by the British Government to have been the leading figure behind the move, which failed because of resistance by the Labour Government of that time (A.F.P.)

Zimbabwe

NKALA : "UPSURGE"

SALISBURY, September 2 - "Invest in Zimbabwe with confidence" was the message given by Finance Minister Enos Nkala today to delegates from 35 countries attending a five-day economic resources conference here.

The end of the seven-year guerrilla war and subsequent election of the Mugabe Government had prompted an upsurge in the economy, Mr. Nkala said, adding that a positive growth rate of about 4 per cent as expected this year with up to 7 per cent next year. (A.F.P.)

SMITH : "THINK AGAIN"

SALISBURY, August 31 - Former Prime Minister Ian Smith, anxious to stem the flow of whites from newly-independent Zimbabwe, is travelling round the country urging whites to "think again" before deciding to leave.

At present, white emigration from Zimbabwe stands at about 1,000 a month. (A.F.P.)

Republic of South Africa

NEW LIVING STANDARDS...

LONDON, August 30 - South Africa is planning to raise a 250 million dollar loan on the international market apparently mainly to improve living standards for the black population, according to sources here.

South African authorities and an international banking group are holding talks on details of the operation, the sources said, adding that the banking group comprised the West German Dresdner Bank, the U.S. Citicorp, the Swiss Union de Banques Suisses and the British Barclays Bank.

In recent years, South Africa has been unable to apply openly to the international market because of growing opposition, particularly by American and Arab banks, to its policy of apartheid. Consequently South Africa has had to negotiate private discreet loans with some European banks.

But banking sources said there has been a marked changed of attitude since the South African Government has appeared to ease its race policies. And the recent Govern ment reshuffle was seen as a move towards liberalism.

South Africa otherwise has a good credit standing because of its gold and mineral resources. Compared with this, there is growing concern about heavy debts incurred by most other clients on the international market.

Sources said the loan would be used for projects such as the building of accommodation and the development of the education system. (A.F.P.)

Republic of South Africa

PROSECUTOR RESIGNS

JOHANNESBURG, August 31 - A state prosecutor who stormed out of court Friday during a trial of five blacks has resigned on the grounds that he does not want "to serve apartheid", the Johannesburg Sunday Times said here today.

Mr. A.R. Klein, state prosecutor in a Pretoria court, reportedly told the paper he had decided to resign to protest outside interference in the handling of the case.

He had on several occasions witnessed such interference in the handling of similar cases, he said, explaining that the five blacks, charged under the South African pass laws, had been remanded in custody for four days after their case had been adjourned.

"It is for the prosecutor to ask for a postponement if he considers it reasonable and necessary, but I did not ask for a postponement", he added. (The pass laws require blacks to carry special passes saying which region they are allowed to live and be in. In the past, such laws have been used as a means of detaining certain black protesters). A.F.P.

POWER CONTRACT

JOHANNESBURG, August 30 - A controversial 22-million rand (27-million dollar) contract was signed today to provide electricity to Soweto township.

It calls for power lines to serve 80,000 homes by 1983. Only 20 per cent of Soweto homes currently have electricity, but observers said the project had brought objections from African leaders as it would probably result in rent increases of up to 75 per cent. (A.F.P.)

Namibia

WALDHEIM IN DOCK

PRETORIA, August 31 - The main obstacle to a peaceful settlement of the Namibian question is a pro-SWAPO (South-West Africa People's Organization) attitude by United Nations Secretary General Kurt Waldheim, South African Foreign Minister Pik Botha charged in a letter to Mr. Waldheim released here yesterday.

The letter is South Africa's official response to clarifications supplied by Mr. Waldheim two months ago concerning a U.N. plan for Namibian independence.

Mr. Botha wrote : "At the root of the threatening impasse in negotiations on Namibia was that the U.N. was required to play a neutral role in the implementation of the settlement proposals, but it was at the same time the most ardent protagonist of SWAPO". (A.F.P.)

Namibia

WOUNDING CHARGE

LUSAKA, August 30 - A Namibian student said to have been kidnapped here at gunpoint by alleged SWAPO (South-West Africa People's Organization) dissidents has in fact been arrested by Zambian police.

Abraham Ndinomuwa, 26, a student at the Institute for Namibia run by the United Nations to train civil servants for an independent Namibia, was charged in a magistrate's court yesterday with wounding a fellow Namibian at the Institute in an incident last Saturday. He pleaded not guilty and will be tried on Nov. 11.

There have been a number of clashes at student hostels here in the past week between supporters of SWAPO chief Sam Nujoma and his deputy, Misheke Muyongo, who was expelled with eight other members by the party's central committee last month.

The supposed abduction was announced by the Institute's Director, Hage Geingob, who is also a SWAPO central committee member (A.F.P.)

AIR ATTACK...

LUANDA, September 1 - South African aircraft raided the Southern Angolan town of Xangongo, Cunene Province, last week, the local press reported quoting Angolan Defence Minister Colonel Pedro Maria Tinha.

Col. Tinha did not specify what day the attack took place. (A.F.P.)

Transkei

TWO TOP ARRESTS

UMTATA, September 2 - Transkei police arrested ex-Interior Minister Saul K. Ndzumo and former Police Commissioner Cwele at the week end, police said here Monday.

The Bantustan's (black homeland) Prime Minister George Matanzima sacked the Minister last week.

The arrests follow a local paper's report about rumours of an attempted coup, which the Premier dismissed as unfounded. (A.F.P.)

1980

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