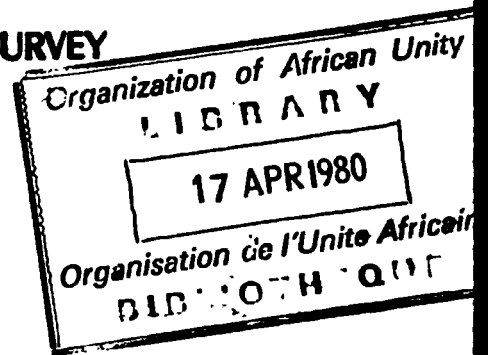


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P A N O R A M A

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RWANDA AND
BURUNDI

TINY, IMPOVERISHED
EEC DEPENDENTS

by Anne Vahl

BRUSSELS, March 16 - The European Economic Community (EEC) is by far the largest donor to developing African countries, most of them former colonies, and is linked with them in the Lomé Trade Convention. But the question arises these days : is the aid wise, efficient and tailored to African needs ?

Rwanda and Burundi are good examples of countries heavily dependent on the EEC. These two tiny, impoverished Central African states each year get two-thirds of their national budgets in the form of aid from the nine Common Market countries. U.N. development programs and Communist countries - especially Rumania and China - furnish the other third.

Burundi's Planning Minister, Donatien Bihute, said recently in Bujumbura that "the European Development Fund (or EDF, which allocates funds to the countries associated with the EEC in the Lomé Convention, is Burundi's leading provider of funds, and of all the countries or international bodies that aid our country the EEC furnishes the most flexible assistance".

Yet there is much criticism of EDF projects, which represent 20 per cent of total EEC aid to Africa.

Most for agriculture

Most EDF money is directed toward agriculture, a tendency to be expected in countries where 95 per cent of the people are farmers. But the EEC is often attacked for favouring cash crops - tea and coffee, for instance - to the detriment of food-growing for the local population.

The EDF, the criticism runs, is pursuing European imperialist policies and exploiting third-world resources.

Representatives of the development fund in Kigali and Bujumbura note that tea and coffee bring in 80 to 90 per cent of the export revenues of Rwanda and Burundi. Rwandan tea has one of the highest prices on the London exchange. But the EDF people say that these crops take up less than 10 per cent of cultivated land and that in some areas it would be hard to grow anything else.

The stomach-sucker...

Criticisms of the development of the Imbo Valley, in Burundi, begun 10 years ago, also have been numerous. About 1,500 families were made to leave the 2,000-meter (6,000 foot) hills settled by their ancestors to come to live in the marshy, unhealthy plain, considered as unlucky in popular legend.

Many Imbo farmers have died of malaria and parasitic diseases. Clinics and schools are lacking and it is estimated that 60 per cent of the people who came to the valley have left again. The farmers were given rice to plant, but they were used to eating legumes and said the rice "sucked their stomachs".

Moreover, during the tribal uprisings of 1972, many Hutu farmers of the Imbo area were killed by Tutsi, and despite the national unity efforts of President Jean-Baptiste Bagaza's Government, they remain suspicious.

(The Hutu, small in stature, are in the majority in Burundi. The Tutsi, a tall pastoral people believed to have come from the Nile region, have dominated the country since the 16th century).

Still, the rice grown in the Imbo Valley helps Burundi avoid importing rice and save foreign currency, although its production cost is higher than the cost of imported rice.

The EDF also has put a lot of effort into improving transport links between the two landlocked states and the ports of Dar-es-Salaam (Tanzania) and Mombasa (Kenya).

Massive airlift

This appears a wise objective in light of the massive airlift that had to be organized by the EEC to supply Burundi during the campaign by Tanzanian soldiers and Ugandan exiles to overthrow Ugandan dictator Idi Amin last year. With normal transport to the coast halted by the fighting, oil, food and cement had to be flown in and Burundi's tea and coffee had to be flown out.

Nonetheless, some critics note that the EDF road-construction aid is most profitable to the European companies hired to build the roads.

The development fund also contributes to the construction of energy-producing projects, notably a hydroelectric generating station on the Mukungwa River in Rwanda. But, the murmur is heard in Kigali, the electricity is very expensive and only serves the "Bazungu" - whites. Less than 10 per cent of the African homes in Kigali have electricity.

EEC aid to education and health is not immune from criticism, either.

Useless vaccines

"During the cholera epidemic in Burundi", said a Belgian doctor in Bujumbura, "we refused the useless vaccines that were suggested. We must develop preventive medicine here, adapted to the country's needs, and forget the principles of curative medicine used in Europe. It is too bad that we and the missionaries are destroying the role of the traditional healers".

Still, the importance of healers in treating snake bites is officially recognized on some EDF-financed tea plantations.

A Belgian assistance worker at the Mutare Agricultural Institute, built with development fund money in Rwanda, explained that he had constantly to fight the "ball-point pen complex". He meant that it was difficult to make students understand that a diploma should not be sought for itself but in order to be able to work afterwards.

"We have also had to force some students, most of them Hutu farmers, to get into the veterinary section," he said. "They wanted nothing to do with animal husbandry, which is linked in their minds with the old domination of the pastoral Tutsi".

Rwandan Planning Minister Ambroise Mulindangabo criticized the EEC for not leaving training personnel behind once projects were constructed.

Digging a pit

Making a final judgment on European assistance to the two small countries is hard. "Do you say that the bottle is half-full or half-empty?" asked one white civil servant.

"The cultures and languages of Rwanda and Burundi are extraordinarily rich", said a priest of Belgian origin who has lived in Kigali for 20 years.

"For instance, traditional courtesy requires that one enters each house one passes to chat for a while. Western-style development would destroy this richness. They (the Africans) have nothing now. They would then have less than nothing".

In his novel "Little Whites, You will All be Eaten", Jean Chatenet had his main character - Justin, the Paris-trained revolutionary - say this :

"It is inevitable that in trying to reach the goals of economic plans, no matter how just and fair they may be, we dig a pit deeper and deeper between this people and its soul". (A.F.P.)

BRITAIN LIKELY TO
CUT AID BY 10%

LONDON, March 15 - Britain will probably reduce its total aid to developing countries by a little more than 10 per cent in the annual budget being presented to Parliament on March 26, informed sources said today.

But Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's Government has promised considerable aid to Rhodesia, and increased aid to India and Pakistan because of the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan.

The money available for other countries will apparently be reduced to compensate, sources said.

The aid budget had already been reduced from 790 million pounds (1,735 million dollars) to 782 million pounds for the 1980-81 fiscal year last November as part of a Government spending cut.

Now the Thatcher Government is planning a cut to below the 700 million pound level to avoid an increase in the overall national budget, the sources said. (A.F.P.)

RABIES GOES ON
SPREADING

LYONS, France, March 15 - Rabies is continuing to spread in the world's poorest countries despite major advances in knowledge, according to a three-day international symposium on the viral disease.

The conference, held at the Pasteur Institute here and involving leading specialists from a dozen countries, noted that the battle against rabies was relatively easy in countries that have well-organized medical services.

The situation was less promising in countries that lacked such services, the experts observed. They noted that while vaccines were becoming ever more effective they were also expensive.

Other conditions contributing to the spread of rabies, according to the conference, were packs of stray dogs and delays in providing medical treatment.

The experts said that the situation was especially grave in South-East Asia, Africa, Turkey and South America. Dogs and foxes were mainly responsible for the spread of the disease, while in South America the Vampire Bat was a leading source of contagion.

The bat feeds on the blood of cattle and the disease is passed on to humans when they eat the infected meat of diseased animals. (A.F.P.)

COCOA INTRANSIGENCE

LONDON, March 16 - Cocoa producers are ready to pull out of the international market, Ivory Coast Agriculture Minister Denis Bra-Kanon warned here Saturday after the fourth set of talks to work out a new world agreement failed.

The current agreement, already extended once, expires at the end of this month. Growers have been unable to get the industrialised consumer countries to agree on an "equitable" price for their cocoa, with Britain and West Germany in particular being "intransigent", the Minister noted.

Further talks are scheduled here on March 26. Mr. Bra-Kanon said an alliance of the 10 main producers met in Ghana last month and adopted the principle of withdrawal as the talks produced no satisfaction.

Ivory Coast itself had already pulled out in December and had spent over three million dollars stockpiling cocoa and encouraging local industry to process the pods, the Minister said. It had sold big amounts of cocoa to the United States (the chief consumer, but not a member of the international agreement) and the Soviet Union at "interesting" prices.

The Minister said Ivory Coast had a 200,000-ton stock capacity, double the figure given in some estimates, and would soon increase it to 300,000 tons following studies on improving conditions made by three European firms. His country would share its know-how with other producers, and together they could then stock large quantities of the crop to maintain prices, Mr. Bra-Kanon said.

He disputed the forecast of a 117,000-ton excess in world production for the 1979-80 season compared with consumption made by London brokers Gill and Duffus, saying that if there was any surplus it would be decidedly lower. (A.F.P.)

15 M. SURVIVORS...

LONDON, March 16 - Only 15 million people from the total British population of 56 million would survive a large-scale nuclear attack, Home (Interior) Ministry Under-Secretary Lord Belstead said today.

Twice that number could be saved if they followed the recommendations in an official pamphlet, Lord Belstead added during a radio interview. Construction of public shelters was under consideration by the Ministry, he said, but the cost of such a policy would be "astronomical" and construction of the shelters would not compel the public to use them in case of attack. (A.F.P.)

TOWARDS NEW DIALOGUE

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., March 15 - Overall negotiations to relaunch the North-South Dialogue between poor and rich nations should take place within a specified time, ministers of the "Group of 77" insisted here Friday after four days of private talks.

They set the dates January 4 to September 11 in 1981 as the period, in a communique which said the negotiations should aim at specific agreements. Concrete and detailed solutions of worldwide scope were needed for the main problems affecting raw materials, energy, development, money and finances, in the framework of restructuring international economic relations, the delegates said.

The negotiations are supposed to start after the U.N. General Assembly has held a special session on development and international economic co-operation, scheduled for next August-September. That session should be a high-level meeting, according to the Group communique.

The Group of 77 comprises 117 developing countries. About 15 ministers attended the closed-doors meeting here. Attributing the current crisis to structural imbalances, they noted that multilateral economic negotiations between developed and developing nations were blocked on numerous key issues. Negative tendencies in economic relations were getting worryingly stronger, with increasingly prejudicial effects on developing countries.

Developing nations needed to promote economic co-operation among themselves to contribute to their individual and collective self-sufficiency, the communique said. (A.F.P.)

LEGUMES CENTRE

LILONGWE, Malawi, March 17 - A regional centre for grain legumes to coordinate bean production in East, Central and Southern Africa is to be established, an international bean workshop decided here at the weekend.

Speaking at the end of the five-day conference, B.J. Ndunguru, head of Dar-es-Salaam University's crop department, said the proposed new centre would also work towards eradication of crop diseases and intensification of supplies of bean seeds and organise staff training. No site for the bean centre had yet been decided.

Eighty delegates and observers attended the workshop, jointly funded by the United States, Dutch and Malawian Governments. (A.F.P.)

CHILDREN FOR SALE

NEW DELHI, March 17 - Children are being sold openly in Orissa, an East Indian state swept by acute drought conditions, a member of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's ruling Congress Party said in Parliament today. (A.F.P.)

AFRICAN MONETARY PLAN

ADDIS ABABA, March 17 - Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) Executive Secretary Adebayo Adedeji today proposed the creation of an African monetary fund by 1985 at the latest, saying African nations derived no real benefit from pegging their monies to foreign currencies.

He said foreign currencies had been floating for the past six years, putting constant pressure on the domestic prices and monetary reserves of African states.

It was "a matter of extreme urgency", Mr. Adedeji declared, that African countries establish a rational monetary system that enabled them to remedy the situation, reduce the multiplicity of monetary zones and correct the inconvertibility of African currencies.

The ECA executive was addressing the opening session here of the sixth session of African ministers of trade, which is to pave the way for the Organization of African Unity economic summit in Lagos, Nigeria, later this year.

The meeting, preceded by a preparatory intergovernmental meeting of experts, is being attended by delegates from 36 African countries. (A.F.P.)

OIL & ENERGY

SOMALIA'S URANIUM

ABU DHABI, March 18 - Vast uranium deposits in Central Somalia are being mined by a joint Iraqi-Somali enterprise, Somali Mines Minister Hussein Kassem was quoted as saying by an Abu Dhabi newspaper today.

The Somali Minister accompanied President Mohammed Siad Barre on his recent tour of Iraq, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, remaining here after the President returned to Mogadishu last Friday. The newspaper Al-Ittihad said that Mr. Kassem had stayed behind to wrap up an agreement between Somalia and the United Arab Emirates.

Al-Ittihad quoted the Minister as saying that the mines were spread over 85,000 square kilometres (32,700 square miles) in the Mudugh region. Mr. Kassem also said that the Arab Community Fund - financed by 21 Arab states under the Arab League - had granted the Somali-Iraqi company a 100-million-dollar credit to build a uranium processing plant.

President Siad Barre spent three days in Iraq conferring with President Saddam Hussein, and it was reported later that Iraq had proposed that petroleum-producing states provide 20 million dollars aid to the Horn of Africa country, one of the world's poorest. (A.F.P.)

IRAN UPPING PREMIUM

TEHERAN, March 16 - Iran will next week increase the premiums it charges on half its crude oil sales from three to 4.25 dollars per barrel, Oil Minister Ali Akbar Moinfar announced today.

Oil experts calculated this would bring the average cost of a barrel to 33.125 U.S. dollars compared with the present 32.5 dollars.

The Minister said the new increase would apply to oil companies whose contracts with Iran expire this month.

Mr. Moinfar said there was no increase planned for the basic price per barrel of Iranian oil before the premium is added, but he could not predict even the near future.

Average daily production of Iranian oil, which stood at 5.1 million barrels under the Shah's regime, would not exceed three million barrels this year, Mr. Moinfar said.

Last month's daily output had not exceeded 2.7 million barrels he added, but Western experts considered even this figure was greatly exaggerated.

Average domestic consumption by Iran of its own oil was one million barrels a day, Mr. Moinfar said.

Negotiations with the Soviet Union over the supply of natural gas from Iran, broken off several days ago, should resume soon, Mr. Moinfar said. The two countries are not agreed over price, with Teheran demanding 150 dollars per thousand cubic metres and Moscow offering 40 per cent less.

Under the Shah, Iran delivered 10,000 million cubic metres of gas a year to the Soviet Union but since the revolution supplies have been cut to a quarter of this.

Mr. Moinfar said that the gas pipeline to the Soviet Union, recently damaged, had been virtually repaired but deliveries would not resume until the negotiations were completed.

A second pipeline, begun before the revolution, would be completed, but with a shorter length of 410 kilometres (250 miles), and would be connected to the first inside Iran, the Minister added. (A.F.P.)

GOESGEN BREAKDOWN

GOESGEN, March 15 - The Goesgen nuclear power plant, Switzerland's most powerful, broke down yesterday for the fourth time since it went into operation last November.

The plant would not function for at least a week because of work needed in the water reservoir that feeds into the non-radioactive secondary cooling circuit, management said.

Problems in the same cooling circuit caused the other three break-downs in December and February. The plant produces 6,000 million kilowatt hours a year. (A.F.P.)

IEA CEILINGS DISCUSSION

PARIS, March 15- The 20 member countries of the International Energy Agency (IEA) will "definitely" discuss individual oil import ceilings for 1981 at a ministerial meeting here late next May, IEA Governing Board Chairman Niels Ersboell said last night.

However, he conceded that there were divergent views inside the IEA - which groups the leading industrial oil-consuming countries except France - as to how binding such ceilings should be.

Conference sources said West Germany and Japan remained reticent about any specific commitments for next year, while the United States continued to urge the need for 1981 import targets on the model of the ceilings for this year agreed on last December.

IEA ministers last December 10 agreed on country-by-country ceilings to hold this year's global IEA imports at 23.1 million barrels a day (MBD). They also lowered slightly the IEA "group goal" for 1985 to 24.6 MBD.

The December decisions followed a commitment by the seven leading non-socialist economic powers at their Tokyo summit last June to limit their crude oil imports in order to meet the supply squeeze that followed last year's upheavals in Iran. (A.F.P.)

NAMIBIAN VIOLATION

LONDON, March 16 - The Angolan Government authorized French planes carrying Namibian uranium to overfly its territory for almost a year, in violation of a United Nations resolution on Namibia, the London Sunday newspaper The Observer reported today.

Citing no source, the paper said Angolan authorities had agreed to let a French airline UTA DC-8 ferrying uranium from Namibia's Rossing mine to France fly within Angolan air space every week.

This authorization was granted to the French airline in violation of a 1974 U.N. resolution banning extraction of Namibian resources, the paper said. The resolution also authorized seizure of raw materials being taken out of Namibia. A former German colony neighbouring Angola, Namibia is, according to the international community, illegally administered by South Africa. U.N.-sponsored negotiations for independence elections in Namibia are currently deadlocked).

The Observer said the UTA aircraft overflew Angola for the first time on January 18 last year and later, after apologizing to Luanda authorities, was granted overflight authorization. The paper said the uranium air operation ended last December following a refusal by Paris airport staff to unload the shipment. (A.F.P.)

CONVERTER OKAYED...

TOKYO, March 16 - The United States has agreed in principle to the construction of a plutonium converter at the nuclear fuel reprocessing plant at Tokai village, north-east of Tokyo, the Mainichi Shimbun reported today.

The paper said that the U.S. consent came in U.S.-Japanese negotiations in Washington last week.

Mainichi said that the plutonium to be produced by the converter would be in mixed form with uranium to safeguard the dangerous fuel against possible diversion to military use.

Japan had first planned to produce pure plutonium powders but dropped the plan because the plutonium powder can easily be used for nuclear arms, the paper said. (A.F.P.)

MIDDLE EAST

PRAVDA : "U.S. FAILURE"

MOSCOW, March 16 - The Soviet Communist Party newspaper Pravda said today that U.S. policy had met failure in the Indian Ocean area, where, it said, most governments had refused the "tutelage and protection of American naval forces".

"Except for Oman, all the governments of the region have refused to allow the Americans bases on their territory", said Pravda, quoted by the Soviet news agency Tass.

U.S. Defense Secretary Harold Brown told a Senate sub-committee on Wednesday that Oman, Kenya and Somalia had agreed to let United States forces use their military bases to protect the "oil route" from the Gulf.

On Friday, Somali President Mohammed Siad Barre was quoted by a newspaper in the United Arab Emirates as denying that his Government had made such an agreement with Washington.

Pravda said that, even as it increased its military presence in the Indian Ocean, the United States "is reinforcing its activity on the political scene".

On the one hand, the newspaper said, the United States was seeking to "link certain NATO partners more closely to its military strategy in the (Indian Ocean) region". On the other, the United States was trying to "divide the non-aligned movement" and to create, among Moslem countries, "a bloc that will obey its orders".

The Soviet paper said that there was a danger of an "explosion" in the Indian Ocean that could entail "incalculable losses".
(A.F.P.)

MARINE REINFORCEMENTS

WASHINGTON, March 18 - The Pentagon announced Monday that 1,800 U.S. Marines had arrived in the Indian Ocean from Singapore aboard four amphibious vessels, bringing to 24,000 the number of U.S. marines and Navy pilots in the Gulf region.

Thirty-one U.S. vessels and 30 Soviet vessels are reported patrolling in the Gulf region.

The Pentagon said no landing maneuvers had been planned for the time being for the 1,800 Marines. Reports from Kuwait last week spoke of a possible landing of combat troops on the island of Massirah in Oman.

Meanwhile, a Soviet amphibious assault vessel with 400 marines on board is at present heading south off the China coast, possibly bound for the Indian Ocean, Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) sources said here today.

According to the sources, the 13,000-ton Ivan Rogov, biggest amphibious craft in the Soviet fleet, is escorted by a destroyer. Though their probable destination is the Indian Ocean, the sources did not rule out Vietnam. (A.F.P.)

OPERATIONAL SERVICES...

LONDON, March 17 - Iran has made a secret pact with the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), promising it two dollars for every barrel of oil Iran sells in return for "operational services" such as fighting enemies of the current regime, the Sunday Times reported.

But the PLO representative in Teheran denied any knowledge of the affair and told AFP: "If this were true we would be rich, very rich". (A.F.P.)

HARASSMENT OPPORTUNE...

KUWAIT, March 18 - Syria has asked the Palestinian guerrillas to reactivate their operations against Israel in the Golan Heights sector, the Kuwaiti newspaper Rai Al Aam reported today.

It said Syria told leaders of the various fedayeen groups that immediate harassment would be opportune. (A.F.P.)

BOMB FOR IRAQ...

WASHINGTON, March 18 - Sophisticated nuclear equipment bought from Italy may enable Iraq to produce a nuclear bomb some time in the future, according to a senior State Department official who asked to remain anonymous. (A.F.P.)

HOSS APPEALS FOR
OIL WEAPON

BEIRUT, March 15 - Premier Selim Hoss appealed today to other Arab countries to aid Lebanon against Israel, and implied that they should resort to the "oil weapon".

In a message to his country on the second anniversary of the Israeli invasion of Southern Lebanon, Mr. Hoss accused Israel of having "designs" on Lebanese territory and water.

He also complained that Israel had blocked the mainly-Syrian Arab League peacekeeping force and the United Nations buffer force from helping the Lebanese Government re-establish its authority in the territory evacuated by Israel after the invasion.

The smoldering war in Southern Lebanon affected all Arabs, he said, so they should share that "burden".

The Premier said that various countries advised Lebanon against using the "oil weapon", then used it themselves.

He singled out the United States for criticism, saying it resorted to "the grain and technological weapons" and threatened to boycott the Olympic Games while supplying Israel with thousands of millions of dollars worth of military and economic aid. (A.F.P.)

NORTH AFRICA

General Information

TUNISIA PROTESTS
THE "RADIO WAR"

TUNIS, March 16 - Tunisia has delivered a new protest note to the Arab League complaining about a continuing Libyan "radio war", the local news agency TAP reported, quoting informed sources here.

It said Foreign Minister Mohamed Fitouri gave a copy of the protest note to the "good offices" committee set up by the Arab League's Ministerial Council last month, which called on the Tunisian and Libyan Governments "to halt all forms of campaigning against each other in every sphere".

Relations between the two North African countries soured after a commando raid on the Southern Tunisian mining town of Gafsa in January, which the Government here alleges was organised by Libya as the start of a coup attempt.

The committee formed to supervise Tunisian and Libyan compliance with the League's resolution comprises the Foreign Ministers of Syria, Iraq and Kuwait, and a League representative. TAP also reported that an employee of the Tunisian Embassy in Tripoli was believed to have been kidnapped. (A.F.P.)

Sahara

MOROCCAN SILENCE

RABAT, March 16 - A Moroccan opposition newspaper has criticized the Government for keeping silent on reports of a stinging defeat of King Hassan's troops by Polisario Front guerrillas in Southern Morocco.

Meanwhile, at a reception given by the King in Marrakesh last night, Premier Maati Bouabid hailed the Armed Forces which, he said, "have always beaten off the aggressions of mercenaries and bandits, taking inspiration from the epics of Ouhoud and Zellaka", two historic battles.

Foreign journalists escorted by the Saharan guerrillas have reported that two Moroccan mobile columns - called Ouhoud and Zellaka - suffered heavy losses of men and materiel during a running battle March 11 in the area of the Oued Draa (Draa River) and the Ouarkziz Mountains of Southern Morocco.

The guerrillas claimed to have put out of action 2,000 of the 7,000 Moroccan troops engaged in the fighting. The journalists saw piles of Moroccan bodies and burnt-out armoured vehicles.

The only Moroccan statement on the subject was that of King Hassan himself, who said in an interview broadcast on March 9 by French radio that "very intense fighting took place south of Tan-Tan" on March 4.

Since that statement one week ago, the Moroccan Information Ministry has kept total silence on the fighting, despite repeated inquiries by the press.

Ministry "uninterested"

On Friday, the daily Al-Mouharrir, organ of the opposition Socialist Union of Popular Forces, wrote that while "mercenaries let their imagination run wild in announcing figures that no one can trust, we find that our Information Ministry remains silent, as if uninterested".

The paper accused the Ministry of "deigning neither to confirm nor deny nor give further information, delivering national public opinion to the mystifications of the enemies of our territorial integrity".

(Spain gave up what had been the Spanish Sahara in 1975, sharing it out between Morocco and Mauritania. The latter country withdrew from its portion of the Western Sahara - as it is now called last year, and Morocco has annexed the entire territory. The Algerian-backed Polisario Front is fighting the Moroccans in a campaign to establish its Saharan Arab Democratic Republic). (A.F.P.)

Sahara

HEAVY LOSSES...

RABAT, March 17 - Morocco today confirmed its forces fought engagements in the south of the country early this month with Western Sahara guerrillas of Polisario.

An official announcement said Moroccan forces had inflicted heavy losses on the Algerian-backed guerrillas in the Oued Tighzert region and that operations were continuing.

The announcement, which made no mention of Moroccan losses, said "foreign elements" were fighting for the Polisario guerrillas.

The Polisario has said it killed 2,000 Moroccan soldiers and captured large quantities of equipment from two Moroccan task forces. And the guerrilla movement has taken foreign journalists on a tour of the battlefield.

The Moroccan communique also said Polisario had used sophisticated equipment in the battle.

It said operations were continuing to destroy the hide-outs of the guerrillas, and added that the Air Force had destroyed dozens of enemy vehicles and much other equipment. (A.F.P.)

WEST AFRICA

Ghana

POPE EXPECTED

ACCRA, March 15 - Pope John Paul Two is to come to Ghana on the African trip that he announced last month, Roman Catholic sources said this week.

They said he would arrive here on May 5 for a two-day visit at the invitation of the Church in Ghana in connection with its 100th-anniversary celebration. (A.F.P.)

Nigeria

SHAGARI : "ECONOMIC WAR"

LAGOS, March 18 - President Shehu Shagari of oil-rich Nigeria has called on his countrymen to fight an economic war to free the country from foreign economic dependence.

Addressing thousands of people at a civic reception in Sokoto, capital of the country's northern Sokoto State, the President said living conditions of millions of Nigerians were very low and something must be done urgently to improve them.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) said the President, in his weekend address, promised his Administration would prosecute the war to its "logical conclusion".

President Shagari said he wanted the country - Africa's most populous - to be self-sufficient. "The task and stage is now set. Let us launch our first attack, and we shall win", he said. (A.F.P.)

Nigeria

SHUGABA APPEAL

LAGOS, March 17 - President Shehu Shagari and Internal Affairs Minister Maitama Yusuf have filed an appeal against a court order permitting Bornu State House of Assembly leader Shugabe Abdurrahman, deported to Ndjamena (Chad) last January, to return to Nigeria.

Mr. Shugaba, leader of the opposition Great Nigeria People's Party (GNPP), the majority formation in North-West Nigeria's Bornu State, was deported on the grounds that both his parents were Chadian and that he could not prove Nigerian nationality.

The Maiduguri High Court last week ruled that Mr. Shugaba could return pending an inquiry into his nationality.

Meanwhile, press reports here today said Mr. Shugaba had already returned to Maiduguri and quoted him saying he had missed his three wives and children and House of Assembly members. (A.F.P.)

Mali

CHANCE FOR CAPITAL

BAMAKO, March 18 - Mali will open some of its debt-plagued state companies to private capital under a series of reforms announced by President Moussa Traore.

General Traore spoke last night at the close of a joint three-week work session of the Government and the executive committee of the ruling Mali People's Democratic Union. The session was called to discuss three-year plans for the West African country's 26 state enterprises.

He said the Government was planning to strengthen some enterprises "because they are strategic for our economic and social development, to open the capital of some to private parties here or abroad in order to make them more dynamic" and to place others under management.

Gen. Traore said the Government was considering allowing workers to invest in the state companies in which they were employed.

He deplored a past "lack of follow-through" in the execution of decisions both at ministry and at company management level, and said that management should have the courage to resist "inopportune state intervention". He pledged that company directors who acted in this way would not be punished, because they would be safeguarding the higher interest of the people.

Mali state and private companies owe the state 30,000 million Mali francs (about 16 million U.S. dollars) and it is estimated that 40,000 million Mali francs (about 20 million dollars) are needed to get the state sector back on a sound footing. (A.F.P.)

BACK TO CLASSES
WITHOUT CONDITIONS

BAMAKO, March 17 - Classes resumed in Bamako's strike-plagued secondary schools today, informed sources said, as the Mali Government broadcast a back-to-class appeal and said it came from a militant student union officially dissolved in January.

High-school students staged a national strike that was marked by reportedly fatal clashes with police from November to January. They went back for a month and then left classes again in Bamako in mid-February after a disturbance pitting students against school administrators near Segou, 240 kilometres (150 miles) north-east of here.

In an apparent attempt to embarrass the Government of President Moussa Traore, students and schoolchildren nine days ago marched on the hotel where the six-nation Sahara summit was taking place. Cars and buildings were burned during the demonstration and police made a number of arrests.

Since then, Radio Mali has been broadcasting condemnations of student agitation and urging the students to return to class.

Today, the radio announced that the coordination office of the Mali National Union of Students and schoolchildren was inviting students to "take up their courses again without conditions", beginning immediately.

Struggle is over

"The Union office condemns acts of vandalism contrary to the customs and traditions of our people" and "disavows any movement tending to disorder", the radio said, quoting from a statement said to have been signed by Union Secretary-General Abdul Karim Camara.

"The struggle is over", Radio Mali added.

Classes resumed on January 14, and authorities the next day announced that the Student Union- which had organized the strike - had "ceased to exist".

This action by Government, along with the incident at Segou in which a teacher and a student were arrested and sentenced to prison, helped touch off the new strike in Bamako and the demonstration of March 8.

The strikes have mainly been aimed at forcing improvements in the educational system and at getting the Government, in a financial bind and having difficulty paying its employees, to come up with scholarship money due to students. (A.F.P.)

Liberia

GOVT. CHARGED WITH
MERCILESS TORTURE

MONROVIA, March 18 - The Liberian regime was yesterday accused of carrying out indiscriminate arrests in the Armed Forces and the opposition and "merciless torture" of suspects.

Togba Nah Tipoteh, Chairman of the pro-Socialist Movement for Justice in Africa (MOJA), made the charges at a press conference here in the wake of the March 7 call for a general strike by the opposition Progressive People's Party (PPP). This was followed by arrests of PPP leaders and sympathisers and then by protest demonstrations throughout the country, including the sacking of a police station here.

The MOJA leader accused the Liberian Ministry of Justice of carrying out a "witch hunt" and said it risked destabilising the whole country by over-reacting.

Inhuman conditions...

He called on the Government to halt arbitrary arrests, to release arrested members of the Armed Forces and to stop "torturing by flogging and exposure to inhuman conditions".

Mr. Tipoteh called for a "speedy and fair trial for those against whom a prima facie case can be established" and said the ruling True Whig party should "resist all appeals to transform Liberia into a one-party state".

The MOJA Chairman said that "scores of individuals, many of whom have little or no relationship with the PPP, are being arrested and detained in all parts of the country".

Insecurity, panic...

He said that "widespread arrests and detention" of Army men was "of even greater concern" and went on: "We believe that, largely because many people know about the torture of those under detention, several citizens have begun to take the law into their hands by attempting to fire-bomb sites in Monrovia and sabotage public utility installations".

Mr. Tipoteh said this situation had caused "apprehension, insecurity and panic" and was a main cause of destabilisation.

He denied any connection between his organisation and the PPP, which he called "at best infantile and rather ridiculous", and said he would have spoken up in the same way if the True Whig party had been implicated. (A.F.P.)

Ethiopia

ERITREAN "KNELL"

ADDIS ABABA, March 15 - If a real thaw emerges out of the rapprochement which Sudan and Ethiopia announced here Thursday it will be a death blow to the secessionists fighting for independence of Ethiopia's northern province of Eritrea, observers here believe.

For it is the Sudan above all, by being a transit point for most of the weapons used by the Eritrean guerrillas, that has helped sustain the province's 18-year-old rebellion, Africa's longest, the observers say.

Following the four-day visit here of Sudan's First Vice-President and Defence Minister Abdel Majid Hamid Khalil, the two countries announced that they would henceforth "scrupulously respect" the United Nations and Organization of African Unity principles relating to the sovereignty of nations.

Each said it would respect the territorial integrity and national unity of the other and not interfere in the internal affairs of its neighbour. This was necessary, they said, to permit "constructive collaboration beneficial to their peoples".

To that end, they agreed to work toward the "speedy elimination" of their differences and to reactivate trade relations, programmes for joint development and joint supervision of their common border.

Observers here expressed surprise at these developments. For as late as last year, Khartoum was reportedly making efforts to unify the three Eritrean guerrilla movements, seriously split by factionalism.

Ignoring the Arabs

The Sudan was apparently also ignoring pressure from the Arab countries to the north, notably Syria and Iraq, who are strong backers of the Eritrean struggle for secession.

According to the observers, one reason for the about-face by Sudanese President Gafaar Nimeiry, who in 1977 declared his open support for the Eritrean rebels, may be that he has become increasingly worried by the lawlessness of the large numbers of Eritrean refugees in his country.

A second reason may be that the Sudan has detected hope in President Nimeiry's efforts to mediate for regional autonomy between Addis Ababa and the secessionist movements, announced last January. But, whatever the reasons, observers interpret it as a good omen for the two countries and especially Ethiopia, whose economy has been sapped by the continuing war. (A.F.P.)

MOI DENIES STARVATION

NAKURU, March 15 - President Daniel Arap Moi today called for a halt to what he called malicious rumours and idle gossip by Kenyans claiming that starvation was rampant in the country.

Addressing a huge fund-raising rally in aid of the Rift Valley Institute of Science and Technology in this provincial capital, the President said it was "ironic" that while the Government did "everything in its power" to eliminate shortages of certain essential commodities "ill-wishers" were wanting that there should be hunger.

President Moi said he was aware that certain people in the country were sowing discord, but he added that he had 100 per cent support from the citizens.

He also de:ided rumours that Kenya was importing yellow maize as human food. Yellow maize would only be used as cattle feed and sufficient white maize for human consumption had been imported, he said.

On current strikes in Kenya's secondary schools and its university, President Moi said that a student's future would be decided by whether he or she had been involved in strikes as well as by academic performance. (A.F.P.)

FIRE HITS 2,000

NAIROBI, March 17 - More than 2,000 people have been made homeless after 200 homes were set on fire on a ranching scheme in Machalos district, about 40 kilometres (25 miles) east of Nairobi, the Kenyan Daily Nation newspaper said today.

The newspaper said the fire followed a dispute between people who had settled in the area since 1961 and a ranching cooperative society which was formed in 1962 and game rangers.

One fire victim, John Kathuma, said he and others had settled in the area in 1961, before the society was formed. After that the land was split into two, with one part for human settlement and the other for animals.

But because the cattle were multiplying, the society now wanted all the land and was trying to force the people out, the report said.

The families involved have filed a civil suit against the society officials and the game rangers. The hearing begins today in the High Court. (A.F.P.)

DRIVE AGAINST THE
"BOGUS" TRADERS

DAR-ES-SALAAM, March 15 - Existing private shops can have their licences renewed, Trade Minister Ibrahim Kaduma reassured businessmen here Friday, but he added that the present number of private shops in Tanzania was "more than enough".

New licences would accordingly be granted only to co-operative shops or those belonging to Government institutions and parastatal bodies, he added.

Shopowners could moreover only apply for principal licences, Mr. Kaduma said, as subsidiary licences would no longer be issued.

The measure would rid the country of "bogus" businessmen, some of whom operated with trading licences but without premises, he said.

The Minister said the Government's decision to confine the handling of essential goods to national and regional trading companies would bring about equitable distribution. (A.F.P.)

MORE CHOLERA

DAR-ES-SALAAM, March 16 - Cholera has broken out in a third Tanzanian region along the border with Kenya, the Government newspaper Sunday News reported today.

The paper quoted Arusha Regional Commissioner Peter Siyovelwa as saying that cholera had hit several districts of the region. He gave no details but said the movement of food from Arusha to other regions had been banned. Cholera spreads via contaminated food and water.

Earlier this year, outbreaks had been reported in the Tanga and Kilimanjaro regions along the frontier with Kenya, as well as in the Mbeya and Morogoro regions of Southern Tanzania and the Kigoma region on Lake Tanganyika in the west.

The disease, which killed more than 1,000 people in 14 regions of Tanzania in 1978, is reported to have killed 34 this year. (A.F.P.)

37.5 M. FROM NORWAY

DAR-ES-SALAAM, March 15 - Norway is to provide Tanzania with development aid totalling 37.5 million dollars over the next five years under an agreement following talks which ended here yesterday.

The aid programme, covering maritime transport, fisheries, power, water and road development, provides for the supply by Norway of 85 experts and 20 voluntary staff. (A.F.P.)

Tanzania

53 M. FOR AGRICULTURE

DAR-ES-SALAAM, March 17 - The World Bank is to loan Tanzania 53 million dollars for Agriculture Ministry projects, it was learned here today.

Agriculture Minister John Malecela said the loan agreements were signed recently in the United States. Ten million dollars is to be used to improve the East African country's pyrethrum industry and the balance to expand the National Milling Corporation. (A.F.P.)

Uganda

APPEAL FOR PRESS
RESPONSIBILITY

KAMPALA, March 18 - Uganda has clamped down on newspapers' questioning the presence of Tanzanian military in the country and the legality of the Uganda National Liberation Front (UNLF).

The official Uganda Times newspaper today said Ugandan Information Minister Picho Owiny told editors yesterday that the Tanzanian military presence in Uganda was one of the "factors which brought about the freedom the press now enjoys in Uganda". This presence should not be questioned in future.

Dr. Owiny, who called all editors-in-chief to a special meeting, appealed to them to exercise their freedom responsibly "by identifying issues correctly and in the right context". The Minister emphasised the total commitment of the Uganda National Liberation Front Government to freedom of the press.

Newspapers have reported widespread indiscipline among the Tanzanian troops and cited this as one of the factors in Uganda's grave security situation. A total of 24,000 Tanzanian security forces have been stationed in Uganda since Dar-es-Salaam last year helped overthrow President Idi Amin.

Yesterday, a force of several hundred Tanzanian soldiers and police fired heavy machine guns and automatic rifles for almost four hours to clear people from Kibuli village, near Central Kampala. Six Ugandan civilians were reported to have been killed or seriously wounded. The operation came after a Tanzanian officer and four Ugandan civilians were shot dead in a Kibuli bar Sunday night.

One newspaper, Munno, today reported that editors at the meeting had criticised a lack of official statements on the present situation in Uganda about which rumours abounded.

It said the Minister had told the editors to follow UNLF policy but they had responded by saying there was no policy. "One Minister says one thing and then another Minister says another quite different thing", said Munno. (A.F.P.)

COMMUNICATIONS, TRADE,
TRANSPORT, AGRICULTURE

NGAOUNDERE, Cameroun, March 16 - The Central African Republic and Cameroun have agreed to revitalize their cooperation in communications, transport, commercial exchanges and agriculture, according to a joint communique released here today.

The communique came at the end of a two-day official visit by Centrafrican President David Dacko during which he met Cameroun President Ahmadou Ahidjo in this northern city. President Dacko left for Bangui aboard a Cameroun Air Force plane.

The two Heads of State agreed that the joint Cameroun-Centrafrican commission would meet soon in Bangui to discuss the areas of cooperation mentioned in the communique.

It also said that President Ahidjo had congratulated President Dacko for "the work of economic, social and cultural recovery he has undertaken in the Central African Republic".

President Dacko took power in September, with the help of French paratroopers, after Emperor Bokassa was deposed in a coup. The former emperor, under whose reign the Centrafrican economy deteriorated dramatically, fled to Ivory Coast. (A.F.P.)

COMMUNITY BANK

BUJUMBURA, Burundi, March 16 - The Economic Community of Great Lake Countries (Zaire, Burundi, Rwanda) has set up a development bank, with initial capital of over 280,000 dollars.

Chairman of the Board is Rwanda's Cleophas Kanyarwanda. The bank's headquarters are at Goma, Eastern Zaire.

The African Development Bank has said it will participate in the new bank's capital. (A.F.P.)

Angola

WORKERS ON TOUR

TOULOUSE, March 15 - A delegation from the Angolan National Workers Union is making a four-day visit to South-Western France.

Led by the union's Secretary-General, Pascal Lavaolu, it is being hosted by the local branch of France's Communist-led General Labour Confederation (CGT).

Under an agreement, the CGT is helping train union officials from Angola and is presently assisting in the establishment of a union school there. The Workers Union is the only labour organization in Angola that is recognized by the Marxist Government of the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola. (A.F.P.)

DELIBERATE SABOTAGE...

LUANDA, March 16 - Four thousand motorcars out of a total 9,000 exported to Angola in 1978 and 1979 are no longer in working order, according to an estimate by the semi-official Jornal de Angola.

Denouncing "deliberate sabotage", the daily stressed the importance to the Angolan economy of regular transport of farm produce.

The paper singled out for criticism the use of state-owned vehicles for private purposes, such as using a refrigerated lorry to keep beer cool for Saturday night parties.

Calling for a greater civic sense, the paper also said car parking charges had to be introduced, with appropriate penalties for parking offences. (A.F.P.)

Zaire

COUNTER-THREAT ONHUMAN RIGHTS

BRUSSELS, March 15 - Zairese Foreign Minister Karl I Bond warned today that he would propose an international inquiry into the human rights situation in a Belgian region where French and Flemish speakers clashed last Sunday.

He linked the proposed inquiry to the repeated calls by the International Federation for Human Rights in Brussels for an inquiry into events in Zaire's Kasai Province last July 19. The group said last month that Zaire was remaining silent about whether it would allow the inquiry.

The rights group reported last November that Zairese troops had massacred 215 young people in Kasai. Zaire denies this, saying that the incident involved only police killings of three diamond smugglers.

Speaking last night to Belgian radio journalists at Liège, the Foreign Minister said he would propose a motion in Zaire's Legislative Council next month suggesting that when an inquiry commission came to Kasai, an international commission should go to Belgium's Fourons region to check whether human rights were being respected there.

About 4,500 people live in Fourons, near Liège, a focal point of the language-based quarrel that has plagued Belgian political life in recent years. (A.F.P.)

Zaire

SATELLITE LINK BACK

KINSHASA, March 18 - Zaire's satellite telecommunications links with the outside world, subject to frequent breakdowns in the past few months, have been temporarily restored in record time after the latest two-week interruption.

Up to three months would normally have been required to get spares from the United States for the affected land satellite installation near here, it was generally estimated.

But the disastrous economic consequences of such a lengthy cut-off, allied with numerous protests from international bodies and official and private sector economic operators persuaded the authorities to move quickly, given, moreover, that President Mobutu Sese Seko with a major delegation is on a European and Asian tour lasting several weeks.

Links have been restored temporarily with a radio telegraph system, though it remains highly aleatory, initial use shows.

Poor management and lack of funds for the upkeep of the land station have for months been at the root of the numerous breakdowns, which have been lasting from a few hours to several days at a time, isolating the country from the rest of the world and paralysing economic activity.

Zaire's debts to world telecommunications bodies, in particular the International Telecommunications Union and Intelsat, stood last year at some 18 million dollars. (A.F.P.)

Central African Republic

THE NEW PARTY

BANGUI, March 15 - One-time Education Minister Jean-Claude Kazagui has been elected Secretary-General of the Centrafrican Democratic Union (UDC), the new party set up by President David Dacko after the ouster of Emperor Bokassa last September.

He was elected at the UDC's constituent congress here yesterday, getting two-thirds of the votes of the 261 delegates.

Mr. Kazagui, 43, a Minister under the Bokassa regime, is an arts and English graduate, and has published many works on linguistics and teaching. (A.F.P.)

Rwanda

EDUCATIONAL RADIO

KIGALI, March 16 - A one-week seminar on educational radio program production, organized by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and the Rwandan Government, ended today in Kigali.

The Government uses Radio Rwanda to put across development messages and techniques to the country's rural people. (A.F.P.)

Chad

AUTHENTIC CONGOLESE...

PARIS, March 17 - The Congo Embassy, replying to reports that the officers of the Congolese neutral force in Chad spoke Spanish, said here today that all officers and men of the force were "authentic Congolese".

The neutral force arrived in Ndjamená in January, in two contingents totalling 200 men, and is quartered in the old police barracks there. The implication of the original reports in the Paris press was that Cuban advisers were present with the Congolese.

Under the Lagos accords signed last August by all 11 armed factions in Chad, a neutral force from Guinea, Benin and Congo was to take over peacekeeping in the country until a new Chad Army could be forged from the various private armies. No official explanation has been given for the fact that no Guinean or Beninese troops have arrived.

French soldiers remain as well in Ndjamená, where the private armies continue patrolling despite an agreement within the Transitional Unity Government that was to have demilitarized the Chad capital last month.

The Congo Embassy statement said that the Congolese troops in Chad were "applying with the most complete impartiality the peace agreements concluded under the aegis of the Organisation of African Unity among the different Chad political formations". (A.F.P.)

Equatorial Guinea

HEADING FOR HOME

LIBREVILLE, Gabon, March 18 - Four hundred and sixty refugees left here aboard a boat yesterday heading for Equatorial Guinea - homeland of some 60,000 people who took refuge here in Gabon during 11 years of ferocious dictatorship by now-ousted and executed Francisco Macias Nguema. (A.F.P.)

Zambia

214 FLOGGINGS

LUSAKA, March 15 - Zambian authorities flogged 214 businessmen last year for overcharging in their shops on essential items.

Commerce and Industry Minister Remmy Chisupa revealed this in Parliament Thursday and also said 203 of them were imprisoned for exploiting the common man.

The Minister told Parliament that last year's figures for flogging and imprisonment were higher than the previous year when 1,317 traders were prosecuted. He described as "disgraceful" the prices of imported goods in Zambia, blaming "illiterate" purchasing managers. (A.F.P.)

"VILLAGES" OPENING UP

SALISBURY, March 15 - Rhodesian authorities this week ordered the opening of barbed wire fences around "protected villages" set up here during the seven-year guerrilla war.

The Home Affairs Ministry said there would be no more restrictions on the movements of the more than half-a-million blacks who were forced into the villages in a bid to separate them from the guerrillas, except in areas where a curfew was still in force.

The curfew itself was expected to be lifted in the near future as Zimbabwe moves towards independence.

The Ministry communique also said, however, that the fences around the villages would be retained for the time being and that security forces would stay to guard the settlements because of the continuing presence of armed dissidents, an apparent reference to guerrillas who did not heed last January's ceasefire accord.

The protected villages, inspired from anti-guerrilla tactics used by the British in Malaysia, were much criticised because they forced peasant farmers to live a long way from their fields. Many villages starved as a result and were given food by the International Committee of the Red Cross. (A.F.P.)

FAMINE RISK

PARIS, March 15 - The new state of Zimbabwe faces famine when it becomes independent on April 18, two observers of the International Federation for the Rights of Man (FIDH) told a press conference here today after visiting Rhodesia.

The pair said food shortages were partly due to drought, but were mainly the result of the guerrilla war in which peasant farmers had been forced to abandon their land and been moved to "protected villages".

Montreal lawyer Dominique Buisvert and FIDH observer from Quebec Bonny Campbell said that between 27 and 40 per cent of Zimbabwe's blacks suffered from malnutrition. White authorities had used the food weapon in the fight against the nationalists, they said.

The incoming Government of Robert Mugabe had no room for manoeuvre, they said, and among its most difficult problems were the repatriation and resettlement of up to 2,5 million refugees and displaced persons. (A.F.P.)

CHARLES WILL GO

LONDON, March 15 - Prince Charles, heir to the British throne, will represent Queen Elizabeth Two at Zimbabwe's independence ceremonies on April 18 despite fears for his safety, according to Buckingham Palace sources. (A.F.P.)

THE GUERRILLA MOTHER

by Pierre Haski

SALISBURY, March 16 - A woman guerrilla who fought Rhodesian security forces in the bush and gave birth to a child two days after a major battle has become the country's first female Cabinet Minister under her war name of Teurai Ropa - "Spill Blood".

Teurai Ropa Nhongo - the 25-year-old wife of guerrilla General Rex Nhongo - was named Minister of Youth, Sports and Recreation last week by Prime Minister-Elect Robert Mugabe.

She grew up as Joyce Mugari, but when she joined the nationalist insurgents at the age of 18 she took her "Chimurenga" name : in the Shona language of the majority tribe, the word refers to the liberation war.

In an interview published here, Mrs. Nhongo told how she had engaged in three armed "contacts" with white-led security forces during the war. She said it was the first time she had heard artillery and helicopter gunships firing.

During the rainy season, she said, conditions in the bush were very bad.

"We slept under the trees", she said. "Sometimes we'd lose a shoe and you know what happens to feet in water. The skin becomes very thin and it was very painful".

In 1975, Mrs. Nhongo became a political commissar in a guerrilla camp in Mozambique. Later, she was a commander in the largest training camp of Mr. Mugabe's Zimbabwe African National Liberation Army (ZANLA) - Chimoio, in Central Mozambique, where she married Gen. Nhongo in 1977.

An adventure...

Mrs. Nhongo has two children, two years old and six months old. The elder is a daughter called Priscilla Kungirai Rungano, the last name meaning a story or an adventure.

"With this girl it was an adventure", the new Minister said in the interview. "She was born two days after I was in a battle, one of several attacks by Rhodesian forces on Chimoio." She did not herself fight, but was busy "commanding the comrades so they wouldn't be scattered".

As a member of the central committee of Mr. Mugabe's Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU) party, she has travelled in China, Rumania and Yugoslavia.

Two other women - including Victoria Chitepo, widow of nationalist leader Herbert Chitepo, assassinated in Lusaka in 1975 - were named Deputy Ministers in Mr. Mugabe's Cabinet. Under the previous Rhodesian regimes of Ian Smith and Abel Muzorewa there were no women in the Cabinet. (A.F.P.)

KAUNDA : "BARBAROUS"

LUSAKA, March 15 - Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda has accused Rhodesian secret police of meting out "barbarous treatment" to two Zambian prisoners of war.

The two men, held by Rhodesian authorities for nearly a year and returned to Zambia on Tuesday, had been captured at Siavonga on the Zambian side of Kariba last April 3.

President Kaunda said Thursday : "The state of intense physical pain and mental collapse of Lansard Mooze and Bwanali Mwanza on their release showed very clearly they had been subjected to inhuman and barbarous torture". He charged that "the racist secret police" in Rhodesia had behaved contrary to international rules and regulations governing prisoners of war.

The two men were exchanged with one black Rhodesian commando, Job Ndhlovy, who was captured in Livingstone in June last year. They have been undergoing intensive medical treatment here since their return on Tuesday. (A.F.P.)

300 HANGED...

LONDON, March 16 - Three hundred black Rhodesians are believed to have been hanged secretly in Salisbury prison between 1974 and last August, The Observer newspaper reported here today.

It said the information came from Scots banker Kenneth McIntosh, who was in prison there from 1974 serving a 17-year term for illegal currency dealing. British Governor Lord Soames freed him last week. Mr. McIntosh said the executions were carried out after summary trials. (A.F.P.)

Republic of South Africa

WORKING WITH TAIWAN

JOHANNESBURG, March 17 - Scientific and technological agreements just concluded by South Africa and Taiwan will result in closer cooperation between the two countries, visiting Taiwan Premier Sun Yun-Suan said here today.

Speaking at the airport here before leaving for Malawi, Mr. Sun said he looked forward to a reciprocal visit by South African Prime Minister Pieter Botha.

Meanwhile, Taiwan's Director-General of Civil Aviation, General Y.T. Mao, said here today that the target date for the introduction of an air service between South Africa and Taiwan had been set for the end of the year. During the visit of the 30-member delegation, several contracts were signed including a deal involving the supply of 4,000 tonnes of South African uranium. (A.F.P.)

85.5% FOR P.M.

JOHANNESBURG, March 16 - South African Prime Minister Pieter W. Botha, who has run into a storm of opposition from hardliners in the ruling National Party over his proposals to ease some aspects of apartheid, is supported by 85.5 per cent of party voters in the country's seven main urban centres, according to a poll in today's Sunday Times.

The poll of 1,000 voters clearly showed that Mr. Botha had majority backing for his reform policy, the newspaper said.

It said that four out of five people questioned said they would prefer a split in the National Party to any brake on Mr. Botha by his ultra-conservative Public Works and Tourism Minister, Andries Treurnicht, leader of the powerful conservative or "verkrampes"-dominated Transvaal wing of the party.

Only 6.4 per cent backed Mr. Treurnicht, the paper said. His support comes mainly from the rural areas, however, while only townspeople were questioned for the poll. The paper also noted that the "party machine" was in the hands of "the rebels".

Meanwhile, the main Afrikaner church, the Dutch Reformed Church, has given the green light to the progressive elimination of the country's "immorality" law, which bans sexual relations between whites and non-whites.

The decision followed a meeting of Church's four branches - black, white, mixed-race and Indian. (A.F.P.)

RICHARD BECK BACK

JOHANNESBURG, March 17 - Richard Beck, a South African businessman who was held in the United States for 16 months on charges of violating the arms embargo against South Africa, arrived back here late yesterday.

Last Friday a federal court put him on five years' probation and ordered the U.S. Government to pay his air fare home. (A.F.P.)

SOWETO WARNING

JOHANNESBURG, March 15 - The anti-apartheid Black Sash Organisation yesterday called for a free universal education system for South Africa and warned there might be a repetition of the Soweto riots of 1976.

Fanya Mazibuko, Secretary of the Teachers' Action Committee and a Black Sash activist, said black students were still angry and that one day it would spill over into violence. He also said he feared the authorities would put him under a banning order, which would prevent him from meeting more than one person at a time and from appearing in public. (A.F.P.)

Namibia

NORTHERN SHOOT-OUT

PRETORIA, March 15 - A South African soldier was killed yesterday in Northern Namibia during shooting between South African forces and members of the South-West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO), a military spokesman said here today.

A total of 167 SWAPO guerrillas, 21 civilians and 20 South African soldiers have been reported killed in the north of the South African-controlled territory, near the Angolan border, since the beginning of this year.

The guerrilla war in Northern Namibia began in 1976.
(A.F.P.)

Mozambique

NO INTERFERENCE

ADDIS ABABA, March 18 - Mozambique today pledged its full support for Ethiopia's struggle to defend its revolution, unity and territorial integrity and to expand economic, cultural, political, and diplomatic ties with Addis Ababa.

In a joint communique released here following the three-day visit of Mozambiquan Foreign Minister Joaquim Alberto Chissano, the two countries welcomed the election victory of Rhodesian Premier-designate Robert Mugabe and reaffirmed they would not tolerate any interference in the internal affairs of the new Zimbabwe.

On Namibia, they condemned the "current machinations" of South Africa and its "imperialist allies" to establish a puppet government there. They urged intensified assistance by the world's peace-loving forces for SWAPO (South-West Africa People's Organization).

Hailing the "political awareness" of the South African people in their fight against apartheid, the two countries reiterated their "total support" for the liberation struggle in South Africa. They further "strongly condemned" Pretoria's proposal for a "constellation" of Southern African states. (A.F.P.)

FRENCH HELP

PARIS, March 18 - Mozambique and France today signed a 600 million franc (about 140 million dollars) agreement covering the building of a high-tension line over a distance of 1,428 km (over 800 miles) in the Southern African country.

The agreement also covered the purchase of prawn-fishing boats, and was signed here by Bank of Mozambique Governor Sergio Vieira.

The Governor disclosed that other agreements were also being studied for electrification works, land and sea transport, fishing and coal - or gas-based chemical plants. (A.F.P.)

OLYMPICS BOYCOTT

PORT LOUIS, March 18 - The Government of Mauritius has decided to boycott the Moscow Olympics, the daily paper L'Express reported here today.

The paper said the Cabinet made its decision last Friday and had already conveyed it to the Mauritian Olympic Committee, which is in favour of the games.

L'Express reported that the Government had also taken a decision to ban Mauritian athletes from going to Moscow, and would withhold their passports if necessary. (A.F.P.)

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