

AFRICA

SEMI-WEEKLY INTERAFRICAN NEWS SURVEY

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SENGHOR : "NOT ONE SHOT"

LAGOS, May 14 - The Organisation of African Unity (OAU) should only interfere in the internal affairs of a member state if it is the victim of a coup instigated by external forces, Senegalese President Leopold Sedar Senghor said here today.

Mr. Senghor, speaking at the end of a four-day state visit to Nigeria, is interim Chairman of the OAU following the assassination of Liberian President William Tolbert in a military coup on April 12.

The Senegalese President said that the OAU charter - which specifically forbids interference in the internal affairs of member states - should not be modified. "The OAU should intervene when destabilisation is provoked by external forces. The charter condemns political assassination, and I think that we should abide by this", he said.

Disciplined Army

"I had to see through two attempted coups, and I resolved the problem without firing a single shot and without condemning anyone to death", he added, explaining that he was more fortunate than some others in that his army was disciplined.

In answer to a question about multi-party and single party politics in Africa, he said he thought that it was beneficial for a newly-independent country to use a single party system for at least a generation on condition that democracy existed within the party system. (A.F.P.)

MOSLEM PROJECTS

ISLAMABAD, May 16 - The Islamic foreign ministers' conference starting here tomorrow will approve a 20 million dollar outlay from the Islamic Solidarity Fund for various social and regional problems in Moslem countries, conference sources said here.

Priority payments from the fund would be for "disasters and catastrophes" in the Islamic world, building mosques, hospitals and schools, propagation of Islam, promotion of scientific research, protection of Moslem youth, the fight against the "Judaisation of Jerusalem", help to minorities, and setting up Islamic universities in Africa.

(African participants in the conference : Algeria, Cameroun, Comoro Islands, Djibouti, Gabon, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Upper Volta, Libya, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger, Senegal, Somalia, Uganda, Sudan, Chad and Tunisia. Egypt has been suspended following its Camp David peace with Israel). (A.F.P.)

ROSSING NEAR CAPACITY

WINDHOEK, May 14 - The Rossing mine in Namibia produced 4,518 tons of uranium oxide last year, 42 per cent more than in 1978 and just 18 tons short of maximum capacity, Rio Tinto Zinc Company announced.

The British company runs Rossing - the world's largest uranium mine - in association with the South African National Development Corporation and two other companies : General Mining of South Africa and Minatome of France.

The value of sales from Rossing was 291 million dollars in 1979, an increase of 57 per cent over 1978.

Technical problems at the mine, which is west of Windhoek, had slowed its development since it opened in 1976. In 1978, production was stopped after a fire in the extraction plant. (A.F.P.)

SEAWEED "PROMISING"

TOKYO, May 15 - Seaweed could replace oil, according to Japanese boffins.

A research report published today by the Science and Technology Agency said seaweed was a promising substitute for oil through the use of biomass.

Biomass resources - such as land and water plants and vegetable waste including straw - were renewable and inexhaustible sources of energy, the scientists said, adding a special word of praise for the humble seaweed.

It was not commonly known, for instance, that between 65 and 700 tons of "makonbu" or tangleweed could be cultivated per hectare (2.4 acres), they said. Methane fermentation of this crop would probably produce 1,100 to 11,800 cubic meters of methane, the equivalent of 68 barrels of oil.

The boffins also cited blue coral and eucalyptus as natural resources with promising potential for conversion into hydrocarbons. (A.F.P.)

COAL BOOST URGED

PARIS, May 14 - The world energy outlook will remain bleak unless steps are taken without delay to boost coal production by 2.5 to three times over the coming two decades, according to a report released here by the World Coal Study (WOCOL).

"A massive effort to expand facilities for the production, transport and use of coal is urgently required to provide for even moderate economic growth in the world between now and the year 2000", the report said. (A.F.P.)

S.A. TOP EXPORTER

JOHANNESBURG, May 14 - South Africa last year became the leading exporter of coal to the United States, passing Poland and Australia, according to statistics published here.

South Africa sent 1,130,900 tons of coal to the United States Poland sent 642,000 tons and Australia 172,000 tons.

The statistics said that South African coal production passed 100 million tons for the first time in 1979. This represents a 60 per cent increase in five years.

In all, the country exported 23.400.000 million tons of coal last year, earning 636 million dollars in foreign currency. (A.F.P.)

SAUDIS UP TWO

RIYADH, May 15 - Saudi Oil Minister Sheikh Ahmed Zaki Yamani today announced a two dollar a barrel oil price increase, the Gulf News Agency reported.

Sheikh Yamani said the increase would be backdated to April 1

AFGHAN GAS

MOSCOW, May 14 - The Soviet Union will take some of the natural gas from a newly opened-up field in Jozjan Province of Northern Afghanistan, the Communist party newspaper Pravda said today, although it did not say how much.

The field, which was prospected by Soviet geologists, will produce 2,000 million cubic metres of gas yearly along with 15,000 tons of condensate. The programme will double Afghanistan's gas output.

The USSR has been receiving gas from Iran, but in March the flow dropped to a very low rate, as the two countries failed to agree on price. (A.F.P.)

DOWN TO MILLION

TEHERAN, May 14 - Iran is now exporting only a million barrel of oil per day, Oil Minister Ali Akbar Moinefar said yesterday, as quoted by Radio Teheran.

The Minister said that Iran's output was now two million barrels a day, with half reserved for domestic consumption. He added that these figures would not vary before the end of the Iranian month (on May 21).

Mr. Moinefar indicated that after the most recent meeting of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, which failed to agree on prices, Iran decided to act "as it thinks best". (A.F.P.)

NUCLEAR DEAL

MOSCOW, May 16 - The Soviet Union will help Cuba to construct a nuclear research centre, according to an agreement signed here yesterday, the Soviet news agency Tass announced. (A.F.P.)

S. YEMEN SUPPLY

ADEN, May 15 - The Soviet Union is to supply South Yemen with 30,000 tons of oil, reliable sources said here.

The Soviet Union refines some of its oil at the Aden refinery which was nationalised two years ago. (A.F.P.)

MIDDLE EAST

ISRAEL "NEGATIVE"

CAIRO, May 15 - Egypt has decided to break off negotiations on Palestinian autonomy in the Israeli-occupied West Bank owing to Israel's "negative" attitude, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Butros Ghali said tonight.

Speaking at a press conference, Mr. Ghali said this move was motivated by the Israeli Parliament's decision today to pass legislation formally annexing Jerusalem and making it the official capital of Israel.

Mr. Ghali added that President Anwar Sadat was not aware of the Israeli move yesterday when he announced in a major policy speech that Egypt was prepared to resume U.S.-sponsored autonomy talks with Israel.

Meanwhile in Tel Aviv, the Israeli Government was taken by complete surprise by an earlier Egyptian note to U.S. Ambassador in Cairo Alfred Atherton saying "latest Israeli moves" would prejudice chances of resuming the talks.

After President Sadat's speech yesterday, Israel was expecting him to suggest an early date to resume the negotiations. Speaking to an American delegation in Jerusalem earlier today, Prime Minister Menachem Begin said the date of the next autonomy session would be agreed between the United States, Egypt and Israel.

The Egyptian communique, issued after President Sadat met with senior ministers to discuss the blocked autonomy issue, described the Israeli Parliament's project as a "serious breach of international law".

The note also condemned a "recent escalation of Israeli repression in occupied Arab territory", saying that recent deportations of Arab mayors and other incidents were in "flagrant contradiction with the spirit of trust required between negotiating parties". (A.F.P.)

"PRINCESS" SUIT FILED

SAN FRANCISCO, May 15 - Two Islamic lawyers, "on behalf of 600 million followers of the Islamic faith throughout the world", filed a suit in Federal District Court here Wednesday against the makers of the controversial film "Death of a Princess".

Attorneys Khalid El Mansour and Faisal Al Talal said the film was part of "an international conspiracy to insult, ridicule and discredit followers of Islam". They are asking 20 billion dollars in damages and compensation to be put into a fund to be specially spent for the Islamic faith.

Among those accused of having been part of this plot are producer-screenwriters Anthony Thomas and David Fanning, the British ITV network and more than 100 American affiliate stations of the Public Broadcasting System. The film, dramatizing the true story surrounding the executions of a Saudi princess and her lover for adultery, has caused diplomatic and commercial repercussions by Saudi Arabia against Britain and Holland, where it has been shown.

Issues in the suit "relate to the legality of public broadcasting corporations. licensed and funded by the Federal Government wilfully and maliciously airing defamatory and sacrilegious programming", the lawyers said. They represent several North American organizations, including the Akbar Institute, the Canadian Moslem League and the Islamic Centers of America. Nearly 3.5 million Moslems are said to live in North America. (A.F.P.)

NORTH AFRICA

General Information

TALKS ABOUT GAFSA

by John Baggaley

ISLAMABAD, May 16 - The Tunisian and Libyan Foreign Ministers will meet here on the fringe of the Islamic conference in a bid to normalize relations, generally well-informed sources said here today.

Libyan Foreign Minister Ali Abdessalam Triki has already arrived in the Pakistani capital and Tunisian Foreign Minister Hassan Belkhodja is among 16 delegation leaders scheduled to arrive today for the conference opening tomorrow.

The source said the meeting would be on Mr. Triki's initiative. Relations between the two North African nations reached a low point following a commando attack on the Southern Tunisian town of Gafsa in January which Tunis blamed on Tripoli. At least 40 people died in the raid, and 13 commandos were subsequently executed.

It will be the first meeting between the Ministers since the Gafsa raid. (A.F.P.)

Egypt

SADAT REFRAMES

THE GOVT. TEAM

CAIRO, May 14 - Egypt Completely reframed its Government today and will in future be run by President Sadat and six special Vice-Premiers : a professor of radiology, an Army general, a policeman, an economist, an oil expert and a lawyer.

Each Vice-Premier will head one of six new Government sectors. The team is to be led by 54-year-old former radiologist Fuad Mohieddine, a veteran of 23 years' political experience.

Chairman of the People's Assembly foreign affairs committee under the outgoing Government of Mustapha Khalil, Mr. Mohieddine has been appointed Government spokesman and will chair Cabinet meetings in the absence of President Sadat.

Four of the remaining five Vice-Premiers were members of Mr. Khalil's Government, which resigned on Monday, and have all been promoted to more senior posts.

Former Defence Minister General Kamal Hassan Ali is to head Foreign Affairs, Defence and Information, while routine Foreign Affairs matters will continue to be handled by Minister of State Butros Ghali.

Badawi takes Defence

Former Chief of General Staff Ahmed Badawi - a 53-year-old Army general who distinguished himself in the October war against Israel - is to handle Defence.

Mohammed Nabawi Ismail stays on as Interior Minister, but will also supervise Public Services.

The longest-standing Government member, 53-year-old Oil Minister Ahmed Ezzedin Helal, appointed in 1973, takes on responsibility for Production.

The Planning Minister, 49-year-old economist Abdel Razzak Abdel Meguid, takes over the Economy, Finance and Foreign Trade sector.

The sixth Vice-Premier is 64-year-old former National Democratic Party Secretary-General Fikri Makram Ebeid, who will handle People's Assembly affairs. The 64-year-old Christian lawyer will be replaced at the head of Egypt's ruling political party by President Sadat's right-hand man, Vice-President Hosni Mubarak, who handled consultations resulting in the reshuffle.

The six Vice-Premiers will be assisted by 19 Ministers, 10 of whom were members of Mr. Khalil's Government. Three Ministers stay on in the nine-member Cabinet, but all with new portfolios.

Egypt

Special youth council

State Minister Soleyman Metwali moves to Transport and Communications, Gamal El Nazer moves from Economic Cooperation to Tourism, and Reconstruction Minister Hasaballah Kafraoui takes on Land Improvement.

The six new Cabinet members : General Ahmed Badaoui (Defence), former Nationalised Industry Director Taha Zaki (Industry), Maher Abazza (Under-Secretary of State for Electricity), Ahmed Nouh (Supply Management), Islamic law Professor Zakarieh El Berri (Religious Institutions) and Defence Ministry assistant General Gamal Sayed Ibrahim (Military Production).

The Youth Ministry has been scrapped and will be replaced by a special council.

Eleven people have been dropped from the new Cabinet, including three Ministers in the new Government - the eighth since Anwar Sadat became President in October 1970 : Ali Loufti (Finance), Ibrahim Attallah (Industry) and Hamed El Sayeh (Economy). (A.F.P.)

Libya

EXILES RETURNING...

PARIS, May 14 - The Libyan News Agency monitored here has reported that conservative exiles are beginning to return to the country.

The "fugitives", who "went abroad with their fortunes", the agency said in a dispatch from Benghazi, were returning after realizing that "true liberty" was to be found in Libya and not "in the capitalist countries where they took refuge".

Libyan leader Moamer Kadhafi last month warned exiled Libyan "rightists" that they "risked liquidation" if they did not return to their homeland. Eight Libyan exiles have been murdered in the last three months. The killings have occurred in West Germany, Britain, Italy, Lebanon and Malta. (A.F.P.)

Algeria

BERBERS FOR TRIAL

ALGIERS, May 16 - Twenty-four people "belonging to clandestine organizations" will be tried by the State Security Court in Medea in connection with the recent unrest in the Berber town of Tizi-Ouzou, it was announced here Thursday night.

The official communique did not name any of the organizations. Some 400 people were arrested in the clashes in Tizi-Ouzou at the end of last month. Most were freed quickly.

More were released earlier this week as the Higher Education Ministry announced that the university there, closed since security forces evacuated it a month ago, would be reopened. (A.F.P.)

Sahara

BOTSWANAN RECOGNITION

GABORONE, May 15 - Botswana has recognised the Sahrawi Arab Republic proclaimed four years ago for Western (ex-Spanish) Sahara by the Polisario Liberation Front.

The Government here said its recognition was a move to "give diplomatic support to those whose cause in resisting foreign occupation of their land has legitimacy in international law and practice". It said Morocco's military occupation of the desert territory was a "violation of the numerous resolutions" of the United Nations, the non-aligned movement and the Organisation of African Unity (OAU).

Polisario has been exerting increased diplomatic pressure the past few months to win more backers with a view to having enough support to become a member of the OAU at the July OAU summit in Freetown, Sierra Leone. Earlier this week Equatorial Guinea withdrew its recognition of the Polisario Government, but Botswana's decision yesterday maintains the number of African countries recognising the self-proclaimed Republic at 22. About 14 non-African countries also recognise the Sahrawi republic.

Polisario maintains it needs recognition from only 26 OAU members to gain admission, but Morocco argues that it requires the backing of a two-thirds majority of the OAU's 50 members. Some countries, including Libya, recognise the Front but not its Republic. Polisario's major support comes from Algeria. (A.F.P.)

Canary Islands

WORKER HEIRS

LAS PALMAS, May 15 - A Briton with extensive property holdings in the Canary Islands, David J. Leacock, has left his entire fortune, estimated at 15 million pounds, to 11 of his 300 farm workers. In his will, Mr. Leacock, who died last week, asked his 11 heirs to keep his holdings together in order to ensure work for his 300 employees. (A.F.P.)

WEST AFRICA

General Information

BILATERAL EXCHANGES

LAGOS, May 15 - Nigeria and Senegal intend setting up a permanent joint commission to promote, within the framework of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), bilateral industrial and commercial exchanges.

This was agreed during a four-day official visit to Nigeria by Senegal's President Leopold Senghor, which ended yesterday. (A.F.P.)

Guinea

TOURE ESCAPES

DAKAR, May 15 - Guinean President Ahmed Sekou Touré escaped a grenade attack launched against him yesterday, Radio Conakry said today in a broadcast monitored here.

One man was killed and about 30 were injured in the attack, the broadcast said.

A second more powerful grenade was thrown at the President, but failed to explode, the radio said, quoting a central committee statement.

When the attack took place, Mr. Sekou Touré was attending celebrations at the People's Palace in Conakry marking the 33rd anniversary of the founding of the ruling Guinea Democratic Party (PDG).

Following the attack, Radio Conakry reported, party members were called on for a "general mobilisation and a vigorous offensive to unmask and denounce the counter-revolution".

President Sekou Touré invited his party to "obtain all the facts about this vicious and counter-revolutionary act to conduct a systematic inquiry to reveal the criminals camouflaged among the people".

The radio accused imperialists : "Imperialism, which never ceases to arm criminals to attack Guinean revolutionary officials, has entered a new phase of permanent plotting".

Mr. Sekou Touré has been President of this country of about four million since 1961, when he was the sole candidate in the elections. He has been re-elected twice to the seven-year post. (A.F.P.)

Liberia

OUSTER BID

MONROVIA, May 15 - The Liberian Information Minister today confirmed that an unsuccessful attempt was made Tuesday night to overthrow the country's month-old regime.

Minister Gabriel Nimely said that at least five members of the Liberian Armed Forces were arrested in the counter-coup attempt, but declined to give any other details about the alleged plot.

Mr. Nimely's statement confirmed reports of a move to oust the Government of Master Sergeant Samuel Doe, who led the coup last month in which President William Tolbert was killed.

But the Information Minister denied reports that Commerce Minister Major Joseph Douglas had been involved in the attempted takeover. He said that the ruling People's Redemption Council would soon publish an official reaction to the coup attempt. (A.F.P.)

TWO PLOTS FOILED...

PARIS, May 13 - Ivory Coast authorities have foiled two plots involving members of the Armed Forces within the past two weeks, an Ivorian dissident living in France said today.

Philibert Kouassi, who heads a group called the Ivorian Committee for Political Action, told reporters that his information had come from "unofficial contacts that we have had with friends over there".

Mr. Kouassi, whose dissident group was created here in March, said that repression against Ivorians both in Ivory Coast and France was preventing the opposition from acting officially.

He said the present single-party regime in Ivory Coast "benefits the bourgeois minority, Ivorian and foreign, particularly French" and should be replaced by a Socialist system. He added that he had been expelled from Ivory Coast late in 1973 because he was accused of participating in a plot to overthrow the Government and because he turned in his party card. (A.F.P.)

Ghana

20 REBELS HELD...

LOME, Togo, May 16 - About 20 military alleged to have been preparing a rebellion in Ghana were arrested on Monday in Accra, a generally well-informed source said here.

Eight junior officers and soldiers and a civilian suspected of preparing a coup had already been arrested in Accra at the end of March, and were currently on trial, the source noted.

Rumours of coups have been circulating for some time in Ghana, which has had a civilian Government since last September after seven years of military regimes marked by three coups.

(Ghana has replaced its Chief of Defense Staff, Major General E.K. Sam, and released him from active service, it was announced in Accra Wednesday.

(Defense Minister S.K. Poku-Riley said in a statement that the Air Force Commander, Air Commodore Nii Odaate Barnor, was replacing him and being promoted to Air Vice-Marshal. No reason for the action was given). (A.F.P.)

Sierra Leone

E. GERMAN HELP

BERLIN, May 14 - Sierra Leone Defence Minister Abdulai Osman Conteh left here yesterday for home after signing trade and cultural agreements with East Germany. (A.F.P.)

Uganda

MILITARY RECALL NCC

by Louis-Marie Tattevin

KAMPALA, May 16 - The Military Commission which assumed power in Uganda on Monday has recalled the country's interim Parliament, the National Consultative Council (NCC), which had been in recess.

The move by Uganda's new rulers, announced in a radio statement last night, is probably intended to confirm the ousting of President Godfrey Binaisa and the establishment of the Commission and a Presidential Commission.

The two bodies are intended to direct Uganda's affairs until general elections at the end of this year. The NCC will meet next Thursday.

Meanwhile the appearance last night of Yoweri Museveni in public for the first time, alongside Military Commission Chairman Paulo Muwanga and other Commission members, has considerably strengthened the position of the new regime.

Mr. Museveni, leader of the Front for National Salvation which was very active during the war against the regime of Idi Amin, has considerable support among the Armed Forces, and his move to support the Military Commission reduces the risk of an internal armed struggle.

The Military Commission also has the support of Uganda's two main political parties, the Uganda Peoples Congress (UPC) founded by former President Milton Obote, and the Democratic Party of Paul Ssemogerere.

Mr. Muwanga is a UPC leader, and Mr. Ssemogerere has accepted the coup d'etat. (A.F.P.)

Kenya

FOOD SHORT-FALL

NAIROBI, May 15 - The Kenyan Government is to import 540 million Kenyan shillings (73 million dollars) worth of food this year due to a short-fall in domestic food production, according to a Government paper on economic prospects and policies just published here.

The paper, however, warned that coming budgetary proposals would mean tightening up on the use of foreign reserves.

The 35-page document covers, among other things, the formulation of policies on incomes, industries, food and the coordination and timing of policy initiatives. (A.F.P.)

HUNGARIAN AID

Ethiopia

ADDIS ABABA, May 14 - Hungary has offered 12 scholarships for the 1980-81 academic year to Ethiopian students in economics, medicine, agriculture, engineering and veterinary science. (A.F.P.)

Angola

NEW "DISA" PROBE

LUANDA, May 14 - The Interior Ministry has ordered a new inquiry into the activities of members of Angola's State Security Service ("Disa") which the late President Agostinho Neto disbanded shortly before his death last September.

A first inquiry in November found evidence of "criminal behaviour", the Ministry said. The new probe would in the main collate depositions made to the first inquiry committee in order to prepare fuller reports for further action.

Fresh "denunciations" from whatever source would also be received and passed on to the authorities, and public and private bodies should co-operate with the new inquiry. (A.F.P.)

Rwanda

FAO DROUGHT AID

ROME, May 15 - FAO Director General Edouard Saouma has approved 1.9 million dollars in emergency food aid to Rwanda, which is suffering from serious drought, the Food and Agriculture organization announced here today.

The FAO-United Nations World Food Program is to send 2,700 tons of legumes to be distributed among 300,000 people over a three-month period. To speed deliveries, the program is to buy directly from Tanzania.

Rwanda is also to receive an 81,000-dollar cash grant to cover costs of internal transportation, handling and storage of the food aid. (A.F.P.)

Zambia

RAILWAY CASH

LUSAKA, May 15 - The World Bank and its soft-loan subsidiary the International Development Association (IDA) have provided 40 million dollars for Zambia Railways, it was announced here today. The World Bank will lend 25 million dollars and the IDA 15 million to the Zambian Government for improvements to the Zambian railway system. (A.F.P.)

Chad

LAST EVACUEES

PARIS, May 15 - The last European civilians were today standing by to evacuate the Chadian capital, torn by civil war since March 21, while the remaining contingent of some 1,200 French troops was due out by the end of the week.

The French Embassy is withdrawing to Yaounde, the Cameroun capital, but will attempt to set up a temporary consulate at Moundou in Southern Chad, where some 200 French nationals still live. A further 20 missionaries and assistants are still working in Central Chad and at Abeche in the east. (A.F.P.)

Zimbabwe

SEATS : "NO PRESENT PLAN"

SALISBURY, May 16 - The Zimbabwe Government has no plans to abolish the 20 parliamentary seats reserved for whites, Justice and Constitutional Affairs Minister Simbi Mubako said Thursday.

Mr. Mubako said he wanted to clarify recent press reports quoting him as saying that the Government intended to "negotiate" the abolition of the white seats, He had been quoted as saying the white seats were "racial and disproportionate and repugnant".

In his statement Thursday, Mr. Mubako said the Government had "no present plan to do away with" the reserved white seats. "Stated Government policy" was that "agreements and concessions entered into will be observed", he said.

"Any changes to any aspect of the constitution at any time in the future will be made strictly in accordance with the letter and spirit of the constitution as underlined in the President's address to Parliament (on Wednesday). Reports in the press suggesting anything else are a distortion of what was said or what is to be done", he said.

In his speech to Parliament outlining the Government's plans, President Canaan Banana said Zimbabwe would adopt a non-aligned stance and a policy of "peaceful co-existence" with its neighbours.

The Government would "seek to establish mutually beneficial relations with all countries which, prompted by a spirit of goodwill and friendship towards it, recognise the uniqueness of its social, political and economic problems".

The Government intended to ensure that the constitution drawn up at last year's British-sponsored peace conference in London was observed and intended to bring all laws into conformity with the constitution, said Mr. Banana, adding : "In order to achieve this, some of our present legislation which is racially discriminatory will require change". (A.F.P.)

THREAT OF FAMINE

LONDON, May 16 - More than three million people in the rural areas of Zimbabwe are threatened with famine, the British Daily Telegraph said today quoting the relief organisation Christian Aid.

These people would be starving by the autumn unless there was a massive and immediate injection of aid, the Conservative daily added, quoting Christian Aid Director Dr. Kenneth Slack.

Christian Aid cited reports that the effects of the seven-year bush war had been aggravated by a serious drought and that even now, usually the harvest season, food shortages were being felt. (A.F.P.)

THE "SLUSH" EVIDENCE

CAPE TOWN, May 15 - The evidence given to the commission of inquiry which investigated South Africa's "slush fund" scandal last year was tabled in Parliament here yesterday.

The scandal, in which the Government was reported to have spent millions of rands of state funds on secret propaganda projects in South Africa and overseas, was followed by the resignation of a senior Cabinet Minister and the country's State President.

The evidence of the Erasmus commission of inquiry into alleged irregularities in the now-disbanded Department of Information, which was tabled Wednesday, is not complete.

The Government has kept secret some of the evidence to the 'commission, which sat behind closed doors last year, because it would "adversely affect the interests of the state".

The evidence that has been made public offers dramatically different versions by senior Government officials of what took place in administrative circles during the planning and execution of the secret propaganda plans in the early 1970s.

The Cabinet Minister who resigned after the scandal was exposed, former Information Minister Cornelius Mulder, told the inquiry commission that he had been instructed to lie to Parliament by then Prime Minister John Vorster.

Mr. Vorster resigned as State President last year when the full details of the scandal became known. He has denied Dr. Mulder's allegation;

An opposition MP asked Dr. Mulder whether the Government owned a newspaper in South Africa in May 1978. Dr. Muller replied "no But it was subsequently discovered that the Government had pumped 12 million rands (14.7 million U.S. dollars) secretly into a pro-Government newspaper, The Citizen. (A.F.P.)

Namibia

TERRITORIAL CONTROL

CAPE TOWN, May 14 - Control of Namibian units of the South African Army is to be transferred to the territorial administration.

The move was announced here Tuesday after a meeting grouping Premier Pieter Botha, Police and Prisons Minister Louis Legrange and Namibia's Administrator-General Gerrit Viljoen.

The units involved are believed to be a formation of bushmen, the Ovambo tribal guard, and the regiment of whites in Namibia. The transfer is viewed by observers as a new step in the process of attributing executive powers to the main internal Namibian party, the Democratic Turnhalle Alliance. (A.F.P.)

Namibia

2 JETS CLAIMED

DAR-ES-SALAAM, May 14 - Two South African air force jet fighters were shot down and more than 110 troops killed in operation carried out last month by the People's Liberation Army of Namibia, the South-West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO) office in Tanzania reported Tuesday.

It said guerrillas had wounded several hundred Pretoria troops and captured a large cache of arms in Northern Namibia.

The guerrillas were strengthening their control of "liberated" zones in North-Eastern and North-Western Namibia, SWAPO said. (A.F.P.)

Malawi

49.87 M. FOR RECOVERY

WASHINGTON, May 14 - The International Monetary Fund announced a two-year standby credit of 49.87 million special drawing rights (65 million dollars) for Malawi to help with an economic recovery programme aimed mainly at cutting the external payments deficit. (A.F.P.)

INDIAN OCEAN

Seychelles

F.T. PAYS MANCHAM

LONDON, May 15 - Former Seychelles President James Mancham today accepted a substantial sum as reparation for an article in the Financial Times that he said was defamatory.

The article in question indicated that Mr. Mancham had been guilty of corruption at the time of elections in 1974 and had delayed the voting because he was not certain of emerging the victor.

The Financial Times also suggested that Mr. Mancham spent most of his time outside the Seychelles and that his trips were primarily for his personal pleasure rather than to look for investors as he contended.

Mr. Mancham was ousted in a coup d'etat in 1977. (A.F.P.)

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