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SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA REPORT

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REPORTAGE ON UNITA'S CZECHOSLOVAK HOSTAGES

Paris LE MONDE in French 30 Jun 83 p 6

[Article by Yves Loiseau: "The Repatriation of the Czechoslovak Hostages Has Been Shelved"]

[Text] In Johannesburg we learned that the repatriation of the Czechoslovak hostages, 17 women and 21 children as well as other UNITA (National Union for the Total Independence of Angola, Mr Jonas Savimbi's armed movement) prisoners, which was planned for this Wednesday, 29 June, has been indefinitely postponed.

Placed under the protection of the IRCC (International Red Cross Committee) at a UNITA base in Angola, the hostages were to have been flown to Johannesburg in the early afternoon. Observers are of the opinion that technical, but also diplomatic problems are behind this postponement.

Yves Loiseau, special correspondent for FRANCE-INTER, who had an opportunity to interview the Czechoslovak hostages last week, gives an account below of the release of the women and children Friday, 24 June, in Jamba.

Jamba (zone controlled by UNITA)—As throughout the entire area, here there are immense clearings where the grass is now very high and very yellow. Surrounding these drainage areas that are several hundred meters in width, there is a forest of scraggy trees with yellowed leaves. It is winter here. Under the trees there are many bamboo huts. We pass fields of corn planted in the gray earth to get to a post manned by bearded guards with Kalashnikov rifles on their shoulders.

This is the place where the Czechoslovak hostages are being held. A guerrilla immediately jumps onto our big Soviet Ural truck. We do not go very far — barely 300 meters — when a blond child in blue shorts and a white T-shirt comes out of a hut. He sees us and quickly runs back inside. This is the first Czechoslovak hostage we see. In front of the straw and bamboo hut, there is the skull of an elephant and a wooden table with a chess set on it. And now the whole family comes out. Two children, a man dressed in new clothes and a blond woman with short hair clad in a light, all-white dress.

A few dozen meters away, other men, also white, come out of other huts quickly slipping on very clean blouses. Our escort in Khaki shouts out an order.

We see them all move toward us. Almost all of them are smiling. They were obviously waiting for our visit, yet during this first moment there is a sort of tension. The two groups observe one another without advancing toward one another. We are authorized to question whomever we choose. From hut to hut a sentry follows us, listening attentively.

And we go back 3 and a half months in our thoughts. Alto-Catumbela, a small town on the central plateau, on 12 March. It was 0500 hours. It was not yet dawn. Lieutenant Colonel Kanhali, 27, ordered his 1,250 men to attack the town. Mortar shells were falling. Bursts of automatic weapon fire crackled. "At first," Gregor Peter said, "scarcely awake, we didn't understand what was going on. We sought shelter and remained motionless." The explosions went on for a long time after the 450 government soldiers had fled. The UNITA men systematically destroyed all economic objectives with dynamite. "That was our only goal," said Lieutenant Colonel Kanhali. The bridges along the Lobito-Benguela rail line were blown up one after the other. There were three in the town. The locomotives in the railroad yard, the water reservoirs and the famous pulp factory. The guerrilla officers quickly -- this is the UNITA version -- learned of the existence of the Czechs and Portuguese. It was 1000 hours. The raking-in began. The score: 66 Czechs (28 men, 17 women and 21 children -- the youngest was not even 2 years old) and 20 Portuguese. "The UNITA men politely explained that we had to follow them for security reasons."

At noon, on a nearby hill, the column set out. At first to the south. The hardships began. The long march was to last for several weeks. They went north, crossed the Benguela rail line, circumvented Huambo, went south again and then they angled off to the east. The column was strung out over several kilometers: guerrillas, porters, hostages, all told nearly 1,500 people. There they were in the middle of the forest. They ate what they could find. They slept when they could. There was fighting in the rear, in front and on their flanks, according to UNITA officers, who said: "Against Cuban and MPLA troops." "We didn't hear anything, or almost nothing," the hostages assured us. Children under 7 were constantly carried and those from 7 to 12 were so from time to time. The others marched; at least those who could did. They began to make stretchers.

"In the beginning it was very hard," a hostage said. He could not find a better way of putting it. It rained. They undressed themselves to keep their clothes dry and went on marching. They slept on the ground. "Only the children were entitled to a plastic khaki ground cloth," a mother said. They went to 10 stretchers, then to 20 and, since the guerrillas were also exhausted, the number of porters increased -- 10 per stretcher at first, 20 later. Four hundred people, just to carry the sick. The adventure became more and more dramatic for everyone. On the 37th day a 36-year-old man had a heart attack. They gave him a shot and he started marching again. The next day they resumed their march until 1200 hours, until they got to a UNITA base. For 15 days the column had neither salt nor sugar. On the 38th day of the march Janislav Navratil collapsed. His second heart attack proved fatal to him.

The next day was one of separation. The women and children left. The men remained. Their last goodbyes were brief. Five minutes. Everyone was laughing. Nervously. The truck took off and the men were left alone in the dust. It was only then that their faces winced. "How long are we going to stay here?" all of them asked us. We could not give them any sort of answer. This afternoon we are in Jamba (elephant in the local language, the symbol of power in Africa). It is the UNITA "capital." The Red Cross representatives were delayed. They will not be here until late in the evening. Never mind, a grandiose ceremony has been organized for the return of the hostages. It will take place without them. "The Central Committee was not unanimously in favor of releasing the Czech women and children," Jonas Savimbi says. "I have received many messages from those who were opposed to their departure. I must explain why." Several thousand people are assembled in a vast clearing. On one side there are immense frescos that magnify UNITA's struggle: Soviet tanks being blown up by mines, helicopters crashing to earth and the ever-present Savimbi, with his beard, his beret, his cartridge belt and his Magnum 247 with barrel. Opposite us there is a platform with an enormous red armchair. Behind it another immense portrait of the "supreme leader," as the guerrillas refer to him. Jonas Savimbi arrives in the "stadium." There is an ovation. Opposite him a battalion drawn up in square formation, impeccable in their blue and green uniforms, presents arms. The parade begins.

His voice amplified by a powerful public address system, the UNITA president addresses the crowd in Portuguese. He thunders out against Soviet expansionism, the Cuban presence in Angola and the Luanda "minority government." The mob shouts slogans. To explain the release of the hostages, Mr Savimbi uses the local language, the tension of the atmosphere is relieved and people laugh.

"Conduct Ourselves Like a State"

The hostages set out again. The military parade begins. We recognize all the weapons captured from the enemy, from Kalashnikovs to "Stalin's organs," mounted on Soviet or Polish trucks. No evidence of South African aid. The Mercedes and Toyotas "purchased" on the other side of the border (at \$36,000 apiece, the lieutenant colonel in charge of logistics assured me) will not figure in the parade.

The third act will be performed this evening. In an open-air theater where we will again find the same frescos, the same slogans as this afternoon. There are fewer people present. The man in charge of information distributes a program in three parts: a. a statement in remembrance of a commander who died in combat against the Cubans; b. the return of the training courses to the Red Cross; c. the celebration of a black culture day. Then the four IRCC representatives, three men and one woman, appear on stage — rather annoyed, it would seem, to find themselves facing cameras and microphones. They sit down. The dancing and singing begin. Then a delegation of Czech prisoners appears. Three women and the oldest of the children. They line them up in the middle of the theater under the floodlights. Mr Savimbi embarks on a speech that is much more moving than the one he gave this afternoon. His voice is solemn, moved by emotion when he speaks of the women who have been tortured and raped by the opponents of his party, full when he analyzes the situation —

"We must conduct ourselves like a state and respect human rights, which is why we are releasing the women and children" -- violent when he again speaks of the Soviets and the Warsaw Pact. The atmosphere is heavy.

A painful spectacle: three women and a young man, alone, facing a hostile mob, oppressed by the light from the floodlights and deluged with the slogans resumed by the mob.

At 2200 hours there is a brief ceremony to officially confirm the release. The Red Cross representative raises the question of the men. "We are going to discuss that tomorrow," Mr Savimbi, who has regained his good humor, interrupts him. The important figures, including the freed hostages, sit about a big U-shaped table. The play is resumed. At the table they drink wine from Bloemfontein and beer that also comes from South Africa. UNITA ambiguity. Like the Red Cross plane that will leave from here, from a secret airport, for Pretoria, then Harare, the capital of Zimbabwe, before the hostages change planes for a big Czech carrier.

11,466

CSO: 3419/1081

CALL FOR CRACKDOWN ON RISING CRIMINALITY

Bujumbura LE RENOUVEAU DE BURUNDI in French 26-27 Jun 83 p 4

[Article by Alexis Nimbona "Against Criminality"]

[Text] In one of the series of meetings he periodically holds, Attorney General Pierre Gahungu chaired a meeting Friday at the office of the mayor of Bujumbura to discuss the war against crime.

Attending the meeting were the director of the judicial police, the brigade chief of the judicial police, a representative from the Special Investigations Bureau, a representative of the mayor, and a representative of the municipal police.

The Attorney General told the participants that the war against crime, which has been proceeding for some time, has shown positive results, but that in recent days criminality has broken out anew in full force in the city of Bujumbura and several other areas of the country.

This led him to ask whether there has been some laxness in applying the crime-fighting techniques or in planning campaigns.

The war against crime principally involves the police services, immigration and the information services, along with the Badasigana [translation unknown], he said. He conceded that the task is not easy, but added that we must be successful in order to protect the safety of the nation.

Rural exodus is the most visible problem. People, especially the young, leave the countryside, and wander here and there in town to try to find employment. Not finding any work, these individuals will do anything to scrape by. It may be difficult to identify all these socially unwholesome elements, but the Attorney General suggested the need for a system of close and frequent monitoring.

He said it is necessary at all costs to identify them, to organize sweeps and patrols.

Some foreigners from neighboring countries are slipping clandestinely into the country.

These people for the most part have been expelled from their country of origin for reasons that are well known. At the meeting participants called for measures to counter this menace. Enforcement of the statutes regulating the towns was among the measures advocated. All people living in an irregular status in Burundi must be found and identified. Also, the police agencies concerned must set up permanent checkpoints at the entry and exit points.

Both the Attorney General and the director of the Judicial Police acknowledged that the dry season is the time when the crime rate is highest. This is the season when a large amount of money is in circulation, many "enterprises" are undertaken, in short a time of prosperity.

During that time, violations proliferate at a worrisome rate. There are frequent cases of organized theft, hold-ups, swindlings and confidence rackets...

The head of the brigade cited the case of the recent burglaries perpetrated at the Toyota Garage, OCIBU [Burundi Industrial Crops Office] and big stores in Bujumbura.

The malefactors have been speedily apprehended by the police, who are improving their techniques constantly.

The police director noted the large number of prostitutes that have recently arrived from a neighboring country. First of all, they are living in irregular status in the country, and they are not registered, but in addition they are a public health hazard. Meeting participants decided to study this problem and issue appropriate directives at an opportune moment.

They laid special stress on the assistance they would need from the Ministry of Social Affairs on this particular problem.

The Attorney General closed the meeting by exhorting the administrative authorities as well as the entire populace to renewed vigilance in order to discourage this commerce.

9516

CSO: 3419/1057

CAMEROON SEEKS TO SHAKE OFF FRENCH DEPENDENCY

Frankfurt/Main FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE in German 28 Jul 83 p 8

/Report by Robert von Lucius: "Cameroon Again Sets Its Hopes in the Germans--The Country in the Heart of Africa Seeks to Shake Off Its Undue Dependency on France"/

/Text/ "I am a German Cameroonian," signs out the black bellboy who is catching bits of German conversation while walking by, and grins roguishly. The deputy port director of Douala, Cameroon's largest industrial city, explains the plans for the port's expansion in excellent German and tells us that he was a student at Brunswick Technical University: "Germany is my second home." German is once again frequently heard in this former German colony, especially among the younger people. No other African country can boast more students of German: At present they number 32,000. And yet, only since the country gained independence in 1960, has German been taught in the schools as the third language, an alternative to Spanish, after French and English. Up to them the French colonial rulers had prevented such instruction.

To this day the French do not care for the influence of any third country and do their best to obstruct it. Seventeen thousand Frenchmen work in the country that, thanks to its sound economics and some oil revenues, has for some years past increasingly become France's largest market in Africa. Almost half of all imports originate in France. After President Mitterrand's state visit to Cameroon a few weeks ago, T-shirts and batik dresses with the portraits of the two heads of state --Mitterrand and Paul Biya--may frequently be observed in the streets. Nevertheless we are told everywhere--especially by businessmen--that Cameroon is seeking to shake off its dependency on Paris. They are putting their hopes in the Germans, especially, who have up to now been far too reserved with regard to investments. The decision to choose the German Pal system rather than the French Secam system for the introduction of color television, must therefore be considered a political signal. Evidently the Cameroonian population has a good deal of liking for Germans.

Next year will see celebrations of the signature of the "first" protectorate treaties between Cameroonian chiefs and kings on the one side and the German Reich of 100 years ago. In 1883 Gustav Nachtigal arrived in Togo and Cameroon on the warship "Segull" to hoist the German flag on Bismarck's orders. At first glance nothing much reminds one of those days: A few somewhat neglected cemeteries, here and there buildings of colonial architectural design, a Bismarck Fountain in the former German administrative capital Buea. The palatial residence of former Governor von Puttkamer (after whom Cameroon was sometimes described as Puttkamerland at the turn of the

century) in Buea now serves as the second home of the country's president. There is no museum dealing with the German era, nor does one seem to be wanted. Documents from the German era are preserved in a special room at the National Archives--all 20 tons, we are told by the enthusiastic head of the German department. They are cursorily bundled, covered in dust and cobweb and enjoy no noticeable security precautions. In Kribi, a resort town in the south of the country, we met an 80-year old man who studied German in the Catholic mission school until 1914 and still speaks it fluently. A photograph showing this man, Ludwig Ngonde--nicknamed "Papa Louis"--also depicts about a dozen elderly men who had learned German in Kribi in the era of the protectorate; its owner had put a neat cross above all the other faces: He is the last survivor. Another photograph shows him and former Berlin governing mayor Schuetz who had had invited Papa Louis to visit Germany.

In the countryside it is impossible to forget that we are in the heart of Africa. More Cameroonian than Western music is being played in Kribi's discotheque, arranged in open African round huts. In Bafusam, the dark green and fertile highlands of the Bamilek tribe in the northwest, we meet a chieftain of the royal family on a coffee plantation. The man, 42, presents to us his 25 wives and 65 children. The hotel loudspeaker in Yaounde, the capital, on the other hand, tries to make the visitors feel at home by playing "Kreuzberg Nights," the sound of the Smurfs and the New German Wave. Younger people in particular have often studied in Europe, copy Western lifestyles in the cities, desire to out-European the Europeans by their modish clothing and behavior. Many of these young graduates are unemployed, especially lawyers and economists. Unemployment and urbanization are highly resistant to attack, despite the government's efforts to decentralize industry and offer special incentives to farming. Stores in the cities are stocked abundantly. Well known French and American newspapers are offered in the streets, and nightlife is lively. Cameroon is by far the major importer of French champagne in Africa: Despite a 15 percent decline, 475,000 bottles were imported last year. Champagne is offered even on the occasion of unannounced visits to the home of the director of a palm oil plantation or a prefect.

This sometimes exaggerated Westernization is accompanied by good schools: Confronted with the same dilemma as all developing countries, Cameroon decided to spend its scarce budget funds on mass education instead of educating an elite only. A proud and dignified bearing characterizes the Cameroonians: There is little begging; unauthorized photographing arouses anger; the people have a friendly and frank manner of dealing with foreigners. In contrast to Nigeria we feel secure on Cameroon streets.

As in other former French colonies, the political and business elite was early acculturated to French behavior and values. Still, 20 percent of the population were English speaking; most of them reside in the western provinces. After World War I, Cameroon was partitioned into a smaller British and a larger French district. First only French Cameroon obtained independence, in 1960. In 1961, following a referendum supervised by the United Nations, the inhabitants of the southern part of West Cameroon decided for reunification, while the residents of the northern part joined Nigeria. Early on Cameroon was a federal republic, attempting to reconcile French and British legal and colonial traditions. For 14 years the government fought left and, later, left radical rebels who were subdued only after bloody struggles and

long negotiations. Gradually President Ahidyo (who voluntarily retired in late 1982, after 20 years in office) succeeded in uniting the nation--no easy undertaking considering the presence of about 200 tribes, 124 languages, four religions and--initially--84 parties. The visitor to Cameroon is constantly reminded that the country is "Africa in miniature." This even applies to the scenery that ranges from tropical forests in the south by way of highlands in the west to the Sahara-savannah and steppe in the north. The nation was helped to unity by way of a single party, a single labor union and, finally, a unitary state following the 1972 referendum.

Despite strong centralization Cameroon has remained officially bilingual, as Black Africa's only such state with the exception of South Africa and Namibia. The radio transmits news alternately in English and French. In addition to the French daily newspaper, an English edition of the CAMEROON TRIBUNE appears weekly. The English speaking west was delighted when State President Biya took his oath in parliament in English at the time he took office 9 months ago. Nevertheless Cameroon is increasingly turning into a French speaking country with only a dash of English.

11698

CSO: 3420/31

CAPE VERDE POLITICAL SITUATION DESCRIBED

Lisbon TEMPO in Portuguese 30 Jun 83 p 24

[Article by Luis Marinho]

[Text] "in spite of the effort made, we still have a long way to go." This was said by Prime Minister Pedro Pires at the beginning of his speech at the meeting held to present the elected leaders and the main conclusions of the congress and symbolizes the spirit with which the Cape Verdian leaders see the problems of their country and which they are trying to solve. The secret is modesty, honesty and the methods used, but also competence and the zeal with which the main decisions are implemented.

The Second Congress reaffirmed the continuation of the same policy, but also definitely marked the creation of an autonomous and truly Cape Verdian party.

With the main aim of approving the documents which are to rule the life of the party, 2.5 years after its formation, the Second PAICV [African Party for the Independence of Cape Verde] Congress in fact marks the birth of this party as an autonomous organization, endowed with its own life and following the path marked at the beginning of the lessons of its own experience.

Someone called the Congress "Made in Cape Verde." As a matter of fact, Cape Verdian leaders are proud of being they who had planned, prepared and carried it out exclusively with national means and resources. At the Congress matters of basic importance for the life of the country were decided, and what was unique, was that representatives of the parties with whom the PAICV maintains intimate relations, such as the MPLA-Labor Party and FRELIMO, have not even been invited. Only foreign journalists were invited to attend the Congress (at the opening and closing sessions). The journalists were able also to visit some of the Cape Verdian regions and see what was achieved during the 8 years of independence. As a matter of fact, this was to confirm what Prime Minister Pedro Pires had said: "It is necessary to do a lot with almost nothing." Cape Verdian experience is based on this and the country is advancing steadily. Some observers may think that the pace is somewhat slow. They should remember the principle which was given to us by President Aristides Pereira: "Cape Verde cannot afford the luxury of making mistakes."

Strengthening Internal Democracy

To guarantee democracy, starting from the principle of a single party, could seem contradictory and, taking into account well-known experiences, somewhat demagogical. The Cape Verdian experience shows us, in the meantime, that it is possible to guarantee respect for democratic freedoms and, more than that, recognize the constant need for increasing the effort at the domestic level. As the main example we can point to the fact that there are no political prisoners in Cape Verde. As another example there is the fact that elections by secret vote of leadership organs were introduced at this Congress and that the sessions reserved for criticism and self-criticism lasted close to 10 hours. In a country with a state press, there is a Catholic Church newspaper which frequently criticizes the actions of the party and the government. It is TERRA NOVA, which is published on the island of S. Vicente and which the government, according to what we have been told, is not harassing nor intends to harass. However, the most evident proof, of what we are saying, was the visit itself that we made to that country. No restrictions of any kind were imposed on us to see, whatever we wanted and we had replies to all our questions. The Cape Verdian experience, with all the defects that it may have (and they are not hidden), is open and, above all, honest.

Among the Poorest of the World

Cape Verde is listed among the poorest countries of the world and, for this reason, taking into account the almost complete lack of natural resources, depends largely on foreign aid. As its main source of income the country has the remittances of emigrants (there are close to 600,000, exactly the double of the resident population). Agriculture, which is indicated as the basic economic sector, occupies close to 50 percent of active population which, with undescrivable effort, works the 40,000 hectares of arable land that the country has, which represents 10 percent of the total surface. In the meantime, we could see in this field, the efforts expended in tasks of reforestation and search for underground water tables which would make it possible to extend arable land. This is an effort to defy nature, which does not give respite to these tenacious people.

In the industrial sector the picture is not encouraging. Cape Verde does not have an industry worthy of this name and the few existing enterprises are characterized by their very low profitability linked in part to the deterioration of its equipment.

The commercial sector comes to be the dominant sector, living on its dependency on imports controlled by the State. Part of the commerce belongs to private enterprise and the supply of essential goods is regular. On Cape Verde we were not able to observe the "famous" lines for supply of essential products.

Reaffirmation of Nonalignment

Depending as it is on outside financing, Cape Verde has been able to assume an exemplary position of nonalignment. This policy is summarized by two main

ideas. Neutral position in relation to the two blocs and nonauthorization of installation of military bases in the country. President Aristides Pereira, who is in charge of implementing these directives, is a figure respected in the field of international affairs and his intervention in various situations has been requested. For example, we should recall the meetings between delegations from Angola and South Africa to discuss the serious differences between the two countries, and more recently, the intervention of the Cape Verdian president, as part of the group of 12, which decisively contributed to solving the impasse around the OAU in Addis Ababa.

In spite of everything, the PAICV does not hide its ideological orientation turned to "building a new society of justice, progress, freedom and wellbeing of citizens, where there is not exploitation of man by man." At the same time, the Cape Verdian political system presents as its fundamental elements the party, the state and mass organizations. The party is defined as "a central leading nucleus, the first and principal institution of political power, which transmits to the state all the directives of political, economic and social nature."

The Cape Verdian situation is not apparent only from the conclusions of the Congress. In spite of the great importance that this meeting had, much more is needed to get to know a country that has been independent for 8 years.

A simple conversation with an anonymous citizen or a meeting in a square or in a bar, where the sound of a violin and viola accompanies the conversation, help to know a country and the relations among people. In Cape Verde we did not see any fear of saying this or that and of sometimes criticizing.

Cape Verde is today an important experience on the way to nonalignment and development of a domestic policy in which the goals to be reached are studied very carefully. In one word, that African country, made up of several barren and arid islands is a proof that "poverty is not always synonymous with submission."

11634

CSO: 3442/278

CAPE VERDE ISLANDS: STRUGGLE WITH NATURE

Stockholm DAGENS NYHETER in Swedish 16 Jul 83 p 8

[Article by Costa Flemming]

[Text] "There are those who say that it is fruitless to try to build a society in our country. But we have not given up. On the contrary, we want to be an example and to show the ability of the Third World."

It is Jose Brito, minister for planning in Cape Verde, 500 miles off the African coast, who expresses this optimistic opinion.

Cape Verde is a young country, which became independent in 1975 after being a Portuguese colony for more than 500 years. The Portuguese left behind an impoverished and destitute country without means or natural resources.

The greatest problem today is the drought and the lack of water. The islands were once green and resplendent, but now they are brown, burned-up and eroded. During recent years it has rained at the most one week a year.

Massive Help

Cape Verde had experienced periods of drought earlier. During the 1940's over 200,000 people died because of drought. Nearly half of the population emigrated, primarily to the U.S. and western Europe. Without massive help from other countries the islands would today be completely deserted. Ninety percent of the GNP is international help.

The leaders in Cape Verde do not want the situation to make the population passive. They believe that those who can work should work. Thus for example food, received as aid, is sold rather than handed out. With the income, unemployed persons are hired to build roads and terraces against erosion.

A large part of the aid money is used to support the agricultural sector. Trial borings are being made on all islands to determine how much ground water can be taken out without the springs drying up. A plant for the desalinization of seawater has recently been completed on Sal, one of the islands. It will supply the island's 6,000 inhabitants with fresh water.

Jose Brito emphasizes the importance of international help and also its dangers.

"We don't want to be tied to a few countries. Therefore, we are trying to diversify the assistance and in particular are seeking help from several countries which don't stipulate binding requirements," he says and names Sweden as an example.

Sweden is the largest donor country with 40 million kronor annually. The largest part is unrestricted assistance, that is, Cape Verde can itself dispose of the assistance.

"That is being done in an excellent manner. There is a balance between the project's size and its capacity. I am impressed how things are being done," says Tomas Beliuva from Sida.

"In addition, great emphasis is being made to account for how the money is used. We have never had any objections."

Pressure

The explanation of Cape Verde's fear for its independence of individual countries lies in the islands' location. They lie on the line Europe-Africa-Latin America. Both Soviet Union and the U.S. have put on pressure for establishing air and naval bases on the islands, but without results so far. There are rumors that the Soviets have military attaches in the country, but the government has dismissed these rumors. The Cape Verde leaders are anxious to emphasize the country's sovereignty and neutrality.

"We defend human rights in the whole world. By this I mean the rights of peoples. It is hypocrisy for example when the U.S. talks about human rights and at the same time supports fascism in Latin America. The peoples themselves shall decide what kind of government they want. That is our absolute conviction," says Silvino da Luz, the foreign minister.

Cape Verde pursues its own policies out in the Atlantic. In contrast to many states on the African mainland there is no need to feel threatened by any neighbors. Cape Verde, for example, is the only country in Africa which allows South African to make intermediate landings. The transit fees is important income for the little country which lacks raw materials and export products. Completely in line with this pragmatic position, Cuban military transport planes are also allowed to make intermediate landings enroute to Angola.

Alliance-Free

"We are a remarkable country for many African states since we don't accept all the things others want to force upon us. We are anti-imperialistic but want to be alliance-free and not enter into any defense pacts," Silvino da Luz says.

The prospects for development in Cape Verde are the least imaginable. Nevertheless, they have gotten farther than many other undeveloped countries. One reason is that there are educated people with experience in organization, the only positive mark of the Portuguese. During the colonial era administrators were educated here and sent to other colonies. Many have returned after independence.

"Our plans extend to the year 2000. We shall then most likely not have attained independence and self-sufficiency but we shall be a good ways down the road," says Jose Brito optimistically.

6893

CSO: 3498/12

CAPE VERDE

BRIEFS

POSSIBLE CABINET RESHUFFLE--The Cape Verde Government could undergo greater changes than was expected, said official sources of the City of Praia to ANOP on Wednesday. These changes are to be confirmed later on after the conclusion of the Second PAICV [African Party for the Independence of Cape Verde] Congress being held in the capital since Tuesday. According to the same sources, in addition to replacing the state secretary for trade and tourism, Osvaldo Sequeira, and the creation of the State Secretariat for Foreign Affairs, with Antoni Mascarenhas Monteiro as its head, other changes are being contemplated. The Praia cabinet could be increased with the establishment of a Ministry for Administrative Reform and a State Secretariat for Fishing, added the sources. The reorganization to be introduced in the leadership of Praia, which can encompass other areas, has as its objective the rotation of the leadership group and the search for a more decentralized and dynamic administration, the sources stressed. The National PAICV Council, for its part, will be increased to 42 members. According to the same sources, 7 of the 42 members to be elected by the 300 congressmen, will be alternates. The present National Council operates with 28 members. Part of the enlargement of that leadership organ of the party will be done with the inclusion of women, in numbers still not determined, according to the sources contacted by ANOP. The present Cape Verdian leadership organs, at the party and state apparatus levels do not include women. Young people and the labor sector will also have to be represented at the National Council to be elected on the last working day of the Second Congress, on 26 June. [Excerpt] [Lisbon DIARIO DE LISBOA in Portuguese 23 Jun p 13] 11634

CSO: 3442/278

MINISTER INSPECTS PRC-CONSTRUCTED MEDICAL CENTER

Libreville L'UNION in French 12 Jul 83 p 4

[Article by Louis De Dravo and Roger Obame]

[Text] Dr Jean-Pierre Okias, minister of public health and population, paid an inspection visit to the future medical-social center built by the Chinese in Akebe-Belle-Vue on Friday, 8 July. The minister was accompanied by members of his staff and several top public health officials, including Adande-Menest and Martial Mboumba.

It was 11:30 when Jean-Pierre Okias arrived at the site, accompanied by Liu Yufeng, ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Gabon. After greeting members of the Chinese technical mission, the minister and his entourage immediately embarked upon their inspection tour. The minister was able to personally observe progress on the work and certain purely technical and material difficulties confronting the Chinese at work on the center.

Despite these minor difficulties, there can be no doubt that the Chinese will somehow deliver this masterpiece, to which they alone have the secret, in October.

The center, born of Chinese-Gabonese cooperation, covers an area of over 3,000 square meters and has 25 hospital beds. Examination rooms will be included, with, in particular, an acupuncture room and a gynecology and pediatric clinics, which will be on an out-patient basis.

According to Dr Adande-Menest, the medical-social center will engage in various activities, associating traditional Chinese and Gabonese medicine with the so-called modern medicine. In addition, treatment will be provided by both Chinese and Gabonese doctors.

Partially financed by the Gabonese Government and China, the center is the first to be built by Chinese in our country. However, in the years ahead, there are plans for a similar but larger center in Upper Ogooue.

11,464

CSO: 3419/1099

AIR TRANSPORT AGREEMENT WITH USSR TO EXPAND EXISTING RELATIONS

Libreville L'UNION in French 12 Jul 83 p 4

[Article by Obame Emane]

[Excerpts] In Libreville last week, two Gabonese and Soviet delegations continued negotiations relating to the signing of an air transport agreement begun in Moscow in March 1982.

Headed by Vice Minister of Civil Aviation Timofeyev, the Soviet delegation arrived at the Leon Mba International Airport on 4 July and was greeted by ministerial delegate Mapangou, the president and chairman of the board of Air Gabon, Jean-Louis Messan, and the ambassador of the Soviet Union to Libreville, Latyf Maksudov.

During the Libreville meetings, the text of the agreement was worked out and put in final form, although the Soviets left Moscow with the intention of signing the agreement. Gabon would thus become the 102d nation in the world to establish an air agreement with the Soviet Union.

The proposed accord, drawn up unanimously by both sides, the Soviet Embassy emphasizes, was drafted according to the principles of absolute equality, sovereignty, noninterference in domestic affairs, and mutual understanding and advantages.

Gabon and the Soviet Union have also noted, the same source states, that the agreement will respond to and fully serve the cause of cooperation between Africa and the Soviet Union.

On the bilateral level, the effect of the agreement on relations between our two countries has been examined at meetings which 1st Deputy Prime Minister Georges Rawiri and Guy Nzouba Ndama, minister delegate for commerce, granted to the Soviet delegation.

Commercial trade will profit greatly from the establishment of this airline, which will either go through Luanda or Brazzaville, with respect to aircraft of the Soviet national company Aeroflot going to Libreville. Cultural and sports relations, already going smoothly, will also benefit.

In addition to these two domains (among others), the Soviet Union will help train pilots, engineers and technicians for Gabonese civil and commercial aviation and will export aeronautic equipment to our country.

When signed, the agreement will join other accords on commercial, technical and economic, cultural and scientific cooperation drawn up in Libreville in August 1980. In addition, Gabon and the Soviet Union are continuing their talks relating to the signing of a maritime agreement.

Timofeyev left Libreville on 8 July, bearing a message from the president of the republic to his Soviet colleague, Yuriy Andropov.

11,464

CSO: 3419/1099

DECLINE IN COFFEE PRODUCTION NOTED

Libreville L'UNION in French 14 Jul 83 p 4

[Article by Mualabu Mussamba]

[Text] The results of purchases and sales for the first six months of the 1982-1983 season show a major drop in volumes collected compared with the same period of the previous season: 370 tons of berries (about 185 tons of commercial coffee). The figures were revealed by the general director of the Equalization and Stabilization Funds, Daniel Assoumou.

Assoumou, who talked with us in his office on Tuesday, 12 July 1983, said that the "difference stems solely from Woleu-Ntem and the drop in coffee from Equatorial Guinea. Fines levied by customs agents on haulers seem to be the main reason for the situation."

It should be recalled that statistics on purchases and sales for the 1981-1982 season give the following results:

With regard to purchases, there has been an increase in the amount collected, which went from 1,673 tons in 1980-1981 to 1,851 in 1981-1982 (178 tons more).

Concerning sales, although exports remained at the same level (796.5 tons), the their value has increased. In fact, the average price per kilogram of commercial coffee went from 497 francs in 1980-1981 to 537 francs in 1981-1982.

The general director of the Stabilization and Equalization Funds also revealed the arrival of 100 kilograms of select seed from the Ivory Coast, which was distributed to all provinces, thus making it possible to set up nurseries in Woleu-Ntem, Ogooue-Ivindo, Upper Ogooue and Ngounie. He said that the operation will make it possible to replace old plantations and create new ones.

Commenting on the current situation in producer provinces, Assoumou said that in Woleu-Ntem, operations to rejuvenate old plantations involved only 20,510 square meters because of problems with chainsaws (lack of spare parts and theft of equipment) and the lack of transportation. However, the total number of plantations rehabilitated since 1980 is 36 hectares.

Since the chain saws have now been repaired, the clearing program should be resumed immediately after the harvest. Insecticide treatment has been done on 12 hectares in the Medouneu sector.

In Ogooue-Ivindo, a nursery started in Batouala has nearly 5,000 plants ready for planting. Treatments for ants have been completed in the canton of Moug-nani. No rehabilitation operation has been completed because of chain saw problems. Results seem very poor compared with the sums spent.

Three organizers based in Lebamba, Mimongo and Mbigou are working in the field in Ngounie. Rejuvenation of the old plantations by clearing involved 4,886 trees. Four nurseries were started with a total of 9,000 plants. The 1-hectare pilot plantation started in September 1981 was completely redone (clearing and replanting).

The amount spent per province was 5,200,278 francs for the 1981-1982 season.

The situation in Upper Ogooue is mainly characterized by the rehabilitation of old plantations by clearing in the following sectors: Okondja (12,165 trees), Franceville (1,518 trees), and Akieni-Plateau (2,714 trees).

As for the fight against plant diseases and pests, the following sectors were treated: Okondja (20 hectares, Franceville (25 hectares), and Akieni Plateau (20 hectares).

Results obtained were very uneven depending on the province. The cause of the inequality, Assoumou explained, has to do with followup of organizers, mainly done by provincial agricultural officials. In order to be more effective, Assoumou has asked that aid to production be included in a program worked out with agricultural departments.

Assoumou admitted that the Coffee Fund will not have adequate means to pursue on its own actions whose results are questionable.

11,464
CSO: 3419/1099

BUDGET WORSENS PLIGHT OF WHITE COLLAR EMPLOYEES

London WEST AFRICA in English No 3441, 25 Jul 83 pp 1710-1711

[Text] THERE IS, in most modern societies, a class of people known as the "respectable poor"; people who at one time in their lives lived well, were well educated, but who have become poor, mostly not for reasons of their own fault. Such people generally find it difficult to acknowledge publicly the decline in their status and try hard to maintain to the outside world their "respectable" image.

This class is now quite sizeable in Ghana; it largely consists of civil servants, teachers, office workers and, in general terms, the myriads of people employed by the state. Conditions for them have lately, however, become such that they are being compelled to drop the last appearances of "respectability" and have to resort to plain begging, to doing manual work for which they were never trained or, worse, to practices which cannot see the light of the day. Nowadays it is becoming quite common that one is approached by an elderly, somewhat threadbare but essentially still respectable-looking gentleman with a "Good morning, Sir, please forgive me for disturbing you for a minute — and I really hate to have to do so — but could you possibly lend me C20? I am rather hungry, you see, and these days we really can't afford breakfast . . ." Most of Ghana's respectable poor will, however, find mere begging far too time-consuming and unproductive for their needs, and have to resort to methods which may, on the surface seem less degrading, but which are in reality far less respectable. It is indeed for that same reason that that same class of "not so respectable, not so poor" are nowadays vigorously attacked by "revolutionaries" of various hues, not so respectable either. Unfortunately, such "revolutionary action" more often than not hits the wrong people: those who are too honest to maintain their image of respectability once they have lost it, whilst the worst offenders go scot-free.

Ever since the 1983 budget was presented, people have been protesting that it is "too harsh" — a term which promptly received government blessing, for it really is an euphemism. To the class of the respectable poor, the salaried workers, it is nothing short of a disaster, a callous document which only rubs salt into open wounds. Of course, the government was quick to announce that the minimum daily wage had been increased from C12 to C21.19 (and recently, after "lengthy negotiations" to C25), and that the price of certain essential commodities had not changed. But everyone understood at once that the announced system of surcharges and bonuses constituted a major devaluation of the cedi (even if it was "officially" claimed that the exchange rate of C2.75 to the dollar had not been changed) and that major price increases were in the offing. The first of those increases to be noticed was the "mere" doubling of the petrol price, but what in the first few weeks after the launching of the budget was not yet so clear, soon became evident: since May the cost of living in Ghana has multiplied by a factor of five at least.

Even if minimum wages were doubled, the least paid still are twice as badly off than before the budget. Other salaries will be adjusted, but not above a ceiling of C1,700 per annum or C4.72 per day. The salaries of many of the educated, "respectable" government employees will have to be pulled up, simply in order to keep pace with the minimum wage! It may be useful

to have a cursory look at the financial needs of a typical civil servant in Accra in 1983. Let's say that he has a wife and three children and that he lives in a government bungalow (which he will, of course, have to vacate upon termination of his contract). He even has a private car, in commemoration of better days. Let's start with the sunny side: his rent is incredibly low: less than a quarter of the value of an average-sized yam, because it is a fixed percentage of his salary, which is worth less than three of those yams (per month!). School fees for the children are also minimal, but so is the attention they get at school, for their teachers are as underpaid as their father. He can also claim free medical care, and will get some drugs free, or nearly so. But should any serious ailment befall him, he should be prepared to bring to hospital his own plaster, bandages, Paracetamol, intravenous drip, bedsheets, cutlery, crockery, etc. His relatives in his home town, who have partly financed his expensive education, still can't believe that their "been-to", respectable uncle in Accra is really poor. So they send their most promising offspring to him to sponsor their education. They will lodge in the "stewards' quarters", as the family obviously no longer can afford the luxury of domestic servants. The fees for their day-school amount to about C600 per term, but for transport and lunch, the two of them will need at least C80 to C100 a day, so that uncle has to spend at least C2,000 per month on the education of his nephews.

For his own family of wife and three children, of primary school age, and his wards he will need at least C3,000 per week for food. Ask any Accra housewife, and she will confirm that that is the least amount one needs to feed a family of seven for a week. When our friend's ancient car broke down, some years ago, the departmental bus used to come to collect him, but now that there are no tyres, battery or engine oil for that vehicle either, he has to spend at least C20 on transport every day. His wife will spend at least another C200 on taxi fares when going to the market, especially on the way back, when she has to bribe the driver into the forbidden

practice of "dropping", as her shopping bag is too heavy to carry all the way to her house from the main road. Add it all up, and you will see that our friend will need more than C15,000 per month to survive with his family, without counting a penny for pleasure or leisure, books or clothes, or even insurance premiums, water or electricity bills. The typical salary, with allowances, etc, for such a person is about C1,000, and even after the maximum adjustment allowed by the budget, it will not be more than about C1,150 per month.

No doubt, the IMF knows well that Ghana is in trouble and that it needs some kind of "economic package" as it is always mysteriously called, including some form of devaluation. But can that same august body have demanded that first, all the "respectable poor" should be killed off by a freeze on their income? The cedi is now worth less than one US cent on the open market. Food prices, especially those of locally-grown crops, follow closely the black market rate of the currency (or is it the other way round?), and one can indeed not expect any family to live on \$10-12 per month. It is obvious that these "respectable poor", many of whom occupy vital positions in the management of the national economy and administration, simply cannot devote much of their time and energy to their official duties. At best, they absent themselves from their post in order to devote time and energy to their farm or on another, parallel, "moonlighting" job; at worst he does sit in his office, but mainly in order to receive bribes, spin-offs, etc. So, if we want our friend to do his work seriously, and without that we can't hope for economic recovery, he will need at least 15 times as much salary as he gets now.

Suggest printing money, and immediately you will be faced with a storm of indignation: don't you see? That will cause spiralling inflation! That may be so, but if the present imbalance between prices and incomes is maintained, absenteeism and unproductivity (if not counter-productivity or corruption!) will remain the only ingredients for survival. There can be no economic recovery, let alone progress, without productivity and incentive. If the extra,

printed money is distributed judiciously so that a healthy balance of values is re-established, the national economy will be revived. The Secretary for Finance and Economic Planning stated, shortly after launching the budget, that there is no foreign exchange to print new money. It did not stop prices from going up, however.

The clock cannot be turned back; temporarily, as a result of good harvests or, far worse, as a result of military, police or civil violence, market prices may sometimes come down a little, but the main trend will always be, in Ghana as in other parts of the world, for prices to go upwards. To keep incomes and some prices artificially down only leads to gross injustice and apathy. If something is not done soon to come to grips with that reality, not only Ghana's poor, but the whole nation will lose the last shreds of respectability.

CSO: 3400/1717

VALCO WILLING TO RENEGOTIATE WITH GOVERNMENT

London WEST AFRICA in English No 3440 18 Jul 83 p 1680

[Text]

Volta Aluminium Company (VALCO) has now informed government it is willing to resume renegotiation of the agreement, John Miller, Vice-President of International Activities, Aluminium Division of Kaiser Aluminium and Chemical Corporation and Deputy Managing Director of VALCO has told press conference in Accra (*reports Isaac Eshun*). He said the company realised its current price for power, as stipulated in the agreement now under review, was unfair, but cautioned, that the power prices was only one of the components in the cost of operations and that one could not look at it in isolation. There were taxes and other production costs to consider.

Miller expressed regret at the breakdown of the talks and said VALCO's representatives had taken the negotiations seriously from the beginning and would continue to do so. They were now taking a fresh look at the major issues at stake and hoped, with the effort of everybody progress would be made.

He said arrangements should now focus on the continued viability of VALCO and on meeting the interests and aspirations of the government and people of Ghana. "Compromise would be necessary to achieve these goals but I think there are mutual interests in achieving these goals and we are willing to try," he remarked.

Miller said lack of sufficient understanding on both sides was the cause of the breakdown of the talks and expressed optimism that the breakdown had given the two sides time "To reflect and refresh ourselves for meaningful negotiation. We realise our price for power today as stipulated in the agreement is not fair but it will take a while in the negotiations to arrive at a fair price. We have been discussing with the government over three years and since then the price has gone higher than it used to be," he pointed out.

He said VALCO was extremely encouraged and pleased with the new fiscal measures, especially the adjustment of the value of the cedi which would ensure positive development. The high rate of infla-

tion in the past, he said, had been detrimental to VALCO's operations and added: "The budget on the whole in the difficult circumstances of Ghana is good, in spite of the temporary difficulties that would face the people."

On shut-down of some pot-lines requested by the VRA as a result of the low level of the Volta Lake, Miller said that meant that VALCO would incur substantial losses this year as a result of reduced operations.

He hoped VALCO would in future be able to reduce its energy requirements by five to 10 per cent through the energy conservation programme currently being pursued.

He was sure agreement would be reached in the third round of negotiations for he had been encouraged by Professor Akilakpa Sawyerr, leader of Ghana's negotiation team, who said on a television programme that it was not in

Ghana's interest to drive VALCO out of Ghana but that VALCO should operate on terms acceptable to Ghana.

Miller said that was very true, for in every country, industry should operate in a way to suit the interest of the country, adding: "We have done that always but there are differences of opinion."

"We like Ghana. We are proud of our VALCO plant and we want to do what is right," he added.

BRIEFS

SHEANUT PRODUCTION--The Cocoa Marketing Board (CMB) has released ₵8m. and 2,000 sacks initially for the purchase of sheanuts. The CMB will also release a number of tractors and tipper trucks for the speedy evacuation and improvement in the production and handling of sheanuts. The chief executive of the CMB, Mr Kwame Gyamfi, announced this when he called on the Northern Regional Secretary, Mr Huudu Yahaya, at the Regional Administration in Tamale. [Excerpt] [London WEST AFRICA in English No 3441 25 Jul 83 p 1735]

AUSTRALIAN RICE AID--The Australian government has presented 2,000 tonnes of rice to the government. The rice is to be distributed on behalf of the Australian government by the World Food Programme under the "Food for Work Programme." [Text] [London WEST AFRICA in English No 3441 25 Jul 83 p 1735]

COCOA REPLANTING--The eastern region of Ghana will have 1,400 hectares of burnt cocoa farmland replanted this season, out of a total replanting programme of 2,400 hectares, according to a Ghana cocoa services division official. The remaining 960 hectares will be replanted in The Ashanti, Brong Ahafo, Volta, Western and Central regions, he said. There are 4.5 million seedlings available for this season's replanting, all of which are hybrid and should yield 210 kilograms per acre. The official added that the 1,440 hectares should be producing about 8,500 tonnes by 1986-87. However, cocoa marketing officials are concerned that cocoa farmers whose farms were destroyed are not replanting but instead are turning to cash crops, whose producer prices are higher than that of cocoa. One official said that consequently output in the next five seasons may average only 100,000 tonnes. [Text] [London WEST AFRICA in English No 3441 25 Jul 83 p 1727]

VALCO LOW ENERGY EXPERIMENT--The Volta Aluminum Company is to go ahead with the operation of 25 pots as part of an experiment in a low energy consumption development programme. The 25 pots, together with 175 others, make up the remaining two pot-lines which the Volta River Authority had advised VALCO to shut down from 15 June as a result of the low water level of the Volta lake. Mr Nick Opoku, Community Relations Manager of VALCO said the permission to go ahead with the experiment followed a special request made to the VRA. He said when fully developed, the programme was expected to enable VALCO to use less electrical power for the same amount of production. VALCO, Mr Opoki said, had complied with the VRA's advice and had since midnight on 14 June, taken the two remaining pot-lines out of service. The company had

previously shut down two pot-lines, last November, and a third in February for the same reason. In another development, Mr Opoku stated that VALCO had plans to assist certain organisations in Tema to embark upon community projects in the township. The company had had consultations with the Ghana Ports Authority, Tema General Hospital, Tema District Council, Tema Development Corporation and the Tema Technical Training Institute, which may result in VALCO helping to train personnel of those organisations. Mr Opoku emphasised that VALCO was willing to share its expertise with government agencies to help improve the life of the community. [Text] [London WEST AFRICA in English No 3440 18 Jul 83 p 1680]

FIREARMS REGISTRATION--All people who have firearms have been requested to register them with the police by 25 July. An official statement warned that "anyone who fails to produce a registration certificate for any weapon, firearm or explosives in his possession after this date will face severe revolutionary action." [Excerpt] [London WEST AFRICA in English No 3441 25 Jul 83 p 1734]

TUC WANTS TAX REVIEW--The Trades Union Congress (TUC) will press for a review of the present tax structure during the next stage of negotiations with the government. This would enable workers to derive full benefits from the government's new minimum wage of ¢25. Speaking to the GHANIAN TIMES, Mr S. S. Q. Abloso, member of the TUC's Interim Management Committee delegation on the negotiating committee, said that the government did not consider a taxation level for workers during the previous negotiation, even though the topic was raised by the TUC. He said the government's excuse was that it would have to consult the Commissioner of Income Tax. "But our view was that because of the increase in wages to ¢25 a day, it is necessary to raise the nontaxable wage level to give the worker some tax relief and maintain the increase that has been offered," he said. [Text] [London WEST AFRICA in English No 3441 25 Jul 83 p 1734]

ARMS PROHIBITED--The manufacture, possession and carrying of arms and ammunitions in the Nkonya and Alavanyo traditional areas is now prohibited. The public order was signed by the Attorney-General and Secretary for Justice, Mr G. E. K. Aikins. The Volta Regional Secretary, Dr. Austin Asamoah-Tutu, who announced this at a press conference, said all those who possessed arms and ammunitions should surrender them to the nearest police station. Members of the armed forces and police duly authorised in writing by the Secretary for Interior would be permitted to carry arms. Mr Asamoah-Tutu said that though one of the main economic activities of the local people was gun manufacturing the ban had become necessary to enable the farming communities to go about their work without any fear of molestation. [Text] [London WEST AFRICA in English No 3441 25 Jul 83 p 1734]

PORT SECURITY--The PNDC has approved recommendations for the reorganisation of port security at both Tema and Takoradi Harbours to ensure maximum security of goods and services within the ports. A statement issued by the PNDC said as part of the reorganisation exercise the government has appointed Lt-Col L. K. Appiah as Deputy Director of Port Security, Ghana Ports Authority and Warrant Officer Class I. Kwantabisa, Security Coordinator. Selected personnel from the Ghana Ports Authority are to undergo basic military training at Michel Camp as part of the reorganisation of port security and after their training

they will take over from military personnel at the ports. The PNDC has ordered the Second Battalion of Infantry to assume responsibility for the security at Takoradi Harbour immediately. According to the statement the government had noted with grave concern that some members of the police and armed forces were jumping petrol queues to help friends to buy petrol at filling stations. They will face "revolutionary discipline" if this practice is not stopped. [Text] [London WEST AFRICA in English No 3441 25 Jul 83 p 1734]

FUEL SITUATION--The Ministry of Fuel and Power has reaffirmed that it will soon be in a position to increase weekly fuel allocations to the oil marketing companies for distribution. In a statement, the Ministry said it hoped the fuel supply situation would start getting back to normal from the end of July. Until then the Ministry said it had decided to inject some discipline into the distribution system to reduce the wasteful queues and unnecessary pandemonium at the filling stations. The statement said a number of filling stations had been designated in Accra and Tema to serve only commercial vehicles on specific days of the week. Private vehicles will be served in the normal way at all filling stations not otherwise designated. [Text] [London WEST AFRICA in English No 3441 25 Jul 83 p 1735]

SALT MONEY FOR FARMING--Members of the reconstituted Ada District secretariat of the National Defence Committee (NDC) have in consultation with PDCs, WDCs chiefs and people of the area, resolved to invest any money accruing from the local salt industry in agricultural ventures to boost the Green Revolution. An independent Interim Management Committee would be appointed to run the affairs of the Okor Salt Industry, it was decided. At a rally in Big Ada at which the newly-elected officers of the district NDC secretariat were introduced, the people said this move would help solve food problems, and create jobs for the unemployed. [Text] [London WEST AFRICA in English No 3441 25 Jul 83 p 1735]

CSO: 3400/1716-17

GUINEA-BISSAU

FRANCE DONATES FIVE VEHICLES TO FARP

Bissau NO PINTCHA in Portuguese 22 Jun 83 p. 3

[Text] In a ceremony held the day before yesterday at the Amura Barracks in Bissau, the ambassador of France accredited to our country, Ivan Robin, delivered a donation from the French Army to the leadership of the FARP [People's Revolutionary Armed Forces] in the person of the First Commander Iafai Camara, the vice minister of armed forces.

The donation consists of five vehicles Saviem TP3 and some sporting goods.

The French ambassador made a short speech at the ceremony. He expressed his wishes that this modest contribution will be able to alleviate, in part, some of the material difficulties.

Present at the ceremony were Comrades Domingos Brito, member of the PAIGC Central Committee and secretary general of FARP, and Commander Jose Nancassa, member of the PAIGC Central Committee and head of the FARP political department, as well as other officers.

In his reply, Comrade Iafai Camara gave thanks for the offer, saying that this aid will allow greater mobility of our armed forces because one of the problems that most concerns our army is lack of transport.

Comrade Domingos Brito also spoke at the ceremony. After praising the good relations between the FARP ministry and the French Ministry of Defense, he said that the donation will be well utilized because it will increase our capacity to defend and preserve the victories achieved by our people during the long years of sacrifice and hard struggle.

At the conclusion of his speech, he thanked the French Ministry of Defense and said that this gesture will certainly contribute even more to the strengthening of good relations of friendship and cooperation that exist between our nations.

11635

CSO: 3442/277

GUINEA-BISSAU

BRIEFS

FUEL SHORTAGE, POWER OUTAGE--Lack of liquid and gas fuel in Guinea-Bissau today continues partially to affect the supply of the public electric energy network and the operation of industrial units and means of transportation throughout the country, according to ANOP. Bissau and the main Guinean cities are to be subjected to daily cuts of electric power, which affects the operation of the few manufacturing units, and the national automobile complex is partially paralyzed. The reserve of liquid fuel has been partially maintained in the past few weeks through shipments ordered from Senegal, which are sent in tanker trucks to Bissau. In the past few days Bissau has been supplied with electric power during 12 hours daily, and Bafata, the second city of the country, during 7 hours after some days of total stoppage of its electric power station. The Bissau Central Hospital and some industrial units also depend on the operation of the central power station of the city, although they have generators, in some cases these are paralyzed for lack of fuel. Lines of passenger and freight vehicles are getting longer at the service stations of the national firm for the distribution of fuel and lubricants (Dicol) which, because of difficulties in the country's foreign exchange, continues to negotiate credits from abroad for new supplies. The annual fuel consumption of Guinea-Bissau is equal to the total of its exports, estimated to have a total value of \$15 million (1.5 billion escudos). [Text] [Lisbon DIARIO DE LISBOA in Portuguese 23 Jun 83 p 11] 11635

INDUSTRIAL COOPERATION WITH PORTUGAL--Two high-ranking experts from the Portuguese Ministry of Industry and Energy and an economist from the Institute for Economic (State) Cooperation, for a week undertook the first task dealing with direct sector cooperation, under the provisions of the cooperation protocol between the two ministries signed in December 1982. This first Portuguese mission essentially made the diagnosis of the situation of the sector, surveyed the total needs and gathered data for the preparation of a proposal of support and restructuring of services of technical training of personnel, according to statements of Engineer Afonso Gomes, chief of the mission, to ANOP. He also presented to the Guinean authorities specific projects for the local establishment of some industrial units, with the purpose of diminishing the country's dependence on imported materials and equipment, said that official. Bilateral cooperation should be defined specifically next October during the visit to Bissau of the second Portuguese industrial mission. [Text] [Lisbon DIARIO DE LISBOA in Portuguese 23 Jun 83 p 11] 11635

CULTURAL COOPERATION WITH CHINA--At the invitation of the Government of China, last Monday a delegation of the Ministry of Information and Culture, led by Comrade Luisa Borges, the director of culture, and made up of Comrade Rui Correia and Florentina Verissimo, chief of the administrative services of that ministry and official of the National Scientific Research Institute respectively, left for that Asian country. During their stay in China which will last about 2 weeks, according to Comrade Luisa Borges, they will have working meetings and long debates with Chinese officials regarding the implementation of an agreement signed by the two governments in the cultural field during the visit of Comrade President Nino Vieira to China. They will also discuss the possibility of granting material aid for culture, as well as close relations between the two countries. [Text] [Bissau NO PINTCHA in Portuguese 25 May 83 p 2] 11635

DELEGATIONS TO YUGOSLAVIA, BULGARIA--Comrade Califa Seidi, member of the national committee for inquiry and control of the JAAC [Amilcar CABRAL African youth], left for a working visit to Yugoslavia last Friday. This official of the youth organization will take part in a seminar on unemployment of young people and in a conference of solidarity with the struggle of the Palestinian people. A protocol of agreement between the JAAC and the Yugoslav Socialist Youth League will be signed at the end of this visit to that socialist country. Also on Friday, Comrade Antonio Pires Goncalves, secretary of foreign relations of the OPAD, left for Sofia (Bulgaria) where he will participate in an international conference on the role of pioneer and youth organizations in the development of creative abilities of children, in the name of peace, democracy and social progress, which will take place from 26 to 30 May. During his stay in Sofia this OPAD official will have direct contacts with the Komsomol-Dimitrov youth. [Text] [Bissau NO PINTCHA in Portuguese 25 May 83 p 2] 11635

SOVIETS TO EXPLORE BAUXITE--The USSR has committed itself to deliver next September to the Guinea-Bissau Government, the economic feasibility study of exploration of bauxite deposits in Boe, in a document signed yesterday morning at the Natural Resources Ministry by the minister, Joseph Turpin, and the economic counselor to the Soviet Embassy in Bissau, Dmitriy Rybets. After delivering the "dossier" (if it shows profitability), talks will begin aimed at signing the contract regarding the exploration of the deposits which, according to Joseph Turpin, will make reality of the great dream of Cabral, that of making Boe a prosperous city. It was pointed out that the implementation of the project, financed totally by the USSR, through "Tsvetmetpromexport" was initially estimated at over \$400 million. [Text] [Bissau NO PINTCHA in Portuguese 22 Jun 83 p 1] 11635

CSO: 3442/277

IVORY COAST

KOUMASSI LEAD FOUNDRY CLOSED, EASING POLLUTION

Abidjan FRATERNITE MATIN in French 22 Jun 83 p 19

[Text] For once, those who sadly contend that "there is no more morality" will have to revise their opinion.

Fortunately, there are scandalous stories that have a moral ending, where the villains are punished, where the public authorities shut down dangerously polluting factories. Thank God!

Such was the story of Afrique-Metaux Industries in Koumassi last month....

It began nearly a year ago. Scrap iron was being collected on a leasehold in Koumassi. And then one day the area was invaded by a whitish smoke (oh! very visible) which caught the throat, irritated the eyes horribly and spread a disagreeable odor somewhat similar to that of burning rubber.

Nearby residents complained and went to see what was happening on Mr Abderamane Kone's leasehold. They found mountains of old batteries, while inside the shed two extremely primitive smelters were turning out ingots of lead and zinc. Rising above the smelters, the smokestacks were of the most elementary kind: common stovepipes going up to the roof, without any filtering apparatus...

The neighborhood began to get upset: on one side lived a newborn infant who now had to stay in his air-conditioned room; across the street, at the Tim factory, the 60 workers refused to work when the wind carried the fumes in their direction. The pollution extended in all directions as far as the Prodomo subdivision, several hundred meters away as the crow flies...

But Afrique-Metaux Industries met all this uproar with total indifference.

Petition After Petition

Everyone knows that when a factory recovers the lead from automobile batteries it releases a dangerous product into the atmosphere: lead oxide. In Italy, it is said, an entire village was stricken with lead poisoning, a serious illness, as a result of lead oxide.

So there were petitions being signed everywhere.

Mr Toure Youssouf, the union representative at the Tim enterprise, began writing to everyone: to the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Health, the mayor's office. No response.

Last resort: FRATERNITE MATIN. A letter was sent to us, which we published. The inhabitants of Koumassi implored us: "Something must be done." Our investigation of the air pollution at Saco showed the people that we are not afraid to tell the truth.

The Fear of Unemployment

In the factory, there were some 40 employees who kept quiet. Pursuing our investigation, we tried to find out about their working conditions. "We cannot talk. If we say anything, we will be fired, and if the factory closes, we will lose our jobs." There were two employees, however, who needed no words to convey the truth about their physical condition: the eyes of the first were completely reddened and bloodshot. The second was coughing and spitting up blood...These were the two workers stationed at the smelters themselves, who received maximum exposure.

The fear of joblessness was so great that these two men bore their scandalous condition in silence. Oh! of course they donned handkerchiefs as a kind of protective mask, but the ambient air was so polluted that they still received overdoses of lead oxide before the end of the day.

The "Bed of Roses" Unmasked

We pursued our inquiry further, to the Ministry of Environment, where the directorate of industrial environment has the right of inspection of industrial establishments, which are classified in three categories according to the degree of harmfulness. In this way we ascertained that Afrique-Metall Industries is not registered anywhere as a lead foundry. It was listed, however, among the Category No. 1 establishments subject to administrative inquiry, and required to have an operating permit.

The management of Afrique-Metall Industries treated its obligations so lightly!

So, as always, the "bed of roses" is unmasked and illicit industry discovered.

The Koumassi mayor's office, backed up by the regulations governing industrial establishments, shut down Afrique-Metall Industries with no further ado.

The 1926 Regulation Is A Good One

Obviously, the company has every chance of reopening someday, but on condition, to be sure, that it complies with regulations and respects its neighbors.

Indeed, it would be stupid to try to keep the factory from running, no matter what the costs: recovery is an industrial operation useful to our society, it reduces waste. But it must be carried out under hygienically sound conditions with rigorous safety precautions.

This story should serve as an example: it proves that Ivory Coast does have a body of enforceable regulations. Even if the latter is a bit dated (it goes back to 1926), at least it is on the books and provides a minimum of protection.

If the regulation is poorly enforced, the fault lies with the bureaucratic functionaries who do not do their job well: how does it happen, in fact, that the Industrial Environment inspectors, who are supposed to carry out two inspections per year, saw nothing themselves and failed to follow up on neighborhood complaints?

When The Media Gets Involved

Fortunately, social pressure can be exerted, especially when it is supported by the media. It is satisfying to see how quickly the Afrique-Metaux Industries affair was resolved, once FRATERNITE MATIN got involved.

Since we have such power (in the best sense of the word), we will not fail to bring it to bear whenever we believe the cause is just.

9516

CSO: 5000/208

MADAGASCAR

OMNIS CHAIRMAN DISCUSSES ENERGY NEEDS

Antananarivo MADAGASCAR MATIN in French 16 Jun 83 pp 1, 2

[Text] The People's National Assembly met in plenary session yesterday [15 June] and considered two ordinances. The first bill, No 83-005, concerned the ratification of the loan agreement concluded on 19 January 1983 with the OPEC Fund. The second bill, No 83-011, covered the ratification of the loan agreement concluded with the KFW [Kreditanstalt fur Wiederaufbau] to meet Madagascar's import needs.

The bill regarding the loan concluded with the OPEC Fund for the exploitation of Tsimiroro heavy oils and which amounts to 1,875,000,000 Madagascar francs, drew particular attention from the deputies present for the session. Furthermore, several questions were directed to Hubert Andrianasolo, director general of OMNIS [National Military Office for Strategic Industries], who attended this session. The questions dealt specifically with Tsimiroro and also with Bemolanga. He gave the deputies answers which could not have been more satisfactory.

Yesterday's session, which was presided over by L M X Andrianarahinjaka, the president of the ANP [People's National Assembly], began with the presentation of the report by Jean Paul Ramarokoto, recorder [rapporteur] of the Committee on Economic, Financial, and Foreign Affairs, concerning the discussion of bill No 83-005 on 8 June. That day Hubert Andrianasolo was heard by the members of the committee. His speech on Tsimiroro was reported to the deputies yesterday by J P Ramarokoto. This speech was followed by many questions, and we set out the main points as follows:

After 1988

Hubert Andrianasolo told members of the Committee on Economic, Financial, and Foreign Affairs: "First of all, it should be noted that this loan bears an interest rate of 0.75 percent and is repayable within 15 years. For the first 5 years we don't pay anything. It is only after 1988 and until the year 2002 that we will begin to pay the interest. You recall," he said, "that another loan granted by the World Bank, amounting to \$11.5 million, was already considered by the ANP last year. Today, therefore, we have borrowed about \$16 million in all. These sums of money were exclusively used to test drilling

purposes to learn exactly what the reserves of heavy oil are at Tsimiroro. In fact, several estimates have been made: the French state that there are at least 20 million barrels of oil, while for their part the Americans say that there are at least 20 million barrels of oil, while for their part the Americans say that there are about 5 billion barrels. Also, this loan is necessary to evaluate precisely what our reserves are, by means of the test drillings which we are making with the help of the foreign oil companies."

The director general of OMNIS commented to the point: "Heavy oil has its peculiarities and does not particularly resemble ordinary oil. Its extraction from the ground requires the use of high technology. We have trained technicians so that they might develop their 'heavy oil specialization.' Furthermore, out of the 150 kilometers of road we need to construct in support of this project, 120 kilometers have been completed. We note that the test drilling will begin in July, and after that we will perform the different analyses needed in order to learn what are the real reserves at Tsimiroro."

Questions

The recorder then read the questions which the deputies asked of Hubert Andrianasolo on 8 June:

"Why is there so much difference between the estimates of reserves made by the French and those made by the Americans?"

"Are the French and Americans still there?"

"Exactly where is the search for petroleum going on in Madagascar?"

"Why is the petroleum which we now have of such poor quality?"

"Is the Bemolanga field really exhausted? There are rumors circulating on this subject. In fact the president and we also have stated that the Bemolanga field will soon begin to 'produce.'"

"Are the rumors true that the petroleum discovered by these foreign companies will be shipped to South Africa?"

"Certain technicians reportedly have stated that the effort to exploit the Bemolanga field is a failure and that the research technicians have already left."

Answers

Hubert Andrianasolo, the director general, then answered all these questions, saying in particular: "The fact that the estimates differ so much is due to the fact that the technologies used are not the same. I should emphasize," he said to the members of the committee, "that the research technicians whom you have just mentioned had left the country by 1974. They knew that we were going to change the basic petroleum law, and they preferred to leave before submitting to the application of the new law." Concerning petroleum research

specialists in Madagascar, Andrianasolo noted that the companies "were in a period of rapid expansion" and mentioned the areas where the foreign petroleum companies were operating at present, such as Sakaraha, which has been entrusted to Occidental Petroleum, and Morondaya, which has been turned over to Mobil Oil Company, etc.

He then stated that there was no tunnel connecting our country to South Africa which could "suck up" our petroleum. Regarding the Bemolanga field, he remarked that the basic field work has been completed and that laboratory analysis is going forward today. Previously, he had said that there were many African countries which did not benefit from loans from the World Bank or OPEC. He said that if these institutions were investing in our country, it was because they had confidence in the policies advocated by President Didier Ratsiraka and in the petroleum code in force in Madagascar. Regarding the rumors coming from OMNIS technicians, Hubert Andrianasolo said that he would pay close attention to the matter.

Other Questions

In substance that is a summary of the work of the committee on economic and financial affairs as well as that of the committee on foreign relations as we heard it yesterday [15 June] at the ANP. After the notes were read by the recorder, L M X Andrianarahinjaka, president of the ANP, asked if the deputies had other questions to ask the director general of OMNIS. Several of them wanted further information on the subject of Tsimiroro and Bemolanga, asking the following:

"What can we get from the Tsimiroro heavy oil?"

"Isn't Bemolanga still working" Why start to exploit the Tsimiroro field now?"

"In 1956 people were talking already about a petroleum field in the Tulear region--in Anketraka, to be more specific. What is the situation today?"

"What are the reserves of the Bemolanga field?"

"Which field will be the first to produce--Bemolanga or Tsimiroro?"

"It appears that there may be petroleum at Nosy-Be. Has research been carried out in this area?"

"If unconventional petroleum is not competitive, isn't there a risk in financing it by conventional means?"

Huber Andrianasolo's answers fully satisfied the deputies by their clarity. First, he explained the difference between unconventional and conventional petroleum. He then suggested to the members of parliament that they not take seriously these rumors which are circulating regarding Bemolanga or Tsimiroro. "If these companies agree to come and work in our country, this is because they have seen serious indications proving the existence of petroleum, but

these are only indications," he remarked. He also made clear that there is no contradiction between preparing to work in the Tsimiroro and Bemolanga areas, even if the latter field has first priority. And the director general of OMNIS continued, stating that invitations to bid have been opened concerning petroleum research which OMNIS will undertake in the Nosy-Be, Ambilobe, Morondava, and Morombe areas. Regarding OMNIS personnel, he said that at present there are 100 officials, engineers, chemists, economists, lawyers, etc!

Royalties

In response to a question from a deputy who was concerned about the 49 percent interest given to foreign firms in case of "commercial discoveries" of oil, Col Hubert Andrianasolo could not have been more explicit on this subject: "You should not forget that the foreign companies will, in addition, have to pay taxes to Madagascar, as well as royalties which will depend on the production." The deputies then voted. The ratification of Ordinance No 83-005 was unanimously approved, as well as Ordinance No 83-011, regarding the loan from the KFW Bank.

5170

CSO: 3419/1049

MOZAMBIQUE

MAPUTO COMMENTS ON FRONTLINE NEWS BAN

MB032008 Maputo in English to Southern Africa 1800 GMT 3 Aug 83

[Text] Foreign correspondents of news agencies and other international media whose bureaus are based in South Africa have been banned in principle from working in the Frontline States of Africa, Angola, Botswana, Mozambique, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. This part of a common strategy agreed at meeting of ministers of information held in Zimbabwe at the weekend.

Mozambique played a full part in that meeting, and is ready to wage an offensive against the propaganda machine of the Apartheid regime in South Africa. The Frontline States are saying that in information as in trade there is a time to choose. In the case of information, the choice is between the fact of the independent countries in Southern Africa and the lies and distortion of the minority regime in South Africa. Critics of the decision talk about interrupting the free flow of information. On the contrary the policy announced in the Kadoma declaration from Zimbabwe is to stem the free flow of lies.

The Frontline States information ministers are urging the foreign news media to establish regional bureaus in the independent countries of the region. They welcome the example already set in this direction by particular newspapers and news agencies. The ministers welcome news coverage on the spot. They reject the situation where South Africa with policies hostile to independence and human rights in the region is used as the main information center about the region. The effect is one of distortion and misrepresentation. The Frontline States do not accept Pretoria's biased view about the reality of the region.

The Kadoma declaration is not about reporting things in South Africa. Naturally, the South African media will have their own staff covering events in that country. International correspondents will also report on South Africa to [the] rest of the world.

The Frontline States information ministers would like to see more attention given to the reality inside South Africa of the liberation struggle, but that again is not the main purpose of the Kadoma declaration. Their objection is to the dissemination through the foreign correspondents in South Africa of false reports about Angola, for example. The place to learn about Angola is Angola, and not from mysterious briefings by South African army personnel who seek to distract attention from South Africa's illegal occupation of Namibia. Correspondents in Angola will see the reality of South African aggression, just as correspondents in Mozambique could see the reality of the recent South African aggression against Mozambican civilians in Maputo suburb of Matola.

The Kadoma declaration is intended to raise the level of reliable information. The ministers are taking practical steps toward implementing the new international information order. The ministers plan close cooperation between the independent countries of the region. They support the PAN-AFRICAN NEWS AGENCY that came into service in May. All these moves are to improve knowledge and understanding of the region and to give a stronger voice to independent Africa.

CSO: 3400/1733

ARTICLE EXAMINES MOZAMBIQUE NATIONAL RESISTANCE OPERATIONS

Bonn AFRIKA-POST in German Jun 83 pp 12-13

[Article by Hanns H. Reinhardt: "RNM Chief Cristina Shot and Killed in South Africa"]

[Text] A revolver bullet coming from unknown assailants killed Orlando Cristina, general secretary and No 2 man of the RNM, the national resistance movement in the Marxist-Leninist Mozambique.

On a farm north of Pretoria--it was reported to be the place of the crime. It remains to be seen, however, whether this farm (next to the training center of Phalaborwa) is a rear commando post of the insurgents and whether the strike against Cristina was the work of smuggled-in agents of the FRELIMO Government or the consequence of disputes within the RNM leadership structure.

Cristina had been general secretary since 1980. He was considered the No 2 man of the RNM, second only to President Major Afonso Dhlakama--a political assistant to the militaristic and logistic chief of the insurgents. Cristina was taking care of the training of political and administrative cadre forces "to guarantee an effective administration of the country following the ouster of Samora Machel," according to a broadcast that came over the insurgents' station--presumed to be in the South African Transvaal.

At the present time the resistance movement is not intent on establishing some kind of a political infrastructure in its operational territory. Because the partisan war is conducted with extreme mobility, there are no "liberated territories" with secret structures--in contrast to the war fought by the FRELIMO against the Portuguese. It also applies to the two major centers of operation, the provinces of Sofala and Manica located at the "wasp waist" of Mozambique, somewhere between the harbor of Beira and the tip of Tete (which includes the coal mines of Moatize and the Cabora Bassa facilities). The area surrounding the former nature preserve of Gorongosa had been a center of resistance already at the time of the Portuguese because of its dense vegetation, low population count and because of its swampy terrain.

Military observers attribute the successes of the RNM primarily to the fact that the partisans do not burden themselves with heavy weapons and

transportation equipment and spend only a few hours at a time in the villages of their territory of operations. For the transportation of weapons and equipment they always enlist local carriers who are familiar with the roads.

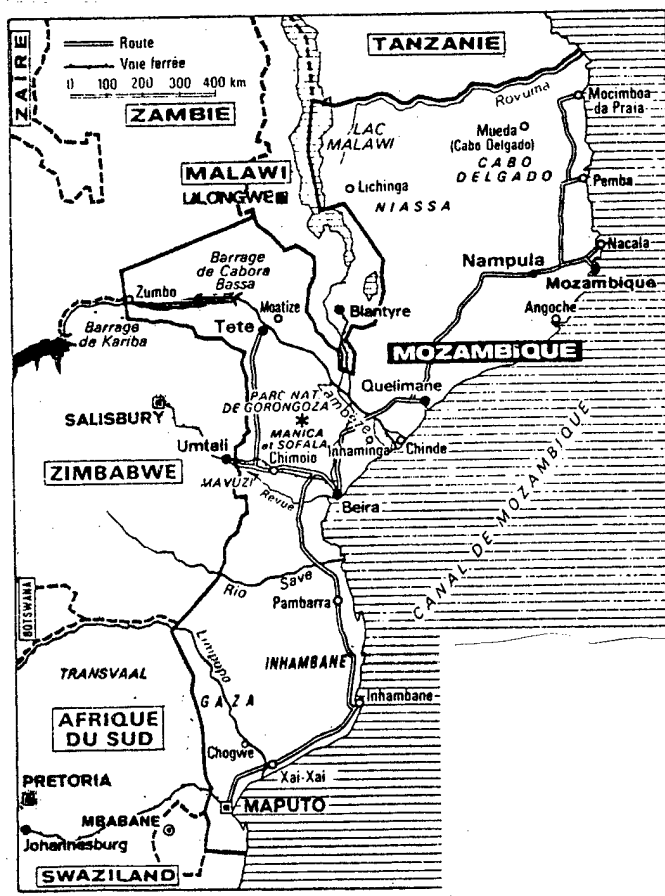
The limited success of the government army is attributed to the fact that Soviet advisers, Cuban and GDR officers are aiming at long-range goals in their training methods and preparing for conventional warfare. Jean-Pierre Langellier, the East Africa correspondent of the Paris paper LE MONDE arrived at the same conclusion: Following independence, Moscow persuaded the FRELIMO Government to buy heavy materials from the East bloc and re-equip its units for a conventional war. Under Soviet leadership, the military academy in Nampula is training tank drivers and tank gunners, applying precisely the same requirements as the Warsaw Pact. Officers-in-training are learning Russian and spending their vacations on the Black Sea--together with Czech and Bulgarian candidates. Missile training is as inappropriate for the partisan war as is the training in the use of tanks and heavy artillery.

In Spite of Agitation: Political Contacts Remain

Mozambique needs helicopters and helicopter pilots and not sophisticated Mig fighters. "Everything points to the fact," Langellier writes, "that the Soviet Union is not supplying the military hardware needed for a quick victory."

The number of Soviet military advisers is estimated at "between 800 and 1,000." They are not participating in the fighting. Internal security services in Mozambique are also in the hands of GDR experts. Approximately 200 Cubans, 400 Tanzanians and 3,000 men from Zimbabwe are also involved. Those from Zimbabwe are playing a role in the training of noncommissioned officers.

It is remarkable that in spite of all the agitation against South Africa and in spite of the solid support of South African ANC saboteurs there is no interruption in the political-diplomatic contact between Pretoria and Maputo. The talks between South Africa's Minister of Foreign Affairs Roelof (Pik) Botha and his colleague from Mozambique in December 1982 (in the border station of Komatipoort) were followed in May by a new meeting, during which Botha and Minister of Police Louis Le Grange informed their partners in the meeting that the South African Peter Schoeman, who had been picked up in Maputo, was by no means an agent instructed to murder Samora Machel but that he was a criminal who had been convicted repeatedly and had also been sought in South Africa.



Mozambique's coastline on the Indian Ocean measures approximately 2,000 kilometers. Between Beira and the Zambesi mouth is the "wasp waist" of the former Portuguese colony. This part of the hinterland is the center of RNM operations. From Beira the traffic runs to the tip of Tete with its mines and the Cabora-Bassa dam. From Beira the petroleum flows to Zimbabwe's border station of Umtali. (The map by courtesy of LE MONDE.)

8991

CSO: 3420/24

MOZAMBIQUE

BRIEFS

WATER ASSISTANCE FROM UN--Mozambique and the United Nations today signed an agreement for an emergency water supply project to Maputo city. The United Nations Development Program was represented by (Walter Deutsch). Diplomats from Holland, France, and Italy, who will help finance the project and supply equipment and technical services, were also present. Mozambique was represented by the secretary of state for international cooperation, Antonio Sumbane. Five of the newly created districts of Maputo city, amounting to more than half the capital, will be the first to benefit from the emergency water supply beginning early next year. However, the project will also cover all districts of Maputo Province affected by drought. The director of the project, Adriano Saraiva, said work has already started near the Umbuluzi River. [Text] [MB031837 Maputo in English to Southern Africa 1800 GMT 3 Aug 83]

UNEMPLOYED RESPOND TO GOVERNMENT'S APPEAL--More than 5,000 unemployed Mozambicans in the port city of Beira have volunteered to go to the countryside to take part in production work. This was reported by the Beira newspaper DIARIO DE MOCAMBIQUE. The unemployed in Beira were responding to a government appeal for people to come forward and register for rural work. The campaign is known as Operation Production and has been underway nationwide for several weeks. In Maputo, the capital, 2,000 people registered. Most of the unemployed have been resettled in the northern provinces of Niassa and Cabo Delgado. Internal Affairs Minister Armando Guebuza, who is in charge of Operation Production, is currently touring the area to check on how the people are being integrated there. [Text] [MB011625 Maputo in English to Southern Africa 1100 GMT 1 Aug 83]

SOVIET TRUCKS TO MAPUTO--On Monday the Soviet charge d'affaires in Maputo delivered six trucks equipped to clean streets, water gardens, and collect refuse. The trucks were given by the city of Moscow to the city of Maputo in the framework of the agreements that were signed when a delegation from Maputo visited Moscow last year. Speaking on the occasion the Soviet charge d'affaires in Maputo said that the offer was based on the principles of internationalism and solidarity with the struggle of the Mozambican people. Alberto Mssavanhane, mayor of Maputo, received the offer and said that it is proof of the good relations between the two peoples. [Text] [MB031248 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1030 GMT 3 Aug 83]

NEW MAPUTO ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION--The Maputo City Committee approved the proposal for the division of the capital into urban districts yesterday. Thus, the city of Maputo will have eight urban districts, including four localities, namely Boquisso and Matola Gare. [sentence as heard] The districts cover all the suburbs of the capital, and the respective district leaders will be appointed soon. This decision was taken during the third session of the Maputo City Party Committee, which also analyzed the progress of Operation Production and the activities carried out by the various working commissions which had been formed during the last session. [Text] [MB031248 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 0800 GMT 3 Aug 83]

CSO: 3442/311

RACIAL IMPLICATIONS OF LAW LAID BARE

Bonn AFRIKA-POST in German Jun 83 p 13

[Article by R.: "'Immorality'--This Time in Rwanda"]

[Text] In Germany it was called "racial disgrace" during the 1930's. In South Africa, the "immorality act" mandates a prison sentence for a white person who does not say good-bye to a black or colored girl at the door but only at the bedside. The fact that a black government, however, sends its own black female citizens to prison camps "for re-education," because--regardless of the degree of intimacy--they had contacts with white-skinned foreigners, was reserved to the authorities of the Republic of Rwanda.

The denial smelled of a bad conscience. It was not true, the authorities of Kigali divulged, that "several dozens of young girls" had been picked up and sent to re-education camps because they had cooperated or slept with foreigners.

Furthermore, the assumption was totally wrong that the arrests had been directed exclusively "against members of a certain tribe" (the reference is to members of the Tutsi minority). On the other hand...well, there had been raids. After all, prostitution, drug abuse and criminality should not be permitted to spread unchecked.

The Americans and French in Kigali are of a different opinion. On account of their cultural institutes and development services, they represent the largest segment of young foreigners in Rwanda, one of the poorest countries in Africa, approximately 1,000 kilometers from the ocean and severely disadvantaged in other respects.

Even the U.S. ambassador--who certainly should not be suspected of being a drug dealer or an owner of a brothel--protested to the police authorities because his secretary had been taken to the prison camp. In many cases the young girls had been sent away, "beaten, degraded and raped" for no other reason except that they had found work at an office of a foreign power.

Where is Rwanda located? In the middle of Africa, between Tanzania and Zaire, south of Uganda, approximately the same size as Sardinia or Rhineland-Palatinate. Between 1899 and 1920 it was part of German East Africa. Between

1920 and 1962, when it gained independence, it was a Belgian mandated territory. It has 4.3 million inhabitants. Eighty-five percent of the population are Hutu peasants, 14 percent belong to the surviving remnants of the former ruling class, the Tutsis, 145,000 of whom were able to flee to neighboring countries during the 1959 Hutu uprising and escape the knives of the Hutus.

8991

CSO: 3420/23

POWER VACUUM INCREASES GOVERNMENT VULNERABILITY

London WEST AFRICA in English No 3441 25 Jul 83 pp 1705-1706

[Text] JUST A FEW WEEKS after the political confrontation staged by a battalion of para-commandos in the south, another direct political challenge to the *Conseil du Salut du Peuple* has been lost, but this time through the country's Supreme Court.

Nine days after the CSP took power in November last year, they pensioned-off 21 senior army officers; three of these took their case to the Supreme Court, claiming the enforced retirements to be illegal. On July 13 the court ruled decisively in favour of the CSP.

The three plaintiffs were Lt-Col. Dakoure, Commandant Ouedraogo and Intendant-General Garango. Between them they had held the posts of Minister of Finance, Public Works, Information and Rural Development, as well as the Ambassadorship's to Washington and Brussels, all during the rule of President Lamizana, between 1967 and 1979.

The decree they claimed illegal was passed November 16, 1982 pensioning them off together with 18 of their colleagues so as "to cleanse the Voltaic armed forces". They based their main argument on the 1962 law which provides the statutes governing Voltaic officers: The law lists the reasons for which an officer can be demoted, but "cleansing" is not among them.

The State's defence was that the decree in question was an act of Government and that the court should therefore declare itself incompetent to judge. This was rejected by the court.

Instead, the court based itself on one of the first statutes passed by the provisional CSP, authorising the removal of military personnel because of the exceptional situation. In particular, the statute gave the President power to pension off those whose continued activity was confirmed as

being "incompatible with the necessary reorganisation and cleansing of the army". The Court declared the statute to be the legal basis of the disputed decree (as well as of two others referred to by the plaintiffs).

But the Government's public display of confidence following this court ruling does not conceal the awareness of a political vacuum.

Since the CSP effectively no longer exists and since the President publicly stated that he was "not gifted in politics", his Government has become increasingly paralysed.

While the ousted radical group continue to discuss the situation, they have yet to come up with any concrete proposals. Speculation is mounting about a further military coup, organised with the support of the traditional military hierarchy.

The justification for such a coup would be that President Ouedraogo has lost any power base he once had — the CSP, with its rank and file from the armed forces.

The CSF is no longer a functioning body for debate or decision making. It is unlikely that they would support the President. Ouedraogo has also disowned the potential power base of "The People", which could at the very least have provided him with a convenient justification for retaining power. Finally, in terms of the army hierarchy, Jean-Baptiste Ouedraogo is a nobody.

The President may stay in power, but he is clearly aware of his growing vulnerability. The most obvious indication of this can be seen in the machine guns which have now been mounted on to the bonnets of the jeeps which accompany his car through Ouagadougou. It has also been seen in the increasingly heavy guard posted around the area of Ouagadougou where he lives, although the curfew was finally lifted on June 29 people are turned away by armed

soldiers if they try to enter that part of town between 1 am and dawn.

A practising Catholic, President Ouedraogo goes to mass at Saint Camille Church every Sunday morning. But now the church is surrounded by armed troops while he and the rest of the congregation pray.

But the general expectations of Voltaics may not prove as crucial as the level of support provided by Western Governments. A test of that support for President

Ouedraogo is likely to come over the next few weeks. Last week, the northern band of the country stretching from The Yatenga right over north of Kaya to Sebba in the north-east was officially declared a disaster zone. These final few months before the annual harvest in October are always difficult, but last years harvest in much of the north was disastrous because of bad rainfall. The Yatenga had just 367 millimetres of rain, whereas its average is over 500. Just before *West Africa* went to press, the Government was to call a meeting of all donors; we understand that they were to request an additional six thousand tonnes of food aid with permission to sell it at a price lower than the official price. The price on the open market is 30 per cent or 40 per cent higher than the official price, but people are unable to find the money even to buy the food in the State warehouses. Most farmers in the north have already sold the few possessions that they had in order to buy grain for their family; a young bull that in normal times would sell for 20,000 cfa can be picked up for 1,500 cfa near Aribinda. The idea of selling emergency aid below the official price seems sensible but is fraught with risks, how do you prevent private traders buying up the stock and then re-selling it on credit, charging 100 per cent or 200 per cent interest? But the Government's biggest risk in making this request is whether the western donors will respond positively, or whether they will do nothing, and allow the resultant social tension to lead to President Ouedraogo's overthrow.

ZAIRE

CHINESE VOLUNTEERS WORKING IN UPPER ZAIRE

Kinshasa ELIMA in French 29 Jun 83 p 7

[Text] The news in Upper Zaire recently has been dominated by the visit of the Chinese Ambassador to Zaire, His Excellency Li Shan Yi.

But why should the presence of the Chinese diplomat draw so much attention from all sides in the region? The answer is simple: Upper Zaire is getting help from 300 Chinese experts, or three-fourths of all the Chinese aid workers in Zaire.

It goes without saying that His Excellency Mr Li Shan Yi paid a visit to this part of the republic in order to view the work being carried out by his compatriots working on the Lotokila Sugar Refinery (Yawenda) and the Chinese military mission, which is responsible for the training of the units of the 41st Shock Commando Brigade, under the command of Colonel Bem Essalo Mongwa and based on the right bank of the Zaire River at Kisangani.

Giving his impressions from the trip to the region, following some very impressive military demonstrations, the Chinese Ambassador said he was quite pleased. He took the opportunity to emphasize the excellent state of bilateral relations between his country and Zaire in every field. He also praised the efforts being carried out by the regional government to insure that the Lotokila Sugar Refinery construction project is completed on schedule, that is by the end of 1984.

Upper Zaire's top official, Citizen Sukadi Bulayi Mudimbe underlined the contribution the Chinese Government is making to the socio-economic development of the region. He thus paid a number of compliments to the Chinese aid workers for their tireless work at Lotokila and the effective training being provided to elements of the 41st FAZ Zairian Armed Forces] Commando Brigade at Kisangani. Finally, he mentioned the irreproachable deportment of our Chinese guests in Zaire. The Chinese diplomat departed Upper Zaire last Sunday to return to Kinshasa.

9516

CSO: 3419/1056

CALL FOR CURBS ON CUSTOMARY LAW ABUSES

Kinshasa ELIMA in French 22 Jun 83 p 3

[Commentary by "Bami"]

[Text] An unspeakably tragic situation prevails presently in the community chieftainries of Mulundu and Katshisungu, in Muene-Ditu zone in the Kasai Oriental region. This deplorable situation is the result according to information in our possession, of the fact that the positions of customary authority are being held by people who have no right to hold them. We are speaking of citizens who reportedly had themselves invested with customary chief powers in the community chieftainries of Mulundu and Katshisungu in place of the lawful office-holders, respectively Kabamba Kabuluku and Mwamba Kayeye.

According to the customary law of the Kanjoka of Mulundu, the head chief can only be replaced upon his death. Now the head customary chief, Kabamba Kabuluku Nganga, was invested with his authority on 17 April 1956, as shown by the official report to that effect, and he is still alive today. So there can be no question of replacing him without a valid reason, and the whole populace supports him. Unfortunately, this Party member was replaced in 1976, for reasons not ever established, by someone else. The latter, according to our source of information, is accused of mistreating the people by imposing regular exactions on them contrary to the ideals of the MPR [Popular Movement of the Revolution].

In fact, in the Mulundu community, there have been several regrettable cases of physical torture, arbitrary arrests, extortion, and illegal, undocumented fines. The local courts have been besieged by the victims, who expect that justice will be done to atone for the moral and material damage they have suffered. In that connection, we have a list of persons who have been tortured.

As for us, we think that the problem is serious. And the people are distressed by the fact that the assistant sub-regional commissar for Muene-Ditu, Citizen Kapandila, has kept completely silent about these events. Intervention by the protective authorities is clearly necessary to clear up the situation, which is getting worse day by day in that part of the republic. The people's commissars in that zone were contacted by intellectuals and well-known figures, and given all the facts, when parliament last adjourned.

For their part, the people's elected representatives who were contacted alerted the local authority to the situation at a meeting of the enlarged people's committee, calling on him to listen to the cries of the populace. The local authority promised to remedy the situation. We are still waiting for him to do so.

9516

CSO: 3419/1056

HARARE PAPER SAYS BUDGET 'NO SURPRISE'

MB041924 Harare THE SUNDAY MAIL in English 31 Jul 83 p 8

[Editorial: "Sharing Burden"]

[Text] Unlike last year's budget, this year's "standstill budget" is one of severe austerity. The hue and cry from both existing taxpayers and the newly created ones, provides no surprise, just as the austerity budget itself was no surprise.

Austerity budgets have never been known to find favour with taxpayers anywhere in the world. This by itself is no justification for imposing a tough budget on the people. But the inevitable question is whether Dr Chidzero had any alternative, given the unenviable economic situation in which our country finds itself.

It is rational and a common human behaviour that when people are facing hard times they adopt austerity measures in the form of tightening their belts. That is what 590,000 Zimbabweans, as well as companies, are being called upon to do.

The causative factors behind the hard times our economy is facing can be divided into those that are unavoidable and those that are avoidable. Recession belongs to the former category. There is nothing the government and people of Zimbabwe could have done to avoid recession. Let this fact be fully understood by those who are inclined to fault-find and witch-hunt about our economic problems.

Public expenditure falls into the latter (avoidable) category. It is true to say that some government departments have been squandering public funds with astonishing callousness and carelessness.

It was appropriate and heartening that Cde Chidzero strongly warned against the squander mania. It was more heartening that the assembly strongly applauded the warning, showing their support for his call to adopt a more responsible attitude to public funds. Ministries must set an example of frugality in the use of public funds.

The attitude found among government personnel that regard public funds and property as nobody's funds and as inexhaustible manna from heaven, must be

ruthlessly stamped out. There will be no end to our economic tears as long as those who handle public funds and property lack probity and responsibility, and occasionally resort to looting and plundering.

One merit in the budget is that it has spread the burden of taxpaying. In the past only a few people were concerned about how government spent public funds. Now more than half a million Zimbabweans are going to be concerned. They have vested interests. They must supervise the spending of their money by the government.

We see no justifiable reason for the murmurings by some companies. Last year they were left intact. It would have been most unreasonable for Dr Chidzero to have made an exception of them. He would have been guilty of partiality.

CSO: 3400/1732

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