Military dictatorships replace white rule, says Nigerian activist

By WALLY MnBHeLE

How much do South Africans know of their history and that of their continent?

Ask the Nigerian author and publisher of books on the African continent, Chief Raphael Uwecue.

"Most South Africans know very little about what is and was happening on their continent. They only know their history starting with the arrival of the settlers which is not so," he says.

Uwecue was recently in South Africa to promote his Know Africa Books which were launched by Archbishops Desmond Tutu and Leah Tutu in St Barnabas, Johannesburg, in October.

The books include Africa, the Home of Virtues; The Quiet Revolution; and There Have Been Other Lives.

"I'm preaching African history to South Africans. I feel I have to do it because African currencies are weak and it took them three years to come up with a monetary plan in this country.

"It is one thing to talk about Africa, but it is another to make Africa work. The situation is very critical. South Africans should know they have skills from God they have to develop and use for the benefit of Africa."

The South African government has not fixed the problem in this country, he said.

The SDP chose the jailed Chief Moshood Abiola as its candidate. Abiola went on to win the presidential elections. However, instead of handing power to Abiola, General Ibrahim Babangida's military government appointed a pseudo-literate Government under Chief Ernest Shonekan to prepare for what was overruled by the military. While the world was appalled by Babangida's dismissal of the elections, there appeared another military ruler, General Sani Abacha, who seized power from Shonekan.

Entering the ring of the laughable through a bloody circus, Abacha continued with military-minded decisions, plunging Nigeria further into the abyss.

He deposed the Electoral Commission which had declared Abiola the winner.

According to the announced timetable, the commission had declared Abiola observer of the election, and his government was due to be inaugurated on January 1.

But the military dictators who imposed the de facto boycott on the country have not applied the same logic.

"Thirty democratically elected governments were also sacked by a mere radio announcement.

"Like a man on a wild rampage, Abacha swallowed up 500 parliamentary members. Most South Africans don't know about this."

Listening to Uwecue one feels as if he was listening to an anti-apartheid activist of the 1980s.

"They have passed a law which makes it impossible to challenge any law they pass. They are doing as they like," he exclaimed.

What was to be done? City Press asked the chieftain.

"African countries should not allow this kind of thing to happen," he replied. "It is a deliberate effort to keep soldiers anywhere to forcefully take power from civil governance."

"That is the kind of force we are fighting," he continued.

In his 1993 campaign for democracy in Nigeria, Uwecue said: "If we can show by the concrete examples of the successes that 100 million people can live and work together under one banner in fruitful harmony, then we have made the strongest possible case for a democratic African union.

"South African policies are leading us in the direction of South Africa. Will our neighbours follow?"
Flower exporting is becoming a great business venture in poor countries

The sweet smell of money

**MIRACLE CROP** Cut flowers yield high rates of return in this new market:

A

Famine looms again, Ethiopia is growing flowers — roses, carnations, chrysanthemums destined for people in Europe, North America and Japan who do not have to think whether their next meal is coming from.

For Ethiopia has joined the long list of poor nations producing the latest tropical "miracle crop": cut-flowers for export.

Colombia is way ahead of other developing countries, with 10 percent of world exports of cut flowers, second only to overall leader Holland, with 59 percent.

Costa Rica, Ecuador, Jamaica, Kenya, Malawi, Mexico, Peru, Uganda and Zimbabwe are among others also on the bandwagon.

Even Rwanda is among the countries feeding this $5 billion market.

India is now planting over 150,000 hectares. At five million blooms per hectare, say traders, its produce will flood the market. Prices are already falling.

Yet Northern development advisers are urging more countries to join the line-up. The war-ravaged economies of Honduras, El Salvador and Nicaragua can be rehabilitated through flower-therapy, say consultants from both the European Union and the United States Agency for International Development.

They and other tropical countries have a comparative advantage — sunshine and cheap labour. How can Northern European compete when they have to heat greenhouses in winter; how can tropical countries not succeed when their women will work for less than a dollar a day?

What the consultants do not say, however, is that flooding the flowers to the market costs as much as heating greenhouses.

The real business is in the trade, not production.

Only 10 percent of the wholesale price of each flower remains in the country in which it is grown. The cost of air-freight alone is often the same as the value of the produce.

Then it has to be trucked, or re-flowed, from the wholesale centres to the retailers. The retailers add another 100 percent mark-up.

The consultants also fail to mention that flower-growing is highly polluting: some say the most polluting form of agriculture known to humankind.

Because of pesticides and fertilisers, ground water in parts of Holland, the traditional centre of the trade, will be unfit for human use for generations to come.

Nor do the consultants talk about the flowers' drinking problem.

Holland may be able to afford to use 80,000 litres of water a year on each hectare. But parts of India suffering from perpetual or recurrent water scarcity cannot.

Should export flowers use water from the Ganges, already so over-exploited that neighbouring Bangladesh has appealed to the United Nations to curtail India's water-grabbing?

The water level in Lake Naivasha, centre of Kenya's flower producing region, is sinking measurably while food prices in the district are sky-rocketing, since food now has to be brought in from outside.

The experts talk only about the high rates of return. You can make back your investment in three years, they say. But to do so requires 10 tons of fertiliser and pesticides a hectare per year, which is why the German chemical manufacturer, Hoechst, does consultations for companies in Zimbabwe.

No one buys a flower that is half-eaten by bugs. Nor will consumers pay for an obviously jet-lagged bloom that shows evidence of its time in auction rooms, trucks and airports. You must grow genetically-engineered varieties that resist anything nature can throw at them. And you must pay 60 cents royalty on every $1.20 rose plant you buy from a Northern laboratory.

You probably need greenhouse materials, irrigation systems, cooling technology, even management from Northern companies - for this business is a race against the clock.

Every second of the fragile commodity's short life must be regulated and insured against 30 degree Celsius roads and airports. You cannot wait for the rusty wheels of third world business-culture to work. You need the most internationalised, computerised arrangements.

So, expensive specialists are blooming, and spawning new varieties such as flower-fashion-designers, who come up with creative ideas like "Thank You Day" and "Grandparents' Day" to stimulate the appetite of any flagging consumers.

Fashion is fickle. Today yellow may be all the rage in the decor magazines; but by Christmas they will be seeing red. This year's lilies might be the big talking point around the vases, but next year they will be talking of another colour. How can the Third World farmer anticipate the fads? By paying Northern food to Northern advisers.

So Southern governments are offering five-year tax holidays and other benefits to potential investors. Profits, in any case, are hard to tax since most financial dealings take place in the North.

Most governments feel incentives are inevitable in such a highly-competitive market, particularly as they are involved in export-oriented, World Bank-sponsored economic restructuring programmes.

Zimbabwe, for instance, was nagged into reducing food-stocks in the early 1990s, and was then struck by drought which created shortages in its staple, maize.

"The year 1992 was a most difficult year for Zimbabwe's agricultural industry," observed Dr RM Mupawasa, chairman of the country's Agricultural Marketing Authority. "The levels of crop failure, as a result of the drought, were staggering. The disastrous drought forced us to import food commodities of which we usually have surpluses."

But that same year Zimbabwe sent $60 million worth of agricultural commodities out of the country, including six million kilograms of water-guzzling flowers. It also had to borrow $70 million from international banks for food imports from the US.

Zimbabwe's main flower producers are white farmers who have switched from tobacco. In Kenya, perhaps the fastest growing new producer, 35 percent of flower-growers are white, three percent are black. The biggest producers are transnational companies, including the food-giants Unilever and Del Monte. In India, the recent drive towards flower-production is a result of joint ventures with Dutch companies.

"It's all tax-driven," commented Jan Lanning of the Dutch Wholesale Board. New Delhi is offering generous incentives, so the country's large industrialists are pouring huge amounts into this reputed money-spinner.
Africa flounders in cycle of poverty

Even worse the average was 20

The statistics showed that people

In 54 of 56 countries in sub-Saharan Africa

African continent

The findings also showed that poverty

In 1970 and 1975

In 1975 and 1979

In 1979 and 1983

In 1983 and 1987

In 1987 and 1991

Also 22 out of 24 countries with

In 1989 and 1993

Also, 19 out of 20 countries with

In 1993 and 1997

In 1997 and 2001

In 2001 and 2005

In 2005 and 2009
Call to set up African peacekeeping force

Harare — The establishment of an African peacekeeping force moved a step closer yesterday when Britain, Canada, France and the US began talks in the Zimbabwe capital with 20 African countries, including South Africa.

The co-hosts of the meeting — Field Marshal Sir Peter Inge, Chief of the Defence Staff in Britain, and Zimbabwean Defence Minister Movemahachi — ruled out a standing multinational force but favoured permanent command and logistics centres.

The week-long conference follows earlier meetings in Accra and Cairo in response to a decision by the Organisation of African Unity in 1990 to set up a mechanism "for the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts".

Mahachi acknowledged that the OAU would be incapable of running such an organisation and said support from the UN would be needed.

He said it might be feasible to urge member states to have troops at the ready all the time, adding that the establishment of a supply base might also have merit.

Inge agreed that costs alone put the formation of a permanent force "in cloud cuckoo land" but said the establishment of "command and control organisations will be very important."

The meeting is also being attended by representatives from Botswana, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Swaziland, Tanzania, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia, the OAU, the UN and the Commonwealth secretariat.

Inge said more than 40 percent of the UN's peacekeeping effort was devoted to Africa.

Mahachi pointed out that unless African countries were prepared to undertake peacekeeping duties, developed nations of the world would be reluctant to commit their own troops. — Sapa-AFP.
Africa

Millions still held in Africa’s aid kitty

LILONGWE – Senior officials from the European Union and southern African states met yesterday to discuss allocation of 121-million ecus to cover more than 50 development programmes in the region.

The officials have been taking part in the annual consultative conference between Western donors and the 11-nation Southern African Development Community (SADC) in the Malawian city, Lilongwe.

SADC CE Kaire Mbuende said before yesterday’s session: “It is a meeting to review all the SADC projects funded under Lomé ... there are 121-million ecus committed but not disbursed.”

SADC principal economist Charles Hove said the first aid protocol for the period 1990 to 1995 under the Lomé convention covered development projects in transport, agriculture and human resources.

The EU provides aid to developing nations in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific under the convention.

Hove said the money had not been disbursed immediately in 1990 as the two regions had to agree on and “refine” project proposals. The process had been drawn out because of a lack of institutional capacity within the SADC itself to carry out required feasibility studies and to tackle EU aid procedures.

The SADC consists of Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, SA, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Hove said it would be asking the EU for 20-million ecus to bridge a financing gap between now and the conclusion of negotiations for a second five-year aid protocol for the SADC.

At the weekend, European Commission director for Eastern and Southern Africa Giovanni Livì said he hoped negotiations would be completed before the end of this month. He said the commission, the EU’s governing body — through aid commitments to SADC states under Lomé — sought to support democracy in the region.

The commission had channelled more than 4-billion ecus to the region from 1986 to 1994 to support national and regional development programmes, economic reform, emergency food aid and other projects, he said.

It also needed to prevent conflicts like that in Rwanda. There had been “enormous” progress toward democracy in the region, he said, citing Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia and SA. But he said this was not enough to solve southern Africa’s economicills. “We need good governance that would help to boost activities of the private sector and as far as possible involvement of populations in development.” — Sapa-Reuters.
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Smaller harvests expected

HARARE — Poor rainfall in parts of Southern Africa could cut harvests by up to half, forcing governments to dip into strategic reserves and import cereals, a regional monitoring group said yesterday.

Near-normal harvests were expected in northern parts of the region, but extra food would be needed almost everywhere else, said the Early Warning Unit of the 11-nation Southern African Development Community.

It said Angola, northern Mozambique and Tanzania had enough rain since November to produce reasonable harvests. But in SA corn harvests were 1.5% east at six million tons, compared to 12m tons reaped last year.

Only Swaziland had good rains and can expect a bumper harvest “substantially higher” than that last year.

— Sapa-AP CT 9/12/95
GOLD Fields Ghana recorded a sharp drop in taxed income for the six months to December after strike action affected productivity and higher costs hit the bottom line.

Results published today showed decreased taxed income of $373,000, less than half the figure achieved in the 1993 interim period, on turnover little changed at $72.0m ($72.3m).

Capex, reduced to $20,000 ($37,000), was offset by an increase in exploration expenditure to $1.6m ($1.1m).

Good progress was made in most aspects of the operation during the first three months under review, but two illegal strikes over wage rates in October reduced productivity, which was further affected by a drop in grade and shortage of equipment. But the company broke even in the second three months, directors said. The position was improving after the satisfactory conclusion of wage negotiations in December.

A marginally lower milling rate of 106.966 t/h and lower grade pushed production down to 18,990 oz (21,300 oz).

The higher average gold price received of $284.66/oz ($373,21/oz) was offset by higher sales cash costs of $324.91/oz ($247.29/oz).

Cash costs were higher than in 1993 when grades were better and expenditure on maintenance and underground development was not possible owing to a lack of spares and equipment, directors said.

This saw total costs of sales rise to $84.6m ($5.3m), with operating profit reflecting a corresponding decrease to $82.1m ($1.8m). The tax bill was reduced to $895,000 ($205,000).

Exploration was yielding positive results in most of the programmes and initial results of drilling for structure on the deeper extensions of the Tarkwa syncline were encouraging.
PARIS — Industrialised nations were asked on Friday to allocate 0.7% of their GNP for the next 10 years to help finance the development of Africa.

This was one of the resolutions taken at the 6-day Andience Africa conference held at the headquarters of the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (Unesco).

The conference brought together heads of state, aid agencies, UN organisations, the OAU and the African Development Bank.

It was chaired by Graca Machel, wife of late Mozambican president Samora Machel. Participants stressed the gravity of Africa’s situation in the draft final report.

Future aid might be granted on draconian terms inspired by a thinly disguised desire to create hegemony and dependency, it said. Africa would have to rely more on its own strength and open its eyes to the reality of the modern world.

An African economic community should be pursued actively.

The report said the past three decades had brought discredit to the continent.

Africa had to accept responsibility for its situation and make a firm commitment to reverse the trend.

It was a myth that Africa was a poor continent. In natural resources it was the most richly endowed of all continents. It needed competent and serious people, capital and knowledge to unlock these resources.

To meet the challenge, Andience Africa resolved that resources firstly be channelled into education. The conference requested African governments devote 5% of their GDPs to education by the end of the century.

It also asked international financial backers to convert outstanding debts to the financing of education.

The conference noted an African brain drain and suggested forming “centres of excellence” to train scientists and researchers, funded by a pooling of facilities and resources.

Andience Africa asked Unesco to assist in the creation of an information network to enable African countries to gain access to electronic information and encourage the creation of subregional electronic mail networks.

It requested the UN to earmark 3% of its African allocation to research and development, and that African governments set aside a minimum of 0.5% of their GNP for the same purpose.

To protect and advance the growth of democracy, the conference resolved that the OAU “oblige” African leaders who had not been elected democratically to organise elections and present themselves to their electorates no later than two years of the date of the resolution. — Sepa.
LONDON — More than half the British manufacturing companies in sub-Saharan Africa have disinvested over the past five years despite the region’s economic reforms, according to a report published last week by the Institute of Development Studies at the University of Sussex.

British disinvestment, says the report, "may also indicate similar trends among manufacturing companies from other countries, in particular, France, Germany and the US".

It notes that the disinvestment has taken place despite World Bank economic reform programmes, introduced over the past decade by most African governments, and suggests the reforms "may well have hastened the process".

Of 80 British companies surveyed, 28 had completely disinvested between 1989 and 1994, and 20 partially. The report, which excludes SA, says: "In mid-1999, 90 British companies had a total of 336 equity involvements in manufacturing enterprises in English-speaking Africa. By mid-1994, there were only 65 companies with equity stakes in 233 manufacturing enterprises".

The 14 countries classified as English-speaking Africa include Ghana, Nigeria, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Kenya, and Uganda. Together they account for 55% of the region’s population and 55.3% of total manufacturing in 1990.

The pull-out was "most dramatic in three countries — Kenya, Nigeria and Zimbabwe — where two-thirds of British equity involvement in English-speaking Africa were located".

UK companies pull out of sub-Saharan Africa despite regional reforms.

Some of the most important disinvesting companies included Allied Lyons, Courtaulds, ICI, Leyland Trucks, Chloride, Unilever, UAC, Lucas, Pilkington and RTZ, the report says.

British companies comprise between 50% and 80% of foreign direct investment in most of English-speaking Africa, it says.

Low levels of profitability and foreign exchange shortages are said to be the main reasons for the disinvestment.

Commenting on the impact of devaluations of African currencies, the study says that although this "gives the manufacturing sector increased protection from competitive imports, it increases the costs of imported raw materials which many industries remain heavily reliant upon. But for foreign investors, the most serious impact of any large devaluations is that it reduces the sterling value of profit remittances by the same percentage amount".

However, some of the institute’s findings, including its direct or implicit criticism of structural adjustment policies, may well be challenged.

The report claims that new investment codes in Africa “have swept to one side many of the restrictions and impediments that had so seriously limited direct foreign investment in the past, and replaced them with a variety of investment incentives and guarantees. In addition, one-stop investment centres have been established... to facilitate rapid approval of investment projects”.

Many local and foreign business will argue that the reality is somewhat different. Nigeria, for example, only this year lifted restrictions on foreign shareholdings in local companies. One-stop investment centres have frequently been unable to cut through state bureaucracies, while privatisation has often been slow.

Although the generally bleak picture is not likely to be disputed, the report excludes two important sectors from its appraisal — mining and oil.

Ghana has attracted significant foreign investment in its privatised gold mines, while substantial investment has continued to take place in Nigeria’s oil and gas sectors. — Financial Times.
Africa’s downward spiral
(L) Wm 17-23/2/95

Liberia’s disintegration is part of a wider African trend. Whatever hopes may have been born of the 1990s’ promise of democratisation faded amid coups and hijacked elections, writes Chris McGreal in Monrovia.

Liberia is cautiously placing hopes for its future in an illiterate, antiquated traditional chief who promises success because he says he is the father of the nation. From one perspective he may be: Chief Tamba Tailor is noted for having more children than his 50-plus years. He is also a legacy of the days before anyone thought of themselves as a Liberian. He may well herald just such a future.

Liberia’s warlords chose Chief Tailor recently to head a ruling council through which they promise to settle the differences that have cost 150,000 lives. People no longer care that the council is unrepresentative or that they will be dictated to by gangsters. An end to the war would be enough.

But it seems unlikely that they will be granted even that. The man who launched the conflict five years ago, Charles Taylor, has shown an inclination for total power. Recently he has been forced into military retreat, so perhaps he is hoping to win it through manipulation of the council. If he fails he could well decide that total control of part of Liberia is better than a partial say in running the whole country.

Liberia, its territory already divided among seven factions, has practically ceased to exist as a nation state.

It is a trend, in one form or another, emerging across Africa. In some parts of the continent whatever faith there was in national government is mostly lost. South Africans, Ethiopians and Malawians retain expectations for relatively new administrations. Uganda, Zimbabwe, Namibia, and others run robust administrations.

But in much of Africa, from Liberia to Somalia, Zaire to Nigeria to Mozambique, any belief that the state will look after the people, or at least not abuse them, has long since evaporated.

Whatever new hopes may have been born of the 1990s’ promise of democratisation have faded amid hijacked elections, military coups and virtual abandonment by those foreign powers which threw weapons into the cold war battleground. Into this vacuum step the Charles Taylors of Africa.

The pressures on the states carved out by Europeans are many and varied. Ethnic ties, trade and crime have eroded artificial borders since they were imposed.

But war, and the huge movements of people it causes, is increasingly erasing national identities and boundaries.

Liberia’s disintegration has been matched for savagery in Somalia and Rwanda. There is no political ideology behind such wars.

The conflicts in Liberia, Sierra Leone or Somalia are a grasp at power with multiplying factions dividing the country between them. Rwanda may have appeared an ethnic confrontation but at its root it was a battle for power devoid of ideology.

Much of the Rwandan population is now outside its borders, unwilling to accept the new Kagame regime, while residents of neighbouring Burundi, Tanzania and Uganda stake a claim on the country.

Although almost all Africa’s wars are still contained within the boundaries drawn by colonisers, conflict is more often spilling across frontiers.

Burundi’s doom-laden prospects are shaped by the aftermath of the ethnic slaughter in Rwanda. Liberia’s warlords have staked into Sierra Leone, helping create an effective but increasingly factionalised insurrection. If power cannot be won, there is still much to be gained from banditry and control of economic resources such as diamonds.

Countries do not necessarily disintegrate under violent implosion. Under Mobuto Sese Seko’s tutelage, Zaire has been falling apart for years, although the pace picked up after the West withdrew its blessing at the end of the cold war.

President Mobutu retains enough power to ensure his personal security, but he no longer has real control over his sprawling country.

Its cities and provinces are practically self-governing. The disintegration of the infrastructure diminishes the likelihood of a national uprising. Yet the diversification of power, however limited at present, will not make it easy for anyone to reclaim central authority.

It is the collapse of countries such as Zaire that the rest of Africa most fears. In West Africa, eyes are on Nigeria, where violent upheaval would threaten the stability of the entire region.

Nigeria’s federation is stronger than often realised. But questions about the wisdom of giving its disparate peoples together are now more frequently raised than at any time since the Biafran war.

The further marginalisation of Africa now that it is no longer required as a cold war killing zone, and South Africa is liberated, bodes ill for those hoping to reverse the trend towards instability.

What little economic support came Africa’s way is diminishing. Yet the IMF continues to insist on economic policies that make the poor poorer and alienate them further from systems and national administrations increasingly unable to justify their existence to the people.
Liberian warlords cash in on gold and diamonds

Monrovia — While Liberia’s warring warlords squabble over power-sharing, the shattered country’s diamonds and gold are being quietly smuggled to Europe — to help keep some of the rival factions going.

The Monrovia government, a 5-year-old republic of a previous failed attempt to end five years of civil war, believes a fortune in gold and precious metals could be under its control — but not under its control.

It says that until the warlords settle their differences, this potential will be largely untapped or will be exploited almost solely for the benefit of those in control of the nation with guns rather than for the country as a whole.

"All the minerals which we have seen to date have been exported illegally," said Zalyei Dohke, Minister of Mines and Energy. "The government has not been getting any revenue from the mining sector.

"Surveys conducted in the late 1980s and early 1990s have identified pockets of mineral deposits." Dohke said.

"There has never been mining below the alluvial layer, which overlooks potentially huge mineral deposits," Dohke said.

"As a result of the war, there has been a large quantity of gold and diamonds in the country, and there are very good quality 24-carat gold, especially in Grand Gedeh and River counties in the west. The situation is the same for diamonds," Dohke said.

However, Dohke added, "there is no control over the situation as the factions control everywhere outside Monrovia. We believe there is a lot of gold and diamonds being exported from Liberia to Belgium."

At the height of the war in 1992, the figure stood at 100,000 carats.

"In the past there were several major diamond and gold companies in Liberia, such as the Russian company, but they all left as a result of the war," Dohke said.

"Now we have no control over this situation, and we are not getting any revenue from the mining sector," Dohke said. "All the diamonds and gold are being exported illegally, and the government does not have any control over this.

"All our pre-war institutions and laboratories have been destroyed. We are asking international bodies to help the Liberian mining sector develop," Dohke said.

Dohke added, "There are things which can be done before disarmament takes place. We must begin training engineers and rebuilding our facilities."
Smugglers: Fgrs flown from 2 nations over 400mi.

CONTRABAND SMUGGLERS Tackle grows in smuggling of drugs.

African Airlines say Africa's countermeasures against smuggling are inadequate. A leading airline executive has called for a more comprehensive approach to combat the growing problem of drug smuggling.

The executive, who spoke at a recent conference on aviation security, said that African airlines are facing an increasing challenge from smugglers who are using their services to transport large quantities of illegal drugs. He noted that the problem is not confined to any particular country, but is a regional issue that requires a coordinated response.

"We have seen a significant increase in the amount of drugs being smuggled through our networks," the executive said. "Our owners and shareholders expect us to operate safely and efficiently, and we are committed to doing everything we can to meet those expectations. But we cannot do it alone. We need the cooperation of governments, law enforcement agencies, and other stakeholders to address this issue."
Africa seems headed for post-'cold war' unity

Old borders start to crumble

A quarter of a century after the "uhuru" wave hit Africa in the early 60s, the continent still lives with borders drawn long ago. Eight such colonial-drawn frontiers continue to divide the Zambezi river basin and are now the borders of modern states.

Recently, politicians' contemporary attitudes to different stretches of frontier within this area has changed - more than 1,000 km apart - have been under the spotlight.

One is the centre of a dispute over an island on the Chobe River, shared by Botswana and Namibia.

The other is a landmark heralding post-Cold War unity in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) between Malawi and Tanzania.

The dispute over the island in the Chobe River started three years ago on what Gaborone calls Sedudu Island.

Treaty

Namibia claimed that the island at the point known to Windhoek, fell on their side of the line drawn up by a treaty between Germany, Britain and Portugal in 1885. Recently a committee of experts who had researched the treaty, along with an Anglo-German one two years before, handed over a report to the two countries' presidents, with Zimbabwean president Robert Mugabe as arbitrator.

At first, both Namibia and Botswana agreed that the commission's recommendations would be binding. But after de-colonisation the two sides have failed to resolve the matter.

Now Botswana and Namibia will use the International Court of Justice to resolve it. The 1885 treaty declared the island part of the British protectorate of Bechuanaland, now Botswana.

Losing World War I cost Germany its possession of South West Africa which South Africa took over as a mandate territory from the League of Nations.

But from 1918 to 1939, the Namibian side of the island, known as the Lammbezi (formerly Caprivi) region, was administered by the British High Commissioner, represented in Bechuanaland.

That legacy lives on with English being widely spoken in the area, unlike "masioka" at Namibia.

More recently cross-border traffic from Zimbabwe, Botswana and Zambia has added to Lammbezi's atmospheric effect. Each of the countries has developed an advertising campaign, partly across the Zambezi from Zambia to the Namibian town of Katima Mulilo.

More than 1,000 km away across Zambia, the border issue focuses on Lake Malawi, but also on a frontier drawn up in the interests of the Union Jack in Nyasaland (Malawi) and the Kaiser's flag in German East Africa (Tanzania).

Malawi and Tanzania, at a recent SADC meeting, faced the end of cold war relations on the lake, agreeing to run ships between their respective ports.

The new shipping route will focus on passenger traffic although it is expected to also lead to an increase in trade.

For Malawians and Tanzanians it will mean more contact with one another. Although the shipping route is yet to start, many relations have already brought more Tanzanian traders to Malawi towns.

One of them, Eliza Mwale, remarked in the centre of Blantyre: "We are not doing badly." But Malawian businessman Lewis Kambungo, who sells in the country, wasn't as enthusiastic: "There are just too many (Tanzanian) here. We don't infest their towns like they do here."

Most people travelling Lake Malawi's boats are such traders. For them, lake cruises on the top deck, comfortably above the first and second class holds, will no longer have to be confined to Malawi waters.

"Our ship, the Lady Alice, will make one round voyage per week to Tanzania and back to Malawi," said Captain Albert Nkhaha, lake services manager for Malaw Railways at Mzuzu Bay, the ship's home port.

Zambezi also shares Lake Malawi's waters, including the Malawi enclave of Likoma and Chichilamba Islands, in Mozambique waters.

This arrangement came about around the same time as the Chobe River line was drawn - because a British missionary organisation claimed it was already part of its parish when the Portuguese began to establish themselves on what is now the Mozambique shore.

And so the legacy of borders imposed by outside powers lives on, with traders always the first people to break them.
'Millions' of mines in Africa

HARARE. — Military and civilian experts from 13 African countries are scheduled to meet here this week to assess the problem created by the millions of landmines planted in Africa, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) announced yesterday.

Of the estimated 110 million mines scattered in 64 countries around the world, one-third are in Africa. UN and ICRC military experts say that some 10 million landmines are planted throughout Angola alone.

The ICRC regional delegate for Southern Africa, Mr. Rene Koechlin, said the two-day conference organised by the ICRC and the Organisation of African Unity would also seek to promote international treaties to regulate the use of anti-personnel mines.

Archbishop Desmond Tutu is one of the guest speakers at the conference, scheduled for Thursday and Friday.

The conference is also expected to help prepare the review of the 1980 UN Weapons Convention at an international conference scheduled for September in Austria.

The 15-year old treaty has so far been ratified by 42 countries, of which only three — Benin, Niger and Tunisia — are African states. — Sapa-AFP
Regional peace plan adopted

HARARE. — A programme backed by Southern African states to promote peace and settle disputes within the region could become a model for the continent, African diplomats and analysts said yesterday.

The UN-backed plan was adopted by foreign ministers of the 11-nation Southern African Development Community (SADC) last week. The SADC was expected to take on the peace mission, but it chose instead to form a new body to take charge of the programme.

The SADC comprises Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

"It is a noble idea and, given support at every level in the region, it could turn out to be a model for the African continent and even others in the Third World," one diplomat said.

Details of the new peace programme are to be unveiled at a SADC summit to be held in South Africa later this year.

Sources at Friday's SADC meeting in Harare said the new body would be called the Association of Southern African States.

— Sapa-Reuters
Student strike in Ghana off. 1
CT 10/31/95
ACCRA: Students in Ghana returned to classes yesterday after a two-day boycott of lectures ended with a government promise to increase their loans.

Sapa-Reuters, AP, AFP
Africa urged to demand share of world resources

DURBAN — President Nelson Mandela said at the weekend that African countries needed to demand their “fair share” of world resources, and urged Western countries to assist in the development of the continent.

Speaking at a glittering banquet on Saturday evening when he received the Africa Peace Award, Mandela said: “It is only just that Africa should demand her fair share of world resources (and) that we should challenge the unhonorable global division of power and wealth.”

Africa’s response to the “malaise of Afro-pessimism” which often gripped developed countries was the fact that the continent was on the path towards democracy, peace, good governance and all-round security.

Urging developed countries to recognize the “millstone that weights around our neck”, he said: “Assist us to deal with the depths from which we have to launch our revival. Do not judge us by lower human standards.”

OAU Secretary-General Salim Ahmed Salim presented the award which was sponsored principally by Engen.

Mandela said hunger, disease and ignorance were often the dividing line between peace and war. SA’s challenges were similar to those of other African countries in terms of a high illiteracy rate, homelessness, landlessness and malnutrition affecting millions.

“African governments and civil society from across the continent needed to co-operate to foster peace,” he said.

“Through such a continental network we can strengthen Africa’s monitoring, capacity, research on how to prevent and eliminate conflict and impart the skills of mediation,” Mandela said.
Kampala — Ugandan coffee exporters meet early next week to discuss plans for a new export quota system similar to a global one which collapsed in 1989, a senior industry official said yesterday.

Fred Kawuma, executive director of the Uganda Coffee Exporters' Association, said most exporters already favoured the quota system over a retention scheme.

"Exporters cannot enforce the retention scheme as it would be too costly for them and yet they are already weighed down by a tax imposed last year," he said.

"Uganda, Africa's second-largest producer after Ivory Coast, imposed a controversial 32 percent tax on all exports sold at more than 1,100 shillings ($1.20). The tax was meant to mop up funds and help stabilise the shilling currency.

The outcome of the exporters' meeting would not be binding and would require government backing before it is implemented.

"Given Uganda's record exports of 3.01 million 60 kg bags in 1993/94, a quota system would be preferable to retention, since a reduction in quota based on that year's high export figure would not affect actual exports for 1994/95," said board secretary William Naggaga.

"Moreover, a quota system has the added advantage of freeing the exporter from holding stocks."
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Africa's debts 'terrifying'

CAIRO: Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak yesterday opened an African foreign ministers meeting on the economy of the world's poorest continent with a call for solving its growing debts problem.

"Debts have reached a level beyond that of the African countries' ability, especially at a time when they are subject to pressure after the implementation of structural reform programmes and liberalising trade," Mr Mubarak told more than 30 African ministers taking part in the two-day meeting.

He added that "$300 billion (about R1 083bn) of African debts is a terrifying number, putting in consideration all the deteriorating economic conditions among the continent's countries" and warned that economic and social development could not be achieved without putting an end first to several armed conflicts on the continent, including civil wars.

"He emphasised the importance of inter-African trade." — Reuter
Minerals ‘must be utilised’

AFRICAN countries needed to embark on a collective drive to utilise the continent's extraordinary mineral wealth and end dependency relations with the developed world, President Nelson Mandela said yesterday.

Delivering the opening address at the sub-Saharan Oil and Minerals Conference in Johannesburg, President Mandela said more efficient use and processing of the continent’s mineral resources could help alleviate widespread poverty.

“We need to make sure that the benefits of exploiting and processing our minerals and oil benefit Africa. Too often in the past Africa has derived little benefit from its resources,” he said.

Although Africa produced the bulk of many valuable minerals it used only a fraction of those commodities itself.

He said African countries needed to replace short-term national interests with a co-operative approach towards mineral exploitation.

SA’s achievement of democracy and the move towards peace in southern Africa had transformed the possibilities for co-operation towards this objective.

Local manufacture of more basic commodities, such as clay for bricks or ceramics, would reduce the import burden, create jobs and cut prices.

In order to facilitate this production, African countries needed to develop the necessary infrastructure by making full use of its raw materials.

“Instead of importing these value-added products at a massive cost, using scarce foreign exchange, why not turn to our own indigenous resources, enormous but still largely underdeveloped,” Mandela said.

Africa also needed to develop appropriate industrial processes and technologies through ongoing co-operation between governments and the private sector.

While industrialised countries could offer valuable assistance to this end, it was the African entrepreneur who needed to lead the way.

“Africa needs to reclaim its minerals by way of indigenisation, by developing our own institutions, by enabling the African entrepreneur to come to the fore. It is our responsibility to relate to the existing game players in a way which ensures that we are at least equal partners.”

SA was committed to sharing its substantial advantages over other African countries in mineral affairs and the associated scientific and technological fields.

“No longer will they be used to benefit our country at the expense of others or to enforce relations of dependency.

“Partnerships of mutual benefit must become the norm of relations between all our countries,” Mandela said. — Sapa.
AFRICA would have to compete for a share of the limited pool of capital for resource development in developing countries, a senior Chase Manhattan Bank official said.

"You have a lot of competition," global energy section senior vice-president Robert Weaver told delegates to the Sub-Saharan Oil and Minerals Conference.

Developing countries from Chile to Vietnam had opened their doors to the private sector.

Weaver said there was scepticism over some African countries' recent economic liberalisation moves, and political risk might be higher in the new world order than in the old one.

Nations first needed to offer investors stability, respect for human rights which included personal security, and a legal frame-work in which to operate.

"The challenge is to be competitive in the terms they offer investors," Weaver said.

The World Bank's International Finance Corp oil, gas and mining department director Azam Alizai said the outlook for resource development in Africa was positive and exciting.

In the past few years the corporation had approved 20 oil, gas and mining projects costing a total of about $6bn. These had generally been successful and the corporation was discussing other projects, also worth about $5bn.

Last year it supported a range of projects worth a total $16bn and expected to invest $6bn of its own funds annually next year, in 1997 and 1998.

The corporation recently opened an office in Johannesburg and anticipated supporting 60 new investments in the region every year, he said.

Project finance institutions looked to governments for transparent access to resources, secure ownership, fair fiscal terms and the freedom to manage projects.

Stockbroker Simpson McKie MD Dixie Strong said scope for black economic empowerment via SA's mature mining industry was limited, but there were some opportunities for joint ventures with small existing operations.

"Easy mining in SA is generally a thing of the past," he said.

Black investors should look to a mainstream partner who had capital and expertise, while they could provide access to markets.

The proposed unbundling of Johannesburg Consolidated Investment presented the biggest current opportunity for a joint mining venture, but black participation would have to result in widespread black economic empowerment for the transfer to be seen as successful, Strong said.

— Reuter.
'Africa must be more self-reliant'

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“Instead of importing these value-added products at a massive cost, using scarce foreign exchange, why not turn to our own indigenous resources, enormous but still largely underdeveloped?” — Sapa.
African ministers call for debts to be eased

By DOMINIC EVANS

Cairo — African foreign ministers pledged to set their own agenda to break out of a vicious circle of poverty and under-investment, but said crippling foreign debts remained the biggest obstacle to growth.

Ministers gathered in Cairo on Monday for a two-day meeting under the banner “Relaunching Africa’s Economic and Social Development”, to discuss ways of expanding trade and investment in the world’s poorest continent.

Ghana’s foreign minister, Obed Asamoah, said the draft declaration put before the ministers emphasised that African development was first and foremost the responsibility of its own governments and peoples.

But Salem Ahmed Salem, secretary-general of the Organisation of African Unity, which called the conference, said wealthy nations should not shrink their responsibilities to Africa.

“Social development in Africa is the responsibility of its people and governments. But that does not absolve the international community,” he said.

“The single most important impediment to African development is its debt burden.”

Opening the conference, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak said: “The $300 billion of African debts is a terrifying number, considering the deteriorating economic conditions among the continent’s countries.”

The draft declaration under discussion said creditors should go beyond simple debt rescheduling and actually cancel debt.

“International commitment to Africa’s recovery can be shown by reducing the debt burden to a point where it ceases to inhibit investing in Africa,” the declaration said.

Africa attracts only 2 percent of direct foreign investment in the developing world.

Mubarak said African countries also had to confront the negative effects of the Catt agreement and enhance inter-African trade, which stands at just 5 percent of the continent’s total trade.

Ghana’s Osamoah said they should form more effective cartels to maximise cash income from their commodity exports.

“No one is expecting our meeting in Cairo to bring immediate solutions, but it should mark a new era of dealing with the problems,” Salem told the ministers.

“Every year the debts get bigger, and the payments go up,” he said. “The Paris Club and other creditors have to come to the table and say ‘we’re not going to accept this for another year.’”

The meeting, which ends on Tuesday, is also to discuss the recommendations of the UN’s Commission on International Trade in Services, and the promotion of women’s roles in economic development.
Africa rejects Egypt's '1%' economic plan

CAIRO: African countries yesterday rejected a proposal by Egypt at an OAU meeting for all members to give 1% of their gross domestic product to aid the continent's economy, a Special Correspondent reports.

SOUTH AFRICA's treasury was saved about R2.5 billion after an Egyptian attempt to set up a financial mechanism for developing Africa's economy failed here yesterday.

Chairing a two-day extraordinary meeting of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), Egypt tried to whisk through a resolution that would have established an African ministerial committee.

The committee, whose members were to be decided later, would have been responsible for extracting from all OAU members a sum calculated on one percent of their GDP for a fund to revitalise Africa's economy.

South Africa, the richest nation on the continent, would have been obliged to contribute as much as R2.5 billion had the Egyptian plan been approved.

Improve growth

During the meeting, many African states objected to what they saw as Egypt's efforts to deepen its hold on African issues.

Others, including South Africa, believed there was no need for creating a new "mechanism" for ensuring further inter-African cooperation to improve the continent's stagnant economic growth.

A South African delegation member said: "We did not think Egypt's suggestion, or rather persistence, was necessary at all. We need more action, not more committees."

Delegates eventually referred the issue of creating a permanent ministerial committee to the next OAU summit meeting.

The usual anti-donor sentiments often heard at OAU meetings was notably lacking. A resolution was passed asking the next G-7 meeting to review and renegotiate much of Africa's estimated R400 billion debt and there was criticism of the structural adjustment programmes prescribed by the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.
SA saved from R80bn spending cut

Echo — South Africa avoided spending cut of R80bn after Mboweni urged business to set up financial buffer to withstand shocks. Yesterday, Mboweni urged business to set up financial buffer to withstand shocks.

The government could save up to R80bn — including a two-day strike — by using regulations. The government could save up to R80bn — including a two-day strike — by using regulations. The government could save up to R80bn — including a two-day strike — by using regulations.

If a strike or lockout was extended, businesses would have to consider using a fund to retain people. Business would have to consider using a fund to retain people. Business would have to consider using a fund to retain people.

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Tunisian president calls for end to Africa's wars


Ending a three-day state visit, Mr Ben Ali urged international backing for the OAU’s own diplomatic mechanism to end conflict on the continent.

He said the OAU’s two-year-old Mechanism for the Prevention and Resolution of Conflicts on the Continent had played a role in Rwanda, Burundi, Angola and, most recently, Sierra Leone.

"If it is to play the role it has set itself, this specifically African effort needs the support of the international community."

"We also exhort donor countries to provide support for the OAU’s Fund for Peace, set up to finance the mechanism," he said.

He said South Africa’s joining the OAU had had a "tremendous impact" on strengthening Africa’s ability to meet the continent’s challenges.

He praised President Nelson Mandela and Deputy President P W de Klerk for their role in South Africa’s transition to democracy and said the democratic changes in South Africa were encouraging signs on a continent racked by wars and conflicts.

He also called for greater economic cooperation among African countries.

— Reuters, Political Correspondent

VISITOR: Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, who ended a state visit to SA yesterday.
Spotlight on region’s deteriorating roads

ONLY a 10th of the national road network in Mozambique was in good condition, and landlocked Lesotho’s policies had resulted in demotivated civil servants deserting road maintenance for better-paying private sector jobs, a conference heard in Pretoria last week.

The conference on road maintenance management was held to familiarise sub-Saharan countries — members of the Southern African Transport and Communications Commission — with the policy guidelines of the Roads Maintenance Initiative, set up by the World Bank and the UN Economic Commission on Africa to identify causes of poor road maintenance policies in the region.

Mozambican roads and bridges deputy national director Joao David Mabombe said that only about 5,000km of his country’s 29,000km national road network were asphalt, with the rest stabilised earth roads or simply earthen tracks.

“The degradation of the road infrastructure has been such that levels of accessibility have seriously declined in most parts of the country,” Mabombe said.

Landlocked Lesotho, whose limited domestic production base compelled the country to depend mostly on imports, had every reason to expand its 5,000km road network, said Lesotho Transport Ministry principal secretary T Moremoholo. The condition of the network generally was good, but some strategic links needed development urgently.

Civil servants were demotivated and operating under certain bureaucratic procedures which led to inefficiencies. Poor employment conditions led to an exodus of experienced and competent senior technical staff to the private sector.

The country depended heavily on external financing for development work, and some donors’ guidelines and procedures were not conducive to the country’s specific needs.

Road maintenance operations in Zambia were affected by lack of and irregular availability of maintenance materials and equipment, while overloading accelerated road deterioration, said acting roads director JD Mwilla. Mwilla said salaries and conditions of service in the public sector were far below those in the private sector, making it difficult to get well-qualified and experienced personnel.

Government contribution to road maintenance was meagre.
Free State housing plan to boost jobs

The minimum standard recommended for a Free State house will be a structure of no less than 40m², divided into rooms, which we believe can be built for between R22,000 and R28,000," he said.

Mayekiso said the key to the Free State scheme was job creation. More than 30% of the province's population was unemployed or earned less than R1,500.

"Their reasoning was that the builders' warranty mechanism and mortgage indemnity scheme were not in place, yet a comparatively small bank is prepared to risk entering the low-cost market without these," he said.

Mayekiso also highlighted the need for housing programmes that are not based on the assumption of low-income consumers.

This alleged lack of cooperation had slowed down the progress of Free State housing schemes and jeopardised a project in Kuthlwanong being undertaken by Anglo American, communities and the Free State government, he said.

Mayekiso said the Free State provincial government had secured finance from a small bank for its housing programme after being turned down by a number of major banking groups.

SA's nuclear adviser, Abdul Minty, said last week that apart from a few technical details which still had to be finalised, negotiations over the African treaty were at an advanced stage.

SA, the only African country with a nuclear capability, has been an active sponsor of the OAU-inspired treaty.

Regarding the review of the international treaty, Minty said SA was attempting to get the broadest possible support for a decision to have it extended.

Minty noted that one of the weaknesses of the international treaty was the lack of progress towards disarmament by the states with nuclear capabilities.

While the treaty committed nuclear states to disarmament, it did not contain provisions for enforcement.
Black Americans seek long-term investors in Africa.
POLITICS Blacks are no longer se

African states meet over civil services

By Ismail Lagardien
Political Correspondent

THE reform of the civil service in English-speaking Africa comes under scrutiny in Somerset West this weekend.

Delegates from 18 African countries, including South Africa, will gather to consider ways that states on the continent can break with the civil services inherited from former colonists. Minister for Public Service and Administration Dr Zola Skweyiya, who will be hosting the gathering, said in a statement released in Cape Town yesterday that South Africa may have a lot to learn from African countries that had thrown off the yoke of colonialism years ago.
Even-handliness spawns inequality

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Nuclear co-operation urged in Africa

JOHannesburg. — A senior official of the International Atomic Energy Agency has called on African states to map out a co-operative approach to the use of nuclear science and technology on the continent.

The appeal was made at the sixth annual technical conference of the African Regional Coopera-
tive Agreement (Afra) on nuclear scientific and technical co-operation, which opened in Johannes-
burg yesterday.

"If Afra does not take itself in hand, no-one else will do it," Qian Jihui, head of the department of technical cooperation of the Vienna-based agency, told Afra's 20 member states. — Reuter.
Glimmers of hope for some of Africa’s economies

The political will to fight corruption is growing across the continent. Several countries have implemented anti-corruption measures and made progress in fighting corruption. However, much remains to be done to root out corruption and leverage the gains.

In Nigeria, the fight against corruption has been stepped up, with the establishment of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) and the Assets Recovery Agency (ARA). The country has also signed several international agreements on corruption, including the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC).

In South Africa, the government has declared corruption a national crisis and launched a series of anti-corruption initiatives, including the creation of the Anti-Corruption Task Team and the establishment of the National Prosecuting Authority’s Corruption Investigative Unit.

In Kenya, the government has implemented several anti-corruption measures, including the creation of the Anti-Corruption and Economic Crime Commission (ACECC) and the establishment of the National Anti-Corruption Bureau (NACB).

However, despite these efforts, corruption remains a significant challenge in many African countries. Corruption undermines economic growth, hinders investment, and erodes public confidence in government institutions.

To address these challenges, it is crucial to strengthen institutions, promote transparency, and ensure accountability. This can be achieved through the implementation of robust anti-corruption laws, the establishment of independent anti-corruption agencies, and the promotion of good governance practices.

It is also important to foster a culture of integrity and ethical behavior among citizens, public officials, and business leaders. This can be achieved through education and awareness-raising campaigns, as well as through the provision of incentives for whistle-blowers.

In conclusion, while progress has been made in the fight against corruption in some African countries, much remains to be done. It is crucial to continue to implement anti-corruption measures and promote good governance practices to ensure sustainable economic growth and development.
African Development Bank vulnerable — report

WASHINGTON — A congressional watchdog agency sees the African Development Bank as "financially solvent but vulnerable," warning that further credit reforms are needed to prevent conditions from worsening to a point where the bank will require a call on the US's capital subscription.

The General Accounting Office, which has reviewed the accounts of the bank at the request of House budget committee chairman John Kasich, issued a 28-page report on Monday noting that nearly a third of its $9.7bn loan portfolio is held by countries that are not sufficiently creditworthy to secure standard World Bank loans.

It raised concerns about a declining level of reserves against outstanding loans, along with a drop in net interest income, which the accounting office suggests is "an indicator of the bank's ability to service debt" on its own capital market borrowings.

Twenty-nine of the bank's 46 borrowing nations were classified by the World Bank as "severely indebted" and 41 as "low income." The accounting office said the "economic performance of the bank's clientele is at the heart of its vulnerability."

The bank's levels of reserves to loans fell below a targeted 15% in 1994, and its interest cover, which measures net income plus financial charges as a proportion of charges, also fell below a 1.25% target.

"Growth in borrowing and lending has exceeded the bank's growth in equity and the risk to member countries and creditors has increased commensurately," the report said.

But the General Accounting Office noted that the Ivory Coast-based bank's non-regional and regional shareholders were at an "impasse" over credit reform measures, predominantly efforts to tighten eligibility for the bank's hard-loan window to shift hard-pressed nations towards concessional, or soft loans.

As previously reported, the US and other donor nations are using replenishment of the African Development Fund, the soft-loan arm of the bank, as leverage to secure management and other operational changes.

A new African Development Bank president is expected to be selected at the bank's annual meeting in May. But the US, which is leading efforts to secure reforms at the institution, is also seeking support for changes in its articles of agreement to take power away from the bank's executive board.

It is not clear if the US has the 85% majority of the votes it needs for any change to the charter, particularly given a track record of regional opposition to past initiatives.

The report did not delve into the governance issues — something that was taken up in a highly critical study commissioned by the bank's shareholders last year, which found a range of significant shortcomings.

The examination of the bank's accounts noted that it still enjoyed a Triple-A credit rating from the major international rating agencies. But it said the ratings were "mainly because of the expectation of continued strong member support, primarily in the form of a general capital increase for the bank by 1997."

The African bank's outstanding borrowings were $9.8bn at the end of last year. This, the report said, was "within its policy limits." It expressed concerns about the level of borrowings if measured against callable capital of non-regional members, which the said would be 95% of callable funds. — AP-DJ.
Conflicts hinder African tourism

NAIROBI — Conflicts and a lack of political cooperation hindered tourism in Africa, travel executives said yesterday.

A Kenyan official said at a meeting of the New York-based Africa Travel Association that African and international tourists avoided areas where their lives might be in danger.

Leaders paid lip service to easing visas, immigration and currency restrictions, which would make free movement of people and services possible, he added.

“Rising animosity in the region makes intra-regional tourism a dream. Kenya and Uganda are at loggerheads, Uganda and Sudan do not agree, Eritrea and Sudan have severed diplomatic links. How can anyone talk of regional tourism?”

But a Tanzanian delegate said for most Africans, wages were too low for most to consider a holiday in their lifetime.

Zambian Tourism Minister and ATA international board president Lt-Gen Christone Tembo said problems of access, seasonality, standards, strikes and lack of data on countries influenced a drop in tourism.

Delegates to the congress were discussing these factors yesterday and would later take a trip to some Kenyan parks.

Tembo said there were questions as to whether Africa was proving true quality for international tourist money with variety, product range and quality, as well as response to changing tourist taste.

“Are we concerning ourselves in authentic tourism or are we too busy charming out archaic products and services in our complacency which the market is no longer interested in?”

International tourism took a new impetus last year after marginal recovery in 1993, triggered by indications of steady economic growth in travel prospects and in high profile accorded to travel abroad by consumers in most industrialised countries, the World Tourism Organisation said.

But that trend did not bring with it significantly improved tourist traffic and matching economic gains for Africa because of tourists feeling that the value for their hard-earned cash was going down.

“In 1993, Africa received 16.79-million arrivals which gave rise to $8,364mn in receipts. In 1994 arrivals rose to 18.6-million, but receipts fell to $5,675mn.”

The Africa Travel Association mainly promotes Africa as a tourist destination for Americans and Canadians. Formed in 1975, it draws its membership from many African governments, international airlines, hotels, cruise lines, tour operators and travel agents and American tour promoters. — Supa-Reuters.
African growth rate catching up with Asia

(Dec 28, 1995)

BY CLAIRE GERMAIN

Developing countries in Asia will keep it the world's fastest-growing economic region for at least another year, but Africa is catching up.

According to the IMF's latest World Economic Outlook, African growth rates are rising sharply with gross domestic product expected to grow 3.7 percent in 1995 and 5.3 percent in 1996, up from last year's 2.7 percent.

Asian economic growth is slowing and is expected to fall from 8.6 percent in 1994 to 7.6 percent in 1995 and 7.3 percent in 1996, but this is still a faster growth rate than that of any other region in the world.

The IMF survey found that as projections for growth eased for industrial countries in 1996, developing countries and those in transition would advance.

"Industrial countries will grow 3 percent in 1995, the same as in the previous year, and by 2.7 percent in 1996. Developing countries will register 5.6 percent growth in 1995 and 6.1 percent growth in 1995, after reaching 6.3 percent in 1994."

The high growth rates in Asia carried the danger of overheating, particularly in some southeast Asian countries and China, the IMF said.
Little hope for African economic integration

BUSINESS
South African businessmen, many of whom have witnessed corruption in South Africa, are likely to come up against a scale of graft they could not have imagined as they start to trade in Africa.

Jeremy Pope, managing director of a Berlin-based Transparency International, which advises countries and companies around the world on overcoming corruption, made the warning at a conference in Somerset West on public service reform in Anglophone Africa.

He said South African companies were going to find it difficult to deal with the issue, particularly when they found they were not able to win contracts.

Decisions were even more difficult when some countries not only turned a blind eye to paying bribes in another country, but allowed the bribes to be tax deductible, he said.

In an interview, Pope said the main focus of his organisation, founded in May 1993, was to combat corruption in international business transactions and forge an international solidarity movement through national chapters, which were being formed around the world to fight corruption at the domestic level.

The South African chapter is to be headed by former anti-apartheid activist Reverend Beyers Naudé.

Pope said the organisation did not seek to expose corruption but to monitor institutions designed to contain corruption and work to improve their effectiveness.

Much "grand corruption" involved civil servants, Pope said. He rejected arguments that corruption in developing countries should be accepted as a way of life or a way to enrich a country. Corruption eventually undermined the existence of the state, with only those receiving or paying the bribes receiving any benefit, he said.

Often projects for which bribes were paid were useless to the country. Developing countries were strewed with white elephants that had been constructed because of bribes.

At the conference, Pope said that tackling corruption in the public service had to start at the very top.

This would determine whether any anti-corruption campaign succeeded or failed.

"Nothing is more likely to succeed than a demonstration from the leadership that they, too, are subject to the law."

An effort to wipe out corruption in the Philippines' tax department under the Marcos government had failed because of "rampant corruption at the top."

Tackling corruption in the public service has to start at the very top.

Graft Squad Beyers Naudé will head the South African chapter of Berlin-based Transparency International, set up to fight corruption in business transactions.

Against this Singapore, which was so riddled with corruption at independence that its prospects of survival as a nation were at risk, resolved its problems because it had a government "whose ethics were established as being transparent and above reproach."

Pope said that once a country had reached a level of systemic corruption it was extremely difficult to eradicate.

"A new government comes to power determined to tackle corruption only to find itself impotent in reforming the system over which it presides and upon which it must rely to govern."

Apart from political leadership, Pope said it was equally important to foster within the private sector the highest ethical practices in order to assist in building attitudes firmly opposed to corruption.

He said a key factor in countering corruption was to maximise accountability and transparency and minimise areas in which corruption was most likely to flourish.

"The overall objective of the exercise must be to convert corruption from being perceived as a low-risk, high-profit activity, into one which is generally regarded as high-risk, low-profit."

Pope argued that corruption could not be eradicated merely by tough laws and police action.

"Attitudes have to change; an informed awareness of the extent of the damage being done has to be fostered; and the public, no less than the public servants, must be co-opted into the reforms."

The overall aim had to be one of prevention in which prosecution and punishment eventually came to play supporting, rather than frontline roles.

On the side of government there had to be a well co-ordinated and well understood strategy that reduced the opportunities for corruption, increased the likelihood of its detection and reduced the ability of the receiver or the giver of a bribe to be able to profit from corrupt acts.

There was no single line of attack to achieve this. Pope said a number of measures should be taken, including:

☐ A clear commitment from political leaders;
☐ The adoption of comprehensive anti-corruption legislation implemented by a strong and independent agency of manifest integrity;
☐ Ensuring that salaries of civil servants and political leaders adequately reflected the responsibility of their posts and were as comparable as possible with corresponding posts in the private sector; and
☐ Ensuring legal procedures and remedies would provide an effective deterrence.

He said penalties should be such that the general public would have a powerful incentive to protect itself by reporting corrupt demands.

They should include making contracts concluded as a result of corruption both void and unenforceable as well as compelling export guarantee organisations to closely monitor international transactions they were underwriting and declare void all licences or permits obtained corruptly, Pope said.

He added that a free press was necessary to both inform of measures taken and expose corruption as well as educate the public about the evils of corruption. A free media was also important for open debate and accountability.

He said his organisation was working at having bribes across national borders being declared illegal and removing any tax concessions for bribes.
‘Miracle needed’ for African states

LONDON — Wars in Africa had taken on a new, sinister dimension as African states imploded on all fronts, the International Institute for Strategic Studies said in its Strategic Survey for 1994/95 released yesterday.

A "major miracle" would be required to stop the explosions and return African countries to normality, the survey said.

Last year there was war or violent armed and organised rebellion in 26 of Africa's mainland states. Today rebellion could break out at any time in Senegal, Chad, Kenya, Nigeria, Zaire and several other countries.

All the wars in 1994 were within states, although most spread across national borders. Political negotiations were rarely successful in bringing them to an end because there was no constitutional context in which to secure and guarantee agreement. The wars had little ideological element and rapidly degenerated into meaningless atrocity and terror.

"Through the bloodshed, chaos and mass movements of peoples it is not yet clear what will take the place of the states. But as ... vulnerable people take refuge among their kin there is a reassertion of older, deeper loyalties and hierarchies."

The disintegration of states no longer able to buy support or provide security for their citizens was accompanied by a rise in the power of warlords and local barons, the survey noted.

"This is difficult to defeat; they live off the land, fight when and where they choose and usually wear down the government forces by destroying infrastructure in guerrilla attacks. Their main weapon is terror. In each of Africa's wars, civilians are the main victims."

Regarding SA, the survey said that bringing the country to the point it was at had required a miracle, but sustaining it would be difficult.

"A year after Nelson Mandela's inauguration as president, SA had achieved a miraculous escape from its past; as it struggles to come to terms with its future it will need more than the efforts of one man to ensure the miracle endures."

The survey's authors detected a sense of disillusion in government and an inability to give effect to its decisions or to control the instruments of power. The major beneficiaries of the new SA were not the homeless or the unemployed, but the rapidly growing ranks of the black bourgeoisie.

The survey said the main dilemma facing the ANC was its unwillingness to transform itself from a broad protest and liberation movement into a political party with all the responsibilities of government.

"To do so would involve a loss of support to more radical movements and the desire to maintain unity at all costs resulted in an insistence of the widest possible consensus before the most elementary decisions were taken. This in turn slowed the processes of government."
SA 'THE MAJOR MIRACLE'

Wars changing face of Africa

LONDON: Destructive wars are changing the political shape of Africa. LINDA ENSOR reports.

Wars in Africa had taken on a new sinister dimension as African states, created more than 100 years ago by colonial powers, imploded on all fronts, the International Institute for Strategic Studies said in its Strategic Survey for 1994-95.

A "major miracle" would be required to stop the destruction and return African countries to normality, the survey, released yesterday, said.

There was a war or violent armed and organised rebellion in 26 of Africa's mainland states last year while conditions exist in Chad, Kenya, Senegal, Nigeria, Zaire and other countries for rebellions to break out.

All the wars last year were within states, though most spread across national borders. Political negotiations were rarely successful in bringing them to an end because there was no constitutional context in which to secure and guarantee agreement. The wars had little ideological element and rapidly degenerated into meaningless atrocity and terror.

In many places the implosion had been accompanied by the destruction of the economic infrastructure and the rapid disintegration of social systems. "Through the bloodshed, chaos and mass movements of people, it is not yet clear what will take the place of the states. But as frightened, vulnerable people take refuge among their kith and kin, there is an assertion of older, deeper loyalties and hierarchies."

The disintegration of states no longer able to buy support or provide security for their citizens had been accompanied by a rise in the power of warlords. This power was regionally or ethnically based and the warlords were fighting, not necessarily for independence, but against the state or the ethnic group which controlled it.

Regarding South Africa, the survey said that bringing the country to the point it had now reached had required a miracle.

"As it struggles to come to terms with its future it will need more than the efforts of one man to ensure the miracle endures."

The survey's authors detected a sense of sluggishness in government and an inability to give effect to its decisions.

The major beneficiaries were not the homeless or the unemployed, but the rapidly growing ranks of the black bourgeoisie.

The survey identified the major dilemma facing the ANC as being its unwillingness to transform itself from a liberation movement into a political party with all the rigours of government.

"To do so would involve a loss of support. The desire to maintain unity resulted in an insistence on the widest possible consensus before the most elementary decisions were taken, slowing the processes of government."

Lesotho king visits Britain

MASERU: King Moshoeshoe II, making his first overseas trip since his return to the throne, left for Britain yesterday to attend the 50th anniversary celebrations of the Allied victory in Europe in World War II.

Angolan meeting uncertain

LUSAKA: Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos and his rival Unita chief Dr Jonas Savimbi both failed to show up in the Zambian capital yesterday, before today's talks about peace in their homeland, officials said.

But UN officials and diplomats remained confident the two leaders would go ahead with their planned meeting to end nearly 20 years of civil war in Angola.

A Western diplomat said the arrival in Lusaka yesterday of the UN's chief military observer for Angola was a hopeful sign.

Mr Dos Santos and Dr Savimbi were due to meet six months after the government and Unita rebels signed a peace accord in Lusaka.

Zambian officials laid out a red carpet and chairs for Mr Dos Santos at Lusaka airport in time for his 3pm plane to land. Disconsolately, they rolled the carpet up again after a couple of hours later.

Government sources said Mr Dos Santos would only arrive in Zambia after Dr Savimbi, to avoid being wrong-footed twice.

At a previous meeting Dr Savimbi failed to show up citing security reasons. — Sapa-Adapt.
Gold mine set for record on-line time

BY DEREK TOMMEY
MINING EDITOR

Work is speeding ahead to bring the Sadiola Gold Mine, in Mali, Africa's newest major gold mine, and among its more profitable mines, to production in record time.

A cornerstone was recently laid at the mine by Alpha Oumar Konare, Malian President. It came less than two-and-half years after Anglo American, which owns 38% of the mine and also manages it, started negotiations for a stake in the venture, the company announced at the weekend.

If the mine reaches production towards the end of next year as planned, the Anglo American group will be able to claim a record for bringing a mine this size on stream in Africa.

It is an open-pit mine with reserves of 122 tons of gold, averaging 2.5 grams a ton.

Production is expected to peak at around 350,000 ounces a year. The first-phase development of the main oxide deposit is expected to give the mine a 15-year life.

Sadiola will have the same production potential as the Kinross mine, in the Evander area, which makes Sadiola a world-class deposit.

Operating costs should be significantly below R25 000 a kilogram or about $200/oz. (The gold price is currently around R45 000/kg or $350/oz.)

The mine is expected to cost $250-million to bring to production.
IMF defends austerity programmes in Africa

BY CHARLOTTE MATHEWS
MANAGING EDITOR

Windhoek — A senior official of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) yesterday defended the IMF's record in assisting African countries to turn around their economies.

The IMF's senior information adviser, Ahmed Abushadi, was responding to criticism by some African journalists of the hardships sometimes caused by IMF-supported austerity programmes.

Abushadi cited Tanzania, Uganda and Ghana among sub-Saharan countries that had turned their economies around, but added that it would be immodest to attribute these successes to the IMF.

Speaking at a two-day IMF seminar, Abushadi said that when countries adopted and stuck to structural adjustment programmes in line with IMF guidelines, the IMF committed itself to standing behind those countries with additional assistance during the course of the policy adjustments. This was especially useful, he said, where natural disasters occurred that were beyond a country's control.

The IMF assistance was intended to be temporary, Abushadi said. It was ideally precautionary financing, before a crisis materialised.

The IMF had recognised that in some countries the need for assistance had become more than temporary. Corrective measures could take place over three years, repayment was over a longer term, and the interest rate was subsidised.

Asked to what extent IMF programmes had actually succeeded in sub-Saharan Africa, the IMF's South African division head, Jurgen Reitmayer, said: "We have evidence that the application of such economic policies has the desired results, but these policies are not always associated with the IMF programmes."

Reitmayer acknowledged that some economic policies that had been imposed on developing countries by industrialised nations without regard to the need for social adjustment.

He agreed that the burden of adjustment usually fell on the poorer parts of society. The IMF therefore attached great importance to health and education spending.

Abushadi said economic stability was vital for growth: "We are trying to create the best possible conditions for job creation and permanently addressing poverty, rather than hand-outs and food subsidies."

The IMF has about $45 billion in outstanding loans from member countries.

Annual loans averaged 87 billion but 1994 was expected to be "spectacularly higher", Abushadi said, because of demands made by Mexico and Russia.

The IMF's liquidity was comfortable but was expected to come under pressure by the end of 1997.
AFRICA AND THE WORLD BANK

Heart of bureaucracy

There are not enough bankers and too many well-heeled consultants

As James Wolfensohn ponders his new job as president of the World Bank, sub-Saharan Africa will weigh heavily on him. For all the World Bank’s publicly expressed optimism about the success of its structural adjustment programmes in the region, its own numbers tell a different tale.

For the past 30 years Africa has under-performed, with its growth rate falling behind the average for emerging economies as a whole and the gap with the successful Asian tigers widening. With population growing at 3%, real per capita incomes have been dropping for a generation so that living standards in most African countries are no higher today than at the end of empire in the Sixties.

Particularly disturbing is the failure of structural adjustment, adopted increasingly over the past decade in sub-Saharan Africa, to turn the region around. Indeed, the bank’s latest figures released last month show that, in the decade to 1994, per capita incomes fell remorselessly — 1.1% a year.

Characteristically though, the bank is again heralding a new dawn in the region, just as it did — prematurely — with its so-called Long-Term Perspective Study in 1989. It predicted then that the region would grow at 4% to 5% annually as reform policies took root. Today, it admits that hasn’t happened — not yet, anyway.

But wait a minute! The new dawn is here. Over the next decade, GDP growth will accelerate to 3.8% a year — double that of the past 10 years — and at least some of the ground lost over the past generation will be recouped. Where the bank is on weaker ground is in explaining why this much-delayed turnaround should suddenly materialise.

This “culture of optimism” is just part of the bank’s explanation for the relatively disappointing performance of structural reform. The second limb of the argument is that generalisations and continent-wide averages mask a huge diversity of performance. Thus, the new Continent in Transition report currently being debated by carefully selected groups behind closed doors around Africa — the bank’s idea of transparency — calculates that almost half of sub-Saharan Africa (21 countries) achieved positive per capita income growth during the 1983-1993 period.

Unfortunately, that list of 21 includes a clutch of small atypical countries like Botswana, Seychelles, Mauritius, Cape Verde, Lesotho and Gambia. It also includes a handful of states which are not growing, in any real sense of the word, but regaining some of the ground lost in the last 20 years. Ghana — the Bank’s prize pupil — Uganda and Tanzania are examples.

Most disturbing of all, perhaps, is the fact that those countries that did reverse years of decline relied heavily — some would say almost totally — on foreign aid inflows. Net aid disbursements to Tanzania, for instance, currently average more than 80% of GDP, while in Mozambique the figure is a horrendous 111%, in Uganda 48% and Burkina Faso — another success — 30%.

In the four years to 1993, net disbursements of aid to the region averaged almost US$20bn annually (at constant 1992 prices and exchange rates) — approximately 56% of the global total. Indeed, no less than 46% of the aid disbursed by the World Bank’s soft-loan window (the International Development Association) and 45% of that of UN agencies comes to sub-Saharan Africa. Yet living standards continue to fall.

Just where a culture of optimism becomes one of distortion is impossible to say. It is not difficult to drive a horse and cart through many of the bank’s more upbeat claims — the citing of Nigeria as a successful reformer, the publication of a report Africa can Compete alongside its own numbers showing the region losing market share globally; the choice of the National Railways of Zimbabwe as a model for commercialisation; and the citing of marginal changes of two or three percentage points in national savings ratios computed on who-knows-what grounds for the region as a whole.

Indeed, the bank repeatedly exploits the poverty of national databases to impose its own numbers to substantiate its claims. While it is obvious that economic data for almost all African economies is unreliable, it’s hard to see why the bank’s numbers — or those of the IMF for that matter — should be any better. Even the best and brightest econometrician using unreliable crude data is as subject to the garbage-in-garbage-out syndrome as anyone else. Yet arrogant World Bank economists in African capitals repeatedly insist that their numbers are better than those of the national statistical service.

Nor does the optimism culture stop at numbers. The Continent in Transition report makes much of the benefits of political transition in the region. But, clearly, it is far too early to suggest that multipartyism in Malawi will achieve better results than ex-president Banda’s dictatorship. SA’s successful transition is one side of the coin — what of the retreat from democracy in Nigeria and Gambia, de facto one-partyism in Zimbabwe, war and civil unrest in Sudan, Somalia, Rwanda, Burundi, Sierra Leone and Liberia and the general chaos in Zaire? The glass is as half-empty as it is half-full.

Also questionable is the bank’s claim that it is achieving greater transparency and consensual decision-making. This may be so in some instances, but on the whole crucial economic issues are still debated behind closed doors by a clique of government and central bank officials on one side and a donor group, including the World Bank and the IMF, on the other.

The people of the country whose fate is being determined are the last to be told, while private sector consultation is at best desultory. Sadly, for all its commitment to supporting interfacing with the private sector, that, too, is a highly selective process depending more on the

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**IMF says bitter pill is Africa’s only option**

Do economic structural adjustment programmes benefit their reluctant Third World recipients? Critics say they make matters worse, but the IMF disagrees. **SVEN LUNDBERG** reports.

**IMF HEADQUARTERS... home of the dreaded Easp**

The broadening of the tax base and tax reforms implemented by strong ad- justers facilitated higher revenues and narrowed fiscal imbalances.

In a significant shift of priorities the Fund has recently launched a programme of tax reforms. This programme has been successful in raising revenue and reducing fiscal imbalances.

Economic growth has slowed in recent years due to a decline in the terms of trade. The negative impact of the Gulf War on oil prices and the effect of the debt crisis on the international financial markets has contributed to the slowdown. The Fund has been working with countries to implement structural adjustment programmes (SAPs) to help them overcome these challenges.

**IMF MAINLAND OF AFRICA**

The IMF says that these programmes are necessary to restore macroeconomic stability and promote sustainable growth. The Fund's recent report on Africa highlights the need for countries to implement structural adjustment programmes to address the challenges they face.

**IMF WORLD BANK BUREAU**

The report notes that while the SAPs have helped some countries, more needs to be done to ensure that their benefits are shared more equitably among the population. The Fund recommends that countries focus on improving governance, prioritizing social spending, and promoting private sector development to achieve sustainable growth.

**IMF WORLD BANK BUREAU**

The report emphasizes the importance of addressing the root causes of poverty and inequality, such as lack of access to education and health care, to achieve long-term economic growth.

**IMF WORLD BANK BUREAU**

The Fund's efforts to support structural adjustment programmes in Africa have been met with some resistance, with some countries expressing concerns about the costs and potential negative impacts on their economies.

**IMF WORLD BANK BUREAU**

Despite these challenges, the Fund remains committed to supporting countries in their efforts to implement structural adjustment programmes and achieve sustainable and inclusive growth.
Bank forecasts "richer Africa"

ABUJA — Africa will become richer in 1995 as economies grow faster than populations to boost per capita income for the first time since the beginning of the decade, the African Development Bank said.

But it called for a review of International Monetary Fund structural adjustment programmes followed by most of its African members, saying such programmes should allow more government intervention.

"What is needed is efficient government that is committed to growth and development," its African Development Report said.

The report forecast 1995 growth across its 52 member states at 3.6 percent, up from an estimated 1.9 percent in 1994 and 0.7 percent in 1993 and outstripping population growth of about three percent.

The main source of Africa's economic growth in 1994 was an increase in domestic demand, caused by a significant increase in private consumption and smaller increases in government consumption and gross domestic investment, said the report published ahead of the Bank's annual meeting in the Nigerian capital.

The report said in the longer term Africa's output growth rate was forecast to rise annually by four percent, with several countries expected to outperform the average.

But it warned this was dependent on a number of factors including continuing global growth bringing an increase in demand for developing-country exports, and greater international activity arising from the GATT world trade deal. — Reuters.
Heads may roll at African Bank

B2 BUSINESS
The ANC is planning to lead the world with proposed new rules on MPs' extra-parliamentary earnings, reports Eddie Koch

MPs' gravy train at the junction

The ANC enforces its own code

The international experience

Some countries are still many countries that don't have the kinds of restrictions and disclosure we are planning...

Richard Calland, director of the Parliamentary Information and Monitoring Service (Pims) in Cape Town, said the ANC's move was "a step in the right direction". He added: "We have had a lot of experience from countries like France, Spain, Ireland and Sweden. But at the stage..."
Africa must pursue unity to ward off failure - Mandela

BY JOVIALE BANTAO
POLITICAL REPORTER

Dar es Salaam — If Africa is to ward off the threat of failure, the continent will have to pursue unity "with even greater vigour than before", President Nelson Mandela said yesterday.

Addressing about 30,000 cheering Tanzanians at a public rally at the Tanzanian National Stadium on the second day of his three-day state visit, Mandela said both Tanzania and South Africa should contribute to the rebirth of Africa.

He said Africa must unite to combat the tendency in the industrialised world to exploit the continent and then write it off as marginal.

"This will not be easy. We face serious challenges. Overcoming them will depend on our own efforts as Africans. The cornerstones of our reconstruction must be unity, peace, democracy and human rights, and the rational use of our limited resources."

"These challenges will tax our resolve as fiercely as our earlier struggle for our liberation," Mandela said.

He said South Africa would, as far as possible, assist in efforts aimed at making the African continent a better place for all.

The rally audience included Tanzanian President Ali Hassan Mwinyi, Prime Minister Cleopa Msuya, the South African High Commissioner to Tanzania Thandi Lujabe-Rankoe and members of the diplomatic community.

Mandela also used the occasion to say a big thank you to Tanzania, in particular to former president Mwalimu Julius Nyerere, for supporting the South African liberation movement during the apartheid era.

Elections

The rally was Mandela's last public engagement in the Tanzanian capital. Today he flies to the islands of Zanzibar where he will hold unofficial talks with President Salim Amour.

Earlier yesterday Mandela met leaders of 13 Tanzanian political parties contesting the country's presidential elections to be held in October.

In the morning he received a bronze plaque as a gift from Tanzanian-based ambassadors from former Frontline states. He also received a courtesy visit from Nyerere.

In an address to members of the Tanzanian Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture, Mandela said the region needed mutually beneficial trade and business relations, investments and joint ventures which should also advance the sharing of technological expertise.

He said South Africa seeks to contribute to the reconstruction of the region on the basis of equality.

Last night Mandela officially opened the residence of Lujabe-Rankoe, where he met South Africans based in Tanzania.

Mandela announced that South Africa is to host the annual Southern African Development Community Consultative Conference in January.

He said the conference, whose theme will be "investment opportunities in Southern Africa", would coincide with a Southern African Trade Fair.
Staying ahead in a gold rush

BY DAVID GAULT

Accra — Ghana’s Ashanti Goldfields company is banking on its African roots to keep it at the forefront of what shows every sign of turning into an end of the century gold rush across the continent.

Nick Laffoley, general manager of its subsidiary Ashanti Exploration, says local knowledge and long experience in the mining industry will keep Ashanti ahead of the game.

“We believe that as an African mining company we have something a little bit different to offer when compared with mining companies from Europe, North America, Australia, or even South Africa,” he said.

“We have a special understanding of the issues facing a developing country trying to pull themselves out of the economic quagmire because we’ve been there and we’ve seen it and we’ve done it.”

Ashanti Exploration was established last August after the highly successful privatisation of Ashanti Goldfields in April last year. The company was previously 55 percent state-owned but British-based conglomerate Lonrho is now the main shareholder with a 43.1 percent stake. The state kept 31.3 percent and private investors and staff hold the rest.

In results announced in London on Tuesday, Ashanti Goldfields said its pre-tax profit in the six months to March 31 rose to $51.7 million from $42.6 million in the same period the previous year.

But severe drought has hit surface operations and chief financial officer Mark Keatley said the firm would now fall short of its avowed target of producing one million ounces of gold in the year to September 30.

Ashanti Exploration has already secured land at Mandiana in Guinea and holds a 50 percent stake in a joint venture at Kalana in Mali with JCI and the state. It has offices in Eritrea and Ethiopia.

“We are looking at acquiring land in Zimbabwe and in Niger and we’ve got roving geologists out looking at a large number of other areas, including Tanzania.

“We certainly don’t see ourselves as confined to Africa but we feel we’re very special within Africa. If it’s a suitable opportunity outside Africa we’re not frightened to compete with everybody else,” Laffoley said.

He said Ashanti was looking at land in Uzbekistan. “A lot of our Ghanaian staff were trained in the Soviet Union so we have quite a pool of people who are absolutely fluent in Russian, some of whom even have Russian wives.”

Political changes in many countries were creating exploration opportunities in previously no-go areas, while economic reforms were making investment easier, Laffoley said.

“For some countries like Tanzania and even Ghana it’s just straightening out the investment codes and realising that if somebody puts hundreds of millions of dollars into their country, they too need a little bit of comfort in return,” he said.

Laffoley said Ashanti was interested primarily in gold, but the company had looked at some base metals projects. Despite forays abroad, Ashanti’s exploration was still most active in Ghana, Laffoley said.

Ashanti produced 853.5 million oz of gold in calendar year 1994, more than 60 percent of the national output. Gold was Ghana’s biggest export earner last year, raking in $2.27 billion.

LOOKING BACK Workers at Ghana’s Konongo gold mine in 1958
My Turn

Joseph Mphele is an economic specialist at the US embassy in Pretoria. This edited article first appeared in Scripta Politica, the journal of the American University in Paris.

Africa must support its peasantry

The way out of the current crisis in Africa lies in the re-acquisition of power by ordinary people and control over their natural and human resources.

To do so, they must define development in their own terms.

The transition from autocratic rule to a more democratic and just society requires action in areas such as civil society, the rule of law, collective self-reliance, and create for economic growth.

To achieve economic growth, the state must develop a supportive environment — including public investment in infrastructure and social services. It must also strengthen public institutions and adopt viable macroeconomic policies.

In the past 30 years, a strong state was advocated as a substitute for the withdrawing state. While too much state intervention stifled the creativity of peasants, the call for more market-led development has gone to the other extreme.

Peasants need a strong state if they are to succeed. The problem in Africa is not whether the state should intervene but when.

Indeed, when one looks back over the last 30 years, African leaders have used the state as their private reserve in the process of capital accumulation.

The challenge today is to create a democratic state supportive of the initiatives of poor people, peasants, and marginalised groups in society. The two priority areas of economic reform should include the creation of a new order for peasants and support to the informal sector.

Peasants constitute the single dominant social interest group in Africa. Yet, they are the least represented and the most oppressed class. Only if African farmers have a political voice will their needs be properly addressed by their governments.

There is a lesson to be drawn from 30 years of anti-peasant policies which contributed directly to the stagnation in food production and to the ecological degradation of the African continent. In addition, agricultural support services, such as extension of research, credit, and agricultural marketing, must be strengthened to help small farmers succeed.

For a long time, Africa’s informal sector operated under tremendous harassment and threat of evictions from municipal officials. The informal sector was viewed with contempt since it did not coincide with the image of a modernising Africa public officials wanted to project to the rest of the world.

A view of the sector was that it was a haven for criminals, black market currency peddlers, and tax evaders.

Today, African policy makers can no longer ignore it since the informal sector is employing thousands of people in times of economic decline and uncertainty. A special effort must be made by governments to support it.

Targeted support to that part of the informal sector capable of stimulating labour intensive production of basic goods for low income groups, should be a priority. Perhaps this will prevent the silent revolution before it reaches the barricades.
African bank fails to elect new chief

Kwesi Botchwey, Ghana's much-respected finance minister, came out of a meeting with his governor colleagues and declared with disgust: "It's like a circus in there."

The bank is badly crippled. Members of its executive board have announced that they can no longer work with outgoing president Babacar Ndiaye, from Senegal, whose term expires in August. He, in turn, has accused some executive directors of wasting the bank's money and others of cheating on their expenses and medical bills. He suspects one of money-laundering.

A handful of regular bank executives have already been dismissed for fraud and a senior official said there could be as many as 100 sackings.

Election of a new president to succeed Ndiaye, who has served a record 10 years, was supposed to be a landmark event, restoring credibility and helping Africa gain a new lease of economic life. There were five candidates — from Lesotho, Mauritania, Morocco, Nigeria and Uganda — and the winner had to have a majority of the votes and also a majority of the African votes, which account for about 65 percent of the total.

But the election was a perfect example of the political, regional, linguistic, religious, even colonial divisions which have scarred the continent.

Although two candidates, Ugandan Richard Kazuku and Mauritania's Mohammed Lekhal, pulled out of the race after the first two rounds, none of the others won an absolute majority of votes. The final voting was between Timothy Thahane of Lesotho and Morocco's Omar Kabbaj, with Nigeria's Seyed Abdulai, third, refusing to withdraw.

Kabbaj claimed he was the moral victor because he had a larger share of the African votes. But Thahane said he had got close to a majority.

France said Thahane was not qualified because he did not speak French. Southern Africans said that Kabbaj should not be standing at all because Morocco had left the Organisation of African Unity, the bank's progenitor.

Algeria refused to vote for the Moroccan. Nigeria claimed that, as the bank's largest member, with 10 percent of the shares, it should choose the president.

Meanwhile, South African delegates, in Abuja as observers, asked openly why they should put their money in a bank which, despite its triple A rating, squanders its funds and squabbles about everything.
Africa trails the world on children’s rights

FROM SAPA-AP

Abidjan — African countries trail most of the world in protecting the health and human rights of children, who are being forced into street life at a rising rate because of the continent’s poverty, the United Nations Children’s Fund (Unicef) said yesterday.

An estimated 40 million children under the age of 16 are working in African countries, and the number could double by the year 2000, Unicef said in its annual Progress of Nations survey.

The report, which ranks countries’ performances in areas of health, education and protection of human rights, was optimistic in some areas.

It praised the west African nation of Guinea, one of the world’s poorest countries, for increasing measles immunisation from 18 percent to 57 percent of children between 1990 and 1993. As in past years, however, the report showed African countries, notably those south of the Sahara, lagging in most categories.

Of the 40 countries in which polio is still common, 26 are in Africa and 24 of those are in sub-Saharan Africa.

Vaccinations against measles, which kills about a half-million children a year, remain unavailable to a majority of children in several African countries where the cost of the vaccine has forced governments to halt immunisation programmes.

In 18 countries — 13 of them African — the percentage of children immunised against the disease dropped anywhere from 11 percent to 36 percent between 1990 and 1993.

Only one of 39 sub-Saharan countries surveyed — the island nation of Mauritius — had more than 90 percent of its children completing five years of school. In about half those countries, including relatively prosperous ones such as Ivory Coast and Gabon, the level was 50 percent or less.

The figures, Unicef says, are a reflection of political and social upheavals affecting Africa, particularly wars and urbanisation.

In west and central Africa, urban populations are growing at twice the general population growth rate because of wars, environmental degradation and the search for work.
Although he acknowledges it is an impossible task, president-elect of the African Development Bank Timothy Thahane thinks Africa will emerge from economic crisis. Sowetan staffer Mzimkulu Malunga reports (c) sowetan 19/6/95


New kid on the block

FROM September 1 Africa’s most powerful financial institution, the African Development Bank, will have a new president and it is likely to be Lesotho’s Timothy Thahane.

Born at the foothills of the Maluti mountains 55 years ago, the Canadian-educated economist is confident Africa will emerge from its current economic crisis. In fact, he believes Africa can produce economic giants that match those in other parts of the world. “It is not impossible, but we have to work hard,” says Thahane.

After four rounds of voting for the ADB’s presidency at the bank’s 32nd annual meeting in the Nigerian capital Abuja last month, he received most votes.

Although his 48.38 percent of the vote was not enough for him to win the presidency, he is confident that when another round of voting takes place at the Ivory Coast capital Abidjan on August 25, he will emerge as Africa’s top development banker.

Thahane says he was approached by a number of African countries to stand for the presidency to replace Dr Babacar Ndiaye whose term as president came to an end. After intensive diplomatic consultations, his candidacy received the unanimous backing of the 58 states which form the Southern African Development Community.

Most of Thahane’s support came from non-African members of the ADB — mainly industrialised nations and some developing countries such as China, Brazil, Argentina and India.

These countries are the donors of the African Development Fund, a soft-loan arm of the ADB which lends mainly to poor African countries that cannot qualify for commercial loans.

Due to protracted disagreements between African and non-African members of the board of executive directors on the ADB’s credit policy, the soft-loan fund has not been replenished for the past 18 months. This means that the poor African members of the bank have not been able to borrow from the ADB in the past one-and-a-half years.

Founded under the auspices of the Organisation of African Unity in 1963 to underpin political gains with economic development, the ADB group comprises the ADB itself, the ADF and the Nigerian Trust Fund (formed by Nigeria when it had lots of oil money).

Mobilisation of resources, particularly for the ADF, will be top of Thahane’s list of priorities if he becomes the bank’s president.

Although consensus was reached during the Abuja meeting which set the stage for the ADF’s replenishment, Thahane says the new president will have to ensure that deadlocks which saw the ADF run without funds are not repeated.

With the exception of northern African and some southern African countries, most African states are not credit-worthy and therefore cannot qualify for commercial loans from the ADB, hence the ADF becomes their lifeline.

Introducing managerial reforms and clearing the ADB’s arrears will also be high on Thahane’s agenda. The bank, he says, needs to redefine its role if it is to respond properly to the development challenges facing Africa today.

The continent needs to give urgent attention to economic management, diversification, development of the private sector, education, agriculture and institution-building if it is to break out of the economic crisis which has plagued Africa since the beginning of the 1980s.

Thahane says it is encouraging to see a growing commitment to democratisation and economic openness among African governments these days.

“There is a strong commitment to economic revitalisation in Africa now,” he says, adding that experience he gathered as a diplomat and an international economic technocrat could help give momentum to this new realism.

On the controversial issue of the economic structural adjustment programme (SAP) spearheaded by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, Thahane says structural adjustment in itself is not bad.

The world’s richest economies like the United Kingdom, Germany and the United States consistently restructure their economies in order to be in line with the changing competitive global environment. South Africa’s Reconstruction and Development Programme is another form of SAP because it seeks to re-focus the direction of the economy.

In Africa, SAP has been more harsh because it was introduced in situations where the economy had deteriorated badly, with prices reaching for the sky and spending by governments well above revenue levels.

However, he admits that in the early years of SAP not much attention was given to the poor. As a result, the IMF and World Bank now talk of safety nets which are supposed to be a cushion for the poor when countries undergo adjustment programmes.

During 1973-74, Thahane served as Lesotho’s ambassador to the European Economic Community (now European Union) before joining the World Bank as an alternate executive director for the Africa Group. Between 1978 and 1980, he left the bank to become Lesotho’s ambassador to the United States before returning to the World Bank as a vice-president and secretary for the bank and its private sector arm International Finance Corporation.
World Bank pledges to help Africa

BY (BR) 19/6/95

Banako — James Wolfensohn, World Bank president visiting Africa on his first foreign tour since taking office on June 1, said fighting poverty was a moral duty.

Wolfensohn, who is in Mali and is due to visit Ivory Coast, Uganda, Malawi and South Africa, said the G7 nations had agreed to “maintain the level of World Bank resources for helping the most deprived countries.” Poverty must recede, it’s a moral imperative,” he told ministers and dignitaries on Saturday.

Aides said Wolfensohn chose Africa for his first trip as he saw the world’s poorest continent as the World Bank’s biggest development challenge.
Africa is ‘a single economy’

Paul Pauwen, director of Richmond International, says South Africa must take the lead in enabling the countries of Africa to replace their tradition of hostility with mutually beneficial partnerships to bring prosperity to the continent.

Colonial infrastructure development was all designed to drain Africa’s resources to the coast for export. Even in South Africa, which is relatively well developed, there is a tendency to export resources without adding enough value.

The result is that South Africa, with its population of about 40 million, has a GDP of $100 billion — equal to the GDP of the rest of Africa, which has an estimated population of 300 million.

By comparison, Belgium — which has an aging population of only 10 million and virtually no natural resources — has a GDP of $200 billion — equivalent to the whole of the African continent,” he says.

Such discrepancies are commonplace when comparing developing nations — even with abundant natural resources — with countries which focus on adding value up to a high level of technology. The technology gap between exports and imports is in direct proportion to the GDP of any country.

And while low added-value commodities are subject to regular, substantial fluctuations, the returns on high-tech goods rise steadily from one year to the next.

Even though the overall trend of commodity prices is upwards, the gap between the value of raw materials and finished goods is widening as technology and skilled labour become more valuable.

Pauwen believes Africa will reverse its decline into poverty only when the different states begin to see themselves and their resources as part of a single economic unit.

“Southern African importers need to pay increasing attention to what is available next door before looking overseas for what they need — because regional trade promotes job creation and development within the region.

“About 85 percent of Belgium’s exports are to its neighbours — France, Holland, Luxembourg and Germany, and well over 75 percent of the total foreign trade within the European Union is regional. In Africa, regional trade accounts for less than 8 percent of the total foreign trade of each country.

“This does not mean that we should overlook poor quality or uncompetitive pricing — but by promoting the free movement of trade goods, and by learning to co-operate on a socio-economic level, we can establish natural advantages to trading between ourselves.”

The success of this process, says Pauwen, depends on the repair and development of an effective infrastructure — and especially a transport and communications network.

“Europe is criss-crossed by a network of developed areas, which have arisen close to their markets, linked by a sophisticated transportation and communication network,” he adds.

“By contrast, in Africa we have small islands of development.”
Striving to stem the brain drain...
SA to open 3 new embassies

SOUTH Africa has decided to open an embassy in Havana, Cuba.

The cabinet this week also approved the reopening of the embassy in Tehran, Iran and establishing one in Accra, Ghana.

There has been a groundswell of calls from ANC politicians for a rethink on the "Eurocentric" sitting of foreign missions in view of South Africa's new foreign policy priorities.

Ministers also ordered that the ongoing investigation into the rationalisation of missions abroad be expedited.

Political Correspondent, Sapa-Reporter
It pays to invest in Africa – report

Geneva – Private sector investment in Africa is more profitable than in other Third World regions.

Africa is also still sufficiently ignorant to meet the continent’s needs, the United Nations said yesterday.

Africa has acquired an unfavourable image, “notwithstanding the fact that foreign direct investment in Africa is more profitable than in Latin America and in developed countries,” a report for the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) said.

The UN agency was to meet in ministerial session in Geneva yesterday and tomorrow for discussions of ways to revitalize the African economy.

UN Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has recently called for an increase in international aid to Africa and a reduction in the crippling debt burden faced by most African countries.

In a report entitled Investment Potential in Africa, the UNCTAD underlined the numerous “investment opportunities” for multinational businesses in several African countries that have in recent years followed structural adjustment policies.

“Despite these efforts, transnational corporations have not increased significantly their investment in Africa as a whole, as they have done in other developing regions,” the report said.

“While foreign direct investment flows to all developing countries more than doubled between 1986 and 1994, those to Africa hardly increased at all, remaining at an annual level of around $3-billion,” the report said.

Africa’s share in the developing countries’ inward investment total declined from more than 11% to 6%, it added.

One of the reasons why investment flows to Africa have been weak is that the region has the largest concentration of least developed countries, 32 out of 48, the UN agency said.
Africa's human rights record worst

LONDON.—The world's bloodiest human rights abuses last year were in Africa where 500,000 people were murdered in Rwanda and thousands more were killed in conflicts across the continent, Amnesty International said.

"The genocide in Rwanda was the most shocking example of the changing face of human rights violations throughout the world," the human rights pressure group said in its annual report.

The group painted a grim picture of state repression from Burundi to Sierra Leone but the outlook was not all gloomy — it pointed to human rights advances in Malawi, Mozambique and South Africa as they moved to democracy.

The group said torture was widespread in 33 African states: with prisoners chained, suspended upside down, raped, subjected to electric shocks and suffocated with rubber tubing.

It called on the international community to stop the wholesale slaughter.

"A more upbeat note was struck in the examination of the advance of democracy in South Africa. — Reuter. [417/195]"
USAid opposes cuts to Africa

BY AIDAN HARTLEY

Nairobi — A senior American official warned that cuts in aid to Africa would cost more to Americans when they were obliged to intervene in future crises.

"It will cost the American taxpayer a lot more in the long run because we have an inclination to respond to crises that cost a lot of money," said Brian Atwood, who is head of the United States Agency for International Development (USAid), on Wednesday.

Atwood said $2 billion had been spent on Somalia "without blinking".

"When these kinds of crises break out, Americans demand that their government responds.

"We believe that it makes more sense to invest in development and treat the root causes of instability before a situation becomes chaotic," he said after visits to Ethiopia, Uganda and Kenya.

United States humanitarian assistance to the "Greater Horn", a term used to describe nine countries from Eritrea to Burundi, totalled $580 million last year and is set to reach $315 million this year. Development aid was $99 million last year and $146 million this year.

The region is still reeling from the Cold War years, when both the United States and Soviet Union poured weapons into proxy civil wars, from which some countries have never recovered.
Africa’s outlook for investment not entirely black

THE extent to which sub-Saharan Africa has been left behind in global economic growth was starkly highlighted by a comprehensive review of foreign direct investment published this week by the UN Conference on Trade and Development.

Since the early 1980s the flow of private investment money into developing countries has swelled into a torrent in Asia and Latin America, galvanising their growth rates. But Africa has missed out, “marginalised in an increasingly globalised world economy,” says Unctad.

On top of that, money has come into the continent has been heavily skewed to the oil producers — Algeria, Angola, Cameroon, Congo, Egypt, Gabon, Libya, Nigeria and Tunisia. At its peak in 1989 Africa attracted $6.8-billion of direct investment, almost 23% of the $32.8-billion which went into all developing countries.

But 17% of that was ploughed into the nine oil exporters, leaving just $1.4-billion for the rest. And if the $658-million Investment “in Liberia — representing ships flying its flag of convenience — is deducted, sub-Saharan Africa’s 20 economies shared $719-million. That too was unevenly spread, with the bulk going to a handful.

In 1994 the tide of direct investment in the developing world hit $91-billion, having almost trebled in five years. Africa got a trickle of $5.5-billion and, again, two-thirds was for the oil economies.

Admittedly the average for non-oil Africa of $1.1-billion a year over 1991-94 was double that of the previous decade. But even so the overall total amounted to a paltry 4% of the developing world’s take — 76% down on the 1980s slice.

Unctad lists several reasons why most of Africa has been shunned. Civil wars, political crises and natural disasters such as drought have been a deterrent. Markets tend to be small in the sub-Saharan region with an average gross domestic product of $3.4-billlion, or a mere $311 per capita.

High external debts and shortages of foreign exchange also work against investment in infrastructure plus hampering remittance of profits to transnational investors. Reforms have been started but are making “slow progress” in many countries and the lack of skills (hence low productivity) has pushed up labour unit costs above those in parts of Asia.

Unctad says that privatisation would be one way of pulling in investment. So far these have been limited to 10 countries and were small in size and scope even though in the first seven years of the 1980s Africa accounted for 21% of the 456 privatisations in the Third World.

Between 1988 and 1992 sub-Saharan privatisations amounted to a mere $688-million — $500-million was one Nigerian oil field — compared with some $21-billion in other developing regions, led by Latin America and the transitional economies of east and central Europe.

Yet even Africa suffers an “unfortunate image” as an investment destination, those transnational companies which have taken the plunge have seen good returns.

According to Department of Commerce figures, US companies which invested in the continent have enjoyed good returns, especially in the 1990s. Leaving out the primary industries (oil), US investors have seen 19% of return on their assets in the manufacturing sector which averaged 31% during the three years to end-1993 — although this, unlike the rest of Unctad’s data, includes SA investments.

This comfortably beats the south-east Asia-Pacific area, which produced a mean of 17% and Latin America’s manufacturing return of 16%.

The point is emphasised by the contrast between what foreign investors put in and profit remittances. Leaving out oil producers Nigeria and Angola, more money came out of much of sub-Saharan Africa than went in in 1991-92.

According to the report foreign direct investment to all other countries was $400-million a year, which reduced to a net transfer of $82-million after profits were taken out. Zimbabwe, for example has seen an average net outflow of $58-million in the past 14 years.

The main point made by Unctad is that there are attractive opportunities in Africa which would appeal to transnationals even more if regional groupings such as the Southern Africa Development Community could be made to work. And it sees a big role for South Africa.

"An important new factor that may influence prospects for foreign direct investment in Africa is the emergence of South Africa as a politically stable and economically dynamic country," it says.

South Africa has the potential to "attract sizeable flows of FDI" and if this happens then it could become a "growth pole" for the region.
After Africa's liberation comes the struggle against poverty.
Rates stifle Africa

**Star 12/3/95**

Harare - High interest rates and controls on foreign investment stifle stock markets in southern Africa, despite efforts to promote development, financial experts say.

Ignorance of equity markets and low per-capita incomes in most of the region except South Africa also militate against the growth of financial markets, the experts added in interviews ahead of an economic conference in Zimbabwe next Monday.

"High interest rates are a major problem. They impact very much on the growth of stock markets because it's very hard to get a regional investor to buy equity where the short-term return is very low in comparison to money market rate returns," Mike Tunner, chairman of Zimbabwe's Stock Exchange (ZSE) said.

The Harare exchange, with 65 listed companies, is the most vibrant market in the region after South Africa, where 645 companies are listed on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange.

"Of the 11 countries in the region, only Botswana, South Africa, Zambia and Namibia make entry to foreign investors relatively easy. The rest have varying levels of controls," - Reuters.
Freedom hampered, says Socialist International

democracy for Africa

Autocracy, Preventing
African leaders gather to discuss food shortages

KAMPALA: African leaders arrived in Uganda yesterday for a conference on ways to overcome food shortages and malnutrition in the world's poorest continent.

Security in the capital Kampala was tight, with policemen and troops taking up positions on all main roads after the failed attempt to assassinate Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak in Addis Ababa last month.

Uganda's President Yoweri Museveni received his counterparts arriving from Burundi, Rwanda, Malawi, Mozambique, Eritrea, and Namibia.

The presidents of Botswana and Zimbabwe and Zaire's Mr Mobutu Sese Seko had also said they would arrive later in the day.

The two-day conference, which began last night, is expected to ratify resolutions adopted by African scientists who met in Kampala at the weekend.

In January this year, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization warned that although food supplies in Africa had greatly improved, many areas devastated by drought and war still relied on foreign handouts.

The UN said some 28 African countries would require food aid of up to 2.3 million tons in 1995—20% below last year's total thanks to improved harvests. — Reuters
Presidents appeal for mass food aid

KAMPALA. — Six African presidents have already made a passionate appeal to other governments in Africa to give due emphasis to traditional staple foods to help satisfy their populations’ needs and to avert “mass starvation” in the continent.

In a communiqué released here at the end of the two-day “Third Presidential Forum on the Management of Science and Technology for Development in Africa” the six heads of state also called on African governments to enhance modern technology to help food production and to process a range of diversified food products for their people.

The communiqué was signed by presidents Quett Masire of Botswana, Bakili Muluzi of Malawi, Joachim Chissano of Mozambique, Pasteur Bizimungu of Rwanda, their host Yoweri Museveni of Uganda and Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe.

The main theme of the conference, which was attended by nearly 900 top scientists and technology-oriented entrepreneurs from within and outside the continent, was “Food Nutrition and Development”.

The presidents committed themselves to pursue a 10-year programme to achieve food security for the African child, through policy organs that would encourage concerted efforts to translate policies into actions for an efficient food production industry and to foster a robust intra-African network of food markets.

The presidents noted the poverty-stricken population of Africa that had no food purchasing power, observing: “The African poor can neither produce enough food for household consumption, nor do they have access to marketed food for lack of money.”

The presidents also pledged to mobilise the entire continent’s talents and technological skills through encouragement of equal pay for the same work performed by African experts and the expatriates brought into Africa, a move that will help avert a brain-drain from the continent.

The conference also established a round table of technology-oriented entrepreneurs in Africa to lead a more demand-driven technological development and chose the Malawian capital, Lilongwe, to host the headquarters for the African Foundation for Research and Development (AFRAN), which would be charged with the task of following up undertakings made.

The AFRAN was also asked to put in place tactical guidelines and processes, including a demand-driven science-based agricultural processing, marketing and distribution system, that would ensure “perpetual food and nutritional security in the next decade.” — SAPA-APP.
KAMPALA. — African leaders have agreed on a plan to ensure that the continent has enough to eat by the year 2006. “It is now a question of Africa’s very survival,” they said in a statement at the end of a two-day conference in Kampala.

Food and nutritional security were “the priority of priorities” for the world’s poorest continent, they said.

The heads of state of Mozambique, Botswana, Malawi, Zimbabwe, Rwanda and Uganda signed a plan detailing how to eradicate hunger and malnutrition within 10 years.

The plan included committing themselves to a programme of “pragmatic action” to feed Africa but it failed to spell out specific action.

“We appeal to African policy organs to act in concert and to review and translate cogent policies into pragmatic action needed to promote and enhance the efficacy of the sectors that support the entire food production industry,” the plan said.

It will be a tall order. Wars, political stability and poor weather have wrecked crops across Africa, according to reports presented at the Third Presidential Forum on Food and Nutrition in Africa.

Up to 200 million of Africa’s 700 million people are faced with starvation, conference documents said. Between 60 and 70 percent of the population in sub-Saharan Africa are malnourished.

In January, the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) said that although food supplies in Africa had improved, many areas devastated by drought and war still relied on foreign handouts.

The FAO said 28 African countries would require food aid of up to 3.3 million tons in 1995 — 20 percent below last year’s total thanks to improved harvests.

In separate remarks, the heads of state said the problem of the lack of food in Africa went far beyond just providing enough to eat to political freedoms and relations between states.

Botswana’s President Quett Masire said Africa needed to pool resources to fight drought and must build a way to come to the rescue of drought victims swiftly.

President Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe said the fight against hunger must start with more investment into research into quick-yielding crops to beat the dry spells that led to famine.

Dry weather had delayed plantings in Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe and western parts of South Africa’s grain-growing belt, the FAO said.

It also said the food situation in Burundi and Rwanda, torn by ethnic violence and insecurity, remained critical.

Rwandan President Pasteur Bizimungu called for a joint effort to fight food insufficiency, arguing that single states did not have enough resources to tackle the problem on their own.

Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni said political differences made it hard for governments to beat hunger and malnutrition.

“My country for instance produces more food than it needs but it cannot export its surplus because there are no markets for it, sometimes because of the lack of political will on the part of the potential markets,” he told the Kampala meeting. — Reuter.
NAIROBI: Some 23 million people living in sub-Saharan Africa face food shortages this year and donor supplies are declining, the United Nations said yesterday.

The Rome-based Food and Agriculture Organisation said in its quarterly forecast released in Nairobi yesterday that food aid worldwide is expected to drop by 20% "due to a tightening supply and budgetary constraints for some aid donors".

The report said the region's cereals harvest this year is forecast at eight million tons below last year and blamed widespread drought and civil strife "which continues to disrupt farming and distribution" in some countries.
Integration still elusive in strife-torn West Africa

ACCRA. — The 20th anniversary summit of the Economic Community of West African States, far from being a time for celebration, showed how civil war, military rule and political turmoil made regional integration as distant a goal as ever.

Not for the first time, it was Liberia and its squabbling warlords and politicians who cast a damper on the party.

Most heads of state of the 16-member ECOWAS stayed away, preoccupied by domestic troubles, or unwilling to risk being saddled with its presidency and the thankless task of mediating among Liberia's factions.

In the absence of other candidates, the summit unanimously re-elected Ghana's president, Jerry Rawlings, as ECOWAS chairman.

Apart from Mr Rawlings, only the presidents of Guinea, Niger, Benin and Ivory Coast attended, plus the head of Liberia's interim ruling council.

Niger's president Mahamane Ousmane said many leaders were too preoccupied with domestic problems to make the journey. "I think member states were represented at an adequate level."

ECOWAS is riven by divisions between French-speaking and English-speaking members, and by increasing exasperation with the Liberian peace process.

"We won't come next year if it's just to talk about Liberia," said one French-speaking delegate.

Seven Francophone ECOWAS members, relatively wealthier and more peaceful than their English-speaking neighbours, already share a common currency and are pursuing their own integration in the West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA).

The shock of devaluation of the CFA franc in January 1994 accelerated the process.

One of ECOWAS's stated aims is a single currency for all 16 members, and the summit's final communiqué asked central bankers to study the introduction of West African travellers' cheques.

The summit made no mention of one of the region's most pressing problems — the political crisis in Nigeria since the cancellation of the June 1993 election. The recent conviction of 40 alleged coup plotters by a military tribunal has brought a storm of international criticism.

A special resolution appealed to the UN not to withdraw its military observers from Liberia. The observer mission's mandate runs out on September 15 and Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has said it will not be renewed unless there is real progress towards peace. — Sapa-Reuters.
Little press freedom in Africa, conference told

HARARE — About 80 percent of Africans have no access to free domestic press, an international network of media executives said.

Johann Fritz, director of the Austrian-based Global Network of Editors and Media Executives, told an international conference on freedom of expression that press intolerance was widespread.

"The most populous countries on the continent have a rating of 'no free press', which means that 80 percent of the entire African population does not even have access to partly free domestic press," Mr Fritz said, citing a 1994 report on the state of the media in Africa by New York-based Freedom House.

Only four out of 51 African countries were last year classified to have a free press. They were Botswana, Malawi, Namibia and South Africa, while 19 were graded as partly free and 28 not free at all.

Most notable countries where the press was said to be not free were Nigeria, Togo, Ivory Coast and Zambia.

Mr Fritz said many African leaders were using criminal courts to settle personal scores with journalists and the most common charges used to intimidate and harass the media were defamation and slander.

He singled out the current criminal defamation trial of three Zimbabwean journalists over reports of President Robert Mugabe's alleged secret marriage to his former personal secretary.

In Tanzania, he said, political cartoons had been banned, while in Kenya critical writers were harassed on the basis of the argument that "to have democracy, Kenya needs peace ... and that any criticism causes a breach of peace".

Lack of democracy and civil conflicts were the main hindrances to freedom of the press.

Some African governments, Mr Fritz said, had set up "private media" to appear to the donor community that they are working towards democracy, when in fact they would indirectly control those outlets. — Sapa-AFP.
Investment opportunities arise in Africa

BY GORDON BELL CT (FR) 71/95

Following decades of abysmal economic performance, Africa is starting to put its house in order and the windows of opportunity are opening for investors, particularly for South African entrepreneurs.

The World Bank expects economic growth in sub-Saharan Africa to average 4 percent a year over the next two years — outstripping the dismal growth levels over the past decade and bringing life back to a region plagued by political and economic instability.

Between 1985 and last year, African real per capita incomes fell more than 1 percent a year on average, but the World Bank said the continent was set to achieve its first improvement in real incomes since the late 1980s.

One witness to Africa’s economic woes has been Standard Chartered Bank which has soldiered on in Africa for the last 120 years — through wars, coups, and famines.

“In the long run, as globalisation continues and as South Africa continues to play a leading role in Africa, there will be significant opportunities for South African companies,” said Alex Thursby, the corporate chief of Standard Chartered Bank in Africa.

Ghana, held up as model of World Bank success in Africa, is attracting considerable attention.

Thursby said Ghana held the key to investment opportunities in West Africa, a region rich with unexploited oil and mineral resources.

Ghana achieved economic growth of 3.8 percent last year — only slightly lower than its past ten-year average of 4 percent.

While its level of infrastructure remained a problem, it had seen vast improvements in the last two years, particularly at its airports and harbours.

Thursby said South African investors could cash in on Ghana’s opportunities by providing capital goods and supplying the strong emerging middle class, with products such as pharmaceutical goods and electronic appliances.

South African companies would also do well to consider investments in the country’s timber industry and the mining sector, particularly in the provision of technical services and equipment to the gold mines.

And for those firms wanting to set up in Ghana, capital and profit could be fully repatriated and investments were guaranteed against expropriation.

Ghana holds the key to investment opportunities in West Africa, a region rich with unexploited oil and mineral resources.

If most of the product was export bound, no minimum capital investment was required and the company’s tax rate fell to about 8 percent.

Although the country’s inflation was at about 30 percent and the currency was likely to weaken further, companies should be relieved that corruption was being controlled, said Thursby.

However, corruption was still a major problem in East Africa.

Speaking on the opportunities for investors in East Africa, Alan Dodd, the deputy head of Standard Chartered Bank in Kenya, said that although the region was politically stable compared to other African nations, corruption was a problem that had to be addressed.

One of Africa’s economic highlights had been the startling growth achieved in Uganda.

It enjoyed growth of 10 percent over the past year, with a more-than-respectable inflation rate of 2.9 percent.

Kenya’s economy grew at 5 percent last year and Tanzania’s at 4 percent. But the latter country’s inflation rate of 40 percent was worrying.

Dodd said the region provided generous investment incentives, including tax and duty exemptions, guarantees against expropriation and, in Kenya, an export processing zone.

He has identified particular opportunities for South African producers of paper and pulp, machinery, transport and transport equipment, and pharmaceuticals.
And Problems Reflect Those of a Continent
Aid and debt eat at Africa's

Trade and investment are necessary to set Africa back on the road toward economic development. Karen Harverson reports

AFRICA urgently needs trade and investment to drive its development forward now more than it was 30 years ago, says one of Southern Africa's leading economists.

Tony Hawkins, professor of Business Studies at the University of Zimbabwe, was speaking at a Standard Chartered conference held last week.

Noting that per capita incomes in Africa were lower now than they were in the 1960s, as populations grew faster than economies grew, Hawkins explained that unlike the South East Asian countries, whose rapid economic development was driven by trade and investment, Africa's lack of development is driven by aid and debt.

"In the 1960's Thailand's gross domestic product (GDP) was lower per head than Ghana's—today, it is five times greater," said Hawkins.

He said a radical change in certain African countries' economic policies was necessary to attract investment from multinationals, which he believed would be crucial in leading the development of Africa.

"Many African governments have shown commitment to the liberalisation of trade and investment policy but have found it difficult to implement these changes." Another problem facing many African countries is that their economies are 80 per cent commodity-based and highly vulnerable to adverse international trends and climatic conditions.

"Fortunately, the protracted downturn in commodity prices in 1992 and 1993 appears to have ended and this bodes well for potential investment." Another plus in Africa's favour was that the return on investment in Africa was greater for multinationals than in any other country.

"Of course, the risks are also much higher." Hawkins said that Africa's best chance for attracting investment was in traditional industries or in the area of privatization.

"Excluding privatization, most investors are attracted to ventures in oil, gas and mining, especially in West Africa." Africa's difficulties are compounded by tiny markets which hold little attraction for the modern multinational companies.

Hawkins. Only South Africa and Nigeria have market sizes topping the $10 billion mark.

"South Africa is the only star on the continent in terms of market size, growth rate and market attractiveness. It is the only market investors view as essential to secure." He said investors measured the market attractiveness of a country in terms of economic overhaul, political stability, policy environment, infrastructure and institutional capacity, foreign debt burden and export concentration.

"Of these, political environment is the most important. Resource endowment is a key factor in attracting investment but not essential as proven by the successful economies of the South East Asian countries." He said countries such as Mauritius, Botswana, Namibia and Swaziland were seen as "limited scope" countries.

"They have good policies and political stability but their markets were just too small to attract investment interest beyond exploitation of raw materials. Despite its market size, Nigeria, along with Cote d'Ivoire, Angola, Zimbabwe, Ghana, Kenya, Uganda, Zambia, Cameroon and Tanzania, was ranked as a "problem child.""

"These countries have good growth environments when markets improve but the scope is limited by the moderate market size. Investors need to pick the winners and establish joint ventures," he said.

He said there were two factors which will take a long time to develop market attractiveness. He warned investors to adopt a "watch and wait" attitude to these African countries apart from some experts and marketing outlet opportunities.

The true wealth of a nation lies not in its reserves of precious metals and minerals, but in the culture of its people.

And for people to reach their true potential in society, they must be given the education and skills they need to become part of the productive power of the country. It is the ability to produce that changes an individual's options in life from one of fatalistic acceptance to one of choice.

For the past thirty years we have been actively involved in the communities from which our shareholders, clients and employees are drawn. And our contribution is not merely a hand-out but a direct involvement in education. Education in the broadest sense, from medicine and technical training, to libraries at tertiary institutions and schools for the disabled in rural areas.

It is our belief that by having a vested interest in the education of the community we will be able to achieve our goal of enriching man through minerals.

GOLD FIELDS
Aid and debt eat at Africa's

Trade and investment are necessary to set Africa back on the road toward economic development. Karen Harverson reports

Af...
West African Ecobank on track for expansion

ABIDJAN — Ecobank, a home-grown West African off-shore operation set up in the face of local and foreign hostility, plans a carefully paced expansion across the region after initially biting off more than it could chew.

The private group, which operates in five countries, says that although 1993/94 net after-tax profit rose almost 50% to $53m, its performance during the first seven years had not matched expectations.

But having embarked on a total recapitalisation of its under-performing Ivory Coast subsidiary, and unveiled plans to start up in Burkina Faso in 1996, it is confident of moving closer to stimulating regional trade and integration.

"We took on a lot at the beginning," said Togo-based parent Ecobank Transnational Incorporated president Maheta Fall.


Fall said Ecobank's African founders faced initial opposition from Francophone West Africa's central bank and various countries in the region. Gbondjide Koffi Djondo, himself a founder, went further: "This hostility was not only from the central bank, it was strongly led by foreign banks... particularly French banks."

Ecobank wants to share in any boom in Ivory Coast, which predicts 1995 growth of 6.5%.

MD Rizwan Haider says the group plans to play a full part in an expanded Abidjan Stock Exchange, which is planned to serve Francophone countries in the region.

Fall said Ecobank, which had assets of $400m, wanted to offer quick capital transfers through its subsidiaries and its own resources. He said several states wanted Ecobank to open on their soil. — Reuter.
Tazara railway line faces uncertain future

DAR ES SALAAM — The future of the 1,880km Chinese-built railway linking Tanzania and Zambia looks shaky as a result of increasing competition from SA transporters and a shortage of funds to upgrade the utility.

SA has taken over 75% of the cargo that used to be handled by the 17-year-old Tanzania-Zambia Railway Authority and “without concerted efforts, the railway line’s future is doubtful,” says a senior Tazara official.

The railroad links Tanzania’s port capital of Dar es Salaam, located on the Indian Ocean, to the township of Kapiri Mposhi, north of the Zambian capital of Lusaka.

At the time it was built, Zambia needed to find an alternative to its traditional transport route that led through then white-ruled Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) to SA. Spurned by the West, the Tanzanian and Zambian governments turned to the Chinese for help.

The result was China’s biggest development project in the developing world, a massive venture built by Chinese and Tanzanian workers.

But the end of apartheid in SA, and peace in Mozambique — another alternative route for exports from Zambia and Malawi, which also uses the railway, has exposed Tazara to competition from other southern African transporters.

Fears about the future of Tazara date back to 1993 when, during a visit to Tanzania, Zambian President Frederick Chiluba said his country would increase ties with SA. Chiluba was true to his word.

Zambia, which partly owns Tazara along with Tanzania, is now increasingly using SA ports for both its imports and exports because the road and railway services between the two countries are more efficient and faster.

Nevertheless, Zambian Deputy Communication and Transport Minister Gilbert Mululu gave the customary pledge of support for the railway when he met Tanzanian and Chinese officials in Dar es Salaam over the weekend. “The railway line is our backbone and we will ensure that it survives,” he said.

China’s Assistant Minister for Foreign Trade and Economic Co-operation Tang Wensheng promised that “China will continue to co-operate with Tanzania and Zambia in strengthening Tazara.” To this end, Beijing has extended a $23m loan to the utility.

The list of pledges included one from Tanzanian Deputy Finance Minister Venance Ngula, who vowed that “come what may, we will ensure the railroad exists”.

But pledges support will prove much easier than ending the financial and operational difficulties of a railway service whose 1,400 wagons and 25 diesel-electric locomotives have transported far less goods and fewer people than planned.

Tazara officials say the utility needs at least $20m to strengthen its operations so as to enable it to face up to its competitors. Under a $30m, 10-year improvement programme which ends this year and was financed by the World Bank and Western countries, Tazara was to have moved 2.5-million tons of cargo and 2.5-million passengers a year. But freight went down from about 1-million tons in 1992/1993 to an estimated 540,000 tons in 1994. And only about 700,000 passengers used the railway service last year.

In addition to the shift to SA, the decline in the economies of Tanzania and Zambia has also helped to reduce the volume of traffic on the line.

All this is forcing Tazara to streamline its operations. Its workforce is to be slashed from the present 6,600 to 4,600 by June next year.

“We are transforming Tazara into a market-oriented institution,” says Tazara CE Antinswe Mweembo.

However, he has few illusions: “The future financial viability of the railroad to operate in a commercial environment is bleak,” he admits. “Something has to be done.” — Sapa-IPS.
SA to join African bank tomorrow

BY THALIA GRIFFITHS

Abidjan — The African Development Bank will formally admit South Africa tomorrow with Pretoria taking a cautious 1 percent shareholding, but joining in time to take part in elections for a new bank president.

Bank sources said the governors, who will meet in Abidjan tomorrow for a rerun of the elections that ended in deadlock in May, will first vote on admitting South Africa.

South African officials said the decision to join the bank could provide a badly needed injection of confidence.

Under fire for corruption and mismanagement, the bank needs a president supported by both African and non-African members so it can unblock its soft-loans arm and start work on a planned restructuring.

South Africa has attended bank meetings as an observer since 1991.

Bank sources said that as the biggest economy in sub-Saharan Africa, South Africa would be entitled to a shareholding of up to 12 percent, overtaking Nigeria which has 10.53 percent.

The bank failed in five rounds of voting in May to elect a successor to outgoing president Babacar Ndiaye.

An election at the bank's annual assembly in Nigeria's capital of Abuja on May 25 ended in stalemate and the same three candidates — Seyyid Abdulai of Nigeria, Omar Kabbaj of Morocco, and Timothy Thahane of Lesotho — are standing again in Abidjan.

South Africa has pledged its support to Thahane, a vice-president and secretary at the World Bank, who is backed by the Southern African Development Community and the United States.

In the vote in Abuja, Thahane had the highest number of votes but failed to secure a majority in five rounds of voting. Abdulai, placed third, failed to withdraw as the fourth and fifth-placed candidates had done.

Standard and Poor, the credit rating agency, placed the bank on credit watch at the end of June.

Bank sources say the standoff over the presidency obscured progress made in Abuja.

Governors voted to limit executive directors to two three-year terms. They also approved an independent external review of the bank's administration and financial management to clear the air for the new president.
Bids to Rebuild rail lines, Africa's railway foundations faltering, report finds.
Row with pan-African bank patched up

By ALISON JAMES
INDEPENDENT FOREIGN SERVICE

Abidjan - A row that threatened to mar South Africa's admission to the Pan-African Development Bank was patched up in Abidjan yesterday, according to Finance Minister Chris Liebenberg.

South Africa, set to become the newest member of the continent's only pan-African lending institution, was expected to have its membership ratified at a directors' meeting in the Ivory Coast capital yesterday. Membership would have allowed South Africa a vote in the election of a new bank president, a process which began in Abidjan late yesterday. However, at the 11th hour on Thursday the bank

said South Africa could not be admitted in time for the vote.

The decision prompted an outcry from South Africa's finance department. Department chief director Dr Elly Links warned that the decision would have a "very negative response from (the South African) Cabinet and Parliament".

Speculation in bank and diplomatic circles in Abidjan was rife. One interpretation was that the bank's last-minute refusal to admit South Africa in time was to stop it taking part in the vote for the presidency, increasing the chances of Nigerien candidate Seyyid Abdulai and Morocco's Omar Kabbaj. South Africa, along with its southern African neighbours, is backing Lesotho's Timothy Thabane, a vice-president of the World Bank.

Another suggestion was that bank members were angry about South Africa's decision to join the body with a stake of only 3%. Liebenberg, apparently angered by the bank's stonewalling, met chairman Paul Doussou. Afterwards Liebenberg said: "We were very reassured. We were told how eager the board of governors and directors of the bank were for us to join."

The reason given to Liebenberg for the delay was that the necessary legal formalities had not been completed in time.

"The reasons we heard on the grapevine were wrong," said Liebenberg. "There was a breakdown in communication."

"There was a misunderstanding regarding the process as a new member has to go through and we were taken aback at not being fully aware of the legal delays."

He denied that South Africa had hoped to have a vote yesterday. "Our presence was not to vote. It was to meet our future fellow governors... In any event, the percentage vote we would have had could make little difference to the outcome."

Voting for the president by the bank's 52 African members and 25 non-regional members from north and south America, Europe, Asia and the Middle East was due to begin behind closed doors at Abidjan's Hotel Ivoire yesterday.
AfDB keeps SA on hold

SOUTH Africa's admission as a shareholder in the African Development Bank had been delayed, Finance Minister Chris Liebenberg said on Friday.

Mr Liebenberg led a delegation which met the AfDB's board of governors in Abidjan Friday morning. He said he had been assured South Africa's membership was still welcomed by all shareholders.

"South Africa has complied with all the requirements to take up its membership and is now waiting for the bank to process the legal technicalities of the application," the minister said.

Long barred from membership because of apartheid, South Africa was due to join the AfDB on Friday as the 53rd African shareholder in the bank, one of Africa's most important financial institutions.

A joint committee of the AfDB and its African Development Fund has recommended the governors "do everything in their power" to speed up South Africa's admission.

Bank governors were meeting on Friday in their second attempt this year to appoint a new president to succeed Senegal's Babacar N'Diaye. — Sapa-APP.
ARMS FOR AFRICA

IN A flash of flame and a deafening crack another arms cache is destroyed deep in the Mozambican bush, near the western border with Zimbabwe.

Many thousands more arms caches are hidden in the bush across Mozambique, worrying the authorities and police, who fear they are feeding a deadly arms trade.

"Every day 10 or 15 of our investigators report finds of arms caches. Every day," says Mamek Nyungenda, an explosives expert for the contractor Mine-Tech, which clears mines and destroys illegal arms caches.

And Artur Canana, the governor of Manicaland, admits that weapons fuelling an illegal arms trade have been sold out of police stations.

"There is nothing we can do about the indiscipline of certain officers, which is making the whole problem worse," he shrugs.

The daily discoveries of arms caches make a mockery of UN claims that all of Mozambique's one million weapons from its civil war were either handed over or destroyed. Up to 20 tonnes of ammunition and weapons are found at a time, enough to start a small war.

Lionel Dyke, a former colonel in the Zimbabwean Army, who lived and served in Mozambique for more than 20 years, said: "We are finding a lot of these caches which were not surrendered during the UN days. One is in the middle of a town. I am amazed the UN didn't have it shown to them or have it destroyed — it is very dangerous because the hundreds of thousands of rounds of ammunition alone are a problem, not necessarily starting another war, but from the point of view of banditry, poaching and criminals being able to arm themselves over a long period of time."

Evidence of the illegal trade in weapons litters Mozambique and its borders. In the markets of the frontier towns of the western Manica province, AK-47s can be bartered for a can of oil.

Police outside Mozambique fear border-jumpers are trading weapons to South Africa, Zimbabwe, Malawi and Swaziland.

Zimbabwean police in the country's eastern Manicaland province, which borders Mozambique, claim a 30 percent increase in armed robberies last year was due to the flow of illegal weapons.

Bandits inside Mozambique, many of whom are ex-combattants frustrated by poverty and unemployment, are taking to the bush to live by crime.

Among the victims is farmer Clive Stewart, a Zimbabwean farming tobacco near the Mozambique-Zimbabwe border, who was shot by bandits while driving home one night from a restaurant.

Mr Stewart's response has been to hire 26 fully armed former Freimo guerrillas to patrol his farm. Every night they clock in with instructions to shoot armed intruders.

Mr Stewart said: "There are now robberies taking place during the day, which is worrying, because there is a drought and little food around — people need money and I think things are going to get out of hand."

Observers agree that little can be done to stem the tide of illegal weapons from Mozambique, raising further questions over the future of the uneasy peace.
Abidjan, Ivory Coast — After 20 hours of back-room negotiations and shifting alliances among shareholders, a Moroccan economist was elected head of the African Development Bank at the weekend.

Omar Kabbaj, 53, a senior government economic adviser and former representative to the World Bank and International Monetary Fund, was elected president after nine grueling rounds of voting.

Kabbaj, who is the largest shareholder of African Development Bank Inc., succeeded the institute's president, Seyyid Abdulai, and threw its 10 percent vote behind Morocco.

That bumped Timothy Thahane, an economist from Lesotho who was backed by the United States, from the lead in the race for the five-year presidency.

In the end, Kabbaj emerged with 63 percent of the vote.

Babacar Ndiaye of Senegal is stepping down after 10 years as president of the beleaguered bank, which is plagued by a bloated bureaucracy, allegations of corruption and a tenuous debt rating.

Kabbaj, who would this week become the bank's sixth president since its founding 32 years ago, vowed to submit a three-year reform plan to the board of governors within four months.

"The media sometimes exaggerates the bank's problems," said Kabbaj.

"The bank is still one of the most important and prestigious institutions of Africa and we will work to re-establish its credibility and image."

The United States and most of the bank's 24 non-African members had favoured Thahane, a vice president and secretary of the World Bank who lives in Washington.

While many European members withdrew their support from Thahane at the last minute to break the deadlock, the United States, with a 6 percent stake in the bank, backed him until the end.

"We fought a good fight," said Lionel Johnson, the deputy assistant secretary of the United States treasury department and acting governor of the African Development Bank.

Voting began on Friday morning and was still deadlock at midnight. The impasse was not broken until Saturday afternoon.

"We felt that Thahane was the better qualified of the two candidates," said Johnson. "But we don't have any problem with Kabbaj; he has our full support."

Johnson said the election was not just about the presidency of the bank. "This will define the vision and the very soul of the bank into the 21st century."

Western members of the bank have demanded that it tighten its credit policies, cut 'bureaucracy' and 'prevent excess operations. The United States has led a proposal by the non-African members for a 50 percent increase in the bank's capital to about $33 billion, if financial control is shifted to them.

That has infuriated many of the 52 African members, some of whom emerged from the closed-door session proclaiming, "Today is Africa's day."

Nigeria threw enormous weight behind its candidate, with a 21-member delegation and reports that they had promised poorer countries gifts of money and aid if they stood by their candidate.

But Abdulai never gained more than 16 percent of the vote.
Moroccan chief for African Bank

ABIDJAN — After 20 hours of back-room negotiations and shifting alliances among shareholders, a Moroccan economist was elected head of the African Development Bank at the weekend.

Omar Kabbaj, 53, senior government economic adviser and former representative to the World Bank and International Monetary Fund, was elected president after nine gruelling rounds of voting in the Ivory Coast.

The win came after Nigeria, the largest shareholder of Africa's top lending institution, conceded the defeat of its candidate, Seyid Abdulai, and threw its 10% vote behind Morocco.

That bumped Timothy Thahane, a US-backed Lesotho economist, from the lead in the race for the five-year presidency.

In the end, Kabbaj emerged with 63% of the vote.

Babacar Ndiaye of Senegal is stepping down after 10 years as president of the beleaguered bank, which is plagued by a bloated bureaucracy, allegations of corruption and a tenuous debt rating.

Kabbaj, who on September 1 will become the bank's sixth president since its founding 52 years ago, vowed to submit a three-year reform plan to the board of governors within four months.

"The media sometimes exaggerates the bank's problems," Kabbaj said in a news conference.

"The bank is still one of the most important and prestigious African institutions and we will work to re-establish its credibility."

The US and most of the bank's 24 non-African members had favoured Thahane, a vice-president and World Bank secretary, who lives in Washington.

While many European members withdrew their support from Thahane at the last minute to break the deadlock, the US, with a 6% stake in the bank, backed him until the end.

"We fought a good fight," said Lionel Johnson, US treasury department deputy assistant secretary and acting bank governor.

Indeed, voting began on Friday morning and was still deadlocked at midnight; the impasse was not broken until 2pm on Saturday.

"We felt that he was the better qualified of the two candidates," said Johnson. "But we don't have any problem with Mr Kabbaj; he has our full support."

Johnson said the election was not just about the presidency of the bank. "This will define the vision and the very soundness of the bank into the 21st century."

Now that the bank has a new president, the African Development Fund, the bank arm providing low-interest loans, can get on with determining how many loans to make in the next three years.

The economies of African members are in such bad shape, however, that only 14 of them are eligible for new loans.

Borrowers are $600m behind in their payments and the bank has had to reduce new loans from $2.5bn in 1993 to $1.4bn last year.

-Sputnik-AP.
AfDB members ‘unhappy’ with SA

AfDB members ‘unhappy’ with SA

Adeyade Sangowawa, the vice-president of the African Development Bank (AfDB), has confirmed there was a “lot of disappointment” among bank members that South Africa was entering the institution with just a one percent share of the capital.

Sangowawa was attending the annual Southern African Development Community summit in Johannesburg yesterday.

Asked whether there had been any politicking in the AfDB’s last-minute decision to delay South Africa’s accession to the bank, he said no. Pressed further, he acknowledged that had SA been on the outside with a 10 percent bid “everyone would have rushed the membership through”.

“One percent didn’t make anyone want to rush,” said Sangowawa.

Chris Liebenberg, the South African finance minister, led a delegation to the bank’s headquarters in Abidjan last Friday — where it was widely expected that SA would be granted membership — just before voting began for the bank’s next president.

In a sudden turnaround, it was announced that SA’s accession would be delayed because certain legal formalities had not been completed in time. At first the South African delegation was incensed at this stonewalling, but Liebenberg met with the bank’s senior officials and later told the Independent Foreign Service that he was “reassured”.

Cautions

Given the rather parlous state of the bank’s finances, Sangowawa was asked whether there was indeed some appreciation for SA’s cautious entry.

“They are probably being over-cautious when compared with the benefits South Africa can draw from membership,” he said.

In reality, South Africa could not have come in with a flashy 10 percent of the bank’s capital. A maximum of 2.59 percent was available to SA and anything bigger would have had to have been by way of a special issue.

A country’s stake in the bank is usually calculated on its GDP and Nigeria is presently the biggest stakeholder with more than 10 percent.

Sangowawa noted that SA had not ruled out an increase in its stake in the future but “maybe other members don’t feel so satisfied with that promise”, he said.

SA’s entry would now go to a postal vote by the board of governors of the bank once the board of directors had approved the formulation. This could take six to eight weeks if there were no problems, said Sangowawa.

Meanwhile, the contentious elections for the bank’s new president at last got under way in Abidjan at the weekend and the Moroccan candidate Omar Kabbaj emerged with the prime post.

Noteworthy on the political playing field is that Morocco, unlike all its fellow African members in the bank, is not a member of the Organisation of African Unity.
AfDB members ‘unhappy’ with SA

■ BY DALE LAUTENBACH

Adewale Sangowawa, the vice-president of the African Development Bank (AfDB), said there was a lot of disappointment among bank members that South Africa was entering the institution with only a 1 percent share of the capital.

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He said there had been no politicking in the AfDB’s last-minute decision to delay South Africa’s accession to the Bank. However, he acknowledged that had South Africa been on the outside with a 10 percent bid “everyone would have rushed the membership through”.

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However, South Africa could not have come in with 10 percent of the bank’s capital. A maximum of 2.59 percent was available to South Africa and anything bigger would have been via a special issue.
Re-colonisation for the ‘basket-cases’

Barely 18 months after the final curtain of colonialism has dropped on Africa, it has been suggested that some struggling African countries be re-colonised writes Dr GREG MILLS for The Argus Foreign Service.

THE 38 years of Africa’s post-colonial period since the independence of Ghana have, for the most part, been characterised by a catalogue of disasters. As a result, by the start of the 1990s, much of the continent was perceived to have degenerated into a desperate cocktail of military regimes, coup d'état, mismanagement, nepotism and structural decay.

Since the fall of communism in eastern Europe and the Soviet Union, Africa has followed the trend of democracy by throwing out dictators — benign or otherwise — and by earnestly, if not completely successfully, setting up accountable systems of government.

Since 1989, some 30 single-party or military governments have transferred power through multiparty elections, increasing the total of multi-party democracies in Africa’s 53 independent states to 37.

Greater accountability has meant, recently also been sought through the establishment of Nuremberg-type trials in Rwanda, Ethiopia and Malawi.

Furthermore, the remarkable nature of South Africa’s own transformation stands out as an example of what can be achieved in the face of adversity.

Yet hopes for change have received some setbacks along the way: the catastrophes in Somalia, Liberia and most tragically, Rwanda, stand out in the minds of the international community.

During this period since the end of the Cold War, the very structure of the continent has also been questioned: where the viability of states, their borders, and their inability to provide even basic amenities has come under scrutiny.

In this there has been a constructive appraisal of the role of Africa’s civil society — the churches, trade unions, NGOs and extraparliamentary political forces. But it also led to a re-examination of the concept of state sovereignty, and the suggestion of imaginative proposals about what to do — in the face of International apathy and disregard — with Africa’s "basket-cases", where there is little prospect of hope and growth, and great prospect of upheaval.

At a recent meeting in Johannesburg, Professor Ali Mazrui put forward an innovative method of dealing with the problems of African state weaknesses. The lack of peace, stability and inherent viability could be managed, he suggested, through “inter-African colonisation”, just as the then Tanganyika colonised Zanzibar in 1964, or, as Tanzania, invaded Uganda in 1978.

He argued that African states needed to reconceive themselves to doing more — to pushing and showing their weight around the African continent, not relying on the West to take responsibility.

He argued that South Africa, Egypt, Nigeria, Ethiopia and Zaire were the five "pivotal" African states for the 21st century, expected not only to operate presumably as growth nodes, but to absorb the lion’s share of Africa’s responsibilities as an “Africa Security Council”.

Barely 18 months after the final curtain of colonialism has dropped on Africa — were Professor Mazrui not speaking as a black African — these suggestions could be taken as patronising and insensitive. And while thoughtful and imaginative, their practicality is dubious.

Not only are two of the five anticipated African leaders (Nigeria and Zaire) themselves in turmoil and candidates for assistance, but Ethiopia has only recently emerged from a debilitating period of civil conflict, which has led to the fracture with Eritrea.

Furthermore, Egypt is battling with Islamic fundamentalist demands on government, occasionally in the form of terrorist attacks.

South Africa itself is also coming to grips with democracy and should, many would argue, focus its energies internally to create conditions of sustainable growth and development, thereby offsetting the legacy of racism and through its success, act as a beacon of hope and a role model for Africa.

But more importantly, any "re-colonisation" now will be extremely difficult to manage, and any decision to intervene would have to be negotiated if it were not to be seen as potentially divisive and a cause of conflict.

Without the agreement of all major African powers, neighbouring states and the "colonised state" itself, civil dissonance and non-sus-
African hoteliers view future with optimism

DENNIS CAVERNELIS
Staff Reporter

DESPITE problems with infrastructure, staff, a drop in tourism, and malaria, African hoteliers remain optimistic about the future.

Protea Hotels’ regional managers, representing the group’s 84 hotels in Africa — 60 in South Africa and 24 in 11 countries in the rest of the continent — attended their annual conference in Sea Point this week.

Ian Dougan, general manager for the five Tanzanian hotels, was previously general manager of the Hilton in the United Kingdom, and also worked in Kenya.

“Managing a hotel in the UK is different to managing one in Africa, but at the end of the day we are there to look after our guests.

Tanzania is no different in operation to many African countries. It’s a beautiful place, but there are problems with infrastructure, such as communications, roads and the availability of goods.

“In South Africa you can go down the road to buy fresh produce and meat, but you can’t assume these things will be readily available in the rest of Africa,” said Mr Dougan.

Mr Dougan said another problem was the lack of a “Tanzanian work and tourism culture”, and the lack of a well-trained workforce: “It is a lot of work to train people, but it is an exciting challenge, and I look forward to being around after things have improved.”

The toughest part of working in Africa, said Mr Dougan, was trying not to catch malaria. “I have had it four or five times.”

The biggest problem facing Wayne Colpitts, general manager of Pinewood Village in Kenya, is the drop in tourism.

“Last year Kenya was the most visited sub-Saharan country, but now more people are going to South Africa,” said Mr Colpitts.

Most Kenyan visitors were from the United Kingdom, Germany, France and South Africa.

Mr Colpitts also faces infrastructure problems, especially with water and power supplies, but on the positive side, he described Kenyans as “a fantastic people, very hospitable”.

Botswana is probably one of the most stable and viable of all African countries, said Jo Huse, manager of the Grand Palm Hotel in Botswana.

Mr Huse, who has lived in all parts of Africa for 25 years, said running a hotel in Botswana was “very similar” to running one in South Africa: “You can get everything there.”

Ahmed Ezzelarab, a partner in the Egypt’s El Sokhnah Hotel, expects a bumper tourism season this year and next year.

El Sokhnah (Arabic for “the hot”) is one of the group’s newest hotels and opened in April. The name refers to a hot spring which “according to legend God asked (the spring) to flow for Moses and the children of Israel when he led them through the Red Sea”, said Mr Ezzelarab.

“Most visitors to Egypt are from Europe, and we expect a very good season in 1995/6. The link between South Africa and Egypt is very strong, and with three weekly flights between South Africa and Cairo we expect an increase in the number of South African tourists,” said Mr Ezzelarab.
Rights Court will have judges of ‘high moral character’

THE proposed African Court on Human and People’s Rights will consist of 11 judges of “high moral character” and of “recognised competence in the field of human and people’s rights”, according to the draft protocol document presently under discussion in Cape Town.

The judges must be nationals of member states of the Organisation of African Unity and no two judges shall be nationals of the same state.

“The jurisdiction of the court shall extend to all cases and disputes submitted to it on the interpretation and application of the African Charter on Human and People’s Rights, this protocol and any other African human rights instrument.”

The court will also act in an advisory capacity to interpret the charter or other human rights instruments.

The seat of the court will be determined by the OAU’s assembly, although cases could be heard in the territory of any OAU member state.

If the court finds that there has been a violation of human rights, it shall order an appropriate remedy.

The court may also rule that the consequences of the situation that constituted the breach of such right be remedied, and that fair compensation or reparation be paid or made to the injured party.

All states party to the protocol shall undertake to comply with the judgment in any case to which they are parties.

The judgment of the court may be executed in the country concerned in accordance with domestic procedures governing executions of judgments.

Search for justice in Africa

There is cause for optimism — jurists’ commission chief

AFRICAN legal experts have converged on Cape Town — under the auspices of the Organisation of African Unity and the International Commission of Jurists — to draft a protocol towards the establishment of an African Court on Human and People’s Rights. A report by ROGER FRIEDMAN.

WHILE certain African countries are revelling in new-found democracy, others still suffer brutal repression, spiralling violence and ongoing human rights abuses.

But there is cause for optimism, Adama Dieng, secretary-general of the International Commission of Jurists, told delegates to the meeting of African legal experts at the Waterfront in Cape Town.

“We are going to mobilise the forces of progress, of justice and of freedom, in order that the dreams of all the sons and daughters of Africa may be realised,” he said.

The International process for the protection of human rights in Africa began more than 30 years ago at the Lagos (Nigeria) Congress of African Jurists.

Out of the Lagos Congress emerged “The Lagos Law”, which allowed for the creation of a tribunal giving open recourse to anyone questioning the jurisdiction of signatory states.

Twenty years later the application of “The Lagos Law” manifested itself in the adoption of the African Charter on Human and People’s Rights.

Another 12 years later, in Dakar (Senegal) in 1993, African jurists came together once more. They felt any move to protect human rights in Africa would remain incomplete if Africa was not endowed with true human rights jurisdiction.

The International Commission of Jurists was mandated by the experts to arrange a series of consultative meetings aimed at completing the groundwork for the establishment of an African human rights court.

A work group was established in Geneva to finalise a preliminary draft for the additional protocol relating to the African Charter.

In Tunis (Tunisia), in June 1994, the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the OAU adopted Resolution AHG 230 in which they invited the general-secretary of the OAU to summon experts to meet around the establishment of an African human rights court.

Hence the meeting in Cape Town. (Ironically, South Africa has not yet acceded to the African Charter on Human and People’s Rights.)


MINISTER of Justice Dullah Omar welcomed the initiative “wholeheartedly” at the conference opening yesterday.

The initiative to establish a continental human rights court could not have come at a better time, he said.

Mr Omar said some of the “constraints” facing Africa were the legacy of past domination, but “a substantial portion is directly attributable to breakdown of governance and the lack of democratic institutions”.

“We believe that there is a relationship between human rights and democracy on the one hand, and development on the other,” he said.

Mr Omar warned that Africa was still characterised by a stark diversity of political systems, cultures and levels of economic development; while a perusal of reports by the OAU and other international human rights organisations “still paints a picture of wide-scale abuses ranging from enforced disappearances, torture and arbitrary deprivation of life, to absence of due processes”.

“When we are not at this point in a position to predict with precision what the impact of the (proposed) court will be, we are, doubt convinced that its establishment will raise awareness in the field of human rights generally.”

OAU assistant secretary-general Ahmed Haggag, said South Africa’s leading role in the search for solutions to conflicts in South Africa made it an ideal setting “for an encounter of this importance”.

“Perhaps no continent and no people have experienced so much agony and suffering as a result of massive violation of human rights.”

“It is therefore all the more reason that we in Africa should be in the forefront in the struggle for the scrupulous observance of human rights.”

“In order to achieve this objective as well as to enable our continent to contribute with the rest of the world to consolidating the respect and protection of human rights, we have to strengthen our institutions at the national and continental level.”

“At the same time, in concert with other members of the human family, Africans must struggle for a world order which is humane and takes into account the legitimate aspirations of the people for economic and social development, which cannot be divorced from the human rights agenda.”

The conference is being attended by about 80 delegates from 18 African countries, including justice ministers, members of human rights commissions, law professors and representatives of foreign affairs ministries.

It is scheduled to finalise a report on proposals for the court on September 12.
So-called white elephant keeps a region on track for future

Passenger and cargo traffic has been reduced on the Chinese-built "Uhu Line" once built to help Frontline states avoid using former apartheid South Africa's ports. But DUNCAN GUY of the Independent Foreign Service discovered that African trade will never die along the great African railway.

New Kapiri Mposhi (Zambia) - Kapiri Mposhi, Africa's East-South-Africa traffic, begins to be heard here where watered rivers, streaming through the dry winter grass, indicate the beginning of the end of drought country.

"Every day counts for food supply," says a Zambian railway station vendor, who is selling hot tea and bread to passengers coming off the train, on the Tanzanian rail line, to stretch their legs on trains from Zambia. It has become an integral part of modern life in Tanzania, where it is a common sight to see passengers crossing the border, authorities and businessmen.

Managing Director Anthonie Malcomson says that Tharo, the world's largest producer of coffee, is now a key destination for tourists.

A change of lifestyle in the region.

It is illustrated best by three passengers to a first-class compartment who first rubbed shoulders with the masses in third-class carriages when they arrived.

The effect has been massive and a vast number of previously untapped mineral opportunities and business ventures are now opening up.

LIFELINE: Tanzanian vendors on the "Uhu Line" open up shops to the Tanzania railway line from New Kapiri Mposhi to Dar es Salaam.

From Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda and Zaire, business people and tourists visit Dar for the same reason. Beck on the Tanzania, in second class, two Kenyan businessmen represent the line's fledgling trade in Africa.

The train crosses at least 10 stations, packed with people, many of primary school age, selling cigarettes, bananas, sugar, drinks and dried fish.

Malawi is the border stop where most third-class passengers spill out to shop for imported goods. The train then heads north to the commercial capital of Maputo.

Again there's platform passion.

Kapiri Mposhi is a key town in Tanzania, and a destination for the occasional tourist train from Dar es Salaam.

For business travellers, arriving early in Dar is more important than the market in wildlife. So the main tour operators have devised a way to attract tourists.

Some 8,000 Chinese labourers and their local counterparts spent six years building the S$200 million line, completing it in 1978.

From New Kapiri Mposhi, it starts along the old colonial route through Tanzania, then leaves the route along the road into previously virgin vast tracts of bracken-filled woodland and drier bushland and sausage tree country forming Tanzania's "Uhu Line". Considered an engineering miracle when it was built, it crosses steep gradients and 300 bridges, and passes through 20 tunnels.

But its main aim was to help Frontline states reduce their dependence on South Africa during the apartheid era.

New Kapiri Mposhi, once known as "a Zambian railway station vendor," says that Tanzania's railway system is now an integral part of the modern African life, where the railway is used for cross-border travel and for freight.

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Moroccan heads African Development Bank

BUSINESS
SA INVESTORS would be well advised to cast their eyes to the stockmarkets north of the Limpopo. Research by McGregor Information Services into the economies of sub-Saharan Africa shows that many of the stockmarkets in the region have outperformed the JSE over the past two years.

As the table shows, the market capitalisation of stockmarkets in the region have shown increases of at least 50%. In the case of Ghana, the rise has been a phenomenal 817%, largely due to the strong performance of Ashanti Goldfields, which accounts for 90% of the capitalisation of the exchange.

While the JSE's market capitalisation of about R1,000-billion is 20 times larger than all the other sub-Saharan markets put together, overseas investors are beginning to take advantage of recent exchange control relaxation and privatisation in these economies.

SA investors are prevented by exchange control regulations from investing in other stockmarkets, although there are moves afoot to consider lifting the rules if investments are earmarked for stock markets on the continent.

However, a number of SA companies have listed their subsidiaries in Namibia and Botswana to raise capital.

Robin McGregor, founder of McGregor's Information Service, says the sub-Saharan economy is showing signs of strength which will be enhanced by improved political stability, an increase in investor confidence and more rapid privatisation.

The research by his companies includes details of the top 1000 companies in the region, excluding South Africa, and will be in the next edition of Who Owns Whom.
Lagos — Hot air. African governments are known for valuable gas deposits under their jurisdiction just waiting to be tapped, less so.

The problem is that much of sub-Saharan Africa's gas deposits lie in deep water off the coasts and involve big capital costs in piping it to the surface and building the export terminals for sale to European thermal power stations.

But there are signs that some private banks, backed by the World Bank, are increasingly willing to put up the money. Namibia's Kudu gas field is being developed, the United States' giant Enron has plans for Mozambique, Côte d'Ivoire has its eye on export markets and there is interest in Equatorial Guinea's and landlocked Rwanda's reserves.

Angola, Cameroon, Congo and Gabon all have natural gas deposits, associated with their oil industries, which at the moment lie wasted.

Nigeria, however, is the prize. Its gas reserves, estimated at 3,451,000 million cubic metres, are among the world's largest.

Apart from the deep-water oil fields, the future of this industry in Nigeria from the year 2010 is in gas," says Bill Edman, the managing director of Chevron in Nigeria.

For 20 years there has been talk of utilising this resource, but instead it has gone up in smoke, literally, damaging the environment and deepening the grievances of communities in the oil producing areas.

In 1993, Nigeria flared 75 per cent of the three million cubic feet of gas it produced daily, more than enough to match the total consumption of the Netherlands.

Now, however, one major project to harness Nigeria's gas to supply the power plants of regional neighbours Benin, Togo and Ghana came a step closer to realisation this week.

The four countries initiated the $270 million West African Gas Pipeline agreement which aims to start carrying 515 million cubic metres from the Escravos oil fields by 1999, rising to 1,650 million cubic metres a year by 2014.

The project is a reaffirmation of the close energy links within the West African region.
African health aid barrel running dry

Kathryn Strachan

Funds available for providing international humanitarian assistance to Africa would hardly last until the end of the year, the UN World Health Organisation regional committee for Africa said this week.

The sum paid to the World Health Organisation this year for humanitarian aid for Rwanda was less than 10% of that received last year.

The crisis in humanitarian aid is a focus of the committee's annual meeting, being held in Brazzaville, Gabon.

Other countries in the region have so far received less than 35% of funds requested. The WHO regional office for Africa explained that this sign of "donor fatigue" was mainly due to unrest in Rwanda, Burundi and Zaire.

But the regional office pledged that despite the funding crisis it would continue to provide humanitarian assistance to the Rwandan population and it would support the rebuilding of national health services. Due to poverty, conflicts and the weakness of national health systems, the health crisis in Africa had worsened and had been accompanied by the resurgence of epidemics since 1993.

The most deadly was the cholera epidemic in Goma in Zaire, last year, following the massive influx of refugees into the country.

Serious epidemics of dysentery broke out in more than 10 countries, with up to 20% of those infected dying.

Countries had taken important steps in controlling diarrhoeal diseases, Malaria continued to rage, at times in epidemics, and the incidence of certain communicable diseases evolved dramatically in the region. This was the case with sleeping sickness, especially in central and West Africa. Countries were having great difficulties controlling this disease.

The problem of tuberculosis worsened in the wake of the AIDS pandemic. There were about 171-million cases of tuberculosis and 500,000 deaths a year on the continent.

The resurgence of plague had made it necessary to use insecticides and raticides to control the vector lice and human reservoirs of the disease.

Progress was made in the eradication of polio, guinea worm disease, neonatal tetanus and leprosy. In light of the AIDS pandemic, the WHO urged the 46 African member states to intensify their AIDS prevention and control activities.

More than a third of the countries in the region had adopted policies on blood safety while all countries intensified their information campaigns.

Much remained to be done, however, in information targeted at adolescents. Many of the states had yet to formulate specific policies for youths and to train personnel to supervise youths.

The situation of access to condoms was hardly better. Not one country could boast a programme on efficient management of condoms to meet the rising public demand.

From the meeting it was also clear that AIDS prevention and control programmes were encountering financial and operational difficulties.

Only a few member states had assigned specific national budget lines to AIDS activities, while the vast majority of the programmes depended solely on funding from donors.

The regional office of the WHO urged the countries to integrate HIV/AIDS activities into existing health services in order to ensure the sustainability of interventions.

With the global emergency created by AIDS, the UN had found it necessary to establish a joint UN programme on AIDS (UNAIDS), which will have to address the challenging task of bringing about changes in lifestyles. The programme will become operational in January next year.

UNAIDS will provide technical assistance to the states, recruit national staff from a number of countries and give two years of financial assistance to the programmes.
African court for city?

CAPE TOWN has been mooted as the site of the proposed African Court of Human and Peoples' Rights.

This was disclosed yesterday by an assistant secretary-general of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), Mr Ahmed Hagag, at the end of a meeting of government legal experts on the establishment of the proposed court.

He said "an informal poll" of the experts had decided Cape Town would be the best place for the court.

The formation of the court could take up to five years if the protocol has to be ratified by 11 of the 53 members of the OAU before it can be formally established, secretary-general of the International Commission of Justice-Mr.

Ahmed Dieng said yesterday. But he hoped this would only take two years because of "the commitment of many African leaders to human rights."

The Justice Department said the government was eager for the court to be established in SA. — Political Staff
African States due to meet to discuss differences between economic groups.
Resilience Key in Africa, not pessimism
ZAMBIA are alarmed at SADC proposals to draw water from the great river to help drought-stricken neighbours, reports Jealous Bwalya of The Star Foreign Service.

Zambia should not bow to either SADC or international pressure to start diverting the Zambezi waters miles away," says Chief Mukuni.

The chief, whose palace is 10km from the Victoria Falls, argues that once water is tapped from the upper Zambezi the falls will dry up.

"Look," he argues, "we have had no good rains the past three years and the falls are a bare rock. What will happen if just a quarter of the water was diverted to South Africa? It will mean no falls for good." Musonda says: "The decision to either put up a dam or tap water from the Zambezi must have been based on ill-conceived feasibility studies which do not embrace ecological, environmental health, the national economy and the Rio de Janeiro treaty to which Zambia and all its neighbours are a signatory."

He deplores as "worthless" the notion that Zambia will make millions of rand from the export of water to such areas as the Gauteng region.

Katanekwa said: "In the same way we killed the Batoka dam project, we will kill this project."

But SADC co-ordinator of environment and land management sector Bataung Lelela said the protocol on shared water course systems in the region would promote environmentally sound, integrated management and equitable utilisation of water resources in shared river basins.

"This will no doubt enhance the socio-economic upliftment of people's living standards. The agreement should override most of these fears so that water flowing from rivers into the ocean can be put to good use by those far from such resources."

The tapping of water from the Zambezi was perceived as one which would boost agriculture production in eastern Botswana and south western Zimbabwe, especially Bulawayo, where there is severe water rationing.
Africa scrambles for wheat

PARIS. — A new surge in wheat prices has broken the patience of Third World importing nations, sending African food buyers hunting for scarce supplies after weeks of waiting in the hope that their import bills might fall.

Wheat prices went through the roof earlier this year when freak weather interfered with the US crop and government analysts began predicting the lowest global stocks in 20 years.

On Monday, new highs were hit in the Chicago, futures pit, the world's largest wheat market.

"World wheat prices have doubled in the past 14 months and there are no discounts available for importers on the world market," said a leading European food official.

Egypt, the world's second biggest importer, decided this week it could wait no longer as prices for the best American wheat hovered around 15-year highs. Its top government buyer bought 450,000 tons of wheat from the United States on Monday, only days after telling the big grain firms he preferred to wait until prices started falling.

Now, traders say, drought-hit Morocco wants wheat for its mills by December. Algeria and Jordan need wheat for November.

Egypt is also said to be back in the market for Australian wheat once the southern hemisphere’s harvest begins in December.

As prices rise, diplomats say African nations are increasingly unhappy about the effect of rising import bills on their debt-weakened economies.

Those who have little way of raising dollars to pay for wheat are in the front line of the wheat explosion as the dollar recovers on the financial markets.

"Developing countries, especially Black Africa... will be certainly be most affected," said Francois Guillaume, a former French farm minister who specialises in the continent's affairs.

Most alarming, diplomats said, is the fear that high prices will stoke unrest in Africa’s poor cities, where inhabitants tend to eat bread rather than local subsistence crops.

Ghana’s second city, Kumasi, ran out of bread earlier this month when bakers went on strike to protest against high costs.

And Ivory Coast Economy Minister Ngoran Niamien told the European Union this summer that his country faces "catastrophic consequences" if its millers run out of wheat.

The EU responded by promising to supply 500,000 tons of wheat to Africa and elsewhere in October. But EU officials admit prices will be less attractive than in the past.

In the West, analysts say shoppers who nowadays eat bread sparingly have mostly been sheltered from high wheat prices.

High wheat prices do not yet pose an inflation threat to the Western economies, brokers GNI Ltd said yesterday.

The European Union is nonetheless concerned about rising wheat prices for its food industry and has slapped a virtual freeze on exports in order to hold back supplies.

July’s decision added to the strength in world wheat prices and infuriated French farmers who say they have a “moral duty” to grow more grain and sell it to developing nations.

EU analysts say that could provoke a row with less export-dependent farmers in Germany and elsewhere when the EU decides later this month how much grain to produce in 1996.

South Africa’s wheat production estimate for 1995-96 has been revised upwards to 2.26 million tons from 2.26 million a month ago, according to latest figures from the National Crop Estimates Committee.

Final wheat production in 1994-95 was a below average 1.83 million tons, harvested from 1.04 million hectares planted.

In the current season some 1.36 million hectares had been planted due mainly to improved rainfall patterns.

Domestic consumption is around 2.2 million tons per season.

Although normally self-sufficient, South Africa has had to import wheat over the past few years because of the near-drought conditions. — Sapa-Reuter.
Tourism violates human rights row

KAMPALA. - Claims by a British non-government body that tourism development in Uganda, Tanzania and Kenya is the cause of human rights violations has angered national parks authorities in all three countries.

The NGO, Tourism Concern, which raises awareness of the social and environmental effects of tourism, says conservation and tourism development has displaced thousands of people, often without compensation and sometimes at gunpoint.

"People losing their homes for tourists to have holidays and for other people to get richer is not an acceptable way to develop the tourism industry," says Tricia Barnett, co-ordinator of Tourism Concern, explaining the motive behind a campaign called "Our Holidays, Their Homes".

Most tourism-related displacement in East Africa is caused by the creation of national parks, on which human settlement is forbidden, and game reserves, on which it is restricted.

Although these are set up in the name of conservation, they are closely linked to tourism as wildlife safaris generate the largest proportion of tourist revenue in the region.

Tourism Concern argues that tourism, although vital to a country's economy (it is the largest source of foreign exchange in Kenya and Tanzania), may be bought at too high a price, particularly if the people who are paying with their land and livelihood are not benefiting from the development.

Indigenous people are particularly at risk as they have few ways to fight back. According to Jean Keefe, author of a book on the subject, they find displacement especially harsh because when they are separated from their ancestral lands they lose part of their cultural identity and sometimes the meaning of life itself.

Tourism Concern picks on a wide range of examples, including the Maasai who occupied the Ngorongoro crater in Tanzania (now one of the most famous wildlife spots on earth) until they were evicted at gunpoint in 1974.

The Maasai now live on the rim of the crater and have to obtain a special pass to water their cattle on their former grazing ground.

In Kenya, the pastoral Samburu were moved to make way for two new game reserves and no longer have access to dryland grazing. They now rely on food aid to survive.

Coastal people around the resorts of Mombassa and Malindi have lost access to their livelihood because of the creation of marine parks and hotels.

In Uganda, the ongoing campaign focuses on the Bahima, who in 1982 were evicted from what is now Lake Mbuuro National Park without compensation and have been in conflict with the government ever since.

National parks officials in all three countries hotly dispute Tourism Concern's claims.

Lota Melamari, director-general of Tanzania National Parks, calls Tourism Concern's claims unfounded and says the requirement for a permit to water their cattle should not be looked on as a hindrance to access.

In Uganda, Samson Werike, public relations officer for UNP, stresses that the dispute in Lake Mbuuro is now resolved: the park area has been reduced and displaced people have been compensated with either money or land.
Speed land reform, world labour urges

HARARE — The International Labour Organisation says southern African countries should speed up land reforms to boost employment and productivity.  

ILO specialist Nelson Moyo told delegates at an employment seminar in Harare that colonial racist policies still hampered employment in the region.

"The high level of unemployment is also a consequence of racist policies of the past, especially in countries like South Africa, Zimbabwe and Namibia that deprived the indigenous population," Dr Moyo said.

Southern Africa offered significant employment potential.

"Employment-intensive infrastructure programmes will be required to support the development of the tourism sector, which is employment-intensive. It is a pity that governments have tended to favour capital investments."

The use of a large labour force in public construction works could be a major source of employment for the majority of the region's population.

"This requires a decision by governments that when they spend money it results in higher employment levels," Dr Moyo said. "In many countries there still exist strong lobbies against labour-based methods." — Sapa.
Neighbours richer than SA citizens, says bank

WASHINGTON — A new economic yardstick being developed by the World Bank to supplement GDP shows that Namibians and Botswanans are three times as rich as SA citizens, and have a higher asset value.

Add together three facets of a nation's economy — its natural resources, the productive capacity of its people, and the value of its "produced assets" — factories, infrastructure and the like. Divide by population. The result is per capita wealth.

SA's per capita wealth, as of 1990, comes to $41,000, placing it 60th out of 192 countries charted by the bank. Botswana comes in at 1st, with dollars $188,000. Namibia is close behind at 94th, with $151,000.

The top African country is oil-producing Gabon, coming in 27th, at $332,000. Nigeria, by contrast, trails badly at 174th, proving that natural resources are not everything, especially if you have a lot of people to share them among and those people are not very productive.

The people of Botswana and Namibia play relatively little role in their country's wealth. Their share of overall value is 17% and 22% respectively, while natural resources contribute 81% and 75%. In SA's case the breakdown is: people 40%; plant 14% and nature 46%.

That means that each man, woman and child in SA contributes $24,400 to the country's net wealth; a Namibian $39,820; and a Botswanan $31,960.

None of these numbers, which reflect the health and education levels and resultant productive potential of the populations in question, is impressive. By contrast, the average citizen of the US, which ranks 12th overall with a wealth of $421,000, is valued at $248,390.

Japan ranks 5th, with per capita wealth of $666,000. It has virtually no natural resources, and though it is highly industrialised, fully 81% of its wealth is accounted for by human assets, each with an average value of $468,000.

While large, resource-rich and empty Australia easily tops the chart at $835,000 (Canada is next with dollars $704,000), your average Aussie adds only dollars $175,000 to his nation's wealth.

As for the bottom end of the chart, an Ethiopian, whose country comes in dead last with $1,400, is valued at a devastating $560; a Nigerian at $738.

Although this is all very much back-of-the-envelope stuff, the bank is trying to make an important point: a country's net wealth, and therefore what it will be able to pass on to succeeding generations, depends less on what lies beneath its soil than on the extent to which, through education, proper nutrition and the like, it has been able to add value to its people. The Western industrialised nations have been pretty good at this, as has the Pacific Rim. The less developed world, especially those with mineral blessings, have done far less well despite hordes of Western technical experts theoretically helping them.
Investors target
African countries

WASHINGTON — It is the first cheery news about investors' interests in Africa in recent times.

When most international agencies are filing gloomy reports about Africa, the arm of the World Bank which guarantees foreign direct investment in developing countries has reported a sharp increase in the investments it helped channel to the continent in the past fiscal year.

The Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency says the 1994 fiscal year, which began on July 1, could herald a lot more direct investment for the continent.

The agency’s 1995 annual report shows it insured investments worth US$124.95m. This is an astronomical rise from the previous year’s paltry $5.75m. It also beats the previous record of $65m in 1993.

The number of guarantees also rose from two last year to seven, bringing the total in the agency’s five-year life to 18, with a total value of $220.5m.

The number of active preliminarily approved applications for insurance had risen from four in 1990 to seven in 1991, nine in 1992, 20 in 1993, 29 last year, and 47 this year.

Christopher Bellinger, of the guarantee agency’s Africa and Middle East region, said next year was expected to be even better for the continent.

However, he said Africa had been hurt by its image as “a very notorious environment to work in.”

A dampener for the guarantee agency’s cheery news was that all new investments were concentrated in just four of its 45 African members: SA, Tunisia, Uganda and Morocco, with all but Uganda receiving investments for the first time.

There were two guarantees for SA, both for a slag steel processing plant, for Ferroserv (Pty), a wholly owned subsidiary of Multiserv International of the Netherlands. One — worth $4m — covered Multiserv’s equity investment in the project. The other was a $4.5m insurance to US-based Harco Corporation for its guarantee of a $3.5m loan by the First National Bank of Southern Africa to the project.

According to the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency, Ferroserv will improve the output of a local, privately held stainless steel company by recovering metals from the plant’s slag output.

Both investments were covered against the risks of currency transfer and war and civil disturbance.

“Most of the construction materials for the crushing and milling plants will be obtained locally, as will most of the equipment and machinery,” said the guarantee agency.

The Tunisian project was unusual for the agency, being its first gas project and its first re-insurance agreement with Britain’s Export Credits Guarantee Department. The project, British Gas Tunisia Ltd, would be wholly owned by British Gas. It involved the Miskar gas field, undersea gas pipeline and an onshore plant.

For Uganda, the agency issued two guarantees, both worth US$1.7m, to France Commodities SA for its joint venture to clean, grade and bag Ugandan coffee for export to Europe.

It sees three benefits from the project: increased competition on the local market to the benefit of producers, about 30 jobs, and technical training for employees.

Morocco’s guarantee went to Banco Exterior de Espana SA, described as a leading Spanish trade finance bank, worth $9.5m. The guarantee covers the bank’s $10m loan to its Moroccan subsidiary, Banco Exterior Maroc SA (BEM) for its expansion.

BEM, according to the agency, will employ 45 more Moroccans, improve the quality and availability of financial services, encourage trade with Spain and stimulate local industries. The insurance covers only currency transfer.

A clear element in all these is that the guarantees tended to go to only those projects wholly or largely owned by foreign investors.

The agency report is significant for Africa as it shows a growing preparedness by long-term investors to invest. Conversely, shorter-term investors, such as those who invest in mutual funds and stocks, have tended to shun the continent. This scenario may actually serve Africa’s interest. As the IMF showed in its recent annual report, short-term international capital flows can disrupt local economies because of their high mobility. — Sapa-IPS.
Food aid for hungry countries is falling

ROME — The UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) warned yesterday that food aid shipments to the world's poor and hungry nations were seen falling next year to their lowest level since the 1970s.

The Rome-based agency said the same "low income food deficit" countries would be hit further by sharply rising cereal import costs forecast for the 1995/96 year.

"Many national food crises persist in Africa and several other parts of the world, and the food supply situation is seen to be tightening in many parts for the 1995/96 year," FAO said in its Food Outlook report.

It said its forecast of total food aid in cereals to be provided in 1995/96 (July/June) was 7.2 million tons.

"At the forecast level food aid shipments would be down by nearly 1 million tons compared to 1994/95 and their lowest since the mid 1970s," FAO said.

"Moreover for the second consecutive year, food aid shipments in cereals would fall sharply below the minimum annual target of 10 million tons to developing countries established by the World Food Conference in 1974."

FAO said cereal production in southern Africa was likely to be about one third below normal in 1995/96 and the subregion's cereal imports and food aid needs had risen substantially since the previous year.

Large numbers of refugees in Rwanda and Burundi would continue to require aid while excessive rainfall and floods had damaged crops in southeast Asia. "Substantial quantities" of food aid would also be needed in several former Soviet republics.

"In the Near East, both Afghanistan and Iraq continue to suffer from shortfalls in food production and (their) large vulnerable populations... require food assistance."

The agency said cereal import prices would rise sharply due to high international prices and ocean freight rates.

The continued decline in world cereal reserves meant world food security in 1996/97 would depend "critically" on a substantial increase in cereal production in 1996.

"To meet expected consumption needs in 1996/97, global cereal stocks will have to be drawn down significantly for the third consecutive year to a level some two to three percentage points below the minimum that the FAO secretariat considers necessary to guarantee world food security," it said.

"This implies the world will begin the new 1996/97 season with only a small safety net to cushion against any major crop failures next year." — Reuters.

1995
Africa is on the right track, says World Bank

This is the first of two articles on development in Africa and prospects for the future, from the 1999 World Bank annual report

In brief 1999 the Africa Region vice- presidency of the bank presented a document to the executive directors for discussion. "A Continent in Transition," reflects the state of sub- Saharan Africa in the mid-1990s one of traditional commodity-exporting systems to monetarily dependent, from centrally managed to market-oriented econo- mies, and from economic stagnation or decline to sustained income growth in many countries.

Despite the GDP growth in South Africa and Nigeria, grew by 1.2 per- cent last year and is expected to grow more than three times faster this year as the pace of growth in con- tinent such as Malawi and Zambia is reversed and countries such as Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Kenya, Malawi, Senegal, and Uganda are expected to decline.

Although the recovery has been associated with good weather and an improved global economic environment, it also reflects changes thatuger well for the future, especially a big leap in the region's gross domestic product.

There were variations among coun- tries, as usual, associated to changes in economic policies. But today is different in the case of the Common Farm Area which significantly re- aligned their common currency early last year.

Evidence indicates that this deci- sion, along with structural reforms, has been effective in getting most economies on the growth path.

Growth of GDP turned around by 2.1 percent points on average for the 15 countries of the zone including Benin, which expanded by 3.0 percent, and became positive for the first time in the decade in the nine other coun- tries.

Agriculture clearly survived, but too did industry, which grew by 6.7 percent in Côte d'Ivoire. Although export growth accelerated, it remains relatively low, because produc- ers are still waiting on to respond to new opportunities.

Liquidity

There was dramatic improvement in some activities last year — for example, Sahel livestock, rice, cassava, fish, tobacco, cotton and other manu- facturing — with output production in 1994-95 rose by 58 percent in Mauritania, 48 percent and by more than 38 percent in Mali. Cotton output in 1994 was 39 percent larger than the year before in Senegal. All these factor led the liquidity of banks improved. While prices rose, the market contracted last year for the first time in a while inflation was paid, and cereal prices are anticipated on the base of the magnitude of the development.

Flawless, while a few countries experienced declines in real GDP for example in Nigeria, a large number of countries are anticipated to get on track, and to continue to improve.

Several countries (Mozambique, Mauritania, Malawi, Tanzania, Uganda and Zimbabwe) registered GDP growth of between four and six percent. Some countries, in the second, third, or fourth year of a cycle.

The report points out that 21 coun- tries achieved positive per capita income growth during 1995-1997. This trend continued and grew last year, especially in countries implementing successful recovery programmes. These countries' efforts should be supple- mented by the donor community.

Since 1985, Africa's partners in development have responded to African reform initiatives with quid- pro-quo funding of free payments support under the Special Program of Assistance (SPA) which constitutes the largest single aid-co-ordination and co-financing mechanism in Africa.

The Global Five-year plan of the SFP began last year. In October, with the addition of Benin and Congo, the total number of SPA eligible countries grew to 17. In its first year under SPA 17-18.7 million dollars have flowed $4.5 billion in balance of payments support to eligible countries.

Although providing resources in support of the priorities is for the primary purpose of the forum, the program's norm and special work- ing groups have been effective in co-ordinating policies and procedures on broader issues.

Pollution under SPA include integra- tion of pollution and environmental issues in reform programmes and public expenditure and institutional capacity. Working groups are developing recommenda- tions and strategies for the area. They will be also be considering ways to incorporate women's issues more systematically into economic-reform programmes.

The criteria of performance dropped the evolution of Botswana to the CFA zone and zones responded to demands to improve the country's performance. Adjust- ment programmes in the CFA zone were intended to make more than 48.2 billion in balance of payments support in 1995 and, in addition, more than 45 percent in debt relief was provided.

The World Trade Organization made the largest contribution and the bank's share of new funds, which went to the ex- change of the following countries: the Gambia, which will receive, the World Bank approved the release of 10.4 million in support of the "Gambia Development program." The country is one of the poorest in the world, the people, the government has been working very closely with the World Bank to develop a poverty reduction program.�

For example, the proportion of workers in agriculture, based on the "red- ing" which projects on the extent to which project development objec- tives are met, showed that 37 percent in 1995 to 10 percent in 1995. Based on the IF rating, the figure fell from 60 percent to 20 percent.

The improved portfolio perfor- mance is partly the result of improve- ments in the political and economic environment. The improvement has also been helped by the remuneration of the portfolio, improved financial management, and the policy example, systematic preparation of debt reports, and the capacity (curing capacity) and more effective management.

Management

Such actions, which led to improved implementation of the report's projects, also helped to improve the adherence of countries from other donors and to improve broader- level economic management in the countries concerned. For these addi- tional reasons, the bank has imple- mented a strong program of portfolio management.

These include the strengthening of the link between economic and sector-specific policies, programmes and activities — which is key to good project design and implementation — and the link with local market and other donors, and for example, common implementation arrangements, to increase capacity building and utilisation within and outside the bank, and to improve client and client management issues, for example, and continuing emphasis on supervisory.

Civil service salaries is key to the successful implementation of pro- grams and, in general, it is among the most important. At the bank, attention has been drawn beyond the narrow fiscal aspects and policies, relating, in particular to the performance of one government transfers and service delivery.

Reform in the latter area are still at a good start, for example, in Malawi under the Second National Development Project, which became effective in December last year. The project seeks to strengthen the capaci- ty of the Ministry of Finance and the Department of Human Resources Management in order to design and implement policies basics. the output is expected to help increase efficiency and effectiveness through improved performance of government, and better budgetary and financial management.

A special feature of the Malawi pro- ject is its emphasis on the local participation in workshops. And this is expected to be taken into account in the field-level and sector level civil service reform. These workshops are expected to be effective at the higher level of government, before the project was approved by the bank's executive board, the Malawi government demonstrated its commitment to implementing the program by providing the Public Service Act, which was the framework for ensuring transparency, predictability, accountability and responsibility.
Dogs of war run wild in Africa

Morally questionable, but possessing a certain buccaneering glamour, mercenaries have played a major role in Africa’s transition to independence.

NAIROBI. — Call them soldiers of fortune, dogs of war, or just “advisers”.

Foreign mercenaries have strode across Africa for decades, cutting a bloody path from the Congo to the Comores.

Names like “Mad Mike” Hoare and Colonel Callan crop up as intriguing footnotes in the history of Africa’s often violent transition from colonial rule to independence.

Bob Denard, the Frenchman who leads the force fighting against the government in the Comores, has a mercenary’s curriculum vitae stretching back to the Congo.

Today in Sierra Leone and Angola, former South African soldiers are putting the muscle into government forces opposing rebel groups.

In the mercenaries’ heyday the toughest were nicknamed les Affreux — the Terrible Ones — “who for a fee would do the dirty work for Africans they couldn’t do for themselves”, wrote David Lamb in his book The Africans.

Such work may be morally questionable, but mercenaries nevertheless carried a certain buccaneering glamour, celebrated in films such as The Wild Geese or songs like Warren Zevon’s Roland the Headless Thompson Gunner.

But their work would often end in tragedy — as in Callan’s foray into Angola in 1976, which ended with the death of many of his men and his own execution — or farce, as in Hoare’s botched coup attempt in the Seychelles in 1982.

Ex-French Foreign Legionnaires, British paratroopers, exiled Rhodesians, South Africans, Belgians, Portuguese ruing the end of colonial rule — all have been drawn to the mercenary flag and the money they could earn.

Denard fought in Indochina and found a return to the battlefield more enticing than a job as a car salesman. Callan was the nom de guerre of Greek Cypriot Costas Georgiou, who served in Northern Ireland with the “Paras”.

He and his motley crew fought in Angola for Holden Roberto’s FNLA against the Cuban-backed MPLA, in the tussle for power after the pull-out by Portuguese colonial rulers in 1975.

By all accounts he was pathological. Anthony Mockler in The New Mercenaries quotes an eyewitness account that describes him as testing a new shotgun by “calling over the nearest FNLA soldier, standing him to attention, inserting the shotgun in his mouth and blowing his head apart like a mango”.

Some of his men mutinied and he executed 14 for cowardice. He was later captured by the MPLA government and executed, along with an American and two British mercenaries, after a trial in Luanda that grabbed world attention.

Hoare, a dapper Irishman with an officer’s bearing, first ventured into

Africa in the 1960s when he led mercenaries who fought in the Congo civil war. He returned to the scene in the Seychelles, leading a coup that overthrew Chief Minister James Mancham in 1977.

Hoare was to lead another attempt against Mr. Mancham’s successor, Albert Rene, in 1982. It ended in a fiasco and helped debunk the mercenary myth.

He and his force flew in on a commercial flight from South Africa under the guise of a drinking club called “The Ancient Order of the Foam Blowers”.

But a customs official found their guns among toys for local children. The mercenaries hijacked an Air India plane back to Johannesburg, where they were arrested, tried and briefly jailed. — Reuters.
African Literacy Programme focuses on collaboration
Africa needs private investment to spur growth

Tony Hawkins, a professor of business studies at the University of Zimbabwe, examines the role of small business and foreign private investment in Africa’s quest for development.

One graph in this year’s annual report of the International Finance Corporation (IFC) — the World Bank’s private-sector investment arm — tells it all.

It not only shows that the ratio of private investment to GDP in sub-Saharan Africa is lower than in any other region, but also that the ratio has been falling since 1990, except in Mauritius, sinking to 8 percent in 1993.

Noting that the “long-awaited revival” of Africa’s private sector in the wake of liberalisation and structural readjustment has yet to materialise, the IFC pins its hopes on “the renewed dynamism” of the informal, small-scale agricultural sector.

The sub-Saharan region is not attracting substantial foreign direct investment because markets are small, the region’s economies are struggling to control budget deficits, the financial sector is underdeveloped and the region’s physical infrastructure is weak.

Three-quarters of the foreign investment goes into hydrocarbons (oil and gas) and much of the rest is earmarked for mining. Manufacturing and services are poor relations.

Given this depressing background, the IFC hopes to promote private enterprise by focusing on five areas:

- Revival and expansion of Africa’s extractive industries — mining, oil and gas — where there are substantial opportunities. IFC contributes either by investing directly or mobilising funds for countries that are finding it difficult to raise commercial finance;
- Development of the small enterprise sector. Small businesses make up the bulk of the region’s private sector activity and the IFC is seeking to provide indirect finance through the development of financial institutions, such as leasing and hire-purchase companies, venture companies and technical assistance;
- Expansion of financial markets by providing guarantees for local currency loans and through stock exchange development;
- Restructuring and privatisation of existing industrial assets. Last year it approved four projects to refurbish hotels and invested in a privatised brewery in Tanzania;
- Financing major infrastructure investments. The region’s infrastructure needs are massive, services are poor, prices high and there is significant unsatisfied demand.

Few will quarrel with IFC’s priorities for the region, but missing is the institutional capacity aspect.

There is no suggestion as to how sub-Saharan Africa can get away from its dependence on primary commodities, thereby developing the industrial base that is virtually non-existent outside South Africa, Nigeria, Zimbabwe, Cameroon and Côte d’Ivoire.

Small enterprise development, which is a central theme of IFC strategy, is vital, but at the same time, it is hard to see such small-scale schemes as the driving force behind an industrialised economy.

The small enterprise strategy is somehow a second-best solution. It is effective in creating jobs and in supplying some of the needs, especially of low income groups in rural areas. But the mass-consumption market of the towns and cities has different consumption demands and ambitions which few, if any, small businesses satisfy. — Reuter
Uganda calls for debt relief

Kingston, Jamaica — Uganda demanded a quick solution to the debt problem plaguing impoverished countries, saying huge repayments were crippling its economy.

"It is not that we will not pay, but we cannot pay," Jehoash Mayanja-Nkangi, the finance minister, told a Commonwealth finance ministers meeting in Jamaica.

Britain's Chancellor of the Exchequer Kenneth Clarke had earlier singled out Uganda as being unfairly treated over debt, despite efforts to put its economy back on track after years of misrule.

Mayanja-Nkangi said three-quarters of his country's debt were to the international financial institutions like the World Bank and International Monetary Fund which have always opposed writing off any money owed to them.

Uganda uses aid from donor countries to service debt to these institutions. — Reuters
Geneva: If South Africa’s well-financed telephone network is discounted, the continent today has by far the worst telecommunications system in the world.

Although Africa often seems to be the lost continent of telecommunications, recent positive signs indicate that the region’s information infrastructure may soon achieve new growth.

Line penetration, a standard measure of telecommunications development, stands at well below one line per 100 people; the continent has less than two percent of the world’s telephone lines; and about three-quarters of all Africans will, on present figures, never get the chance to make or receive a telephone call.

But recent steps toward liberalisation, competition and even privatisation in the region indicate that some African nations could soon see their fortunes improve, say officials in Geneva for Telecom 95, a quadrennial meeting of key players in the industry.

“In virtually all of the countries of Africa, a heavy restructuring of the telecommunications sector is under way,” says Marcel Werner, secretary of the non-profit Telecommunications Foundation of Africa.

“More and more telecommunications administrations are going ahead with liberalisation because they are unable to expand their networks as they would like.”

Officials in nearly a dozen African countries have set up mobile (cellular) telephone systems, according to statistics compiled by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the United Nations agency sponsoring Telecom 95. Almost a dozen nations are considering issuing licences for cellular networks, often to private groups.

Ghana already has a second private operator for basic telecom services; Zambia, Ivory Coast, Senegal and Congo are planning at least partial privatisation of their telephone companies; and Guinea is already offering 49 percent of its national operator, according to the Massachusetts-based consultancy Pyramid Research.

Furthermore, a half-dozen projects are under way to provide high-capacity networks that would span the continent.

One, a pan-African satellite called Rascom, expects to have $180 million (R143m) in financing in place by January in order to launch a satellite in 1997. The South African network operator is looking into expanding its ties with surrounding nations.

And United States telecommunications giant AT&T is proposing an undersea fibre-optic cable that would ring the continent.

Finally, in a region notorious for allegations of poor management and where misappropriation of resources is rampant, many countries have started demanding greater accountability from telephone company officials and greater transparency in their operations, says Raymond Akwule, a professor at George Mason University in Virginia in the US, who follows African telecommunications development.

Professor Akwule specifically cites Gambia and Ghana as nations that are making good progress toward better management. Such home-grown reforms, Professor Akwule says, are the real key to further development of African telecommunications.

“The solution should be spearheaded by the Africans,” he says.

“By looking within, they can change themselves.”

Still, enormous problems remain. Levels of line penetration on the continent are alarmingly low. Western Europe and the US have 50 to 70 lines per 100 people. Zaire, for example, has just nine lines per 10,000.

Although no African nation could afford levels such as those seen and used in the developed world, five to 10 lines per 100 people would be economically viable, says Mr Werner.

“The demand for quality services in Africa is very high. The companies are trying to keep up with very pressing demand.”

Although few would say that Africa can develop sophisticated telecommunications on its own, so far companies from developed countries have not put down much cash.

“Most of the countries are liberalising, but the politicians are scared,” said Gerard Mutili, head of of Zambia Telecommunications. “They’re liberalising, but there’s still no money to support their promises.”

One potential source of funding for Africa may come in the form of investment from WorldTel, a public-private partnership supported by the ITU.

The group will focus on specific telecommunications projects in developing nations that take concrete steps toward liberalisation of communications and foreign investment laws.

— Sapa-IPS.
Africa demands more help

BRUCE CAMBON

Washington — African states have demanded greater International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank assistance to help them out of their debt and capacity crises as well as a bigger role in the activities of the two institutions.

The demands were made in a closed-door meeting of African member states with James Wolfensohn, recently appointed president of the World Bank, in Washington on the eve of the World Bank/IMF annual meetings.

In an interview after the meeting, Finance Minister Chris Liebenberg said African countries were looking for greater recognition for their macro-economic reforms.

He said Wolfensohn's recognition of the economic difficulties in Africa had brought a new understanding to the World Bank.

Liebenberg said there was a growing degree of positiveness from the anglophone African countries, particularly those in southern Africa. There had been a greater feeling of common purpose in the region since the 1994 South African elections.

The main demands made by the African states included:

- Increased assistance in the face of indications that many industrialised countries were reducing aid to developing countries;
- The writing off of burgeoning debt;
- Greater assistance for human and institutional capacity building;
- Assistance with private sector development; and
- Assistance with regional economic integration.
Liebenberg calls for debt relief solution

WASHINGTON — Finance Minister Chris Liebenberg yesterday called on the IMF and World Bank to find an equitable solution to the problem of debt relief for poor countries.

In his annual statement to the joint AGMs of the IMF and World Bank, he did not refer to proposals that the IMF sell part of its gold reserves to help finance debt relief for heavily indebted poor countries, which is generally expected to be one element of a relief strategy. Instead, he was at pains to show that SA cared about the debt plight of its African neighbours.

He said: “For the first occasion in many years, there are encouraging political and economic signals that the African continent is on the upturn and that structural reforms are progressing briskly.”

But his speech also suggested that the relief should not be doled out too liberally. He said the bank and fund’s debt solution should provide a feasible exit strategy for the “most severely indebted” nations.

He told the international financial community Africa realised it had to take responsibility for its own economic future. Economic growth — based on trade and investor-friendly policies — lay in Africa’s own hands.

Liebenberg emphasised SA’s commitment to the African continent, but also said the country had insufficient internal problems that needed attention. He noted that SA had attracted net capital inflows of almost US$9bn in the year to June, “But the future is not without challenges, including large backlogs in social infrastructure, basic needs such as education, housing and health care, the eradication of poverty, etc.”

Continued on Page 2

Liebenberg

Continued from Page 1

improvements in capital and labour productivity, higher savings and institutional reforms.

SA realised fully that domestic macroeconomic success would be insufficient for long-term economic development without parallel development within the region.

He also announced that SA was formalising its membership of the English speaking African Constituency of the IMF and World Bank.

He also hoped that the US would meet its commitments to the World Bank’s soft-loan arm, the International Development Agency. It would be a “sad and indeed unnecessary irony” if, owing to a lack of resources, the soft-loan aspect of the World Bank’s activities was curtailed precisely at the point where there was hope for an economic and political breakthrough.

He also praised the IMF for developing an early-warning system for financial crisis such as that suffered by Mexico at the end of last year.

The fund is to step up its surveillance of economies, and will also take a stronger stance in its discussions with governments under threat of financial disaster.

Comment: Page 8
Unicef and others abandoned by Paris

France fails to deliver on promised aid

By James Tomlins

Paris – France has cut tens of millions of rand from its contributions to African aid programmes, including the World Health Organisation and several AIDS agencies. Other international bodies hit by the cuts include the UN Children’s Fund (Unicef), the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the World Food Programme and the UN Development Programme (UNDP).

Last year Paris promised to give R49-million to combat AIDS, but has since reduced this figure to a mere R6-million.

France also promised to donate R21-million to Unicef in 1995, only half of the 1994 contribution, but received R13-million this year, instead of the expected R37-million.

French officials have justified these cuts as deriving from the new austerity budget plan to keep state expenses down.

The Unicef cut is hardest to appreciate as, in December 1984, the then prime minister, Jacques Chirac, personally promised more money for the organisation.

But since then he has become president of France, and the new Unicef head is not European as he had hoped, but an American woman. The end result is that African governments struggling to ease outstanding social problems will be unable to count on expected aid from Paris.

Money pledged for African aid projects has so far failed to materialise

It is now less than three months before the end of the year and not a single franc has been paid.

Foreign ministry officials explain that the promised aid has been “frozen temporarily.”

Dr Francois Remy, head of the French branch of Unicef, commented: “It would be a catastrophe if France gives us nothing.”

France promised the UNDP R160-million for 1995 but has to date only come up with R71-million.

The UNHCR has only
Paris cuts millions from aid to Africa

The Argus Foreign Service (NaG12/10/8)

PARIS — France has cut tens of millions of rands from its contributions to African aid programmes, including the World Health Organisation and Aids agencies.

Others hit by the cuts include Unicef fund for children, the UN High Commissioner For Refugees, the World Food Programme and the UN Development Programme.

Last year Paris promised R42 million to combat Aids, but has reduced this to a mere R6 million. It promised R21 million to Unicef in 1995, half of its 1994 contribution, but not a single franc has been paid so far.

Officials say the aid is “frozen” temporarily.

Francois Remy, head of the French branch of Unicef, commented: “It would be a catastrophe if France gives us nothing.”

France promised UN Development Programme R160 million for 1995 but has come up with only R71 million. The High Commissioner for Refugees has had only R15 million instead of the expected R250 million.

Officials justify the cuts as deriving from a new austerity budget.
SA aligns itself with Africa

BY BRUCE CAMERON

WASHINGTON, South Africa has aligned its support for Africa in the influential Bretton Woods institutions.

Finance Minister Chris Liebenberg, in his speech at the annual meetings of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, announced that South Africa had become the 21st member of the Anglophone Africa Constituency of the institution. South Africa passed up joining the far more powerful Swiss-led constituency to align itself with Africa.

South Africa holds a 0.98 percent vote weighting based on contribution to the institutions, strengthening the vote of the group to 3.38 percent. Nigeria is the other comparative heavyweight.

In his speech, Liebenberg endorsed calls for greater support for African countries, but said the

PENSIVE World Bank President James D Wolfensohn PHOTO AP

South African region must accept that responsibility for sustainable economic growth, based on trade, and investor-friendly policies and sound macro-economic principles, lies in our own hands.

"No less than 33 of 41 severely indebted, lower-income countries are from the African continent.

"We would like to call upon the Bretton Woods institutions and the G7 countries to redouble their efforts to find a solution to this problem in a manner which is equitable, even-handed and which provides a feasible exit strategy for the most severely indebted nations.

"We make this appeal because for the first occasion in many years there are encouraging political and economic signs that Africa is on the upturn and structural reforms are progressing briskly."

Lieberberg appealed to donor countries to meet their commitment to to the International Development Association, which provides soft loans to the poorest nations. "It would be sad and indeed a necessary irony if, owing to lack of resources, this aspect of the World Bank's activities are curtailed precisely at the point when there is hope for an economic and political breakthrough."
Spotlight on African housing

About 450 delegates from 53 African nations will next week be taking part in the All African Housing Ministers’ Conference, which will focus on living conditions in the continent.

The three-day conference is expected to draft a position for Africa on living conditions.

The draft will be presented to the UN Commission for Human

SA to strengthen ties with Cuba

The South African Government was totally opposed to the isolation of Cuba in the socio-political and economic spheres, Foreign Minister Alfred Nzo said during his visit to Cuba yesterday.

Speaking at a lunch hosted by Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Gonzalez, he said it was for this reason that South Africa had voted for the lifting of the US blockade against Cuba at the 49th session of the United Nations General Assembly.

In his speech, Nzo conveyed President Nelson Mandela’s “warm greetings” to Cuban President Fidel Castro and reiterated Mandela’s invitation to Castro to visit South Africa.

He said it would be the worst form of political immorality and gross ingratitude if Africa were to forget the “tremendous sacrifices” the Cuban people made by supporting the freedom struggles of the peoples of southern Africa.

“Many countries of Africa have actually benefited from the dedicated services of your specialists in many fields, more particularly in support of medical services of many developing African countries.

“South Africa is part of Africa which will never forget your internationalist solidarity. We take the opportunity of my first visit to your country to convey this deep gratitude to your people,” said Nzo.

SA’s establishment of diplomatic relations with Cuba had bolstered ties in various fields, such as culture, socio-economic issues and trade, he added.

South African exports to Cuba had increased from $36.5-million in 1993 to $41.5-million in 1994, while Cuba’s exports to South Africa amounted to $14.5-million last year and were expected to increase in the future.

“I am pleased to learn that your embassy in Pretoria is in the process of planning seminars in South Africa to inform the South African business sector about business opportunities in Cuba,” Nzo said. — Sapa.

Beijing names new envoy to Pretoria

China’s key envoy in Africa has been reassigned to Beijing and appointed assistant minister for foreign affairs (Africa and Middle East affairs).

Li Peiling, who is ambassador status but is officially described as the director of the Chinese Cultural Centre, is to leave his post in Pretoria at the end of the month. He will be replaced by Beijing’s ambassador to Harare, Gu Xiner, a veteran diplomat.

South Africa and the People’s Republic of China do not have formal diplomatic relations. South Africa recognises the People’s Republic of China (Taiwan) instead.

Li, who has been in Pretoria for 15 months, said he would pursue opportunities to ensure that changes took place.

The two governments have held tentative talks about establishing formal ties since 1990, in the face of a concerted effort by Taiwan to maintain ties.
SA companies start their economic scramble for Africa

By SAMANTHA SHARPE

South African companies, like the 19th-century explorers that preceded them, are starting an economic scramble for the wealth that Africa has to offer.

Exports to Africa soared 55 percent in two years to R8.63 billion last year, while imports from Africa almost doubled to R2.38 billion — an indication of the continent's growing market size.

The country's post-apartheid welcome into Africa means that mining houses are sinking new shafts in west Africa, its banks are opening doors in central Africa and food chains are offering products to markets hungry for new goods.

Observers would be hard pressed to find a major company that has not yet embarked on an entrepreneurial journey of discovery north of the Limpopo.

Mining conglomerate Anglo American, for example, is active in Mali, Senegal, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Tanzania and Zambia, and is close to signing a gold-mining deal with Ivory Coast. But the mining houses are not the only players crossing the border.

Banks are rapidly expanding into Africa — a move given some impetus by the collapse of pan-African bank Meridien Biafra earlier this year. The bank's downfall saw the Standard Bank Investment Corporation seize its Tanzanian operations and First National Bank acquire a Swazi bank.

The banking industry says it will continue to increase its presence in Africa where its customer base needs it.

Its expansion thus reflects the growing demand for sophisticated financial services throughout Africa.

South African Breweries has half the state-run brewing companies in Tanzania and Zambia, as well as operations in Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland and a 70 percent stake in Mozambique's national brewer.

Ask the average beer drinker in Zimbabwe about their favourite beverage and chances are it is a South African Breweries brand.

The leisure industry is also aware of the profit potential in venturing into Africa.

City Lodge Hotel says it will expand into southern Africa this financial year and that it has the rest of Africa in its sights in the next five years. The group has management contracts with 85 African hotels and is negotiating to acquire new contracts in Nigeria and Zimbabwe.

Casino licences in Botswana for leisure company Global Resorts bode well for the company, especially given the confusion governing the gambling industry.

The country's largest retailer, Pepkor, is taking its subsidiary Shoprite Checkers to Zambia where it says it will open three new stores by year end. It is also opening a store in Mozambique. Competitor Pick 'n Pay plans to open stores in Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe and Kenya.

Electricity company Eskom is rehabilitating the power grids of several southern African countries, with plans to integrate them with South Africa's electric network.

Trade and Industry Minister Trevor Manuel says there is a wealth of opportunity among developing countries in the south.

"In southern Africa, especially, we could begin to look at our port, rail and road networks as well as the possibility of expanding the electricity grid into the region."

The transportation sector offers additional scope for African ventures.

SAA is negotiating alliances with Malawi, Kenya and Congo. A joint venture between the airline, Tanzania and Uganda has created a new company. Alliance, and industry sources say SAA is poised to take a stake in troubled Kenyan Airways.
African stock exchanges plot course to prosperity

GRAND BAY — African stock exchange leaders meet this week to plot how to put the world’s poorest continent firmly on the international investment map.

With SA about to embark on the biggest shakeup of the JSE, hopes are running high that Africa’s more than a dozen bourses are now on the path to unprecedented growth.

The October 24-27 annual assembly of the African Stock Exchanges’ Association in Mauritius will work out plans which officials hope will ensure African exchanges are not bypassed by international investors.

But first the association must persuade governments that market reform is the way to attract investors and boost growth.

“That is why we chose the theme Liberalisation of African Capital Markets for this year’s conference,” said the association chairman Jimmah Mbaru.

“Opening up our markets fully to international investors is our priority. This is what we are going to deal with at this year’s meeting; how can we assure investors that we are a viable market and we shall be there in the future?”

Dharmanand Virahsawmy, Stock Exchange of Mauritius manager, said, “We hope this conference will provide a further boost to African countries to liberalise their exchanges.”

Association officials said African governments had to bite the bullet and deal with the process of democratisation and economic reform more vigorously in order to attract investment.

Bruno Hardy, a Mauritian stockbroker and chairman of the Mauritian exchange, said: “We need to attract investment, but that would be futile without political stability and economic reform.

“An investor is always looking for economic fundamentals, political stability and security for his funds. He is attracted by an economy where inflow and outflow of funds is free and open.”

Mauritius is one of few African countries to have gone down the road of opening fully its capital market to foreign investment.

But SA is rapidly co-operating with the rest of Africa and, through the deregulation of the 108-year-old JSE next month, is poised to be its powerhouse.

Corporate and international players will enter the JSE from November 8 followed by negotiable brokerage rates, screen trading and, much later, dual capacity trading, officials said.

They said SA stocks were riding high on improved economic outlook and increasing international interest, and the JSE had the biggest weighting in the International Finance Corporation’s composite index of emerging markets thanks to a recent bull run.

“The success of SA bodes well for the continent. The overall situation is looking far better for Africa than at any time in its history,” an analyst said.

Although such gib forecasts litter Africa’s overall poor post-independence economic history, Asea officials say they are confident this is no longer a dream.

They point to more than 14 African bourses in operation, with a market capitalisation of around $270bn. SA is the biggest player, taking up 9% of capitalisation.

Association officials predict African exchanges could grow from about 2.2% share of world market to more than 3% by the year 2010 on the back of anticipated cross-border flows. — Reuters.
A rosy future in biodiversity

Kathryn Strachan

THE rosy periwinkle, which grows only in Madagascar and provides the key compound used in the cure for childhood leukaemia, emerged as a symbol of hope for Africa's future at a conference of global policy makers last week.

At the North South Roundtable conference in Johannesburg -- which brought together its members from former World Bank president Robert McNamara to architect of the UN World Development Report Mahbub ul Haq -- interesting new perspectives on Africa's path into the next century came to light.

Susan George, associate director of the Transnational Institute based in Amsterdam, said that in the next century Africa's real power would lie in its pristine environment, its biodiversity and its natural resources.

By protecting its natural resources Africa would be able to provide the vital compounds needed for future medicines and foods -- and the unreplaceable rosy periwinkle showed the way.

She urged African leaders present at the gathering to protect their environment, as this was their key to not only catching up with the level of development in the rest of the world in the next century, but perhaps outpacing it. However, her fear was that Africa would remain in the mindset of the present century, where power was based on petroleum.

McNamara, who was also US secretary for defense in the Kennedy era, gave the message that the First World had a lot to learn from the Third World. While Americans criticised Cuba, the literacy rate in Cuba was twice that of Washington, he said. Also in Washington, the capital of one of the richest countries in the world, 68% of births were illegitimate.

Adebayo Adefeji, of the African Centre for Development and Strategic Studies based in Nigeria, said there was a need for Africans to provide a clear vision and leadership for the future which would replace outside forces which imposed inappropriate policies on Africa.

In response to questions on how conflict-ridden African countries could establish legitimate democratic leadership, ul Haq said there were positive developments, such as the fact that 30 countries had held democratic elections and that many had legalised opposition parties for the first time.
Investors targeting Africa

Top analysts see unique growth potential

GRANDE BAIE (Mauritius). — Africa is a hot international investment target, in spite of its record of poverty, wars, drought and political strife, analysts here say.

At the annual assembly of the African Stock Exchanges Association (ASEA), they said Africa — the world’s poorest continent — was arguably the ultimate emerging market, with unique growth potential, inexpensive labour and extensive natural resources.

Brokerage firms in the United States and Europe are floating new funds to invest in a continent where many governments have just thrown out socialist policies adopted after colonial rule.


"The amounts of funds coming into Africa are tripling," he said.

Analysts said there was good reason to be hopeful for Africa. All-race elections and the end of apartheid and sanctions in South Africa 18 months ago had stirred new interest in the continent of 600 million people, the world’s second largest.

Western-backed economic reforms across Africa are unleashing growth, they said, pointing to Ghana, Mauritius and Uganda, where governments had managed annual growth of more than five percent.

But the experts said Africa needed to develop infrastructure to attract capital and ensure investment flows were maintained.

"There are many rapidly developing funds looking to invest in African stocks. Therefore it is imperative that Africa develops infrastructure to not only attract capital but to also maintain flows," said Cynthia Corbett of Standard Bank South Africa.

Funds already up and running in Africa included the Morgan Stanley Africa — a closed-ended fund floated last year with $50 million — and the Emerging Markets Africa Investment Fund.

Others were Alliance Capital Management’s Southern Africa Fund and Robert Fleming’s New South Africa Fund. Baring was also setting up a $100 million Investment Fund for Africa, which Mr Howell said would be operational in three weeks.

"Africa is in a prime stage of its evolution to capitalise on foreign interest, since historically most significant emerging markets returns are made in the early stages of their market development," Ms Corbett said.

"African stock markets are developing and growing in size."

She said increasing interest in Africa among investors had also been helped by a need to diversify portfolio investment, globalisation of world economies and enhanced communications.

Vincent Rague of the International Finance Corporation (IFC), an arm of the World Bank, said Africa badly needed to create merchant banks and institutional investors to enhance its markets.

"These institutions increase savings and investment, widen investor participation and create transparent and efficient capital markets," he said.

"A capital market that is not served adequately by these institutions is likely to remain small and unstable," he warned delegates.

The ASEA executives, buoyed by the presence of economic powerhouse South Africa, are trying to work out a framework at their three-day meeting to secure more investment.

More than 14 African stock exchanges operate with a combined capitalisation of $270 billion, 85 percent of it South African. — Reuter.
Africa a hot target for international investment

Grande Bise, Mauritius — Africa is a hot international investment target despite its record of poverty, wars, drought and political strife, analysts said yesterday.

At the annual assembly of the African Stock Exchanges Association (Asa), they said Africa — the world’s poorest continent — was arguably the ultimate emerging market with unique growth potential, inexpensive labour and extensive natural resources.

Brokerage firms in the United States and Europe are floating new funds to invest in a continent where many governments have recently thrown out socialist policies, adopted after the end of colonial rule.

“Africa still remains with massive potential for foreign investment,” said Michael Howell, the head of global strategy at the London-based Baring Securities Group.

“The amount of funds coming into Africa is tripling,” he said.

Analysts said there was good reason to be hopeful for Africa.

All-race elections in South Africa 18 months ago had stirred new interest in the continent of 600 million people, the world’s second largest.

Western-backed economic reforms across Africa were unleashing growth, they said, pointing to Ghana, Mauritius and Uganda where governments had managed annual growth of over 5 percent.

The Asa executives, buoyed by the presence of economic powerhouse South Africa, are trying to work out a framework at their three-day meeting for bourses to secure more investment.

Asa officials said African exchanges should be able to grow from a 2.2 percent-share of world markets to more than 3 percent by 2010 with cross-border equity flows. — Reuters
Ghana is World Bank’s model for improved economic growth in sub-Saharan Africa

BY DENIS Worrall

Accra — After years of poor economic performance, the World Bank expects economic growth in sub-Saharan Africa to average 4 percent a year over the next two years — thus outstripping the abysmal growth levels of the past decade and bringing economic life back to the region.

The bank’s success model is Ghana and it is also against this background that the bank has helped Ghana to prepare what is described as the Ghana Trade and Investment Gateway Programme.

The overall goal of the programme, which was finalised between the World Bank and Ghanaian government leaders at a high-level workshop in Accra on October 5, is to establish Ghana as a pre-eminent manufacturing, value-added processing, trading, financial and commercial centre in West Africa.

Beginning in 1983, Ghana began to implement a wide range of structural economic reforms. Key elements were a sharp devaluation in the national currency — the cedi — to encourage exports and productive economic activity. A positive shift away from government control and intervention to a greater reliance on market forces, rehabilitation of transport, telecommunications and other infrastructures, and a restoration of fiscal and monetary discipline.

The result is that between 1983 and 1991 Ghana experienced average annual rates of real GDP growth of more than 7 percent. The banking sector has been revitalised, widespread trade liberalisation has been introduced and foreign exchange controls have been liberalised. The World Bank and the International Finance Corporation’s (IFC) investor perception survey, which was published in March this year, showed that Ghana was viewed by the majority of international respondents as having established a solid foundation for sustained economic growth.

The immediate concern is to reduce further red tape and other constraining influences on economic activity by creating a regulatory framework and attitudes conducive to foreign investment. With more than 20 government department heads participating, this was the main focus of the workshop.

The shift behind the reforms comes from PV Obeng, widely described as Ghana’s prime minister. Obeng, who is an engineer of about 40 years old with a no-nonsense approach, has been advised to President Jerry Rawlings since 1982. I was impressed with how forcefully he got the message across at the workshop.

The main engine for the development of the programme is the private sector and the measures taken to facilitate greater foreign private sector investment include the simplification of customs and excise procedures, the establishment of free zones and industrial parks, the liberalisation of maritime and air transport through an open-skies policy, the strengthening of international-regional passage of services, transshipment through Ghana's ports and airports, the creation of free ports at the airports and ports, the creation of free-zone enclaves and then value-added manufacturing plants and services located in these enclaves.

Rather than adopt a shot-gun approach to private sector investment, the programme has specifically identified targets to the private sectors of the United Kingdom, Malaysia and South Africa.

Several South African companies are already in Ghana for example, Gencor/Murray & Roberts, JCL Anglo American, Nedbank and Protea Hotels, and others are exploring.

I felt quite at home in the biggest supermarket, serving expatriates with its Nederland wines, Ceres fruit juices and other South African products. There is also room for more.

In terms of the programme, PostNet has been identified as one of the possible operators/advisers to Ghana ports.

South Africa Express could be a candidate to strengthen regional airways and Murray & Roberts and LTA could be involved in the creation of the free port at Tema. Escom and Transnet are listed as possible providers of physical infrastructure/utilities in support of the programme. Clinic Holdings is a possible provider of health services.

The IFC World Bank investor survey devotes a chapter to South African private sector involvement. While acknowledging that the perception of Ghana as a recipient of outward investment from South Africa is driven by the mineral sector, the report concludes that "the positive view of Ghana expressed by the mining conglomerates should be built upon as possible and definitely prior to the lifting of exchange control by the Reserve Bank. The non-mineral sectors in South Africa should therefore be the target of a promotional campaign".

This is compelling reasoning. For South African companies Ghana offers tremendous opportunities in fields as diverse as telecommunications, printing and packaging, construction, hotels and tourism, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, fishing and food processing, not to mention mining.

The big advantage of involvement in the programme is that the World Bank and its agencies more or less guarantee the viability of the projects, will help with their financing and will clear away the bureaucratic roadblocks. There is room in this relationship also for small and medium-size companies. To this end, a Ghana-South Africa Business Association has been established with the support of the government and the World Bank. It will be launched next month.

Worrall’s company, Omega Investment Research, is a consultant to the World Bank on the Ghana Gateway Association. Worrall is a former South African ambassador to the United Kingdom.
Southern Africa needs RDP plan

SA Press Association

A southern African reconstruction and development plan should be started to ensure real peace and stability on the subcontinent, Transvaal Agricultural Union president Mr Dries Bruwer said yesterday.

"Not only will the economies of African countries be developed to their full potential but the whole of the sub-Saharan continent could be politically stabilised," he said in an interview.

"The possibilities of growth and prosperity in the region are enormous if leaders are prepared to face the challenges of this task."

A project of this magnitude would change the lives of millions of people and would have to be initiated by South Africa and in particular President Nelson Mandela.

Civil strife

Civil strife and lack of expertise had left sub-Saharan Africa's vast natural resources under-developed and under-utilised, but this could be remedied if a country like South Africa was willing to take the lead in the planning and physical implementation of projects, he said.

"South Africa has expertise and knowledge to offer and I can see no reasons why international funding cannot be obtained.

Africa will remain a Third World continent increasingly dependent on international aid if its natural resources are not developed and utilised to their full potential.

"The international community is well aware of this fact."

Bruwer said a southern African reconstruction and development programme would solve South Africa's serious problems.

Influx of people

A mass influx of people from nearby states posed a threat to South Africa's natural resources, some of which, like water, were scarce.

"South Africa's urban areas had become prime squatting sites for thousands of aliens flocking to "the land of milk and honey"."

"It was widely recognised that crime was soaring and unemployment was rife.

"These are all factors leading to dissatisfaction and even confrontation," Bruwer said.

"It destabilises the South African situation which will never recover if drastic measures are not taken to enhance the peace and stability in South Africa and our neighbouring countries."
SA ‘should concentrate on Africa’

BY BRENDAN TEMPLETON

Amnesty International secretary general Pierre Sane has come to South Africa to persuade the government to raise its international profile as a defender of human rights. South Africa owed a particularly huge debt to the people of southern Africa, many of whom made great sacrifices to ensure South Africa gained its freedom, he said in an interview with The Star this week.

Sane has scheduled meetings with Deputy President Thabo Mbeki, FP secretary general Dr Zola Tsatsi, ANC secretary general Cyril Ramaphosa and a host of other political leaders during his visit.

This is the first trip to South Africa by an Amnesty International secretary general – an irony not lost on Sane who hails from Senegal on the bulge of Africa. His main concern were South Africa’s role in the protection of human rights in Africa and the United Nations; the violence in KwaZulu Natal; the torture of suspects by police; and South Africa’s arms trade, he said.

According to Sane, Africa should be South Africa’s primary concern because the country’s wealth and stature meant it had the opportunity to play a leading role to protect human rights on the continent.

In particular, South Africa should try to ensure all members of the Southern African Development Community signed the five international covenants and conventions which were widely regarded as containing acceptable, standardized guidelines for the protection of human rights.

These were the International Convention Against Torture (which South Africa has still not ratified); the Covenant on Civil and Political Human Rights; the Covenant on Social and Economic Rights; the Covenant on the Elimination of Discrimination of Women; and the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

South Africa should also try to ensure all SADC members signed the African Charter, he said.
EU pushes consumer safety in Africa

BY JOHN FRASER

Brussels — The European Union (EU) wants the countries of Africa to give their consumers a better deal.

So EU Consumer Affairs Commissioner Emma Bonino is seeking the power to vet aid grants, so that cash only goes to firms which respect basic standards of consumer safety.

She announced her plan, still to be endorsed by all 15 EU governments, as part of a review of European consumer policy.

"Understanding of basic food hygiene, use of medicines, home economics, food conservation and other subjects have been at the heart of the work of many consumer organisations for years. "Issues such as the off-loading of unfit or unsafe production are of major importance in third world countries."

It is also possible that the EU could boost aid to support consumer groups in African countries, so that they can campaign more effectively for better standards.

South African consumers have a better deal than their counterparts in other African countries, but EU officials believe there is still room for improvement.

"There are basic consumer rights which are not universal in Africa, and we want to do all we can to improve matters," said an EU official. The EU's own consumer policy has sometimes led to some rather absurd scandals.

There has been much amusement about laws to standardise the safety of condoms.

However, EU officials have denied press reports that they are interested in achieving a standard size.

They say, instead, that they are interested in ensuring that all condoms sold in Europe are robust, and are not liable to split during use.

Meanwhile, eyebrows were raised when an EU law on toy safety was discovered to also cover — Xmas decorations. — Independent Foreign Service
a new breed of tyrants
Africa opens its heart to

SOUTH AFRICAN BUSINESS SINCE THE END OF Apartheid
Major Investment Projects in Other African Nations

BY ANDREW TROTTER

New opportunities are emerging as African economies
recover from the shocks of the global financial crisis.

This is a critical moment for South African businesses
looking to expand beyond their borders. With a growing
number of countries experiencing strong growth,
new markets are becoming accessible.

In this article, we explore some of the major
investment projects that are underway in other
African nations, highlighting the potential for
South African companies to capitalize on these
opportunities.

South Africa’s邻国

The region surrounding South Africa offers
significant investment opportunities. Countries
such as Botswana, Namibia, and Zimbabwe
are experiencing economic growth and seeking
foreign investment to support their development.

Botswana, for example, is investing heavily
in its diamond industry and has attracted
interest from South African companies in this
sector.

Namibia is focusing on infrastructure
development, with South African firms
engaged in projects such as road
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Conclusion

South Africa has
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References


For more information, visit
www.south-africa.com

BY ANDREW TROTTER

New opportunities are emerging as African economies
recover from the shocks of the global financial crisis.

This is a critical moment for South African businesses
looking to expand beyond their borders. With a growing
number of countries experiencing strong growth,
new markets are becoming accessible.

In this article, we explore some of the major
investment projects that are underway in other
African nations, highlighting the potential for
South African companies to capitalize on these
opportunities.

South Africa’s邻国

The region surrounding South Africa offers
significant investment opportunities. Countries
such as Botswana, Namibia, and Zimbabwe
are experiencing economic growth and seeking
foreign investment to support their development.

Botswana, for example, is investing heavily
in its diamond industry and has attracted
interest from South African companies in this
sector.

Namibia is focusing on infrastructure
development, with South African firms
engaged in projects such as road
construction and power generation.

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UN focuses on Africa’s lost souls

Nearly half of the world’s 14.4 million refugees originate from this continent

BY MICHAEL SPARKS

When most people think about refugees, continents like Africa are usually the first to spring to mind.

But in the past five years, nearly 24% of the world’s refugees have emanated from Europe, up from 5.3% in 1990.

However, more than 43% of the world’s 14.4 million refugees still originate from Africa, according to a book The State of the World’s Refugees released by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) at the Carlton Hotel in Johannesburg this week.

UNHCR regional representative Nicholas Bwakira said that at the time the book was edited, Africa had 6.7 million refugees, but that this figure was 7.4 million at present.

While most of the African refugees were previously from southern and east Africa, the continent’s refugees were currently from central and west Africa because the regional conflict stirred up by South Africa’s destabilisation policies had been resolved.

The UNHCR regarded its repatriation of 1.7 million Mozambican refugees – the largest voluntary repatriation on the continent and perhaps the world – as an example of how repatriation should be done.

Bwakira emphasised that the UNHCR aimed to become more proactive, trying to prevent crises from becoming civil wars in an attempt to stop people being forced to flee violence in their countries, thereby becoming refugees.

“In Rwanda, billions have been spent in aid. But if the international community had become involved earlier, the refugee situation could have been prevented,” Bwakira said.

Deputy Home Affairs Minister Pernell Maduna said South Africa had already worked on such problems, becoming involved – along with other countries in the region – in resolving the crisis in Lesotho recently, as well as encouraging the peace process in Mozambique when it was in danger last year.
Water Resources and Forestry

Zaire to the Rescue!

The Zaire River, a tributary of the Congo River, flows through Central Africa and provides water resources for the region. The river is a vital source of water for the local population, supporting agriculture, fisheries, and hydropower generation. However, the river has faced challenges due to deforestation, pollution, and inadequate management.

In response to these challenges, the Zaire to the Rescue campaign has been launched. This initiative aims to enhance the conservation and sustainable use of the Zaire River and its tributaries. The campaign seeks to raise awareness about the importance of the river, promote sustainable water management practices, and facilitate collaborative efforts between different stakeholders.

Key objectives of the Zaire to the Rescue campaign include:
- Strengthening water governance and management
- Enhancing access to safe drinking water
- Promoting sustainable water use in agriculture and fisheries
- Protecting and restoring the river landscape
- Fostering community participation in river conservation

The campaign is supported by international and local organizations, including the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the African Union, and local NGOs. Through this collaborative effort, the Zaire to the Rescue campaign aims to ensure the long-term health and sustainability of the Zaire River and its ecosystem.

Stay tuned for updates on the progress of the Zaire to the Rescue campaign and learn how you can contribute to the conservation of the Zaire River and its water resources.
Asia 'to fuel growth in Africa'

Beatrix Payne

DEMAND for commodities from the rapidly growing Asian markets would be the backbone of future economic growth in Africa, Baring's Investment Management director and fund manager for the Simba investment fund Michael Power said yesterday.

"Economic power is shifting to where there is a concentration of population. Asia — with a population of more than 3 billion people — is driving revenue lines in Africa," he said.

The recent backwardation — where the spot price is higher than the forward price — in key commodities such as gold and copper had been on a surge in demand from Asian-based fabricators, he said.

"Almost 20% of the world's gold is consumed by India," he said.

But volume rather than moves in commodity prices will be the key to growth and many local gold mines will have to improve productivity. Commodity imports by Asian countries excluding Japan increased 11.9 times between 1970 and 1992 compared with a world average of 4.1 times.

"Africa has considerable natural resources but to date it has been punching below its weight," he said.

Coal prices were set to increase as demand from the region for thermal coal was expected to rise 200% by the year 2010 to 183 megatons.

China will need to install 150 power stations by the turn of the century to meet an expected 500% rise in electricity use. Richards Bay is set to play a key role in supplying coal to the region.

Economic growth in Asia will result in an increase in resource usage for personal consumption, infrastructural development and industrial purposes.

However African companies will have to improve their supply mechanisms to meet the fast growing demand. This will involve better corporate efficiency and a more hospitable environment on the part of African governments.

The $50-$75m Simba fund will be launched early next year with 40% of its investments in southern Africa.
Africa accuses Western nations of plundering its medicinal plant life

BY KENNETH BLACKMAN
Sapa-IPS

Africa produces a host of plant species that could be used for anything from a tasty midday meal to curing many of mankind's diseases. Yet the continent gets nothing for the plants secretly used in Western laboratories as raw materials to develop drugs which are sold worldwide, Africa included.

Another Africa discovery - *Anisotrichas Korupensis* from the Korup mountains of south-east Cameroon - is at present being scientifically scrutinised.

According to Jean-Marie Fonfonou, a plant genetic specialist at the Centre for Agricultural Research in Yaounde, Cameroon, local healers use the plant to treat a host of ailments, including venereal diseases.

Cameronian and US scientists have already begun tests on the plant, with the aim of eventually transforming it into a drug.

Analysis of the plant, said to contain a substance which counters the effects of the HIV virus, started two years ago.

Central Africa's forests have more than 10,000 species of plants, according to a report on the region's plant genetic resources. The document is to serve as the basis for the first global report on the state of plant genetic resources, to be adopted at the fourth international technical conference scheduled for June next year in Leipzig, Germany.

A global plan of action on plant genetic resources will also be adopted at the Leipzig indaba, organised by the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation, says UN official David Cooper.

The plan will focus on conservation, sustainable use and equitable sharing of the benefits of plant genetic resources, Cooper told a recent Dakar gathering.

Some delegates who attended believe regulation of plant genetic resources is long overdue.

"I have to stop myself from mentioning the names of countries which collect African plants, analyse them at home, and which are perhaps using them to prepare medicines - while nothing flows back to us," fumes Professor Ayingwe Loubini, who lectures at the University of Kikwatu, Zaire.

"I know, for example, that there has been a study of the *etrepuntus* family of medicinal plants, used mainly to treat heart ailments and nerve disorders," adds Loubini.

He also conducts research on the use of plants in Zaire and has been working on plant-distribution maps in his country.

"Chemical analyses have been done on these plants, and I know there are people who have developed drugs from them.

"So we are afraid that when we disclose our medicinal plants, the rich countries will take them, analyse them, find out their chemical compositions and make synthetic products which they market, and then our plants will become useless," he says.

Loubini wants to see African scientists given the means to do research on plant genetic resources and share the benefits.

The role of big northern pharmaceutical corporations is also questionable in Africa. Plant genetic resources have high commercial value.

In fact, many African nations do not even have mechanisms that come anywhere near to protecting their plant resources.

In Congo, for example, there are no strict regulations, and border controls tend to be lax, making it possible for plants to be taken out illegally, according to Dr Jean Marcel Mingui of the Centre for Research on the Genetic Improvement of Tropical Plants in Brazzaville.

Mingui says: "People themselves are not aware of the importance of plant resources. A politician who sees someone with a plant simply assumes that the person is going to use it to decorate a home."
Exiled movements are setting up shop in South Africa, reports Justin Pearce

W

ILIZA N'WITZIE's family thought he would return to the galleys along with Zulu king Shaka Zulu, but when they got word he was in South Africa, Worried in Nigeria for the political changes that were taking place, the Oginji went down to Durban and assisted in setting up shop, only to return to his home country to prepare the cause for which Shaka Zulu died.

South Africa, whose colonies once fought for freedom from the hands of Afri

canism, Britain, and the United Kingdom,
now has become the first choice of
calculation for any man, once struggling against repressive regimes elsewhere in Africa.

At least four Nigerian liberation movements have set up shop in South Africa in the last three months, and more are on the way. It seems that there is a new democratic movement in South Africa, based in London, to set up a new African office.

The African National Congress (ANC) in South Africa, having been expelled from the United States, has now turned its attention to South Africa, and President Nelson Mandela, in particular, is becoming a powerful force in the movement.

But the ANC has faced criticism from some quarters, with some saying that the party is too ideologically focused on the struggle against apartheid and not enough on economic and social issues.

The ANC has also been criticized for its handling of the recent violence in Soweto, with some saying that the party is not doing enough to address the needs of the people.

Despite these criticisms, the ANC remains a powerful force in South Africa, and its continued success will depend on its ability to address the needs of the people and to maintain the support of the people.

SOUTH AFRICA

Does South Africa have a duty to help South Africans?

Gaye Davis

SOUTH AFRICA has not yet been determined whether it should become a part of the country or to help exiled movements fighting for democracy in their home country. To do so would be seen as a threat to the peace of the country.

Members of the Nigerian government and the Democratic Alternative for Nigeria, the movement that has been leading the fight for democracy in Nigeria, are among those who have been calling for South Africa to provide more support.

While discussions with Foreign Affairs officials indicate that the South Africans are watching the situation closely, they have yet to take any concrete steps towards providing assistance.

The South African government remains committed to maintaining its neutrality in the conflict in Nigeria, and may continue to do so in the future.

African National Congress MP Raymond Zwem, who chairs the South African delegation, said the situation in Nigeria is similar to the situation in South Africa, where the ANC has been involved in a struggle against apartheid.

"The ANC in South Africa is a model for the ANC in Nigeria," Zwem said. "We are working very closely with the ANC in Nigeria to ensure that the struggle continues until victory is achieved."

But the South African government remains committed to maintaining its neutrality in the conflict, and may continue to do so in the future.

"We are committed to maintaining our neutrality in the conflict, and will continue to do so," Zwem said. "We are working very closely with the ANC in Nigeria to ensure that the struggle continues until victory is achieved."

The South African government remains committed to maintaining its neutrality in the conflict, and may continue to do so in the future.
The question of how to deal with Nigeria is linked with other issues, says Kweisi Prah, professor of sociology at UWC. Not all his colleagues agree.

And in Ghana there was a Doe-style execution of three former heads of state and some ministers were also shot with thousands of people watching.

Professor Prah added nothing was being said about the forced Arabisation of the indigenous people of southern Sudan and "slavery" in countries such as Mauritania.

Professor Prah said if South Africa, which had just emerged from the "dark ages of apartheid," hoped to take full advantage of the high moral ground epitomised by President Mandela, it was obligatory not to appear to be vindictive against Abacha because Nigeria has had a long history of "corrupt dictatorships," including Abacha's predecessor General Babangida.

In his view, any step which did not take this continental approach in dealing with violation of human rights in Africa, stood to benefit many "cockroaches and tin-pot dictators" who were oppressing their own people and abusing their basic human and democratic rights.

In the late 1980s Professor Prah was among African social scientists and lawyers who founded the African Association for Human and Peoples Rights and was its secretary-general.

The aims of the association were to monitor abuses of human rights, publicise them and agitate for concrete steps against the abusers.

His view that singling out Nigeria from the rest of the governments abusing human rights was unproductive has, however, been challenged by Nigerian writer and English professor at UWC, Bikofoot Orombido from Nigeria, who was an intimate friend of the executed Ogoni writer Ken Saro-Wiwa.

Dr Orombido is popularly known as "Veho-gogo" as he appears in the popular cellphone ad.

"Professor Prah may be correct about the need to monitor general abuse of human rights in Africa. But our concern right now is Nigeria. Arap Moi may not have instigated kangaroo courts in Kenya and he may not have executed so many opponents, especially in the manner in which the Nigerian military government has done," he said.
hts in Africa?

ETHE MUSIC: University of the Western Cape sociology

for Kyen. Phah says the campage against the Nigerian
junta must become part of an overall drive against viole-
human rights in Africa.

ANDERSON MILLER, Staff Photographer.

HEBO-GOGO: Bankolo Onolo, the original "Yebo Gogo". He
says Nigeria is the real issue.
Farmers in Africa need more aid and for lasting prosperity.
Farmers in Africa need more aid to last through prosperous years.