Somalia’s Barre fights to the death

LONDON — Fierce street fighting resulting in heavy civilian casualties is reported to be raging in Mogadishu, the Somali capital, as a remnant of loyal government troops makes a last stand to defend President Siad Barre, said to be hiding in a bunker at the military airport.

The United Somali Congress, one of three main rebel movements, says its forces have taken over the rest of the capital.

The claim has not been confirmed.

A British Foreign Office spokesman said yesterday reports indicated the USC forces were attacking government troops throughout the capital but that the government retained overall control.

Telephone and telex links to the city were cut off yesterday, prompting speculation that the telecommunications building in Corso Somalia had been damaged.

A USC statement issued in London yesterday said Mr. Barre was being defended by tanks and artillery in a bunker in the military section of the international airport, but that USC forces had control of the rest of the area.

"Siad Barre cannot, repeat cannot, escape under any circumstances," the statement said.

Destruction seems to have been particularly severe in Wardigley, west of the city centre, and near the presidential palace, which some reports say is a smoking ruin.

Casualties, especially among civilians, are said to number in the hundreds and hospitals are full.

This appears to be the end of President Barre’s rule, but the man who has ruled Somalia since 1969 is going down fighting.

He retains the loyalty only of the paramilitary Kotyayas, the Red Berets, drawn almost exclusively from his own Marehan and Dolbehante clans.

Rejoicing in the Somali traditional values of courage and killing, they are unlikely to surrender.

For several months the government’s writ has barely run beyond the capital, but lack of rebel unity has prolonged the civil war.

Fighting began in the capital at the end of November and has steadily increased.

— The Independent News Service.
A former shepherd who ruled by terror and guile

NAIROBI — Somalian President Mohamed Siad Barre rose from his origins as an orphaned shepherd boy to rule his East African nation for more than two decades through a mixture of terror and guile.

Since staging a bloodless coup in 1969, Siad Barre has led the country through a succession of droughts, survived defeat in a lengthy desert war with Ethiopia, and manoeuvred the country through alliances with the Soviets and the US. (AP 3/11/81).

A member of the Marehan clan, which makes up less than 1% of the population of 6 million, Siad Barre kept power in a land of anarchic nomads by playing off a myriad of squabbling clans against one another.

Siad Barre, orphaned at 10, scratched a living as a shepherd before joining the police force, where he rose to the rank of chief inspector. Largely self-taught, he gained a secondary school equivalency and went on to study at an Italian army college.

At Somalia's independence in 1960 he was appointed the new nation's army vice-commander. Five years later, he became commander-in-chief.

After leading a coup in 1969, Siad Barre went about unifying the predominantly Muslim nation with a blend of Marxist doctrine, Somali traditions and Islamic precepts termed "scientific socialism". Under his leadership, the nation adopted a modified Roman alphabet in 1972 and had its language translated into written form.

The Soviet Union formed a close alliance with Siad Barre in 1974, but three years later abandoned him for Ethiopia after the two nations went to war.

Ethiopia's pro-Western Emperor Haile Selassie had been overthrown in 1974 by Marxists, and the US switched support to Somalia. But interest in Siad Barre's government waned with diminishing Cold War rivalries and because of his government's brutal treatment of its opponents. — Sapa-AP.
Evacuations begin as war in Somalia kills hundreds

NAIROBI — Italy and the UN were moving to evacuate foreigners from Somalia's capital, Mogadishu, yesterday as fighting between rebels and troops loyal to President Mohamed Siad Barre moved into its fourth day. Hundreds were reported dead, many of them civilians.

Gunfire could be heard throughout the city, but the battle appeared to be concentrated at the airport, an Italian diplomat said.

United Somali Congress (USC) rebels claimed on Tuesday to have cornered Siad Barre in a bunker at the airport. It appeared the airport and state radio were still in government hands.

The rebels said more than 500 people had been killed and many others wounded in the fighting.

In Nairobi, Kenya, an aid official said colleagues evacuated to the Kenyan capital by plane on Tuesday night said an unknown number of government soldiers had defected to the opposition. But he said Siad Barre's Marehan tribe did not seem to have lost control.

It had been reported that all the largely Marehan red beret presidential guards captured by the rebels were being summarily executed.

"If that is the case, the Marehan will fight to the last man," the official said.

Mogadishu's water system had broken down for lack of fuel, and there were food shortages.

Somalia's telecommunications were cut on Tuesday and it was not possible to get independent comment from Mogadishu.

But Italian diplomatic sources said indiscriminate shooting made travelling by road dangerous.

Despite the danger, 30 Italians had made their way to the Italian embassy and were awaiting evacuation, they said.

Italy, a former colonial power in Somalia, was sending two air force transport planes to Kenya yesterday for the possible evacuation by air of about 500 foreigners remaining in Mogadishu.

An Italian warship operating in the Gulf to help maintain the UN embargo against Iraq had also been ordered to sail to Somalia to help.

All evacuation plans rested on whether a truce between the warring elements could be obtained, the sources said.

The UN, which managed to fly about a dozen of its staff members to Nairobi on Tuesday night, sent a small plane back to Mogadishu yesterday in the hope of evacuating the fewer than 10 who still remained.

Observers said Somalia's clan-based warfare could develop into a Libya-like situation.

The USC is a recently formed force of insurgents drawing strength from the large Hawiye tribe.

"Siad Barre, using his last card, could convince his clans this war is a war against the Hawiye, provoking widespread clan reprisals," said Abdul Mohamud, a Nairobi-based expert on regional conflicts.

A peaceful settlement was possible if the president's removal could be negotiated in a way that guaranteed the Marehan a role in a post-Siad Barre government. If efforts failed, "the Liberia scenario is in the making", he said.

The USC is one of three loosely coordinated opposition groups including the Somali National Movement and the Somali Patriotic Front. — Sapa-AP.
Vicious Somalian May Create a New Liberia

Victory to Somalia’s freedom fighters against an inferior, reckless and socialist enemy: the Ugandan and Somali regimes of President Obote and General Mengistu.

Somalia’s liberation fighters are now poised to capture the Somali capital, Mogadishu, and end the two decades of Marxist rule. The fighting is being led by the Somali National Salvation Front (SNSF), a coalition of opposition groups that includes the National Union of Somali Students (NUSS). The SNSF has gained control of several key cities and towns in southern Somalia, including Belet Weyne, Baidoa, and Kismayo. The group is backed by Arab and Pakistani forces operating on behalf of the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity.

The SNSF is determined to establish a democratic government in Somalia that will restore order and bring an end to the decades of civil war and misery. The group has already begun the process of building a new country, with the establishment of a provisional government in the southern city of Kismayo.

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Plea to end Somalia strife

NAIROBI - Somalia President Mohamed Siad Barre urged rebels seeking his overthrow to agree to a ceasefire yesterday and end the five-day-old bloodbath in Somalia's capital, Mogadishu.

His prime minister said talks could follow.

The rebels have consistently rejected talks, saying no negotiations are possible until Siad Barre steps down or is removed at gunpoint.

People fleeing Mogadishu said the rattle and crash of light and heavy weapons could be heard throughout the capital as rebels fought loyalist troops on Wednesday.

"It seems that at times these people do not know what they are running from," Radio Mogadishu said of the refugees. Others remaining face starvation, it said. Hundreds have been killed, many of them reportedly civilians.

United Somali Congress rebels want to topple what they call the "cruel, corrupt" government of Siad Barre, a former army commander who has ruled the Horn of Africa nation since seizing power in a coup in 1969. - Sape-AP.
By Garner Thomson
Star Bureau

LONDON — British aid agencies are to launch an appeal next week for funds for African famine victims.

But in spite of the agencies' efforts, they fear as many as 30 million people — at least 4 million of them in Angola and Mozambique — could still die.

Drought has devastated many African countries. The added factor of civil war in at least five — Angola, Mozambique, Ethiopia, Sudan and Liberia — gives special urgency to the appeal.

Peace moves are under way in all five countries, but volunteer workers believe Western nations are still not committed enough to aid and regeneration to halt the collapse into disintegration and mass starvation.

The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation recently estimated about 20 million people were at risk, as many as 15 million in Sudan and Ethiopia. One agency says some regions face the annihilation of entire generations.

Persistent drought has worsened conditions since Africa's last major famine in 1988, but it is war in all the most vulnerable regions that has damaged the fragile coping strategies, possibly beyond repair.

Millions of people have been displaced within their countries, and many more have fled over borders in search of food and work.

Armies in Ethiopia and Mozambique have pressed hundreds of thousands of able-bodied people, many of them children, into service, further reducing the indigenous agricultural workforce, while others, such as Angola's Unita, have heavily mined arable land, making farming too dangerous.

In addition, the fall in commodity prices and the increase in international interest rates have forced African countries deeper into debt with the West.

The World Bank Structural Adjustment Programmes have also demanded cuts in health and educational services, adding to regional debilitation.

All five countries have seen their government institutions dramatically weakened, and are gradually surrendering their sovereignty to a disorganised mélée of non-government and aid organisations.

Veteran Africa commentator Victoria Brittain observed in a recent Guardian survey of the crisis: "The donors, by their backing of World Bank Structural Adjustment Programmes, have forced reverses on the political philosophy of Angola, Mozambique and Ethiopia. And the food corridors, or 'corridors of tranquility', which the donors organised first in Sudan, then in Eritrea and Tigray and most recently in Angola, are the international community's effective recognition of the contestants for power on an equal basis with the government."

"In Angola and Mozambique, the years of South African destabilisation, plus the US military aid to Unita, have brought to the brink of power two movements whose sole political goal has been to cripple the post-independence government by bleeding their country's population and stemming any chance of development."

**Sole hope**

She adds: "A future of contested power in a multi-party system is no guarantee of the democracy which development needs to flourish."

Further north, at least a UN referendum offering independence, regional autonomy or federation — to follow America's acceptance that an independent Eritrea and a democratic Ethiopia are the best safeguards of peace — could be "the international community's greatest contribution towards Africa's 20 million victims of war-related famine."

Until then, Africa's sole hope lies in mass fund-raising appeals.

But even here there are problems. Britain's Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) fears that the Gulf crisis and the deteriorating situation in the Soviet Union could force its cause into the background, making the appeal for what amounts to millions of tons of food difficult, if not impossible.
Rebels reject Somali leader's ceasefire call

NAIROBI — Rebels fighting to overthrow President Mohamed Siad Barre rejected his plea for a ceasefire yesterday, throwing in doubt an international effort to rescue foreigners from the embattled Somali capital of Mogadishu.

“A ceasefire only for evacuation of foreigners has no meaning,” Abdul Kadir, the foreign secretary of the insurgent United Somali Congress, said in Rome.

“This just makes it easier for Siad Barre to organise another counter-attack,” he said.

People fleeing Mogadishu on Wednesday said the rattle and crash of light and heavy weapons could be heard throughout the capital as rebels fought loyalist troops.

“It seems that at times these people do not know what they are running from,” Radio Mogadishu said of the refugees. Others remaining face starvation, it said. Hundreds have been killed, many of them reportedly civilians.

The Somali president, the European Community and President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt all appealed for a ceasefire on Wednesday. Somalia’s prime minister said talks could follow.

But Kadir said that while the United Somali Congress is willing to talk with other opposition factions about a provisional government, it seeks one in which “Siad Barre has no influence at all”.

The rebel spokesman said fighting was continuing in Mogadishu, where five days of combat with loyalist forces have left hundreds dead.

Kadir reiterated opposition to the use of Italian or other foreign military units for evacuations. He said they should be carried out by the International Red Cross.

Government sources in Bonn said Germany, France and Italy were trying to arrange a halt to the fighting in an attempt to get their nationals out of the country.

The State Department said in Washington it was ordering the evacuation of all US citizens and diplomats in Somalia, numbering about 85, but did not yet have any concrete plans on how to do it.

All have said a halt in the fighting must precede any evacuation.

Italy, a former colonial power in Somalia, sent four military planes to Kenya, Somalia’s western neighbour, for the evacuation effort.

A French frigate was cruising off the Somali coast, but a navy spokesman in Paris said it had not received any orders to aid in an evacuation.

The Italians also ordered a frigate and a supply ship assigned to the UN embargo of Iraq to leave the Gulf for Somalia, but they were believed to be at least four sailing days away. The Italians also said they were considering the possibility of using a cargo ship at the bay of Mogadishu.

Contrary

The last six UN staff members were flown out of Mogadishu to Nairobi on Wednesday. Their pilot described a chaotic situation in the capital.

“It’s hard to say what’s happening or who’s in control. We only know there’s a lot of firing going on,” he said.

Siad Barre’s appeal for a ceasefire was broadcast by Radio Mogadishu, which remained in government control despite rebel claims to the contrary.

In his plea, he urged the soldiers to restrict themselves to their barracks and the rebels to lay down their arms. There was no indication the call was heeded.

The rebels seek to topple what they call the “cruel, corrupt” government of Siad Barre, a former army commander who has ruled the horn of Africa nation since seizing power in a coup in 1969. — Sapa-AP.
Somali rebels prepare for final offensive

The Somalis say they are ready to launch a major offensive against the Ethiopian army in the Ogaden region. They say they have gathered enough forces and are now preparing for a decisive battle.

The Ethiopian government has been under pressure to withdraw its troops from Somalia, which it invaded in 1991. The rebels, who control much of the southern part of the country, have been fighting for independence from Ethiopia for decades.

In an earlier interview, the rebels' leader, Abdiqani Ali, said: "We are ready to fight for our freedom. We will not surrender to the Ethiopian army."

The rebels have been backed by the United States and other Western countries, who see them as a counterbalance to the Somali National Army, which is supported by the Ethiopian government.

Meanwhile, the Ethiopian government has denied Reports of large-scale casualties among its forces in the Ogaden region. It has also accused the rebels of launching frequent attacks against its troops.

Despite the tension, there have been efforts to find a peaceful solution to the conflict. A peace conference was held in Addis Ababa last year, but it failed to reach an agreement.

The United Nations has been working to mediate the conflict, but progress has been slow. The organization has repeatedly called for a halt to the fighting, but the parties have so far refused to comply.

Meanwhile, the situation in Somalia remains volatile, with reports of violence and displacement of civilians continuing. The UN has called for an immediate end to the conflict and for all parties to engage in dialogue to find a peaceful solution.
Devastating famine looms for Africans

GENEVA — A devastating famine is looming in Africa, leading relief organisations warned yesterday.

They said unless food aid was provided immediately, about 20 million people in Africa would face starvation this winter as a result of failed rains and civil wars.

"We are fearful that other interests are leading to a situation where the needs of Africa will be forgotten," said Paer Steinbæk, secretary-general of the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

Priority

Mr Steinbæk told a news conference Africa was the world's top priority in terms of food aid.

"There are (food) needs in the Soviet Union but no traces of famine," he said.

He said increased aid to East Europe and the Soviet Union was expected to cut donations to Africa, though it was too early to assess the real impact of this.

Mr Steinbæk, who heads a special Steering Committee for Disasters, said if war broke out in the Gulf, the deteriorating conditions in Africa would likely be forgotten by the world community.

A joint statement issued by the six organisations represented on the committee said Africa faced a famine "as bad or worse" than the one in 1984-85, when up to 40 million people were affected in 22 countries. An estimated one million died, the majority of whom were in Ethiopia.

Turning to the countries most affected, the statement said in Ethiopia, 2.5 million people were at increasing risk of death from hunger and thirst. The provinces of Eritrea and Tigray, where rebels are fighting government forces, were worst hit.

It said the civil war hindered delivery of aid and planting crops in areas where some harvests might have been expected.

The statement said in Sudan several million faced hunger because of drought and civil war, and 1.9 million people in Angola risked starvation.

The long conflict in Mozambique had displaced more than three million people, many of whom lived in appalling conditions without adequate food. Conditions were likely to worsen in the coming months, the statement said.

Displaced

It said in Liberia, the year-long civil war had forced 700,000 people to flee into neighbouring countries, while a further million had been displaced within Liberia.

The Geneva-based steering committee comprises representatives of the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Caritas International, Catholic Relief Services, the World Council of Churches, the Lutheran World Federation and Oxfam. — Sapa-Associat ed Press.
Siad Barre offers to meet rebels

NAIROBI—Somali President Mohamed Siad Barre, fighting rebels bent on ending his 21-year rule, said yesterday he was ready for peace talks with all opposition groups and would accept whatever the outcome of negotiations.

State-run Radio Mogadishu quoted Said Barre, who has been in power since a 1969 coup, as calling on Egypt and Italy to act as observers in talks.

He said whatever the outcome of peace negotiations, the government will abide by it, said the radio, monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation.

It was also reported yesterday that delegates of the International Committee of the Red Cross in the embattled capital Mogadishu are apparently being held hostage.

An ICRC spokesman said one of the organisation's delegates in Mogadishu was talking to the humanitarian agency's Geneva headquarters in a radio link.

Somali president makes bid for peace when he was forced to break off the conversation.

He reported that "armed elements" had entered the building.

"I have a gun against my head so I can’t talk any more," the spokesman quoted him as saying.

She said there was no information on the identity or number of people involved.

Since the incident there had been no more contact with the 10-person delegation in Mogadishu, she said.

The spokesman, who asked not to be named, said Pierre Gassmann, chief ICRC delegate for Africa, had issued an appeal to all parties in the conflict in Somalia to respect international humanitarian law.

He has asked them to allow the neutral all-Swiss ICRC to carry out its work.

France has decided to evacuate its diplomats and other citizens from Mogadishu as soon as warring government and rebel forces agree to a ceasefire, official sources said yesterday.

The move would not amount to a closure of the embassy, the sources said.

Local staff would run the mission after the departure of ambassador Roland Barraux and about five other diplomats.

France has sent two naval ships to the Somali coast to evacuate the diplomats and about 15 of her nationals as well as several foreigners wishing to flee the fighting.

Paris took a similar measure when the Liberian capital of Monrovia was devastated by civil war late last year.

International pressure has been mounting for a ceasefire to allow the departure of foreigners but the fighting, particularly around the capital, has continued unabated.
WHITE FLIGHT FROM AFRICA

WILLIE BREYTHENBACH tracks down the fate of a continent's lost tribes

SUNDAY TIMES, January 6, 1991

AT the time of decolonisation there were nearly three million whites in Africa north of South Africa and Namibia. A decade after independence more than two million of them — just over three quarters — had left.

The majority headed for Europe — mainly France, Portugal and Britain. Other Commonwealth countries, South Africa and Israel. A large number of Asians also left Kenya, Uganda and Malawi.

The phenomenon of "Euro-flight" was not universal, however. Four African countries — Ivory Coast, Sierra Leone, Djbouti and Senegal — increased their white populations after independence.

In a number of others, the white populations increased after some time had lapsed following independence. These replacement gains represent considerable white population growth.

In addition to the four cases of uninterrupted gains referred to earlier, "replacement gains" occurred in Algeria, Mozambique, Zaire, Zimbabwe and Kenya. The total of these gains amount to 243,500 people.

The ratio between these and the 2.1 million "Euroflighters" is approximately 1:9. That means that for every white person settling in Africa since independence, nine whites left. The general picture is therefore of a white exodus on a massive scale, despite the fact over half-a-million remained.

Why? What explains Euro-flight? And what is the outlook for southern Africa — particularly, Namibia and South Africa, the "best" region on the continent. Also, why have some never left and why are whites now returning to Africa?

Fears

The following statistics offer useful perspectives: In Namibia, whites represent 6.7 percent of the total population. In South Africa, the figure is 13 percent.

Of the rest of Africa, percentages are very low: the Ivory Coast 0.5 percent; Kenya 0.2 percent; Zaire 0.2 percent and Zimbabwe 1 percent.

The only exception is Djbouti, where whites make up 2 percent of the population. France's security interests in the Gulf of A'den explains this presence.

There are many reasons why whites left Africa in such large numbers. These are easy to enumerate, but more difficult to explain. The reasons usually allude to fears, but not necessarily in all cases. Other reasons may be unwillingness to relinquish control and privilege and the assessment that reconciliation after the usual confrontations during colonisation and decolonisation is impossible.

But the fears are more pervasive.

There are five general fears: of drastic suffering; of declining law and order; of loss of status and influence; of expendability through Africanisation or affirmative action; and fear of revenge.

Many of these white fears proved to be unfounded; for example, in the case of revenge. Despite the anti-colonial and often anti-white rhetoric, the dictum of "one settler, one bullet" turned out more slogan than slaughter.

Massacre

This does not mean that violence was absent. In Morocco Jews were attacked; in Algeria French settlers were murdered during the Philippemassacre; in Kenya there was the Mau-Mau rebellion; in Zaire women and children were brutalised; in Rhodesia indiscriminate attacks were made on white farmers and missionaries; and in Angola and Mozambique farm houses were attacked and convoys ambushed.

By and large, however, these were atrocities perpetrated in war. The only place where organised genocide took place was in Zanzibar, where 15,000 Arabs were murdered during the Afro-Shirazi uprisings of 1964. Whites never suffered a similar fate anywhere on the continent.

But even where guerrilla wars were fought, many whites stayed on to fight. Departure came only afterwards. In a sense, therefore, whites feared warfare much less than the consequences of black rule.

This brings us to the other fears — uncertainties about black rule. Many were phoney, for example, the fear of "drastic suffering".

The fact that 500,000 whites out of the original 2.8 million in Africa stayed — and more than 243,000 joined in since independence — is sufficient evidence that this fear is grossly exaggerated.

Other fears were more realistic: loss of status and influence, and of expendability, proved true. In fact, many whites became redundant, economically and politically.

Interestingly, this affected the lower echelons of white society more severely than the rest. Algeria, Zaire and Senegal are cases in point.

What accounted for the "stayers"?

There appears to be a number of reasons why Africa is becoming a more "white friendly" place.

These are:

Reconciliation: many African statesmen such as Jomo Kenyatta, Houphouet Boigny, King Sobhuza, Seretse Khama and, of late, Sam Nujoma, have made reconciliation a high priority.

Relevance: many whites adjusted their political attitudes — indeed became studiously apolitical.

Nation-building: in many cases the new governments went out of their way to please white interests and appointed white ministers.

Globalisation: many foreign aid agencies are now insisting on "democratisation" as a condition for assistance. They also insist on private enterprise — thus reopening Africa for "white" investment and business.

Cost

All these things do not mean that Africa is now being reconciled. It does mean, however, that Africa is becoming a more "white friendly" place. This time with the tacit approval of Africans and the international community.

In this respect, Robert Mugabe's decision to "nationalise" white farms in Zimbabwe is clearly out of step. No matter how pressing the need for land redistribution in that country, his decision will be frowned upon.

It may cost him dearly, especially in an age when voters won't approve of what he is doing. Food, production, and the recognition of rights, including property rights, are far too important to be ignored. If anything, this is the lesson for the foreseeable future.

Professor Breythenbach is from Stellenbosch's department of political studies. This article is based on extensive comparative research on whites in Africa.
Barre's whereabouts
a mystery amid chaos

NAIROBI — Somali rebels say they are close to ousting President Mohamed Siad Barre after a battle that has raged in the capital, Mogadishu, for 10 days.

But the city's international airport remained in government hands and state-run radio resumed broadcasting yesterday after a two-day break.

"We hope that the city will be completely liberated very soon," the United Somali Congress (USC) said yesterday from its Rome office.

The USC, one of the three strongest rebel groups, said fighting continued around Mogadishu international airport and near the underground bunker where President Barre was holding out.

In spite of the continued fighting, Red Cross military transport aircraft were able to fly 280 more foreign residents out of the city to Mombasa, in neighbouring Kenya, yesterday.

A Red Cross aircraft stayed on standby in Mombasa to fly out remaining foreigners. More than 700 foreigners have been rescued in the past three days.

The United States embassy in Somalia has been sacked by looters who used rocket-propelled grenades to blast down the doors, the State Department said yesterday. — Sapa-Reuter.
Famine aid to Africa curbed if there's war

LONDON — The British government will not give any extra money for famine in Africa this year if there is war in the Gulf, a senior government source disclosed yesterday.

Despite appeals by members of the Disaster Emergency Committee for extra government funds for Africa, the Treasury will not decide if it can afford to make extra provision for Africa this year until the Gulf situation becomes clearer.

"If there is war, there will be nothing extra," said the source.

Last month, Lynda Chalker, Minister of Overseas Development, announced emergency aid of £77 million (£34 million) for Ethiopia and Sudan this year, but this came from existing ODA funds.

Overshadowed

The catastrophic famine facing parts of Africa this year is overshadowed by the Gulf crisis and Eastern Europe.

An appeal issued yesterday by leading British aid agencies which make up the Disaster Emergency Committee was almost a cry of despair.

They called on the British public and government to match their generosity during the 1984/85 famine, but concede that it was unlikely to be repeated this year. Then, £100 million (nearly US$200 million) was raised by the aid agencies and Band Aid, and the government gave about £32 million (R156 million).

"To put it in perspective, the amount of money already spent by Britain in the Gulf, which I believe is about £500 million (R2 450 million) would be enough to feed all the hungry people of Africa until the middle of the year," said Tony Vaux, Oxfam's Emergencies Officer.

This year, Sudan, Ethiopia, Angola, Mozambique and Liberia are faced with an absolute food shortage. Between 10 and 20 million people are thought to be at risk.

In the Horn of Africa, where the rains have failed for the second year running, the famine will be worse than that of 1984/85. It affects more people and they now have fewer resources to fall back on.

"The prospects for millions of people in Africa look very bleak indeed this year," said Jenny Borden, deputy director of Christian Aid. "They face a slow death by starvation, and others face impoverishment as they make life and death decisions about what to do with their families.

Money raised by the appeal will be used to buy food, lorries, fuel, medicine and blankets, she said, and in the longer term for seeds, tools and other development projects.

We know that the funds haven't been wasted and we know what we can do if we get the resources. But we need the money and we need it now."

The press conference to launch the appeal coincided with one piece of good news from a famine area. A United Nations ship carrying 10,000 tons of wheat docked at the Red Sea port of Massawa yesterday morning, the first shipment of food aid to reach it since its capture by Eritrean separatists last February.

The ship's arrival marks a significant improvement in the prospects for feeding Eritrea this year.

But the overall picture is exceedingly grim and suggests the possibility of semi-permanent famine in parts of Africa.

No pictures

John Seaman of the Save the Children Fund said: "There is going to be crisis in Africa every year for the foreseeable future."

He suggested that the media focus less on war and drought and more on debt and commodity prices.

But such topics do not arouse public sympathy. Despite the urgency, the DEC has delayed its appeal since October, when the extent of the famine became apparent.

"Officially, this is because it wanted more information and because of other news events," unofficially because there were no television pictures of starving children, essential for money-raising.

— The Independent News Service.
Holomisa backs ANC's CAPE

World Living Heritage Day:
Global celebration highlights the importance of protecting our natural and cultural heritage.

President Holomisa, in a recent interview, emphasized the necessity of preserving the world's natural and cultural treasures. He highlighted the role of organizations like the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), which works towards the preservation of World Heritage Sites.

"As a nation, we must come together to protect and cherish our natural and cultural heritage," Holomisa said. "We must ensure that our children and future generations can continue to enjoy the beauty and richness of our world."

The celebration, held in Cape Town, included various cultural performances, interactive workshops, and educational exhibitions aimed at raising awareness about the importance of heritage conservation.

"It's a day to celebrate our diversity and what makes us unique," said a youth activist from the South African Heritage Resource Agency (SAHRA).

The day concluded with a candle lighting ceremony in front of the Cape Town City Hall, symbolizing the commitment of the community to protect and conserve the world's heritage.

For more information, visit the official website of the World Heritage Day, where you can find resources and tools to support heritage conservation efforts.

Holomisa backs ANC's CAPE
Africa Gets Down to Business
UN official calls for urgent help for impoverished Africa

NAIROBI - Africa suffered its 12th consecutive year of deepening impoverishment in 1990 and would need "special and immediate" help to alleviate the impact of the Gulf crisis, a UN specialist said yesterday.

But even without the higher costs of oil caused by Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, a shaky world economy pointed to a "dim prospect" for Africa's growth in 1991, said Adebayo Adedeji, head of the UN Economic Commission for Africa.

The number of people born in 1990 continued to outpace the continent's economic growth, while Africa's foreign debt burden grew to nearly $272bn, said Adedeji.

So while Africa's earnings, as measured by the continent's overall GDP, rose 3%, they were offset by the high population growth rate and effectively fell by 0.2%, Adedeji said in his year-end report.

"This means in effect that the average African continues, for the 12th successive year, to get poorer," said Adedeji. He gave his address at the UN ECA headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

He described as "mere palliatives" initiatives towards easing Africa's foreign debt burden. He called for a "more radical approach" that would significantly reduce the size of the debt as well as the debt servicing payments which are equal to 34% of Africa's export earnings.

He was not optimistic about 1991.

Adedeji appealed to the international community for "special and immediate measures to alleviate the impact of the Gulf crisis on the African countries".

However, he said that even without the Gulf crisis, the economic slowdown in the industrialised nations would greatly hamper Africa's ability to increase its export earnings.

The continent also continues to suffer drought and severe food deficits that have been aggravated by wars in Sudan, Ethiopia, Mozambique and Liberia, he said.

As a result, food aid requirements for 1990-91 could surpass the 1989-90 level of 4.2-million tons. - Sapa-AFP.
Mystery Mission into the Communist Heartland

1. **s**[Reviewed by JAMES M. HITCHCOCK](Author's Full Name)
   *The Specter for America, by Thomas Pakenham*
   **BOOK OF THE WEEK**

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*The Specter for America, by Thomas Pakenham*

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*The Specter for America, by Thomas Pakenham*
Liberian factions to talk

MONROVIA (Liberia) — The three warring factions in this embattled West African nation have agreed to begin talks on disarming and other issues to end a year-long civil war that has claimed more than 12,000 lives.

The framework for the meetings, scheduled to begin yesterday, was drafted at a conference last month in Gambia, and included a proposal to choose a new caretaker government.

The Economic Community of West African States, which sponsored the Gambia conference, has installed an interim government in Monrovia led by Amos Sawyer.

Rebel leader Charles Taylor has refused to join the Sawyer government, calling it a puppet of Liberia’s West African neighbors.

Breakaway rebel leader Prince Johnson and remnants of slain President Samuel Doe’s army both have seats in Sawyer’s administration.

- Mr. Taylor’s forces invaded from neighboring Ivory Coast in December 1990, seeking to overthrow Mr. Doe, whom they accused of human rights violations and abuses of power.

- Mr. Johnson’s fighters captured and killed Mr. Doe in September.

An official for the West African community on Wednesday met the leaders of the five-nation West African military force deployed to Liberia in August.

The community’s executive secretary, Abass Bundu, also had talks with Mr. Sawyer and visited Mr. Johnson at his headquarters.

West African sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity, say gun positions near the border of the government-controlled zone and Mr. Johnson’s territory will not be removed by Saturday, the deadline demanded by Mr. Johnson.

- Mr. Johnson has threatened to dismantle the bazooka with force after the deadline.

At the request of the International Committee of the Red Cross, the government yesterday planned to begin relocating refugees and orphans from areas near the Johnson camp. — Associated Press
Africa Debt Crisis For Economies
The election of the United Democratic Party will be held in April, and the country is facing a crucial choice. The party's platform focuses on issues such as economic growth, education, and healthcare. However, the opposition has raised concerns about the fairness of the election process, alleging that the government is using state resources to favor the United Democratic Party. The upcoming election is expected to be a test of the country's commitment to democratic principles and the rule of law.
Visit from Gabon may lead to air, oil links

By Peter Fabriicus
Political Correspondent

Closer ties with oil-rich Gabon are expected to flow from President de Klerk's meeting yesterday with a senior delegation from the West African state.

And South Africa has already negotiated overflight rights with Gabon and the neighboring Congo to enable SAA to start a flight to Abidjan, Ivory Coast.

In another step forward in its breakthrough into Africa, an official delegation from Gabon began a four-day visit to South Africa yesterday.

Co-operation

It is expected that possible oil purchases from Angola will be discussed.

The visit is a follow-up to the visit to Angola in December by Mineral and Energy Affairs and Public Enterprises Dawie de Villiers.

Dr de Villiers said the purpose of the visit yesterday was to continue discussions on commercial relations and to explore further possible areas of economic and technical co-operation.

He forecast that as the peace process in Angola proceeds, a cease-fire is concluded, prospects for commercial exchanges with would be greatly improved.

Yesterday's meeting between the Gabonese and Mr de Klerk at his official Tuynhuys's office in Cape Town was the first public acknowledgement by Gabon of contact between the two countries.

The head of the Gabon delegation, Maitre Louis Gaston Mayilla, personal adviser to Gabon President Omar Bongo, delivered a "very warm message" from his president to Mr de Klerk.

Mr de Klerk responded with an equally warm message, according to South African deputy director of foreign affairs Rusty Evans.

The message from Mr Bongo could be expected to give rise to a series of closer exchanges in the near future.

These could lead to closer relations.

South Africa has enjoyed clandestine relations with Mr Bongo for many years, and has been running a farm project there in Praslin.

Sources said the overflight rights which South Africa signed with Gabon and the Congo a month ago would enable SAA to operate a Johannesburg-Kinshasa-Abidjan route, or merely be used if flights were diverted.

The delegation from Gabon included Madame Pascale Bongo, daughter of President Bongo.
Sudan approves Islamic Sharia law

Khartoum - The ruling military council and cabinet have ratified a new criminal code based on Islamic Sharia law for residents of mainly Moslem northern Sudan.

Sudan's military leader, Lieutenant General Omar Hassan Al-Bashir, announced in a New Year address that Sharia law would be applied immediately throughout Moslem regions of Africa's largest country.

Exempted

War-ravaged southern Sudan, populated primarily by Christians and animists, is exempted from Sharia law.

The new criminal code derived from religious law was approved on Wednesday by the 15-man military council and the cabinet, both headed by Bashir.

Bashir, who took power in a coup in June 1989, reshuffled the cabinet on Sunday, dismissing three ministers who had not fully supported implementation of Sharia law.

Sapa-Reuters
Riots in Cameroon expose
an underbelly of repression

By MARK HUBAND

WIDESPREAD rioting and demonstrations which led to at least two deaths in Cameroon last week exposed the deepening public resentment of repressive government measures at a time when the country's leadership has promised the creation of a democratic system.

The rioting was sparked off by the trial of two journalists who had refused to submit to censorship an article critical of the government. While allowing an independent media, non-government newspapers often appear with censored articles blacked-out on the page.

The two journalists, Celestin Monga and Pius Njawe, respectively columnist and editor of the independent daily newspaper Le Messager, were charged with insulting President Paul Biya in an article which had not been surrendered to the censor.

After a trial lasting two days, they were cleared of insulting the president, but were found guilty of insulting the national assembly and other institutions of Cameroon's regime, fined £4 000 and given six month suspended prison sentences.

Despite its oil riches, large cities and relatively well-developed infrastructure, Cameroon's wealth has filtered into the hands of the rich, creating the current climate of protest, instability and repression, particularly of the press.

Despite objection from foreign creditors, the country's substantial oil revenues are excluded from the government's income accounts, allowing massive corruption to go unchecked as only those involved in oil sales know how much is being earned. In 1988 over $1-billion flowed out of the country illegally, and officials at the ministry of finance have generally admitted that there is nothing they can do to stop it, diplomatic sources say.

The country's north-south divisions between African and Arab, Muslim and Christian, Anglophone and Francophone, have created the ingredients for instability which led to strong state police and secret services being established almost immediately after independence in 1961. The democratising legislation is seen as characteristic of the old order rather than an attempt to move the country away from what has been one of the region's most oppressive police states.

Last week's trial bore out the claims of sceptics. As police helicopters hovered over the courtroom in the economic capital Douala and troops charged crowds numbering up to 5 000 with teargas and batons, the trial threatened not so much the democratic process as the incumbent government's chances of metamorphosis.

At least two, and possibly three, people were killed in similar demonstrations in the northern town of Garoua.

— The Guardian, London
Droves of refugees flee Somalia

By PETER BILES, Nairobi

SOMALIA'S political turmoil is spawning a new refugee crisis in the troubled Horn of Africa.

A British ecologist, Dr Murray Watson, who flew over extensive areas of western Somalia this week, has reported that large well-established refugee camps close to the border with Ethiopia are now deserted. The camps, which were being run by the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), had accommodated thousands of Ethiopians who had crossed into Somalia after the Ogaden War in the late 1970s.

"Refugee camps on the banks of the Shebele River, near Beled Weyne, appear to have been almost totally abandoned," said Watson. "There was evidence of destruction and looting."

Further south on the Juba River, the Halba refugee camp, thought to have housed about 20,000 people six months ago, is also now empty.

The UNHCR representative in Nairobi, Sylvester Awuye, said about 5,000 refugees of Ethiopian origin had already entered Kenya, along with 2,000 Somali nationals. Many have cited the lack of security and food shortages as the reasons for their flight from Somalia. In addition, Awuye said, 20,000 Somalis were waiting on the Somalia side of the border.

UNHCR also estimates that there are 10,000 new arrivals in Ethiopia. Many are thought to have walked for about a week across Somalia to reach the border. A UNHCR spokesman in Geneva, Joff Crisp, confirmed that the Somali refugee camps along the border with Ethiopia had not received any food aid since the UNHCR and other international relief agencies withdrew from Somalia last month.

"When the time comes to re-establish our operations in Somalia, we'll have to start from scratch," added Crisp. — The Guardian
AFRICA is considered the most vulnerable continent in terms of the spread of the dreaded AIDS disease.

One of the reasons is that Africa’s sanitation conditions are still way below internationally acceptable standards.

The current level of HIV (the virus causing AIDS) infection is highest in sub-Saharan Africa, according to the latest report by the World Health Organization (WHO).

At the end of 1990, the WHO estimated that there were at least five million HIV-infected adults in Africa, or about half of the estimated global total.

In addition, because many women of child-bearing age are infected, over 500,000 HIV-infected infants have been born in Africa, and by the end of the 1990s an additional 10 million or more may be expected.

Although it is not known how AIDS came to Africa, the spread has been fast and extensive, and the environment in which the people live is believed to play a major role.

Abject poverty has been the cornerstone. The majority of people live below the poverty datum line, which in essence shortens their lifespan. The average life expectancy in Africa is about 48 years.

With the emergence of AIDS, health education programmes have met opposition as to how people should conduct themselves in sexual relationships between male and female partners.

Tradition is hard to break. The use of condoms conflicts with the cultural norms of most Africans, who despise the method and believe it should be totally ignored because it is alien.

Although AIDS is dreaded by many people in the world, its prevention is meeting stiff opposition and cultural punitives are ferociously accusing the architects of the AIDS education programmes as trying to tamper with the traditional values of most Africans.

In Zambia for instance, some young males in the north are using the condoms freely distributed to consumers as balloons. How the youngsters are getting hold of these is still being investigated because adolescents are traditionally barred from having sexual intercourse before marriage.

It is perceived that using condoms reduces and impairs the intensity of sex.

So far 25,000 people of various target groups and categories have been directly exposed to the AIDS education project which is attempting to contain the spread of AIDS.

Aids Health Education Project co-ordinator Dr. George Kabwe says the target groups include teachers, mothers, women’s clubs, students, farmers and patients of all types.

While the impact of AIDS has been felt in most urban areas, the rural areas are lagging behind, and this could further exacerbate the prevalence of the disease.

In Lusaka and other large cities and towns, the disease is called “slow puncture” in the sense that it slowly kills the victims.

Chairman of the National Surveillance Committee (NSC) Dr. Sanu Nyaywa has complained that “patients in urban centres are shunned even by their own relatives who declare that they have nothing to do with them (patients”).

Zambia is one of the African countries with the highest incidence of AIDS. This is attributed to its dense urban population.

This phenomenon is compounded by chronic unemployment, which has forced many young women to resort to prostitution. At the same time, the economic slump has driven many Zambians to the brink of self-destruction.

Most young people simply ignore the threat of the killer disease.

According to statistics, 400 Zambians have died of AIDS, while close to 14,000 people are either confirmed HIV carriers or have symptoms related to the disease.

But despite the devastating dangers of AIDS, prostitutes are not deterred from practising their trade, although most are taking precautions. — ANO
Africa faces famine, death, tragedy

OXFAM America said this week that while the world’s eyes were on the war in the Gulf, as many as 20 million people in Africa were at risk of starving to death.

The imminent famine in Africa greatly overshadows the Ethiopian famine of 1984-85, in which one million people died, said John Hammock, executive director of the Boston-based American branch of Oxfam, a non-profit disaster relief agency.

Because of the war in the Gulf, though, Africa’s current food crisis has received scant attention, he said.

"When the US administration makes the Gulf crisis a national priority, it seems as if nothing is too much. "But the US can’t seem to find nearly enough resources to fund a war against hunger in Africa, a campaign that could save millions of people from starvation."

Due to a combination of conflict, drought and poverty, 20 million people in Sudan, Ethiopia, Somalia, Mozambique, Angola and Liberia face starvation this year, said Hammock.

Political considerations could further obstruct relief efforts, he said. This was already an issue in Sudan, which was bucking Iraq.

Relief supplies were drying up. If ships stopped using the Red Sea, supplies to Ethiopia and Sudan could be cut off," said Hammock.
Barre flees, Somali rebels seize control

NAIROBI — Jubilant rebels in Somalia have claimed victory and promised a new start for the country after President Mohamed Siad Barre fled the capital Mogadishu in a tank.

The whereabouts of Mr Barre, in power for 21 years, are unknown, but confirmed reports said he had fled southwards yesterday, accompanied by remnants of his presidential guard.

An official of the international medical charity, Medicins Sans Frontieres, said Mogadishu was quiet after four weeks of intense fighting that has claimed hundreds of lives.

The official, Stefan van Praet, said Mr Barre had fled in a tank 15 minutes before rebels overran the presidential palace.

In London, a spokesman for the rebel United Somali Congress (USC), which brought the battle to oust Mr Barre to the capital on December 30, said his group would shortly name an interim government.

Ali Hassan Hussein, contacted at the USC's London office from Nairobi by telephone, said the new government would include representatives from the two other main rebel groups, the Somali Patriotic Movement (SPM) and the Somali National Movement (SNM).

The three clan-based groups formed an alliance last August and were joined 10 days later by two other less well-known rebel organisations, the Somali Demo-

Mohammed Siad Barre escaped in tank.

cratic Movement and the Somali Democratic Alliance.

"The USC, the SPM, and the SNM are going to form the transitional government because these were the three groups that fought Mr Siad Barre," he said.

Mr Ali Husein said the rebels took Mogadishu international airport, the last remaining enclave of loyalist forces, yesterday afternoon.

He said the USC would shortly issue an appeal for humanitarian aid. Mogadishu's population has received very little food since the fighting began.

Water and electricity was cut off soon after the rebel onslaught, and telephone links were also cut.

Mr van Praet said volunteers from his organisation, contacted by satellite telephone from the Kenyan city of Mombasa, also reported the city quiet for the first time in several weeks.

Mr Barre, now about 80, took power in a bloodless coup in 1969. He began his rule of Somalia, an impoverished country in the Horn of Africa, with promises to end clan rivalries that have bedevilled the region for centuries.

He then launched the nation into an ill-fated war against neighbouring Ethiopia in 1977 to regain a "lost province".

As his rule persisted, Western human rights groups accused Mr Barre's security forces of killing hundreds of Somalis and imprisoning and torturing thousands of others.

In 1988 the northern Issa clan rebelled under the standard of the Somali National Movement. Retaliation was savage. The human rights group, Africa Watch, estimates 50,000 people, mainly civilians, were killed.

Mr Barre's support came to be limited to his own Marehan clan — numbering about one percent of Somalia's eight million people. The USC, made up largely of the Hawiye clan, had been inactive until last year in August, when its forces started taking central Somalia towns.

The current round of fighting erupted in the capital on 30 December. The USC has promised multi-party democracy, free elections and some form of regional clan autonomy. — Sapa-Reuters

The Independent News Service.
SA has air links with 17 African countries

AS a result of its diplomatic and economic foray into Africa, SA now has air links with 17 African countries, including some Indian and Atlantic Ocean islands.

In the past year landing rights have been secured and regular flights established to Kenya, Zaire and Madagascar, while flights to the Comores were resumed.

SAA now flies to Kenya, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Zaire, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Botswana, Ivory Coast, Cape Verde Islands, Mauritius, the Comores, Madagascar and Reunion. Flights to the Seychelles are about to be resumed after direct links were severed in the early 1980s.

Overflight rights were also gained, allowing SA-registered aircraft to use Morocian airspace, while landing rights without the establishment of scheduled flights were obtained from Congo and Rwanda.

Negotiations are in progress for landing rights in Gabon, but any agreements still have to be ratified.

The addition of the new African routes saw SAA increase the number of regional destinations served by scheduled flights by 20%.

SAA spokesman Leon Els described the situation as an "indication of the normalisation of relations".

"As things develop and improve so more new routes will be added to the airline's services, but at this stage there has been no indication of further breakthroughs."

Only Sudan and Egypt stand in the airline's way of being able to fly overland to Europe on an East African route.

This is an obstacle the airline is hoping to resolve in time for the placement of orders for its 1996 fleet update.

"The overflight issue will definitely have an influence on SAA's fleet planning for the mid- to late 1990s," Els said.

With major aircraft manufacturers recording production backlogs as high as $90bn, insiders say orders placed now will be delivered towards the end of 1995.

By that time SAA's long-haul fleet will be due for replacement - the original 747s have a 25-year design life.

Fuel savings over shorter routes will be a major factor in the airline's choice of replacement aircraft.

If faced with the prospect of still having to fly around the bulge of Africa, it could mean that the airline would be forced to purchase long-range, high-capacity 747 class aircraft.

Should an overland route be established, the airline could then buy twin-engine, long-range, medium-capacity aircraft which cost about R100m each compared with R300m for a new 747.

On the overseas front, SAA opened a new service with flights to Manchester; resumed flights to Belgium and is standing by to restart services to the US and Australia.

Els said the resumption of flights to the US and Australia was an issue. "In the hands of the politicians", but signs were positive that flights between SA and those countries could be resumed in the not-too-distant future.
Barre flees, Somali rebels seize control

NAIROBI — Jubilant rebels in Somalia have claimed victory and promised a new start for the country after President Mohamed Siad Barre fled the capital Mogadishu in a tank.

The whereabouts of Mr Barre, in power for 21 years, are unknown, but unconfirmed reports said he had fled southwards yesterday, accompanied by remnants of his presidential guard.

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Mr Ali Hassan said the rebels took Mogadishu international airport, the last remaining enclave of loyalist forces yesterday afternoon.

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The current round of fighting started in the capital on 30 December. The USC has promised multi-party democracy, free elections and some form of regional clan autonomy. — Sapa-Reuters.

The Independent News Service.
Accra women at the helm

IN the coastal region of Ghana, West Africa, women are the heart of the informal business sector, writes PHANGISILE MTSHALI from Accra.

They dominate the sector from Accra, the capital city, to the Cape coast, the fishing area.

Women of all ages can be found in nearly every business place selling almost anything. In remote villages young girls run around with buckets on their heads, selling ‘cold water to travellers.

In busier villages older girls sell traditional snacks: prawns, octopus fillet, grasscutter, kebab, rolls, fruit, vegetables, maize and flour cakes.

Women also dominate the established markets like the night market in the centre of Accra. It operates from 4pm daily and provides more substantial dishes like kenkey (steamed maize dumpling), smoked fish stew and a variety of cooked vegetables. Paraffin lamps illuminate the market.

Relax

"This is a place to relax and meet friends,” a stall-holder said.

"People who are too tired to cook at their homes after work come here for a meal. It is good business, on a good night I take home about 5 000 cedis (R30), which is what other workers earn a week.”

Ghanaian journalist Ajoa Yeboah-Afari said Ghanaian women, like most African women, had a lot of power but they remained submissive because they did not realise they had it and did not appreciate it.

One of the most powerful women in the informal business sector is Mrs Ekuia Damugyan (55). She is queen mother of the Elmina Fish Market in the Cape Coast. On the street she could easily be dismissed as "just another elderly woman", but at the fish market she is the centre of everything and is well-respected.

Her tasks include setting the market price for the day, arranging credit for those short of cash, acting as supervisor and middleman, a manager and a peacemaker in the bustling market.

"Lack of cold storage makes my work very difficult," Damugyan said.

"Fish is perishable. To ensure that the fishermen and my women do not suffer great losses I have to change the daily prices drastically. When we have a surplus, a crate can cost 3 000 cedis (R17) and the following day, if things were not good it can cost 7 000 cedis (R41)," she said.

ISSUES

However, Ghanaian women do not simply go about their business without a murmur if dissatisfied. They confront issues that hamper their business.

Ten years ago when our pleas for a cold storage were ignored, we staged a go-slow," another fish seller said.

"We abandoned it when we realised that our families were beginning to starve and we have been promised a storage. We still do not have it so we still smoke surplus fish so we can keep it up to six months. But we make our demands known. It is unfair because we pay our taxes, about 50 cedis (30 cents) a day.”

Most women in the market learnt the trade from their mothers while they were still young. Damugyan has been a queen mother for 28 years and her family has been in the fishing industry for two decades.
Barrie: From Ruler to Refugee

[Image]
Kenya to offer safe passage to Siad Barre

NAIROBI — A senior Kenyan foreign ministry official yesterday said Kenya would offer ousted Somali President Mohamed Siad Barre safe passage through the country.

"The principle is that anyone comes to our border from an area where there is trouble, and whose life is threatened, then there will be assistance," he said.

A request for political asylum would be considered separately, he added.

Overran

The source confirmed that Mr Siad Barre — aged about 80 — had reached the southern Somali town of Kismayu after fleeing in a tank shortly before rebels of the United Somali Congress (USC) overran the presidential palace on Sunday.

He declined to comment on reports that Mr Siad-Barre — accompanied by a 40-strong group of loyal troops and close family — had radioed Nairobi yesterday to ask for a plane to fly him out of the country.

"I know he was in Kismayu, but I cannot say if he is still there," the Kenyan source said.

He said he had no knowledge of reports from Somali rebel sources that Kenyan military helicopters had left Garissa — a town near Kenya's border with Somalia — to airlift Mr Siad Barre to safety.

The Somali Patriotic Movement (SPM), a southern-based rebel movement linked to the USC in a loose anti-Siad Barre alliance, said its fighters were closing in on Kismayu to cut off the fleeing president's retreat.

An official of the international medical charity Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF), which has a team of doctors and nurses in Mogadishu, said a burst of gunfire was heard in the Somali capital late yesterday.

But it was not clear whether the shots were part of celebrations or whether they reflected continued fighting, he added.

In London, USC spokesman Mohamed Robleh said their next step would be to form an interim government to transform the one-party state into a democracy.

— Sapa-Reuters.

*From ruler to refugee*

— Page 19.
Rebels will not hunt ousted Somali president

JIDDAH - A rebel leader said ousted Somali President Mohammed Siad Barre will be tried for high treason if captured but that there will be no hunt for him, a newspaper reported yesterday.

"If Barre is caught he will be tried on high treason for the total destruction of the country, but if he escapes, then that is it," Ismael Mahmoud Hurreh of the Somali National Movement (SNM) told the English-language Arab News.

He said he did not know where Barre was but there were indications he "might still be in the country."

Hurreh, one of the founders of the SNM which was established in London in 1981, heads its political committee. He was in Saudi Arabia to perform the Umrah, or lesser pilgrimage to Mecca.

The SNM is one of three major rebel groups to have fought Siad Barre's troops.

Hurreh said the first priority in the country now is restoration of peace and order, the maintenance of security and achievement of national unity. - Sapa-AP
Somalia's short-lived 'peace' ends

NAIROBI — Fighting erupted anew in Somalia's capital, Mogadishu, yesterday and rebels named a new president three days after driving the nation's deposed leader from the city and seizing control.

It was not immediately known who was behind the gunfire, but sources said it appeared not to be a continuation of the celebratory shooting that had erupted periodically since the rebels claimed to have taken over government at the weekend.

The whereabouts of deposed President Mohamed Siad Barre is unknown.

However, a local pilot said he flew to Somalia and saw rebels in the southern town of Kismayu on Monday.

Kenya has offered the deposed leader safe passage to a third country.

Decree

In another report, the government-run Kenya Times newspaper said local supporters had arranged to airlift Siad Barre from Kismayu to Kenya.

The rebel United Somali Congress announced the appointment of Ali Mahdi Muhammad as Somalia's new president effective from Monday.

The news broadcast over Radio Mogadishu said the rebels made the appointment "after considering the first decree that the USC has taken over the administration of the country and the need for a quick appointment of a head of state who can display unity pending consultations".

The reference to "pending consultations" was the only suggestion that Muhammad's administration would be an interim one as the rebels had promised a later permanent government would be drawn from the nation's five main insurgencies.

A spokesman for the rebels said in London, Muhammad was a hotelier and businessman of the large central Hawiye clan, from which the rebels drew their support.

He had been a key figure in the rebels' Mogadishu representation for some time.
Toppied tyrannt is stripped of all Somalian names

AFRICA FOCUS

IT'S NEW LEADER

Somalian names

THE WEEKLY MAIL, FEBRUARY 1 TO FEBRUARY 7, 1991
The flight of President Mohammed Siad Barre from his official residence, the Villa Somalia, this weekend was final confirmation that the ageing Somali leader has now been stripped of even the derisive nickname given to him some time ago by his opponents — the Mayor of Mogadishu.

Siad Barre, widely thought to be in his early eighties, succeeded in clinging to power far longer than many had expected. It was the offensive launched in Mogadishu by the rebel United Somali Congress at the end of December that marked the beginning of the end.

In the past month, in a blatant demonstration of false propaganda, USC spokesmen in Rome, London, and Kampala often insisted that Siad Barre had fled the country even though he continued to broadcast appeals for peace on the Somali state radio until last week.

After 21 years in office one of Siad Barre’s legacies is to have intensified age-old clan rivalry while consolidating immense wealth and power in the hands of his relatives and other members of his minority Marehan clan.

Siad Barre came from a humble background in what was then Italian Somaliland to enter the police force and rise to the rank of chief inspector, the highest post then open to Somalis. He later studied at a military academy in Italy and in the 1960s he became Somalia’s army commander.

It was from that position he led the military coup that ousted the civilian government led by the prime minister, Mohammed Egal, in 1969. Siad Barre’s rule began with promises to restore democracy and justice as he instituted a policy of “scientific socialism” and allied Somalia closely with the Soviet Union.

But his vision of a Greater Somalia that incorporated parts of Ethiopia and Kenya that were home to thousands of Somali speakers led to the Ogaden war with Ethiopia in 1977.

In a decisive change of allegiance in the Horn of Africa, the Soviet Union supported the Ethiopian leader, President Mengistu Haile Mariam, while the United States began supporting Somalia as Siad Barre’s forces were pushed out of the Ogaden in a humiliating defeat.

Surprisingly, Siad Barre survived the debacle and so began the era in which his Marehan supporters gained control of every facet of Somali society. Friends and relatives were installed in positions of authority in the government, the civil service, the military, and the economy. Meanwhile Siad Barre began playing off one clan against another in order to stay in power.

In 1986 the Somali leader was involved in a near-fatal motor-car crash that left him in a coma for several days. He was flown to Saudi Arabia for treatment and confounded his opponents by apparently making a full recovery.

Two years later his authority was severely diminished as the rebel Somali National Movement in the north of the country began an offensive that led to the government’s bombing of Hargeisa.

As rebels elsewhere extended their control over the Somali countryside Siad Barre’s human-rights record came under renewed attack.

In July 1989 Marehan soldiers massacred scores of civilians demonstrating in Mogadishu and last year dozens of people were shot dead when they jostled at the president during a football match.

Meanwhile in an attempt to rescue the ailing Somali economy, Siad Barre proposed a major political reform and promised a new multi-party system. But as his support dwindled, few if any Somalis took Siad Barre seriously, preferring to believe it was only a matter of time before he was forced to go. — The Guardian, London
Bob Denard is back in business

PARIS.— The good old days of "Les Affreux" in the Belgian Congo 30 years ago seem to have returned for French mercenary Colonel Bob Denard and a handful of South Africans.

He has left his sanctuary in South Africa and is at present training white mercenaries in the Belgian-built military base of Kitona, near Zaire's Atlantic coast.

Guard

The Kinshasa publication Umoja, quoting a Zairese officer at Kitona, reported that "Denard is back in business".

His business, in this case, is recruiting, training and forming a presidential guard, officered by his white mercenaries. They are staying at Kinshasa's "Joli Site".

Umoja said that President Mobutu has requested Colonel Denard to train a new military force to replace his once elite bodyguard divisions.

An editorial asked: "What is going to happen when President Mobutu's mandate ends in Decem-

ber? Do we really need mercenaries like Denard in our country?"

Mobutu's elite presidential troops ran amok on the university campus at Lubumbashi, formerly Elisabethville, last May. Student sources reported over 30 beaten to death, but Kinshasa said there was one dead and 13 injured.

The incident led Belgium to halt its financial aid, and resulted in Zaire receiving worldwide adverse criticism.

Summit

The 1991 Franco-African summit, which was scheduled to be held in Kinshasa, was cancelled.

and a new venue is being arranged.

The Denard move is bound to cause dismay in France, which in December issued an international warrant against him for alleged involvement in the assassination of President Ahmed Abdallah of the Comoros at the end of 1989.
‘Operation Smile’
from floating clinic

From Michael Quansah
Accra

As their contribution to Ghana’s efforts to meet the UN goal of health for all by the year 2000, two non-governmental organisations have teamed up to extend a special service to more than two million Ghanaians living along the Volta lake.

The service will come from a floating clinic recently commissioned by the Ghana government on Lake Volta — the largest human-made clinic in the world — to serve people who until now had had no access to medical services.

A mercy ship, MV Anastasia, is due to arrive in this West African nation from the United States this week. It will come with 400 "highly-qualified and dedicated" medical, dental, building and evangelical teams, three operating theatres, 35 beds, four dental units and two mobile medical teams.

The teams, members of the US "Operation Smile International" (OSI) will work with "Operation Ghana Medical Mission (OGMM), a non-profit charitable organisation set up to cooperate actively with international medical missions.

The OGMM was founded by Prof JKM Quartey of the University of Ghana Medical School, after the OSI idea was introduced to him in Norfolk, Virginia, in the US in May 1987.

The idea of the floating clinic aims at improving and widening the scope of local health care and at ensuring the transfer of techniques and technology to local medical staff.

"Operation Smile" obtained and maintains its name by putting a smile on deformed faces for the first time on the lives of people through surgery.

Until recently, plastic surgery was a medical mystery limited to the rich in Europe and America.

Now, thanks to the OGMM and OSI, it is a common feature in the major hospitals and available to poor rural people.

In 1989, a team of surgeons screened deformed patients in Ghana’s northern and upper regions and selected some of them for treatment by the OSI during their first visit.

At the regional hospitals in Sunyani and Tamale, several complicated deformities have been treated by major and minor orthopedic operations. — Inter Press Service
Gulf syphons
African aid

CHIMMOO — Famine stalk-
ing the parched lands of
eastern and southern
Africa, claiming millions
of lives, is 'drawing
strength from the Gulf
war which has diverted
aid donors' attention and
sent fuel prices soaring.
"World attention is being
diverted away from
Africa and from many
other developing coun-
tries," Peter Simkin, UN
co-ordinator for emer-
gency-relief operations in
Mozambique, said.

"Obviously the increase in
fuel prices, certainly in
October, had a big-im-
 pact everywhere. Also I
think there is some divi-
sion in many African
countries about the con-
flict itself," he said.

For soldiers manning the
road through drought-
 and war-torn central
Mozambique, theignite
even simpler. Rainfall
failed through December
and thousands of hungry
people are flocking to the
roadside hoping for food
handouts.

One senior officer said:
"These people who are
living by the roadside
will do anything to get
food. There will be a lot
of unrest.

"Many more people are al-
ready dying here than in
the Gulf," he added,

pointing out a new settle-
mant at the roadside,
where children with stick
legs and distended bellies
were sitting in the shade.

Casualty figures released
last Thursday by the US-
led alliance fighting Iraq
showed 1,600 people had
been killed, captured,
guns missing or been
injured.

In southern Africa alone,
the UN says up to 4-mil-
lion people face famine.
In Ethiopia and Sudan,
nearly 15 million people
are at risk. — Reuter.
Africa could provide export avenue

THE lifting of economic sanctions could prompt the SA motor component industry to look for new export markets mainly in Africa and Eastern Europe, industry sources said yesterday.

Depressed economic conditions in the countries traditionally served by the local motor component industry are expected to hamper further export growth, even if formal trade links are established when sanctions are lifted.

"The recent economic slowdown in the US, Western Europe and Japan, and not the remnants of economic sanctions against SA, will curtail efforts by local vehicle manufacturers to increase exports of components," a motor industry source said yesterday.

National Association of Automotive Component and Allied Manufacturers (Nacam) executive director Denzyl Vermooten said traditional markets in Western Europe and the Far East would not see further growth this year, but lucrative markets could open up in Eastern Europe and Africa.

He felt the local motor industry was well placed to serve the vehicle needs of African countries.

"Although new vehicle markets in most African countries will start from a low base, if we are patient the enormous growth potential in these countries will be realised."

The value of exports by SA component makers rocketed by 66% last year to almost R1bn, but Vermooten expects growth this year to taper off substantially.

Econometrix's Tony Twine said the African and East European markets had a serious drawback in that both areas did not have the hard currency to pay for exports.

Twine said Africa and Eastern Europe represented largely unexploited ground by the motor industry worldwide.

They were, however, structurally more open to opportunity than SA's established markets.

Opportunities in Eastern Europe could be taken advantage of in the short term as the Eastern bloc countries were restructuring their economies, he added.

These countries would benefit from the SA motor industry's technological expertise, he added.

However, exports to the rest of Africa would not be immediately viable because of certain African leaders' recalcitrance in renouncing socialist principles that had kept most of the continent "wallowing in an economic morass", Twine said.

Zimbabwe, with a meagre 230,000 vehicles, has one of the highest vehicle populations in Africa. Most other African countries have significantly less in comparison.
WASHINGTON — Aids is sweeping through Africa, killing up to a third of the adult population in some areas and leaving thousands of orphans, including many infected with the virus, researchers said on Saturday.

Projections by the US Bureau of the Census forecast that by 2015 there will be more than 70 million cases of Aids in the countries south of the Sahara.

Aids-related infections already represent up to 80 percent of the hospital admissions in Zambia, said Dr Peter Perine of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences at a meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Peter Way of the Census Bureau said that, based on estimates, Aids would be the major cause of death among adults in African countries south of the Sahara by 2015. — Sapa-AP.
EXCEPT for the noticeably hot, humid blast of air that greeted me as I stepped from the plane, I could have been landing at anyone of South Africa’s domestic airports.

And as I went through customs, produced my health card and for once met a sea of black faces in almost all the civil service offices, I knew that I was in the first African country to rid itself of the white colonial state.

I was in Ghana on the West African coast.

Women, with their woven straight black hair crowning their dark shape featured faces, moved about their business as if they did not have a care in the world.

Politb

They were polite, friendly and helpful without expecting anything in return.

The colourful, long traditional Kente cloths curiously draped around the man’s bodies further confirmed that I was indeed in a strange land. Yet the friendliness of its people won me over.

In a country where craftsmanship certainly would be a disappointment to a Swazi — who enjoys the fine life and a smile.

It is not much to look at. Accra, the capital city and the country’s main town, could have been any small dorpie in northern Transvaal.

I have always heard about the poverty and low development level in the so-called Third World countries, but nothing prepared me for what I encountered.

What was once beautiful and well-cared for buildings had, over the years, degenerated into shanty buildings — with only the ground floor occupied and four other floors standing empty, windowless and without doors.

The informal business sector is very active with women in the forefront. About 70 percent of the population is in the rural areas and the rural informal business sector, headed by Mrs. Kweku Kotoko Asante, is a soccer match.

Dozens of local teams and other sports clubs hire me to cheer at their matches,” the journalist Mr. Ben Ephson said.

A lot of people are not happy about the way things are going, but the government makes it difficult for anyone to protest. Journalists, who have dared to expose government corruption or write critical articles have been harassed and detained together with people of political dissent,” he said.

Very few people are willing to talk about politics.

A group of former government ministers, including lawyers openly asked me not to question them about politics.

Ghana, currently under a coalition government of the military and civilians, is preparing for the transition to a new constitutionally elected government.

“We have completed the first steps of the transition,” the Prime Minister Mr. PV Obeng said.

By the end of the year we hope to have completed the new constitution for the new democratically elected government.”

Develop

“Our main aim is to develop the country and to decentralise government power.”

My suspicion is that Ghana will embark on all kinds of conventional and unconventional businesses to supplement their income. This was confirmed when I came across a professional supper union led by Mr. Kwaku Kweku Asante Asante as a soccer match.

“Mamaye of football teams and other sports clubs hire me to cheer at their matches,” he said.

“I have seven other people working with me. We go and we shout our lungs out, cheering our employers and bowing to opponents.”

“If the team wins I get a bonus. I hire my services to those who pay the right price.”

Funeral

Kotoko (34), a Kumasi farmer, had come straight from his brother’s funeral, still in his black cloth funeral attire to cheer the Cornersstone Football Club that has bred his mouth for the day.

In Kumasi, the capital of the Ashanti people, everyone seemed to be in mourning.

Funerals are now big business in Ghana,” Ephson said.

“People dress up in traditional attire and attend the funeral proceedings which last three days and on the day of the burial they come in droves when giving the donations.”

“The bereaved buy a lot of ‘boots’ and the mourners are obliged to give much money to meet the costs.”

Castles

Everybody goes out to visit the castles, market, cultural centre and restaurants — people were dressed in their finest attire.

Kumasi is the seat of the Ashanti chieftaincy, the tribe that existed colonies for three centuries until its King Prempeh was exiled to Nyasaland by the British.

One feature that will stick to mind about Ghana is the fortified castle that line its Atlantic Ocean coast, many within range of each other.

Our gold and coconut is the cause of our mixed blood,” Ephson said recounting the slave trade and colonial history.

“Colonisers built forts to trade in our wealth and in slaves.”

The Cape Coast

Castle, specially designed by the British as a slave trade post is the most sickening place I have ever been into.

An underground dungeon with three brick-size holes near the ceilingtions: 1 500 would-be slaves for three months before they were taken in ships to the US where they were sold as slaves.

A shallow, narrow trench running through the dungeon was used as a toilet. Nearby is a toilet-sized room which is known as the Death Cell.

“Difficult slaves, those who were captured trying to escape and crippled enemy soldiers were starved to death in this room,” a guide said.

“This went on from 1664 to the beginning of the 19th century when the slave trade was abolished.”

Songs, drums and dance still feature prominently in Ghanaian customs.

Men and women dance themselves in traditional Kente clothes.
A big NYET to Gorbachev

Young Soviets are unhappy about the way the Soviet Union is being run, according to a recently released Western-sponsored survey.

By popular acclaim... Russian premier Boris Yeltsin.

Young adult Soviets retain few Marxist-Leninist values, and are equally disillusioned with the current political leadership, according to what is claimed to be the first Western-sponsored opinion poll of 18 to 25-year-olds in the Soviet Union, released this week.

Few think President Mikhail Gorbachev is helping to bring about political change in the country, more than half (51 per cent) say he is an obstacle, and a further one in five are not sure.

Almost 65 per cent think there should be private ownership of land, and 70 per cent want industry and commerce to be privately owned.

Undermined

A representative sample of 1,050 18 to 25-year-olds, in six regions of the Russian Republic, was polled by the Soviet Institute of Sociology over a fortnight in November, just before the resignation of Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze further undermined confidence in the government.

The poll was carried out for Reader's Digest magazine, and appeared yesterday in the United States edition, ahead of publication in the British edition next month.

Asked to choose their favourite leader from a list of 10, only six in 100 chose Mr Gorbachev, 39 per cent chose Boris Yeltsin, the Russian President, 6 per cent said they liked nobody, and 27 per cent asked whether republics should be allowed to secede if they so desire, seven out of 10 young Russians said they should. Fewer than one in five said not, and 11 per cent were undecided.

The chief concern of those questioned were overwhelmingly domestic rather than international. Fifty-two per cent said they were most worried about economic collapse, 38 per cent by civil strife, and fewer than 3 per cent by "external threats".

Only 16 per cent felt the Soviet Union's world role should take precedence over improvements at home.

Protest

Asked if they would protest publicly against government policies, if asked, almost four in 10 said they would do so, and only one in four said they would not, with the largest group unsure.

But only 31 per cent favour unlimited political activity, and only 58 per cent favour freedom of the press.

Possibly the most telling illustration of the inability of a government to modify deeply held views is when the young people's attitude to religion.

Although most of those questioned are the second generation to have lived their entire lives in an atheist state, only 40 per cent said they were not believers in God, while 36 per cent said they did believe and another 25 per cent were agnostic.

- The Independent News Service

Africa vies for top UN post

The African states have been advised to prepare a short list of candidates for the post of United Nations secretary-general to back their contention that it is their turn to hold the prestige office, say reliable sources.

Some African officials reacted indignantly to the suggestion, saying that no other regional group had ever been asked to adopt such a nominating procedure.

But Western diplomats rejected a contention that the post of secretary-general was subject to the kind of equitable geographic representation that applies to lesser UN jobs, and that, therefore, because there has never been an African in the post, someone from Africa must have a prior claim.

"The five permanent members are agreed that the main criterion is competence, regardless of nationality," one said.

Although the votes of the United States, Britain, France, the Soviet Union and China - each of which has veto power - are decisive in the selection, most of the 10 rotating members of the Security Council must also agree before a name can go to the General Assembly for approval.

Diego Perez de Cuellar has made it clear that he wants to relinquish the post when his second five-year term expires at the end of this year. But some still cling to a hope that he can be persuaded to soldier on for a year or two.

However, growing antagonism between him and Iraq has led to a realisation that he may not be the ideal person to lead the negotiations with Baghdad that the UN is considered certain to arrange after the Gulf war.

Half a dozen African contenders are known to be waiting in the wings, including Olara Otunnu of Uganda.

Mr Otunnu, no longer a delegate, is now president of the New York-based International Peace Academy. He is highly regarded in UN circles for his pragmatism and intelligence.

Nonetheless, many UN observers believe the odds are against an African. As far as there is any favourite today, Ali Alatas, the Foreign Minister of Indonesia, is a name most often mentioned.
A heart-trending story

Liberman Nation in Tatters

Their own motherland

of people fleeing from

Ambugush
A Zulu song in Ghana, never! But hang on...

A STUDENTS' residence in Ghana is the last place where one would expect to hear a Zulu song.

But as I walked between the prefabricated buildings of the International Students Hostel in Accra, strains of a Mandela praise song reached me.

I had been told there were South African refugees in the hostel in Accra.

My search was over.

The quartet was singing. Nostalgia, longing and hope filled their voices. The song stopped abruptly and the excitement attracted a crowd of about 10 around me.

They fired questions: “What’s happening back home? What is the truth on the violence we hear so much about? Will we get jobs when we return? Will we be accepted back by our people? Are our girlfriends still waiting?”

**Ideologies**

They came from all over South Africa at different times only to converge on this piece of African soil where Pan Africanism started. Some are members of the PAC and others belong to the African National Congress.

Though circumstances have forced them to tolerate each other, ideological differences still persist.

Sizhumbuzo Theophilus Lande left his home at the height of the Inkatha/United Democratic Front conflict. His wife had just died after his KwaMashu house had been set alight. He was left with four young children.

“Nothing could I do but to leave my children in the care of relatives and go into exile,” he said.

“My main worry is that I do not know whether my children, who should be aged between six and 14, are still alive because the last information I heard was that the relatives’ home was also burnt down.

“If only I can get word that they are still alive.”

Lande was just echoing thoughts and fears of 17 others who sought political asylum in Ghana.

As the South African Council of Churches and political organisations exhaust their resources and energy on the repatriation of thousands of exiles, those in Ghana are preparing themselves for heartbreak and misery.

“Everyday I pray that at least some of my family members are alive and will be there to meet when I return,” Lande said.

Education and self-development is the major pastime for exiles. Two of them have qualified, one as a medical doctor and the other a veterinarian and on my visit they were in London advancing their qualifications.

**Worried**

“We are also worried about job opportunities,” Lande said.

“Last year we heard PW Botha and company have been to Eastern Europe recruiting white skilled labourers. How can he do that when we are supposed to be coming back and there is already high unemployment?”

Hunger for South African news is the worst torment for them.

“We follow all South African news with glee.” Letini said.

“Unfortunately we rely on BBC news bulletins and on visitors who occasionally drop in. We do not get any newspapers from home.”

Most of the exiles left the country during the 1984 to 1986 unrest but there are others who last saw their relatives more than 15 years ago.

“I have one serious request to committees that are preparing for our return,” Eugene who left home in 1973 said.

“They should set up an extensive rehabilitation programme with good psychologists because some of us need that service. After being away for so long and the things we have been through it is going to be very difficult for us to settle back into the community.

“The only hope that is keeping our spirits high is the knowledge that the struggle continues inside the country. We are sustained by the hope of returning to our homes free,” he said.

“We are studying so that we can contribute positively to the country’s development on our return.”

**The BBC will be broadcasting Mishali’s impressions on Ghana and Ivory Coast this Sunday at 7.15pm and next Sunday on Nigeria, same time. BBC is on MW 1197kHz.**
Monstrous Basilica grows from the bush

UNLIKE most African countries, the Ivory Coast - officially called Cote d'Ivoire - has had no bloody coups or tribal wars.

It has been described as the most prosperous of tropical African countries, due to its diversification of agriculture for export, close ties to France and encouragement of foreign investment.

After visiting the capital, Abidjan, I understood exactly why this French-speaking country has become a noted "watering-hole" for South African government officials and their wives.

In fact, Cote d'Ivoire was one of the first African countries that welcomed trade overtures from an isolated South Africa.

For a Third World country, the capital is sophisticated and well developed, and life and the standard of living is not so different from our own.

Difference

Unlike Ghana, where the difference between rich and poor is not so great, Cote d'Ivoire has a sharp division between the haves and the have-nots. And most Ivorians don't have.

Picture the sophistication and development of Johannesburg, the warm weather and lush vegetation of Durban and the fishing people of the Cape and you can visualise the country's capital, Abidjan.

A French protectorate from 1862, Cote d'Ivoire became independent in 1960.

"In a way we are still a French colony," says lecturer and writer Veronique Tadjo.

"Unlike many African states we did not fight for our independence. We protested and it was sort of handed over to us. But France still has a direct hold over us, particularly financially."

"Our president was transferred into power from his post in the French government."

President Felix Houphouet-Boigny took over the reins of government in August 1960, and is still in control - 30 years later.

At 85, the president is seldom seen in public and is known for his eccentricity, but Tadjo concedes that "he has managed to pacify the people."

I drove through poor villages for more than six hours in a state-owned bus - which had a television.

Variety

The sudden appearance of skyscrapers, shiny glass buildings, all kinds of restaurants and supermarkets that stock a wide variety of imported French delicacies reminded me of a drive from our townships to the cities.

In the supermarkets I got the feeling that everything except vegetables, fruit and confectionery was straight from Paris.

"Most of the products are imported from Paris," Tadjo said. "The French do not encourage local products. They know they have a sure market here for all their goods."

After a drive through the vibrant Trouville, the Hillbrow of Cote d'Ivoire, I grew to like the country a little more.

In this mainly Muslim area - 15 percent of Ivorians are Muslim - at dusk men go for their evening prayers on mats placed at most street corners.

Women sweep the streets and children have their evening bath in pools on the pavement.

Later I visited the local fleamarkets and for the first time on the trip I enjoyed shopping and spent more money on luxury items than I had in the past three years.

As I bargained with market traders from all over West Africa, I understood why some people chase their blues away by shopping.

Haggling

I haggled over almost everything and paid half the original asking price. Sometimes I felt like a thief at the give-away prices I secured.

When an art dealer in the Senegalese market tried to sell me the food I was carrying, I remembered my host's parting words.

The BBC's correspondent, Ofaeiah Quist-Akont, had sent me off with a stern warning that morning: "Be careful, those guys can sell you your own panties at double the original price."

Cote d'Ivoire has just about everything that appeals to a traveler - open-air markets offering a wide variety of products - food, vegetables, cloth and traditional arts and crafts.

The Ivorians are smart dressers and have polished manners.

Yamassoukro, the president's home village, was spectacular, if somewhat strange.

It is dominated by a massive church, the Basilica, which is a copy of a classical Roman Catholic basilica.

And there is the Foundation for Peace building with high-tech facilities where at least eight languages can be interpreted at its conference auditorium.

The Basilica has been controversial since the start of its construction three years ago.

Emerging from the tropical bush in the midst of rural impoverishment, this neo-classical monstrosity is totally incongruous and has been described as looking "like an alien dropped it there."

Expensive

Costing millions to build and purportedly paid for out of the president's own pocket, the Basilica is only used once a week for Sunday mass.

Pope John Paul II refused to bless the building demanding that a decent school and a hospital be built in the village first.

The village also boasts two international hotels and an 18-hole golf course.

It is regarded as the future capital city of the country.

After spending a week in Ghana, where the folk are so friendly, and a week in Cote d'Ivoire, where the food is great, I thought it would be ideal if I could stay with my friends in Ghana and eat in Abidjan.

But you can't have everything.

The BBC will be broadcasting Mshali's impressions on Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire this Sunday at 7:15pm on BBC World Service and on the slot South Goes West, BBC TV on MW 1196 kHz.
Third World suffers as rich concentrate on war

NAIROBI - Africa, the world's poorest continent, is growing more desperate as the rich nations pour their financial resources into the Gulf War, African economic officials say.

They say Western and other creditor countries have forgotten pledges made only last year to help Africa, which is plagued by a R375 billion debt crisis that is being aggravated by the conflict in the Middle East.

'There's no action (on debt reduction) - it's just pronouncements,' Abdelrahman Dirar, director of the economic development department at the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), said by telephone from Addis Ababa.

He said that despite a drop in spot oil prices from their 1990 highs to around 17 dollars a barrel, financial fallout from the Gulf crisis is still hurting black Africa's fragile economies.

Lost deals

Many of them have lost special deals with Middle East producers since Iraq invaded Kuwait last August.

Transport costs for all imports have risen due to higher freight and insurance charges. East coast states especially are being hit by soaring shipping rates through the Suez canal.

'Sub-Saharan countries will have to divert whatever resources they have from exports or aid to pay for imports,' said Dirar. 'Debt servicing will definitely be affected.'

With Western markets slowing or in recession, there appears little prospect of exports boosting hard currency earnings - needed not just for debt service, but also for essential imports and investment to reverse 12 years of deepening poverty.

Cannot pay

"If you haven't got an export market you cannot pay your debt," noted Jonathan Chileshe, head of the trade and finance section of the UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA).

The World Bank says poor African nations are more vulnerable to outside shocks than other indebted Third World regions.

They start with greater poverty - one third of all Africans are underfed - and are too dependent on a few primary export crops to adapt to a sudden change in the world economy.

But Africa's debts - which account for about 12 per cent of the estimated R5 trillion of all Third World debts - apparently remain a low priority in Western capitals.

Washington has concentrated far more on the Latin American crisis, which threatened the US banking system, even though debts in low-income Africa are twice the level in Latin America.

Exaggerating

With African debts increasingly owed to official creditors, after commercial lending dried up in the past decade, regional debt issues have become more of a political than financial concern.

Some experts say African officials are exaggerating the impact of the Gulf War to gain negotiating points with foreign governments - the region's largest single group of creditors.

"Many African countries aren't servicing their debts... so there is no direct impact on resource flows," said Kim Kwanja, senior finance lecturer at the University of Nairobi.

Fresh measures

"You see the numbers rising and rising... on international debt tables. But it's just a book problem," he said.

Nevertheless, creditor and debtor experts agree that fresh measures need to be taken to stop the time-consuming practice of rescheduling debts which neither side expects to be repaid.

A recent World Bank debt report illustrated how far short existing relief options have fallen, experts said.

It showed that even if all current relief measures were applied to severely indebted low-income countries, scheduled servicing would still have outstripped actual payments in 1989.

Concessions

The data also showed cash flow savings for 17 poor African states who have rescheduled under the so-called Toronto terms - the latest available concessions on official bilateral debts - were only R250 million a year.

"The Toronto terms manifestly haven't solved the problem," said Tony Killick, senior research fellow at the Overseas Development Institute in London. - Sapa-Reuter
Repression still rife in Cameroon

From Albert Mukong
London

SINCE the brilliant, and unexpected performance of its football team in the 1990 World Cup, Cameroon is popularly seen as a nation of football players, but the country to which its players return hides a darker reality.

Widespread repression and censorship are common in an impoverished country which spends a good percentage of its annual budget on maintaining a large police force and a network of spies and informers to identify and uproot all forms of dissent.

Its latest victims are the publisher and an editor of Le Messager, the country's leading independent weekly. Pius Njaye and Celestin Monga had the "tendency" to criticise President Paul Biya and his government for their incompetence as well as the brutality carried out in their name.

Cameroon is a signatory of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Special Convention against torture. Yet its security forces, the Brigade Mobile Mixte (BMM) and the military security (SEMI), routinely inflict beatings, electrical shocks and other forms of torture on detainees.

Favoured
Particularly favoured are the "balecoir" a primitive instrument inherited from colonial days, and the "coutard", which inflicts electrical shocks to sensitive parts of the body.

More inventive tortures may contrive their own forms of ritual humiliation: in the town of Bamenda, a group of women, stormed by the BMM, were stripped of their clothing, left only in pants, and made to dance around in circles.

Brutal area searches terrorise whole regions of the country.

While their houses are ransacked, besieged citizens are led to open ground and forced to lie down. Victims can be held for hours without formal charge as their papers are meticulously examined — or removed.

Press censorship was temporarily suspended last year in response to pressure from the West, but the newly-appointed Minister of Territorial Administration has rigorously restored control over all the media.

The law continues to require all newspapers and journals to be submitted to the minister for approval before publication.

An issue may be seized and destroyed without compensation and without redress. Literary works are subjected to the same heavy-handed treatment.

Books which are critical of the government are arbitrarily banned, and their authors intimidated. The movements of citizens are severely curtailed by the police and "gendarme" control posts which litter the highways of Cameroon.

Travellers may be required to produce identity papers or voting cards; short of a hefty bribe, failure to do so results in indefinite detention. Foreign travel is available only to those fortunate enough to be granted a passport.

Freedom of association is similarly restricted. Ministerial approval is required for the formation of political, cultural or professional groups, and participants in unauthorised meetings are likely to be arrested, detained and held incommunicado for unlimited periods. Detainees may communicate only with their spouses. On release, they are likely to be shunned by friends and colleagues fearing "contamination" by association.

Failure
Cameroon's failure to comply with the human rights conventions which it has signed has called into question both the political legitimacy of President Biya, and the country's continuing membership in the UN.

The forthcoming trial of Njaye and Monga could be the beginning of a showdown. — INDEX ON CENSORSHIP
WORLD Leisure Holidays (WLH) is
proud to become the biggest contribu-
tor to the Comores' gross national
product when it reopens its re-
ased Le Galawa Beach Hotel and
casino tomorrow.

WLH MD Bruce Hutchinson said in
an interview yesterday WLH would
become the largest private employer
and tourism the largest industry on
the island.

The Comores hotels Le Galawa and
Hicandra were closed when Sun Inter-
national pulled out of the Comores
after the assassination of its presi-
dent and the expulsion of French

Sun International cited "outrage-
ous import taxes" as the reason for
leaving its R80m investment in May
1990. But now the new government
had "joined the tourism drive, and
had not slapped on high import duties
which is uncommon in the Indian
Ocean islands".

The first weekly SA Airways flight
will take about 155 passengers from
Jan Smuts to the Comores capital of
Moroni tomorrow.

There have been just over 2,500
passenger bookings so far, and WLH
expects there to be about R6.4m in
sales revenue between now and June,
including airfares.

The hotel refurbishments involved
a reinvestment of R10m. An initial
operating order of nearly R2m for
stocks for the first few weeks was
sent to the island via WLH's export
company World Leisure Exports and
the Unicorn shipping line. WLH also
spent R1.2m on marketing.

"Everything that is needed at the
hotel will be sourced from SA, includ-
ing weekly supplies of fresh food.

WLH was developing the European
and Reunion markets, and was also
looking at Kenya. In terms of future
plans, WLH was still looking at Mau-
ritis, "but world circumstances had
dampening effect on plans", Hutchin-
son said.
Aid up for SA exports to Africa

By RON SCHURINK

INTERNATIONAL aid for Africa, channelled through the Development Bank of Southern Africa, will help SA exports on the continent, says Credit Guarantee Insurance Corporation executive director Chris Leisewitz.

CGIC regards credit risk in Africa as slightly better than in South America. No credit cover is available for Zambia, where money is outstanding, and business with Zaire is conducted only on confirmed letters of credit.

"Exporters to Malawi should also be careful since tight monetary policy has made many businesses illiquid," says Mr Leisewitz.

Mr Leisewitz says CGIC's underwriting profit for the current year is expected to be 25% up on the figure to June 1995.

He says "exports are certainly more risky from a credit point of view that they were a year ago".

A breakdown of CGIC's business gives a picture of the relative importance of SA's markets.

A total of 43% concerns Europe, 25% the Far East and Australasia, 17% North America and 15% Africa.

Rising

Prime markets in Europe at the moment are Germany and Switzerland because the UK is suffering the worst rate of insolvencies in 50 years. Claims and repudiations are running high in Italy after the collapse of demand for leatherwear and wool.

Claims on buyers in the US are "often difficult, since Chapter 11 protection for illiquid business is relatively easily available".

He is sanguine about economic prospects there even though "100 banks went to the wall last year and 180 may follow this year".

CGIC has noted rising business with Eastern Europe, but urges caution.

"The best customers are joint ventures with Western companies when you can find them, as otherwise balance sheets are unknown and ageing machinery useless as an asset. Note that Western European businesses have lost large sums in Poland," says Mr Leisewitz.

CGIC has good relations with its counterparts in Germany and Austria.

"Their information about Eastern European businesses is considerably better than ours, though it is still often inadequate," says Mr Leisewitz.
Where fear rumbles along with stomachs

"EVERYBODY is living in fear," says Bishop Taban Paride, based in southern Sudan where the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) is fighting the government.

At least once or twice a month, with no warning, bombs from high-flying government aircraft drop on villages and towns.

"They just bomb any corrugated sheet building or anything at all," says the Roman Catholic cleric. "People have become so scared that everyone runs when any plane passes over."

As a result, church and community leaders have been urging people who do not have to live or work in towns, especially children and women, to move far enough away to avoid the deadly explosives.

The Sudanese bishop appealed for world attention to Sudan's plight and for international action to force a settlement of the conflict.

Pressure

"We believe the kind of pressures and sanctions which were put on South Africa should also be put on the Sudan government," Taban said.

"We need pressure from outside because the government will not listen to the voice of the suffering people." Sudan has a population of about 26 million, of which two-thirds live in the north of the country.

About 80 percent of these are Muslim. The other third of the population—mainly Christians and animists—live predominantly in the south.

It was in the south from where the SPLA launched the civil war against the Muslim state.

The SPLA is fighting not only against the imposition of the Islamic law (sharia) on all citizens, but also against repression against non-Muslims, whom they see as having been relegated to second-class citizen status.

The SPLA also say they are fighting against the "unfair balance of power" between the poor and famine-ravished south and the wealthier north.

No non-Muslim can ever hold political or policy-making posts in government, even at administrative level, according to Catholic Archbishop Gabriel Zuibor Wako of Khartoum.

However, he said he is "convinced the trend towards Islamic law is not religious but politically motivated."

"It ensured that those now in power stay there indefinitely," he explained.

The conflict in Sudan was also not primarily religious because "the violence and injustices we experience today are not the work of all the Muslims but of a particular group," said Wako.

The now-ousted Sudanese strongman Gaafar Mohammed Nuere introduced sharia in 1983.

Sharia would be "fully implemented" in 1991, present Sudanese leader General Omar Hassan al-Bashir said in a speech to the nation on last New Year's Eve.

He said Islamic law need not apply to the Christians and animists in the south. However, the two million from the south living in the capital—mainly refugees from war and famine—would have to observe sharia.

But many more Sudanese will not escape the famine in the country. It is estimated that a quarter of the nation may starve this year.

The government in the north, trying to become self-sufficient and to decolonise itself from the west, until recently refused food-aid and refused to talk about the famine.

Development agencies fear the delay in shipping in food will have fatal results. One report says one loaded lorry would need to leave the docks every 11 minutes, around the clock, for nine months to move Sudan's food needs for this year.

The civil war in Sudan is now in its eighth year. There is no settlement in sight.
IMF under fire from African central bankers

By Rowena Whelan

GABORONE — The International Monetary Fund (IMF) faced criticism in Africa last week for strapping a short-term financial straight-jacket on struggling sub-Saharan economies.

African central bankers told IMF Managing Director Michel Camdessus, who was on a whistle-stop tour of southern Africa, that they needed long-term funding and policies to halt the region's slide into ever deeper poverty.

Mr. Camdessus said IMF-prescribed market reforms were raising living standards, although more slowly than expected.

"These reforms are producing results — positive real growth," he said at a joint meeting of the IMF and Association of African Central Banks (AACB) in Gaborone, Botswana.

The conference was only the second occasion on which top IMF officials had come from Washington for wide-ranging discussions on economic policy with African central bankers.

Delegates said the meeting was far more cordial than the first such conference in 1986, reflecting the spread of a pragmatic acceptance — among financial leaders at least — of the need for fundamental reforms in weak, inefficient economies.

More than half of the countries south of the Sahara are following IMF-backed structural adjustment programmes. Others, such as Ethiopia, are seeking the fund's stamp of approval for market reform efforts — an endorsement essential to unlock the lids of Western coffers.

But the IMF's assertion that structural adjustment was already raising living standards drew criticism from some African bankers and independent economists. They ascribed a rise in per capita income in a few countries to other factors.

Central bankers, while pledges to continue reforms, aired various — if often familiar — complaints about the Fund's role in Africa.

Gilman Rutihinda, governor of the bank of Tanzania, said IMF demands for currency devaluation were a misreading of the real causes behind trade problems, which he attributed to transport and domestic credit shortages, not an overvalued shilling.

In prepared remarks released to Reuters, Mr. Rutihinda also criticised the operations of the Fund's soft-loan facility — the Enhanced Structural Adjustment Facility (ESAF) — which was designed to help low-income countries pay for long-term reforms.

"The design of the ESAF appears to have lost its meaning because the IMF officials are always expecting quick results," he said.

The IMF requires a country to follow strict economic guidelines if it wants a soft loan, and even some western donor governments complain that disbursements of ESAF funds are disappointingly low.

The Fund says it is working to get the sequence of reforms right.

If complaints at the meeting were sometimes familiar, so too were most of the solutions being offered to cure Africa's economic ills.

IMF director of exchange and trade relations, John Boorman, said core elements of future programmes should include emphasis on market forces, price adjustment and opening up to the outside world.

With foreign financing forecast to be scarcer in the 1990s than in the 1980s, Africans were told to cut waste, corruption and excessive military spending. Investment must be made far more productive and the capacity revived rather than new industrial projects started, economists said.

Despite stress on the need for more spending on agriculture, some delegates said the meeting failed to consider the most critical problem facing many African economies.

"The largest issue surely is whether Africa can feed itself," said Robert Berg, president of the New York-based International Development Conference.

"The main development challenge isn't reform of the external sector, pricing and the public sector but survival." — Sapa Reuter.
NAIROBI — Rebels in northern Ethiopia said yesterday they had captured the province of Gojam, striking a major blow at the government of President Mengistu Haile Mariam.

"The whole of Gojam has been liberated," a spokesman for the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) said by telephone from London.

The TPLF, which is headed by President Mengistu, is also leading a rebel group in the Tigray region, the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF). President Mengistu is also leading a rebel group in the Tigray region, the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF).

The TPLF attack broke a lull of more than 10 months in military activity in the region.
SA firms learn to do business the African way

Kevin Dave
The Pan African Orchestra aims to bring together musicians from diverse cultures.

**WITH MUSIC**

**TOGETHER**

**AFRICA'S HERITAGE**

**BRINGING**


digentous instrumental talents to set off the ground.

Africa's first symphony orchestra consisting of

survives, the Pan African Orchestra was formed in recent months by critical acclaim. With performances in Ghana and Europe, the orchestra's guiding principle is to perform in the way it is presented that is distinctively African. Two concerts are scheduled for this year, and the orchestra hopes to present other events in the coming months. The orchestra is composed of 23 pieces based on different instruments. It is therefore expected that the orchestra will perform in various countries with new forms of the orchestra's classical repertoire.

Nancy Baffa-Taylor (Africa News)
Ethiopian filmmaker Haile Gerima has been known to be an outspoken voice of African filmmakers who have followed in the footsteps of Ousmane Sembene, the father of African cinema. He spoke to BRIDGETTE THOMPSON and PHINIDLE XABA at the "Africa at the Pictures" festival organised by the Africa Centre in Covent Garden, London. Gerima has produced many films including "Harvest 3000" about Ethiopian peasants and their struggles against a landlord.

Question: What makes African films so unique and beautiful and at the same time so clearly anti-exploitation?

Gerima: In terms of black people's portrayal in movies, you have to think about the context, the historic portrayal of non-European black people. You have to know all the stigmas of black characters, the racial Othello character, the Idi Amin character, the emotional, the non-existent intellect, unfeeling, unadulterated, music lover, boorish, sing, dance, born to lie, to be a chicken stealer.

You have an obligation not to perpetuate those stereotypes and this has nothing to do with black or anything. The other thing is, you know, to focus. Who are you focusing on when you make a story? For example, I'm making a film on slavery now and I've realised, for example, that black people made red and I'm working towards making that a very important aspect.

Always you can see black people in movies and so I'm trying to change that with the lighting in my new film. Also focus is important. In my new film on slavery, I didn't want to focus from the man's point of view. I wanted to focus on the slaves.

When we were watching "Harvest 3000", we could understand that the targeted audience could be peasants. But festivals only seem to reach the elite. How do you go beyond this and build mass audiences for African cinema.

Gerima: How do you change the taste of audiences used to American Eurocentric films?

It's a problem, but think you have to struggle by creating institutions and doing it through your building audiences.

The older generation is captured by Western cinema. It takes long to build audiences, to make them acquire a new taste for their own identity. It's no simple journey. In Mzambi, for example, they change the social consciousness of a great number of peasant. That's how I learn the greatest deal about my own shortcomings, but also what I value.

School systems are terrible all over the world, so film cannot be a teaching method. However, I try and teach by extending knowledge through film of how I feel, how I observe. But I can't best you on the bond and use of this film.

The first person to learn is the filmmaker. Filmmakers cannot on their own invent film language, they can only make a language. Film language is a collective process of the people.

What are the conditions in Africa for the creation of this cinema you speak of?

Gerima: There is no isolation. This makes African filmmakers into beggars. The absence of a film industry propels filmmakers to be nomadic, specially to migrate towards Europe and America to beg for money. It's somewhat analogous to the economic migration of non-colonial Africa.

In the process we have developed people who have totally lost respect for how they tell their stories because they think our market can be good filmmakers. That's why, even in America, merchants don't make movies.

These are all things that affect the dignity of an artist. For a truthful work of art, you have to have self-complete and self-direction. You should have a pride and a moral status. Those are the ingredients that make art.

I think it's better to be poor, dignified and arrogant and make a small number of films for which you feel no guilt and know that you've done your best as honestly as you can.

Can you explain why the Ougadougou film festival which attracts so many thousands of people to Burkina Faso has become such a success?

It became a success because the President of the time, Sankara, supported African Films against Western film. The elite in Burkina Faso sanctioned it and this is what is needed in the rest of Africa.

All liberation movements pay lip service to culture but how many systems or governments know the power of film in its democratic way? They only know it as a very destructive way to use against the people.

Unfortunately, masses of people in a given society listen to the sanction of the elite.

Unluckily, no country can be free without culture being the most profound part of it. Without this, the regime will be brought down in the same way it happened in Eastern Europe — particularly Czechoslovakia where poets, filmmakers and novelists contributed to the overthrow of the regime. These intellectuals who stayed behind and fought Sallatien contributed to the overthrow of these regimes.

So, too, in Africa. Culture can play a leading role against politics, which is just a cop-out against the act of wild deception. Politicians have to speak in so many tongues; politics is just an art of lying, but culture doesn't lie.

So people's identity, their religion, beauty, ugliness, their human emotions — all this is external. Politics should be overcome by culture. It should be subjugated by culture. When a politician is overthrown by culture, he or she becomes sensitive, more democratic, less fascist. I do believe in the political struggle, but you get last stages in it. You can become captivated by people or a group. You could be for a party or a group and you forget that you are being anti-democratic.

One thing we have to fight now in all parts of Africa is the non-democratic elements of Africa. Film weapon and film festival can be used for political ends.

The Ougadougou film festival is very critical. I believe intellectuals should be involved in this film festival after the killing of Sankara in Burkina Faso. This was very undemocratic and fascist. In fact, I don't even go there until the government has changed.

We've heard you say that you put your hopes for the future of African filmmaking on South Africa.

A lot of people have their hopes in South Africa. A lot of my friends just travel. On South Africa, we all have a powerful base from which to make movies.

I think it depends who comes to power. Then you'll know how universal and pan-African they will be and how much they care about Africa.

Nigeria is the richest African country but what did we get all from Nigeria except gore? They've sold all the oil and Africa's dry now.

South Africa might do the same thing that they might do to Africa in Africa itself. America. I don't really know; I just keep improving the script.

I support the struggle in South Africa. But Zimbabwe became a screening ground for Hollywood. The leadership went to the court of King of "Samoan Solace's Miss", congratulating actors and directors. I mean, if you kidnap all the stars, they don't come near such a movie and allow it to be made in your country.

But, unfortunately, many of the African leaders would not pass cultural tests. They know no novelists. They don't know Ngugi, Chuma Achebe; they would not know Dennis Brutus. They would not read it, they would give lip service to it. They don't think African film is serious.

When you think of film, it's Hollywood movies. For them, "Rambo" is cinema, but for "Rambo" is an important imperialist expression like "The Godfather". "The Godfather" is the most important apartheid justifier in the world.

I had my hopes in Mzambi. I had my hopes in Zimbabwe and I've been hurt. So I don't have no hope and I just wait for surprise hopes. I don't have any solutions. Who would help this other sucker for South Africa? Why would I be tricked again, easily be tricked?

For me, it's like we're in love with a country, I was crazy about the potential for culture in Gambia, Senegal, Angola, Mozambique, and when the cold Cabral, it was for days.

I like Hugh Maseki. I like the South African orchestra, the Vlisco, I love the African South Africa that they were never prepared for, otherwise they wouldn't continue to fight and make it if it doesn't come to that.
SA exports to Africa soar

By Sven Linsehe

The political reforms introduced by President FW de Klerk last year boosted South African exports to Africa by almost 85 percent to R5.5 billion.

As apartheid has been dismantled, northbound exports soared and hit R5.5 billion last year, Sacob says.

However, the Chamber warns that South Africa's likely admission to the Preferential Trade Agreement Area for Southern Africa (PTA) will not yield further lucrative dividends overnight.

"Africa is poor and over-borrowed and our future trading partners have become heavily dependent on foreign aid and loans." A major problem is the almost five-to-one imbalance of trade in SA's favour. Would-be buyers are eager to do business but hard currency is scarce north of the Limpopo," Sacob comments.
Strike turns Algiers into ghost town

Algiers — The Algerian capital resembled a ghost town yesterday as a 48-hour general strike called by the country's largest trade union entered its second day.

Traffic in the normally choked streets was at a minimum and crowded neighbourhoods appeared deserted. Police reported no incidents of violence.

Officials of the General Union of Algerian Workers said 90 percent of its members were obeying the strike to protest against government-imposed price rises in basic goods.

The union is objecting to price increases ordered by Premier Mouloud Hamrouche's government in line with economic reforms ordered by the International Monetary Fund. — Sapa-AP.

Moi blocks attempt to form opposition party

NAIROBI — Kenya yesterday declined to register an opposition political party launched by a former vice-president in defiance of the country's one-party constitution.

Jaramogi Oginga Odinga (80) handed official application documents to government officials a month after announcing the launching of his National Democratic Party (NDP).

"I have summarily refused to register the proposed political party because such registration would be in contravention of section 2A of the constitution," Kenya's Registrar-General Joseph King'arul told Mr Odinga.

Mr Odinga, a staunch opponent of President Daniel arap Moi after serving as vice-president in the early 1960s under the late Jomo Kenyatta, opposed to change.

Daniel arap Moi... said the NDP favoured an open and fair system of government based on an independent judiciary.

President Moi has ruled a multiparty state, saying new parties would simply divide the country on tribal lines and create chaos. — Sapa-Reuters.

Debt crushing Africa OAU head

STRASBOURG — Africa's $202 billion (R350 billion) foreign debt burden would cause turmoil across the continent unless it was speedily relieved, predicted President Yoweri Museveni of Uganda, chairman of the Organisation of African Unity.

In an address to the European Parliament in Strasbourg yesterday, Mr Museveni said the debt amounted to three times Africa's exports and almost equalled its total output.

He said that three problems additional to debt had held Africa back — the cross-currents of the East-West conflict on the continent, too much reliance on commodities and raw materials, and fragmented markets which had stifled intra-African trade.

Mr Museveni also called on the EC not to lift sanctions against South Africa until apartheid had been replaced by a one man, one vote system. — Financial Times News Service.
Abidjan airport now on SAA’s regional map

SAA would begin regional flights to Abidjan on the Ivory Coast next month, an airline spokesman confirmed yesterday.

SAA spokesman Leon Els said the airline would use Boeing 737 twin-jet aircraft on the route, which would include a stopover in Kinshasa, Zaire, for refuelling.

He said the flight would probably take about seven-and-a-half hours, including the Kinshasa stop.

Els said SAA had been waiting for the Zairean government’s clearance for landing at Kinshasa.

"We currently fly to Lubumbashi, but decided to apply for clearance to change our landing destination to Kinshasa as the Zairean capital is better suited to our business and tourist travellers," Els said.

He said SAA would fly north to Kinshasa and Abidjan on Wednesdays, with the return flight leaving the Ivory Coast on Thursday mornings.

At present Abidjan is a refuelling point on some of SAA’s long-haul flights to Europe.

Els said the introduction of the new flight would change Abidjan’s status from an international to a regional SAA destination.

In the past year the airline has added Nairobi, Lubumbashi, Reunion, Seychelles and Madagascar to its African network which already included flights to Windhoek, Harare, Bulawayo, Gaborone, Lusaka, Maputo and Blantyre.
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Trade with the rest of Africa is soaring.

Trade sanctions seem to have crumbled on the African continent, according to figures given by Rusty Evans, deputy director-general of the Department of Foreign Affairs, in a newly published book, "Trends Transforming South Africa".

On cross-border trade, he writes: "South Africa's total trade with Africa is growing by leaps and bounds. "It currently amounts to almost R10 billion a year. Trade with Zaire has trebled in two years. Madagascar has opened up and there is no reason why trade with that country should not quickly match that with Mauritius - in excess of R300 million a year. "South Africa's non-bank investments in Africa are approximately R4 billion."
SA, called 'land of opportunity'

PRETORIA—There was probably no other country where trade opportunities were opening up to the extent now possible for SA, Sando Africa and Latin America manager Martin Smith said yesterday.

Speaking at an SA Institute of International Affairs lunch, Smith said the business community had to act quickly to take advantage of the new situation.

"We cannot afford to be one step behind. We must be right up front in our efforts to expand our international and continental trade."

Smith said SA was exporting its riches by not adding sufficient value to its products, something it had in common with other African countries.

Recent visits by African countries eager to trade with SA indicated an almost continent-wide realisation that SA involvement was needed to give Africa the economic push it so badly needed.

In the past six weeks, missions had arrived from Zaire, Togo, Burundi and Madagascar, and many other countries were planning missions.
Mad Whirl of the Benin Election

The dynamic forces of modern politics have convulsed the once-stable republic. The candidates, each with their own unique visions, battle for the hearts and minds of the electorate, leaving the nation in a state of flux.

Compressed events...
Africa's children under threat

IN THE past decade, deaths of children around the world have decreased by half, according to a report by the UN Children's Fund (Unicef).

The report, called "The State of the World's Children 1991," says a successful international campaign to immunize 80 percent of the world's children against preventable diseases has saved 12 million lives.

At the beginning of the campaign, only 15 to 20 percent of children in the developing world were being vaccinated.

The outlook for Africa's children, however, is not as hopeful as for children in other parts of the world. Many of the past decade's programmes failed to reach children in Africa, and without renewed vaccine and development assistance, there will be little improvement in the 1990s, the report says.

Immunisation

Unicef says the past decade's immunisation programmes have prevented 2.5 million children from contracting parasitic polio and will save more from contracting measles, whooping cough and meningitis.

And because disease prevention reduces malnutrition, diarrhoea and pneumonia, immunisation also raises the survival rate of children from chronic illness, poor growth and possible early death.

While a reduction in child mortality might suggest a slowdown in the population growth rate, Unicef says the opposite is true.

Several developing countries are approaching the threshold where lowered child deaths mean that women can place greater faith in family planning programmes, Unicef says.

Frightened by the progress of the past decade, the Unicef report outlines ambitious new goals for improving child welfare in the next 10 years.

Resolutions

Drawing upon resolutions passed at the World Summit for Children last November, the Children's Fund assigns top priority to cutting child deaths by at least one-third, providing basic services for all children and halving child malnutrition and maternal deaths.

But one of the most urgent needs is to extend the immunisation campaigns to areas which the past decade's programmes have failed to reach.

Many of those areas are in Africa.

Along with the global immunisation goal, the report says, "Africa saw a sharp decline in infant mortality which has been greatly improved since 1975." It says the report says, "Africa's share of global infant mortality has decreased by 40 percent by the end of the century".

In 1930, Africa's share of the global total was 13 percent: in 1960 it was 30 percent. Though most African countries are meeting the goals for economic recovery laid out by the 1970s UN special session on Africa, international assistance promised by donors has not materialized, Silverman says.

The report says: "Africa's share of the global total was 13 percent: in 1960 it was 30 percent. Though most African countries are meeting the goals for economic recovery laid out by the 1970s UN special session on Africa, international assistance promised by donors has not materialized."".

AIDS

African governments saw funds for children's programmes dwindle during the early years of the epidemic.

The report says, "AIDS has also reduced efforts to combat Aids or to limit its spread by traditional or non-traditional means and methods."".

Although 2.5 million children were saved by vaccines in 1990, the same number of children still die from diseases preventable by immunisation.


Under downwind effects of debt, war and famine, - AFRICA NEWS
African response is sluggish

By ALI MPHAKI

AT the root of Africa’s economic crisis lies governments’ and institutions’ inability to respond "quickly and decisively" to the rapidly changing global economy.

The success of Africa’s development efforts will depend on building up local capacity for formulating and implementing development policies, according to a new report from the World Bank.

Africa is suffering from a severe shortage of highly trained economists, educators, public policy analysts and other professionals who are needed to research, plan and launch economic development programs, the report says.

Edward Jaycox, World Bank’s vice president of the African Regional Office, writes in the foreword that building up local capacity for economic management will reduce Africa’s dependence on technical assistance from industrialised nations, helping the region become “more in control of its economic destiny”.

The shortage of economic development professionals can be attributed partly to the region’s colonial heritage, he says.

“As African countries gained independence in the 1960s, new governments had to face the fact that colonial regimes had bequeathed to them neither strong institutions nor an educated and skilled populace.”

Problems

In Zaire for instance, they reached independence without a single national engineer, lawyer or doctor.

The report states that only a few decades ago, Latin America and Asia were experiencing many of the same problems in policy analysis and economic management that Africa is facing today.

Even in parts of the industrialised world, little more that a century separates the relatively efficient bureaucracies of today from administrations in which inadequacy, misallocation, incompetence and corruption were the rule rather than the exception.

History suggests, therefore, that the deficiencies currently facing Africa need not be viewed as intractable.
MORE THAN RED NOSES

Last week's trip to China was a success. The event was well-organized and attendees had a great time. It was an excellent opportunity to strengthen our relationships with partners and clients.

We hope to continue these events in the future to expand our network and grow our business. Thank you to everyone who participated and made this possible.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

EDITORS' NOTE:

Congratulations on the successful trip to China! Your efforts have paid off, and it's great to see the positive outcomes. Keep up the good work!
Rebel Taylor holds the key to peace in Liberia

AFRICA
Africa's other giant is waiting...
Comoros keen to strengthen ties with SA

By Neville Adam

We established ties with South Africa because we knew the future would prove us right. And as soon as Nelson Mandela was freed we stepped up our relationship," the president said.

He told journalists: "A true friend is one who shares pain in difficult times, as we did with South Africa.

"We are hoping that South Africa, with its expertise, will give significant aid."

This should be done by helping the Comorans establish small industries and enterprises.

The Comoros had inherited a very difficult situation at independence. The country was bankrupt and the state had had difficulties in meeting some of its commitments.

Now, in the month of Ramadan, the state was two months late in salary payments.

The state had also battled to get money through customs - a period when it generally received help from France. Due to a change of structural procedures from France, there had been a delay in funds coming through.

The president emphasized that France was essential to the Comoros: "We have the finest relationship with France."
Vlok moots links for Africa's police

CAPE TOWN — The time was long overdue for the establishment of an "Afripol" on the lines of Interpol in terms of which the whole African continent could pool its resources in fighting crime, Law and Order Minister Adriaan Vlok said yesterday.

Addressing an international conference on motor car theft, Vlok said cars stolen in SA had surfaced as far afield as Cairo. He said stolen cars appeared to be the "golden thread" linking a variety of crimes such as ivory and rhino horn smuggling, drug trafficking and currency contraventions across SA's borders.

Countries attending the conference included Zambia, Botswana, Swaziland, Lesotho, Malawi and Germany.

He suggested areas in which such a body could co-operate might include modern technology, communication, information exchange and a centralised computer system.

"We can also benefit from an exchange of expertise, and there is much that we can learn from one another through an exchange training programme."

Vlok expressed the hope that delegates, who came from all over southern Africa, might shortly be in a position to convene a founding conference "to make the concept of Afripol a reality".

He said criminals cared little about geographical borders and political differences.

Much of the crime on the continent was interlinked, and this was especially true of car theft. More than 60 000 vehicles were stolen in SA last year.

Motor vehicle theft in SA had become a multimillion-rand business operated by "true professionals".

Vlok said another "ominous shadow" over the whole world was drugs. He said this could become one of the most serious crimes, threatening "our very existence".

Vlok said the decision to hold the conference in SA was a great stride forward for the country's international relations with police forces all over the world.

He said the African continent had the potential to make an enormous contribution to the world's economy, and that the police forces of Africa had the ability to be the "foundation of economic advancement".

"We have to protect the economic foundation from the rot of criminal activity."

Vlok said no progress would be made if each police force worked in isolation.
What constitutes the formal end of apartheid?

African states under pressure to decide

HARARE - Black Africa faces a dilemma: what constitutes the formal end of apartheid in South Africa?

African states are coming under pressure to make a decision because South Africa's reforms have prompted some Western countries to start talking about easing international sanctions against Pretoria.

For years African leaders have displayed great unity in vigorously campaigning to isolate South Africa over its apartheid racial system, but divisions are now emerging.

Gains

Many African states stand to gain from opening up links with South Africa, which accounts for 75 percent of Southern Africa's economic output and could be the powerhouse of the region.

“Africa is being pulled two ways at once at the moment,” said one diplomat in the Zimbabwean capital Harare.

“Everyone wants to trade with South Africa. Everyone wants to play sport with South Africa. But no-one wants to be seen to be abandoning their principles.”

“So everyone is picking a definition of the end of apartheid which suits them personally, and we're seeing some interesting differences emerge.”

Two views

The reformist Government of rival interpretations of what will constitute the end of apartheid.

The reformist government of President F.W. de Klerk, which has promised to scrap all remaining race-based legislation by mid-1991, hopes sanctions will be lifted as soon as these changes are on the statute book.

The ANC, spearheading demands for an end to white minority rule, wants more reforms.

It is calling for votes for the country's disenfranchised black majorities and a new interim government to replace De Klerk's National Party in power.

In the realm of politics Africa is solidly behind the ANC and remains suspicious of the Pretoria Government.

Meeting in Harare a few days after De Klerk made his February promise to scrap race laws this year, the Organisation of African Unity decided to stand firm on the sanctions question.

Not enough

Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni, the current OAU chairman, said De Klerk's reforms are welcome, they are praiseworthy - but they are not enough.

“The idea is that we would like to see a place a clear mechanism that would result in the transfer of power to a democratic order. But up to now there is no mechanism ... just an expression of intentions,” Museveni said.

In the economic sphere, however, new links are quietly being forged with South Africa by businesses across the continent.

In Zambia - whose President Kenneth Kaunda is one of Africa's most outspoken opponents of apartheid - a building has been prepared as a new South African trade mission. Diplomats say they think it will be open by the end of 1991.

Participants from 15 African countries attended a meeting organised by three South African trade groups in Swaziland this month to discuss the possibility of setting up a new trade bloc as soon as sanctions go.

Hennie Viljoen, president of the South African Chamber of Business, told delegates in a closing speech: “The time has arrived where borders should be opened and where we could urge our governments ... to start breaking down those divergent political barriers that could influence co-operative business efforts.”

The biggest shift in African opinion has been in Japan. It must be Africa that welcomes its southern neighbour back into world sport after a 20-year Olympic ban, the International Olympic Committee has said.

The Association of National Olympic Committees of Africa showed at a meeting in Botswana earlier this month that it was ready to do just that.

Anoca president Jean-Claude Ganga said he would not press for immediate universal suffrage in South Africa, but would count the mid-year scrapping of race laws as the end of apartheid.

Confident

“When apartheid is finished, we have confidence in the people of South Africa that they will get a one man, one vote system,” Ganga said.

After the meeting, Anoca said rival "establishment" and anti-apartheid sports federations in South Africa had agreed to form a new, non-racial umbrella group.

“The sports people are easier on South Africa because they haven’t really got anything to lose, but they do have a lot to gain in terms of more exciting sport if they let South Africa.” - US Harare-based Western diplomat.

“The business community is blowing hot and cold. They want to have access to the South African economy, but they’re frightened that South Africa is going to swamp their own economies.”

“Politicians have the most to lose in terms of credibility, and in terms of the fallout from anything that goes wrong economically which will ultimately land at their door.”

Worried

Quill Hermans, governor of Botswana's central bank, said in an interview this month that his country was apprehensive about the consequences of reforms in neighbouring South Africa.

Botswana is part of South Africa's regional customs union, and pays no import duties on the goods it buys from next door. It therefore imports inflation from South Africa in the shape of goods pre-priced for South African consumption.

Hermans said Pretoria's likely transition to majority rule - and big new demands for health and education spending - would put up inflation and create economic and political problems for Botswana.

“If inflation rates in South Africa climb back to 25 or 30 percent from 15 percent now, per capita incomes halve in Botswana, and there’s nothing we can do to protect ourselves from that.”

“The economic implications for Botswana of reform in South Africa are pretty ominous, and we could go through a period probably of five, six or seven years of very turbulent times.” - Sam Reuter

Political comment in this issue by Agwrey Klaaete and Deon du Plessis. Newsbills by Sydney Mathaku. Sub-editing and headlines by Ivan Fynn. All of 81 Commando Road, Industria West, Johannesburg.

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Mali leaders agree to end emergency

BAMAKO - Mali's embattled government has agreed to opposition demands to end a state of emergency, free political prisoners and withdraw troops from the streets after three days of the worst political violence the West African country has known.

Opposition sources said yesterday they would press on with an indefinite general strike aimed at forcing President Moussa Traore to resign.

Human rights campaigner Domba Diallo said Traore and government officials agreed to the measures when they met pro-democracy leaders on Sunday.

Demands

"They accepted all our demands without question," he said. Diallo said the government agreed to lift a state of emergency and night-time curfew imposed on Friday evening after anti-government riots broke out in the capital Bamako.

Diplomats say at least 150 people have been killed and 1,000 injured in three days of clashes between protesters and security forces.

Diallo said the government also agreed to free hundreds of political prisoners held since pro-democracy demonstrations began in January, and to withdraw troops and armed police from the streets of the capital.

No troops were visible yesterday morning at the state television centre, which was guarded with an armoured car throughout the weekend.

Toll

Official confirmation of the government measures was not immediately available.

Western diplomats say the death toll has reached at least 150. Opposition sources earlier said 100 or more people had been killed. The latest official figures put the death toll at 34.

Diallo said a general strike called from Monday would go ahead.

"The strike began at zero hours today and will continue until Traore resigns," he said.

He quoted Traore, who seized power in a 1968 coup, as saying during Sunday's meeting that he would not quit.

Traore is one of the few African leaders keeping single-party rule despite pro-democracy reforms sweeping the continent.

He has promised to consider demands for a multi-party system at a congress of his ruling Democratic Union of the Malian People (UDPM), due to begin on Thursday.

Sapa-Reuter
Africa looks for tailor-made definition of end to apartheid

HARARE — Black Africa faces a dilemma: what constitutes the formal end of apartheid in SA? African states are coming under pressure to make a decision because SA's reforms have prompted some Western countries to start talking about easing international sanctions against Pretoria.

For years African leaders have displayed great unity in vigorously campaigning to isolate SA over its apartheid racial system, but divisions are now emerging. SA accounts for 75% of southern Africa's economic output.

"Africa is being pulled two ways at once at the moment," said one diplomat in Harare.

"Everyone wants to trade with SA. Everyone wants to play sports with SA. But no one wants to be seen to be abandoning principles.

"So everyone is picking a definition of the end of apartheid which suits them personally."

In SA, there are two rival interpretations of what will constitute the end of apartheid.

The SA government hopes sanctions will be lifted once all race-based legislation goes. However, the ANC, which Africa is solidly behind, wants more reforms.

Meeting in Harare a few days after President F W de Klerk made his February promise to scrap race laws this year, the OAU decided to stand firm on sanctions.

OAU chairman, Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni, said de Klerk's reforms "are welcome, they are praiseworthy — but they are not enough."

"The idea is that we would like to see in place a clear mechanism that would result in the transfer of power to a democratic order."

In the economic sphere, however, new links are quietly being forged with SA by businesses across the continent.

In Zambia, a building has been prepared as a new SA trade mission despite President Kenneth Kaunda's vigorous opposition to apartheid. Diplomats expect it to open by the end of 1991.

Participants from 15 African countries attended a meeting organised by three SA trade groups in Swaziland this month to discuss setting up a new trade bloc as soon as sanctions go.

The biggest shift in African opinion has been in sport. It must be Africa that welcomes SA back into world sport after a 20-year Olympic ban, the International Olympic Committee has said.

The Association of National Olympic Committees of Africa (Anoca) showed at a meeting in Botswana earlier this month that it was ready to do just that.

Anoca president Jean-Claude Ganga said he would not press for immediate universal suffrage in SA, but would count the mid-year scrapping of race laws as the end of apartheid.

After the meeting, Anoca said rival "establishment" and anti-apartheid sports federations in SA had agreed to form a new, non-racial umbrella group.

Credibility

A Harare-based diplomat said: "The sports people are easiest on SA because they haven't really got anything to lose, but they do have a lot to gain in terms of more exciting sport if they let SA in."

He said politicians had the most to lose in terms of credibility if anything went wrong economically.

"The business community is blowing hot and cold. They want to have access to the SA economy, but they're frightened that SA is going to swamp their own economies."

Botswana's central bank governor Quill Hermans said in an interview this month his country was apprehensive about the consequences of reforms in SA.

Botswana is part of SA's regional customs union, and pays no import duties on the goods it buys from next door. It therefore imports inflation from SA in the shape of goods pre-priced for SA consumption.

Hermans said Pretoria's likely transition to majority rule — and big new demands for health and education spending on black voters — would push up inflation and create economic and political problems for Botswana.

"If inflation rates in SA climb back to 25% or 30% from 15% now, per capita incomes halve in Botswana, and there's nothing we can do to protect ourselves from that."

He said the economic implications for Botswana of reform in SA were "pretty ominous". — Sapa-Reuter.
Defining when apartheid dies

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In the realm of politics, Africa is solidly behind the ANC and remains suspicious of the Pretoria Government.

Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni, the current OAU chairman, said Mr de Klerk's reforms "are praiseworthy but not yet enough."

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And participants from 15 African countries at a Swaziland meeting organised by three South African trade groups have discussed setting up a new trade bloc when sanctions end. — Sapa-Reuter.
Malaria threat in Africa alarms top US officials

NEW YORK — Two top US officials, who recently returned from a two-week mission to Africa, have brought back with them an alarming sense of the threat of malaria in Africa, including South Africa.

The officials have pressed the Bush administration to provide massive aid to combat the disease, which they described as Africa's "foremost health challenge".

The officials, Secretary of Health Louis Sullivan and Dr. Ronald Rostoks of the US Agency for International Development, led a delegation of health experts in January to South Africa, the Ivory Coast, Malawi, Nigeria, Senegal, Uganda and Zimbabwe.

In a report to President Bush, the officials described malaria as "the forgotten disease", but said that it had become Africa's foremost health challenge.

The disease kills one million African children each year, making it the leading killer of children in many African nations.

Of the 110 million cases of malaria reported each year, 90 million occurred in Africa, their report said.

They urged more aid to combat the disease, including research into strains resistant to chloroquine treatment.

But, they pointed out, AIDS was rapidly overhauling malaria as Africa's biggest killer of children. During the 1990s, about 500,000 African children were born with the HIV infection, and by the end of the 1990s Africa would have an additional 10 million HIV-infected children, the delegation said.

Also, five to 10 million children under 10 years of age were expected to become orphans in Africa during the 1990s because of the death of one or both parents from AIDS.

"Behaviour change is the key to breaking the AIDS transmission chain," the report said.

"US programmes should support additional interventions to promote behaviour change, encourage social marketing of condoms and the control of sexually transmitted diseases."

But, the group added, if Africans could stem their exploding birth rate perhaps many of the continent's health problems could be improved.
Defining when apartheid dies

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And participants from 15 African countries at a Swaziland meeting organised by three South African trade groups have discussed setting up a new trade bloc when sanctions end... — Sapa-Reuters.
Malian president deposed by army

ABIDJAN - Malian president Mr Moussa Traore has been put under arrest, a Mali radio said in a broadcast yesterday.

The radio also reported that the army had formed a National Reconciliation Council (NRC) to run the country.

The broadcast, monitored in neighbouring Ivory Coast, said a curfew had been imposed following four days of rioting in which 150 people were reportedly killed.

"Considering the stubborness of the Traore government...we of the armed forces have decided to form the NRC to put an end to the bloodthirsty regime of Traore," the broadcast said.

The broadcast appealed for calm and asked citizens "to co-operate to make a success of the change by avoiding looting."

Another announcement said Traore's ruling Democratic Union of the Malian People (UDPM) had been disbanded and the government dissolved.

It said steps would be taken to establish a multiparty system in the impoverished state.

Portions of the broadcast picked up by the British Broadcasting Corporation said Lieutenant-Colonel Amadou Soumani Toure was heading the NCR and would be "responsible for the state's authority and the security of people all over the national territory."

The radio said Traore and his wife had been arrested but gave no indication of their whereabouts.

Earlier reports in the capital, Bamako, said Traore had been taken into custody by paramilitary troops and was being held at a military air base.

The army takeover followed the worst rioting in the country's history.

Mali radio said the constitution had been suspended. It also said a curfew, which Traore had imposed last week but which was lifted on Monday, had been reimposed.

-Sapa-Reuters.
Promises of a new era... new man Colonel Touré.

Civilians will rule in Mali

BAMAKO (Mali) — Leader of a coup which toppled Mali’s President Moussa Traore has pledged to steer the big West African country to civilian multiparty rule.

“One of the essential aims of our arrival is to install multiparty politics, real democracy, in the style of certain other countries,” Lieutenant-Colonel Amadou Touré told reporters after taking command of Mali, one of the world’s poorest nations.

Asked when this would be, the 42-year old paratroop commander replied: “When the conditions are right.”

Mr. Traore, who himself seized power in a coup 22 years ago, was arrested by his own soldiers before dawn yesterday after months of increasingly violent protest against his single party government.

The coup sparked off an explosion of looting and anti-Traore riots. Thousands of Malians poured into the streets screaming “Down with Moussa” and erecting burning barricades and pillaging shops and offices.

Gunfire clattered throughout the night across Bamako, a sprawling city of half a million people, as troops moved in to quell unrest. Hospital sources said at least 200 people were killed and 200 injured.

The coup occurred after the first day of an indefinite general strike called by the country’s flourishing pro-democracy movement to demand Traore’s resignation.

It followed three days of bloody riots between demonstrators and security forces over the weekend, which diplomats said left more than 150 dead and $600 million injured.

The quietly-spoken Colonel Touré stressed his willingness to work with the country’s pro-democracy movement.

“We can’t talk about opposition — we’re working among brother Malians,” he said. — Sapa-Reuters.
Artists must choose new dreams

This is the first in a series of essays on culture in Southern Africa by Zimbabwean author CHENJERA HOLVE, currently writer-in-residence at the University of Zimbabwe. Hove's novel "Bones" (Boabab Press, 1988) won the Noma award for "third world" literature.

SOUTHERN AFRICAN artists battling with no much rhetoric and neglect, can do no better than teach society to doubt. That is the artists' responsibility which makes society humane, alive, debating, breathing. Sometimes it is a lonely business, at times even dangerous, specially when politicians take too much interest in art and want to mediate between society and the artist. The role which the artist needs to be understood in its historical context. One has to go back many years, to the period before the politics of Africa became interesting to talk about. Before the walls of celebration reminded many artists that their power was not what they had imagined before.

To the time when writers and artists, sculptors and painters, gained walls and were away to rest as if they had fired a bullet at the colonial enemy out there on their territory.

Today, the story is different, the artist is different, the issues are different. The anti-colonial hymns might be aced, but they are not. The Pan-Africanism of Kwame Nkrumah might be in the book, but the book is on dusty bookshelves, or packed back into the boxes of transition from exile.

The politics no longer in for granted, nothing can ever be assumed to be the same, no dreams can be claimed to be the same any more. The same issues that happened in the 1960s and were suppressed by the colonialists can happen today and be suppressed by the post-independent, these heroes who always claim to have found the new sky for the people.

And the artist sees it with his/her sharp eye, as one in the centre, recording, asking, singing, weeping.

"What we ask of writers is that they guarantee the survival of what we call human in a world where everything appears to us as a hoodlum, guarantees the survival of human discourses to use. For the loss of humanity in everything, in every discourse and relationship," declared Irish writer Indi Calvidin.

He was searching for humanity, a humanity defined as "whatever is temperamental, emotional, ingenuous, and not at all sullen." Yet, artists have to continue to our force in new definitions of humanity in a Southern Africa de-verted to Marxist and wasteful wars which never seem to end.

Art must teach us to doubt our perspectives. Who would not doubt themselves when shown the landscape of their own illusions?

In a gallery, people watching themselves de-picted as standing on their heads or being half-human and half-dog, might want to insult the art critic. Why, a state which thinks it has made tremendous strides in social and economic development might get annoyed if it sees itself depicted as full ofمت and urine.

That is what Ghanaian art writer Ayi Kwei Armah set out to do in his classic, "The Beautiful Ones Are Not Yet Born." Then many people considered Armah's writing about us to be a tourist. The art critic had shocked the nation to see a distorted mirror in the mirror which they did not quite like. The nation began to doubt itself and get embarrassed.

Calvino described the paradox of the power of art as "It seems that only when it is perceived does it hold its power, challenging author-
gy." Was this not the power of the words of Zimbabwean David Mayorha? Was this not what made his words much more than mere veritable?

We can argue, but we know that even dictators ignore writers, making literature content for nothing, writers find they are devoid of space. True art searches for many truths, many worlds, many dreams, and new space.

Was it not the urge which drove Zimbabwean writer Charles Mungoshi to tackle the issue of personal and collective solitude in his masterpiece, "Waiting For The Rain?"

He wrote about the wounds, the physical and spiritual pain of living outside control like the live tortoise extracted from its shell. "He has removed else's drum between his knees," said old man Mendonge, critical of the loss of the spiritual being which saw in the lives of the young men of the new generation of thinkers and education which we might look-up to as gods.

How many of us today can refute the fact that we do not have our own drums between our knees, that we are alienated souls who do not know what to search for in the new world created by our new political and cultural dreamers?

The artist has duties and tasks alongside all other talents that make the heart and soul of the earth tick. That means alongside those who make chairs, the artist is present to instil society with a sense of self, an image of self as dreamed up by observations and dreams.

The artist's duties include dreaming for society. Not many people listen to the echo of their dreams in the morning when they leave their bed. Most of the dreams of the world are ignored and left abandoned on the wastelands of life.

For we do not sensitize ourselves to listen to the world by painstaking that we are what we are not? Do we not crawl out of our homes as public relations agents for both our own and our social or professional role?

And if we do, are we not entitled to be reminded that we are mere actors removed from the reality of what we could have become had we not assumed certain roles which formed us into certain types of individuals?

For me, the artist is the drawer of maps. The history of any society is better studied through the broadest appreciation of its artistic products. In times of despair, the artist will fill us with images of desire, with them with images of hope.

In times of plenty and over-abundance, the artist will portray the folly of over-eating at the expense of cultivation of other values.

Wanda, Scars, songs of joy and sadness, rivers of tears and joy, the dream lived and those gone away, there are no pictures the artist gives to society, creating debates at every corner, removing fallacious illusions and creating new ones which last.

In the words of renowned Ugandan poet Okot p'Bitek: "The artist uses his voice, he steeps his laws to the accompaniment of the many pa, the harp; he twists his body to the rhythm of the drums, to proclaim his rules. He carves his moral standards on wood and stone, and pains his colourful do's and don'ts on walls and curious."

So, Mozambique's Malangatana makes the walls of Maputo bleed with his sadness and sorrow of death in a needless war in that country.

Zimbabwean musician Thomas Mapfumo captures audiences with his songs celebrating the endurance of the human soul despite seemingly insurmountable social problems.

But many years later, when the drums and walls and books have died, it is the canvas of conscience which remains witness to the power of art over centuries; artistic creation recorded in the colour and shape of human hearts and minds.

When human consciences are formed and transformed, then art has done its work.

In SOUTH: next week: Hove writes on the poetry of South African A. I. A. I.
Reform in Rwanda: real or illusory? 1

WITH fighting again intensifying in Rwanda, renewed efforts are underway to resolve the conflict by negotiation.

Visiting Rwanda, Salim Ahmed Salim, secretary-general of the Organisation of African Unity, has called for an end to hostilities and pressed for a regional solution to the thorny problem of Rwandan refugees.

Rebels from the Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF), who launched an insurgency five months ago with the invasion of Uganda, say they are determined to force a complete change in the policies of Rwandan President Juvenal Habyarimana.

"There has been a total lack of democracy in our country," said Patrick Mazimhaka, the RPF’s commissioner for foreign affairs. "Our objective is to change the political system, which is based on discrimination against ethnic groups."

The RPF’s original invasion force of about 3,000 soldiers were members of the Ugandan National Army who had deserted with their uniforms, weapons and vehicles.

The Rwanda government rejects the RPF’s discrimination charges and accuses the rebels of seeking to restore the ancient Tutsi monarchy.

Habyarimana, meanwhile, has announced a series of political reforms, including the abolition of the system of identity cards which the RPF has likened to South Africa’s apartheid system.

He has promised to replace one-party rule with a multiparty system and has called for a national referendum on a new democratic system by June.

The RPF says these reforms are only window-dressing.

"We want total abolition of discrimination in the political life of the country and a government of national unity," said Mazimhaka. — AFRICA NEWS
Africa wakes up to drugs threat

WHILE the war against drug abuse and trafficking intensifies in Europe and America, Africa is now becoming a transit route for traffickers.

For the past five years, the continent has witnessed the growing drug trafficking from Asia and the Far East to Europe and America through Africa.

"We have to co-operate to ensure Africa is free from drug-trafficking," said Matti Backman, Africa regional officer of the Vienna-based UN Fund for Drug Abuse Control (UNFDAC).

Heroin, mandrax and other narcotic drugs find their way to Europe and the US through Africa because of the lack of knowledge and poor security in Africa.

"We are now training police, customs and immigration officers," said Backman.

Already training sessions have been held in Tanzania, Malawi, Zambia and Uganda, to ensure law enforcers get equipment and knowledge in fighting the menace.

Countries such as Tanzania and Kenya have formed anti-drug units where police and immigration officers are posted at airports, sea ports and border posts.

Backman said much had to be done to ensure that the youth did not become involved in the drug trade. His organisation is supporting drug abuse and trafficking control programmes in Kenya, Tanzania, Malawi, Uganda and Zambia.

Backman claimed more people, particularly the jobless, were now involved in trafficking because it was "lucrative".

"If we are not careful, Africa can produce new and many drug addicts," he warned.

Drug addicts

A study in Tanzania has shown that already five percent of youths in the country are drug addicts.

Many African countries have not ratified UN conventions of 1961, 1971 and 1988 on drug abuse and trafficking. As a result, campaigns against these menaces cannot be successful.

"These conventions give the basis for national legislation. They regulate what drugs shall be controlled," said Backman.
have to buy anything any more." South Africa's aid programme on the islands tried to introduce the ethic of self-help, playing down the handout mentality, he said.

This showed in the medical aid programme and in the South African experimental farm in the rain forest area of Grande Comores.

Mr Boni saw South Africa as a facilitator in the lifting of the standards on the islands. The umbilical cord for the Comores was still France, he said, but that did not make sense with South Africa so close by.

"The Comorians now see South Africa as a saviour in a regional sense," he said. They had been institutions and particularly small industry.

The president is described as a leader who will usher in a new era to the islands after Denard's 14 years of influence. But he is ruling with a coalition government which makes things difficult, and the International Monetary Fund has put stringent conditions on loans.

As a result President Bhabar has had to introduce some unpopular measures in cutting back costs.

Undoubtedly, the biggest happening in the Comores right now is the opening of Sol Kerzner's La Galawa Beach Hotel and Casino on the north of Grande Comores.

LEADING FROM THE FRONT: Marco Boni, South Africa's Consul in the Comores.

Replaced

Expatriates in more senior positions would also eventually be replaced by Comorians.

Mr Bacon said apart from the purchasing power of the hotel, the standard of living of the employees would improve. "They will eventually be able to buy consumer goods too, such as motor cycles, even cars and other commodities."

The Indian Ocean is becoming a popular international tourist destination, something which was confirmed by Minister of Tourism Said Ali Yousouf who believes that the Comorians' future lies in tourism.

He expects around 65,000 tourists this year, mostly from South Africa. "I see the La Galawa development as the forerunner to much more ambitious developments across the three islands."

Conservation and the balance of the environment, however, was a big problem. "I would like South Africa to help us in developing ways to protect the islands' ecology."

'Le Docteur' lends a hand

ONE of the most popular faces among the islanders in the more remote villages of Grande Comores is a former Stellenbosch graduate.

Monsieur le Docteur, as he is called, is Etienne Kruger, the medical attaché to the South African consulate who spends two days a week in the villages setting up a unique medical service and self-help scheme.

He has been medical attaché for a year. In that time the consulate has sent 25 patients back to South Africa for specialist treatment.

But it is the other side of his work that has attracted attention from other countries — and even from a visiting Ghanaian official.

"Le docteur" visits four villages a week. In each village he has appointed a local with some medical knowledge, such as a nurse, to bring 20 patients to the clinic.

Dr Kruger treats each patient for nominal of Cfr500 (R5) which is then pooled to buy medicine for the village. All the patients return for check-ups.

This is part of the South African consulate's self-help programme which has been very positively accepted and have sometimes developed almost into a "med-fest" with the children dancing, often singing "Bonï Bonï! Bonï!" (refering to Marco Boni, the South African consul).

"We also send Comorians to South Africa for training in midwifery and other practical medicine areas," he said. Pretoria also set up similar medical attachés in four other African countries. They are Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique and Swaziland.

'LE DOCTEUR': Etienne Kruger helps the locals each week.
Wind of democracy" shakes Africa's trees

BRIEFING

The Star Tuesday, Apr 2 1991
Dictators fall like coconuts

From MICHAEL FAUL of Sapa-AP in Abidjan, Ivory Coast

AFRICA'S two-year-old democracy movement has won its greatest victories with the election defeat of one military dictator in Benin and mass protests that forced the overthrow of another in Mali.

The continent has come a long way since last year, when Gabon's national newspaper declared: "The great winds carrying democracy that have triumphed in Eastern Europe will not shake the coconut trees in Africa."

Only a handful of Africa's 50 governments had permitted any opposition before the democracy movement began. Now 16 governments have grudgingly permitted opposition parties to form or agreed in principle to institute democracy.

Other African leaders confronted by the kind of riots and strikes that led to the fall of heads. Mahamane Kerekou of Benin and Moussa Traore of Mali have watched events unfold with trepidation. Some have actively tried to influence the outcome.

In Benin, Mr Kerekou became the first president on the continent deposed by the ballot box. Mr Nicephore Soglo, prime minister of the caretaker government forced on the former Marxist dictator by riots and strikes, won with 68 percent of votes.

Several African governments reportedly sent money to Mr Kerekou in a bid to prevent the precedent his defeat would set.

Voters in Sao Tome and Cape Verde, two former Portuguese colonies off the West African coast, set the stage earlier this year for Mr Kerekou's fall by rejecting their one-party governments for the opposition.

Besides Eastern Europe, dramatic reforms in South Africa have also played a role in the changes sweeping the continent.

"When the 'Great Satan' of South Africa legalises its opposition and frees its worst enemies, the second-rate dictators elsewhere find themselves very much alone," said the leftist French newspaper, Liberation.

Mr Soglo attributes the success to "a new generation of educated and experienced Africans with very strong convictions about the future of their people, and a rigorous attitude in matters of economic development and the moralisation of public life."

African leaders initially appeared to have found a way to control the revolt that erupted after the collapse of Communist regimes in Eastern Europe. As in Europe, rebellion was fueled partly by economic failures linked to corruption and socialist economics.

Thirty-year incumbent President Felix Houphouet-Boigny of Ivory Coast, the first forced to hold contested presidential elections, was re-elected in November.

But he took several steps to ensure that the odds were stacked heavily in his favour, including scheduling a short campaign that gave the opposition little time to organise, requiring candidates to post huge deposits, tear-gassing opponents' rallies and limiting their access to state TV and radio. The opposition said the vote was rigged.

President Houphouet-Boigny, who is in his late 80s and is the longest-serving leader in Africa, since has tried to set himself above politics. He named a prime minister who has promised to end the corruption that tainted Houphouet-Boigny's administration.

Others have employed delaying tactics, with varying success.

Gabon's President Omar Bongo clings to his title but barely controls the country's national assembly since the country's first multiparty legislative elections in 22 years last October. The assembly has been blocking his budget.

President Bongo does not have to face an election battle until his seven-year term expires in 1995.

Zaire's President Mobutu Sese Seko, one of the continent's coterie of military dictators, was forced in January to ask opposition leaders to help form an interim government to lead the nation to democracy. He promised 11 months after he promised to install a multiparty democracy, following months of strikes and unprecedented pressure from Western allies.

Western governments who propped up Africa's dictators during the Cold War are now holding aid to demands for greater democracy, economic liberalisation and improved human rights records. But their own interests come first.

The United States Congress, for example, cut aid to Zaire despite vehement opposition from President Bush, whose government supports Angolan rebels based in Zaire.

Washington unblocked aid to Kenya in February after it accepted hundreds of Libyan soldiers that American officers had trained to try to overthrow Colonel Gaddafi. The United States cited an improved human rights record in the country, where soldiers shot and killed pro-democracy protesters to protect President Daniel Arap Moi's one-party autocracy.

Roman Catholic Archbishop Isidore de Souza of Benin, head of a council overseeing the country's political transition, said: "Who are they to suddenly discover consciences? We consider them as our torturers. First they enslaved us, then they supported regimes that kept us in bondage."
World Bank recolonising Africa, say economists

Leading African economists, including officials of the Economic Commission of Africa (ECA) and the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), have criticised World Bank policies, calling them "recolonialisation of the continent".

They accused the industrialised countries of extending and tightening their control of the world economy in general and the national economics of the developing countries, including the African countries through the World Bank and the IMF, and increasingly through an overpowering new GATT agreement. The unanimously endorsed statement pointed out to the following:

- Although the World Bank agreed that development strategies for Africa should be based on the need for human-centred development and regional cooperation, this was not reflected in the bank's programmes;
- The participants criticised specially the bank's Long Term Perspective Study (LTPS), whereas Africa's own long-term plans were opposed by the World Bank, stating these were less informed and have failed disastrously;
- African governments should reject World Bank policies to secure their independence and sovereignty in choosing their own development path.

Despite a range of debt initiatives over the past few years, the total stock of Africa's debt has continued to rise and annual debt servicing costs have eased only marginally, according to recent World Bank and Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) figures.

The World Bank's "World Debt Tables 1990-91" projected sub-Saharan Africa's debt at R403bn in 1990, an increase of more than nine percent over the R368bn of the previous year.

The ECA estimated that debt for all of Africa had risen to R678bn in 1990, 4.6 percent higher than the year before. — Third World Economics
Forget SA: What about China? An African columnist points a finger at self-righteous accusers...
Waiting for the First Tree to Fall
It will be every country's duty to protect its own interests. The competition among nations for economic dominance continues to increase, and countries must protect their industries and intellectual property to remain competitive. The global economy is highly interconnected, and safeguards must be put in place to prevent economic wars and ensure stability.
Comores will spend R100m

to gear up for tourist boom

THE government of the Comores, and other private
interests, would spend between R100m and R150m on
infrastructure such as roads, telecommunications and
airport facilities over the next five years to meet the
growth in tourism, special adviser to the Comores
President Mohamed Mchangama said yesterday.

Mchangama is in SA for a week on a fact-finding
mission to review co-operation between the two coun-
tries and to outline the development strategy of his
country and the possibilities it offers SA investors.

One area of potential is the tourist industry, set to be,
the Comores' major income generator within two years.

Mchangama said he expected a bilateral commission
to be set up between the two countries.

His comments followed weekend reports that Solo
Kerzner's World Leisure would spend R150m on a new
hotel there and on expanding its Le Galawa Beach resort.

Mchangama said joint venture opportunities between
SA and the Comores, which had a liberal investment
code, existed in food processing, flower production, tex-
tiles and agriculture.
Disastrous impact of colonialism explored

Colonisation left Africa in economic and cultural crisis. Walter Rodney explains why in his newly reissued classic How Europe Underdeveloped Africa, which is now in its eighth printing. The book, published by Howard University Press, is a necessity for any African history student, writes MOKGADI PELA.

THE invasion of Africa by European colonialists destroyed cultural institutions and reversed the economic development of the entire continent.

That is the striking message by the highly respected Guyanese scholar, historian and activist Dr Walter Rodney in his evergreen classic How Europe Underdeveloped Africa.

To research the book, Rodney gave up lucrative contracts overseas to live in Tanzania. Another consequence of colonialism which he wonderfully illustrated in the book was Africa’s loss of power.

Serious

He emphasizes that when one society relegates power to another, underdevelopment occurs.

Tunisian Albert Memmi said the most serious blow suffered by the colonised was being removed from history, for the power to act independently is the guarantee to participate actively and consciously in history.

FOCUS

In explaining the effects of colonialism he said: “African and Asian societies were developing independently until they were taken over directly or indirectly by the capitalist powers.

“When that happened, exploitation increased and the export surplus ensued, depriving the societies of the benefit of their own natural resources and labour. That is an integral part of underdevelopment in the contemporary sense.

Exploitation

“Actually, if underdevelopment were related to anything except comparing economies, then the most underdeveloped country in the world would be the USA, which practices external oppression on a massive scale, while internally there is a blend of exploitation, brutality and psychiatric disorder.”

He adds colonialism is nothing but “foreign investments” by the metropolitan powers.

Showing the connection between capitalism and slavery in the growth of England, Eric Williams in his well-known book Capitalism and Slavery identified personalities and firms which benefited from the process.

Outstanding examples were David and Alexander Barclay, who were engaging in slave trade in 1756 and who later used the loot to set up Barclays Bank.

There was a similar progression in the case of Lloyds, which went from being a small London coffee house to one of the world’s largest banking and insurance houses after dipping into profits from slave trade.

Rodney said it was mistakenly held that Europeans enslaved blacks for racist rather than economic reasons.

Colonial

Rodney said when colonial governments seized Africa, they achieved two things simultaneously. They satisfied their own citizens (who wanted mining concessions or farming land) and they created conditions whereby landless blacks had to work not just to pay taxes but also to survive.

In settler areas like Kenya and Zimbabwe, the colonial government also prevented blacks from growing cash crops so that their labour would be available directly for the whites.

One of Kenya’s white settlers, Colonel Grogan, put it bluntly when he said of the Kikuyu: “We have stolen his land. Now we must steal his limbs. Compulsory labour is the corollary of our occupation of the country.”

Rodney said attention had to be drawn to the stunting effects of colonialism on blacks as a physical species.

Propaganda

“Colonialism created conditions which led not just to periodic famine, but to chronic undernourishment. If such a statement sounds wildly extravagant, it is only because bourgeois propaganda has conditioned even blacks to believe that malnutrition and starvation were the natural lot of black people from time immemorial.

“A black child with a transparent rib cage, huge head, bloated stomach, protruding eyes was the favourite poster of the large British charitable known as Oxfam.

“Oxfam called upon Europeans to save starving children from kwaishokor and such illnesses. Oxfam never bothered to tell them that capitalism and colonialism created the starvation and misery of the child in the first place.”

There is an excellent study of the phenomenon of hunger on a world scale by a Brazilian scientist, Josue de Castro, which indicates that black people’s diet was previously more varied, being based on a more diversified agriculture than was possible under colonialism.

Researchers who studied blacks in tropical Africa were unanimous in stating that they showed no clinical signs of dietary deficiency.

Physiques

One of the most striking indications of the superiority of black people’s diet was the magnificent condition of their teeth.

One researcher studying six ethnic groups in Kenya could not find a single case of tooth decay.

But those same people were transplanted and put on the “civilised” diet available under colonialism, their teeth began to decay.

To clinch the argument that colonialism deteriorated blacks physically and hence mentally, it is useful to refer to those Africans who until today have maintained their own pattern of existence.

The physiques of the pastoral Masai, Galla, Ankolai, Betsil and Somalis are superb.

Their endurance is so great that they have become the objects of scientific research to discover why they do so much better than “well-fed” capitalists who are collapsing from heart disease.

After reading the last page of this masterpiece, I can only advise every student of history to get a copy of this book.
US blacks urged to forge ties with Africa

By Ramsay Miller

NEW YORK — Many black Americans, says the Rev Leon Sullivan, have long been ashamed of Africa and their African heritage — an attitude he is determined to confront at a four-day conference he has organized in Abidjan, Ivory Coast, this week.

It will be the first such “African, African-American summit.”

Mr Sullivan (63) is best known for his introduction of the “Sullivan Code” of conduct for American corporations doing business in South Africa and has been in the forefront of the US divestment campaign.

He hopes the conference, which he says is the largest of its kind ever held, will encourage black Americans to discover their rich heritage and stimulate support for African economic development at a time when American interest in the continent seems to be waning.

One means of addressing the problem, he says, is to strengthen the involvement of black Americans in the affairs of Africa.

Among those attending the conference are the Rev Jesse Jackson and William Gray, a Pennsylvania Democrat and House majority whip.

African leaders attending the conference include President Félix Houphouët-Boigny of the Ivory Coast, President Ibrahim Babangida of Nigeria, President Abdou Diouf of Senegal and President Yoweri Museveni of Uganda.
Poised at Gates of West Africa

Gerald J. Lane examines future ties between South Africa and Nigeria

Nigeria's Hill Commissary

...
African bank considers granting SA membership

ABIDJAN - The African Development Bank was studying changes in SA with a view to granting that country future membership of Africa's top lending institution, a senior bank official said yesterday.

"We are aware of the evolution in SA and we are watching it closely," the bank's secretary-general Alieu B. H. Boye told reporters at a news conference.

He was responding to a question of whether SA would be invited to the bank's annual meeting next month.

He said he was "not yet the political view of Africa" to have SA join the bank.

But African Development Bank sources have said president Balar Gomis N'Diaye's views would be influential.

The source said it was possible SA would be present at the bank's annual meeting from May 7 to May 9 in the Ivory Coast's capital of Yamoussoukro. Delegates from 57 SA countries would be present at the meeting.

Participation in the African Development Bank would be a major step forward in the process of cementing ties between black Africa and SA.

Boy said the bank last year granted loans totaling 1.2 billion rand for 157 projects.

He said 25% of the money had been channelled into agricultural projects, 35% into public utilities and 15% into transport.

Another 15% of the loans went to health and education and 8% to rural needs.

Boy said up to 1,500 people were expected to attend the African Development Bank's annual meeting. One of the main orders of business would be setting a new five-year programme for the bank, he said.
SA ‘must consider weaker countries’

Star Africa Service

HARARE—South Africa must avoid the temptation to dominate all regional decisions and show special sensitivity to the needs and concerns of weaker countries in southern Africa, leading businessmen were told yesterday.

The director-general of the SA Institute of International Affairs, Professor John Barratt, said there was a real threat that SA’s economy would grow stronger at the expense of others.

He was addressing 300 delegates from 20 countries attending a convention on southern Africa called “The Challenge of the 90s” organised by the Zimbabwe division of the Institute of Directors.

Earlier, Zimbabwe’s Minister of Industry and Commerce Kumbirai Kangai had said a free South Africa would take its rightful place in the region in the 1990s.

The listing as a delegate at the conference of the head of the SA Trade Mission in Harare, Nico Nel, is another indication of the new openness between Pretoria and black Africa.

Mr Barratt warned in his keynote address that some countries were expecting too much from a post-apartheid SA.

The economic and social needs of the majority of SA’s own population were increasing daily.

He said, however, that Pretoria had a responsibility to help in resolving conflicts which it had helped to promote and to assist in repairing war-damaged economies.

President de Klerk appeared to be seeking a new pattern of regional relations but there was a fear that SA could be trying to revive in another form its idea of a “constellation of southern African states” once proposed by P W Botha.

At this stage, when the process of transformation was far from complete, other states in the region would hold back from any idea of formal inter-governmental arrangements.

However, trade was growing and bilateral relations had improved.

Mr Barratt added: “One must hope that by the middle of the decade the transition will have taken place in SA and we shall then be able to look more clearly at the probable future course of events in our region.”
Subcontinent
‘key to growth of Africa’

By Robin Drew
Star Africa Service

HARARE — The key to reversing Africa’s disastrous economic record lay in concentrating on the development of southern Africa, which was a region with the potential for success, Dr David Owen, former leader of Britain’s Social Democratic Party, said yesterday.

A former foreign secretary in the Labour Government, Dr Owen flew back to Britain yesterday, cutting short his visit to Zimbabwe following speculation that he had been offered a post by Prime Minister John Major. Dr Owen would not comment on the reports.

He was a keynote speaker at the two-day conference of the Zimbabwe division of the Institute of Directors which opened yesterday in Harare and is being attended by 300 delegates from 20 countries.

The conference is debating challenges facing southern Africa in the Nineties.

He said the most significant event of recent years was the shift towards a market economy, irrespective of ideology, which had gathered momentum in a remarkable way since 1989.

Southern Africa should learn from the experiences of Europe and work to quickly develop an internal market.

It was vital to get people to understand the importance of the market economy and a pluralist democracy to enable development to go in the right direction.

In the South African dialogue it was necessary for the economy, industry and trade to be given as high a priority as constitutional change. A rapid move towards a market economy was of the utmost importance.

Without sustained economic growth it would be much harder to finance the improvements needed in the social infrastructure.
Rampant Rebels Close In on Addis Ababa

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Since mid-January, the Ethiopian government has faced increasing pressure from rebel forces. The rebels, supported by neighboring African nations, have been pushing towards the capital, Addis Ababa. This is a significant move as it challenges the central government's authority and stability.

The rebels, who are primarily the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF), have been gaining momentum and have successfully taken control of several key areas. Their advance has put significant pressure on the government, leading to widespread displacement of civilians and a humanitarian crisis.

The situation is further complicated by the involvement of regional powers, which are backing opposing sides. This has escalated into a conflict that threatens to become regional, involving not only Ethiopia but also neighboring countries.

The international community is closely watching the developments, as the conflict could have repercussions beyond Ethiopia's borders. Peace negotiations are underway, but progress has been slow, and the situation remains tense.

In the meantime, the government has intensified its efforts to regain control of lost territories and repel the rebel forces. The situation is fluid, and updates are expected to be forthcoming as the conflict continues to unfold.
SA may be invited to join African Development Bank

ABIDJAN — The African Development Bank (ADB) is studying changes in South Africa with a view to future membership of Africa's top lending institution.

"We are aware of the evolution in South Africa and are watching it closely," ADB secretary-general Alioune Bâ said in a statement. "ADB sources have said the bank's president, Babacar N'Diaye, favours eventual membership for South Africa.

The sources said it was possible SA would have observers at the meeting on May 7-9 in the Ivory Coast capital of Abidjan or that South African bankers would be present.

Participation in the ADB would be a major step forward in the process of cementing ties between black Africa and South Africa.

Mr Beya said up to 1 500 people were expected to attend the ADB's annual general meeting and that one of the main orders of business would be setting a new five-year programme for the bank. — Sapa-Reuters.
Great goodwill towards SA in Africa – Rupert

By Paula Fray

There was enormous goodwill towards South Africa among African leaders, Dr Anton Rupert told the regional congress of the Federation of Hotel, Liquor and Catering Associations of SA (Fedhass) in Vanderbijlpark yesterday.

He said South Africans had the responsibility to explore the new climate positively: “The opportunities are immense and all we need now is peace.”

There were great opportunities in tourism, the fastest growing industry in the world, with a R10-trillion turnover, employing 100 million people.

Dr Rupert said South Africa had the infrastructure, culture, the climate and the variety to attract world tourists.

Southern Sun Holdings Group MD Ron Stringfellow said the hospitality industry had been badly affected by the Gulf War.

He said there was a surplus of hotel accommodation in the country.
UNITED NATIONS — African ambassadors yesterday condemned the European Community's decision to end a five-year ban on buying gold coins, iron and steel from South Africa.

Nigerian Ambassador Ibrahim Gambari, head of the General Assembly's Special Committee Against Apartheid, said the EC decision was premature and "counterproductive at this stage of development in South Africa".

"Neither the conditions for negotiations in a peaceful environment have been established, nor agreement ... on the mechanisms to be employed for the preparation of a new constitution," he said.

"Many political prisoners are still in jail and political exiles have not yet been permitted to return without restrictions," Mr Gambari said.

"The eradication of apartheid and the creation of a united, non-racial, democratic South Africa is still far on the horizon," he said.

Ghanaian Ambassador Kofo Awoonor criticized the EC and the impending visit of UK Foreign Minister Douglas Hurd to South Africa.

"These signals are wrong for the process in the country," said Mr Awoonor, chairman of the General Assembly's subcommittee on the Implementation of the UN Resolutions and Sanctions against South Africa.

"I don't know whether the EC is gauging the level of difficulties that are being encompassed, that are being felt within the process in the country," he said. — Sapa-AP.
Savers 'ripped off' in African states

PARIS — Internal debt money states owe to banks and firms — will dominate a meeting today of Franc Zone finance ministers in the Burkina Faso capital of Ouagadougou.

The twice-yearly forum will study ways of reducing the debt, but analysts say the problem will not go away.

"It's morally unacceptable, a rip-off by the state of the whole population," said one diplomat.

13 countries

The Zone groups France's dependent territories, Comoros and 13 countries in west and central Africa — Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Ivory Coast, Mali, Niger, Senegal and Togo.

In some of these African states, the internal debt is bigger than the headline-grabbing external variety.

While this is not the case with two of the biggest francophone countries in the area, Cameroon and Ivory Coast, the figures are still huge.

Cameroon has internal debt put by one monetary source at $1.7 billion and Ivory Coast's figure is $2 billion, between 15 and 20 percent of gross domestic product.

Internal debt comes mainly from borrowing by the state from the banks it controls. The borrowing is not repaid, so banks are left with liabilities but no cash to repay deposits.

"The monetary counterpart does not exist," the diplomat said. "This amounts to a forced 100 percent taxation of all savings."

Alternatively, the state fails to pay for goods and services it has procured.

"That is also a kind of forced taxation on companies. It's destroying companies."

One factor behind recent riots in Mali was the frustration of people who for years have tried to get their savings from state banks, which often did not have the cash, the diplomat said. — Sapa-Reuter.
ESCAPING THE TENDER TRAP

AFRICAN ECONOMIC REGENERATION MUST COME FROM WITHIN

The curious thing about Western attitudes towards the poor and starving in the Soviet Union and Africa, despite the similarity of their plight, is that the former are taken very seriously while the Africans have, in their own words, been "marginalised." Both, of course, have been the victims of failed government and varying degrees of totalitarianism. The difference is that the Soviets appear to have realised that their depredations have been self-inflicted through collectivist planning that rewards the indolent in greater proportion than it does the enterprising. The reaction has been to demand both instant capitalism and more regional political autonomy.

Africa, for its part, appears to cling stubbornly to the only political economy it knows, based on liberal myth, bureaucratic injunction and naked dictatorship. In short, that amounts to Africa blaming everyone else—especially the World Bank and IMF—for not providing it with the means of perpetuating its own indigence.

Or certainly one could be forgiven that view after reading the lengthy statement produced after a four-day workshop in January in Addis Ababa. It was aimed at examining what is euphemistically called Africa's development crisis. More than 40 specialists participated, including those from leading African trade unions, the UN Economic Commission for Africa and the Organisation of African Unity.

The FM is indebted to the Institute of African Alternatives, a London-based study group which now has a Johannesburg office, for a copy of that statement. The institute, which we suspect would itself endorse the statement's sentiments, nevertheless believes that Africa's economic problems are so serious that the broadest possible examination of the poverty of its economic ideas. It comes dangerously close to being an argument by Africans for their own marginalisation. For it is a litany of complaint rather than a compendium of constructive initiative and a capitulation over free trade to European sleight of hand.

There are sufficient examples in Africa to suggest that where elements of freedom of trade and exchange are allowed, rising prosperity can be sustained. Perhaps the problem is that too many African governments—including the government of SA—have for so long denied political freedoms that they too easily and wrongly squander economic ones with fears of a loss of their own sovereignty.

This is reflected in the cry for more development banks, which in turn is a thinly veiled attempt to maintain control over and continue misspending development aid. Regional development banks have nowhere proven to be instruments capable of guaranteed prosperity. They are too easily the means of subjecting bank initiatives to the interference of meddling politicians and their servants.

What Africa needs above all else is African resolution and resourcefulness. It must seek its own future from its own substantial intellectual and material resources, rather than allow itself to be encroved upon by meretricious reflections on its past or the duplicity of European politicians. And that, in turn, requires creative and self-confident leadership and the political freedom in which it is able to flourish.

In sharp contrast the Soviet Union has begun to look to the future. Until Africa can bring itself to do the same, it will remain at best on the margin of Western abundance.
New SA-Seychelles air links

IMPORTANT links in both travel and trade, between the Seychelles and SA will be cemented with new air links between the Indian Ocean Islands and Johannesburg beginning in August.

Already more than 10 000 South Africans spend their vacations there every year and it is planned to double this figure after Air Seychelles and later SA Airways establish air links.

Conrad Benoiton, executive chairman of Air Seychelles, announced in Johannesburg yesterday that his airline would begin weekly flights every Saturday between Jan Smuts and Mahe on August 3.

The Boeing 767 aircraft would leave Seychelles at 9.15 am, arriving at Jan Smuts at noon, and depart from Jan Smuts at 1.45 pm, arriving at 8.30 pm local time (less than 4hr 30mins flying time). The route will continue to be served by LuxAir until July 29.

John Kirby, general manager, said tour operators and retail agents had been anxiously waiting for the completion of the negotiations. He estimated that finally it would cost South Africans about R3 300 for a week’s holiday, depending on the packages and the season.

Mr Benoiton said the Seychelles had a small population — only about 69 000 — and the islands could not afford to have a mass holiday influx. There was a 4 000-bed occupancy on the islands and it was not intended to go very much above this, although two more hotels were planned for in the next two years.
Oil hope in island paradise

Neville Adlam

Oil has almost certainly been found in the Seychelles Islands. Drilling will begin within six months to establish in what quantities it will be found and whether the strike will be viable.

This latest development in the search for oil in the tropical islands has been the culmination of 10 years' research and work, according to Aboo T Aumeeruddy, economic adviser to the President's Office.

Mr Aumeeruddy is also a board member of Air Seychelles and is in Johannesburg for the planned launching of a weekly air service between SA and the Seychelles on August 3.

He said Texaco searched for oil in the region in the early Eighties, but had just missed it.

The company pulled out in 1994 and the Seychelles government handed over the research and information to Norwegian oil experts for re-analysis.

"Enterprise Oil UK began seismological surveys two years ago; and they are now ready to drill, using off-shore rigs, at the small island of Coetivy."

Mr Aumeeruddy emphasised that the Seychelles was one of the most environment conscious countries in the world, especially when it came to linking the environment with industrial development, adding:

"There is no poverty in the Seychelles. We are wedded to the principle of the good qualities of life. We have a beautiful environment and we will keep it beautiful. We will not allow damage to the ecological balance of the islands, no matter how rich the oil discovery is."
SA bank invited to Ivory Coast

ZILLA EFRAT

THE African Development Bank (ADB) has invited the Development Bank of SA (DBSA) chairman and CE Simon Brand and Cisko programme manager Salu Molapo to attend its AGM in Abidjan, Ivory Coast, in May as observers.

This is the first time the DBSA has been invited to such a meeting by the ADB.

A DBSA spokesman has confirmed that his bank would like to attend the AGM, to be held from May 6 to 9.

He said the invitation was extended because the DBSA was involved in similar functions as the ADB.

The ADB, which lends about $2.25bn annually, is reported to be preparing to admit SA as a member. Incorporation would allow SA to tender for bank projects. The ADB has 50 African and 25 non-African members and has financed 1200 projects.
Africa's ruthless rulers have a date with the dinosaurs

As did the dinosaurs, Africa's dictators are dying out. They had something in common with the prehistoric monsters in some ways. One might say that the chief difference between Idi Amin and Tyrannosaurus Rex, apart from some aspects of physical appearance, was that whereas Tyrannosaurus killed to eat, Amin killed for political gain and perhaps also for fun.

Amin, who used to have Ugandans killed with a sledgehammer, and Jean-Bédel Bokassa of the Central African Republic, whose puny body killed infanticide and cannibalism, were probably the most ruthless of the dictators. They were more repulsive than any of the other tyrants who flourished in the political vacuum left by the collapse of colonialism, when societies suddenly freed from European rule struggled to find workable alternatives.

Many became the victims of dictators, who emerged from the poverty and political confusion of post-independence Africa like creatures crawling out of the prehistoric swamps. Some of the leaders who seized power in this period were relatively benign, though dictatorial, such as Daniel arap Moi of Kenya, Leopold I of the Congo and Houphouët-Boigny of Ivory Coast. Others were less benign, such as Banda of Malawi, Mobutu of Zaire and Samuel Doe of Liberia.

But others — fortunately a minority — were almost, if not as bad, as Amin and Bokassa. Macias Nguema of Equatorial Guinea, for example, tortured and killed his people with such dedication that a third of them fled the country.

Personal aggrandisement was the hallmark of the worst of the dictators. Bokassa had himself crowned emperor in a ceremony whose cost might have fed the hungry people of his country for a long time and Nguema conferred on himself the title of Unique Miracle of Equatorial Guinea.

Evolution is overtaking the dictators, however, as it overtook the dinosaurs. The Unique Miracle was not miraculous enough to save himself from being overthrown by his nephew and executed in 1979. Bokassa was lucky, avoiding execution and ending up in jail.

The past year or so has been a bad time for the dictators. Samuel Doe was tortured to death by his political opponents, Saleh Barre of Somalia, who had more blood on his hands than had ever flowed in the veins of all his ancestors, was forced to flee for his life.

In Ethiopia, Mengistu Haile Mariam's ruthless regime is tottering and his survival is not worth a cheap bet. Moussa Traoré has been overthrown in Mali.

In Zaire, Mobutu, like other dictators, is having to back-pedal, furiously away from autocracy in order to stay in power. Zambia's Kenneth Kaunda, probably the most benign of the dictators, has been forced to allow free elections.

And so it goes. The dinosaurs lived for centuries and then suddenly died out for reasons that are unclear. The dictators have not been around for long but it seems that they, too, may quickly become extinct for reasons that are more apparent. The climate in which the dictators flourished, a one-party rule and centralised economies, is giving way to multi-party rule and some other forms of accountable government and to free enterprise.

African nations are learning again how to govern themselves, and not to be governed by despots. With the demise of the dictators, the obsession of post-independence African societies with heroic leaders must also wane. Popular power may be seen to reside not in the palace or the party but in and around the market place.

It may be premature to say this, but it seems that an era of democracy is dawning at last in Africa.
Ethiopian forces recapture a town

ADDIS ABABA - Ethiopia has recaptured the strategic town of Ambo, 100km west of the capital Addis Ababa after routing rebel forces who took it last week.

The official Ethiopian News Agency (ENA) said rebel troops were defeated in a counter-offensive launched by government forces and people living in the area.

"Government forces are in hot pursuit of the rebel forces fleeing in disarray and the inhabitants of the area are scouring the region in search of those who may have hidden themselves in the bushes," ENA said.

A spokesman for the Ethiopian People's Democratic Front (EPLF) had said that 'Ambo fell to the rebels last Wednesday after fierce fighting.'

This prompted the US diplomats in Addis Ababa to urge their nationals to leave Ethiopia.

The Ethiopian government also issued a decree aimed at strengthening the command structure of the armed forces.

ENA said it would bolster the fighting power of the armed forces and people's militia "to thwart the attempts being made to dismember the nation and spread organised terror and anarchy in the country".

The seven-part decree said efforts to revive peace talks with the rebels would continue.

Political analysts said the decree gave sweeping powers to the military and they expected it to restrict civil liberties severely.

The EPLF, which launched a new offensive in February after a lull of about six months, captured the northern regions of Gonder, Gojjam and Wellega. - Sapa-Reuters.
Skip 2 Pizzas, Feed 1 Man for 3 Weeks

Carver Thomson reports on the ongoing horror story — Staring Africa
Africans fear aid may be reduced as Eastern Europe absorbs funds

WASHINGTON — African nations are worried they will be left out in the cold amid the current international focus on Eastern Europe.

Government officials from several African nations participating in high-level financial meetings said in interviews that the international community had tried to allay fears that the reconstruction of Eastern Europe is monopolising most of the funds available for developing nations.

But they said they are not convinced their aid will not be severely curtailed.

"They have given us assurances, but in fact, the money is going to Eastern Europe," said Burundi finance minister Gerard Nyirigira.

"We are hopeful not to be forgotten," said Bank of Tanzania governor Gilman Ruthinda, but "very little was said about aid to other countries" during the meeting of the IMF's interim committee, in Washington.

Eastern Europe was clearly the dominant topic at the talks, he added.

None of the officials interviewed seemed optimistic that their aid packages would not shrink sharply.

Various IMF committees have drawn attention to the global scarcity of funds and stressed that developing nations will have to bear primary responsibility for reform programmes.

US treasury secretary Nicholas Brady, in comments to the IMF interim committee said "the need to attract capital is at the heart of every country's development challenge. Limited global capital resources ... and budgetary constraints on new foreign assistance within creditor governments, underscore the need for developing countries to encourage new private investment as a source of capital for development and growth."

Welcomed

The Group of Twenty Four (G-24) developing nations said in a statement that because of "shortage of global savings and increased competition for financial resources", the generally sanguine growth projections for developing countries may be overly optimistic and improvements may not materialise.

The G-24 also welcomed a recent move by creditor nations to forgive about half of Poland's $33bn of foreign official debt and called for the implementation of similar initiatives for heavily indebted developing countries.

But the so-called Trinidade Terms, which spell out major debt forgiveness for the poorest nations were not given very serious consideration in Monday's talks, Ruthinda said.

The only reference to such measures by Brady at the IMF meeting was that "for the poorest countries, the Paris Club is reviewing current rescheduling options and considering proposals that would extend additional relief ... and should have a substantial impact on the debt profiles of individual countries over time."

(AP-DJ)
Tyants who killed for political gain...and sometimes fun

The vanishing faces of Africa’s dictators

AS did the dinosaurs, Africa’s dictators are dying out.
They had something in common with the prehistoric monsters in some ways.
One might say that the chief difference between Idi Amin and Tyrannosaurus Rex, apart from some aspects of physical appearance, was that whereas Tyrannosaurus killed to eat, Amin killed for political gain and perhaps also for fun.
Amin, who used to have Ugandans killed with a sledge-hammer, and Jean-Bedel Bokassa of the Central African Republic, whose activities included infanticide and cannibalism, were probably the most ruthless and mindless of the dictators.
They were more repulsive than any of the other tyrants who flourished in the political vacuum left by the collapse of colonialism, whose societies suddenly freed from European rule struggled to find workable alternatives to their own.

Victims
Many became the victims of dictators, who emerged from the poverty and political confusion of post-independence Africa like creatures crawling out of the prehistoric swamps.
Some of the leaders who seized power in this period were relatively benign, though dictatorial, such as Amevi Mall Kenyatta of Kenya, Jomo Kenyatta of Kenya and Haug

Bokassa’s victims stood before the Pile of Death pleading for mercy.

Jean-Bedel Bokassa had himself crowned Emperor in a ceremony whose cost might have fed his hungry people for a long time.

Bokassa’s crown had been a bad time for the dictator.
Samuel Doe was tortured to death by his political opponents.

Ruthless
In Ethiopia, Mengistu Haile Mariam’s illiberal regime is tottering and its survival is not worth the cheap life.

Crowned
Bokassa had himself crowned Emperor in a ceremony whose cost might have fed the hungry people of his country for a long time and figures confirmed on himself the title of Unique Miracle of Ecquatorial Guinea.

Extinct
The dictators have been around for long but it seems that they may quickly become extinct for reasons that are not easy to explain.

Demise
With the demise of the dictators the criteria for post-independence African societies with leaders must also vanish.

Popular power is no longer confined to inside the palace or the party but is spread around the nation.

It may be premature to say this, but it seems like an era of destruction is dawning as last in Africa.

Sowetan Correspondent
27 million Africans facing 'a slow death'

LONDON — This week, full-page advertisements in all Britain's newspapers have been appealing to the public to "skip lunch".

The purpose is not to slim down an admittedly porky nation — but to bring home the fact that 27 million people in Africa are facing famine.

Recent developments — first Eastern Europe, then the plight of the Kurds — have drawn much of the world's attention away from Africa, where many inhabitants have been forced to eat the seed mealies that was their only chance of growing a crop this year. Others have nothing, except the prospect of a slow death.

From focus of the world's attention in the emotive days of Band Aid, Africa has receded from the picture to become a forgotten catastrophe. Food and water are running out, but nobody is watching... so nobody cares.

The cycle operating in Africa is all too-familiar: drought, crop failure, civil war, mass migration and death on a scale unimaginable in Europe or elsewhere in the West.

And even though the World Bank has highlighted the looming disaster facing millions of inhabitants from Ethiopia and Somalia to Malawi and Mozambique, this time food aid has been painfully slow. — Sowetan Correspondent.
African Press warned of ‘quick fixes’

WINDHOEK - "Let’s face it, we’re doing a pretty poor job," said Mr. Hilary Ng’weno, editor-in-chief of Kenya’s widely-read "Weekly Review," provided some provocative thinking in his keynote address at the conference on the "field of ideas" just as they would accept funding for a hydroelectric dam.

We have got to avoid going overboard in copying every foreign, Eastern or Western, model presented to us as the right model for an independent Press in Africa.

Ng’weno’s address, delivered in his absence by Mr. Stephen Musalia Mwirigi of the African Centre of Communications and Development, challenged the very good intentions of the United Nations-based gathering.

Examine the week-long seminar intends to do more than have Press representatives examine their navels in the usual manner of these meetings which address Press freedom and democratic ideals after which everyone goes home to the marked absence of just that.

The U.N. organisers want action and practicalities to be discussed, appropriate technologies, manpower development, profitable management and all manner of things to make newspapers work rather than ideals fly.

To achieve this, international donor agencies, particularly those from the Scandinavian countries, have been invited and it is hoped that the African delegates will get together with the potential funders to translate seminar ideas into action.

Which is what worries Ng’weno: "It is a well known but sad story. A model of development or project is presented to an African government (by a willing foreign donor). Reluctant to look a gift horse in the mouth, the African government accepts and implements what has been said will be in the interests of the people.

Project

Thirty years later when the model or project has turned out to be unworkable, a whole new team of experts arrives.

The quick fixes now being suggested for our political ills are likely to turn out to be just as short-lived as the ones which foreign experts of old prescribed for our economic ills.

Ng’weno identified the weaknesses of the African Press. Significant among these were the young and eager journalists who, while "they mean well," did not have the education or guidance needed to meet the task.

"If we are honest with ourselves we would admit that we are doing a pretty poor job of informing our public. Many of the problems we have are through the mismanagement of Press authorities, the lack of competent people in the field of journalism, the lack of powerful individuals or groups to curb the habits that are now being tolerated with impunity."

The conference on the ideal of an independent Press in Africa is an opportunity to assist in the acquisition and technology and to develop the development of skills.
Power for Africa

Cover Story 1

"A new, ambitious and will Galvanise a huge region..."
SA in challenge to French supremacy

SOUTH AFRICAN businessmen are pouring into the Malagasy capital of Antananarivo in search of new markets.

SA is well positioned to attack France's position as the island's chief trading partner.

Behind the wave of interest from SA businessmen are the island's apparently healthy foreign-currency reserves, thanks to generous aid from the West.

**English**

Mier, general manager of West African, has returned from Madagascar and says there is no shortage of foreign capital for importers.

But the central bank occasionally pulls in the forex reins, only to release them again.

Mr. West says: "There are ample opportunities for SA businesses, particularly in construction and cement. There appears to be little problem in securing irrevocable letters of credit, paid at sight in favour of the exporter."

Cape-based Kalani Investments started importing cabbage nicks and green pepper corns from Madagascar six months ago.

Kalani director Andrew Whittingdale, who has visited the island five times, says there are huge opportunities in Madagascar, but visiting businessmen are hampered by poor communications and not knowing where to start.

Mr. Whittingdale says: "It is hard to make phone contact with the island from SA.

We set up an office in Tananarive with phone, telex and fax machine and someone who speaks English to answer the phone."

"Through hard-won experience we found the correct way to make contact with businesses in Madagascar. I advise South Africans trying to do business there to find a reliable person who speaks English before trying to set up appointments."

The main languages on the island are Malagasy, followed by French. This poses a problem for SA businessmen trying to make direct contact.

"If you're lucky enough to get a phone call through to the island, chances are that the person answering speaks no English."

Mr. Whittingdale says there are frequently long delays in getting money out of the island in spite of the abundance of foreign currency. Commissions often go missing.

Rennies chief executive Piet Steyn says there is increased demand to move freight from SA to Madagascar, but most inquiries made by exporters and lawyers in a shipment.

Mr. Steyn says: "The traffic tends to be one way — to Madagascar. We are moving mainly primary products, such as steel and food. We have been involved in fertilising to Madagascar for several decades."

Madagascar has relaxed its doctrinaire socialist policies and made overtures to SA, culminating in a visit to the island by President De Klerk and Foreign Minister Pik Botha last August.

**Shell**

This was followed by the resumption of official ties, severed in 1972 by current president, Didier Ratsiraka.

President Ratsiraka's socialist policies transformed what was once considered one of the jewels of the French colonial empire into an African basket case, along the lines of Tanzania, Uganda and Mozambique.

It is the 118th-poorest country in the world with a per capita income of US$230. Gross domestic product grew by a derisory 0.4% a year between 1980 and 1987 when the population's annual growth exceeded 3%.

President Ratsiraka moved to adopt more market-oriented policies in 1987 at the behest of the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Although they have caused unemployment and poverty in many areas, inflation has been reduced from 30% to 8%.

Repeated balance of payments deficits have been assuaged by generous aid.

Shell has established a presence on the island and is prospecting for oil, which accounts for 14% of all imports. The US$4 billion of revenue from oil until 1988 when it suspended deliveries because of unpaid bills totaling US$290 million.

Onshore and offshore oil reserves were found in 1985, estimated to total 230 million barrels.

External debt in 1987 amounted to US$14 billion compared with gross national product of US$2.17 billion.

Several SA mining houses and Eskom have conducted exploratory trips around the island.

Agriculture provides employment for 80% of the population, coffee being the chief export. It is followed by vanilla, cloves, cotton and sugar cane.

Madagascar is privatising State-run assets, including trucking and transport, shipping, farming, telephones and electricity, all of which were run into the ground as a result of socialist policies.

**Thrust**

Mr. Whittingdale says there is a view in Madagascar that the government is selling the country from under the feet of the people.

"Although the government has introduced far-reaching economic reforms, there is still widespread poverty. Little of the aid that enters the country reaches the ordinary person."

The country requires rebuilding, but the major thrust of new investment in the next few years is likely to come from the tourist and hotel groups. It is hoped that the spin-offs in terms of industrial and commercial investment will go ahead.
Comoros back in hotel trade

FIVE WEEKS after re-launching Le Galawa Beach hotel on the Comoros, Sol Kerzner, through his newest venture—World Leisure Holidays, has announced a second and third stage of expansion.

Having spent R10-million on refurbishing the hotel, Mr Kerzner plans to spend about R350-million on a new one close to Le Galawa. Later will come an 18-hole golf course, villas and chalets to match anything in the Caribbean or Hawaii.

Sun International, with assistance from the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC), is developing the Le Galawa and the much smaller Isandara Hotel. They were closed after the assassination of President Ahmed Abdalla and because of what Sun International described as outrageous import taxes. Sun International had to walk away from its R55-million investment.

The major hotel on Grande Comore, the 105-room Le Galawa, was closed in January last year, and the nearby 22-room Isandara closed in June. Since then, they have been in mothballs.

Mr Kerzner decided to refurbish them. Le Galawa was reopened on March 13, accompanied by the first SAA flight to the island.

He plans to add 50 rooms to the hotel and establish a new unit of about 350 rooms at the nearby Malagbeh beach.

Plans for the third phase are grander and the initial cost could be as high as R250-million.

Mr Kerzner says agreement for the third phase has been reached in principle only with the Comorian government. But, the fact that architects and interior decorators are on the island suggests he is wasting no time in getting the project moving.

Friendly

The Comoros— the islands of Grande Comore, Moheli and Anjouan— is the third-poorest country in the world with an annual per capita income of $230.

President Said Mohamed Djohar, who was democratically elected after the failed coup by Bob Denard, says Mr Kerzner is "one man you can trust."

President Djohar is aware that SA's links with the island community are vital for its success. But he realises the difficulties in attaching itself to SA.

"Tourism and the sea are our main resources and we must look after them. This can be done with SA help.

"It is difficult to be friendly with SA because we are close friends of the Organisation for African Unity, but we believe it will pay dividends. SA has helped us in the past four years, and we hope it will not forget old friends."
**New-look ports battle to regain freight traffic**

**Lion**

Mr Steyn says: "Unless Mozambique is able to bring the banditry under control, it stands to lose a large slice of its freight traffic to SA.

"As political and economic barriers between SA and the rest of Africa crumble, less political pressure will be brought to bear on countries such as Zimbabwe to use Mozambican ports for exports. This could result in a greater tonnage of freight from previously hostile neighbours passing through SA ports."

Rennies subsidiary Manica has been in Mozambique for 29 years. Manica is one of the few freighting and forwarding companies to continue operating in Mozambique throughout the civil war.

Many corporations pulled out of Mozambique after Frelimo came to power in 1975, but by staying behind, Manica captured the lion's share of business in spite of serious operational problems caused by the internal strife.

Road haulage, for example, has become virtually impossible in places.

Mr Steyn says: "We have to move freight by sea from Maputo to Beira and Nacala because of the danger involved in road transport. We also have two aircraft based in Mozambique so that our staff can commute around the country."

The Beira Corridor, which links the Zimbabwe town of Mutare to the port of Beira, has been made relatively secure from Renamo attacks by the widespread presence of Zimbabwean troops. But there have been occasional breaches of the security cordon, resulting in attacks on the railway line and oil pipelines.

Zimbabwean troops recently pulled out of the Tete Corridor, a vital link between Zimbabwe and the Tete province in northern Mozambique. It halves the travelling time from SA to Malawi.

The Tete Corridor was reopened this year, but closed after only two months. More than 100 people were killed by bandits.

Goods from SA to Malawi now go through Zambia, resulting in at least two days' additional travelling time.

**Sense**

Freight companies report long delays at the Zambian borders because customs officials are unprepared for the increase in traffic.

Malawi is still unable to make extensive use of Nacala port because of a lack of rolling stock and occasional rail accidents.

The Nacala rail link is also in serious need of repair. The line from Zimbabwe to Maputo is still a target for rebel attacks.

Another disadvantage for Maputo is that port charges are levied in US dollars and SA ports charge rands. Neighbouring countries with foreign-currency shortages take advantage of the rand's depreciation against the dollar.

Mozambican authorities hope to encourage SA exporters to send their goods through Maputo, but serious difficulties have to be overcome.

Mr Steyn says the city and port of Maputo are often plagued by power and other services.

"We are looking at providing whatever assistance we can in Maputo - as we are doing in Durban. It makes sense for certain exporters, particularly in the Eastern Transvaal, to ship through Maputo."

Richards Bay recently increased its coal-handling facilities. But small coal exporters in the Eastern Transvaal could save money by exporting through Maputo.

Mr Steyn says Maputo received little in the way of aid since independence because donor nations 'thought it would be of direct benefit to SA.'

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**Birds, feathered and otherwise**

WADING through the piles of glossy brochures planning holiday resorts in the Indian Ocean islands leaves one a little perplexed.

The pictures promise panoramas of spectral greens and blues, white sands stretching to infinity, ravishing girls, tanned and sparsely dressed, draped across reclining chairs and sin-black parrot and remnants of the prehistoric forest, Vallee de Mai, said to be the original Garden of Eden.

Thirty minutes by air from Mahé is Cousin, an island sanctuary owned by the International Council for Bird Preservation. Cousin is home to the rare brush warbler.
Financial woes imperil newfound democracy

WINDBOENK - The wave of democratisation that has swept through Africa in the past two years is imperilled by the worsening economic crisis on the continent.

Mr Salim Lone, the chief of information for the United Nations Africa Recovery Programme, said industrialised nations should take note of changes occurring in Africa and consider providing debt relief and commodity funds to help the continent out of its 12-year economic crisis.

At a press conference here last week, Lone painted a bleak picture of the prospects for economic recovery, much of it quite beyond Africa's control.

"Africa itself is on the right path," he said. But in the world picture, the continent had been completely marginalised.

The latest figures from the International Monetary Fund, released last week, showed no relief ahead. Instead, the scenario for Africa, with its R700 billion debt, was looking progressively worse.

Famine

"The world knows about civil wars in Africa and about famine, but little else. As the reality of what Africa itself is becoming clearer, Western countries will pay more attention."

This was the only note of hope sounded by Lone. He believed African countries had, on the whole, recognised that they had to put their own houses in order; they wanted to "take charge of their own destinies".

The move towards an African Economic Treaty, high on the agenda of the next meeting of the Organisation of African Unity in Nigeria at the end of the month, was a measure of this, said Lone.

Since January last year, more African countries had introduced multi-party political systems than in the last 25 years.

At the same time, the level of political violence in Africa was unprecedented, much of it attributable to the stringent economic structural adjustment programmes that many countries had instituted at the behest of the IMF and the World Bank.

Lone said that in many ways Namibia's independence could not have come at a worse time economically.

Strategic

The end of the Cold War meant that aid to strategic surrogates in Africa had dried up.

At the same time the world commodity prices that fell in 1979, have not recovered. Africa borrowed heavily following the rise in the oil price in 1979 when banks were only too pleased to be rid of their petrol-linked dollars.

Africa earned between 88 and 90 percent of its income from the sale of primary commodities.

When those prices did not recover following the borrowing spree, more borrowing followed and the debt spiral deepened.

Last year commodity prices fell a further eight percent, this year another three.

Among the doomsday IMF figures to which Lone referred was that GDP growth in Africa for 1990 would be only two percent and 1.2 in 1991. The population growth was 3.2 percent.

"The per capita income in Africa has fallen every year for the past 12 years and it's going to get worse," said Lone.

This could not have come at a worse time coupled with the marginalisation Africa had suffered as the world looked to the Middle East and Eastern Europe.

Lone also said that 40 million African children would die of hunger or treatable diseases in the nineties and that the Aids threat to African children was greater than anywhere else.

About 1.5 million women on the continent are HIV positive, compared to 100 000 in the United States.

The figure for absolute poverty is expected to double in the decade to 405 million whereas in other crisis countries like those of South East Asia, poverty was being eradicated.

The food gap in Africa, 15 million tons at present, would be 200 million tons within 30 years or the equivalent of the entire cereal output of the United States.

Another statistic to put the crisis in perspective was that the total output of the 500 million people of the 46 countries of sub-Saharan Africa was less than the total output of metropolitan New York.

Reforms

Lone said that in the mid-1980s, when African countries agreed to IMF and World Bank recommendations for structural adjustment, the West undertook to provide the assistance necessary to realise those reforms.

Two recent reports to the UN Security Council indicated that while many of these economic reforms had been initiated, the increased resources from the West had not met anywhere near the required levels.

There had been a two percent annual increase in official development assistance to Africa, while the World Bank recommended a four percent increase if there was to be a one percent increase in economic output.

But aid and assistance was not always appropriate and could not be evaluated in isolation. The net financial transfer, or available resources, had dropped from R39 billion in 1981 to R7.8 billion in 1989.

When Western governments made decisions about where their money was to go, the fact that sub-Saharan Africa accounted for only 1.5 percent of world trade, meant that it was no significant concern.

Lone said that at a meeting of seven industrialised nations in Houston last year, Africa was not even mentioned.

A recent meeting of the Paris Club gave special debt concessions to Egypt and Poland.

"The countries most stricken are African. But when the crunch comes, the best deals go to Eastern Europe and the Middle East," said Lone.

The only hope was that the West would recognise what Africa itself had achieved by way of reform and come up with debt relief - without which that reform was doomed. - Africa Correspondent.
AFRICA

Development bank seeks US support

ABJAN — African Development Bank president Babacar n'Diaye this week urged the US to back his ambition to give the bank a big role in lending to the private sector.

In an interview ahead of the bank's three-day annual meeting of its 76 African and industriised member countries, which started yesterday, n'Diaye said the bank wanted to be part of a global trend for development institutions to bolster private business.

The US government urged the World Bank group to devote 80% of its resources to the private sector by 1995. I would like to ask the US whether it would be prepared to support that level of lending to the private sector, the ADB’s president told the bank's annual meeting newsletter.

"The more we involve the private sector, the more we open up job opportunities and help sound management of the economy."

Seeking US pressure on the World Bank to back the private sector emerged at the bank’s IMF meeting in Washington last month.

ADB officials said privately that Western donors, whose financial backing underpinned the bank’s top credit ratings on world capital markets, had curbed the ADB’s ambition to offer a wide range of lending services to companies.

A new private sector unit, due to begin operations in August with start-up funds of $360m, will be able to offer only a limited amount in direct lending and equity participation in private ventures.

"The bank’s board has restricted us," said one official. "Some of the donors think we’ve been expanding too fast."

Donors have already curtailed African hopes for a large boost to concessional lending by the bank’s soft loan arm, the African Development Fund, limiting its 1991-92 programme to $3.24bn. Some African governments had sought nearly $5bn.

Donors say the bank has expanded operations too quickly, without developing the necessary staff experience to offer a wide range of services or to supervise existing loans properly at country level.

Hitherto, all ADB loans — amounting to a cumulative total of $18.9bn — have been made for official development projects or to support government economic reforms, even when these are designed to boost the private sector. — Reuter.
Free academics, govs urged

NAIROBI — A London-based human rights group yesterday accused African governments of infringing on academic freedom and urged them to free academics and students detained without trial.

Africa Watch also appealed to donors "to protect the detention and abuse of academics and students at institutions" that receive their assistance.

The charges and recommendations were contained in a report titled "Academic Freedom and Human Rights Abuses in Africa".

Other recommendations contained in the report urged African governments to:

- End the practices of detaining, harassing, and dismissing academic staff.
- Allow student organizations to function independently of government and ruling parties. — Sapa-AP.
Ivory Coast's quick slide to ruin
Exiles’ committee to seek world aid for repatriation

An international donors’ conference aimed at raising funds for repatriating SA exiles will take place within the next six weeks.

The conference will be discussed by a high-powered SA delegation which will visit the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) next week.

The delegation is likely to include representatives of the ANC and PAC as well as the National Co-ordinating Committee for the Repatriation of SA Exiles (NCCE).

NCCE executive committee member Frank Chikane said yesterday the committee had decided not to wait for government and the UNHCR to come to a decision on the international body’s involvement in the repatriation of 40 000 exiles.

“We are sending a team to work out the details which determine what role the UNHCR will be playing,” Chikane said.

“We should not wait for the government to come to an agreement with the UNHCR. We must do our preparations now,” Patrick Bulger said.

“We have decided to go ahead with raising funds. We need to be able to say to donors what money we will need regardless of UNHCR involvement.

“After our discussions next week we will arrive at a figure,” he said.

Meanwhile, relations between government and the UNHCR appear to have deteriorated.

Government sources have said government is perturbed by certain UNHCR statements that are seen to be in breach of agreements between the two bodies.

Negotiations between government and the UNHCR have deadlocked over the issue of amnesty. The UNHCR wants government to grant a blanket amnesty to all returnees.

Sapa-Reuters reports from Geneva that the UNHCR is pressing SA to move faster in its negotiations.

“I fear we are losing momentum in these negotiations,” said UNHCR spokesman Sadako Ogata.

The UNHCR said government sent a message on May 3 saying that clauses on amnesty in a draft agreement were unacceptable.

 Pretoria has asked that the UNHCR, in countries without SA representation, distribute and collect forms on which refugees list offences for which they seek indemnity.

UNHCR officials say this would be contrary to UN practice.

“As far as I know there is no possibility of our becoming involved in collecting and distributing these forms,” one official said.

Age catches up with Youth League leaders

ANC Youth League president Peter Mokaba and half his provincial leadership could find themselves without jobs if the ANC’s proposed constitution is adopted in July.

The constitution — to be proposed for ratification at the ANC’s consultative conference in Durban — states that the league’s membership should be open to people between the ages of 14 and 30.

The league’s assistant secretary-general Billy Masetha said the question of the maximum age was a matter of “strenuous” debate among league and ANC members.

About half the 25-member provisional leadership group was over 30, he said. Mokaba, whose taste for designer shirts and militant style have made him a high-profile and popular figure among the youth, is 33 years old.

The Youth League’s current maximum age is 35, and this age limit would be adhered to until a final decision was taken at the conference, Masetha said.

The league would decide within the next few weeks which maximum age limit to propose for discussion at the conference, he said.

The proposed constitution also says that Youth League members over the age of 18 will be expected to play a full part in the ANC.

ANC membership is open to anyone over the age of 18, according to the proposed constitution.

The league recently claimed a signed-up membership of more than 400 000 and a paid-up membership of 210 000.

By Charles Schulz

Malan ‘in Seychelles deals’

IAN HOBBS

LONDON — Former Seychelles president Sir James Mancham yesterday claimed that SA Defence Minister Magnus Malan had opened secret dealings with the island’s Marxist government.

Mancham, ousted in a coup 14 years ago, ended years of silence to warn that SA would suffer damaging consequences from “dealing with Marxist thugs”.

He said he had evidence that Malan visited the Seychelles on March 29. He said there was also good evidence of previous secret visits by Malan.

He alleged that on one visit, Malan met the island’s Marxist President Albert Rene to pay “millions of dollars” for the release of mercenaries captured after the abortive 1981 coup led by Col Mike Hoare.

Our political staff reports that Malan yesterday denied the allegations.

He confirmed he had met Rene in March this year during a private visit but that this had been the first time they had met.

They had discussed landing rights and Malan had referred him to the “appropriate South African authorities” as this matter fell beyond his responsibility.

There was “no substance at all” to the allegation that he was involved or instrumental in paying money for the release of mercenaries.

“My wife and I visited Seychelles in March for a few days on a private visit, as we did last year. I can recommend the Seychelles for a relaxing few days in quietness,” he said.
Bank chiefs into Africa
The rise and fall of the poorly paid town-criers

As Africa’s independent press makes headway, the question is whether it can survive without state help.

By ANTON HARBER

Uphill battle ... newspapers like these play a crucial but difficult role

As you can see, the media landscape in Africa has undergone significant changes in recent years, with many countries seeing the rise of independent presses and the struggle to survive in an environment where state control and limitations are common. This article discusses the challenges faced by independent newspapers in Africa, particularly in countries where freedom of the press is not fully guaranteed. The author, Anton Harber, examines the difficulties these newspapers face, including the need for financial support, the impact of government policies, and the role of journalists in advocating for press freedom.

The article highlights the importance of independent media in providing a voice for the underprivileged and marginalized populations. However, it also notes the risks involved, such as imprisonment, violence, and legal challenges. Despite these challenges, the independent presses continue to play a vital role in promoting democracy and accountability in African societies.

The article concludes by questioning whether these newspapers can survive without state help, a critical issue in many African countries where the state often wields significant control over the media. The author calls for increased support for independent media, both in terms of financial assistance and legal protection, to ensure that these vital voices are able to continue their work in advocating for change and promoting a free press.
LUSAKA. — The frontline states fear that the current violence in South Africa has given the government an excuse to stall the end of apartheid.

"The frontline states will warn the liberation movements that the political intolerance and fighting we are seeing may be the beginning of worse things to come," a senior Zambian official said.

Leaders of the seven states are due to meet in Zambia today to review political developments in SA. They will also meet senior officials of the PAC and ANC.

A number of issues will be discussed, including the recent lifting of economic sanctions against Pretoria by the European Community.

African diplomats in Zimbabwe say officials in the region have expressed fears that the current wave of violence between ANC and the IFP supporters could lead to civil war.

"They think if nothing is done, we could see another Angola in South Africa," said one diplomat.

The meeting, sources said, would also review political developments in the Southern African region. — Sapa-Reuter
Africa leads massive population explosion

LONDON — The world’s population is growing faster than predicted, and bringing birth under control is now a matter of global survival, according to the UN “State of the World Population Report” released yesterday.

By mid-1991 the world’s population is expected to reach 5.4 billion.

A population of 10.2 billion had been forecast by 2075, but United Nations experts now say that projection may be reached 25 years earlier.

Significant growth is expected for another century after that. Some 95 percent of the increase will be in the poorer, developing world, which is least able to cope, says the report.

Dr Nafis Sadik, executive director of the United Nations Population Fund, told reporters that to stabilise the world population at 10.2 billion by 2075, fertility must be lowered from the current 3.8 to 3.3 births per woman.

To do this, the number of couples practising contraception in the developing world had to increase by 50 percent, from 381 million in 1980 to 577 million by the year 2000.

“While these figures may sound daunting, I believe the targets are realistic and can be achieved,” said Dr Sadik, a paediatrician.

The consequences of failure were devastating.

“We can already see the warning signs of missing our targets. These signs represent trends that, if not checked, portend an ominous future,” she said.

Increasing human demands were damaging the natural resources — especially land, water and air — that underpinned economic development and human survival.

In many areas, groundwater was being used faster than it was being replenished, while salinisation or waterlogging affected half the world’s irrigated croplands. The amount of arable land was shrinking as the number of hungry mouths grew.

According to UN data, topsoil is being lost at the rate of 26 billion tons a year.

New deserts are appearing at the rate of perhaps 14 million acres annually. Tropical forests are shrinking by 27 million acres a year.

Slower growth and more even distribution of population would help take the pressure off land, energy resources, watersheds and forests, the report said.

Millions

Dr Sadik said the cost of controlling population would double in a decade to R22.5 billion a year. Some of it would come from reallocation of bilateral government aid and bank loans. Developing nations and those using family planning services would have to come up with about half the money needed, she said.

The largest relative increases in the coming years would take place in Africa, the report said. By the end of the century, Africa would have grown from its current 650 million people to 900 million. In Nigeria, Africa’s most populous country, the population is expected to double in the next 20 years.

Some Arab countries had even shorter population doubling times. In Syria and Yemen, women continued to have at least six live births, and throughout the region families with eight children were not uncommon, the report noted.

The population of Latin America and the Caribbean was expected to increase by 100 million by the turn of the century to 540 million.

Meanwhile North American and European countries, with the exception of Albania, had growth rates of less than 1 percent. Without immigration, Europe’s numbers would increase hardly at all for the rest of the century, the report said.

Migratory pressures would increase the burgeoning Third World population, the report noted. The number of migrants fleeing poverty, political oppression or environmental instability was already growing, while the need for unskilled and semi-skilled workers was on the decline in the industrialised north.

The report also included the conclusions of a study of 120 countries that compared demographic pressures with political institutions. It found that only a handful of countries with serious population pressures managed to maintain stable constitutional governments with good records on civil and political rights.

But the report contained several signs of hope.

“Compared with any previous generation, more women are saying they want fewer children. Although actual fertility is still much higher than desired fertility in many countries, it is now falling in all regions of the developing world,” it said.

The voluntary use of contraception in developing countries had grown from 10 percent of couples in the 1960s to 51 percent.

If women who did not want to become pregnant could exercise that choice, the rate of population growth in the Third World would fall by about 30 percent.

— Sapa-AP.

Six Vere nurses stand trial

IMM APPROVED 2 MONTH COURSE STARTS 6 JUNE

THE DMS COURSE

Dr. V.G. NSS, Macrae
Southern Africa targeted by bank

THE African Development Bank (AFDB) looks set to expand its activities in southern Africa — including joint financing of projects with the Development Bank of Southern Africa.

This was the message brought home by Development Bank GM Andre la Grange, who attended the AFDB’s AGM this month in Abidjan. It was the first meeting to which the AFDB invited a representative from SA.

The Development Bank and the ADB, which follows the OAU Charter on relations with SA, will pool expertise in the coming months.

La Grange said: “The interaction that we agreed on is first of all to conduct a few economic and technical studies on the possibilities that co-operation might offer for regional integration and regional trade, for the whole question of labour mobility, and of monetary and fiscal policies in the southern African region.”

La Grange said his reception at the meeting had been nothing short of “magnificent” and that he had had contact up to the level of the Bank’s vice-president. Discussions had also been held with delegates from all the Frontline states. “There are indications that the ADB is showing a greater interest in southern Africa.”

He noted he had picked up an “under-tone” about SA being so dominating in the region and said it would have to take care not to become a “big, bad brother”.

The AFDB is expected to visit Namibia during the year and talk is that it could visit SA at the same time. But despite the thawing in relations, the AFDB is still careful about discussing its links with SA.

A report in a special newspaper covering the AGM quoted the Bank’s vice president, Adewale Sangowawa, as saying: “There are certain projects in which we are investing which they are also financing.” He added there could be no “official” co-operation talks with SA.

Projects in which both the ADB and the Development Bank have invested include the Lesotho Highlands Water Project and agricultural development projects in Mozambique.

The most recent example is Friday’s announcement of the sugar rehabilitation programme in Mozambique, which the Development Bank will finance to the tune of R2.5m. The ADB is also involved in providing finance and technical assistance for the overall rehabilitation programme.

In an unrelated development, it was announced that Development Bank CE Simon Brand would replace Jan Lombard as one of SA’s World Bank governors.
Help the Richer States more

Pouting funds into war-torn desert areas will not help Africa, writes R. W. Johnson

OPINION
Germany-Africa air traffic grows

FRANKFURT — Air traffic between Africa and Germany has been identified as one of only three areas worldwide which experienced growth last year.

Lufthansa finance CEO Klaus Schleide told journalists here yesterday the German carrier experienced 10.9% growth on its freight and passenger services to Africa.

Johannesburg had consistently performed as one of Lufthansa's most lucrative African routes, he added.

Schleide said overall growth on African routes had risen by about DM500 million last year and economic and political changes in southern Africa had raised expectations for further growth this year.

In its annual report released yesterday, Lufthansa warned that prospects in the African market depended largely on oil price developments.

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) has set a 6% growth target for German-African traffic for the next year.

Outgoing Lufthansa chairman Heinz Ruhnaus yesterday called for the establishment of world air link networks whereby single airlines would be able to offer flights between all of the world's major centres.

Last month seven African civil aviation executives called for the region's airlines to join forces to fight off this type of competition from leading airlines.

Ruhnaus said for modern airlines to survive, massive fleet expansion and investment programmes were needed.
Portugal bids to regain influence in Africa

LISBON -- Sixteen years after Portugal abruptly withdrew from Africa, it is trying to regain influence in its five former colonies to help resolve the economic chaos and civil wars it left behind.

Flights to Africa are filling with Portuguese businessmen eager to cash in on the rebuilding of shattered economies and tap into the potential mineral and agricultural wealth.

Diplomats, meanwhile, are enhancing Lisbon's international profile by actively trying to settle the "post-independence confusion" after years of disengagement.

"There is a spirit of great solidarity. We are united by historical links," Foreign Minister Joao de Deus Pinheiro said recently.

Mediation

Portugal can proudly point to its mediation of talks between Angola's leftist government and US-backed Unita rebels over the past year which led to the May 1 initialing of a peace accord.

A de facto end to 16 years of war is due on May 15 with a formal ceasefire signing on May 31 in Portugal.

Lisbon has also been working behind the scenes to help end Mozambique's civil war and has offered its aid to rulers of Cape Verde, Sao Tome and Principe, and Guinea-Bissau where a transition to democracy is under way.

Portugal, tired of long and costly nationalist struggles which killed thousands, ended five centuries of colonial rule in Africa within a year of its own 1974 leftist revolution.

But civil war broke out in Angola and Mozambique after independence and the infrastructures of the five countries collapsed with the exodus of half a million Portuguese technicians, administrators and businessmen.

Patron

Moscow replaced Lisbon as the ideological and often financial patron of the five countries which adopted one-party Marxist systems.

Now, the move towards peace and away from state-controlled economies has raised Portuguese hopes of fat business contracts.

And Lisbon's centre-right government has realised the value of its common language and centuries-old ties to help serve as a bridge between Europe and Portuguese-speaking Africa.

These ties are strengthened by good air links and the presence of thousands of African immigrants in Portugal.

Many Portuguese settlers who left at independence still maintain contacts with the former colonies and Lisbon also serves as an exile base for Angolan and Mozambican opposition groups.

Tribute to Lisbon's role in achieving the Angolan peace accord was paid by the warring foes as well as Moscow and Washington, respective backers of the government and Unita.

"This step would not have been achieved were it not for the Portuguese government's interest and dedication," said Unita vice-president Jeremias Chitunda upon initialing the peace accord.

Understand

"The Portuguese speak the same language and they have first-hand knowledge of the region," said a US diplomat who acted as an observer at the talks. "They understand Africa."

Lisbon is also increasing co-operation with its former three colonies in West Africa.

Portuguese observers were on hand at the first free elections in the Cape Verde islands and Sao Tome and Principe earlier this year and contacts are growing with Guinea-Bissau which is moving towards pluralism.
Africa must develop its own green identity

The Environment: EEKO REACH reports on a warning issued to African ecologists movements
African Union leaders yesterday called for a new round of talks to end the civil war in Sudan. The UN mission in Sudan, however, has warned that a solution to the conflict is unlikely to be found through diplomatic means alone.

The AU has been trying to broker a peace deal between the government in Khartoum and the rebel groups that have been fighting for autonomy in the south for more than two decades. The latest round of negotiations, which began in January, ended without any breakthrough.

The AU leaders, who met in Kampala, also discussed the situation in the Central African Republic, where violence has spread following the ousting of President Francois Bozize in March. They called for an immediate end to the violence and the restoration of peace and stability.

In other developments, the AU has condemned the recent attacks on civilians in the Darfur region, where government forces and militias have been accused of committing widespread human rights abuses.

The leaders also pledged to continue working with the United Nations and other international partners to support the African Union's efforts to resolve the conflict in Sudan and the Central African Republic.
Missing Mengistu expected to surface in Zimbabwe

ADDIS ABABA — Ethiopia's President Mengistu Haile Mariam, under severe pressure from northern rebel groups, has fled the country, Ethiopian state radio said yesterday.

The radio said Vice-President Tesfaye Gabra Kidan had taken over as acting head of state.

Western diplomats said earlier that Prime Minister Tesfaye Dinka summoned Western ambassadors in the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa on Tuesday morning to say Mengistu had gone.

Mengistu had been in power since 1977.

One possible refuge mentioned for Mengistu was Zimbabwe, where he is reported to own a ranch.

In Harare, official sources said: "There are indications he may be coming."

Diplomats said Mengistu, a close friend of Zimbabwe's President Robert Mugabe, was believed to have sent members of his family to Zimbabwe last month as rebels tightened their grip around Addis Ababa.

This was denied by the Ethiopian embassy in Harare at the time.

He met Zimbabwean Justice Minister Emerson Mnangagwa in Addis Ababa on Monday. — Sapa-Reuters.
HARARE — A cloak of secrecy was thrown over the arrival in Harare shortly before midnight last night of a man presumed to be Mengistu Haile Mariam, the former Ethiopian leader who was forced out of office earlier in the day.

Reporters who kept vigil at Harare International Airport were locked in the airport building to prevent them watching the arrival of a four-engined jet which touched down less than an hour after President Robert Mugabe had flown out to London to see the British Prime Minister, John Major.

No explanation was given for the stringent security precautions. But an airport employee whispered "It was Mengistu" as cars which had been drawn up in front of the terminal building sped away.

Another man said the main figure was dressed in combat fatigues and appeared to be close to tears.

The Ethiopian ambassador to Zimbabwe, Asrat Wolde, was at the airport but denied he had come to meet Colonel Mengistu. He said he was there to see Mr Mugabe off but there was a noticeable absence of other diplomats except for the dean of the diplomatic corps, Ali Haimeh, the Palestinian envoy.

It was reported earlier that Mengistu's wife had arrived on a scheduled Ethiopian Airlines plane. Security officials confiscated film from news photographers.

It is possible that one reason for the elaborate secrecy is the concern that Ethiopian exiles here could pose a threat to the former leader who has long been regarded as a ruthless ruler with scant regard for human rights.
NIROBI - Ethiopia's President Mengistu Haile Mariam, who stepped down yesterday after 14 years in power, arrived in neighbouring Kenya, apparently before flying on to an unknown destination, Kenyan airport officials said.

The Ethiopian Government said earlier that Mengistu, under severe military pressure from northern rebel groups, had stepped down and left the country to avoid further bloodshed. It did not say where he was heading.

Local journalists said they saw a twin-engined Ethiopian Airlines plane at Nairobi Airport just before 1 pm. Local officials said Mengistu was on board.

Reports in the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa said Mengistu was heading for Zimbabwe.

In the Zimbabwean capital Harare, official sources said he might seek asylum in the country.

"There are indications he may be coming," the sources said.

Diplomats said Mengistu, a close friend of Zimbabwe's President Robert Mugabe, was believed to have sent members of his family to Zimbabwe last month as rebels tightened their grip around Addis Ababa.

This was denied by the Ethiopian embassy in Harare at the time.

Mengistu met Zimbabwean Justice Minister Emerson Mngagwa in Addis Ababa on Monday.

A photograph of the two in the state-run newspaper yesterday fuelled rumours Mengistu was about to flee to Zimbabwe.

There were reports that Mngagwa carried a personal message from Mugabe. - Sapa-Reuters.
Decrease in the trend — huge carryover.

Futurist's View: The world's population is on the rise, but the rate of growth is slowing. In the future, we will see a decrease in the rate of population growth, but the population will still continue to increase in the short term. The decrease in the rate of growth will be due to factors such as improved healthcare, education, and access to contraception.

The current population of the earth is estimated to be around 7.8 billion, with a projected growth rate of 1.08% per year. If this trend continues, the world's population is expected to reach 9.7 billion by 2050. However, if effective measures are taken to control the rate of population growth, the population could stabilize or even decline in the future.

In summary, the future of the world's population is uncertain, but it is clear that the rate of growth is slowing, and we must take measures to ensure a sustainable future.
Highly welcome departure

Ethiopian ruler Mengistu Haile Mariam celebrated as his people starved, reports JULIAN OZANNE.

For the 14 bleak years he ruled Ethiopia, Mengistu Haile Mariam violently stamped his rigid personal vision of Marxism-Leninism on a people cowed by years of bloody terror and regimented by party apparatus.

His departure this week under pressure from the US, Soviet Union, other African countries and the weight of successive rebel victories gives Ethiopia the chance for renewal and reconstruction.

As Mr. Mengistu pumped millions of rands and thousands of teenage lives into an unwinnable war with rebel groups and set about building a Stalinist state and developing his own personality cult, Ethiopia slid further into absolute poverty and recurring famine.

A chilling portrait of Africa’s most reviled dictator since Idi Amin was revealed in the memoirs of Dawit Wolde Giorgis, a former member of the central committee of the Workers Party of Ethiopia who defected to the West in 1985.

Mr. Mengistu maintained his power like Stalin, through force, intrigue and manipulation. He rules by decree, enforcing his will through the groups of loyal henchmen, secret police and terrorist squads placed in nearly every government agency, wrote Mr. Giorgis.

Mr. Mengistu, a slightly built soldier with a stern, steel gaze, was a prominent member of the army cabal which seized power in 1974 from Emperor Haile Selassie. Then an obscure major with a reputation as a bar-room brawler who won fights because he did not hesitate to hit first, he was quickly chosen as the first vice-chairman of the Provisional Military Administrative Council, which ruled Ethiopia between 1974 and 1977.

Behind the scenes Mr. Mengistu, who increasingly spoke in revolutionary slogans and Marxist cliches, was constantly maneuvering for absolute power and liquidating potential sources of opposition.

On February 8, 1977, when opposition to his bloody tactics was gaining ground, he had his bodyguards arrest all his enemies at a meeting of the council. They were later executed.

He quickly set about consolidating his power, arming his supporters and unleashing extraordinary violence against his opponents. Arbitrary executions, public lynchings and street massacres were common.

His inability to negotiate with the rebels sowed the seeds of his own destruction. Parents whose teenage sons were press-ganged into the army grew discontented, the military demoralised by a war which seemed unwinnable, the Soviets embarrassed and the rebels increasingly euphoric as they took control of large slices of territory. Finally, the US and other African countries grew tired of the chaos his regime provoked.

The unflinching barbarity of Mr. Mengistu’s regime was most powerfully demonstrated during the Ethiopian famine of 1983-1984. As fertile fields turned to dust and thousands of emaciated refugees trodled into shabby shelters where there was no food, Mr. Mengistu concentrated on the 10th anniversary celebrations of the revolution.

Millions of rands were spent putting up red flags and pictures of Mr. Mengistu, Marx and Lenin and on sprucing up Addis Ababa for four days of pageantry, banquets and self-congratulation.

During a five-hour speech before African presidents and foreign dignitaries, Mr. Mengistu praised the achievements of the revolution, not once mentioning the mass starvation throughout the countryside.

What was most remarkable about Mr. Mengistu was that he managed to cling to power for so long, weathering several assassination attempts and an abortive coup d’e tat in 1969. But mounting international pressure eventually proved too much even for such a wily street-fighter.

For the first time since Mr. Mengistu seized absolute power in 1977, there is now an opportunity for the country to end a 30-year internal conflict, establish a stable pluralistic political system and embark on fundamental economic reform.

The future of Ethiopia hangs in the balance. Implasion or reconstruction are the two choices facing the country.

The country is in pieces. Huge slices of territory are under rebel military control, nearly 6 million people face acute starvation, foreign exchange reserves are depleted and the whole social, economic and political fabric of Ethiopia is torn.

Years of socialist agricultural policies and nationalisation, collectivisation, controlled prices, State-run marketing boards and limitations on internal trade have exacerbated food and security problems and compounded poverty.

Ethiopia is the poorest country in the world.

On top of this depressing picture, nearly 6 million people are on the brink of starvation this year in drought-devastated villages. The famine victims depend on a massive relief effort which could easily unravel in the face of continued fighting or the break-up of administrative authority in the capital.

Hopes for a political renewal are thin. The population has been cowed and intimidated for years by the security forces and the tight control on their lives exercised by the party urban and rural associations.

But that kind of optimism is now vital if Ethiopia is to be saved from disintegration and massive loss of life, either from continued fighting or famine.

The new government, led by Lieutenant General Desalegne Gebre-Kidan, has offered a ceasefire and a transitional government. These proposals will form the basis of US-sponsored talks in London between all sides next Monday or Tuesday. — Financial Times. □
Mengistu seeks asylum

HARARE - Ousted Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Mariam has taken refuge on a farm he owns near Zimbabwe's capital and official sources said yesterday he was likely to seek political asylum.

Official and diplomatic sources said it was "almost definite" the government would grant asylum to Mr Mengistu who flew Ethiopia on Tuesday after 14 years in power.

"You can say it is almost definite the man is here to stay," an official in Harare said. "He has been preparing to come for some time now." Mr Mengistu, in a military helicopter, arrived at Harare airport aboard a jet shortly before midnight on Tuesday, an hour after his close friend, Zimbabwe's President Robert Mugabe, left for a visit to Britain.

"He was looking grim and was quickly driven away by some Ethiopian embassy officials and local security agents," said an airport official. He was "in tears," said another.

One official said Mr Mugabe met Ethiopia's ambassador in Harare. Aziz Wolde - reported to be Mr Mengistu's uncle - for "a long discussion" before leaving for London.

Mr Mengistu and Mr Mugabe became close friends in the late 1970s when the Ethiopian strongman trained Mr Mugabe's guerillas to fight for Zimbabwe's independence, official and diplomatic sources said.

"They are both Marxist idealogues. Mr Mugabe is rhetorical but pragmatic in practice while Mr Mengistu is the classic hardliner. But they drink from a common fountain," said one source.

The government has not commented on Mr Mengistu's arrival. The country's semi-official daily newspaper prominently covered his departure from office without comment.

"We will talk when we have the right moment," government officials said.

Official sources, however, said Mr Mengistu was driven immediately on arrival to the farm he owns 60 km north-west of Harare.

Ethiopian exile sources said Mr Mengistu, who rose to power after the 1974 overthrow of Emperor Haile Selassie and ruled with an iron fist, owned the farm in Norton district.

Mr Mengistu's wife, Weh Ansel, arrived in Harare earlier on Tuesday on a scheduled Ethiopian Airways flight with Mr Wolde.

A report from Addis Ababa said Zimbabwean Justice Minister Emmerson Mnangagwa met Mr Mengistu in the Ethiopian capital on Monday and was believed to have passed a message from Mr Mugabe.

Mr Mengistu stepped down from office on Tuesday as rebels fighting for political autonomy and democracy advanced on Addis Ababa from several fronts. - Sapa-Reuters.

○ The Star Africa Service reports from Harare that one view being expressed in local circles is that by agreeing to give Mr Mengistu asylum, Zimbabwe is assisting in the peace process in Ethiopia by giving peace talks a better chance of succeeding with the former president out of the way.

Britain and America have encouraged this approach, it is understood.
MENGISTU IS IN HARARE - CLAIM

HARARE - Ousted Ethiopian president Mengistu Haile Mariam flew to Zimbabwe late on Tuesday night where he was expected to seek sanctuary, official sources said.

He fled Ethiopia to Kenya on Tuesday after 14 years in power, with rebel groups advancing on the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa.

Officials said Mengistu arrived at Harare airport wearing a green military uniform shortly before midnight.

"He was looking grim and was quickly driven away by some Ethiopian embassy officials and local security agents," said one official.

He touched down shortly after Zimbabwe's President Robert Mugabe left for London.

Mengistu was met by Ethiopia's ambassador to Harare, Asrat Wolde, but no senior Zimbabwean officials were present.

The Zimbabwean government has not commented on Mengistu's arrival. Sources said he was immediately driven to a farm 50km northeast of Harare.

The former president's wife, Welchi, arrived in Harare on Tuesday afternoon.

A report from Addis Ababa said Zimbabwean Justice Minister Emmer-son Mnangagwa met Mengistu in Ethiopia on Monday and was believed to have passed on a message from Mugabe.

Diplomats said the deposed Ethiopian ruler was a close friend of Mugabe. - Sapa-Reuters
Kenema - Mahmoud was born in Sierra Leone. So were Ali, Faisal and thousands of others in West Africa's most tightly-knit Lebanese community.

Now Liberian rebels want to scare them out of their adopted homeland in the tropics.

"We have been here for 104 years and we feel we are one of Sierra Leone's tribes. Anyway, we have no other place to go," said Mr Hashim Hashim, sipping at a tiny cup of Turkish coffee.

Hashim is leader of the 15,000 Lebanese in Sierra Leone and one hour in his company explains why.

Comfort

His comfortable bungalow in Kenema, on the edge of the fighting in Sierra Leone's nasty little war, is the command centre for a frightened community.

He interrupts marathon conversations in Arabic on one of Kenema's few functioning telephones to dispense advice to men whose resolve is weakening.

He rushes to the ham radio set in the dining room for his half-hourly chats with Mr Adel Mullah, the Lebanese leader in Freetown 305km away.

Rebels of Mr Charles Taylor's National Patriotic Front of Liberia crossed into Sierra Leone on March 23. Initially they came to steal food, but when they saw the state of the former British colony's defences the rebels decided to stay.

By May, the government had lost control of a wide border strip which is the richest region of one of Africa's most desperately poor countries. Coffee, cocoa and fresh fruit and vegetables for Freetown come from here.

So do half of Sierra Leone's diamonds, the $780-million-a-year business which the Lebanese control from top to bottom.

The Liberian civil war, begun by the NPFL in December 1989, forced out 11,000 Lebanese who had settled there almost as long ago as their kin in Sierra Leone. Many were evacuated on United States Navy helicopters with a tag on their wrist, a battered suitcase and a life in ruins.

Said Mr Farid Hassaieh, an importer in Freetown: "Now there are only 1,000 of us left in Liberia." Sierra Leone's Lebanese are determined not to suffer the same fate.

As soon as the rebel incursions began, the community took some tough decisions. Lebanese women and children could leave on the weekly Middle East Airlines flight for the increasingly safer climate in Beirut. But men had to stay put.

Killings

The policy survived the killing of six Lebanese by rebels on May 4 in the diamond town of Sumbuya. They were the first non-African fatalities of the bush war.

Hashim said over dinner of hummus, kebabs and pitas: "Our community in the Kenema area was 1,500 people. All 400 men have stayed where they are and they need my approval to leave."

"I have been here since 1958 and really we never believed this thing could happen in Sierra Leone," said Mr Nadim Assaf, a 55-year-old who was wearing one of Hashim's shirts. He lost his clothes along with his farm, his store and his night club in Pendembu when the rebels arrived on April 16.

"These people are so peaceful. Since 33 years I don't see one man slap another," said Assaf. He is a Maronite Christian, unlike the vast majority of the Lebanese in West Africa who are Shi'ite Muslims.

The Shi'ites were traditionally at the bottom of the ladder in Lebanon. Poverty, and fear of conscription into the Ottoman imperial army brought them here. Ties remain strong with the Lebanese Shi'ite movement Amal, whose leader Mr Nabih Berri was born in Bo, Sierra Leone's second city.

"Nabih has let it be known that he wants us to stay here," said Ali, a young trader who fought with Amal in Beirut between 1982 and 1986. Now he is using his battle experience to help train a self-defence militia in a small town outside Kenema.

Community leaders prefer not to discuss the Amal connection and Hashim said he would never allow his men to fight the rebels.

"We have guys who could fight. But the day after the rebels are kicked out, we would be considered a threat to national security and told to leave Sierra Leone," he said.

Instead, the Lebanese are pouring money into the coalition of Sierra Leonean and Guinean troops and an anti-Taylor Liberian militia which is fighting the NPFL.

Few Africans love the Lebanese. Their popular image is that of sharp operators who corrupt politicians.

"The Lebanese like our women but the friendship stops there," said a Ghanaian in a typical comment.

In Sierra Leone, Taylor's rebels have made sure Lebanese and Africans are on the same side for once. - Sapa-Reuter.
Why did he need for Zimbabwe?
Mengistu can stay - Mugabe

By Robin Drew
Star Africa Service

HARARE - Self-exiled Ethiopian leader Mengistu Haile Mariam will be allowed to stay in Zimbabwe, President Mugabe said yesterday.

Colonel Mengistu arrived here secretly on Tuesday night and has been in hiding since then with no official acknowledgement that he was here.

However, Mr Mugabe, confirming his presence, said: "It appears he resigned by agreement and with the consent of his colleagues. If he wants shelter we will provide it if it will provide stability in Ethiopia."

There has been no word of the fate of the Ethiopian ambassador in Zimbabwe, Asrat Wolde, an uncle of Colonel Mengistu, who has been sacked according to Ethiopian Radio, because he was at the airport to welcome his nephew.

The radio said Colonel Mengistu flew his country after pretending that he was going on a flight to visit troops away from the capital. Once in the air, the aircraft changed course.

His wife and daughter arrived here ahead of him.

Rebels' move awaited.

Page 4.
Africa running last in Aids race

WASHINGTON — From truck stops in Tanzania to movie houses in Uganda, Aids prevention is making dramatic strides but is still losing the race to the deadly disease, according to a US government report.

In an annual report to Congress on Aids, the Agency for International Development said this week that Africa continues to be the continent most affected.

Close to six million adults are pre-Aids, HIV-infected and 700,000 have Aids cases.

Unless effective prevention programmes are started now, the same thing could occur in many countries of Asia, the Near East and Latin America.

The report on prevention and control of Aids in the developing world highlights several programmes, including one to distribute condoms at truck stops in Tanzania.

At one stop, a guest house owner with the nickname “Bwana Condom” and his associates were said to distribute about 20,000 a month.

Other successes noted by the report include a social marketing program that has sold over 2 million condoms in Cameroon, a television campaign in the Dominican Republic and a movie, financed by the agency, shown commercially in Uganda. — Sapa
A voyage to the very edge of the world

NEVILLE ADLAM journeys into the Comores time-warp

DRAWN UP: Natives of Abra-heights market on Grand Comores island. A feature which puzzles visitors are the several incomplete buildings in the island. The custom is: when one of the islanders is born, the father builds her a home as a dowry. The homes are cut together piece by piece possibly over 20 years — and completed just before the marriage.

IT'S NOT that far to the Comores from Mahajangan. But when you arrive there you get the feeling that you are standing on the edge of the world. The percept is enhanced by the black granite rock you stand on as you look northwards out into the wide expanses of the Indian Ocean. There is also the magnificent, threatening bulk of the volcano of Mount Karthala behind you (you are told it last erupted in 1977, and is due to erupt again in 1990).

In the depths beyond the roof at about 400m elevation first and paddle their way as they have for millions of years or more. And the island people themselves seem to be caught up entirely in ancient Islamic cultures, none of which have not quite moved into the 20th century.

It's like standing on the edge of reality. The houses are on stilts on these islands seem to have moved too slowly — and yet you can take a half turn and see the 20th-century luxury Le Galawa Beach Hotel (which could pass for the 18th-century new Galawa) overlooking the Indian Ocean. The multi-coloured axes of theатеское and the bright half-arch of a parasol being pulled into the sun (the Marquesas) burn lashed — and you, the tourist, are one of them.

And make no mistake, entreprenur extraordinair Sol Kerzner has made every effort to make sure that you are treated like a special visitor from another place.

The islands may be poor, the way of life frugal, but the islanders do not starve. Simplicially, they make do with what their own. And if you don't catch fish overnight, you eat cocoyam, or bananas.

But in the Le Galawa Hotel, it is a transformation. The islanders are the new breed of life to the Comoros economy. The hotel complex (and others to come) is seen by the progressive new Comoros government as part of the future of the islands. Tourists are welcome, whether they spend in room, dollars or sterling.

Le Galawa re-opened in January in an attempt at the international market and, very importantly, the South African connection. One gets the impression that Sol Kerzner has made up his mind that he will not miss out on the opportunity when he has ever done.

South Africa has brought in the first management and it can find, brought in their flair and enthusiasm. This is what holidaymakers get. Fabulous service and handling of baggage when you get to the airport. Free transport to the and wander up to a tree-cocktail party and the first of the seven gourmet dinners you will enjoy during your stay.

All the rooms are sea-facing and all have TV and air-conditioning. The breakfasts are sumptuous, and, if you choose, lunch is served in the mid-morning. The exception is that you will have to ask for lunch if you have a day out for lunch.

In the evening there are seven-course dinners by candlelight and cocktails and music at the bar. The menu changes daily, but expect to find fresh fish and seafood, lamb, beef, and chicken. Prices are moderate, and there are facilities for those who wish to dine alone.

The hotel also offers a wide range of activities, including tennis, squash, and golf. There is a large pool and a beach with a white sand. The island has a tropical climate, with temperatures ranging from 25°C to 30°C throughout the year.

OUT OF THIS WORLD: A lone parasail "flying on the edge of the world" of Le Galawa Beach in the Comoros.

TROPICAL BEACH: (Below left) Golden sand and fun-makers flanked by palms and truncations of black, volcanic rock.

PHOTOGRAPHS Neville Ink."
Hotel rates could take a cut in island resorts

Hotel rates throughout the Indian Ocean holiday resorts could drop as hotel groups competed to fill thousands of beds in a shrinking market, a spokesman for a major international hotel groups said on Friday.

Wagon-Lits Accor Indian Ocean area manager Jean-Luc Helary said SA's travel market would soon be the target of special cut-rate package tours to Mauritius as hotel chains tried to rejuvenate travel business to the island, which was still in post-Gulf war doldrums.

Mauritius was also to be marketed in SA as an executive conference venue, said Helary.

"We are hoping that South Africans will account for 25% of visitors to Mauritius by the end of next year," he added.

"The island has traditionally been known as an upmarket tourist destination, but Europeans were wary of buying Mauritian package holidays as all flights to the island from Europe are routed over the Middle East.

Pullman Hotel spokesman Christine Dutta said on Friday that SA's proximity to Mauritius, combined with SA's political reforms and strengthening trade links with the island, made the SA businessman and tourist an attractive target.

Wagon-Lits and management partners Accor are taking advantage of liberalising world attitudes towards trade with SA. The group recently teamed with Southern Sun to set up a new company, Formule 1, in order to invest in a chain of 40 hotels in SA.

The group is also looking to SA to fulfil some staff requirements at its new hotels in Mauritius.

Hotellers on the island may suffer further losses in the short term as Cathay Pacific Airlines plans to stop its flights between Mauritius and Hong Kong, once its direct non-stop flights between Johannesburg and Hong Kong begin.

Preferential

This will mean a loss of stopover visitors for Mauritius.

To soften the blow, and to capture the target portion of SA's travelling market, the hotel group would offer preferential rates on package tours from SA, Helary said. These packages would be offered in conjunction with SA and Air Mauritius, he added.

Helary predicted that hotel rates throughout the Indian Ocean region would drop as competing groups sought to fill rooms.

The Mauritian government has put a temporary clamp on further hotel development on the island. There are already more than 4 000 hotel rooms in Mauritius.
Ethiopian govt, rebels start talks today

LONDON — US-brokered peace talks to end Ethiopia’s long-running civil war open today between the beleaguered government and rebels who have consolidated their military grip over the country.

Up to 1,000 Ethiopian exiles planned to stage a peace vigil in London to mark the start of the talks and Africa’s longest and bloodiest civil war.

Their organiser, Mammo Iliche, said they wanted an immediate ceasefire and democratic reforms in the impoverished state.

US envoy Herman Cohen will open the peace talks at an undisclosed location in London by separately meeting Ethiopian Prime Minister Tefaye Dinka and representatives of three rebel groups.

A US embassy spokesman said there was no specific time-frame but the two sides were due to hold round-table talks tomorrow.

Rebels now control most of Ethiopia and are on the outskirts of the capital, Addis Ababa.

Advance fighters of the main rebel group, the Ethiopian People’s Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF), were reported only 15 km from the city but said they would not attack unless the peace talks failed.

Rebels said last night they had captured Addis Ababa’s international airport and overrun two military airfields, and armed forces were heard in the besieged capital, some near the presidential palace.

However, Western diplomats said it did not appear that rebels had launched an all-out assault on the capital.

Diplomats in Addis Ababa say the government is broken militarily and Tefaye Dinka, heading an 11-man delegation at the talks, had little choice but to accept rebel demands and sign an unconditional surrender.

He said before leaving Addis Ababa that his priority was to agree to an immediate ceasefire and a transitional government in which all opposition forces would be represented.

The peace talks became possible after the EPRDF’s advance forced President Mengistu Halle Mariam to flee after 14 years of brutal rule. — Sapa-Reuter.
EC to assess aid for Africa

BRUSSELS - European Community development ministers meet today to assess members' contributions to fighting a famine that threatens more than 20 million Africans.

EC officials said the Council of ministers would examine how much the 12 member states had given to complement Community efforts and discuss how to co-ordinate their initiatives.

"The Council will look at what member states have done to make sure they are doing their bit," one EC diplomat said.

Stopped

The EC has raised its 1991 budget limits by E545 million to send an extra 400,000 tonnes of food to Africa. The European Commission, the EC's executive, wants members to contribute a further 150,000 to 250,000 tonnes.

Aid organisations are lobbying for faster shipment of food.

"Speed of delivery is the crucial issue at the moment. I'd be surprised if a single ounce of the 400,000 tonnes is moving yet," Tony Vaux, emerg-

ency co-ordinator of Oxfam, said.

Oxfam feared much of the aid would reach the Horn of Africa late in the year and coincide with local harvests, he added.

The ministers will discuss plans to link development aid to respect for human rights.

The Commission has stopped aid in the past to some countries where human rights were judged to have been violated but wants clear guidelines for future action. - Sapa-

Reuter
Rebels advance into Addis Ababa

ADDIS ABABA — Etheopian rebels stormed the capital Addis Ababa at dawn today, firing from tanks at remnants of the army holed up at the presidential palace.

Thousands of rebels poured in from all directions and the sound of artillery and machinegun fire echoed across the city.

The rebels hit an ammunition dump in the palace compound, touching off an explosion in a flash of orange flame and sending bullets and rockets flying.

Rebels moved into key points and ministries in the city exactly a week after Marxist military ruler Mengistu Haile Mariam fled into exile because of their onslaught.

Rebel T-54 tanks poured gunfire into the tree-shrouded hill of the presidential complex overlooking the city.

Red tracers spewed from the palace for about half an hour, but when the rebels hit the presidential ammunition dump government fire ceased.

Theacid smell of explosives drifted across the tree-lined avenues of the city centre where rebel soldiers were poised.

Two government tanks burned near the palace’s stone gate entrance.

The intensity of the ammunition dump explosion forced some of the attacking rebels to withdraw.

The thunder of exploding munitions drowned out the sound of fighting elsewhere in the city. Firing could be heard from the airport 8km away.

Reuter correspondent Aidan Hartley rode with an advancing column of 40 rebel trucks of troops.

He said the Ethiopian People’s Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF) rebels were jubilant and waved the red flag emblazoned with an AK-47 rifle, the symbol of their movement.

The rebels secured the Hilton Hotel, to which many foreigners had fled when the city was plunged into darkness on the eve of the assault.

The hotel lay in the path of the rebel advance on the hill.

Bullets flew over the building and hit some windows.

The force of the explosion from the ammunition dump blew in windows in the hotel lobby. Mothers and children cowered in corridors to avoid flying glass.

The remnants of Mr Mengistu’s army held out in spite of an order from the government to cease fire and the recommendation by the United States that the rebels enter the city to avoid bloodshed.

Diplomatic sources said the US charge d’affaires in Addis Ababa had told acting President Tesfaye Gabre Kidan of the US announcement yesterday afternoon.

But the army continued to fire, mainly into the air, throughout yesterday and during the night.

Nearly two hours after the battle began, shooting still raged.

Rebels edged gingerly towards the perimeter fence of the presidential compound, from where 10m high flameslicked the tree tops.

Rebel tanks moved through other parts of the city, followed by infantrymen on foot.

The rebel fire appeared to be carefully aimed at government targets and residential areas seemed to be unscathed.

There has been no air activity during the battle so far.

The battle for Addis Ababa, climax of 30 years of war in Ethiopia, followed the opening day of peace talks in London yesterday.

At the talks, US mediator Herman Cohen urged the rebels to move into Addis Ababa quickly to avert a bloodbath.

But Prime Minister Tesfaye Dinka threatened to walk out of the talks, saying that if rebels entered the capital it would explode in violent hand-to-hand battles.

— Sapa-Reuters.
South Africa's economic power is vastly greater than that of even the wealthiest countries of black Africa, but it could be threatened by the efforts to create a new political dispensation, reports GERALD L'ANGE.

Those who are playing the major roles in shaping the new South Africa could do worse than to keep before them the accompanying graph. Indeed, it would not be a bad idea if the graph's significance could be brought home also to those who are now promoting violence in South Africa.

The graph shows how very much wealthier South Africa is than any other African country, even Nigeria, the big, populous oil-rich state that is often referred to as the Giant of Africa.

It shows what South Africans have got which is worth cherishing and protecting in this impoverished and declining continent.

It shows what has been threatened by sanctions and what is being put at risk by the present political upheaval and violence, and what would be at risk in the future by the introduction of bad political and economic systems.

It gives an indication of the wealth that could be spread more fairly among all South Africans by better systems than those that have prevailed in the past, and that could be expanded by sane systems.

Conversely, it gives an idea of the levels to which South Africa might be reduced by political upheaval and instability.

What made South Africa the richest and strongest country in Africa and why has no other African country matched it? The answers to these questions lie in defining the wealth and examining whence it came.

It comes partly from mineral resources that exceed anything in any other African country. The possession of these resources is sheer luck, but the efficiency of their exploitation was not.

If the productivity of a country is measured by the competitiveness of its products in international markets, then it must be said that South Africa's wealth comes in part from the exploitation of cheap black labour. But this is only one factor and certainly not the major one.

To some extent, it comes also from the political stability that the apartheid regime was able to maintain before it was weakened by international sanctions and domestic opposition.

Perhaps more than anything else, South Africa's wealth stems from the ability of its farmers to grow wealthier — comes from its free market system and the relative absence of central control of the economy.

It comes from the freedom given to the entrepreneurs to seize and exploit opportunities, to take risks and to use imaginative and innovative approaches to creating wealth, and to respond creatively to the demands of the world where real wealth has ever been generated by the marketplace.

In other words, South Africa's wealth comes from the incentives provided by capitalism, and from the skills that capitalism appears to have been able to generate without any other ideology.

Arguments about whether the wealth could be more fairly distributed in a free market system may be decided in and around the negotiations that will hopefully create the new South Africa.

But if the lessons to be learnt from Africa's experience are applied in the discussions, the negotiations will immediately veer away from the popular concept of wealth as something so concrete and permanent that it cannot be sliced up like a pie and shared out.

African countries that tried to slice up the wealth pie after independence found that it cannot be done because redistributing wealth is like trying to slice water. They found — or some of their economists did — that wealth is not always rigidly definable and must be seen as a plastic thing that swells and shrinks with changes in the economic temperature.

As a living organism that flourishes only in political stability and freedom of enterprise and which must be nourished by effort and production.

Or as a substance as fragile as human confidence, and vulnerable to being shattered by violence and political excesses.

It was found that wealth can be defined in the short term in currency units, cattle, land or personal possessions, but that these are all subject to fluctuations and that, in the long term, wealth can perhaps best be defined as the creation and exploitation of economic opportunities in a climate of political stability.

The experience of Africa dictates that when efforts are made to redistribute South Africa's wealth in the post-apartheid era the emphasis should be put not so much on re-slicing existing pies but on expanding opportunities for the creation of wealth.

That way, everyone would stand a better chance of becoming richer, even though it might not happen overnight.

Africa's experience demonstrates the crucial importance of skills in creating wealth. Indeed, it has been more dramatically demonstrated than in Mozambique, where the economy collapsed after the flight of the Portuguese. The resulting damage was even greater than that done by the civil war and the economic mistakes of the Frelimo government.

Thus one of the most precious assets that the new South Africa will inherit will be a large white population, for this in the population that the skills that are at present largely reside. This is an asset that no other African country has ever had and it value is immeasurable.

The scrambling of racism will let all kinds would allow the skills and experience previously monopolised by the whites to be spread throughout the population, turning the innate energy and initiative of the country's black people into what could be the most powerful economic force Africa has ever known.

But only if the opportunities are provided.

Gerard L'Ange is editor of The Star's Africa Service.
Ethiopian talks still on — Cohen

LONDON — US mediator Herman Cohen said yesterday London talks to set up a transitional government in Ethiopia would go ahead with or without Ethiopian Prime Minister Tesfaye Dinka, who has threatened to pull out.

"If the government is not at the talks, I don't think it will change a great deal," Cohen told a news conference an hour before round-table talks between three Ethiopian rebel groups and Tesfaye's government were to start.

He said the three rebel groups, including the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF), whose fighters captured the capital Addis Ababa early yesterday, "are capable of forming a transitional government", making Tesfaye's government virtually irrelevant.

Outside Addis Ababa's presidential palace yesterday burned-out tanks smoldered under a pall of black smoke. Explosions from blazing ammunition dumps echoed around the city.

Several bodies lay scattered across the main road to the palace, where remnants of Ethiopia's army made a last stand.

EPRDF rebels moved into the capital at dawn and a few hours later commanded all strategic points. After slicing through Ethiopia's army — once one of the most professional fighting forces in Africa — the rebels crept through the outskirts of the city, encircling the palace where the bodyguard of former military ruler Mengistu Haile Mariam was barricaded.

The two-hour battle that followed saw the heaviest fighting of the rebel takeover. Entire families took refuge in the nearby Hilton Hotel.

As rebels flushed out the last army stragglers, a wooden hammer and sickle — a legacy of Ethiopia's 17 years of Marxism — crackled in flames outside the palace.

Inside, groups of rebel soldiers danced and sang to Tigrayan music broadcast by the captured national radio station.

EPRDF tank commander Kabrum Nario, 32, said most of the government soldiers had been killed or had fled.

The whereabouts of acting President Tesfaye Garre Kidan were unknown. He was believed to have been inside the presidential palace, but a helicopter took off from there late on Monday.

While several thousand rebel fighters fought for control of the palace, others secured the entrance to the Hilton, later searching hotel rooms for fleeing soldiers.

Anxious hotel staff chatted nervously with the fighters. As their fears evaporated, the staff shook hands with the rebels some as young as 16, and began offering them food and cigarettes. — Sapo-Router
Pledges increase Food aid package

Bid to avert famine tragedy

SAPPORO. Prime Minister Nakasone pledged $100 million for food aid Tuesday in response to a global famine. He announced he would make a $200 million contribution to the United Nations

BRUSSELS - UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar urged European Community countries to increase their food aid contributions. He also called on EC countries to act quickly to remove obstacles to food aid deliveries.

After years of urban violence and guerrilla warfare, the government of Zaire announced it would not recognize the results of a referendum that was held in western Zaire.

The President of the Zairean Government, General Mobutu Sese Seko, has been revealed as a major threat to the stability of the country. The United Nations have already pledged $100 million.

In the Arab world, the situation is said to be even worse. The United Nations have pledged $100 million.

In Japan, the government announced it would provide $200 million in food aid to the African continent. The United Nations have already pledged $100 million.

In Europe, the United Nations have already pledged $100 million in food aid to the African continent.
ADDIS ABABA - Jubilant Ethiopian rebels captured the capital Addis Ababa yesterday in a three-hour dawn assault with tanks and infantry.

Rebels said they controlled the presidential palace where the army had concentrated its defence.

They had also seized the international airport, several ministries, the main police station, the radio station and two central squares.

Rebels

The rebels were still attacking the defence ministry, where a small number of government troops were holed up, and tackling other small pockets of resistance.

Sporadic machinegun fire resounded around the city hours after the battle began at dawn - the climax of a 30-year civil war in Ethiopia.

Rebel T-54 tanks, captured from government troops, pounded the hilltop presidential palace and hit an ammunition store which exploded with bursts of shells and bullets.

Hours later, the tanks hit a second store on the edge of the presidential compound which erupted in a ball of orange flame.

The rebels, who forced Marxist military ruler Mr Mengistu Haile Mariam into exile in Zimbabwe a week ago, had been poised on the city outskirts since the weekend.

They had rejected truce calls by the makeshift new leadership.

The main resistance to rebel of the Ethiopian People’s Revolutionary Democratic Front came from remnants of Mengistu’s North Korean-trained Presidential Guard.

EPRDF political commissar Mr Bereket Simon said the rebels did not face strong resistance and casualties were low.

Meanwhile, the Organisation of African Unity is considering whether to move its headquarters temporarily out of the city.

“We are operating with optimism but we still have at the back of our minds the worst scenario,” Mr Ibrahim Dogo, OAU’s director of information said. - Sapa-Reuters.
Ethiopian top rebels in control

LONDON - Ethiopia's main rebel group assumed interim power after United States-brokered peace talks in London and the promise of democratic elections within one year.

Leader of the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front Mr Meles Zenawi pledged to talk to other rebels not later than July 1 to try to form a provisional government.

Accord

US Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Mr Herman Cohen announced the accord in London on Tuesday, warning that American aid depended on a transition to democracy in Ethiopia.

“No democracy, no co-operation,” he told reporters who asked about the Marxist leanings of some of the Ethiopian rebels.

Rebel tanks blasted their way into Addis Ababa at dawn on Tuesday, toppling the remnants of a Marxist government whose 17-year rule brought Ethiopia war and famine.

Rebels effectively control the country but officials in neighbouring Djibouti said thousands of Ethiopian troops who fled there after the Asab port fell to rebels last Saturday were moving back to Ethiopia to regroup in the east of the country.

Meles (36) said ousted rulers who had committed war crimes would be tried and famine relief would get top priority.

The EPRDF is a regional-based alliance which has not completely shaken off its Marxist Leninist ideology.

But it says it wants a multiparty transitional government leading to free elections.

The Eritrean People's Liberation Front, fighting since the 1970s for independence for the Red Sea province of Eritrea and the Oromo Liberation Front, which is seeking autonomy, were also at the London talks.

Meeting

But the shape of any future Ethiopian government after Tuesday's meeting was far from clear.

"We won't be part of a transitional government in Ethiopia," said Mr Andemicael Kassai, a spokesman for the EPLF.

But he added the EPLF was not planning to declare Eritrea's independence. - Sapa-Reuters.
Continental ARica

Arica, now Colony of Bolivia, was originally under the Spanish crown and was a part of Peru. It became a part of the United States in 1826, when Chile ceded it to the United States. Arica is a large and wealthy city, and is the capital of the department of Arica. It is situated on the coast of the Pacific Ocean, and is the chief port of Bolivia. It is connected with the interior by a railway, and has a good system of streets and squares. The town was named after the river Arica, which flows through it. Arica is the seat of a bishopric, and has a university. The city is noted for its fine architecture, and is one of the most picturesque and beautiful cities in South America.

In the center of the city, there is a large square, which is surrounded by government buildings, churches, and other public edifices. The government palace is a large and imposing building, and is the residence of the governor of the department. There are also several churches in the city, the most important being the cathedral, which is a large and magnificent edifice.

Arica has a fine system of streets and squares, and is one of the most beautiful cities in South America. The city is noted for its fine architecture, and has a number of fine public edifices, including the government palace, the cathedral, and several churches. The city is also noted for its many parks and gardens, which are beautifully arranged and well cared for. The climate of Arica is mild and pleasant, and is one of the most healthy climates in South America. The city is situated on the coast of the Pacific Ocean, and has a good system of streets and squares. The government palace is a large and imposing building, and is the residence of the governor of the department.

The city is noted for its fine architecture, and has a number of fine public edifices, including the government palace, the cathedral, and several churches. The city is also noted for its many parks and gardens, which are beautifully arranged and well cared for. The climate of Arica is mild and pleasant, and is one of the most healthy climates in South America. The city is situated on the coast of the Pacific Ocean, and has a good system of streets and squares. The government palace is a large and imposing building, and is the residence of the governor of the department.
ADDIS ABABA — Rebel soldiers yesterday put down new demonstrations in Addis Ababa with automatic weapons fire that left at least one protester dead and several injured.

At least three groups of demonstrators defied a ban to protest against what they see as American involvement in Tuesday's insurgent takeover of Ethiopia's government.

Crowds of several hundred, mostly young people, chanting anti-American slogans, gathered near the Defence Ministry, Mexico Square and Revolutionary Square.

Soldiers of the new insurgent administration quickly dispersed them with gunfire that reporters and photographers said was aimed directly at the protesters.

One body was seen in Mexico Square and at least two people were wounded in the demonstrations near Revolutionary Square, both near the centre of the city.

The new government announced a ban on all demonstrations on Wednesday during a day of protests that left an undetermined number of people dead and hundreds injured.

Reporters said they had seen at least eight bodies, including one in front of the US Embassy, after Wednesday's protests.

There were unconfirmed reports of other deaths, and the Ethiopian Red Cross said at least 388 people had been wounded in Wednesday's protests, some by gunfire.

During those protests, the embassy was the target of four demonstrations that kept its security forces scrambling throughout the afternoon.

Similar demonstrations took place in a number of other sections of the city.

The US was seen as the architect behind the peace talks, and many of Addis Ababa's 3 million residents apparently resented the manner in which the country's new rulers came to power as well as apparent US support for the breakaway northerners. — Sapa-AP.
AFRICA'S BIG LITTLE MEN

AFRICA: DISPATCHES FROM A FRAGILE CONTINENT by Blaine Harden (WW Norton, 307pp, price on request).

This optimistic chapter is about Nigeria: "horrible, ugly, boastful, coup-crazed, self-destructive, too-goddamn-hot Nigeria — black Africa's principal prospect for a future that is something other than despotism, desperate, and dependent... In less than 50 years, Nigeria will have at least 618m people — more than the present population of all Africa. Besides sheer numbers, Nigeria has world-class wealth. Below ground there are about 40 years' worth of oil and a century's worth of natural gas. The country's gross national product is bigger, in years when the world oil price is strong, than that of SA and more than half that of all black Africa combined. Above ground, there is a wealth of university-trained and frighteningly ambitious humanity, an estimated 2m university-trained professionals — the largest, best-trained, most acquisitive black elite on the continent."

But this elite does not come out well in a speech made by Nigerian President Babangida, to the "fat cats and stuffed shirts" of the Oxford and Cambridge Club.

Babangida, seen by Harden as unique among African "Big Men," accuses this same elite of factionalism, disruptive competition, extreme greed and selfishness, indifference and abandonment of the pursuit of excellence, together with a universal search for excuses to avoid taking difficult decisions and confronting hard work, and a penchant for passing the buck. Yet these are the people who will return to the fore if Babangida restores civilian rule under a constitution in 1992 as he has promised.

Babangida is far from being Nigeria's only critic — indeed, the country is "falling apart in exuberant desperation, struggling not to drown in its daily bath of chaos and self-flagellation, avarice and wild-eyed pride."

Here it contrasts with Kenya, where adulation of President Daniel arap Moi is the one open sesame to places of profit. Harden says of him: "Moi is not a buffoon like Doe or a dreamer like Kaunda. He does not sanction the public mutilation of his enemies, nor does he write books about African utopia. He is a solid, slow-speaking, no-very-dynamic Big Man who deftly uses the tools of his trade — payoffs and coercion — to stay in power.

"His survival requires constant manipulation of the Big Man levers. His need to bleed the business community and grab all political power is inversely proportionate to his legitimacy. Since he comes of a tiny tribe, has little personal charisma, was never elected president, and cannot reasonably expect to rule with the consent of the Kenyan majority, he needs larger and larger amounts of money to reward supporters, more and more power to silence enemies. Wealth that Moi does not control is dissidence. Prosperity is far more destabilising than dissidence."

On Kenya's supposedly progressive free-market investment policies, Harden quotes a Western economist who deals with investors: "Everybody knows what to do if you want to start a business. You see a Minister. The ante is up to between 15% and 25% of the start-up cost. The bribe goes to the Minister, with a cut for the Big Man." Kenya is not so attractive to foreign businessmen that they will throw away their profit margin to bribe politicians. The result is stagnation in its manufacturing sector — and in a country with the world's highest growth rate of population, this means decline despite many advantages it offers.

So much for the last two chapters of the book. I quote from the author's introduction to describe the first five: "I begin with a river-boat passage on the Zaire, a sense-stunning introduction to the sights and smells of the rain forest Africa. The river journey also launches a major theme of this book: bad leadership and the price it exacts from a continent that need not — except for the venality of its Big Men — be so poor."

The next three chapters are about Africa getting on with the business of living in cultures that have been forced-fed change. There is a Ghanaian sociology professor who specialises in African family studies but runs into catastrophe in his own family; a dead lawyer on ice in Kenya because of a custody war over his body (in the litigation between the widow and the tribe, Moi leans on the judges to ensure a manifestly unjust outcome), a tall cowherd walks out of the Sudanese swamps and into the US National Basketball Association. Another chapter explains how and why, in one particularly god-forsaken corner of east Africa (Kenya again, with Moi's jackals on the prowl), the good intentions of Western (Norwegian) donors made life shorter and more brutal than it would have been had the white people stayed home.

In the past, too many African Big Men have, by affecting a commitment to free-market economic reform, secured multimillion loans and grants which have run to waste — or enriched only the Big Men and their clients.

But the World Bank and the IMF are beginning to learn.
### SCHEDULE 5

**AID TO OTHER INDEPENDENT AFRICAN STATES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1988/89</th>
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<td><strong>R</strong></td>
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#### A. DIRECT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

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<tr>
<td>Comores</td>
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<td>681 866</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mozambique</td>
<td>5 000 000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Malawi</td>
<td>45 996</td>
<td>3 187</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>5 865 596</td>
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#### B. TRANSFER PAYMENTS

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<td>Comores</td>
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<td>Swaziland</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lesotho</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>23 550 633</td>
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#### D. TECHNICAL AND OTHER ASSISTANCE

#### D.1 MANPOWER PROVISION

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<td>805 080</td>
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<tr>
<td>Comores</td>
<td>44 925</td>
<td>119 417</td>
<td>61 123</td>
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<tr>
<td>Equatorial Guinea</td>
<td>27 462</td>
<td>376 150</td>
<td>317 201</td>
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<td>Lesotho</td>
<td>26 063</td>
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<td>97 874</td>
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<td>439 194</td>
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<tr>
<td>Namibia</td>
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<td>77 629</td>
<td>1 702 181</td>
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<tr>
<td>Togo</td>
<td></td>
<td>67 261</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ivory Coast</td>
<td></td>
<td>99 721</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Gabon</td>
<td>26 890</td>
<td>534 973</td>
<td>169 482</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>660 388</td>
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### D.2 TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

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<td>Gabon</td>
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<td>Zimbabwe</td>
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<td>Equatorial Guinea</td>
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<td>1 414 448</td>
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<td>Angola</td>
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<td>250 000</td>
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<td>Mozambique</td>
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<td>2 431 251</td>
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<td>Zambia</td>
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<td>2 679</td>
<td>23 500</td>
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<td>Zaire</td>
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<td>695 961</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cape Verde</td>
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<td>439 050</td>
<td>19 933</td>
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<tr>
<td>Comores</td>
<td>1 807 767</td>
<td>1 013 410</td>
<td>747 160</td>
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<tr>
<td>International Organisations: SARCCUS</td>
<td>175 031</td>
<td>276 539</td>
<td>163 223</td>
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<tr>
<td>Africa: GENERAL</td>
<td></td>
<td>1 487 474</td>
<td>4 267 142</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>10 455 200</td>
<td>14 213 367</td>
<td>14 299 491</td>
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### GRAND TOTAL

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<td></td>
<td>40 531 817</td>
<td>26 034 478</td>
<td>23 138 330</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### NOTES:

- 1) Actual expenditure
- 2) Estimated expenditure

#### Old-age homes: number of places

368. Mrs C H CHARLEWOOD asked the Minister of National Health: What is the number of places at old-age homes for all population groups in the Republic; if not, why not; if so, (a) how many places are there in old-age homes for (i) Blacks, (ii) Whites, (iii) Coloureds and (iv) Indians and (b) in respect of what date is this information furnished?

The MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH: No, this is an own affairs matter and each department or administration provides in its specific group's needs;

(a) relevant information obtained is:

(i) 1 200,

(ii) 31 720,

(iii) all institutions are open to all population groups, relevant statistics can therefore not be furnished and
Hard for Ethiopia

ADDIS ABABA: Mr. Meles Zenawi, Ethiopia's interim president, faces enormous challenges as he sets out to try to rebuild a war-shattered nation.

Millions face death by starvation.

Armed groups roam the countryside and many people in the capital sullenly resent his presence.

Other rebel groups want to form independent states while the traditional rulers angrily reaffirm their commitment to "one Ethiopia."

Meles pledged there would be no reprisal killings. - Sapa-Reuters.
Addis Ababa springs to life

ADDIS ABABA - Two weeks after a rebel takeover that brought Addis Ababa to a standstill, the main market in the Ethiopian capital is busy again and bursting with goods.

Crowds flock through the stalls buying grain, vegetables, spices, shoes, cloth and household goods - a display of plenty contrasting with parts of the country where thousands of people are on the verge of starvation.

Aid workers say almost eight million people are threatened with starvation and that famine relief routes have not been fully restored.

"Prices have fallen, that's the best thing for us," said one resident in the capital.

Last month, the city was cut off from some of the country's most productive areas because they were in the hands of the advancing rebels of the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front.

The country's main port, Assab, fell to another rebel group, the Eritrean People's Liberation Front.

Prices shot up in Addis Ababa and black marketeers took advantage of shortages to send some of them even higher.

EPRDF fighters stormed the city on May 28 and assumed interim authority in the country.

Commerce in the city ground to a halt for several days as the rebel takeover was followed by anti-EPRDF demonstrations.

Now shops, offices and restaurants are open again, even though they close early because of a dusk-to-dawn curfew.

Gunfire is heard only sporadically at night.

Government ministries are headed by EPRDF officials and top people in the old government of exiled military dictator Mengistu Haile Mariam are in detention. - Sapa-Reuters.
Dramatic spread of Aids virus in Africa and Asia

By ROBERT STEINBERK: Florence

THE staggering dimensions of the Aids epidemic in Asia and Africa became clear this week as a top World Health Organisation official presented the latest statistics on the global spread of the deadly virus.

New data on human immunodeficiency virus infections in Thailand and India were so compelling that the WHO last week revised its estimate of the current number of HIV-infected Asians yet again, from 500,000 to greater than one million. By the mid-1990s, three million HIV infections are projected for Asia. Just a few years ago, the Aids virus was virtually unheard of in Asia.

"Unfortunately, most of our estimates will not be revised downward," said Dr. James Chin, the head of surveillance and forecasting for the WHO's Global Program on AIDS. "When we have more data, the forecasts will have to be revised probably upward."

In Africa, the number of HIV individuals was projected to increase from six million to 10 million over the next several years, leading to precipitous increases in mortality and sharp decreases in life expectancy. Sub-Saharan Africa remained the area of the world hardest hit by Aids; soon one of every 40 adults will be HIV infected, researchers said.

In the United States and all other Western nations combined, it was estimated that fewer than two million people are infected with the Aids virus.

Presentations at the Seventh International Conference on AIDS emphasised how the disease had shifted from an epidemic that primarily involved homosexual men and intravenous drug users in industrialised nations to epidemics primarily affecting heterosexual men and women in developing nations. By the year 2000, about 90 percent of all HIV infections will be in heterosexuals in developing countries, Chin said.

A key reason is that Aids education and prevention programmes in industrialised nations have been far more extensive, and therefore more effective, in triggering behaviour changes to minimise the risk of infection. As a result, the annual number of new Aids cases is likely to peak in the United States and Western Europe within the next several years, Chin said. This peak, however, would represent more than the current level of Aids cases each year. In addition, tens of thousands of new HIV infections will continue to occur each year.

Other researchers reported that intensive educational programmes, such as those for intravenous drug users in Bangkok, Thailand, and for prostitutes in Kinshasa, Zaire, have significantly lowered the number of new HIV infections.
Africa’s old colonial borders now all at risk

LONDON – The colonial past has left a strange legacy in the Horn of Africa, which is being torn apart as liberation movements in Ethiopia and Somalia battle to re-establish the borders once drawn by European officials.

All over Africa frontiers were laid down with scant regard for logic, slicing across tribal and linguistic boundaries, as turn-of-the-century colonisers engaged in a carve-up of the continent that African nationalists blame for most of its woes.

In the Horn, one area where colonial borders were erased and territories merged after World War 2, guerilla groups now want to return broadly to the situation as it was created by the Italians and the British, the dominant outside powers at the height of the colonial era.

This would mean splitting Somalia into two and dividing Eritrea from Ethiopia — depriving the Addis Ababa government of its entire coastline.

Some analysts, like Francois Heisbourg, director of the London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies, fear such changes could lead to other African countries trying to redraw their frontiers. “If both Somalia and Ethiopia do in effect break up, that may be the beginning of a wider trend in Africa, and that of course would be highly destabilising,” Heisbourg said.

The question of borders is of particular importance in the Horn of Africa, which lies on the divide between Islam and Christianity and borders the Red Sea, with its age-old trade routes and strategic position beside the Arabian peninsula.

Eritrea, which controls all of Ethiopia’s 1,000 km of coastline, was traditionally separate from the empire of Ethiopia, one of the world’s oldest countries dating back to biblical times, and became an Italian colony in 1890.

The Italian’s ruled Eritrea for little more than 50 years, but left behind an efficient administration, a new political identity, the Italian language and an unabashed appetite for pasta and espresso coffee among the local population.

Britain freed Eritrea and Ethiopia, which the Italians had briefly conquered, in World War 2 and administered Eritrea until the United Nations decided in 1952 that it should be federated with Ethiopia.

In 1962, Emperor Haile Selassie declared Eritrea an integral part of Ethiopia. Eritrean nationalists immediately launched a guerilla war and as victors now seek a referendum on independence for the province.

Government of Ethiopia is now being assumed for the time being by a non-Eritrean rebel group, the EPRDF, and a forthcoming conference between this and the EPLF may well decide whether the Eritrean referendum plan goes ahead.

The Somalia that Slad Barrow ruled was the result of a 1960 merger between the former colonies of British Somaliland and Italian Somalia, both speaking the same language but divided by clan differences.

There was a third Somali colony – French Somaliland, which did not join the United Somalia and instead became independent in 1967 under the name of Djibouti.

Alone among the Horn of Africa states, the small Red Sea state, still heavily influenced by French culture, has gained a measure of prosperity, avoiding the wars and famines which have ravaged its neighbours.
Africa hopes to lead world body

Africa, the largest group of member countries of the United Nations, has never produced a secretary-general of that body. But now an international lobby campaign is underway to have an African candidate succeed Javier Perez de Cuellar at the end of the year. KINGSLEY MOGHALU reports:

Africa, with the largest group of member countries, has never produced a secretary-general. “If we want this to happen,” says Ibrahim Gambari, Nigeria’s ambassador to the UN, “Africa will have another opportunity this century to be represented on the United Nations’ stage.”

Perez de Cuellar has said he would prefer an African to succeed him. If the five permanent members of the Security Council refuse to agree to an African, De Cuellar argues, “Africa will feel excluded.”

Why is Africa vying for what Trygve Lie, the first UN secretary-general, called “the most important job on earth,” when its citizens are struggling daily against poverty and war?석

Redefining myths

The reason, analysts here say, include a belief that an African secretary-general can make a success of global assignments and, in the process, raise the continent’s international profile and help alleviate myths of black inferiority. Gabriel Okunoya, former head of Nigeria’s Institute of International Affairs, says that although the position has been traditionally administrative and not a strong decision-making one, “an African secretary-general can influence doctrines where Africa is unfairly treated.” Others believe that having an African powerfully symbolic international position will give the continent greater confidence to push its diplomatic and economic interests. Greater international co-operation for solutions to Africa’s economic crisis is one of these aims. Another, according to diplomats here, is to ensure an African seat on the Security Council.

“A continent that accounts for roughly a third of the UN’s membership ought to be represented in the most powerful chamber on a permanent basis,” Gambari argues.

Strong leadership

Germany and Japan are also seeking permanent seats in the council. With the wane of the cold war and with the UN’s image enhanced following the Gulf crisis, and after such successes as supervising Namibia’s independence process, there is a peremptory feeling that strong leadership could help the UN fulfill its original mission of maintaining world order. Africa’s trumpet blowers say the continent has many leaders of international stature on whom the gap would fit.

With these factors leading Africa’s agenda, Obasanjo is hardly a surprise choice. A military general who voluntarily handed over power to a democratically elected government, the widely admired leader has chafed at an impression of unfitness since leaving office in 1979.

He has served on several international commissions on security and development issues. In 1968 he founded the Africa Leadership Forum, a respected think-tank that trains future African leaders and proposes strategies for the continent’s development.

In the long run, much is riding on the elections of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council. A vote by one of the five will defeat any candidates.

In 1981, Tanzania’s Julius Nyerere, a popular choice of many UN members, was a candidate for the secretary-generalship against the incumbent, Kurt Waldheim of Austria, who was seeking an unprecedented third term. Salim lost, due to a United States veto. Claas then named Waldheim, leading to the emergence of Perez de Cuellar, a dark horse. Many diplomats here believe it is unlikely the White House, under George Bush will follow Ronald Reagan’s 1981 example and veto an African front-runner.

— AFRICA NEWS
Debt relief for the world's poorest nations

LONDON - Western nations will announce a $42 billion debt relief programme for the world's poorest countries at next month's economic summit in London, the Guardian newspaper reported yesterday.

It said the scale and timing of the programme were regarded as a breakthrough in attempts to co-ordinate Western aid to sub-Saharan Africa, seriously hit by drought and famine.

The deal could be seen as a diplomatic coup for Prime Minister John Major, who launched the idea last year when he was Chancellor of the Exchequer, the paper said. Britain is host for the annual summit of the Group of Seven leading industrial nations, beginning on July 15.

The Guardian said Major called for the doubling of official debt relief, stretching repayment periods to 25 years and conceding a five-year grace period during which low-income nations would not have to pay either interest or principal on borrowings.
THE hunt for Ethiopia's deposed military head of state — Mengistu Haile Mariam — continues almost three weeks after the 54-year-old Marxist dictator unceremoniously fled Addis Ababa.

Behind him he left the burning embers of a vicious civil war and mass starvation. In Zimbabwe right now he has taken up the life of a kind of feudal robber baron, without a country and probably without a future.

Mengistu flew into Harare Airport shortly before midnight on Tuesday May 21. His arrival was wrapped in a cloak of diplomatic secrecy. Journalists covering the event — an unannounced political happening — were locked in the airport terminal at 11.30 pm shortly after his plane was spotted coming into the country which is now his new home.

Only one hour before Mengistu flew in, Zimbabwean head of state Robert Mugabe flew off to London with a political entourage for talks with Britain's youthful new leader, John Major.

It is certain Mugabe knew well in advance that Mengistu was coming in for refuge and that his flight to refugee was a fairly well-ordered Zimbabwean contribution to peace in Ethiopia.

Said one high-ranking official with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs: "Regard his visit as our contribution to peace. Someone had to have him and Magabe and Mengistu have had very close ties over the years."

Shortly after Midnight, Mengistu left the airport in a diplomatic car accompanied by several other vehicles believed to be carrying staff from the Ethiopian embassy and policeman from Zimbabwe's own Central Intelligence Organisation (CIO).

There have been many reported sightings of Mengistu. But anyone who ha lived in the Zimbabwean capital know that rumours such as the following abound:

- Mengistu sought refuge on a farm owned by ex-Rhodesian leader Ian Smith. There was not a shred of truth in it.
- Mengistu, through the ex-Ethiopian ambassador to Harare (Mengistu's uncle) had bought a large farm just outside Harare from an Italian Ethiopian businessman. Reporters found out the businessman has no intention of moving and is continuing to run a successful salami-producing operation.
- Mengistu had been sighted by a Zimbabwean living in the suburbs of Harare and driving a Rolls Royce which used to be owned by Emperor Haile Selassie. After inquiries, the car involved was found to be a new import from Britain brought in through Durban. It belongs to proud new owner Sam Levy, a prominent Jewish businessman.
- The Oppenheimers had sold Mengistu one of the country's most successful dairy farms for only Zimdollars 3.5 million and the Ethiopian had surrounded himself with 20 bodyguards.
- Mengistu had smuggled about 6 billion US dollars from Addis Ababa to a bank in Switzerland and might even go and live in South Africa.

It is clear that very few real facts have emerged since Mengistu touched down at Harare Airport and disappeared from sight.

Letters to the editor of the pro-Government Herald Tribune newspaper regularly ask what this Ethiopian dictator, with one of the worst human-rights track records in the world, is doing here, allegedly on a commercial farm with the full protection of the government.

Said "Amen" from Bulawayo this week: "Surely any African country that offers succour to Mengistu must for generations be haunted by the unerring spectre of hordes of Ethiopians who met their untimely end during nearly two decades of genocide."

The hunt for Mengistu continues. So does the manufacture of some of the country's "most fascinating" rumours.
Ivory Coast looks for buyers

ABIDJAN — For sale: ageing luxury hotel in financially troubled West African country. Has 40% occupancy rate, loses money and needs major overhaul.

If it sounds like your kind of deal, phone Ivory Coast's privatisation committee (05-235-32946) and tell them you want to buy the Hotel Ivoire.

For the moment, the phones are not ringing off the hook at the committee's offices, reached through a back door of the defunct Credit Cote d'Ivoire, which made low-interest loans to bureaucrats until it went bankrupt.

"We never expected to be selling one a month," said Amedee Couassi-Ble, one of the committee's financial analysts.

Jewels

He was referring to a list of 20 state-owned or mixed state/private companies which the committee intends to put on the block.

Since the programme was announced in September last year, none of the companies on the list has been sold, although at least one, the phone company, is on the way.

Others include such crown jewels as the palm-oil company Palmindustrie, state rubber plantations, shares in local petrol distributors and, most visibly, the 760-room Hotel Ivoire, which serves as hostelry for visiting dignitaries and retainers.

The government and President Felix Houphouet-Boigny, 84, who has ruled since independence in 1960, are being urged to sell loss-making or marginally profitable state enterprises by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

But getting the private sector to have another look at Ivory Coast may not be so simple.

The world's biggest cocoa producer and Africa's largest grower of coffee is in the grips of a galloping economic crisis. The economy shrank by almost 4% in 1989 as world prices collapsed for its two main commodities.

In addition, Ivory Coast is afflicted with energy costs that are among the world's highest, wage rates five times as high as those in nearby Nigeria and huge customs duties and taxes that can add 25% to 50% to the cost of imported goods.

The country is locked in a struggle between opposition parties legalised last year and an entrenched power structure under Houphouet-Boigny, who still makes all important decisions.

The overall picture is discouraging to many would-be investors, say Western diplomats and financial analysts. — Sapa-Reuter.
Liberia just one problem

ABUJA — The impact of the Liberian civil war, pro-democracy calls and economic integration are likely to dominate the talks by West African foreign ministers which open in the new Nigerian city of Abuja today.

The talks, ahead of a summit of the Economic Community of West African States (Ecowas), come amid unprecedented political upheaval and major world economic changes threatening to marginalise further, one of the world’s poorest areas.

Abass Bundu, executive secretary of the 15-member Ecowas, said the Liberian conflict, calls for democratic reforms, and economic integration, would be major issues at the July 4-6 summit in Abuja.

During the past year, three veteran West African rulers have been swept aside by a political wind of change.

Regional analysts say several more presidents may fall this year, either through elections or military coups, as demands for political change gain momentum in a region dominated by military or single-party governments.

— Sapa-Reuter.
Death and carnage comes to Ethiopia

HUNDREDS of people were burned to death when an ammunition dump exploded on the outskirts of Addis Ababa on the last day of Ethiopia's civil war. A vile stench hung over hundreds of incinerated corpses strewn around a deep crater when reporters reached the disaster site in the western suburb of Shagole. The area was swarming with looters.

Rebels captured the capital last Tuesday. The arms store exploded on the same day after government troops left Shagole.

"There was a terrible, big blast at about noon on Tuesday," said Giuseppe Osella, an Italian who lives nearby. "I believe more than 1,000 died here."

British television journalist Lindsay Taylor said he had counted at least 150 charred and blackened bodies. Several children were among the victims.

"The scene of carnage at the former munitions site is simply unimaginable."

SUNDAY TIMES FOREIGN DESK Addis Ababa

said Taylor. "The smell is nauseating.

A German pastor who lives nearby, said up to 1,000 people could have died in the blast.

Meanwhile, the leader of the rebels who captured Addis Ababa arrived this week in the Ethiopian capital and pledged there would be no reprisals against members of the toppled government.

"We are not going for vendettas -- there will be no kangaroo courts," Meles Zenawi, 35-year-old leader of the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF), told foreign ambassadors.

The rebel takeover in Ethiopia has swelled the number of refugees in the Horn of Africa, which already has millions of displaced people.

Famine relief organisations warned that eight million people faced starvation, with the impending famine likely to be worse than in 1984-85 when a million people died.

Paul Ignatieff of the United Nations Children's Fund said: "Children will die if they are not reached within a week."

The additional refugees are trekking through a bleak countryside ravaged by war. Some are ignored, others bombed by the air force of neighbouring Sudan.

Dozens of people are dying every day, particularly in the eastern Ogaden region.

One aid worker responsible for relief in the Ogaden area described the situation there as catastrophic.

"All our operations have collapsed; everything has gone," he said.
Former foe gives African readers a survey on SA

ROBERT GENTLE

A SPECIAL edition survey on SA in the influential African publication Jeune Afrique signals an end to years of open hostility by the magazine.

The 50-page survey in the current affairs journal will bring SA to the attention of Francophone Africa and will also be sold in SA.

The magazine says "a long debate" was necessary before it decided to run the survey. It admits that its readers may be "shocked" to discover advertisements from SA companies.

"One thing is sure: it is not our convictions that have disappeared, but that SA has changed," says the introductory editorial.

The survey contains interviews with President F W de Klerk, ANC deputy president Nelson Mandela and Inkatha president Mangosuthu Buthelezi.

It also lifts the veil on SA's increasingly fruitful trade contacts with the rest of Africa, speaking of "liaisons" that have become "less and less discreet".

SA industrial companies like Eskom, AECI, Tiger, Oatki; and research centre CSIR are described as "dynamic" to "high-tech". Engin, Sebana, Dulux Paint and Consol have advertised in words that leave no doubt they are angling for future African business.

The survey ends with a questionnaire addressed to Jeune Afrique readers asking whether African presidents should meet De Klerk and whether readers would be prepared to visit SA.
SA has given R89,7m aid to Africa, says Pik

CAPE TOWN — Government yesterday named for the first time 16 African countries that had received SA financial aid over the past three years.

Foreign Affairs Minister Pik Botha said in Parliament about R89,7m had been spent on aid to these countries in that time.

However, although R40,5m had been spent in the 1988/89 financial year, it had declined to an estimated R23,1m in the 1990/91 (financial) year.

Botha was replying to a question tabled by Louis Stofberg (CP Sasolburg).

The countries which had received aid were Lesotho; Swaziland; Central African Republic; Gabon; Ivory Coast; Malawi; Zimbabwe; Equatorial Guinea; Angola; Mozambique; Zambia; Zaire; Cape Verde; Comores; Namibia and Togo.

In the past, government has refused to supply details on its aid to, or trade with, African countries.

The aid was given in terms of direct financial assistance, project aid loans, manpower provision, technical assistance and general aid.

However, Botha's reply indicates that direct financial assistance dropped from R5,5m in 1988/89 to R3,5m in 1989/90 to R1 947 in 1990/91.

Comores received R1,5m of this assistance; Mozambique R1,5m and Malawi R51 126.

Project aid loans dropped from R23,6m in 1988/89 to R5,1m in 1990/91.

Comores was granted R12,5m in loans; Mozambique R4,8m, Malawi R8,2m, Swaziland R5m and Lesotho R379 760.

Manpower provision in terms of technical and other assistance, which totalled R3,8m in 1990/91, was granted to Swaziland (R805 080), Comores (R61 123), Equatorial Guinea (R317 201), Lesotho (R97 871), Malawi (R439 194), Namibia (R1,7m), Togo (R27 361), Ivory Coast (R99 721) and Gabon (R189 492).

Technical assistance granted in the 1990/91 financial year included that to Lesotho (R1,8m), Swaziland (R1,9m), Gabon (R40 585), Angola (R530 000), Mozambique (R2,4m), Zambia (R23 500) and Zaire (R247 082).

Botha said the technical assistance to Zimbabwe in 1988/89 was R29 760 but it had not received any assistance since then.

Botswana was the only southern African country not to receive SA aid.
PAC slams African states for SA links

ABUJA, Nigeria. — A senior official of the Pan-Africanist Congress (PAC) yesterday criticised African countries trading with South Africa and challenged them to put their actions to national referendums.

"Those who are stampeding into our country are stampeding on us for crumbs," PAC foreign affairs secretary Mr Ahmed Gora Ebrahim told a news briefing ahead of an Organisation of African Unity (OAU) summit meeting here.

"I will challenge any African country to put it to a referendum and see if they will get the support," he said.

The PAC broke away from the African National Congress (ANC) in 1969 after accusing it of being too moderate. It believes armed struggle is the only way to end apartheid.

Mr Ebrahim said the PAC was formulating policies on how to deal with any country that traded with South Africa, but did not elaborate.

The OAU’s council of ministers, meeting in Abuja before the group’s June 3-5 summit, called this week for sanctions against South Africa to remain until apartheid was dismantled.

PAC and ANC officials addressed the council on Wednesday and called on the OAU to mobilise the world community to put pressure on Pretoria to end apartheid.

Any relaxation of sanctions would prolong the anti-apartheid struggle and increase violence in South Africa, they told the meeting.

OAU officials said unilateral moves by some African countries to end sanctions could hamper anti-apartheid moves.

Madagascar named

However, they said the organisation would not impose sanctions against member nations with links to South Africa.

Mr Ebrahim mentioned only Madagascar by name in his remarks on trading with South Africa.

He said he regretted a Malagasy statement that no one had the right to question its links with Pretoria because it was a sovereign state.

He said he accepted that some countries with historical links had to trade with South Africa. — Sapa-Reuters
Algerian leader declares state of siege

ALGIERS. — President Chadli Benjedid yesterday clamped a state of siege on Algeria for four months, sacked the cabinet and put off the country's first multi-party general elections after days of protests by Muslim radicals.

Tanks and soldiers took over the capital, Algiers, where police and fundamentalist strikers demanding an Islamic state battled on Tuesday. Several people were killed, but no official casualty toll was released.

Western diplomatic sources spoke of at least five dead.

Algiers Radio said the state of siege, controlled by a public safety committee, would last for four months. Strikes, demonstrations and subversive publications were banned.

Military tribunals were to be set up to try anyone threatening state security.

In an implicit threat against the militant Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), the decree said political parties acting against the law could be suspended by decree.

The FIS called a general strike last month and thousands of its supporters took to the streets, leading to major clashes. — Sapa-Reuters
Too hungry to live
Death and disease stalk returning refugees

GODE - Hassan Abdullahi, his skinny body dressed in rags, stood a few metres away as friends shovelled earth into the small grave of his three-year-old daughter.

"She was hungry and sick, too hungry to live," he said, shrugging bony shoulders.

"My other children are very weak. We have not received any food rations for weeks."

Behind him, dozens of graves stretched over a desolate landscape, many of them small mounds where children are buried.

Wars in Ethiopia and neighbouring Somalia have left thousands of people like Hassan destitute in the barren, remote eastern Ogaden region.

Hundreds of people have died of starvation in the past few months in towns like Gode, capital of the Ogaden.

Hassan was one of up to 100 000 Ethiopians who returned home to the Ogaden in the past few months from refugee camps across the border in Somalia - driven out by the war where which toppled President Mohamed Siad Barre last January but then degenerated into clan fighting.

The impoverished region they came home to has little to offer the "returnees", who spent years on the other side of the border as refugees from the Ogaden war with Somalia in 1977-78.

Fighters of the Hawiye clan-based United Somali Congress which has assumed power in the Somali capital Mogadishu drove the Ethiopians, who are from the Ogaden clan, out of their refugee camps.

Gode, a desperately poor town, is full of returnees turned beggars. Ragged children peer over the corrugated iron fences of shabby outdoor cafes, pleading with their eyes for scraps of left-over food.

Efforts to provide "returnees" in the region with aid were disrupted by the war which drove former Marxist military ruler Mengistu Haile Mariam into exile and brought the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF) to power last month.

The Ogaden was among the regions worst hit by the halting of relief supplies.

A vast area, sparsely populated with nomadic pastoralists and hit by drought, the Ogaden has dreadful roads and constant security problems because of bandits - even in times of peace.

Although EPRDF fighters seized the Somali capital Addis Ababa on May 28, they only arrived to take control of Gode last week.

Relief workers say the EPRDF has told them it is not yet safe to truck aid supplies to the Ogaden.

"We can contain the situation - there are enough food supplies ready to go into this region - but we have to do it with an airlift and that airlift must get going quickly," said one UN relief official.

Near the graveyard where Hassan buried his daughter, a returnee camp outside Gode, painfully thin women and children trek through the dust with grimy plastic water containers strapped to their backs.

They hope to earn a few cents and a bite to eat by selling muddy water from the Wahi Shebele river in the local market.

Grim

Other returnees at the Gode camp, a grim sprawl of igloo-shaped huts made from twigs and scraps of cloth, walk for kilometres in the blazing sun to collect bundles of firewood to sell.

Nobody is certain of the number of returnees living in the camp, or in the town itself, especially since many of them drifted away in recent weeks because no food arrived.

But the number is thought to be at least 10 000.

"I would like to have a farm again," said Sada Mounou, a mother of six children. "But we have nothing to start again, no animals. Not even one chicken."

Wars in Ethiopia and neighbouring Somalia have left thousands of people like Hassan maimed and destitute in the barren, remote eastern Ogaden region.

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"We can contain the situation - there are enough food supplies ready to go into this region - but we have to do
ALGIERS, Algeria. — The opposition Islamic Salvation Front yesterday called off its general strike.

The front said it was ending the strike, called two weeks ago to protest against the regime of President Chadli Bendjedid, as it had received assurances that presidential and legislative elections would be held by the end of the year.

Mr Chadli cancelled elections scheduled for June 23 after campaign violence partly inspired by the strike erupted this week, leaving 12 dead.

The promise of presidential elections this year means Mr Chadli could be ousted from the post he has held since 1979.

Five members of Algerian security forces were wounded yesterday in an exchange of fire with Muslim fundamentalists in Algiers. — Sapa-Reuters
Pillars of Support

Major Commission of Sport

By Barry Streek

counts to cheer from MPs in Parliament

Lobby. Away as if the land is

CT 6 19

1907

signature expected

The former minister of commercial development

The question of representation on the House of

more than 240,000 people

The amount of opposition to the Bill in the

the House of Commons where the government

The CPGB's John Hall said the government would

expected.

Signatures expected

the major commission of sport

the land is

Majors commission of sport

the land is
Time to settle old scores in Ethiopia

On a rail journey out of Addis Ababa, correspondent RICHARD DOWDEN was caught up in the fierce clashes of a disintegrating Ethiopia.

The edges of the empire are beginning to fray. The peoples on the fringes of Ethiopia are reverting to tradition: making war on their neighbours.

The collapse of the old regime and the failure of the new to fill the power vacuum in these areas has given some ethnic groups the chance to settle old scores — and create some new ones. Banditry is rife, and in much of Harerge province and the east no one travels without a gun.

Even the United Nations agencies break their rule and carry armed escorts, from the new government's forces, in their vehicles.

The single-track railway which runs from Addis Ababa to the Red Sea marks at one point the front line between the Oromo and Issa, longstanding enemies. The Issa live north of the track, the Oromo south.

Since the buses are not running and the airport at Dire Dawa was completely looted — aircraft parts were turning up in the local streetmarket a week later — the train is the only method of travel.

Travelling first class — distinguished from the bare boards of third class only by grimy plastic on the seats — there was a bank manager, a teacher, businessmen and a family with a week-old baby.

When the rickety old train pulled up, at the settlement of Biket we were told that there was fighting just down the line at the village of Afdem. We waited overnight, frequently woken by the sounds of rifle and machine-gun fire.

Biket, a smuggling town, is itself partly Issa and partly Oromo. They are easy to tell apart. The Issa are ethnically Somali: thin-featured nomads who wear cloth wraps instead of trousers and carry a short curved sword. The Oromo are Ethiopian and softer-featured. They are farmers.

Both groups have benefited from the fastest military privatisation scheme in history. When the previous government collapsed, many of its soldiers sold their weapons for a few rand, and now Kalashnikovs and M-16 rifles are as common as umbrellas on a wet morning.

Next morning in Biket every man, Issa or Oromo, walked armed. When a shot was heard,
Fresh misery for developing nations

LONDON — Third World countries, already blighted by poverty, debt or civil strife, face fresh misery.

Ninety percent of all AIDS cases in the 1990s are likely to be in the developing world.

The message to come out of an international conference on AIDS last week in Italy is that the Third World is bearing the brunt of the epidemic, and little is being done to help.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) estimated that, of the 40 million people likely to be infected with the AIDS virus by the year 2000, nine out of 10 would be in Africa and Asia.

Sub-Saharan Africa already has about six million cases of AIDS infection, compared with 1.5 million in Europe, the United States and Australia combined.

At the moment, Asia has only a million AIDS cases, but in five years, Asia is expected to have five million cases.

"We are facing a growing devatation of national aspirations," warned Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni.

But the catastrophic impact of AIDS on the Third World is drawing scant attention from researchers and activists in the developed world.

"Ninety percent of all AIDS cases are in the Third World and 90 percent of the sessions at this conference are about the United States," said one delegate from the Save the Children Fund.

Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome attacks the body's immune system, leaving its victim defenceless against deadly diseases. There is no cure and only one treatment so far, the drug AZT, slows the progress of AIDS.

The disease first hit homosexuals hardest but almost all new cases around the world are the result of vaginal sex between men and women, WHO said.

Medical treatments that might hold promise in the West are out of reach for poor nations.

Optimists predict an effective vaccine could be ready in just five years from now — but only for the West.

Almost all research is based on HIV strains found only in the United States and Europe. They vary greatly from African and Asian strains.

Researchers said there was less incentive for drug companies to pour money into a Third World vaccine when it was unlikely anyone would be able to afford it.

The vaccines under development now will also require refrigerated storage and booster shots.

Prevention would seem to be the only solution, but speakers said preventive measures had made little headway in Africa, where condom usage was low and there was scant opportunity to sterilise needles or test blood supplies for infection.

There was also a lack of official commitment. Uganda's Museveni, despite his dire view of the epidemic's impact, does not support "this idea of condoms". Instead, he advocates self-control. — Sapa-Reuters.
Pik names countries who received SA aid

By BARRY STREEK
Political Staff,

THE government yesterday for the first time named 16 African countries, including Zimbabwe, who had received South African financial aid over the past three years.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Pik Botha, said an estimated R29.7 million had been spent on aid to independent African states during the past three years.

However, although R40.5 million had been spent on this aid during the 1988/89 financial year, this had declined to an estimated R23.1 million during the 1990/91 financial year.

Mr Botha listed the countries which had received South African aid when he replied to a question tabled by Mr Louis Stofberg, CP Sasolburg.

The countries which received aid during the past three years were Lesotho, Swaziland, Central African Republic, Gabon, Ivory Coast, Malawi, Zimbabwe, Equatorial Guinea, Angola, Mozambique, Zambia, Zaire, Cape Verde, the Comores, Namibia and Togo. Botswana is the only Southern African country which has not received South African aid during this period.

In the past the government has refused to supply any details about its aid to African states or about South Africa's trade with African countries.

The aid was given in terms of direct financial assistance, project aid loans, manpower provision, technical assistance and general aid.
African markets opening for SA

Own Correspondent

DURBAN. — Markets are opening up in Africa, the Minister of Finance Mr Barend du Plessis said at a presentation by local stockbrokers Frankel Max Pollak Vinderine last night.

The minister, who was in the city for the opening of the Reserve Bank’s new building, said even a modest increase in SA’s current trade of R1bn a year with Africa would make a considerable difference.

Du Plessis said the economic picture for SA was changing fast with approaches from various African countries — many of them were able to pay such as Nigeria and Angola with their oil resources.

And an era of drastic economic change brought on by the Debt Standstill in 1988 could be eased as foreign capital returned to the country and access to the International Monetary Fund became possible.

Inflation remained a problem and this week’s “dismaying” figures did not remove the possibility of a fall in the rate by the year-end.

He told the private sector that it must move away from budgeting for a 15% increase in costs — “if you provide for it, you will surely get that sort of rise in costs”.

Some of the inflationary factors were embraced by payments to workers who were not productive — this would have to be dealt with.

The economy was going to be given encouragement so that SA became export-orientated.

A special two-year programme of cash allowances was planned so that the private sector could “concentrate on the window of opportunity that was now opening for exports”.

SA should learn a lesson from the closing of the R1bn-a-year American market which was replaced in a matter of months by other markets “which were there all the time, but South Africans had not made the effort to find these markets”.

He forecast that, together with political developments, the country was “coming in for a turbulent landing”.
Tread carefully with Africa's shady leaders.
Presidential race has consolation prize

By John Ryan
Star Africa Service

PORT LOUIS — The man who would rather not be president shows that reluctance with a wry smile and a raising of the shoulders.

It is a surprisingly moderate reaction from Paul Raymond Berenger, once the leftist firebrand of Mauritian politics. A decade ago, any idea that his claws might be drawn by thrusting him into a rubber-stamp position would have had Mr Berenger seething.

But a good deal has happened in the meantime. Political parties have moved closer together on Mauritius. Coalitions have become the name of the game. Many past differences have been buried.

Clearly, Mr Berenger, a young socialist revolutionary during the 1968 student riots in Paris, has mellowed and matured. He is now a major proponent of such wholesome things as free enterprise and demilitarisation in the Indian Ocean.

In 1983, he and the present Prime Minister of Mauritius, Sir Anerood Jugnauth, head the movement of Mauritius. A Movement (MMM). But then they fought bitterly mainly because of differences of opinion on economic policy.

Accepted

Mr Berenger, Minister of Finance, accepted the need for the ailing Mauritian economy to adopt the necessary measures on the International Monetary Fund and World Bank wishes to impose. Sir Anerood and the socialists argued that proposals such as subsidy cuts on rice and flour were too extreme.

Mr Berenger resigned and took the majority of the MMM with him into opposition. Sir Anerood immediately formed a splinter group called the Militant Socialist Movement (MSM) and led an alliance of his new party, the Labour Party and smaller groups to victory in general elections in 1983 and 1987.

After seven years of acrimony, however, the Jugnauth-Berenger team is back in business. Last July, the MSM and MMM signed a power-sharing deal and endorsed a programme to make Mauritius an Indian-style republic with the 46-year-old Mr Berenger as president.

Although many Mauritians would like to see Mr Berenger disappear from the political scene, it is unlikely that this is the Prime Minister's motive in proposing his former rival for the non-executive position.

Mr Berenger has always been a controversial figure, but he is also hugely intelligent, astute and widely read on international affairs.

Sir Anerood needs those talents, as well as Mr Berenger's pragmatism.

He also needs the MMM secretary-general's support on the republican issue. Mr Berenger has long led the vanguard in the argument that Queen Elizabeth should be replaced as head of state.

"We love the Queen," he insists, "but we believe it is time the head of state was a Mauritian."

Now that he is in line to fulfill that role himself, Mr Berenger is obviously torn between a hanging to be a political ruler and considerations of what he might be able to achieve for Mauritius under a presidential hat.

"I'm foremost a party politician," he says, "and I would miss that. But it doesn't mean I would be stuck in a rubber-stamp situation."

But for Mr Berenger there is a constitutional loophole that may yet allow him to escape back to party politics. Mauritius must hold an election before August next year. After that, the idea of a republic will have to be approved by three-quarters of the elected MPs. The same majority will have to agree to him being president.

Mr Berenger thinks there is a chance that his presidential nomination will fail, even if the MMM-MMM alliance gains a 75 percent majority.

A blocking factor, he believes, could be the Hindus on Mauritius who comprise more than half the population.

Mr Berenger is white. Some years ago he proposed that Creole, rather than English, should become the official language. His proposal was seen as racist by the Hindus — even though most of the island's Muslims support the MMM party — and Sir Anerood made much political profit from that perception.

The two men were then at the peak of their feud.

"I was presented to the Hindus as the devil incarnate," said Mr Berenger.

But it seems the tacit deal which offers him the presidency has other options. Basically, it calls for a triumvirate of Sir Anerood, Mr Berenger and Deputy Prime Minister Sir Satcram Boolell.

Presumably, if Mr Berenger is denied the presidency because of Hindu antagonism, the nomination will go to Sir Satcram, and Mr Berenger will become deputy prime minister.

What ever position he lands in, he will be having a great deal to do with the extended continent and South Africa's future involvement in it. Pretoria should be warned.

Already, though he is no longer an MP, he has become the Prime Minister's special adviser on various subjects. Nuclear disarmament in the southern African region is one of them. In January, Mr Berenger presented a position paper to the United Nations, spelling out his country's argument for a 'zone of peace' in the Indian Ocean.

The South African Government has agreed to accept a non-proliferation treaty as long as the Frontline states do so as well.

If South African signs, could that be a foot in the door for formal diplomatic relations with Mauritius?

"No," says Mr Berenger adamantly. "Certainly not at this stage. South Africa has a trade mission on the island, but that is very different from a diplomatic mission.

Cautious

"I have already advised our government to be cautious about formal relations because I believe President de Klerk may in fact have a hidden agenda.

"I have read his statements closely, just over the past few weeks, and my instincts tell me the National Party is not about to surrender power to any black majority party."

"Maybe I will be proved wrong in six months or so. But I have persuaded our government to hold tight until all apartheid legislation has been repealed."

He adds: "In particular, I feel uneasy about the legislation that Mr de Klerk says will replace those laws. And his promise to whites about holding a referendum before making changes. Let us rather wait and see."
The government is expected to approve that

South Africa in the south

Kenya in the east

West Africa in the west

East in the north

The four allied regional economic blocs

The East African Community (EAC)

The Southern African Development Community (SADC)

The Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA)

The Southern African Customs Union (SACU)

The Southern African Development Bank (SADC-Bank)

The Southern African Development Fund (SADCA)

The South African Development Trust (SADT)

The South African Development Agency (SADA)

The South African Development Foundation (SADF)

The South African Development Corporation (SADC)

The South African Development Trust (SADT)

The South African Development Agency (SADA)

The South African Development Foundation (SADF)

The South African Development Corporation (SADC)

The South African Development Trust (SADT)

The South African Development Agency (SADA)

The South African Development Foundation (SADF)

The South African Development Corporation (SADC)
Madagascan opposition names 'govt'

By Barney Mthombothi
Africa News Service

ANTANANARIVO (Madagascar) — Opposition leaders here yesterday named what they called a 30-member interim government in an attempt to put more pressure on President Didier Ratsiraka and his government to resign.

The names of those who opposition leaders hope will soon take over the reins of government were announced to loud cheers at a huge rally in the centre of the capital, Antananarivo.

Well over 200,000 people are believed to have attended.

The list includes priests, lawyers, journalists, academics and a police officer. It is not yet clear who the leader of this interim government will be but its leading light is Richard Andriananjato, a well-known local priest, whose name tops the list.

The opposition wants President Ratsiraka's government to resign and a conference convened to draft the new constitution for the country.

The president, however, says he won't go but has offered to accommodate opposition leaders in his government. The offer has been turned down.

Yesterday's demonstration coincided with the country's 31st independence anniversary, and there were expectations the events may finally force the government to capitulate.

But President Ratsiraka and senior members of his government were attending a military parade to celebrate the anniversary. He didn't speak at the celebration.

Many people chose to attend the anti-government rally.

The rally, and the demonstrations which preceded it, was a very disciplined affair except for a thief who stole from a hawker and was apprehended.

A lawyer and political activist Ravony Francisque, who met President Ratsiraka on behalf of the opposition on Tuesday, told the rally the president was prepared to make changes to his government but he was still refusing to resign.

President Ratsiraka's party and its allies won in a general election two years ago, but the opposition says the elections were rigged.
Economic Handshake Awaits

From London
Philipp GAWTHORPE

on South Africa's
and reducing their debt dependency
need to the African states
is part of a profound development
of the great African adventure...
From horror to faint hope

Africa's afflictions have been magnified in the battlefield that is Ethiopia.
New encounter for Ethiopia's crippled heroes

DEBRE ZEIT (Ethiopia) — The crippled heroes of Ethiopia's defeated army, hobbling on crutches and propelling their legless bodies in wheelchairs, are ready for a new encounter with the enemy — without bullets and landmines.

The nearest thing to confrontation will be a game of one-legged volley ball with former rebel fighters, who like themselves have been mutilated by 30 years of civil war.

Just over 1,000 crippled and blind ex-soldiers live in Hero Centre, a rehabilitation hospital which Ethiopia's former Marxist dictator Mengistu Hailu Mariam established in the highland town of Debre Zeit, 45 km south of Addis Ababa.

Now the centre is about to open its doors to injured fighters of the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front, the rebel movement which ousted Mr Mengistu last month.

Revive

The orthopaedic workshop has already stepped up production of artificial legs — artificial arms are a luxury it cannot afford.

There are plans to open a camp soon for 500 more disabled combatants at Dilla in the southern Rift Valley.

Colonel Getachew Wagjira, the commandant at Hero Centre, hopes to revive vocational training for disabled war veterans.

"Work itself is an occupational therapy. When they work they will enjoy life more," he said in an interview.

Hero Centre has a wing where veterans can learn carpet weaving, sewing, book-keeping and braille.

But most of the classes were suspended in 1989 when Mr Mengistu said there was no point training the disabled if Ethiopia's depressed economy could not even provide jobs for those who were found in mind and body.

Most of the veterans spend their days chatting idly, listening to the radio and hopping or wheeling themselves around the centre's sparse garden.

Colonel Getachew, a former police colonel, said many had psychiatric problems.

"They think they are the only people who really helped the country and their demands are unlimited," he said.

Though spartan by Western standards, in Ethiopian terms Hero Centre provides a life of unprecedented luxury.

Nearly eight million Ethiopian faces starved this year, but the centre's residents are well fed and housed.

They enjoy television, sports facilities and medical care at their own hospital.

They are free to receive visitors and to go into town if they wish.

The orthopaedic workshop and its attached physiotherapy unit are hubs of activity.

Here, many of the veterans have found a new purpose in life making artificial limbs, wheelchairs and crutches.

Pentahum Tesage, a paraplegic who has to strap himself to the workbench to avoid falling down, makes wooden pads for crutches.

Colonel Getachew said he aims to make Hero Centre, which is being renamed the "Rehabilitation Centre for War Invalids," self-supporting.

It already has a farm with cattle, poultry and vegetable garden that provides food and earns cash, but this is run by able-bodied employees.

The International Committee of the Red Cross provides equipment, raw materials and training for the orthopaedic workshop, but Colonel Getachew said the restrictions placed by Mr Mengistu on contacts with foreigners made it difficult to get other Western support.

He would like foreign help to buy drugs and physiotherapy equipment and to build the new centre at Dilla, which will be situated next to hot springs. — Sapa-Reuters.
AIDS poses major threat to economy

INVESTORS should increasingly start considering the potential impact of AIDS on their investments. If AIDS does precipitate a major recession and possibly even a depression by the middle of this decade it will have a major impact on the future returns of investments made today.

This is the warning of two eminent researchers who predict that an AIDS-induced economic recession would have serious repercussions on the traditional investment instruments like ten-year endowment policies, certain sections of the property market as well as several sections of the Johannesburg Stock Exchange.

In Durban Jane Wiltshire, corporate planning manager of Tongaat-Hulett has warned that AIDS could precipitate a major recession later this decade which would divert money into disease-related areas and restrict spending as sufferers are denied credit and are obliged to rely on cash and savings.

According to Ms Wiltshire the disease is likely to start making itself felt in South Africa by the year 1995 when the maximum infection rate is reached and significant numbers of people are either ill or have died.

"A credit economy is based on future earnings, so it makes sense that where future earnings are uncertain, their value will be discounted," she says.

A switch to cash and savings would cause money supply to contract, causing a "major recession" and changing the inflationary trend in the economy to a deflationary one.

Ms Wiltshire adds that AIDS is likely to reverse the current supply of labour in "the not too-distant future".

"It is likely that the population will peak some time early in the second half of the nineties and then decline as the number of child-bearing women are drastically reduced. This number of deaths will reach a peak in the late nineties."

Cosmetic companies with the flexibility to mechanise would avoid the worst effect of a declining labour force, but labour intensive businesses would have a major problem.

It is the diversion of resources into treating and caring for AIDS patients in the medium term that will have the most serious effect. Not only will more have to be spent on treatment and funerals, but the economy will suffer from the reduced productivity of sufferers.


MAGNUS HEYSTEK
Finance Editor

In Johannesburg Mr Keith Edelston, who heads the AERU Economic Research Unit has come up with even more foreboding findings. He says the number of black workers is likely to shrink substantially in the current decade if the AIDS pattern continues.

From a peak of around 46 million blacks and coloured people in 1996 the numbers could fall to around 13.6 million by the year 2007, or thereabouts.

Projections made by the AERU indicate that South Africa's natural increase in population will most probably be halted by the year 1998 and decline thereafter.

At the turn of the century the country could be burdened by more than seven million AIDS cases. The worst year, predicts to be 2001, with an estimated 6.77 million people dying in that year.

The number of AIDS cases will decline and the population will level out at around 15 million.

This will have serious effects on the economic levels in the country.

"When AIDS reduces work numbers to the point at which their ability to produce is reduced, earnings will fall and people will have less disposable income with which to satisfy their needs. This will lead to reduced turnover, a decline in profits and if the trend goes too far many businesses will fail."

"Long before that happens, however, something else will have a powerful effect. AIDS makes people sick, and they then need medical treatment. Thus spending patterns will change. As more disposable income is diverted into increased medical spending on drugs and hospital treatment, so, there will be less to spend on other things, such as holidays and petrol for the car."

This is already happening in countries like Malawi and Zambia where copper production is falling rapidly. While affected workers labour currently can still be replaced by drawing from the pool of unemployed, workers, this is done at great cost to productivity and training levels. Mr Edelston expects much the same to happen in South Africa.

But how will AIDS affect your investment decision? In my Money Matters column on the page I try to present the picture as how Mr Edelston and others see it.
Crim message for Ethiopian millions facing disaster

Coffees empty

Advis Arbaa — Etilo
First of many: A man holds a dead baby in the Ogaden desert in Ethiopia where more than 7 million people face starvation. The United Nations says links with most border areas are severed. This child may be the first in a flood of victims.

Starvation threat to millions

Geneva. — The turmoil in Ethiopia continues to prevent urgently needed food supplies from reaching millions of people in the stricken country.

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees said links with most Ethiopian border areas remained severed and called the situation in refugee camps "desperate."

Mr. Fabrizio Hochschild said limited supplies were entering Eritrean-controlled northern Ethiopia.

Elsewhere relief convoys were deterred by rebels and bandits roaming much of the countryside armed with weapons from stocks once controlled by the former government.

Last month rebels seized control after a 30-year civil war.

 Destruction of roads and bridges during the fighting between troops loyal to former President Mengistu Halle Mariam and opposing factions added to the transport problems, Mr. Hochschild said.

More than half UNHCR's fleet of vehicles had been destroyed during the conflict.

He said the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front which took power last month from Mr. Mengistu was "positive and pragmatic" toward international agencies but was hampered by the absence of an administrative system and lack of experience.

Fled to swamps

UNHCR said the situation was worst in the west of Ethiopia, up to 100,000 Sudanese refugees had recently fled from the Gambela district to swamps in southern Sudan where they were at even greater risk from fighting between Sudanese rebels and the government.

Before the Ethiopian conflict about 400,000 Sudanese refugees were in UNHCR camps in Ethiopia.

Mr. Hochschild said the refugee agency had appealed for aircraft to airlift supplies into the province.

UNHCR was also trying to help 100,000 Ethiopians who had fled to eastern Sudan in the past two weeks, many suffering from gunshot wounds, dehydration and sunstroke. Sudan was already host to 780,000 refugees from earlier refugee influxes.

Communications with camps housing 784,000 Somali refugees in eastern Ethiopia were still cut.

Thousands of Somalis reported to be on the move back to their homeland badly needed help.

A further 120,000 Somalis were likely to cross from Ethiopian camps into Kenya, adding to 22,000 compatriots already in Kenya.

The International Committee of the Red Cross said the Ethiopian authorities had asked it to take care of 150,000 demobilised soldiers and their families and 200,000 Ethiopian civilians displaced within their own country. — Sapa-AP.
ALGIERS. — A state of emergency was declared by Algerian president Mr Chadli Bendjedid today after the government resigned and elections were postponed.

Tanks and heavily armed soldiers have clamped an iron grip on the capital.

The announcement of the resignations came after confrontations between Muslim fundamentalists and security forces yesterday left at least six people reported dead.

Mr Bendjedid said he was declaring the state of emergency "because of the worsening situation which could lead the country into extreme crisis". He promised to form a new government after consultation with political parties.

"The process of elections is postponed. A decision will be taken to prepare adequate conditions for parliamentary elections," he said.

Two hours before his statement, tanks and hundreds of soldiers moved into the city after a day of violent clashes.

A police officer and several demonstrators had been killed and several wounded. Interior Minister Mr Mohamed Salah Mohamedi said:

The sound of rumbling tanks echoed through the night across the capital.

Reuters correspondent John Baggaley saw dark green and camouflaged tanks deployed throughout the city centre, the streets scarred with their tracks.

Tanks guarded the defence ministry and were deployed near the central communications offices.

Before the army moved in, groups of Muslim fundamentalists armed with axes and stones threw up barricades across roads in the city centre and in some of the teeming stronghold areas of the radical Islamic Salvation Front, eyewitnesses said.

It was the army's first involvement in the unrest, which has pitted riot police and the National Guard against radicals since shortly after campaigning for parliamentary elections started.

A total of 39 parties had registered for the poll, Algeria's first multi-party general election since independence in 1962, with the FIS and ruling National Liberation Front (FLN) the front runners.

The FIS called a general strike last month saying election laws favoured the FLN. They demanded a presidential poll be held.

Demonstrators hardened the claims into outright demands for an Islamic state.

Residents said the army had taken up many of the positions occupied during riots in 1988 when the official death toll was put at 150 and unofficial estimates said nearly 500 were killed.

The riots led to the drastic political reforms now taking place. A new constitution allowed political parties and dropping references to socialism in the once staunch Marxist socialist state.
Let's work together

Political Staff

SWAZILAND. — The emergence of a unified Europe next year and recent changes in eastern and central Europe and the Soviet Union meant that southern African countries had to group together and co-operate more closely to survive, President De Klerk said yesterday.

Speaking at a luncheon at the Lozitha State Palace he said Swaziland and South Africa had always had close and friendly relations and ideological barriers in the region were disappearing.

South Africa, he said, wanted to play a role "in full harmony and equality" with its neighbours, and placed its knowledge, experience and expertise at the disposal "of our African friends".

The majority of African leaders not only accepted the irreversibility of political change in South Africa, but they also looked forward to the country playing a meaningful role in African affairs.

South Africa was now on the way back to international acceptance and its return to "regional multilateral organisations" was imminent, he said.

He said peace in southern Africa was in sight and the region had to prove that it had the potential to become "a prosperous region".

President de Klerk briefed his hosts and the diplomatic corps about developments in South Africa, saying his government was doing everything in its power to end violence and get constitutional negotiations off the ground.

He had been "heartened" by the enthusiasm with which Kenyan President Daniel Arap Moi had agreed with him on the need for the economically-stronger African countries.

Swazi King Mswati III said there was "a real softening of attitude" towards South Africa in Europe. He had told European leaders during a visit that South Africa was on the road to reform.
African states’ influence ‘waning’

NEW YORK — The influence of the African states, once immensely important among the Third World majority of United Nations members, has waned and they no longer command the support and sympathy they used to enjoy, a long-serving UN delegate from Africa believes.

Mr Legwaila, Joseph Legwaila, Botswana’s ambassador to the world body and former deputy head of the UN operation in Namibia, said in an interview that “another developing world,”—Eastern Europe—had taken over the focus of attention.

“The plight of the Africans is no longer on the front burner and this is reflected at the United Nations,” he said. A “creeping marginalisation” had set in.

But a continent that constituted one third of the UN membership still retained some influence and that should increase, because “we are the continent of the future,” Mr Legwaila said.

His remarks were reported in Diplomatic World Bulletin, an independent newspaper widely circulated within the UN community.

The African states had changed, away from the “ritualistic” positions and voting patterns that used to exist, he said. Individual members showed a greater degree of independence, unlike the days when “people didn’t have to do a lot of thinking” about the votes they cast, because they used routinely to side with the other African members.

As for Botswana, he said its only squabbles were with neighbours who tried to infiltrate and destabilise the region.

Mr Legwaila, who held the rank of UN assistant secretary-general in Namibia having been brought in to boost Africa’s representation in the nation-making operation, called the experience “a cherished part” of his diplomatic career.

Respected for his intelligence and moderation, he is the longest-serving UN ambassador after the representatives of Madagascar and Yemen.
African tourist influx expected

President F W de Klerk's breakthrough visits to Kenya and
other parts of Africa could herald
a large influx of tourists from the
north, Fedhass executive direc-
tor Peter Hearfield said in a
statement yesterday.

"The potential is enormous, and
echoes prospects for increased trade
in the wake of the political break-
throughs," he said.

"The states immediately north of
the Zambezi are in many ways more
natural sources of tourism for SA
than Europe.

"There is a natural affinity with SA
which, after all, is an African state
and there is bound to be a high degree
of curiosity about the new SA as
apartheid finally crumbles."

About half of SA's one million
foreign visitors were already from
black Africa, "representing an excel-
"lent base on which to build a bigger
tourism market", Hearfield said.

The growing business links be-
tween SA and its neighbors now gen-
erated about R10bn a year in two-
way trade, in spite of an official
sanctions policy by the OAU.

"With the removal of official san-
cctions now very much in the offing,
trade can be expected to increase
even further, generating more traffic
by black businessmen, government
officials and so on."

Important for tourism was the
likelihood that special interest tour
groups and study groups would visit
SA. General tour groups and individ-
ual visitors, drawn from middle to up-
per income citizens, were also likely,
he said.

"Bizarre as it may seem, tours of
Soweto and Robben Island may very
well prove to be a drawcard for
visitors from Africa."

"An interesting facet of the situa-
tion is that many of the currencies of
these states are stronger than the
rand."

"Therefore, in converting the local
currencies into Deutchmarks or dol-
ars, visitors from these territories
would find an SA holiday surprisingly
inexpensive, certainly when
compared with a trip to Europe,"
Hearfield said.

Satour chairman Piet van Hoven was
quoted yesterday as saying that the
number of foreign tourists to SA had
dropped by 17% in the January-
February season, compared with the
same period last year. The drop was
attributed largely to unrest and
violence in SA. — Sapa.
Former foe gives African readers a survey on SA

A SPECIAL edition survey on SA in the influential African publication Jeune Afrique signals an end to years of open hostility by the magazine. The 50-page survey, in the current affairs journal will bring SA to the attention of Francophone Africa and will also be sold in SA. The magazine says "a long debate" was necessary before it decided to run the survey. It admits that its readers may be "shocked" to discover advertisements from SA companies.

"One thing is sure: it is not our convictions that have disappeared, but that SA has changed," says the introductory editorial.

The survey contains interviews with President F W de Klerk, ANC deputy president Nelson Mandela and Inkatha president Mangosuthu Buthelezi. It also lifts the veil on SA's increasingly fruitful trade contacts with the rest of Africa, speaking of "liaisons" that have become "less and less discrete".

SA industrial companies like Eskom, AECI, Tiger Oats and research centre CSIR are described as "dynamic" to "high-tech". Engen, Seedbank, Dulux, Paint and Consol have advertised in words that leave no doubt they are angling for future African business.

The survey ends with a questionnaire addressed to Jeune Afrique readers asking whether African presidents should meet De Klerk and whether readers would be prepared to visit SA.
Pretoria touts its plan to cure Africa's woes

CAPE TOWN — President F W de Klerk and Foreign Minister Pik Botha are aggressively marketing the concept that Africa's best chance of economic survival is to divide into regional economic blocs modelled on the EC.

Within each common market, the most powerful national economy would act as an "engine of development" for the region. While the various "dynamos of development" would help to co-ordinate the continent's economic revival, regional self-interest would remain paramount.

In their recent African safaris — many of them unpublicised — SA politicians have proposed that the continent be carved up into at least four economic blocs, each with an integrated plan to encourage trade and attract foreign investment.

Unsurprisingly, Pretoria is proposing SA as the "locamotive" of development for southern Africa, with Kenya fulfilling this role in East Africa, Nigeria in West Africa and Egypt in North Africa.

Just how Zaire and some of the other Francophone countries will fit into this grand plan is still unclear.

But the proposal has clearly struck a responsive chord in a number of African states, particularly with those considered suited to leading regional development.

SA Foreign Affairs officials say there is a growing appreciation for the proposition that Africa, as a unit, is too large, diverse and unwieldy to put together an economic rescue plan.

African leaders are now having to come to grips with the fact that the continent, after decades of economic decline since the heady days of independence, is no longer regarded as interesting by investors or even development economists.

The imminent economic union of Western Europe, and the developed world's preoccupation with rebuilding the economies of Eastern Europe, have highlighted the possibility that Africa, with all its problems, could be bypassed.

In its contacts with African leaders, Pretoria has been at pains to emphasise that unless countries in the proposed development zones give the outside world the impression that they are relatively stable and working constructively towards specific targets, they face a bleak future.

Botha is upbeat about the prospects of the SA approach to Africa. Indeed, buoyed by the success of his latest African expedition, he was confident enough to say: "I love it when a plan comes together."
The Porography of Poverty

A worrying sort of TV programme is becoming more frequent, writes Angela Lambert
Africa seeks solutions for ills in economic community

LAGOS — Africa, feeling marginalised in a world dominated by powerful economic blocs, this week began a long and difficult journey towards a common market in the world's poorest continent.

African leaders signed a treaty on Monday establishing an African Economic Community at the start of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) summit in Nigeria's future capital Abuja.

The treaty laid down a framework for a common market within the next 34 years and is seen as crucial to efforts to reverse the decline of African economies in an unfavourable international economic environment.

The community aims to mobilise and co-ordinate largely untapped human and material resources to strengthen the continent's bargaining position in the world.

"To arrest nose-diving economic growth and terms of trade, and rising poverty, we have to act together on external debts and other depressing economic matters which we have faced as individual countries all these years with diminishing success," Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda said at the signing ceremony.

Cramped by low productivity, mass poverty and an estimated $780 billion debt, Africa must solve grave economic problems from the inside and unite to press for changes in the world economic order, African leaders said in Abuja.

Africans fear that as Europe and other Western blocs become more protectionist or divert resources to Eastern Europe, their continent will become even more marginalised.

Measures by industrialised nations to reward Poland for leading changes in Eastern Europe, and Egypt with huge debt write-offs for supporting Allied forces in the Gulf War have driven home stark realities to African nations.

"It's not enough to be poor to get aid, you must also be politically relevant," said a delegate at the OAU meeting.

With the Soviet Union, former benefactor of some African nations, now clamouring to join the queue for Western aid, African nations fear they will be pushed to the back.

Barber Conable, president of the World Bank, told the summit on Tuesday: "If governance is not seen to improve in Africa, if development is not seen to be taking hold, then 'Africa-pessimism' may indeed set in and Africa's great needs may be set aside."

Plagued by numerous regional conflicts, Africa also needs political stability to pursue its economic goals.

"We must link strategies and processes of economic development with those of conflict resolution and pursue them in tandem," OAU Secretary-General Salim Ahmed Salim said in Abuja.

Business analysts say that, although an African Economic Community looks good on paper, failed attempts to harness Africa's resources within regions show that wider integration may be difficult.

African countries mainly export primary products and import processed and manufactured goods, and face difficulties shifting trade from industrialised nations, mostly former colonial rulers.

The OAU's new chairman, Nigerian President Ibrahim Babangida, said well planned development strategies adopted by African leaders in the past had been poorly implemented.

Building an African community is probably the most challenging task African leaders have given themselves since independence three decades ago.

"It will involve the setting up of complex structures, moving from sub-regional economic integration groupings and harmonising their work," UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar told the OAU summit.

"To share the OAU's headquarters, the community will need substantial funds for its work, not always easy to squeeze out of cash-strapped African states."

Mr Salim told OAU member-states on Tuesday that only 25 percent of their total contributions to the secretariat's 1990-91 budget, which ended last week, had been paid, with $32.3 million still owing. — Sapa-Reporter.

"Participation bond rate better than average."
Greenwater's vicious downward spiral

Garner Thomson looks at the role of the environment in Africa's conflict
Bumpy Time for Flight Lieutenant

Gill Tudor Reports From Accra on the Swing Against Non-Party Rule
in Africa

new plan
for UN aid

Famine

LONDON: At operation to help Africa’s 70 million famine victims, Britain, the United States, France, and the UN are caught in a battle over the best way to assist the starving nations of the continent. The British and French are pushing for a relief operation that would involve the use of military forces to deliver food and aid, while the United States and the UN are more cautious, fearing that military intervention could lead to political instability.

Aid officials say that military forces are needed to reach remote areas and deliver food to the starving people. However, some critics argue that military intervention could lead to more problems than it solves. The aid operation is expected to cost billions of dollars and take months to come into effect.

The UN is considering a new plan that would involve the use of civilian aid workers and organizations to deliver food and supplies to the affected areas. This plan is seen as a more practical and effective approach, but it is still in the early stages and requires further planning.

The situation in Africa is dire, and the world needs to act quickly to prevent a humanitarian crisis. The aid operation is a crucial step in this direction, and the international community must work together to ensure its success.
DURBAN — Mauritius is unlikely to establish full diplomatic links with South Africa unless there is a democratically elected government in power, according to the secretary-general of the island's Labour Party, Kallash Purryag.

Mr Purryag, who arrived in Durban yesterday, served as Minister of Social Security and then of Health. He is in Durban to attend the African National Congress conference.

He said that while Mauritius had business and other links with South Africa, the idea of full diplomatic relations was not part of the island's approach in its contribution in helping to remove all apartheid.

"Neither the present Mauritian government nor the Labour Party future administration can be seen to have official diplomatic relations when apartheid is still alive," said Mr Purryag.

He said that his party would be contesting all 68 seats in the election which was expected to be held shortly. At present Labour is the Opposition in Mauritius.
BUSI TIMES COMING: Heavy duty trucks move to a much faster tempo on their way across Africa.

For big spin-off Messina Brace AS trade umbrellas Roomtime as

DIRK NEL
Our destiny lies in Africa

PRESIDENT De Klerk's message to Africa has been straightforward: The countries of what is fast becoming a forgotten continent must stand together and co-operate more closely in order to survive.

On his visits to Kenya and Swaziland he spoke against the background of the emergence of a unified European Community next year and recent changes in eastern and central Europe.

He put it beforehand in a message to the Organisation of African Unity heads of state, speaking of "dramatic changes in the international environment, of shifts in economic patterns and in power balances which provide both challenges and opportunities for our continent."

In that message he also said numerous African leaders had acknowledged to him that they accepted the irreversibility of the process of change in this country, and that they looked forward to South Africa playing a meaningful role in African affairs.

It was in that message that Mr De Klerk also said: "It is primarily in Africa that our destiny lies."

Some may describe this as a political cliche, but it is a fact that the attention of South Africa's rulers were for so long fixated on Europe that ties with Africa, even when this was still possible, were neglected.

The few ties we had — South Africa still had diplomatic ties with Egypt, for instance, up to the 60s — were destroyed by apartheid.

It is only recently that it has dawned on the government that South Africa's way to re-acceptance into the international world might go through Africa.

Now Mr De Klerk has told the African leaders:

"We share Africa's dream, its aspirations and its disappointments. We believe we have a contribution to make, with special reference to our own Southern African region, in the search for peaceful solutions to conflicts, towards economic and technological development and co-operation in a multitude of fields affecting our progress."

"We believe the time has arrived for Africa to note the developments that have occurred in South Africa, and to respond in a way calculated to encourage the transition to a new South Africa and to promote co-operation between us."

"What has been called South Africa's "Africa first" development model is based on the concept of economic regions in the continent in which countries like South Africa, Kenya, Nigeria and Egypt can play a leading role. The emphasis is also on increased co-operation within the continent."

According to Mr Pik Botha, economic sanctions against South Africa in Africa will be a dead letter by the end of the month. All the major apartheid measures will then have been scrapped.

Although Nigeria reacted cautiously to the suggestion, it seems that Mr De Klerk may go there on a visit in the near future. Egypt is another country he may go to.

South African envoys have been very active recently on trips throughout Africa. A training programme for black diplomats is being started.

One African country, Zaire, appears to keen to have diplomatic relations with South Africa that it announced the name of its ambassador without it having been cleared with Foreign Affairs.

In Kenya Mr De Klerk made bold to say that he hoped the recent OAU meeting was the last one to be held without South Africa.

WHILE NOT exactly complacent about the polarisation in politics, Mr De Klerk again showed that he was a wily politician when he dealt with the matter in Parliament this week.

He said the polarisation was not always as serious as it might appear in the future.

It was necessary to distinguish between propaganda, posturing and political positioning on the one hand, and fundamental polarisation on the other.

He was positive in his approach to the ANC, saying that the government was not interested in disorganising it, but that it rather wanted the organisation to get its house in order and to become a well-organised political party.
African sanctions crumbling - FW

It's like a dam wall bursting - de Klerk

The visit by the South African President, F.W. de Klerk, to South Africa has announced the crumbling of the African sanctions against that country. The sanctions were imposed in response to the apartheid policies of the South African government, which was considered to be racist and oppressive. The sanctions were intended to isolate South Africa and disrupt its economy, with the aim of forcing the government to end apartheid.

However, de Klerk's visit, which occurred in a period of political change in South Africa, signaled the end of the sanctions. The visit was significant because it indicated a shift in the international community's approach to South Africa, from isolation to engagement.

The end of the sanctions was seen as a major development in the country's history, marking the beginning of a new era of democracy and reconciliation. The sanctions had been in place for many years, and their removal was seen as a symbol of the progress made towards a more inclusive society.

The end of the sanctions was also seen as an opportunity for South Africa to rejoin the international community and participate in global affairs. The country had been excluded from many international organizations and events due to the sanctions, and their removal allowed South Africa to resume its place on the world stage.

The end of the sanctions was celebrated by many in South Africa and around the world, as a symbol of hope and progress towards a more just and equitable society. The end of the sanctions also marked the beginning of a new chapter in South Africa's history, one that was characterized by hope and optimism.

For more information, please see the following sources:

- The Economist
- The New York Times
- The Guardian
- The Washington Post
Reforms in Africa: Times calls on UK to suspend aid to Kenya

The Argus Foreign Service

LONDON. — The Times has called on Britain to suspend aid to Kenya to prove that donors are serious about demanding democratic reforms in Africa.

And in a leading article yesterday, it also urges the Organisation of African Unity to escape its "timewarp" and think hard about pluralism, instead of quarrelling over South African sanctions.

"South Africa is relevant only as an example of an African state struggling to find a path away from dictatorship towards multiparty or multigroup democracy," it adds. "Finding such a path is as important for Africa as was the collapse of communism for Eastern Europe."

Black leaders can no longer sermonise about one-man one-vote south of the Limpopo, the Times observes, "without inviting the exasperated retort: 'What about you?" Even international bodies and aid agencies, after years of de facto support for state plunder in Africa are taking up the same refrain."

But in spite of the popular pressure on them, many of Africa's leaders still hold powerful cards: strong and highly politicised armies and pervasive political patronage, and "they will not put their money where their mouth is until the flow of aid money is conditioned on their doing so."

Donors have threatened to favour only those countries committed to democratisation, but the Times questions whether they mean what they say.

Britain should immediately reduce its aid to Kenya — the largest recipient of British aid in Africa — in line with its own protests about the need for "pluralism, public accountability and respect for the rule of law."

Part of that aid might even be transferred to the "responsible hands" of the newly elected President Nicophore Soglo of Benin who has set Africa an example "and aid policy should use carrots as well as sticks."

300kg of dagga was destined for SA

HARARE. — Three hundred kilograms of dagga destined for South Africa went up in smoke in Harare yesterday putting paid to a deal which would have been worth nearly R1 million.

Police said the dagga, neatly packed in boxes, had been seized in Bulawayo and two men had been arrested.

It was grown in the eastern districts of Zimbabwe and transported via Harare to Bulawayo under police surveillance until the trap was sprung. A police officer said commercial deals were becoming rife. But the police were aware of what was going on and knew the transport companies involved in smuggling the drug to neighbouring countries, especially South Africa. — The Argus Africa News Service.

Killer bomb

LAHORE (Pakistan). — A bomb planted on the rear seat of a bus exploded in the Pakistani city of Lahore today, killing one person and seriously injuring five, police said. — Sapl-Reuter.
Arrests in Algiers

Officials say 20 people were arrested

France clashes after Islamic conspiracy

11/19/11
Classrooms view of a fragile, complex, contientual

Witty and accessible guide to income tax

MICHAEL ROTHMAN

Financial Times - Winter 2023

The economic crisis is here - and so are the tax changes that are needed. How should we prepare for the future? What options are available? And how can we navigate the complex rules that come with these changes?

GAVIN HAYNE

Three steps to a better future:

1. Secure your financial future: By understanding the tax implications of different investments, you can make informed decisions that will help you achieve financial security.

2. Protect your family: With the right planning, you can ensure that your loved ones are protected from the long-term effects of financial instability.

3. Give back: By making charitable donations, you can help build a stronger community and contribute to the overall health of the economy.

Robert Hood through a 2023-24 lens

The success of the tax system is critical to the future of the country. We need to ensure that it is fair, efficient, and effective. This requires a comprehensive approach that addresses the challenges facing the system today.

We must focus on the following:

1. Simplifying the system: The current system is complex and difficult for many people to understand. We need to make it simpler and more user-friendly.

2. Ensuring fairness: We must ensure that the tax system is fair to everyone, regardless of their income or circumstances.

3. Promoting growth: We need to design a tax system that promotes economic growth and investment.

Michael Slezak

Economic and Business Review

With the global economy in flux, it's more important than ever to have a strong understanding of the tax system. This requires a comprehensive approach that addresses the challenges facing the system today.

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3. Promoting growth: We need to design a tax system that promotes economic growth and investment.
Soekor explores further afield

CAPE TOWN — Soekor has been talking to several African countries, including Angola and Mozambique, about exploring oil and gas deposits off their coastlines.

The state-funded exploration corporation recently struck encouraging gas wells off the south coast near Mossel Bay.

It has publicly stated that it intends raising additional funds by selling its technical expertise outside SA.

Recent improvements in relations between SA and the rest of the African continent have paved the way for new exploration opportunities reasonably close to home.

Sources confirm that Soekor officials have visited several African countries to talk about hydrocarbon exploration.

They say Soekor has shown particular interest in Angola and Mozambique.

Delegations from Africa have also visited SA.

The talks have been exploratory and to date no formal agreements have been reached.

Angola has a sizeable oil field which it exploits commercially, while Mozambique has made discoveries of both oil and gas but requires additional funding and expertise to explore further.

Both countries are understood to be exploring new prospects and Mozambique has made it known that it requires foreign assistance.

Sources say that if Soekor did become involved it would be looking for new deposits rather than at existing oil fields or gas...
Calls for a Holy War in Algeria

ALGIERS — Algerian security forces seized hundreds of Islamic militants in a nation-wide clampdown 24 hours after the arrest of their two main leaders.

Algerian radio and television said 800 people had been arrested by last night, a day after Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) chiefs Abbassi Madani and Ali Belhadj were detained.

Shortly after the 11 pm curfew went into force, four tanks and a jeep rumbled through the centre of Algiers. One eyewitness said the armour went into the defence ministry compound.

There was no immediate explanation for the move but the army has used various tactics, relaxing and tightening its grip on the city since President Chadli Benjedid declared a state of siege on June 5 following widespread anti-government protests by fundamentalists calling for an Islamic state.

Gunfire from automatic weapons was heard shortly afterwards around Martyrs Square, a rallying point in the capital for FIS protests before the state of siege.

But calm returned during the early morning.

The two men face charges of organising and leading an armed conspiracy against the State security.

Secret

"These are grave accusations and the two men risk heavy penalties," a radio commentator said.

The arrests sparked calls for holy war from some town mosques and clashes between militants and security forces.

Violence broke out in the western city of Constantine.

Mosque loudspeakers called for a "Jihad" (Holy War) through the day and barricades of burning tyres blocked several roads.

Shooting erupted and a soldier was killed and six people were wounded.

The FIS won power in over half of the country's municipalities in local elections last year, emerging as the main opposition. — Sapa-Reuters.
SAA free to fly over north Africa

ON SUNDAY night SAA flew a scheduled flight over north Africa for the first time in 28 years.

The airline has permission to route its planes to Europe over Egypt and Sudan. SAA CE Gert van der Veer said yesterday that all flights to Rome, Milan, Vienna, Paris, Amsterdam, Frankfurt, Zurich and Tel Aviv would be rerouted over north Africa eventually.

This would save the carrier 10 tons of fuel on each flight and about R2m a month. Van der Veer said SAA's monthly expenditure was about R50m a month.

The development follows the rights to overfly the "bulge" of Africa, secured a month ago, which cut flying times to Europe by about an hour. The latest deal will lap another hour off flying times.

Yesterday Van der Veer landed at Jan Smuts Airport on board a scheduled SAA flight that had touched down in Cairo on its way from Frankfurt.

Van der Veer and SAA chief liaison officer Leon Els had made a secret trip to Cairo to tie up loose ends of the overflight and landing rights deal.

Until the weekend agreement Sudan was the only country preventing SAA from flying over north Africa.

A proviso of SAA using the north Africa route is that its aircraft will land in Cairo on route to and from Johannesburg to drop off or pick up passengers. Van der Veer said he expected the proviso to be relaxed soon, once the Egyptian government had a clearer idea of how neighbouring countries felt about the development.

Egypt Air, which last week operated several charter flights between Cairo and Johannesburg, would introduce a weekly scheduled service on the route.

At the same time, Egypt has announced that SA travellers no longer require visas for that country as long as they arrive in Cairo on an Egypt Air flight. The first group of SA tourists to fly directly to Cairo left on Egypt Air's last of eight charter flights from Johannesburg on Sunday.

SAA and Egypt Air were still finalising the frequency of flights between Cairo and Johannesburg. Van der Veer said.

SAA would now study the feasibility of reintroducing flights to Athens.

The London flights would not be rerouted, as the flying time over west Africa was about the same as over north Africa, Van der Veer said.

□ To Page 2

SAA was also negotiating with Angolan authorities for overflying rights, which would cut another 15 to 20 minutes off flights to London, Kinshasa and Abidjan.

Air fares would not be brought down despite the savings. But SAA was considering introducing some discount special fares on European flights, he added.

"What we will try to do is retard any increase in fares for as long as possible."

The new north African route will take SAA aircraft over Zimbabwe, Zambia, Zaire, Sudan and Egypt before entering southeastern European airspace.

Only Tanzania stands in the way of SAA being allowed to fly over Africa to Europe and the Middle East via Nairobi.

Van der Veer said SAA was investigating the feasibility of introducing a scheduled service to Dakar, Senegal, which would be an extension of the current Johannesburg/Kinshasa/Abidjan flight.

Incoming passenger volumes on SAA flights were down by about 18% in the same period last year. He attributed this to the world recession and to the picture of SA violence being painted abroad.

Van der Veer said he was optimistic that both the US and Australia would become accessible to SAA in the near future.
"Too early for full ties"

DURBAN — Mauritius is unlikely to establish full diplomatic links with South Africa unless there is a democratically elected government in power, according to the secretary-general of the island's Labour Party, Kallash Purryag.

Mr Purryag, who arrived in Durban yesterday, served as Minister of Social Security and then of Health. He is in Durban to attend the African National Congress conference.

He said that while Mauritius had business and other links with South Africa, the idea of full diplomatic relations was not part of the island's approach in its contribution in helping to remove all apartheid.

"Neither the present Mauritian government nor the Labour Party future administration can be seen to have official diplomatic relations when apartheid is still alive," said Mr Purryag.

He said that his party would be contesting all 68 seats in the election which was expected to be held shortly. At present Labour is the Opposition in Mauritius.'
SAA back in Cairo after 28 years

JOHANNESBURG — A South African Airways aircraft touched down at Cairo airport and took on passengers yesterday for the first time in 28 years.

According to an SAA statement, released yesterday, permission was granted to the South African airline to overfly Egypt and Sudan while en route from Cairo to Johannesburg.

The first passengers to embark on flight SA 253 at Cairo were a group of South African Muslim pilgrims.

The flight departed from Frankfurt yesterday, took on the pilgrims in Cairo and then flew on to Johannesburg's Jan Smuts Airport.

Simultaneously, Egypt Air operated a direct flight from Johannesburg to Cairo with 24 South African passengers on board. — Sapa

● Travel agents jubilant — Page 7
Algeria arrests hundreds in crackdown on Islamic militants

ALGIERS. Algerian security forces seized hundreds of Islamic militants in a nationwide clampdown 24 hours after the arrest of their two main leaders.

Algerian radio and television said 800 people were arrested up to last night, a day after Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) chiefs Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj were detained.

Shortly after the 11 pm curfew went into force, four tanks and a jeep rumbled through the streets of Algiers. One witness said the armour went into the main Ministry of Defence compound.

There was no immediate explanation for the move but the army has used various tactics — relaxing and tightening its grip on the city since President Chadli Benjedid declared a state of siege on June 5 following widespread anti-government protests by fundamentalists calling for an Islamic state.

Automatic weapons fire was heard around Martyrs Square, a rallying point in the capital for FIS protests before the state of siege.

But calm returned early today.

Madani and Belhadj face charges of organisations and leading an armed conspiracy against state security.

Immediately after their arrest, the FIS top body, the Madjlis Echoura, went into secret meeting, state radio said.

On Monday, remaining officials were ejected from party headquarters by police who took over the building, leaving no central contact point for activists.

The two men's arrests sparked calls for holy war from some town mosques and clashes between militants and security forces.

Violence broke out in the western city of Constantine, the first since June 5.

Mosque loudspeakers blared "Jihad" (Holy War) through the day and barricades of burning tyres blocked roads. — Sapa-Reuters.
Algerian army takes control

THE Algerian army assumed its full authority under the state of emergency yesterday, occupying the headquarters of the main Muslim fundamentalist party after arresting its two leaders and detaining hundreds of others.

Authorities also closed two mosques considered hotbeds of fundamentalist activity.

Sporadic clashes between youth and security forces continued following a weekend of violence in Algiers and around the country which left at least four people, including a policeman, dead and 15 others injured.

The latest death brings the known toll to nearly 40 since June 4, when fundamentalist protests turned violent.

Military authorities said 700 people had been arrested since Sunday. Fundamentalist sources put the figure at 2,500.

Soldiers

Armed soldiers stood guard at the headquarters of the Islamic Salvation Front, the main opposition party, following the arrests on Sunday of its president and vice-president, Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj.

The two were accused of “fomenting, organizing, triggering and leading an armed conspiracy against the security of the state”, authorities said.

A military communiqué said the men would “answer to their actions before justice”.

Madani and Belhadj had issued a call on Friday for a “jihad” or Islamic holy war, if the government did not lift the state of emergency. They had defied summons served on them after their speeches. - Sapa-Reuters
Islamic opposition leaders held in Algiers

ALGIERS — Heavy automatic gunfire ripped through Algiers early yesterday morning only hours after Algerian security forces arrested two top leaders of the main Islamic opposition.

Algerian television, quoting a military communiqué, said Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) leader Abassi Madani and deputy Ali Belhadj had been arrested for involvement in a conspiracy against state security. It said they would be tried.

The two men were seized late on Sunday after about 100 heavily armed National Guard members surrounded the headquar-

ners of the FIS, inspiration of demonstrations for an Islamic state.

In May, the FIS launched a strike against electoral laws it termed unfair. Violence followed and on June 5 President Chadli Benjedid declared a state of siege.

He sent in the army, sacked the government and postponed general elections due last week. The new government has said it is preparing for general elections this year.

Officials say 42 people were killed in clashes last month. Diplomats put the death toll for June at around 70. — Sapa-

The Reuter.

IF PEOPLE ALL OVER THE WORLD ARE TALKING ABOUT BRUSSELS, IT IS BECAUSE
Algeria's opposition warned

ALGIERS — Algeria's new premier says two top opposition leaders arrested on Sunday, who spearheaded violent protests and called for an Islamic holy war, will have to "answer for their actions" in court.

In comments to Algerian journalists reported in yesterday's newspapers, Premier Sid Ahmed Ghozali also denied having promised presidential elections by the end of the year.

Abassi Madani, president of the fundamentalist Islamic Salvation Front, and his vice-president Ali Belhadj were arrested on Sunday for what a military communiqué called "fomenting, organising and carrying out an armed conspiracy against the security of the State".

The Islamic Salvation Front has been at the forefront of violent protests since the beginning of the month that have left at least 33 dead and some 300 injured. The front opposed laws governing legislative elections scheduled for late June, and demanded early presidential elections.

The legislative ballot was postponed until later this year, and the government has pledged an early presidential election. However, no dates have been announced for either election. — Sapa-AP.
THIRD REVOLUTIONARIES

DARK AVADA - YOU CAN...

12

The Star Wednesday July 3 1991
Little reporting out of Africa

NEW YORK While apartheid remains grist for the global media-mills and horror stories from starving Ethiopia receive wide coverage, much of the rest of Africa is virtually ignored.

The United Nations wants to change this and an international conference at the UN this month aims to review Western media attitudes and recommend how coverage of African news may be improved.

The BBC's Africa Service, the Voice of America and the magazines Time, Newsweek, The Economist, Ebony and Black Enterprise will all come under scrutiny, with the emphasis directed at magazines both within Africa and abroad.

The conference hopes to develop lasting contacts between African magazine publishers and their counterparts in the West, now regarded as "negligible". — Star Bureau.
Protest over UK refugee controls

Star Bureau

LONDON — British government plans to introduce stringent regulations to stem the influx of refugees from Third World countries have been met with condemnation from refugee rights groups and charges of racism.

In the Commons, Home Secretary Kenneth Baker said controls, including preventing refugees from leaving their countries and denying them legal aid if they got to Britain, were necessary to stop “great migratory pressures”.

He said such pressures affected not only Britain but most Western European countries.

He revealed that 5,000 people had applied for asylum in 1986. But between January and May this year 21,000 had asked for refugee status.

The British government would try to stop refugees from leaving their countries through strict document checks at airports and stiff fines on airlines carrying refugees without a visa.

The plan was immediately criticised by the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants, whose spokesman, Anne Owens, said: “This system will not find and protect genuine victims. It is designed to keep refugees out.”

A black Labour MP, Bernie Grant, said Mr Baker would have “blood on his hands” when the measures came into operation. “It is no coincidence that all this comes at a time when the prime minister himself has entered the numbers game of immigration.”

Premier John Major said during the European Community summit last week that the EC must not be “wide open to all comers just because Rome, Paris and London are more attractive than Bombay or Algiers.”
VAT alarms meat producers

By George Nicholas

Red-meat producers have joined Cosatu and agricultural and consumer organisations in protests against the Government's decision to include all basic foodstuffs in VAT.

Mr Gerhard Bronn, chairman of the Red Meat Producers' Organisation, says meat producers are not in a position to absorb the potential financial shock if they were required to pay the Value Added Tax.

At the same time, he adds, the economy is not performing well enough to absorb the VAT price rise on foodstuffs by means of an increase in the buying power of consumers.

Studies by economists indicate the Government stands to gain approximately R1 billion a year from the 12 percent on meat sales alone.
Two more Algerians die in clashes

ALGIERS — Two more people, including a young girl, died in clashes between Muslim fundamentalists and security forces in eastern Algeria, as a relative calm returned to the capital following the army's three-day crackdown.

In a report late on Tuesday, the official Algerian news agency said two people died and 51 others were injured in clashes in the city of Constantine and the coastal town of Jijel.

Up to 40 people were arrested, said the agency, citing military and police sources.

By official count, more than 1,000 people have been arrested in the crackdown aimed at quashing anti-government protests and agitation by fundamentalists which has left more than 40 people dead over the past month.

Fundamentalists attacking a police station fought for four hours with security forces, leaving 14 injured. A young girl was killed in another clash in the city which left five injured. Another person died and two were injured in clashes in Jijel.

Foreigners

Algerian television reported four foreigners arrested in confrontations on Monday in Annaba.

Officials spoke of possible foreign involvement in the protests by fundamentalists which led to the June 5 proclamation of a state of emergency.

At least two Frenchmen were arrested earlier, and one said he had met Islamic Salvation Front leader Ahammed Madani, who was arrested on Saturday along with the party's number two Imam Ali Belhadji.

Prime Minister Ahmed Ghiazi said on Tuesday that Madani, 60, "sought power through violence."

The military presence in the capital eased somewhat following the three-day crackdown, allowing residents to resume their normal activities. The army continued with searches and arrests. — Sapa-AP
Malagasy strike aimed at overthrow

ANTANANARIVO — Transport strikes spread and civil servants took to the streets yesterday as the opposition stepped up pressure on Malagasy's President Didier Ratsiraka to quit.

Residents said most buses and taxis in the capital stopped in response to a call for a 48-hour public transport strike.

Thousands of workers from government ministries joined demonstrations in support of opposition leaders, due to hold the second day of talks with the ruling Militant Movement of Malagasy Socialism (MMSM) yesterday.

Banners carried by civil servants from the finance ministry called on the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund to stop bankrolling the government.

A strike at Air Madagascar has grounded the national carrier until today, and dockers at the country's main port, Toamasina, have stopped work.

Seven leaders of the opposition, a coalition of groups calling itself the Active Forces, told MMSM leaders on Wednesday that a transitional government should be formed to work out a new constitution.

In a statement on Wednesday, the Active Forces condemned a night-time curfew in Toamasina this week after riots and looting in which five people were injured.

They called on foreign governments to withdraw support for Mr Ratsiraka.

A former radical naval officer in power since 1975, Mr Ratsiraka has shifted the Indian Ocean island towards multi-party politics in recent years to match economic liberalisation.

But critics have accused him of rigging polls in 1989 and have rejected as inadequate recent government revisions to the country's socialist constitution.

Diplomats say the crisis is the biggest challenge in Mr Ratsiraka's 16-year rule. — Sapa-Reuters.
Ethiopia moves towards first free elections

Amid a riot of sights and sounds, Ethiopians are making their first rough attempts at unraveling decades of autocratic tradition and introducing a form of democracy.

A national congress in Addis Ababa this week presented a charter that takes the first step towards forming a broad-based transitional government that is to organize the country's first free elections. It described the establishment of democracy as a "categorical imperative".

Twenty-four groups meeting under the auspices of the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front, which seized control of the capital five weeks ago, endorsed the principles of basic human rights and self-determination for Ethiopia's ethnic regional groups.

The charter proposes that national elections be held in two years, an issue participants will vote on later.

The conference, which was conducted under the eyes of international observers, began discussions on the composition and structure of the transitional government. A key issue, and a sensitive one, is how seats will be apportioned between various ethnic and political groups in the interim legislative body.

Conference sources say the Democratic Front, which met privately with the various groups prior to the conference, has already suggested a rough breakdown of seats, giving approximately one-third to itself.

A potentially explosive issue is the subject of how the interim government will handle its relations with the newly declared provisional government of Eritrea, a province under the former regime that was won by the Eritrean People's Liberation Front after a bloody, 30-year struggle for independence.

The Eritrean Front has said it does not wish to take part in a transitional government, but seeks Ethiopia's support and co-operation for a United Nations-supervised referendum in Eritrea on independence to be held within two years. In exchange, the Ethiopian government would be granted access to Eritrea's Red Sea ports.

Meanwhile, at town meetings across Ethiopia people are selecting "peace and stability commissions" that will act as de facto local governments until the transitional national government is established.

On a small scale, the town meetings are the first public test of the Democratic Front's avowed commitment to political pluralism. Commission members are chosen often by a seemingly incongruous mix of insider politics and boisterous public debate.

The first round of meetings took place three weeks ago in the capital, at the "kebeles", or local councils, that once served as the eyes and ears of the authoritarian government of President Mengistu Haile Mariam, who was ousted from power in May. Participants described the elections as the freest they had ever experienced, with open and vigorous debate about and between candidates.

Most observers agree the democratic process has a long way to go before it provides genuine representation. But they also concede that there have already been two critical improvements: Candidates were chosen by a broad group of people, and people were less afraid to air their views.

Although the majority of residents were left out of the actual selection of names, many aspirants to power were dropped from the list during the public meetings after they were denounced by participants for alleged misdeeds.

Yet despite the apparently amicable feelings, Ethiopia's new rulers face enormous difficulties in administering a country that is a vast spider web of ethnic groups, languages and regional interests. — The Washington Post
Africa plans for Earth Summit
By EDDIE KOCH
AFRICA'S heads of state will meet with more than 100 environment and development groups at a summit in Cairo this month to ensure a common position for the continent is tabled at the Earth Summit due to be held in Brazil next year.

"The Cairo conference will adopt a common position on the African agenda for sustainable economic and environmental development to be presented to the Brazil summit," said a press statement by the organisers.

"Also planned is a debate on what impact on the structure of African economies the environment and sustainable development has. Regional issues in global environmental management will be discussed."

The African summit, due to take place from July 11 to 16, has been organised by the Economic Commission for Africa.

The United Nations' Earth Summit in Brazil, scheduled for the middle of next year, is being billed as the biggest international conference ever to be held.

Its purpose is to design strategies for preventing the global slide into ecological chaos that do not harm economic growth.
President's proposals are being met with criticism by the opposition. The opposition claims that the proposals will increase the burden on the working class and the middle class. They argue that the proposals will lead to job losses and increased poverty. The government, on the other hand, claims that the proposals will bring about economic growth and job creation. The country is currently facing a recession, and the government is under pressure to come up with a plan to提振经济增长. The opposition also criticizes the President for not consulting the opposition before implementing the proposals. The government argues that the opposition is simply trying to score political points. The situation is tense, and there is a risk of social unrest if the proposals are not handled carefully.
Violent change foreseen for Africa

Star Bureau

LONDON — Delegates to the first meeting of a new pro-democracy pan-African organisation have warned of violent and drawn-out change across the continent. "This is not going to be a rerun of eastern Europe's sweeping changes with their domino effect," one delegate said in London.

"Ours will be more violent and drawn out because of the depth of our social crisis."

Review

The remark came after opposition parties, church leaders and academics had met to review human rights and democracy in Africa at the invitation of exiled King Moshoeshoe II of Lesotho.

The body, called the International Institute for Human Rights in Africa, was founded by pro-democracy activists from countries as disparate as Mozambique, Nigeria, the Ivory Coast, Tanzania and Zimbabwe.

Professor Samir Amin, from Senegal, told the meet-
ADDIS ABABA — A two-year interim administration agreed upon during round-table talks last week offers Ethiopia its best chance in years of peace and economic progress, diplomats and analysts said.

"It was quite an achievement for the talks to take place and should lead to a new system," said one Western ambassador.

The Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF) called the conference of 24 political groups after ousting Marxist dictator Mengistu Haile Mariam in May.

The former rebel group, based in the northern province of Tigray —

**Interim rule gives Ethiopia hope**

will dominate the new administration ahead of elections in 1993.

But despite worries over the commitment to democracy of the formerly Marxist EPRDF, diplomats were loath to criticise it.

"You need a strong leadership in Ethiopia after all these years of dictatorship, but you also want to begin forming the structures of democracy," said the ambassador.

Former guerrilla chief Meles Zenawi is assured of the presidency when a new 87-member parliament meets for the first time. The EPRDF has the largest block in the assembly with 32 seats.

"After so many years of fighting you could hardly expect them (the EPRDF) to give away the spoils of victory. What matters is how it behaves from now on," said one analyst.

Its first test will be to stick to a national charter adopted by the conference, which guarantees basic human rights for Ethiopia's 50-million-strong society. — Sapa-Reuters.
ANTANANARIVO — An opposition leader said yesterday that legislators were debating whether to declare martial law, amid growing protests demanding the resignation of President Didier Ratsiraka.

AP-DJ reports that at least 300,000 people were gathered in the May 13 Square on the second day of a general strike that has halted all transport and most other public services.

Albert Zaphy, who heads a coalition of protest groups, told the crowd that the People's National Assembly, meeting in extraordinary session, was studying a measure allowing the president to declare martial law.

The protesters have been gathering peacefully for weeks in the center of the capital to voice their demands for democratic elections, the replacement of the socialist constitution and an end to Ratsiraka's 16-year rule.

Negotiations between protesters and the authorities continued, meanwhile, behind closed doors, with no statement on how the talks were proceeding.

Martial law would mean an end to the protest movement, which has continued for several weeks without incident and with security forces out of sight.

Sapa-Reuters reports that Antananarivo remained virtually paralysed yesterday.

Madagascans fear martial law

Shops, banks and offices were closed and there were no buses, trains or planes operating.

"Sixteen years of misery is enough," read a banner carried by the crowd, referring to the 16 years in office of Ratsiraka.

Civil servants were out in force despite an appeal on state radio on Monday by Prime Minister Victor Ramahatra for government employees to return to work.

Yesterday's rally — the second this week — and the general strike were the latest in a month of protests against Ratsiraka, a former naval officer who took power in a 1979 coup.
Malaria is rampant

MALARIA is still one of the most important parasitic diseases on the African continent, says Dr Simbarashe Mphofo of the Department of Medical Parasitology in London. (1)

Speaking at the Epidemiological Society of Southern Africa's conference in Cape Town yesterday, Mphofo said there were more than 20 million cases of malaria reported every year in Africa, but this figure could be higher.

He said malaria still accounted for the high infant mortality rate, 'and of children below the age of five years, SABC radio news reported. - Sapa
Unwedged and unannounced, a nation is born.

By ARA RAGE
From Africa

WHILE the international media-
Rising oil prices last year and the drop in prices of nonfuel primary commodities slowed growth in Africa. The latest IMF World Economic Outlook says commodities most affected were tropical beverages (coffee, cocoa and tea) which fell to their lowest since 1980.

The IMF expects higher growth by 1992—4.75%, up from 2% in 1990.

But "little progress is expected to be made in alleviating poverty and real per capita GDP would remain near the level of 20 years ago. The short-term outlook is particularly bleak in Ethiopia, Mozambique and Sudan, where drought, in conjunction with ongoing civil wars, threatens another episode of famine."

"In Ethiopia there will also be continued transitional costs, in 1991, associated with market-oriented economic reform and the suspension of economic support from Eastern Europe and the USSR."

Sluggish growth has been accompanied by average inflation of about 15%-20%. "In 1991 inflation is projected to increase to 22% from 16% in 1990, reflecting in part the lagged impact of higher oil prices, before falling to 10% in 1992."

The IMF says differences in policy stance have resulted in considerable variance in economic performance.

The inability of Cameroon, Liberia, Somalia, Sudan and Zaire to implement structural reforms, and social and political conflicts, have brought a deterioration in their economies. In contrast, in Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Togo and Tunisia, "structural re-
Shock forecast for millions of African babies

Own Correspondent

CAPE TOWN — By the end of this decade 10 million babies will be orphaned by the Aids epidemic sweeping through Africa.

And a million women die every year in pregnancy-related deaths — with millions more left permanently disabled.

Health services mostly “remain inaccessible and unresponsive to women”, says Dr Helga Morrow of the United States and formerly a consultant at the International Council of Nurses.

Dr Morrow was speaking at the 10th Epidemiology Conference at the University of the Western Cape this week on the challenges of nursing in Africa.

She said nurses in Africa needed to form a strong, unified professional association and to educate their members.

Dr Morrow added: “Enormous energy and resources are devoted to finding methods to stop and control the transmission of Aids and to discovering drugs to bolster the immune system.”

But, she said, the health and home care of people affected by Aids were severely neglected.

And, especially in developing countries where resources were already scarce, the extra burden resulting from the Aids epidemic was already compromising other health programmes.

Dr Morrow compared the figure of a million women who die every year from pregnancy complications to one jumbo jet filled with 270 pregnant or recently pregnant women crashing every two hours.

“Almost all of these deaths and disabilities from pregnancy are avoidable,” she said.

The risk of a woman in a developing country dying of a pregnancy-related illness was as high as one in 15 while that of a woman in the developed world was as low as one in 10,000, Dr Morrow said.

“Perhaps nurses have failed to recognise their responsibilities as health-care providers in meeting the needs of the most vulnerable populations.”

Nursing’s challenges now were “how to harness its own resources, and how to influence health-policy makers in making health care accessible and affordable for everyone”.

She said there were no easy or fast ways to change old traditions, the powerful medical and political machinery, and discrimination, but change was inevitable.

“The more a profession can forecast demographic, social, scientific and economic trends, the more it can be in control of its own direction.”
Mauritian producers ‘inhibited’

PORT LOUIS — The elimination of constraints on sugar production to make Mauritian producers more competitive internationally has been urged by the president of the Chamber of Agriculture, Antoine Barel.

He cited export duties, labour laws, socio-economic burdens, dispersed processing facilities and low domestic prices as some of the factors inhibiting production.

He said Mauritian sugar producers were efficient and did not fear competition, but should be given the means to fight on equal terms in constantly evolving foreign markets.

“No other sector in the economic field is so regulated. No enterprise can be subjected to such constraints without suffering lasting damage to its production structure.”

Sugar production this year was forecast at 590,000 tons, compared with 624,302 tons in 1999.

Agriculture minister Madun Dhaloo said the effects of the drought last year and early this year had been offset by rains and Mauritius would be able to meet its export commitments.

Mauritius’s share of the European Community market for 1999 was 503,198 tons as a result of a short fall declared by Guyana, which led to Mauritius’ share increasing by 12,168 tons.

Exports to the United States could be reduced from last year’s 24,410 tons to 15,000 because of the glut on that market.
Aids to orphan
10-m by 2000

TEN million babies will be orphaned by the Aids epidemic sweeping through Africa by the end of this decade.

And a million women die every year in pregnancy-related deaths - with millions more left permanently disabled.

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She said nurses in Africa need to form a strong, unified professional association and to educate its members.

Morrow said: "Enormous energy and resources are devoted to finding methods to stop and control the transmission of Aids and into discovering drugs to bolster the immune system."

But she said the health-care and home-care of people affected by the disease are "severely neglected".

Burden

And, especially in developing countries where resources are already scarce, the extra burden resulting from the Aids epidemic is already compromising other essential health programmes.

The World Health Organisation estimates that more than a million women die every year as a result of complications associated with pregnancy.

Morrow compared these figures with one jumbo jet-filled with 270 pregnant or recently pregnant women - crashing every two hours.

"Almost all of these deaths and millions of disabilities from pregnancy-related illnesses are avoidable," said Morrow.

The risk of a woman in a developing country dying of a pregnancy-related illness is as high as one in 15 while that of a woman in the developed world is as low as one in 10 000, Morrow said.

"Perhaps so many children and mothers still suffer and die unnecessarily because nurses have not been adequately prepared educationally and politically to speak out about the inequalities that still exist.

"Or perhaps nurses have failed to recognise their responsibilities as health-care providers in meeting the needs of the most vulnerable populations."

Policy

Nursing's challenges now are "how to harness its own resources and how to influence health policy makers in making health care accessible and affordable for everyone".

She said there are no easy or fast ways to change old traditions, the powerful medical and political machinery, and sexist bias and discrimination, but that change is "inevitable". - Sowetan Correspondent
Crowds welcome returning exile

YAOUNDE (Cameroon) — A Cameroon opposition leader received a hero's welcome when he flew back from 28 years in exile in France and declared that President Paul Biya's one-party government was scared.

Simeon Kuissu, deputy secretary-general of the exiled wing of the Union of Cameroonian Peoples (UPC), was greeted on Saturday night by thousands of supporters defying army attempts to seal off the airport at Douala, Cameroon's economic capital.

The government, battling pro-democracy protests and a general strike in the west and north, banned six opposition groups on Saturday.

"Kuissu was cheered by the people when he said victory was at hand and that the six dissolutions shows that the government is afraid," Celestin Monga, a writer and leading opposition activist, said. — Sapa-Reuters.
Investment in SA property

Affluent residents of other African countries are eyeing the South African residential property market as a potential investment, reports Ronald Ennik, director of Pam Golding Properties (Transvaal).

Mr Ennik says the organisation has already met a delegation from Kenya and has had enquiries from such countries as Zimbabwe, Ivory Coast and Nigeria. “South Africa is recognised as the powerhouse of Africa and, like Botswana, is one of the most successful economically.

“It therefore comes as no surprise that wealthy people in the rest of Africa will want to be part of this success story.

“Despite its present problems, this country and its economy are perceived as a sound long term investment.”

Mr Ennik says an inflow of investment could have a significant impact on the local market.
It's the thought that counts in Somali security

When a soldier walked through the metal-detecting archway at the Mogadishu Airport check-in counter recently, the thing went hysterical. Insofar as a metal-detector can get hysterical, its whooping and peeping was hardly surprising, considering that the soldier was carrying a Kalashnikov AK-47 automatic assault rifle with fully loaded magazine.

The prime purpose of airport metal-detectors is, of course, to detect guns carried by prospective passengers so that they can be prevented from using them to hijack planes. And that AK-47 must have been the biggest gun yet detected by that particular detector.

No wonder it got excited. Not that there was any difficulty in detecting the gun — the man had it in his hand.

He was called back by the security official manning the metal-detector and asked to lay his AK on the table and go through again, which he did.

Again the metal detector shrieked in alarm and the soldier was asked to disclose any other ironmongery on his person. From a holster on his hip he took a .45 caliber pistol — which, for those unfamiliar with firearms, is one of the biggest — and laid that on the table beside the AK-47.

Again he walked through the detector and this time it passed him through clean. Not a peep.

Then the soldier put his pistol back in its holster, picked up his AK-47 and all its bullets and went off to board his flight.

What the other passengers said about it I do not know, but they probably said nothing at all. You don't argue with a man carrying an AK and a forty-five.

In particular, you don't ask him whether he intends to hijack the plane.

When you are in Somalia and there is a war going on you apparently put up with having a heavily armed soldier sitting next to you.

And if you are an airport security official you don't try to take his guns away. But you do make sure that they are detected by the metal-detector, even if he is waving one of them under your nose.

Rules are rules, after all.

Like so many of the stories that are told about odd incidents in Africa, this one had passed through many ears and tongues before it reached me and its accuracy cannot be vouchsafed.

Most Africanists hearing the story would probably not query its accuracy but just say: "TAB".

which is what they usually say about this kind of story.

"TAB"? It stands for "That's Africa, Baby!".

Odds and ends of information from the Organisation of African Unity summit in Nigeria last month are still dribbling in. Like the bit about Namibian President Sam Nujoma's argument for maintaining sanctions against South Africa.

When you are fighting an enemy, he said, you should always make sure you have spare bullets because if you run out of bullets you can no longer fight!

And if you discard sanctions, he asked, where are your spare bullets?

Spoken like a true freedom fighter — although there is, of course, the question of whether it is any good for a freedom fighter to inherit an economy shot full of holes.

Teachers at a Swaziland high school have complained that they work in a blackboard jungle — but one with a difference.

They say one of the main reasons for the difficulty they have in controlling their students is that some of the pupils are more than 25 years old.

The teachers had been accused of kicking and punching pupils to keep order. In their defence, they pointed out that students in their mid-twenties resented discipline and considered themselves above the rules.

Some of them came to school drunk, they said. A female student was said to have gone into an examination so drunk that she vomited when the invigilator tried to remove her. TAB!
Mali coup bid thwarted

BAMAKO — A coup attempt in Mali was foiled yesterday and the ringleader detained, official sources said.

The plan, they named him as Captain Lamine Diabira, the Territorial Administration (Interior) Minister.

Captain Diabira was among a group of officers which toppled President Moussa Traore on March 26 after pro-democracy riots.

A Transitional People's Salvation Committee, composed of soldiers and civilians and headed by Lieutenant-Colonel Amadou Toure, took power and promised early multiparty elections.

Few details of the alleged coup plot were immediately known. But sources said some soldiers in the key army base at Kati, near Bamako, were also involved.

Preparatory work on Mali's national political conference was suspended. It was due to start on July 29.

When the TPSF seized power, Colonel Toure promised early elections after the conference, which was intended to chart a democratic future.

He pledged to return power to elected civilians by January next year.

But there was soon evidence of tensions within the 26-strong ruling council.

Two influential members, Lieutenant-Colonel Oumar Diallo and Anatole Sangare, were arrested last month and are still detained. State radio has said only that they were under investigation.

Colonel Diallo was ex-president Traore's aide-de-camp and Mr Sangare was his state security chief.

Young radicals in Bamako have staged protests over the presence of former Traore stalwarts in the government. They were also angry about delays in prosecuting Mr Traore and his wife, both of whom are in custody. — Sapa-Reuters.
Bank faces $20-m loss in scandal-hit BCCI

ABIDJAN: The African Development Bank (AfDB) may have as much as $20 million frozen in the scandal-hit Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI), a senior AfDB source said yesterday.

"It's not peanuts, but the bank can cover it. It will not affect the bank's day-to-day operations," the source, who declined to be named, told Reuters.

The AfDB, which has 51 African and 25 non-regional members, finances projects throughout the continent.

Since authorities in several countries, including Britain and Luxembourg, ordered the Luxembourg-headquartered BCCI closed on July 5 amid allegations of massive fraud, the AfDB has kept silent about the extent of its exposure.

A spokesman at the bank's Abidjan headquarters declined to comment about unsubsource reports of heavy potential losses.

The senior source said the bank had been withdrawing funds from BCCI for some time.

Delicate

"There may have been up to $20 million left in various accounts," he said.

A senior AfDB official said the matter was "too delicate" to be discussed in public.

"But it is clearly over-dramatic to say the bank is facing collapse because of over-exposure in BCCI," he said. -- Sapa-Reuters.
Cape-to-Kenya reserve possible, says Clarke

Staff Reporter

With improving relations between east Africa and South Africa, the time is approaching to revive General Jan Smuts's idea of a contiguous international wildlife park stretching from South Africa to Kenya, James Clarke, The Star's environmental specialist, said in Johannesburg yesterday.

The purpose of 21st century national parks would not be exclusively to protect wildlife — they would also protect ecologically sound human activities such as farming, fishing, logging and hunting.

"When it comes to Africa and the other parts of the world whose ambience has not been wrecked by over-development, visitors are as fascinated by rural life as they are by wildlife and grand scenery."

Mr Clarke said Britain had long recognised this, and its national parks incorporated "farms and even villages."

He told the Johannesburg central Rotary Club that tourism was set to burgeon as a global industry.

"Already, according to a recent Government statement, South Africa makes R9 billion a year through tourism. "Africa is the world's most exciting tourist destination. Its attractions are unparalleled."

"Anthropologically, eastern and southern Africa constitute the world's most important and fascinating region — the cradle of man."

"The region's wildlife has no equal. It has beautiful undiscovered beaches, jungles, and a colourful human fabric."

"When it comes to tourism, South Africa's biggest rival is Kenya. Yet we should not be rivals. We should be planning now how to cooperate in attracting maximum tourists with the minimum environmental impact."

"We must avoid undercutting each other to the point where we start accepting cheap pay-back-home package tours which are more of a pollutant than a blessing."
Kenyan police hunt boy killers

NAIROBI — Kenya said yesterday it would flush out and arrest boys hiding after a night attack on a school dormitory in which 19 girls died and many were raped.

President Daniel arap Moi visited St Kizito boarding school in central Kenya and described it as a "death chamber".

A government official said the boy pupils would be investigated, and those who did not come out of hiding in the countryside would be "flushed out and their parents arrested".

"We have interrogated all the teachers. We shall screen all the boys and arrest those involved," Peter Salsi, Meru district commissioner, told reporters.

Mr Moi said the violence on Saturday was a tragic example of what indiscipline could do.

Most of those who died suffocated in a panicked struggle to escape when the boys, apparently angry because the girls would not join planned student protests, attacked their dormitory.

At least 70 girls were injured. Yesterday five were still in hospital.

Police said they wanted to question every boy at the school, which is run by the State and the Catholic Church.

Before the disaster it had 577 pupils aged between 14 and 18 — 271 girls and 306 boys.

Assistant Education Minister Matthew Karamu criticised police for not arriving at the school until several hours after the attack.

The school has been closed indefinitely. An official said all the girls and pupils would go to other schools.

Kenyan newspapers have published outraged editorials.

"The crazed attack... is the most bizarre exhibition of delinquent anarchy this country has had in the misfortune of handing," said the Daily Nation. — Sapa-Reuters.

Eight die in political violence in Cameroon

YAOUNDE — Witnesses yesterday said eight people had died in political violence in Cameroon, where a general strike is strangling the economy.

The sources said seven people were killed in the northern town of Meiganga on Monday when angry farmers of the Banya tribe tried to force traders to open a market.

A general strike, called by the opposition to force President Paul Biya to convene a pro-democracy conference, is in its fourth week.

Farmers unable to distribute or sell produce are among the main victims.

In the economic capital of Douala, an opposition stronghold where port activity is almost at a standstill, police shot dead a demonstrator on Monday, local journalists said.

The outlawed umbrella committee of more than 20 opposition parties that organised the general strike and which continues to meet clandestinely, agreed on Sunday to turn down Mr Biya's offer of talks unless he met three conditions.

They were the unbanning of the six opposition groups, the release of hundreds of people detained "during the struggle for the national conference" and the dismantling of the army's three new operational commands. — Sapa-Reuters.
SA firms may be able to bid for EC-funded projects

SA COMPANIES could be eligible to participate in major African development projects funded by the EC, Safco says.

The European Development Fund has committed R4bn to projects in African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries. Most of the money, which comes from the EC, is to be used for infrastructural development from this year until 1995.

Safco executive Paresh Pandya said yesterday his organisation estimated that about 90% of the fund's aid would be channelled to countries in Africa.

He said SA companies could participate under certain circumstances. Until now, it was thought that only EC and ACP companies were eligible to participate in the fund's projects.

However, provisions were made for firms from non-member countries to participate, if certain criteria were met.

Pandya would not give details of the criteria, but said SA was at an advantage over many other countries in terms of fulfilling the criteria, and he was confident that SA would meet them.

This was because SA was close to the rest of Africa, it could be competitive in terms of costs, and its technology was suited to the continent.

SA was in a good position to participate in new business opportunities arising from international aid agencies.

Also, only 70% of funds previously committed had been spent, indicating a lack of viable projects.

The balance would be added to the R4bn.

Aid was mainly given for projects including agricultural and rural development, transport and communication, social development, industrialisation, water engineering and social development.
Togolese demand more than wealth

AFRICA is the poorest continent in the world, but the unrest that has shaken this continent's dictators has scored most of its successes in richer countries like Togo.

Under President Gnassingbe Eyadema's 24-year-rule, Togo has achieved an economic growth rate that is envy of many countries on the continent.

The US Embassy's economic report says it has "one of the most favourable investment climates in Africa" and predicts for Togo "continued moderate growth" on a continent where most countries' economies are declining.

But the Togolese apparently want more, Eyadema has been forced to accept an interim government chosen at a national conference last week.

Control

Last month a similar conference in Brazzaville stripped Congolese President Denis Sassou-Nguesso of everything but the title of president.

Congo is also among Africa's most developed nations south of the Sahara.

A national conference in Togo's eastern neighbour, Benin, last year took control of the government from President Mathieu Kerekou and gave it to an interim government headed by Nicephore Soglo.

Soglo defeated Kerekou in presidential elections in March, the first time an African president had been deposed by ballot.

Dictators have been toppled or forced to make concessions ranging from power sharing with the opposition to at least permitting opposition parties to exist, in nearly half of the countries south of the Sahara.

In some countries, including Ethiopia, Angola, Mozambique and Somalia guerilla wars forced the concessions.

But strikes and demonstrations forced presidents Omar Bongo of Gabon, an oil-rich country with the highest per capita income in black Africa, and Felix Houphouet-Boigny of Ivory Coast, often called Africa's "economic success story" to permit multiparty rule.

Cameroun and Senegal, also relatively rich by African standards, have also been hit by waves of unrest.

Though student led the charge in many countries, the real pressure came when government employees - who make up the vast majority of the middle class in most countries - joined the struggle.

Clearly, the revolts of Eastern European countries stirred many.

The ending of the Cold War also made it no longer necessary for Western governments to support dictators for strategic reasons.

Western donors publicly made a commitment to democracy a condition of aid after the unrest had already begun.

A senior Togolese official said the economic cuts required by the World Bank and International Monetary Fund in the past decade forced governments to lay off employees, freeze salaries and raise prices for petrol and food.

The World Bank and IMF have acknowledged the austerity programmes they required have resulted in lower standards of living in many countries.

Protests

These measures made governments unpopular with the middle class. And when the measures failed to revive economies, strikes began.

Some governments were virtually shut down.

Soon the strikes became protests against one-party rule.

The Togolese official said: "The Western countries now are telling us we must accept multiparty rule. They are accelerating the process beyond its natural course and this has caused things to explode."

Eyadema, speaking to journalists recently, said he had offered his people the choice between parties in 1969, when Togo's economy was booming and they turned him down.

Togo's economy has declined sharply due to a drop in prices for its chief export, phosphates and rising prices for imports, especially petroleum.

Mr Yawovi Agboyibo, a leading Togolese opposition leader, said the country's economic problems have played a major role in generating unrest.

He added in an interview, "Democracy won't solve all our economic problems.

"It isn't the only thing. But you need stability to bring economic improvements, and you can't have that without democracy."

It also remains to be seen whether the democracy won so recently will survive if their economies do not pick up.

Some argue that democracy will lead to the break up of countries who were artificially created by former colonial powers.
DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

HOW TO GROW

Improved saving and investment performances in developing countries could lead to growth of over 5% a year from 1993, argues the IMF's latest World Economic Outlook.

In the Eighties, developing countries that relied on external borrowing to augment domestic savings (like Zambia, Somalia and Nicaragua) were struck by higher interest payments and saw investment and growth drop dramatically. Countries with high savings rates (Botswana, Cyprus and Malaysia, for example) tended to show higher investment, stronger growth, lower inflation and less reliance on foreign borrowing.

Foreign finance can assist development only if it stimulates sufficient growth to repay the loans and that requires removing impediments to local investment. "In a situation of high inflation, volatile real interest and exchange rates, fiscal deficits and other macro-economic imbalances, investors are likely to postpone investment plans because of pervasive uncertainty."

Reducing economic distortions, instability and inefficiency also stimulates savings, as the experiences of Korea, Sri Lanka and Taiwan show. "On balance, it appears that a financial environment characterised by positive real interest rates, an efficient system of financial intermediation and a structure of taxation that does not discourage private saving offers the best prospect of increased savings, investment and improved allocation of financial resources."

The IMF adds, however, that failure to reach agreement at the Uruguay Round of trade talks could harm developing countries' growth prospects, by depriving them of the benefits of trade liberalisation and increasing trade friction.
THE ANC and the Government were now clearly on a collision course, said ANC president Nelson Mandela last night, commenting on the shock disclosures of Government funding of the Inkatha Freedom Party.

Speaking at Jan Smuts Airport before leaving on an overseas trip, Mr Mandela said if the Government continued with its "criminal operations" it was doubtful that a complete breakdown in relations could be avoided.

He was reacting to yesterday's Weekly Mail report that the Government had funded Inkatha operations. This was admitted

by State President FW de Klerk and Law and Order Minister Adriaan Vlok last night, but denied by the IFP's Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi.

Mr Mandela said at least the Government had had the decency to admit the allegations were true.

There was "no question" of the ANC resuming discussions with the Government if it did not react positively — by seeing that the violence that had killed 10,000 since 1984 ended, and by seeing that the SADF confined itself to maintaining law.

"We have said all along that the Government is following a double agenda — "while talking to us, they were also conducting a war against us."

Mr Mandela said on countless occasions he had taken details of State involvement in killings to Mr de Klerk. He had asked for proof, and now he had proof, said Mr Mandela.

He urged people who had been "used for the purpose of committing crime" to come forward, as some had done, to confess.

The mass media and businessmen had not been very vocal in condemning the Government for its complicity in killing individuals. He hoped they would now come out and condemn this, he said.

In an additional statement issued last night, Mr Mandela said the transformation of Natal and parts of the Reef into killing fields should be laid squarely at the Government's door.

He reiterated the ANC's demand that Mr Vlok and Defence Minister Magnus Malan should be fired. "We shall test President de Klerk's own commitment to maintaining the search for peace on course against his actions in this regard."
SA tourists in rescue drama as Madagascar braces for unrest

A group of South Africans and tourists have been flown out of Madagascar in a dramatic early-morning rescue, as the island steels itself for massive unrest following President Didier Ratsiraka's decision to bay out mass demands for his resignation.

But at least 10 other South Africans remain stranded on the island, with no immediate rescue in sight.

It is expected today's SAA flight to the island will be cancelled because of possible unrest and a lack of fuel on the island.

The continuing crisis in the country deepened on Thursday evening when in a radio address to the nation, Mr Ratsiraka rejected an ultimatum to resign issued by the "Forces Vives" mass opposition grouping.

Instead he called in security force chiefs, who reportedly gave him their backing should he decide to declare either a state of emergency or martial law in response to demonstrations and violence.

As a sop to the opposition grouping, who have paralysed the country with mass demonstrations of up to 400,000 people, he is reported to be ready to sack his entire Cabinet and bring in some members of the opposition.

However, informed sources on the island say this is unlikely to be acceptable to the opposition, and widespread unrest is predicted.

Yesterday the capital, Antananarivo, was reported to be deathly quiet, with shops, banks and government offices remaining tightly shut.

It was in this eerie situation that the dramatic rescue flight of the South Africans took place.

A Daotka DC-3 belonging to Lusseria-based Ancom Aviation took off late on Thursday night. After refueling and picking up extra drums of fuel at Beira in Mozambique because none was available in Madagascar, the plane flew through the night to Antananarivo.

Ancom's Connie Bently said preparations for the flight had been going on for almost a week, but the intervention of the South African Department of Foreign Affairs had been instrumental in getting the flight off the ground.
AIDS burden will be worst in Africa, Asia

TANIA LEVY

It was obvious that Africa would have to find its own solutions.

National Health Minister Rina Venter said in her opening address that the extent of the AIDS pandemic in other African countries underlined the need for a united and wide-ranging response to AIDS in SA.

Venter said 300 people were being infected with the AIDS virus every day in SA, about half of them women.

She said the most conservative estimates showed at least 100 000 people were now HIV-infected in SA.

It was obvious that government alone could not fight the spread of the disease.

Holmshaw said a multisectoral approach was vital.

The state could do a great deal at the macro-level and a mass campaign would be launched in August or September.

But on a more personal level, employers and non-government groupings had to try bring about behavioural changes.

Venter said it was clear that HIV would be a fact of corporate life for decades to come and that quick-fix solutions would not make much impression.
New ruler

ADDIS ABABA

Ethiopia's national assembly has unanimously elected the country's interim president, former guerrilla chief Meles Zenawi, as head of state and government. The Ethiopian News Agency said yesterday Meles was elected unopposed by the 81-member assembly as president of the country's transitional government. Two other candidates had withdrawn. - Sapa-Reuter.
Rwanda rebels to start talking

WASHINGTON — Talks between the government of the Rwandan President, General Juvenal Habyarimana, and a rebel group will begin soon and a peace agreement should be only a few months away, says a senior Rwandan government official.

Dr. Casimir Rizamungu, Rwanda’s foreign minister, said here last month that he did not believe that sporadic fighting between his government and the rebel groups would “stop our resolve towards democratisation”.

“Rwanda has been embroiled in a series of violent clashes between its two main ethnic groups, the minority Tutsi and majority Hutu, for nearly 30 years. The most recent clashes took place last October when nearly 10,000 Ugandan-based Rwandan exile rebels invaded the country in an attempt to overthrow the government.”

Tensions

The attack rekindled tensions between the Hutu people and their former Tutsi overlords who form the bulk of the invading force.

The Hutus form about 80 percent of the population, dwarfing the Tutsis (15 percent) and the Twas (five percent).

Rizamungu was in Washington as part of a trip to North America.

He said his government had tried to involve the opposition forces in the democratisation process.

“They have not been willing to listen, he added.

Human rights groups have attacked the Habyarimana government for its poor human rights record, which includes the jailing of several Rwandan journalists and political activists.

A spokesperson for the New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists said the group had filed protests with the government and would continue to remind the world that there were journalists in custody for “just doing their jobs”.

Rizamungu said nearly 8,000 homes and businesses had been destroyed because of the fighting. — IPS
Seychelles delegation due to visit SA

A DELEGATION of at least 50 top Seychelles businessmen will visit SA next week to mark the inauguration of Air Seychelles' direct service between Mahé and Johannesburg.

Arriving on the first flight next Saturday will be the airline's chairman Conrad Benneton, a number of his board members, leading hoteliers and directors of Seychelles Breweries, the Seychelles Marketing Board — the governing agricultural cooperative — and tourism industry representatives.

An Air Seychelles spokesman said yesterday representatives of shipping and marine charter firms would accompany the delegation, which will spend a week in SA.

The delegation's primary task will be to discuss ways to increase imports and exports between the Indian Ocean islands and SA.

The members will discuss also ways of replacing Seychelles' socialist structures.

The Seychelles government is looking to increased import and export capacity resulting from the introduction of Air Seychelles' wide-bodied Boeing 767-200 Extended Range aircraft on the weekly flights.
Civil services are bigger than ever

THE number of people employed in the governments of non-independent homelands rose to record levels this year despite official policies to reduce the size of the public sector.

Central Statistical Service (CSS) figures show employment in the six self-governing territories reached 193,447 in March, more than 2% higher than the previous year and almost 8% up on the same month in 1989.

The salary bill was R754m, almost 13% up on a year ago.

Development Bank GM Deon Richter said the civil service in the homelands functioned as an employment safety net in many cases.

The bank, in its financial adjustment programmes in these territories, hoped to curb the rapid growth in bureaucracy.

"But we do not expect to see an actual reduction in staff numbers, at least not in the near future."

Financial adjustment programmes have been implemented in only two of the six self-governing territories, Lebowa and Gazankulu.

The bank expects to help implement further financial adjustment programmes in at least some of the other homelands during the course of this financial year.

The TBVC states, the public sector employment figures of which are not included in these CSS statistics, are also in the process of financial adjustment.

Richter said "continuous unfinanced government deficits" often triggered the realisation that structural adjustment was needed.

In some cases, deficits of up to 45% of GDP were reported.

But he added that in some of these territories, government spending accounted for virtually the entire GDP.

Structural adjustment paid special attention to the role of the public sector, with emphasis on "making more effective and efficient use of scarce resources".

Budgeting procedures were overhauled with emphasis on longer term planning.

The efficient employment of large budget allocations was analysed in detail even when they seemed justified, as in the case of education.

Richter regarded the ad hoc nature of budgeting encountered in some homelands as a "legacy of apartheid".

Retard

He insisted the bank's credibility was not threatened by helping these governments.

Refusing to deal with them would retard the development process, he said.

"One of the reasons for the bank's involvement in the programmes is that they bring greater certainty that a continuous capacity will prevail for states to take up loans from funding agencies such as the bank," Richter said.

Development structures in the homelands were being rationalised, as there was a multitude of development corporations. In QwaQwa, for instance, there were five development corporations.
Africa's opening doors do not signal easy pickings

With the Organisation of African Unity warming up, an increasing number of doors are opening on the continent. However, local computer companies entering this market as "easy pickings" should realise that exporting to African countries means creating a new market.

A MD of local computer exporter Habega Trading International, Corrie Lamprecht, says that as trading restrictions ease, local computer companies are poised to "jump into Africa with full force". He believes there was undoubtedly a potentially huge market for local computer industry companies if they are able to identify that market for technology was not just a fad, or identified by businessmen in some African countries.

"It's not as simple as starting a PC company in the country, opening the doors for business, and then sitting back to wait for orders to flow in," said Lamprecht, who predicts that the selling phase will also begin, companies must invest some time and money to stimulate what is a brand new market.

Some African states preferred barter to cash deals. And believed the world's largest computer network is in the Soviet Union and this was allegedly paid for in barter. Similarity, Mozambique buyers may want to pay for computers like computers with"salt."
Rawlings keeps tight rein on power

From Ruby Ofori
Accra

GHANA'S once popular and youthfully magnetic leader, Flight Lieutenant Jerry Rawlings, is facing increasing opposition to his government's handling of the return to multi-party democracy. Two prominent organizations have boycotted the consultative assembly elected this month to draft a new constitution.

On June 29, the eve of a public holiday to celebrate Ghana's 50 years as a republic, pro-democracy activists transformed the streets into a scene reminiscent of the passive resistance protests of Mahama Ofori. Since his 1990 promise of a return to multi-party democracy by 1992, Ghana's government has kept a tight rein on the political process, refusing to lift the ban on political parties or press restrictions.

The constitutional process set in motion by the PNDC is not aimed at securing this sovereign right," said a recent statement of the powerful lobby group, the Ghana Bar Association. But with external pressure from Western governments, like the United States and Britain, to set up democratic structures, the government must execute the process. It has held a 250-member consultative assembly elected and announced a conditional amnesty for political exiles.

"The consultative assembly is just a rubber stamping body," said Paul Adu-Gyampl, the national secretary of the Bar Association. He also questioned the purpose of a proposed referendum on the constitution. "If the consultative assembly represents all Ghanaians, why take the draft constitution back to a referendum?"

The Bar Association and the National Union of Ghana Students have boycotted the consultative assembly to highlight this point and, with the Movement for Freedom and Justice, demanded a constitutional assembly... elected through universal suffrage.

Although Rawlings continues to cling to the theory that Ghana will not copy foreign models or proceed at a pace determined by others, pressure from the opposition may change his tune.

During the last year, 12 groups in Ghana — ranging from teachers' and students' associations to church organisations — have called on Rawlings to restore democratic rules. And Ghana also runs the risk of being engulfed by the pro-democracy demonstrations in West Africa, which have already brought street warfare in neighbouring countries.

Four forces battle in strife-torn Somalia

From Yusuf Hassan Harare

HOPE of an early return to peace in Somalia has been shattered by four armed groups who are threatening the very existence of the country in a civil war that was thought to be over when dictator Mohamed Siad Barre was deposed.

Bands of war-torn RRM Durah and forces of the opposition resistance groups have been locked in a civil war that has lasted for 10 years.

The United Somali Congress (USC), which captured the capital Mogadishu in January, is locked in bloody confrontations with the Somali National Movement (SNM) for control of the southern region.

Earlier this month, the SPM claimed that its fighters had taken the second-largest city, Kismayo, and were heading towards Mogadishu after initiating a series of terrific on the USC.

In the central region, the USC is pitted against the Somali Salvation Democratic Front (SSDF) which controls the Indian Ocean port of Bossaso. Recently, it has also claimed some military successes against the USC.

Barbera
Burao
Hargeisa
Djibouti
Ethiopia
Kenya
Oboke

The Somali National Movement (SNM), the oldest of the fighting forces, is in full control of the northern regions — what used to be known as British Somaliland, before it became independent in 1960 and formed a union with the southern regions then known as Italian Somaliland.

The SNM announced on May 17 that southern Somalia had seceded from the rest of the country and was to be known as the Republic of Somaliland.

Somalia is almost totally isolated from the rest of the world. Communication links, severed early in the year at the height of the civil war, are yet to be resumed.

Thousands of refugees have fled to Djibouti, Kenya and Ethiopia. And tens of thousands are internally displaced. The death and destruction caused by the never-ending conflict is hard to verify, but relief agencies say many people are on the brink of starvation in many parts of the country.

Mediation attempts by Egypt, Sudan and Djibouti have so far failed. President Hassan Amin of Djibouti hosted a peace conference in March which was attended by the USC, SSDF and SMP.

But it ended inconclusively.
Killer disease spreads

N'DJAMENA. Cholera has killed 900 people in Chad over the past two months, swelling the death toll of the epidemic in West and Central African states to nearly 1,700 since May.

Chad's health ministry last week reported more than 8,000 cases and said 900 people had died in the huge, impoverished country since the outbreak was confirmed on May 11.

The health minister of neighbouring Nigeria announced 210 cholera deaths, mainly in the centre and west of the country and its border regions.

More than 520 people have died in Nigeria in the past three weeks and Cameroon reported 13 deaths last month in the north near the Chad border.

Benin, which saw 30 cholera deaths in May, battling with heavy floods and Prime Minister Nicephore Soglo warned of fresh outbreaks unless quick relief action was taken.

Doctors say West Africa's rainy season, which runs roughly from May to September-October, helps it develop and spread.

Chadian government sources say the European Community delivered 27 tons of anticholera drugs to the country on Saturday.

The United States, Malta and Libya have also sent materials and money to curb the epidemic. - Sapa-Reuters.
Madagascar crisis talks collapse

ANTANANARIVO — Talks aimed at ending more than six weeks of strikes and anti-government demonstrations in Madagascar broke down yesterday over the detention of senior opposition members.

News that the church-mediated talks had collapsed came soon after the opposition said two people died in protests against the government of President Didier Ratsiraka in the port of Toamasina on Thursday. If confirmed, the deaths would be the first in a mainly peaceful protest campaign which has put Mr Ratsiraka under pressure to step down.

A joint statement after the church-mediated talks broke up said the opposition would not take part until the government released detainees arrested this week. The opposition say five people have been held.

The talks, which began on Thursday, had appeared to offer at least a slender chance of a settlement to the deepening political crisis.

Mr Ratsiraka, a former naval officer who took control of the ruling military junta in 1975, ordered a clamp-down on the unrest and declared a state of emergency in the capital Antananarivo last Tuesday.

But protests have continued unabated. Rallying tens of thousands of people at daily protests in Antananarivo, the opposition this week began occupying government ministries, installing self-styled “ministers” named last week in a shadow government.

They occupied the Social Affairs Ministry yesterday, bringing to seven the number of ministries taken over. But the show of strength was largely symbolic because all government ministries were paralysed by a strike by civil servants.

Three of the people detained are self-styled “ministers” who had moved into government buildings.

The government says the takeovers are illegal and undemocratic. But the crowds who took over the ministries met virtually no resistance from security forces apparently loth to use violence.

The opposition Action Forces coalition began protests on June 10, calling for a new constitution and fresh multiparty elections.

They charge that 1999 presidential and parliamentary polls were rigged.

The joint statement said the Christian Council of Churches, mediating at the meeting, had called for the two sides to agree on a transitional structure for the country and urged them to resume talks next week.

The church representatives also urged the government to stop arrests and lift the state of emergency, and the opposition to stop occupying government ministries. — Sapa-Reuters.
President's glass palace shatters

Madagascar has been brought to a standstill as Marxists and Marxists, animists, the church and the middle-class unite in opposition to the president.

By CHRIS MCGREAL

A government building in a daily demand for Ratsiraka's resignation, a rejection of the government, a non-socialist constitution and free elections.

Ratsiraka justifies his claim to power on the result of a 1989 election in which only parties linked to his political alliance were permitted to participate, although he subsequently permitted relatively free political activity. He still took only 62 percent of the ballots.

Ratsiraka abandoned his Marxist experiment after dragging Madagascar down to the world's 12th poorest nation. But his brand of capitalism has not won him many friends. The International Monetary Fund, as a condition for loans, requires that the two-thirds of industry in government hands be privatised at a minimum of 20 firms a year. Most of the demised industries have fallen into the hands of just 19 families with ties to the government.

Ratsiraka's opponents want something else to clean up the mess, chosen through free elections. But while the middle-class may yet prove able to bring the government down, it is an 80 percent of the population trapped in dire poverty that, in a free vote, could decide the result. The signs are that they are anything but sympathetic to parties that describe themselves as perestroika, Marxist and liberal Maoist. Beyond their titles their leaders offer little insight into what their policies might be other than that they are "for the people."

But Ratsiraka's fate will ultimately be decided by the military, and the French. The military is hostile to his support, as was seen when it took back while demonstrations took place during the ban. But it is encouraged to continue to back Ratsiraka by France, which has made a considerable investment in the leadership of its former colony. Paris protected and enabled Ratsiraka to establish the free market with grants and loans with an eye on Madagascar's considerable untapped mineral wealth.

After the World Bank declared Madagascar's three state-run banks insolvent in 1989, France provided the money to put them back in the black. While French President Francois Mitterrand says publicly that France favors a democratic role, his 140-diplomat embassy in Antananarivo is taking a different tack.

Joffre Rakotomarina, an opposition leader, observes: "My impression is that France wants to keep Ratsiraka in power. It's a real problem to find a strategy to get rid of him when foreign powers are interested in keeping him in."
Apartheid Lies in Mauritania

Denies

"It's an apartheid that won't speak to anyone," said prominent opposition leader defending his country's government against the "allegations of torture, killing, and the abducting of civilians."  

The government, according to.ali said, has "demonstrated its commitment to national reconciliation and the rule of law."

Despite international condemnation, the government maintains its denial of human rights abuses. The journalist added, "The government is determined to bring stability to the country, and we are committed to working with all stakeholders to achieve that goal."
Africa 'needs more aid to fight poverty'

BANGKOK - African nations yesterday painted a grim picture of growing poverty, meagre investments and environmental crisis while asking the international community for large aid input.

But Steven Kibona, who heads Tanzania's delegation to the World Bank's annual conference, stressed African states were implementing economic reforms despite "the difficulties and sacrifices encountered".

"It must be unmistakably clear that African government are committed to doing what is necessary and feasible to rejuvenate their economies and set the stage for improved standards of living," he said.

Kibona, who is Tanzania's finance minister, spoke on behalf of the African members of the World Bank and IMF.

"The debt overhang is still an albatross around the neck of many African countries," Kibona said.

"There is now a heightened risk that Africa will be left on the periphery of the international economy."

He said it was critical that domestic and foreign investment be increased and that debt relief be offered by foreign monetary institutions.

He said that the ratio of investment to national income had fallen by some 26% since 1989. Warnings about a global capital shortage meant that African countries would have difficulty competing for capital.

"In sum, we are appealing to the donor community to increase its support of our growth-oriented adjustment efforts," he told the 155-member World Bank.

-- Sapa-AP.

free trade zones

duce significant steps toward liberalisation, trade zones have become one of the best hopes for reducing impediments to trade.

Summers said the benefits of free trade zones, the spur of competition and the transfer of technology, would extend to all nations, even those not included in a bloc.

But to those that do not see themselves included in any trade group, the blocks present a two-fold problem: blocs could use the threat of lifting trade barriers to muscle advantageous trade agreements from isolated nations; bloc participants might win access to markets at the expense of those on the outside.

In addition to the EC's drive toward a common market in 1992, the US and Canada have already begun negotiating a free trade agreement with Mexico and an Asian trade group has been proposed by Malaysian Prime Minister Mohamad Mahathir.

"They are interventionist, protectionist policies." He and officials from other countries said blocs are a threat.

"Trade pacts are groupings of nations that one way or another are likely to make preferential arrangements with each other," said Peter McCawley, deputy director general of the Australian International Development Assistance Bureau.

World Bank president Lewis Preston presents his annual address yesterday at the World Bank and IMF conference at Bangkok's Queen Sirikit Convention Centre.

Picture: -- Sapa-AP.
SA ‘seen as the way into Africa’

THE lifting of sanctions and SA’s readmission to international sporting events could open up exciting new avenues for SA advertisers in other countries.

International Media Representatives (IMR) director Robin Hammond said in an interview that SA agencies were looking to Africa as an area of development, while the rest of the world saw SA as a route into the growing markets in Africa.

Hammond said some international companies might have already burnt their fingers by trying to go into Africa direct. SA was “a natural home base”.

A recent spate of visits to SA by directors of international advertising agencies with SA subsidiaries showed a renewed interest in SA and Africa.

SA agencies which had affiliations with international firms were often expected to do the development in Africa on behalf of the international parent company. Countries including Zambia, Zimbabwe, Namibia and Malawi were now open to development from this region. He felt development coming from within Africa would be best.

There had been many indications over the last few months that opportunities worldwide did not look as rosy as those in Africa, Hammond said, and his company had seen a large increase in inquiries for media in Africa.

IMR officially represents about 250 foreign publications mainly for advertising, giving SA companies an opportunity to communicate abroad. It also acts as a clearing house of information about communications opportunities in foreign countries, keeps statistical marketing information and does its own research.

Hammond said much of the development in Africa would be in product advertising and tourism, with some recruitment and financial advertising.

While there were some problems in Africa with the frequency of media and quality of production, SA manufacturers in particular were awakening to opportunities to export and for two-way trade.

Many SA companies were “sitting on the fence”, but growth in advertising — currently about R6m for companies which did not have their own agents for advertising overseas — was expected to be significant from next year.
Survival first, but Africa does care about land

EXPECTING Africans to worry about desertification is a bit like asking a hobo to give up caviar for Lent.

It is all very well for restaurant-fed environmentalists in New York to decry the destruction of the tropical rain forests but it is another matter to ask a peasant in Cameroon to stop slash-and-burn farming when it is all that lies between him and starvation.

And it doesn't make much sense for European governments to expect the Gabonese to stop felling trees for lumber when this is one of the few ways they have of raising money to buy the imports they need from Europe — and to repay the money they have borrowed from Europe for this purpose.

It would make more sense, actually, for the rich European governments to cancel Africa's debts, or at least to pay higher prices for the raw materials they import from Africa.

In a continent where the chief preoccupation of millions of people is simply staying alive from one day to the next, ecological issues can hardly be expected to arouse much enthusiasm.

Oddly enough, there is interest in Africa in environmental matters and it is growing.

In Mali, for instance, a "green" political party has been formed, called the Ecological Party for Integration (PEI in the French acronym). A green party has also been formed in Burkina Faso. And environmentalists are becoming politically active in Niger. PEI has established links with these groups and with greens in France, the Netherlands and Canada.

The party's secretary, Professor Ibrahim Traore, believes it is "the party of the future because, as he observes, with chilling logic, "there is no alternative to development without destruction".

That would, in fact, make a fine slogan for environmentalists the world over. And perhaps an even better one for developers.

JOHANNESBURGERS who are getting tired of being mugged and having their cars stolen and their homes burgled might be interested — only academically, of course — in what the government of Zanzibar has decided to do about the growing problem of street crime.

In addition to being jailed, burglars and robbers will be flogged — once when they enter prison and again when they come out.

The second whipping is presumably intended to discourage them from thoughts of resuming a life of crime when they are released.

IT seems hard to believe, but then, considering Colonel Muammar Gaddafi's reputation, maybe it shouldn't be.

According to a report from Tripoli, the Libyan president has submitted his candidacy for the presidency of Italy.

He justified his action by pointing out that during the Italian occupation of Libya before World War 2, Rome conferred the same status on Libyans as on Italians.

Even though Italian rule is a thing of the distant past, Mr Gaddafi said he intended taking advantage of the old law to offer himself as a candidate for the Italian presidency "in order to transfer power to the Italian people".

Given Mr Gaddafi's reputation, it is a prospect that might fill the Italian people with dread.

"Gaddafi said he was just as serious about this as Italy had been in its intention to make Libyans into Italian citizens."

So the question remains: is he serious? Or does he just want to get his revenge on Mussolini? ☐
Ratsiraka must go, opposition insists

ANTANANARIVO
Madagascar's opposition yesterday rejected political concessions made by President Didier Ratsiraka and vowed to continue its seven-week campaign of strikes and protests until he stepped down.

"What we demand is his resignation," senior opposition leader Jean Rakotoharison told tens of thousands of protesters in Antananarivo.

Mr Ratsiraka, facing the biggest challenge to his 16-year rule, said on Sunday he was sacking the government and planned a new constitution by the end of the year.

In a further concession yesterday, the 54-year-old former navy officer stopped a decree ordering the arrest of opposition leaders, apparently paving the way for the release of six already in detention.

Mr Rakotoharison, a retired general named "president" in a shadow government formed by the opposition earlier this month, told the cheering crowd in May 13 Square that Mr Ratsiraka had extended his olive branch too late.

Few people appeared to have been swayed by his concessions, which included a call for talks with the opposition on reforms of the electoral code.

Mr Rakotoharison said the only conditions on which the opposition would talk with Mr Ratsiraka were if detained opposition figures were freed and the state of emergency in the capital lifted.

Mr Ratsiraka, who assumed power in 1975, clamped a state of emergency on Antananarivo last week in an effort to stem anti-government protests which have thrown the island into turmoil.

Political analysts said earlier that even if opposition leaders wanted to negotiate with Mr Ratsiraka, they would have to reckon with the huge crowds of protesters, many of whom clearly wanted him to step down. — Sapa-Reuters.
"second liberation"

"From previous page"

"HISTORIC MARRIAGE OF ELEPHANTS AND MOTHERS KANDUKO OF RHINO, has been too late to save their throne.

"The true test of the West's pervasiveness to encourage economic reforms but they soon realized that this was predicated on political reform.

"So the United States is talking about democracy in Africa and no longer the overthrow of all of its dictators, the dictatorships in Liberia and Sierra Leone in Somalia.

"Poor encourages reform and has not helped its friends who ordered it. Britain speaks of 'good government'.

"Only Israel has continued to identify with some of the continent's worst dictators: Deo, Mengistu, Paul Binyam, and Komotu and Mokotu in Zaire.

"Cripples at the same time the argument that Africa has not been able to support its supporters, ethnic and tribal divisions would tear these poor new countries apart unless they are trained with a clear strategy that they are under a centralized government.

"However, the West-sponsored borrowing which marked the 1980s in the crippling debts, a burden of which white goods for coffee, cocoa, copper and other African commodities cannot be expected.

"Classes

"Africa's urban poor and even its small skilled classes began to suffer and grumble and finally burst out on the streets of exposed in protest.

"They blamed their leaders.

"The generation of leaders are with those of the countries to independence.

"Yowei Mavunzi Jerry Rawlings

"Daniel Arap Moi

"Give your daughter a gift for life

"Birnam Business College

"MASHWABANE

"100% PURE LINEN FABRICS

"IN LATEST SUMMER FASHION COLOURS

"NOW AVAILABLE

"Come and view our large variety of exclusive fabrics.

"SPECIAL PRICES TO FASHION DESIGNERS AND HAWKERS

"SHOP 184

"1ST FLOOR SOUTH MALL, ORIENTAL PLAZA, ENTRANCE 3, MAIN ROAD, FORDSBURG

"TEL: 805-6299"
Guerilla chief is PM

ADDIS ABABA – Ethiopia's new national assembly has approved the appointment of former guerilla chief Mr Tamrat Layne as prime minister in a transitional government.

The council unanimously elected Tamrat, a member of the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front which ousted former dictator Mengistu Haile Mariam in May.

Last week, EPRDF leader Mr Meles Zenawi was endorsed as president of the new government which will rule until multiparty elections scheduled for 1993.

Tamrat was expected to choose a broad based cabinet out of the 81-member assembly.

The new prime minister is head of the Ethiopian People's Democratic Movement, one of four former rebel groups in the EPRDF coalition which waged a bush war against Mengistu's government. - Sapa-Reuters
Africa is shaken by

Dictators, benevolent or otherwise, are learning to reform or perish.

AS they were about to meet, the roof fell in.

On Monday in Niamey, the capital of Niger, more than a thousand of its citizens from every walk of life were supposed to meet in the national convention centre to discuss, in open-ended debate, the route to multi-party democracy and free elections - the first since the country became independent from France 31 years ago.

But on Saturday the roof of the convention centre collapsed.

It symbolises what is happening in Africa today.

A political earthquake is rocking the continent, reverberating with the slogans of democracy and freedom.

But as the people gather to express themselves and seize the opportunity, the continent is engulfed by economic collapse, war, famine, AIDS and virulent malaria which may bury hopes of freedom, peace and prosperity.

Those very images of hopelessness, perhaps perceived more strongly from outside Africa than felt within it - make the rest of the world turn away from Africa and its problems.

Five years ago sub-Saharan Africa was largely ruled by dictators, barbarous or benign, who allowed no voice to be raised in criticism. They had inherited their states from their colonial masters and, in the name of freedom, gathered into their hands the powers of the colonial administrations.

Since independence, only one African leader had resigned and allowed a peaceful replacement by his chosen successor, but nowhere had a leader been voted out of office.

In many cases that meant enriching his family and tribe while the rest of the nation's revenues were used to buy off his opponents or buy weapons to suppress them.

The movement for multiparty democracy which has swept across the continent since 1989 seemed to jump like a forest fire from Eastern Europe.

Had not the continent's leaders been thick with the Ceausescus, the Honeckers and other proponents of the single-party socialist state? If they could be toppled, why not...?

The end of the Cold War meant that capitalist and Communist countries were no longer in competition in the Third World.

The Soviet Union and Eastern Europe said goodbye to their erstwhile allies in Africa and left them to the tender mercies of the West.
Rupert's
EDESA is
back home

By Sven Lünsche

A leading African development agency which was started by Dr Anton Rupert in 1973 but has been operating only in other parts of Africa, yesterday launched its South African subsidiary.

The Economic Development for Equatorial and Southern Africa (EDESA) which is based in Switzerland but fosters and funds private enterprise ventures in 21 African countries, plans to "support and sell SA technology and knowhow to the rest of Africa."

Victor Viseu, who heads the Johannesburg operation, says the company operates very much like the IMF'S International Finance Corporation (IFC), which focuses exclusively on funding private business interests.

EDESA's projects are to a large extent funded in co-operation with other multi-lateral agencies such as the IFC, the World Bank and USAID.

Share capital

Its share capital of $20 million is held by 25 large corporations from eight countries, including South African groups such as De Beers, Anglo, and Murray and Roberts.

It was founded by Rembrandt's Dr Rupert to fund development projects in South Africa but shifted its attention to the rest of Africa when the Development Bank was founded in the early seventies.

EDESA acts as a catalyst for projects and in this way has raised total funds amounting to more than $300 million. Its main activities include consulting private enterprises in evaluating business strategy in Africa, financial management support for projects and lending to government agencies and banks in sub-Saharan Africa.

Mr Viseu says the demand from SA companies for joint projects in Africa has already been overwhelming.

The board of the local company is headed by Professor Danie Joubert, the principal of the University of Pretoria and also includes Rene Gerber, the chief executive of the EDESA group.
Cholera epidemic sweeps Africa

LAGOS — Africa's worst cholera epidemic in years is spreading fast and has struck hardest in Nigeria, where health officials reported yesterday that the disease had killed 845 people in the past 10 days.

Nearly 13,000 Nigerians had contracted the disease in that time, bringing the overall toll since cholera hit in May to 22,901 people infected and 2,616 dead.

The new figures came in a report published yesterday by Dr. Gabby Williams, Nigeria's director for disease control.

Cholera deaths occurred in Lagos, the capital, Dr. Williams said, raising fears the disease could spread wildly in the sprawling metropolis where slums have open sewers. It is not known how many of Nigeria's 100 million people live in Lagos. The other victims come from 15 of Nigeria's 21 states.

Across the border, Cameroon's Health Minister Joseph Mbede reported 955 cases, including 176 deaths, up to July 26.

Mr. Mbede and Dr. Williams warned that the reported figures probably were much lower than reality because of communications difficulties.

Cholera, a disease of poverty spread by faecal-contaminated water and food, has infected about 60,000 Africans in 11 countries this year and killed more than 4,500. Health officials said it was the worst epidemic in 15 years.

The disease is easily prevented if communities have safe drinking water and proper sanitation. The cure also is simple: oral rehydration salts to counter the diarrhoea that causes a quick, painful death if not quickly treated.

The UN Children's Fund and World Health Organization and the US Agency for International Development are helping governments to buy and dispatch rehydration kits to affected areas.

Other countries suffering cholera epidemics are Angola, Benin, Chad, Ghana, Liberia, Mozambique, Niger, Togo and Zambia.

But Africa is not the only continent to be affected by cholera.

It is reported from El Paso in Texas that a cholera epidemic that has struck down more than 250 Mexicans is moving north toward the United States border.

The warning came this week at a cholera prevention conference in El Paso called by the Pan American Health Organization to stem an epidemic that has killed more than 2,500 people in South America. — Sapa-AP.
WASHINGTON — The Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) served as a worldwide haven for thousands of criminals, undermined Third World economies and stayed in business only by buttering up top US officials, a congressional panel was told last week.

Despite signs of trouble at BCCI as long ago as the 1970s, regulators waited until last month before they closed the bank, said Senator John Kerry.

Kerry's senate subcommittee was told the US and its allies had closed businesses operated by the Abu Nidal guerrilla organisation through the Warsaw branch of BCCI.

As "the biggest bank fraud in history" spread its tentacles, US banking regulators said the CIA never told them of a 1985 report disclosing that the BCCI had held a hidden interest in Washington's largest bank since 1982.

Kerry said the CIA report alleged BCCI was engaged in illegal activity and that it secretly controlled First American Bank.

The Federal Reserve approved the 1982 takeover of First American by Arab investors only after assurances from chairman Clark Clifford that BCCI would have no control or influence over the bank.

The probe comes amid growing allegations of corruption — from drug money laundering to bankroll-
MORONI — The president of the Comores has said in a radio address that he is still in control of his country, despite an attempt to oust him.

And SA Foreign Minister Pik Botha said on Saturday SA would be willing to bring opposing groups in the Comores together in an effort to end the political unrest.

President Said Mohamed Djohar told citizens in his address on Saturday to stay calm and said those responsible for the coup bid would be brought to justice.

Information Minister Mohamed Adamo, speaking from the Comores' capital Moroni, said supreme court president Ibrahim Ahmed Holisti and members of a disgruntled opposition party had staged the coup attempt by using an outlawed radio station early on Saturday to say Djohar was no longer in power.

Adamo said the supreme court had tried to invoke a constitutional clause under which the head of state was automatically replaced by the supreme court president if he died or was physically or mentally incapacitated. "But this is not the case with President Djohar," he said.

Djohar, 71, himself a former president of the supreme court, assumed power through the same constitutional clause after President Ahmed Abdallah was assassinated in November 1989.

Botha said SA businessmen in the Comores did not seem to be in danger. Earlier, Foreign Affairs spokesman Rafique Gangat said SA tourists would be evacuated from the island if necessary.

Botha said SA had taken note of the events in the Comores and would not interfere, adding that SA would be "willing to bring the opposing groups together".

— Sapa-Reuters.
Govt won't interfere in Comoros, says Pik

South Africa would be willing to bring opposing groups together in an effort to end the political unrest in the Comoros, Foreign Minister Pik Botha said on Saturday night.

In a statement he said: South African businessmen in the Comoros did not seem to be in any immediate danger following a coup attempt staged by Supreme Court president Ibrahim Ahmed Halidi and members of a disgruntled opposition party.

Mr Botha said South Africa had taken note of the events in the Comoros and would not interfere.

But, he added, South Africa "would be willing to bring the opposing groups together if it is asked to do so."

"All indications are that South African citizens in business in the Comoros are not in any danger," he said.

Mr Halidi was detained yesterday following the failed attempt to depose President Said Mohamed Djohar, opposition sources said.

A spokesman for the opposition movement in Paris said Mr Halidi was being held together with two journalists.

The opposition movement, in a statement released in Paris, said Mr Halidi's detention made a mockery of democracy. It called on Comorans to back the removal of Mr Djohar.

"We ask Mr Djohar to display wisdom and goodwill to prevent the country from sinking into troubles and violence," it said.

President Djohar, in a radio address to citizens of the Indian Ocean republic, told them to stay calm and said those responsible for trying to oust him would be brought to justice.

Mr Djohar (71), a former president of the Supreme Court, assumed interim power after former president Ahmed Abdallah was assassinated in November 1988.

He won a presidential election four months later. President Djohar was absent at the time of his deposition.

He was visiting Anjouan, another island in the Comoros archipelago.

State radio said on Saturday evening that the president had returned to the capital Moroni at about noon and held a special Cabinet meeting which condemned the "anti-constitutional" move by the Supreme Court. — Sapa-Reuters.
Despite the weekend’s political unrest on the Comores, World Leisure Group was not reconsidering its expansion plans there, World Leisure Holidays MD Bruce Hutchinson said yesterday.

Hutchinson said there were no indications to suggest that the group should reconsider the $150m expansion plans announced by Sol Kerzner in April. These involved a new hotel and expansion of the Le Galawa Beach Resort.

Hutchinson said no date had been set for the plans, which were merely a master plan pending government’s approval and the correct finance package.

Hutchinson said it looked like work on the first phase — the expansion of the Le Galawa Hotel — would begin “after the Christmas season.”

He said the hotel was full, both with SA tourists and with tourists from Reunion, and all operations were normal.

The government of the island said on Sunday that an attempted coup at the weekend by politicians and Supreme Court judges had failed.

Hutchinson said the events were inspired by the opposition party and involved no force, no violence and no threat to residents, or to hotel staff and guests.
Comoran security forces shoot at demonstrators

By Ken Varon

Security forces opened fire yesterday on counter-demonstrators trying to disrupt a rally in support of President Said Mohammed Djohar, a French news agency reported.

The shooting took place at Mitsamud on the island of Anjouan, the second largest island in the Comoros Republic, according to Agence France-Presse (AFP), citing its correspondent at the scene.

AFP did not say whether there were injuries or arrests, and other details were not immediately available.

The reported shooting followed a weekend of uncertainty in the three-island republic that began with the Supreme Court announcement on Saturday that President Djohar had been impeached.

The abortive takeover failed because France continued to give its backing to President Djohar, diplomatic sources on the island said yesterday.

Under a treaty signed when mercenary Bob Denard was forced out of the island republic two years ago, France effectively controls security on the islands.

The sources said the "constitutional coup" was precipitated when representatives of Moheli, one of the three islands that comprise the republic, walked out of constitutional talks because Moheli was not being accorded the political clout it felt it deserved in a proposed new constitution.

Opposition groups then prevailed upon Supreme Court president Ibrahim Ahmed Halidi to use his constitutional powers to declare President Djohar "not lucid enough" to continue to rule and issue a statement saying he "intended to take control of the republic."

Giving three days' notice of a coup is not standard practice in Africa but could be said to be typical of the laid-back Comoran approach to politics. It enabled President Djohar, on nearby Anjouan island with his top officials for a religious ceremony, to return and reassert control.

Since the abortive takeover, Mr Halidi has been under house arrest. Initial reports of two journalists being detained in the aftermath of the coup were yesterday denied by diplomats on the islands.

President Djohar was head of the Supreme Court when then President Abdullah Abderaman was assassinated two years ago.

He used the same constitutional articles at the weekend that Mr Halidi tried to use against him to take power before going on to win an election following the removal of Col Denard and his mercenary band.
Chidzero calls for Africa to set up monetary union

HARARE — Zimbabwe’s Finance Minister Bernard Chidzero has called for an African economic community and monetary union to make the continent a power to be reckoned with in the global economy.

He told the closing session of a meeting of African central bank governors that the single European market and proposed monetary union within the European Community threatened to stifle Africa’s traditional markets.

"Africa remains fragmented with economically weak regional groupings like the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Southern African Development Coordination Conference (SADCC), the Preferential Trade Area (PTA) and the Maghreb Union, to mention just a few.

"The establishment of the African Economic Community would ... render Africa an economic force to reckon with in the global economy much to the benefit of her economies," he said.

"The establishment of a monetary union is by no means an easy task and hence has no overnight solutions. However, it is a direction in which Africa inexorably has to move and efforts at both national and regional levels have to continue," he said.

Chidzero said Africa’s debt burden threatened the international monetary system because the continent was exporting capital to developed countries, through debt servicing.

The governors said in a communiqué at the close of the meeting that little progress had been made in arresting the protracted and deepening poverty in several African countries.

The governors said some of the preconditions for monetary integration were the increase of trade among African countries, cross-border investment, the flow of labour among African states and encouraging joint ventures. — Sapa-Reuters.
DEVELOPMENTS in South Africa offer a glimpse of hope in a continent enveloped by gloom and doom.

The spillover of a negotiated settlement here to other countries in southern Africa will be substantial in terms of relative peace, security and reduced military expenditure, says former South African military leader General Olusegun Obasanjo.

Writing in Africa Forum, a new magazine aimed at the African elite, Obasanjo, the magazine's publisher, says there is convincing evidence that current leadership on both sides of the ‘apartheid divide’ can bring about a new society of peace, tolerance and prosperity.

"There is a realisation that Mr Nelson Mandela and Mr FW de Klerk need each other," he says.

SA is the cover story of the magazine's latest issue and a number of experts give their views on developments in the Republic, including three South Africans - Mr Thabo Mbeki of the ANC, Dr Frederic van Zyl Slabbert, director of the Isandla, and Mr Kevin Davie, editor of Executive, a Johannesburg-based business magazine.

"The most daunting problem SA must face," Obasanjo says, "will be how to bring about justice and equity without destroying the economy.

"The structure and content of the economy is strong and resilient and could cope, given prudent management."

Obasanjo says De Klerk has, in words and in deeds, reached a point of no return.

"De Klerk is a shrewd politician; he understands power and he may not want to be deprived of access to it. Yet there is a need, and an urgent one at that, to establish a permanent structure which gives confidence to all sides.

"Legitimacy is crucial to any new constitution. It is therefore necessary for an overwhelming number of the constituent assembly for the new constitution to be elected and be sworn to be the real representative of the people.

"But if initiative for the process of negotiation is not shared between the negotiators, negotiation can degenerate, or be frustrate, into ultimatum and/or surrender."

PUPILS

"In the SA context, success must be apparent on all sides for them to be able to satisfy their individual constituencies. This will not be easy and it will ultimately depend on the realisation that Mandela and De Klerk mutually need each other."

Obasanjo says one issue which deserves urgent attention is the rehabilitation of the so-called "lost generation" - black pupils who've dropped out of school since the student uprisings of 1976.

"They form a potentially dangerous group if they are not productively re-integrated into society," Obasanjo says.

Professor Adebayo Adefeji, the outgoing executive secretary of the UN's Economic Commission for Africa, says in an article entitled "Nirvana or Armageddon?" that the most central economic concern is whether SA will, after apartheid, continue to do "business as usual", and whether a majority government will allow business to be run.

"Taking the Zimbabwean example, an exodus of whites out of South Africa after apartheid and majority rule could have a detrimental impact on the SA economy for quite some time," he writes.

Adefeji says the post-apartheid economic policy agenda should aim, among others, at reducing poverty and inequalities, increased spending on education and training, social services and the remodelling of the entire public administration from enforcing apartheid to implementing anti-apartheid policies and programmes.

He says, however, that it is questionable whether SA will find the resources and the will to implement such a gigantic agenda.

"Yet it is also obvious that if the above agenda is not tackled, post-apartheid SA might find itself torn apart in total turmoil from within its many social, political and economic contradictions."

"One has just to hope that, whatever the economic agenda that will face post-apartheid SA, the policymakers will have the will and that the economy will retain enough resilience and strength to go through the transition to economic stability," Slabbert says.

Slabbert says neither the National Party nor the ANC has evolved a coherent strategy or policy to cope with the kind of transition to which they have committed themselves.

The NP has for years presented a policy of white domination, while the ANC countered with a policy of struggle against domination.

Both policies ill prepared the respective sides for the kind of transitional demands they now have to cope with.

Slabbert says this was evident at the ANC's consultative conference in December "where they appeared to vacillate between insurrectionary rhetoric and adversarial mass action on the one hand, and exploring the dynamics of serious negotiation on the other."

"In the same vein, De Klerk in his end-of-the-year address, came across as judge, jury, prosecutor and defendant on the trials and tribulations of transition."

Slabbert says the dilemma is, however, understandable and is compounded by the fact that there is no clear cut historical precedent for the kind of transition they are trying to bring about.

 TRANSITION

If a democratic outcome is to be successfully negotiated, Slabbert says, it would at least be necessary to:

- Negotiate conditions for transition as well as the outcome of transition;
- Create opportunities for multiparty participation in government during transition as well as participation in transformation, and;
- Include civil society in the process of negotiated transformation and enable it to contribute to the growth of a democratic culture.

Davie says apartheid has been Africa's equivalent of the Berlin Wall, and now that it is crumbling, Africa and South Africa are discovering one another at staggering speed.
ABIDJAN - Last year, Togo's President Gnassingbe Eyadema was undisputed ruler of the tiny West African country.

"Today his authority is being chipped away by the national pro-democracy conference which, if the pattern of conferences elsewhere in Africa holds, could strip the military leader of power or even boot him out of office. Eyadema didn't want this conference but he had no choice," said Mr Jean-Pierre Fabre, spokesman for the conference of some 1 000 delegates which opened last month.

"The conference is going to be responsible for its own acts, it will be sovereign," Fabre said by telephone from the capital Lome. "There is too much pressure from the rest of the nation."

Problems

In a distinctly African way, using the tradition of "makandal - or village meetings - where everyone gathers to discuss problems, the continent with the world's largest number of single-party states is undergoing democratic change unprecedented in 30 years of post-colonial history.

A much-postponed national conference due to have opened in Zaire yesterday, did not. President Mobutu Sese Seko, who set the mould for African strongmen, in a battle for his political life against returning exiles and former ministers who say he has plundered the treasury for 26 years, announced that the conference would not open.

14-month walkout by unpaid civil servants and under pressure from Western donors to make reforms in exchange for aid, may have thought the conference he called in a December 1989 speech would focus on economic issues.

Instead it appointed a transitional government, scheduled presidential elections which Kerekou lost and put him out to grass.

Pressure

Next to feel the pressure was Congo's President Denis Sassou-Nguesso, who reluctantly convened a conference that bogged down in procedural wrangling when it opened in February. Interest soared, however, when delegates regaled a live television and radio audience with tales that the military president had assassinated opponents, knew beforehand about a plot to bomb an airliner and salted away millions in overseas bank accounts.

In June, the conference stripped Sassou-Nguesso of all but his power to sign international agreements, appointed a transitional government and set presidential elections for May, two years ahead of schedule.

The conference even recognised Israel, a pariah state for much of black Africa since the 1973 Arab-Israeli war, without consulting the president.

Transition

Although Benin and Congo made the transition without bloodshed, that has not been the case everywhere.

At least 50 people died in pro-democracy violence in Togo, including 20 whose bodies were drenched from a ladder.

Some 200 people were killed in Mali before soldiers overthrew President Moussa Traore and installed a civilian-military council, which convened a national conference last month.

In Cameroon, where President Paul Biya has steadfastly refused to permit a conference, dozens of people have died during strikes and demonstrations supporting reforms.

Disease

The violence has hardened positions and intensified tribal tensions - always a danger in Africa where even the smallest country may contain dozens of different ethnic groups.

Tolerant

"We know our new government will face enormous problems," Togo's Fabre said. "It will have to reorganise society ... after 25 years under one president.

"But with modern communications, the world has become a small place. Africa, like the rest of the world, is less and less tolerant of governments that are not accountable to the people." - Sipa-Reuter
Africa's new freedom struggle

The continent's dictators are learning to return of peril, says Richard Downer.
McCann-Erickson looks to Africa

INTERNATIONAL advertising giant McCann-Erickson Worldwide is expecting its SA subsidiary to play a crucial role in Africa.

Malcolm Miles, chairman of McCann-Erickson UK and area director Africa and the Middle East, is in SA to visit the SA agency, McCann, following a decision by McCann-Erickson to increase its interests in SA and the continent.

Miles said in an interview yesterday the group — which had billings of $4.5bn and 160 agencies in 72 countries in 1990 — had decided 18 months ago "to take the African continent seriously".

The African region has branches in Johannesburg, Durban, Cape Town, Mauritius, Nairobi, Douala, Lagos, Abidjan, Dakar and Casablanca.

Miles said although GDP in Africa was small and short-term growth opportunities were limited, the continent represented a huge market for some of the group's clients.

Worldwide accounts included Coca Cola, Agfa, Gillette, Johnson & Johnson, Camel (R J Reynolds), L'Oreal, Martin & Rossi and Vansdenbergh Foods.

The interest in Africa was "not an act of faith, but an intelligent investment in the future", said Miles. Africa had 600-million people and a "consistent presence of the majority of the world's top companies".

Eastern Europe had distracted investment and management time from Africa in the short term. However, with some of the attention wearing off, Africa would become the focus, he said.

McCann MD Tim Bester said apartheid and sanctions had "fuelled the lack of a global outlook in SA". He said the pace of SA's re-entry would be slow and it would be via Africa. "Africa has the need, and SA the locality, expertise and desire to engage the rest of Africa".
Kaunda, Mugabe in clash over SA

From MICHAEL HARTNACK
HARARE. — President Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe and President Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia clashed yesterday over sanctions against South Africa.

President Mugabe's statement on sanctions was in direct conflict with one reportedly made the previous evening by President Kaunda in an address to Zambia's ruling United National Independence Party.

According to Ziana, the official Zimbabwean news agency, President Kaunda, who is chairman of the frontline states, called for sanctions to be lifted and for the ban on contact with South Africa to end "to start off the key dialogue on a new non-racial constitution for that country".

"What is happening in South Africa now is not just token symbols but realities," President Kaunda was quoted as saying.

The Zambian leader has reportedly been hesitating for the past year over the opening of a South African trade mission in Lusaka. The South African trade mission in Harare assumed in 1980 the functions of the former South African diplomatic mission to Rhodesia, but President Mugabe forbids ministerial-level contacts with Pretoria.

Yesterday's disagreement was the first blatant public divergence of views on South Africa between the two presidents. In his speech to a conference of African socialist parties, President Mugabe said Zimbabwe must continue to insist on sanctions against South Africa until the advent of an "administration that does not owe its existence to apartheid".

It was his most categorical commitment to indefinite boycotts since February 1986.

The Zimbabwean leader said "the confidence we had begun to develop in President De Klerk has been severely shaken by recent revelations of the South African government machinations in fostering division, violence and banditry among the black people".

Mr Mugabe said that although Zimbabwe welcomed reforms that had taken place in South Africa, it was still governed by a regime elected under apartheid laws.

In June, Zimbabwe asked South Africa to update its 1964 "most favoured nation" trade treaty, arousing expectations of a drastic policy change.

In his address, Mr Mugabe defended socialism, saying it was "a fundamental tenet of African society" that had been interrupted by imperialism and colonialism.

He warned that strikes and divisive nationalism such as those at present breaking out in Eastern Europe could bring chaos to Africa.
More than a little local trouble

Britain has to do much more in Sierra Leone, says Richard Dowden

10-m orphans from Aids — prof

Sub-Saharan Africa can expect to have 10 million orphans in the near future because of Aids, according to Professor Rubin Sher of the South African Institute of Medical Research.

Speaking at the annual Fedhasa congress in Durban, he said Africa would have about 17 million cases by 1994.

In South Africa, the "worst-case" projection was that there would be about 3 million deaths from Aids by 2006.

There was little prospect of a vaccine before at least the mid-Nineties. Even if one were discovered, it would be expensive.

Professor Sher said education remained the only "vaccine".

Making the disease notifiable would serve no purpose, nor would pre-employment testing.

Money should be spent on in-company information programmes on AIDS prevention.

— Medical Reporter.
Pressing the Cause of Freedom

Newspapers in Africa are displaying a new daring, reports Robert Weller
Democracy Reforms for Togo

South August 8 to 14, 1991

A quarter of a century of decline
Madagascans reject compromise leader

ANTANANARIVO - Madagascan President Didier Ratsiraka named a new prime minister yesterday but his choice was rejected by the opposition, which is campaigning with strikes and protests for radical political reforms.

State radio said Ratsiraka, who sacked his government 10 days ago, had asked Antananarivo Mayor Guy Willy Razanamy to form a new government. It said Razanamy would be given "every latitude" in making his choice.

But opposition leader Jean Rakotomalison told a protest rally in the capital that Razanamy was unacceptable because the opposition had not nominated him.

The opposition's reaction to the appointment of Razanamy, who has mediated between the government and the opposition during the nine-week protest campaign, appeared to dash hopes of a quick settlement to the crisis.

Rakotomalison said the opposition planned a "freedom march" tomorrow to Ratsiraka's heavily guarded palace, unless the president agreed before then to talks.

The opposition, Active Forces Coalition has said repeatedly in recent days such a meeting could only discuss the terms of Ratsiraka's stepping down.

But Ratsiraka has said he had made enough concessions to the opposition and would not resign.

Ratsiraka sacked former prime minister Victor Ramanatra and the rest of his government on July 28 as one of a series of concessions which included inviting opposition leaders to talks on constitutional and electoral reforms.

Yesterday large crowds of demonstrators marched to leading embassies and UN agencies in the capital and demanded they stop giving aid to Ratsiraka. - Renter.
Renewed scramble for Africa

Africa needs more than mere recognition that the continent is important. It needs to be actively involved in global affairs, with a voice that is heard and a seat at the table of world leaders. The recent shift in global priorities towards Africa is a positive development, but it must be accompanied by meaningful action and investment.

The African continent is rich in natural resources and has a rapidly growing population. With the right policies and investment, Africa can become a significant player in the global economy. However, this requires a commitment from the international community to support Africa's development and ensure that it benefits from the opportunities presented by globalization.

Africa's challenges are numerous, including poverty, unemployment, and instability. These issues require a comprehensive approach, involving political, economic, and social reforms. The international community must work together with African governments to address these challenges and promote sustainable development.

In conclusion, Africa's position on the global stage is changing, and it is essential that the continent is not left behind. With the right support and investment, Africa has the potential to become a major player in the global economy, contributing to the growth and prosperity of the world as a whole.
Pretoria seen as pivotal to Africa’s economic axis

THE establishment of a Pretoria--Abuja-Cairo trading and investment axis has been suggested as a way to upgrade Africa’s economic performance.

The idea first surfaced during a meeting between President F W de Klerk and former Nigerian head of state Gen Olusegun Obasanjo, writes Nigerian newspaper editor Olantunji Dare in the latest edition of the magazine, Africa Forum.

“The discussions with De Klerk at the Union Buildings in July flowed so smoothly, amiably and constructively that Obasanjo suggested that Pretoria and Abuja (the next seat of the Nigerian government) could constitute a kind of axis on which the continent would spin. De Klerk was clearly excited. He suggested that the concept be expanded to include the Egyptian capital, Cairo,” Dare writes.

“Developments in Europe and elsewhere and the emergence of the post-apartheid SA could provide the catalyst of the economic transformation of the continent with a major axis pivoted on Pretoria, Abuja and Cairo,” says Dare.

Nigeria and SA are roughly equally powerful economically in relation to their neighbours, although in real terms SA would wield more power because of the greater diversity of its economy, Dare writes.

Both countries offer major investment and trading attractions to the outside world as economic centers of manufacturing for their regions and because of the size of their markets.

Nigeria offers by far the largest trading market on the continent, and SA has a greater long-term potential, although SA is more attractive in the short term because of its more developed market and infrastructure.

For Africa, Egypt is a major gateway to the Middle East as well as the Mediterranean. Its infrastructure is one of the best in North Africa and the Middle East and it provides skilled manpower for many Arab countries, he says.

Dare adds that the single European market of 1992 and developments in the Pacific Rim and Eastern Europe are a warning to Africans to look to themselves, rather than others.

Black business tours Far East

THEO RAWANA

SIXTY-FIVE black businessmen have planned a 10-day trip to the Far East to set up links with their Asian counterparts, SA Business Interest Group (Sabig) president Lucas Seboe said on Friday.

The Business Observation Mission to the Far East would visit Taipei, Tokyo, Shenzhen, Guangzhou and Hong Kong, and would participate in the International Electronics Show at the World Trade Centre in Taipei.

“The primary objective of the mission, which leaves on October 3, is to assist small businessmen to establish international contacts for future networking, communications and technological cooperation,” Seboe said.

Highlights of the trip included attending the 80th National Day Celebrations as guests of the Chinese foreign affairs ministry, meeting machinery and plant manufacturers in the Japan Information Exchange Forum, as well as officials of the Keidanren (Federation of Japanese Economic Organizations), and visiting Japanese companies Sony and Nissan.
Many Madagascans killed in clashes

ANTANANARIVO. — Madagascar's opposition, declaring "open war" on President Didier Ratsiraka, said yesterday that at least 31 people were killed in separate weekend clashes with security forces on the Indian Ocean island.

An opposition spokesman said at least 20 people were killed on Saturday in the north-eastern port town of Mahajanga.

He gave no other details and there was no independent confirmation of the report.

Meanwhile, a government communiqué confirmed that 11 people died and over 200 were injured in a parallel anti-government demonstration near the capital, Antananarivo.

It said they were killed during "an illegal assault" on the presidential palace, 12km south of the capital, but denied that troops had shot anyone.

They had fired over the heads of the demonstrators and used teargas to disperse them when they began stoning soldiers.

Saturday's clashes were the first major violent incidents in a 16-week opposition campaign to force Mr Ratsiraka to step down after 16 years in office.

Thousands of people thronged the capital's May 13 Square yesterday morning to demonstrate their continuing opposition to Mr Ratsiraka and renew calls for radical reform.

Yesterday the Council of Christian Churches, an ecumenical organisation, issued a statement condemning what it called Saturday's "armed repression" at the presidential palace. — Sapa-Reuters
On Madagascar

Rastrika's Hold

Killing Three Thin

Madagascar's Mass King

Madagascar's mass king

...
WORLD IN FOCUS

By HEBA SALEH

ANTANANARIVO, the capital of Madagascar, has been the scene of mass demonstrations by hundreds of thousands demanding change. President Didier Ratsiraka responded by sacking his government and promising multi-partyism.

But that was not enough for the protesters, who demanded the resignation of the president, a naval officer who came to power in 1975.

It took little persuasion from the Lifeblood coalition, an alliance of six opposition parties, to bring about a crippling civil service strike in June and drive tens of thousands of protesters into the streets of Antananarivo.

Demonstrations have taken place almost daily ever since. They often involve up to 300,000 people supporting opposition demands for a new non-socialist constitution and for reform of electoral laws. Now they also want Ratsiraka to resign.

Lifeblood is

During 16 years at the head of the Malagasy state, Ratsiraka first experimented with a centrally-planned socialist economy, then changed course toward a free-market economy.

The change came about because the economy was performing badly and by 1980 the Malagasy had lost up to half their purchasing power.

Economic reform involved swallowing the bitter pill of a structural adjustment programme from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) which drove up prices, revived growth in the banking and trade sector but did little for the most people.

The Malagasy live mainly on farming and the export of cash crops such as coffee, olives and
The opposition is still divided on whether to press for new elections. To date, the opposition has not uniformly demanded the resignation of the current government and called for a new election. This lack of coordination among opposition leaders has made it difficult to present a united front.

The government, on the other hand, has been able to control the situation, at least for now. President [Name] has been able to maintain a tight grip on power, despite the challenges posed by the opposition movements.

However, the situation is constantly evolving, and the opposition is looking for new strategies to gain traction and eventually bring down the current administration.

In the meantime, the government continues to focus on economic policies aimed at stabilizing the country's economy. The government has been successful in attracting foreign investment and promoting economic growth, which has helped to improve the country's standing in the international community.
History shows us how the industrialised European countries exploited Africa, Asia and South America and their peoples. In fact, underdevelopment in Africa was essential for the development of the industrial countries of the western world. Britain only became ‘Great’ Britain because of the wealth she was able to extract by colonising and underdeveloping areas on several continents.

Kwame Nkrumah, President of Ghana, the first British colony to gain independence, said, “The aim of all colonial government in Africa and elsewhere has been the struggle for raw materials; and not only this, but the colonies have become the dumping ground and colonial people the recipients of manufactured goods of the industrialists and capitalists of Great Britain...”

Colonialism

European countries robbed the African continent of its natural resources, labour and wealth in order to benefit their own economies. Words or terms used by historians can often confuse students, so it is important for you to understand the difference between the terms used.

Socialist writers refer to the underdevelopment of Third World countries. Often colonialism had limited or even prevented economic growth in these countries. Let’s look at an example. British colonised Ghana and created the economy of Ghana on the production of cocoa for the world cocoa market. The price of cocoa was determined by the demand for and supply of cocoa to the world’s population. If the price was high, Ghana prospered. But if the price ‘topped’, Ghana’s economy would fall.

Britain, France, Portugal, Germany and Belgium colonised the African continent. Only Liberia, Egypt and Abyssinia (Ethiopia) were independent states, but they too fell under the financial control of other countries. For example, the USA invested millions of dollars in Liberia and owned one million acres of land there. Similarly, Britain and French companies owned the Suez Canal Company in Egypt until Abdul Nasser nationalised it in 1956. Britain’s colonies in Africa included Botswana, Lesotho, Swaziland, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Kenya, Ghana and Nigeria. The French colonised large areas of northern-western Africa, including the Ivory Coast, Sierra Leone, Mauritania, Chad, the Cameroun and the Central African Republic.

Belgium colonised Zaire (formerly the Belgian Congo). Portugal colonised Guinea Bissau, Angola and Mozambique, whereas Germany controlled Namibia until it became a mandate of South Africa in 1919. South Africa was supposed to look after Namibia until independence. In reality, South Africa tried to incorporate Namibia and the country only gained independence on 21 March 1990.

Life in Africa under colonialism

Here we will look at certain areas such as the exploitation of African workers, racism, the creation of wealth, social services, communication and administration. The African subsistence farmers (those who produced for their own needs) were gradually forced off their land as large overseas companies bought up the land to produce food for the world market. Dispossessed of their land, subsistence farmers were forced to move into the towns and look for work. They became the back-up needed by overseas companies. Their wages were generally low. The indigenous people lost their traditional way of life. Overpopulation in towns often led to unemployment and then increased starvation and malnutrition.

Racially white. Colonialists generally believed that there were “superior” to the indigenous people. They used this to justify wage differences. During the worldwide depression (1929 - 1933), wage levels were the lowest possible and poverty became the norm in Africa.

The natural resources and minerals of Africa enabled overseas companies to make large profits. Phosphates, oil, lead, zinc, manganese and iron ore were exploited in North Africa; copper was mined in Zambia; tin in Nigeria; gold and manganese in Ghana and chromium in Zimbabwe. These minerals were only the tip of the ice-berg of all minerals found in Africa. Yet the profits with the world sales of these minerals only benefited overseas companies and countries. Likewise, the indigenous African people employed on the land produced cash crops for the export market. Many African farm workers were forced to grow cash crops by ‘gun and whip’.

Social services in colonial Africa were provided for the colonists and a small, educated African elite who worked hand-in-glove with the colonists. Medical, health and educational services were not provided for the majority of people. Historian Walter Rodney wrote, “In Algeria, the figure for infant mortality was 3'7 per 1,000 births among white settlers; but it jumped to 170 per 1,000 live births in the case of Algerians living in the towns”.

Education in colonial Africa rested in the hands of the Christian church. Missionaries were sent out to spread the gospel and convert the indigenous people to Christianity. Mission schools were established and education was taught in a manner that was used for conversion. A UNESCO report of 1958 stated, “Of this population (of around 170 million), a little more than 25 million are of school-going age and of these nearly 13 million have no opportunity of going to school - and of the ‘privileged’ 12 million, less than half complete their ordinary education. Only three out of every 100 children see the inside of a secondary school, while not even two out of every 1,000 have a chance of receiving some higher education in Africa itself. The overall estimated illiteracy rate of 90 to 85% is nearly twice that of the world figure”.

Communication and transport networks via road and rail were essentially geared to assist trade between the colonies and the ‘mother’ country. Only major towns were connected to harbours so that imports and exports could be transported easily. Each colonial power used a different method to administer its colonies. Britain practised decentralisation. Indigenous African leaders from the educated elite were chosen to rule on behalf of the ‘mother’ country. These leaders had been schooled in the missionary, colonial tradition and impressed different values on their people, in contrast to their traditional values. France, Belgium and Portugal centralised their administration and colonial governors administered their colonies.

Life under colonial rule was harsh on the indigenous people and resistance against foreign rulers grew. This resistance gained support after World War Two when soldiers who had fought for their colonial ‘mother’ countries returned home and transmitted the war message to their own situation. One Nigerian soldier commented, “We want freedom. Nothing but freedom”.

In next week’s article, we will discuss the independence movements.
Africa's new wind of change

Old attitudes are giving way to realism, writes Barry Mthombathi from Lusaka.

OPINION
Third World 'must provide good govt"

LONDON — Third World regimes must respect human rights and provide "good government" if they want Western economic aid, says Britain's Overseas Development Minister.

Writing in the Sunday Times of London, Lynda Chalker said taxpayers were repelled by aid going to corrupt, oppressive regimes.

"For 20 years, smart opinion dubbed any criticism by Western countries of the political systems of developing countries as 'neo-colonialist'. Like much of the conventional wisdom of the period, this was claptrap. Errant regimes can no longer cloak their authoritarian tendencies in Marxist jargon or look to a superpower to bail them out," she said.

She defined good government as sound economic and social policies, government accountability and respect for human rights.

Britain had cut off all but humanitarian aid to Sudan, Somalia and Burina. — Sapa-AP.
Something rotten afoot in Africa — you can bank on it

In Europe, the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) was closed down when it was found to be corrupt. In Africa, its branches have been kept open for the same reason. In many of the 17 African countries in which BCCI operates, it is close to the politically powerful — who are also rich.

There are reports, proven or rumoured, that BCCI was as corrupt in Africa as elsewhere. The closure of its branches in Europe and the United States caused a run on its branches in Africa, but in Nigeria, Egypt, Kenya, Seychelles, Mauritius, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Cameroun it has stayed open.

Unlike in Europe, BCCI played a central role in many African economies, and where it has closed, even temporarily, credit has run dry and business has ground to a halt.

But probably more important, in the minds of some powerful politicians who stepped in to keep their local branches going was the fact that it provided them with easy loans and transferred their funds, often illegally, to Europe, where they and their families could shop and spend their holidays.

It was used by many African millionaires and east African Asians whose main wealth was kept in Europe but who maintained businesses in Kenya or tried to re-establish businesses in Uganda or Tanzania.

In west Africa, BCCI was used widely by the Lebanese community, who carry on much of the trading — legal and illegal — along the coast. Some of them will have been ruined by its closure.

BCCI appears to have wooed the rich and powerful in Africa in the direct personal way that became its hallmark, transferring funds with a minimum of paperwork compared with the painfully slow bureaucracies of most banks in Africa.

The bank seems to have made a particular pitch for African ambassadors and high commissioners, many of whom had their personal and embassy accounts with BCCI in London.

It also demonstrated its political commitment by enabling at least two poor countries to stand up to the International Monetary Fund at crucial moments, giving rise to suspicion in many African countries that its closure is yet another plot against the poor and Islamic.

BCCI also supported the Third World Foundation and former US President Jimmy Carter's agriculture assistance organisation, the Global 2000 Foundation. It maintained South magazine, which promoted a "Third World" view but folded in 1990.

"The Third World Prize", a cash award to heroes of developing countries was also backed by the bank. Nelson and Winnie Mandela won it in 1981 and Julius Nyerere, the socialist former President of Tanzania in 1985.

The biggest BCCI operation in Africa was in Nigeria, where it had 49 branches and its assets were valued at $844 million (about R1,6 billion).

Like most private institutions in Nigeria, it has a reputation for corruption and in the past five years Nigeria has become a major drug-smuggling staging post.

News of BCCI's closure caused customer panic, but the branches stayed open — and the bank changed its name to African Bank International after the 80 percent foreign holding was bought by the Sultan of Sokoto, a close associate of Nigerian President Ibrahim Babangida.

In Kenya, BCCI was found guilty of coffee-smuggling three years ago and fined $33 million (about R64 million). In 1979 after BCCI was found to be transferring money out of the country illegally, George Saitoti, then Finance Minister, issued a notice saying it was not allowed to deal in gold or transfer money out of Kenya.

Despite this reputation, the 49 percent overseas stake in the country has been bought by Ketan Somaiya, a Kenya, close to President Daniel arap Moi.

Mr Somaiya has also bought the overseas stake in the branches in the Seychelles and Mauritius. He is believed to have paid around $35 million (about R68 million) for the stake in BCCI Kenya.

In Botswana, rumours of corruption led the Government of the Central Bank to say that it had been an investigation, but he said there was no evidence of corruption.

In Zimbabwe, where the government has a 55 percent share, BCCI has remained open despite heavy withdrawals.

In Cameroon, the bank first announced it would close down, then changed its mind, but its accounts are frozen and it is said to hold a third of the government's reserves. — The Independent News Service.
When families run away

Caring for

Ivory Coast’s

abandoned

Aids patients

MR. Roger Fayehou, pointed a thin finger at a volunteer hospital orderly and said, “Without him I wouldn’t be alive today.”

Fayehou (32), a skeletal man who says his legs are too weak to support him, is terminally ill with Aids in an Ivory Coast hospital.

A native of Benin, he worked in Ivory Coast as a shipping agent. Now that he has no income, his wife and five children have gone home to live with relatives, leaving him alone.

Without the help of a volunteer organisation called Espejo-Cote d’Ivoire (Hope-Ivory Coast), Fayehou would have nothing but a bed and a bit of hospital food until he died.

Scared

“There are plenty of people here who have been abandoned,” said the 28-year-old orderly, Espejo-Cote d’Ivoire volunteer Mr Adama Niiatma. “When the family finds out people have Aids they just go away.

“Sometimes it’s because they’re scared of the disease, but also it’s because they know it costs a lot of money for the medicine and the patient will die anyway.”

Cash-strapped countries throughout Africa can’t cope with the AIDS epidemic, which is overwhelming their health care systems.

Ivory Coast, which has seen its cocoa-based economy collapse due to low world prices, has one of the highest AIDS infection rates in the world. The disease is the leading cause of death among adult males in Abidjan.

The epidemic has knocked big holes in the traditional African health safety net provided by an extensive family network.

In many parts of Africa, families of hospital patients provide food, do the washing up, change bed linen and wash clothes. When the patient has to come home to convalesce or to die - the family is there.

But not necessarily for Aids victims. Fayehou depends on volunteers to help him survive in a spartan room with five other men at the infectious diseases ward of Ivory Coast’s busiest hospital in the Treichville district of the capital Abidjan.

He said he had had only 10 cents worth of bread to eat the previous day.

The pills he takes to control chronic diarrhoea, which has left him weighing about 35 kg, and were bought for him by Espejo-Cote d’Ivoire, have run out.

Pains

He smiled, despite what he said were shooting pains in his stomach and intestines. “They tell me my entire stomach is infected,” he said. “But when I get better I’m going to go straight back to Benin - to my wife and children.”

Niiatma and 22 other Espejo-Cote d’Ivoire volunteers make the rounds of the infectious diseases ward every morning. They greet patients, help them tidy up and arrange their bed linen.

In almost every bed there is a thin man who has barely enough energy to respond. Some of them do not know they are infected with the incurable Aids virus that wrecks the body’s immune system.

Ivory Coast, which reported 118 Aids cases four years ago, told the World Health Organisation it had 6,836 full-blown cases of Aids as of March this year. Health researchers estimate the number is at least six or seven times that.

Dr Kevin de Cock, of the US-funded research programme RETRO-CI, said: “There could be 200,000 to 300,000 HIV-infected people in this country in the next 10 years.

“The patients are flooding in... It is an enormous problem.”

Dr Justine Agnes, one of the founders of Espejo-Cote d’Ivoire, said the Aids problem is overwhelming. “People are afraid of Aids, they are afraid of death. They know there is no cure. We have to teach them not to be afraid.”

Agnes, Belgian nun Sister Catherine Mausen and three doctors formed Espejo-Cote d’Ivoire last year to try to fill the gap left when families abandoned Aids patients.

They readily admit their 22 volunteers are overwhelmed. Their funds - some R18,770 - are paltry.

“The economic crisis
Cameroon conference invites SA business

SA businessmen will be prominent participants in the first "Cape to Cairo, all Africa business conference" to be held in Cameroon in October, says an organiser.

The conference, which plans to attract about 600 business leaders from all African regions, was officially announced in the Cameroon capital Yaounde yesterday, said local organiser Jacques Verster, who is MD of public relations company Bairds.

The latest issue of Leadership magazine reports that several prominent SA companies have contributed to funding the conference, including Eskom, Transnet, MNet, Safair and Sanbank.

Leadership reports that the conference will be local businessmen's first opportunity to meet openly and informally with their African counterparts.

The conference is being organised by the Movement for Dialogue and Co-operation (MDC), a Paris-based organisation.

Verster said yesterday funding for the conference, expected to run to about R2.5m, would come from African businessmen across the continent. He did not comment on the SA contribution.

The conference will be held from October 28 to 31.

Keynote addresses will be delivered by Pan African Institute of International Relations chairman and former OAU secretary-general Edem Kodjo, Preferential Trade Area secretary-general Bingu wa Mutharika and Eskom CE Ian McIae.

Verster said the ANC, the PAC and other political and business groupings had been consulted about the conference.

More than 1500 companies will be sent invitations to the conference.
Hostel horror: 24 die

TWENTY-FOUR hostel dwellers were shot, stabbed and hacked to death during a raid by armed men in Soweto at the weekend.

Seven of the 12 injured were still in a critical condition late yesterday. Five were treated and discharged.

The attack took place on Sunday at the Concor dome of Meadowlands Hostel where workers employed by Concor Construction are housed.

Soweto police said yesterday the incident was a revenge killing.

Soweto police spokesman Colonel Tienie Hlabzeyi said: "The attack was carried out by Zulus. It seems they were avenging the death of another Zulu who was killed by unknown men at the hostel on Saturday."

Survivors of the attack, however, dismissed the police claims. They said their attackers had told them they should leave the area.

Brandishing

Mr Zamile Kisa (33), who was shot in the right elbow, said a mob wearing red headbands and brandishing sticks and omagis gathered at the gate about 2.30pm.

"They told the security guard at the gate that they had come to drive Xhosas out of the hostel. There was chaos as people ran for cover."
The room of excitement

No turning back the clock

The benefits of Conservative policies for Southern Africa will say, says Gerald T. Ange
Chaos as govt and opposition ‘rule’

ANTANANARIVO -- After 11 weeks of street protests against the rule of President Didier Ratsiraka, confusion reigns in Madagascar with both the opposition and government claiming to be in charge.

Informed sources said Prime Minister Guy Willy Rannanamany held talks yesterday on forming a new government, two days after the opposition said it was assuming power because Ratsiraka was no longer in control.

The Active Forces Coalition of opposition groups across the political spectrum said it was suspending until today the daily rallies that have been mounted by tens of thousands of people to press Ratsiraka to step down after 16 years in power.

The coalition said it had held meetings to thrash out common policy and agree on a new government.

Ratsiraka and Razanamasy appeared on state television on Monday to reject the opposition’s claim to rule and signed a decree extending for a further 15 days a state of emergency declared on July 23.

The informed sources said officials of Ratsiraka’s government were still at work on Wednesday in five of the six provinces.

Last weekend those five provinces declared federal status within a state headed by Ratsiraka — a manoeuvre widely seen as a plot to undermine the opposition.

The only province not to go along was that of the capital Antananarivo, bastion of the anti-Ratsiraka opposition.

After 11 weeks of strikes and demonstrations, most banks and businesses in the capital are closed and long queues form outside the few petrol stations still open.

The position of the 54-year-old leader, reported to be at his desk in a bunker-like presidential palace 20km south of the capital, looks hopeless, political analysts say.

One minister in the opposition “shadow government” has resigned — underlying strains within the anti-Ratsiraka coalition — after criticising the decision to organise a march on the presidential palace that erupted in violence and at least 16 deaths, after the weeks of peaceful protest.

Yesterday, a group of retired army officers added its voice to calls for Ratsiraka to quit in the interest of national unity. — Sapa-Reuters.
MIKHAI GORBACHEV is generally credited — or blamed, depending on the point of view — for drastically altering the Soviet profile in Africa. In 1985 the Soviet Union was the ally of progressive forces in Africa, including the national liberation movement. By early 1991, the picture had changed.

The Soviet government curtailed its "fraternal" support to African states, stopped military credits to former allies (Ethiopia, for instance), and established an understanding with Western powers on the remaining conflicts in Africa — an understanding not universally welcomed by African leaders.

Gorbachev’s demise and his replacement by a traditionalist team raises the question of whether we will now see a return to the old Soviet policy of active opposition to capitalist interests in the Third World.

I think that this is highly unlikely, although the new rulers in Moscow are invoking images of the Soviet Union as "a great power exerting a fundamental influence on the international situation throughout the world!", as one of them put it. Perhaps they will try to regain lost ground in Africa, but I remain sceptical about their chances of success.

The first reason is that the Soviet Union has very few levers of influence to its credit. Most of its erstwhile African allies have turned their backs on the Soviet model of development, also known as the "non-capitalist path".

Until such time as the Soviet leadership can come up with a new model, Africa will hardly be interested in what the Soviet Union has to offer. In terms of economic aid the USSR is also a spent force. Today they themselves are recipients of "imperialist" aid and it is difficult to see how the weak Soviet economy could soon regain a competitive edge.

On the military front, the Soviet defence force has been so disadvantaged economically and in terms of disarmament treaties that it hardly retains a global reach, either directly or by means of an aid policy.

For the foreseeable future the Soviet defence force will concentrate on consolidating its position within the Soviet Union, and on its posture in relation to NATO in Europe. Africa will be relatively low on this priority list.

Anyway, a possible Soviet military role in Africa depends on their being invited to play a role. I doubt that there are groups and leaders in Africa who seriously contemplate this.

At the end of the day we will have to accept that Africa has become so marginalised that a repeat of the East-West competition which took place on the continent during the Cold War is virtually impossible.

If such rivalry is revived it will probably be in the Middle East.

The era of superpower competition in Africa is something of the past — and a good thing that is too. Africa was caught up for too long in the ideological battles precipitated by colonialism and anti-colonialism.

Now is the time for post-colonial reconstruction.

The Soviet Union, whether under Gorbachev or under a traditional cabal, still has to convince us that it can play a significant role in the reconstruction of Africa.
Anti-Colonialism in Africa

In the previous article we highlighted the evils of colonial rule and the domination of European powers in Africa. The struggles by the people of Africa for political independence and national liberation achieved successes after the Second World War (1939 - 1945). The crisis of world capitalism which brought about the war and was intensified by the war gave the space for the colonial peoples to score victories in India, China and increasingly in Africa. But the Second World War also signalled a change in imperialism. No longer were the colonial colonies essential to capitalist exploitation of the Third World. In fact, the chief imperialist power after the Second World War was the USA which had never had colonies like Britain, France and Portugal. The victorious anti-colonial struggle of the African people therefore found that on achieving political independence they were still at the mercy of the imperialist world market which was dominated by the USA.

These ex-colonial countries such as South Africa, (which obtained political independence in 1910), Australia and Canada and achieved economic growth, did not to the extent that their growth tied in with the interests of imperialism. Most of the rest of the ex-colonial countries won political independence but with the tentacles of imperialism strangled them economically.

The first president of independent Ghana, Kwame Nkrumah, summed up the forces behind the independence movements when he stated that “the African revolution... is defined by three political components of our liberation movement - namely: Nationalism, Pan Africanism and Socialism”. We shall focus on these concepts in relation to the anti-colonial struggle within Africa.

African nationalism was a desire to make African countries organize powerfully and free from oppression by other countries. It was a protest against foreign rule and domination. The key aims of the African nationalistic movements were to end foreign rule and domination, reject racial prejudice, demand equality and the hope that political independence would lead to economic independence.

Different methods and tactics were used to achieve independence. Although both Ghana and Kenya were British colonies, different methods were used to achieve independence from British rule. Kwame Nkrumah favoured non-violent struggle and used the strike and boycott weapon. On the other hand, Kenya was forced to resort to the armed struggle. Oginga Odinga of Kenya said, “Kenyan nationalism turned violent because for thirty years it was denied all legitimate outlets.”

Pan Africanism focused on the need for all African countries to unite on matters of common interest to Africa. Generally, Pan Africanism aimed to end colonial rule and achieve independence for the entire African continent and its people. George Padmore said that “for Pan Africanism, the self-determination of the independent territories is the prerequisite to the federation of self-governing states on a regional basis, leading ultimately to the creation of a United States of Africa”.

Socialism was seen by many people as the possible solution to the problems of colonialism and imperialism. Socialism was the belief that the working people, not private capitalists, should control and own the means of production, such as land, factories, banks, railways and so on. Socialism would ensure the equal distribution of the wealth of a country amongst its people. Capitalism, had resulted in unequal distribution of wealth and land.

All these ideologies were present in the movements for African liberation and independence. Now we shall briefly examine the struggles in Ghana, Zimbabwe and Zaire. You should try to see the different methods used to achieve liberation.

The Gold Coast (Ghana)

This was the first British colony to gain independence. In 1947, Kwame Nkrumah and his supporters formed the United Gold Coast Convention (UGCC) but had little success. In 1948, Nkrumah founded the Convention People’s Party and used strikes and boycotts as weapons to force Britain to recognise the independence of Ghana. In 1957, Britain agreed and Nkrumah was elected the first president of Ghana. He followed a Pan Africanist line and also maintained contact with eastern European countries and the People’s Republic of China. Although politically independent, the economy of Ghana was dependent on one export crop - cocoa. Ghana was unable to break all economic ties with Britain. In 1966, Nkrumah’s government was overthrown in a coup by Akwasi Afrifa.

Nkrumah and the Queen of England during a garden party in 1961.

South Rhodesia (Zimbabwe)

The struggle for Zimbabwean independence was summed up in one word, Chiremaenga. This was interpreted to mean revolution, war, struggle or resistance. In 1965, the Rhodesian Front (RF), under the leadership of Ian Smith and representing the settler population, made a Unilateral Declaration of Independence (UDI) from its colonial ruler, Britain. The RF did not want the vote for all inhabitants of the British colony of Southern Rhodesia. They denied political rights to the indigenous people. Britain, in collaboration with the United Nations, applied economic sanctions against Southern Rhodesia. The RF banned the Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU), declared a state of emergency and detained political leaders, including Robert Mugabe and Joshua Nkomo.

The Zimbabwean people resorted to the armed struggle to gain freedom. Guerrilla warfare intensified and attempts to find a negotiated peace settlement failed. In 1979, at Lancaster House in London a constitution was worked out for the Zimbabwean people by Britain and the leaders of the Patriotic Front. In 1980, the Patriotic Front won the elections which followed the Lancaster agreement. Robert Mugabe became the first president of Zimbabwe.

The Belgian Congo (Zaire)

Ideological differences were highlighted in this liberation struggle. In 1960, Patrice Lumumba, a socialist, became the first President of an independent Zaire. He was opposed by Moise Tshombe, who had the support of the mining companies in the rich copper Katanga region as well as from the western capitalist countries including Belgium. A civil war broke out between the supporters of socialism and capitalism. The United Nations organised an armed force to monitor the situation. In 1961, Lumumba was assassinated. Guerrilla warfare spread throughout the provinces. Tshombe eventually became Prime Minister but worked hand in glove with the USA government. In 1965, he was also overthrown and a military dictator, Colonel Mobutu, came to power.

Today, African countries play a dominant role in world politics and are a powerful bloc within the United Nations Organization. In the next article we shall discuss the formation and structure of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU).

Activity

Pair the words in the left hand column with the ones in the right hand column. You might like to join them with a line. We have done the first one for you.

Column A

1. liberation
2. democracy
3. nationalism
4. pan-africanism
5. socialism
6. capitalism
7. colonialism
8. anti-colonialism
9. guerrilla warfare
10. civil war

Answers

1.e; 2.i; 3.d; 4.e; 5.j; 6.f; 7.b; 8.g; 9.h; 10.a;

Column B

a. war between inhabitants of a country
b. when one country rules another
c. the unity of African countries
d. a protest against foreign rule
e. freedom
f. private ownership of land, factories etc.
g. to rule independently
h. unconventional warfare
i. one person one vote
j. state ownership of land, factories etc.
African debt woes pile up

LUSAKA — The alarming levels of external debt in the preferential trade area (PTA) member states in Africa indicate the urgent need for regional co-operation in trade.

The editorial of the PTA newsletter says the total debt of the 17 members, excluding Somalia, rose from $36.42 billion in 1995 to $34.44 billion in 1996.

An economist at the PTA secretariat in Lusaka says the figure stated in the newsletter is conservative and estimates this to have gone up to $44 billion.

Zambia's debts amounted to $7.2 billion by 1995, second only to Sudan, whose external debt amounted to $12.3 billion in the same year.

The lowest figure is for Djibouti, with only $191 million.

Increases over 1995 figures in terms of rank percentage and not in real terms show Angola recorded the highest, followed by Burundi and Lesotho.

This aspect is attributed to donors demanding conditions on borrowed funds, while some of them require the debtor countries to source goods from them even if such goods are available locally.

Inadequate production of quality export goods has contributed to trade imbalances, failing prices of primary commodities, high interest rates, depreciation of national currencies and dependence on mono export products. — Sapa.
African babies' AIDS nightmare

Estimates of HIV-infected women

Source: World Health Organization

THE devastating impact that AIDS is going to have in Africa is dramatically shown by this graphic.

One of the most tragic aspects of the AIDS pandemic in Africa is that, unlike other regions of the world, nearly half of those infected with the disease are women.

This means there are more doomed babies being born with AIDS in Africa than anywhere else. The graphic, based on figures supplied by the World Health Organization, is published in the latest edition of the United Nations magazine Africa Recovery.

Whichever way it is looked at, it shows the severity of the AIDS infection in Africa compared with the rest of the world. The situation has been described by the UN Children's Fund (Unicef) as "a calamity whose dimensions are scarcely comprehensible".

Of every 100,000 women of child-bearing age in Africa, 2,500 are infected with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. The comparative figure is 140 in North America, 70 in Western Europe and 30 in Asia.

Of the 6 million to 10 million adults estimated to be HIV-infected throughout the world, nearly 6 million are in Africa. And of these, 600,000 have full-blown AIDS. In addition, 900,000 children are HIV-infected and nearly 500,000 of them have AIDS.

The International Research Office of the United States Census Bureau estimates that in 25 years' time 70 million Africans could be infected with HIV.

UN estimates are that "child mortality rates may rise as much as 50 percent in much of sub-Saharan Africa during the Nineties, wiping out the gains in child survival that have been achieved over the past two decades.

"Another 10 million children may be orphaned by the deaths from AIDS of their mothers or both parents."

Unicef says the key to preventing a massive toll among children is to contain the spread of AIDS among women, since about a quarter of all pregnant women who are HIV-positive pass the infection on to their new-borns.
its mouth loomed at
a stall horse needing

SAEN LIONETE

VERIFIED THIS MONTH

ERITAS
Trade will cut debt

REGIONAL co-operation in trade is the only way to reduce the high level of debt among Preferential Trade Area (PTA) member states.

An editorial in the latest PTA newsletter says the total debt of the 17 members, excluding Somalia, increased from $36.416-billion in 1985 to $54.437-billion in 1989.

An economist at the PTA secretariat in Lusaka said the figure stated in the newsletter was conservative and estimated this to have gone up to about $64-billion.

Zambia's debts of over $7.2-billion in 1989 were second only to Sudan, whose external debt was $12.3-billion.

The lowest debt figure was for Djibouti with only $191-million.

Inadequate production of quality export goods has contributed to trade imbalances, falling prices of primary commodities, high interest rates, depreciation of national currencies and dependence on single export products.

On a favourable note, the newsletter said inter-PTA trade increased by six percent during the same period, but it called for increased trade among member countries to realise the projected goals.

Sapa
ANTANANARIVO — Prime Minister Guy Ravanamasy yesterday named a new Cabinet — and urged the opposition to accept it.

The 24-member Cabinet is made up mainly of civilians, and includes no members of the six-party opposition coalition. But it does have three Ministers loyal to unpopular President Didier Ratsiraka.

Two military officers were named to head the armed forces and Interior Ministry.

Mr Ravanamasy called on his “opposition brothers and sisters” not to “hold on to rigid positions at the risk of sterilising the common cause”.

The opposition’s 10-week campaign of protest marches, rallies and strikes have demanded that Mr Ratsiraka end his 16 years of socialist rule. — Sapa-AP.
Ghanaian gem mine ‘not viable’

MATTHEW CURTIN

MARKET sources gave a lukewarm reception to news yesterday that a major Canadian nickel company and the largest US diamond cutter would develop a diamond mine in Ghana to compete with De Beers.

Reuter reported that Canadian company Inco would mine and process the diamonds, and Lazarakaplan International would handle marketing and sales.

The mine had the potential to produce up to 1 million carats a year and had reserves of 11 million carats.

De Beers spokesman Andrew Lamont said yesterday the Ghanaian government had advertised for overseas companies to take over the mine in February last year.

De Beers assessed the project at the time and decided that it was not viable because of its low quality reserves. The mine's potential production meant it was a small-scale operation. Total southern African diamond production in 1990 was 23.2 million carats.
Disraeli's New Cabinet Spurned in Madagascar

NEW YORK – A woman protests against the exclusion of opposition forces from the government. Picture: AP
Algeria praises FW, calls for SA links

By James Tomlinson
Star Foreign Service

PARIS — Algeria yesterday called for normal relations with South Africa and praised President de Klerk's peacemaking abilities.

Ever since independence in the '60s, Algiers has been in the forefront of all anti-apartheid moves in Africa and in the United Nations.

But all this has changed, according to: Algerian Foreign Minister Lakhdar Brahimi in an interview appearing yesterday in the Paris daily Figaro.

Asked whether several Arab countries would be prepared to enter dialogue directly with Israel over the Palestinian question, Mr Brahimi replied: "Let me make a comparison with South Africa. Our only problem with this country has been apartheid. There is absolutely no other reason for not being friends. "I believe that there are many things that we can do together. "Despite this, we have carried out a rigid boycott policy just because of apartheid.

"But as surely as the reform process continues in South Africa, we will undoubtedly start normal relations.

"We have a similar attitude to Israel. We would like to see a De Klerk in Tel Aviv."

Asked whether this day was approaching, Mr Brahimi said: "It would be a good thing if we were helped in finding a De Klerk in Israel. For the moment, I do not see anybody. But then, only a few years ago, South Africa also never saw De Klerk."
Aid from the West linked to reform

THE pro-democracy wave sweeping across Africa from Mali to Madagascar may at last trigger economic liberation in the world's poorest region, economists say.

They say decades of mismanagement by military dictators and one-party autocrats have stifled enterprise and investment in countries south of the Sahara.

"A much more free political system is essential if these economies are to move forward," said Gerrishon Ikari, a Kenyan economics professor at the University of Nairobi.

"There has been a lack of accountability (in government), a lack of freedom on investment decisions and excessive bureaucracy," he said in an interview.

Foreign pressure is reinforcing internal opposition to inept or corrupt governments as Western creditors seek better value for their development dollars.

French President Francois Mitterrand led the way last year, linking aid to democratic reforms. Since then, US, British and Canadian officials - among others - have echoed his theme.

International Monetary Fund chief Michel Camdessus, who toured East African one-party states this month, said: "Pluralism, participatory regimes are good friends of development."

Some Western economic experts blame corruption - nurtured by oversized and interfering state bureaucracies - for blocking the benefits of IMF and World Bank-funded market reforms.

Compared with the dazzling pace of political liberalisation in the former East bloc, firm steps toward more democratic systems of government south of the Sahara have been limited.

Three presidents toppled in the region this year. In Somalia, Ethiopia and Mali, were ousted at gunpoint with hundreds killed on the streets of their capitals.

Scores more protesters died as state forces resisted opposition movements in Madagascar, Togo and Cameroon.

Zambia's President Kenneth Kaunda, who has been in power since independence in 1964, faces a tough ride at the first multiparty polls in two decades, due by October.

Ibrahim Babangida, military ruler of regional giant Nigeria, has promised to hand over power to a civilian government by the end of 1992. Contested state elections are due soon.

Africa's Growing Economic Crisis

Falling Revenue
Net revenue going to Africa

Rising Debt
External debt

Slow Growth
Annual average percent change in gross domestic product

Source: United Nations

AP/Alain Basden
THE UN secretary-general has proposed that wealthy nations cancel their official debt to African countries before the continent faces a crisis of "tragic proportions."

Five years after UN members promised to revive Africa's devastated economies, Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar in effect called the programme a failure.

He concluded, in a major report on the plan, that Africa could never develop under a debt burden of 270 billion dollars and proposed that rich countries cancel bilateral government debts, such as was done for Egypt and Poland, and increase their aid.

"By the end of 1990, it had become evident that the African economic crisis had indeed deepened," he said.

"The average African continued to get poorer and to suffer a persistent fall in an already meagre standard of living."

On June 1, 1986, the UN General Assembly adopted a five-year programme which was seen as a watershed in committing wealthy nations to supply resources for development. In turn, African nations promised to restructure their economies, reduce waste and reallocate government funds.

But according to the report resources fell far short of what was needed and many restructuring programmes were half-hearted and shortsighted.

The document was prepared for a review of the programme in General Assembly sessions from September 3 to 13.

Specifically, Dr Perez de Cuellar proposed that the assembly now set concrete targets rather than general goals. These include:

- Doubling per capita income by the year 2015, entailing a six percent annual economic growth rate. Even then annual income would still be only about 700 dollars in most nations.
- Increasing aid to 30 bil-
DBSA 'could be financial powerhouse of Africa'

THE Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA) could become the World Bank of Africa, distributing and allocating international development resources in sub-Saharan countries, says foreign policy director-general Raymond Parsons.

Addressing the Scandinavian-Southern African Business Association in Oslo, Norway, Parsons said the bank's expertise in channelling funds to many competing projects could be put to good use in Southern Africa now that political obstacles were falling away.

"The DBSA was originated with this aim of a broader Southern African perspective in mind," he said.

Currently, the bulk of DBSA funds flow into South African projects. Activities outside South Africa are limited mainly to Lesotho, Mozambique and Namibia.

Referring to current debate on the possibility of SA joining the Southern African Development Co-ordinating Committee (SADCC), Parsons said it could happen soon if SA "played its cards skillfully".

It would have to be sensitive to fear in the region about its economic domination. "Southern Africa does not wish to be re-colonised by the new South Africa," he said.

But the SADCC could not afford to ignore the value of SA's role in the region. With only 40% of Southern Africa's population, SA was responsible for more than 80% of its GNP. It harvested more than 50% of the region's maize, about 80% of its wheat and supplied 70% of its meat. Hundreds of thousands of southern African workers were employed in SA, Parsons said.

In recent years, the value of the SADCC's trade with SA was about four times intra-SADCC trade, while about 70% of the region's trade volume passed through SA.

SA's total trade with southern Africa amounted to R8bn in 1987. Its non-bank investments in Africa were R3,4bn in 1988. The value of SA's exports to the rest of Africa rose by 40% in 1989 and by an estimated 22% in 1990.

Looking farther north, he said economic co-operation between Africa's four economic powers -- Nigeria, Egypt, Kenya and SA -- could treble SA's economic growth rate with significant benefits for its southern African neighbours.
Rich nations urged to cancel Africa’s debts

UNITED NATIONS — Africa faces a crisis of “tragic proportions” and rich nations should cancel the continent’s rising debts and increase their aid, says UN secretary-general Javier Pérez de Cuéllar.

Five years after UN members promised to revive Africa’s devastated economies, he says the continent can never develop under a debt burden of $270 billion in face of a shortage of international aid and the fall in commodities prices.

In a major report on the UN Africa recovery programme, he proposes that rich countries cancel official debt, as was done for Egypt and Poland, and boost their assistance.

He says: “By the end of 1990, it had become evident that the African economic crisis had indeed deepened.

“The average African continued to get poorer and to suffer a persistent fall in an already meagre standard of living.”

On June 1 1996, the UN General Assembly adopted a five-year programme which was seen as a watershed in committing wealthy countries to supply resources for development. In turn, African countries promised to restructure their economies, reduce waste and reallocate government funds.

The report says resources fell far short of what was needed and many restructuring programmes were half-hearted and short-sighted. The programme is to be reviewed in General Assembly sessions from September 3 to 13.

Mr Pérez de Cuéllar proposes that the assembly now set concrete targets rather than general goals. These include:

- Doubling per capita income by the year 2015, entailing a six percent annual economic growth rate. Even then annual income would still be only about $700 in most nations.
- Increasing aid to $30 billion by 1992 from $21 billion in 1990 and continuing to raise it by four percent annually until the year 2000.
- Taking “bold” measures to reduce Africa’s debt, which in 1990 cost at least $23 billion to service.
- Setting up an African Diversification Fund for technical assistance to ease a chronic dependence on primary commodities.

Nine out of 10 African countries depend on commodities for 70 percent or more of their exports, compared with seven out of 10 in Latin America and five out of 10 in Asia. — Sapa-AP.
All-Africa conference in October

By ALI MPHAKI

The world's first All-Africa business conference, SIDCO '91, is to be held in Yaounde, the capital of Cameroon from October 28 to 31.

Speaking at a Press conference held in Sandton this week, Mr Desire Atangana, president of the MDC, said that business leaders from Cape to Cairo would meet to address matters of common interest. The theme is "Exploring Opportunities in a Changing Africa". Keynote addresses will be delivered during plenary sessions and workshops will focus on finance, aid and investment; trade and regional co-operation, energy, transport and tourism.
The paper says that the economic situation has worsened due to the debt crisis in Africa. The debt crisis has led to a reduction in foreign investment and trade, which has further affected the country's economy. The government has been trying to address the crisis by implementing austerity measures and seeking assistance from international organizations. However, the situation remains challenging, and the country is still struggling to recover.
Give us back our ancestral land.
Where should aid go?

3/9/91

Which should be helped more, Africa or eastern Europe and the Soviet Union?

There can be no doubt that the immediate political, economic and strategic interests of the West demand that high priority be given to eastern Europe, Russia and its breakaway republics. If democracy and market economics can be induced to take firm root in those areas, the danger of another war in Europe will be greatly reduced, the prosperity of Europe will be enhanced and the influence of democracy extended.

Africa, in contrast, impinges very little on Western interests. It is unlikely to pose a military threat in the foreseeable future. Its internal wars can be safely ignored. It is a small market and of only limited importance as a supplier of raw materials. It has consumed enormous quantities of aid without visible benefit to itself or the donors. In hard-headed terms, it is an investment that could be written off.

Yet societies that profess liberal values cannot simply turn their backs on starving millions. Priorities are not a simple matter. Even within the former Soviet bloc there will be hard choices to make this winter between competing areas and between the need to relieve suffering in remote parts as against the political value of placing funds where they are most likely to assist democratic politicians.

The lesson learnt by donors over many years is that aid is effective only in conjunction with sound government and the application of appropriate skills. If this principle is universally applied, it will go a little way towards resolving conflicts among priorities. But, there is still an underlying choice of emphasis to be made between attempting to relieve the miserable plight of Africa and investing in the future of Europe. — The Independent News Service.
IP Africa's new breed

Stolen coffers abroad

Attacks bid to recapture

Rankings are to be deported. The pressure on the black town is in effect. It is likely that the pressed farmers have been removed.
Sudan bans relief flights

NAIROBI - Sudan's government has grounded relief flights into the nation's rebel-held and drought-stricken south, cutting off food supplies to more than 100,000 people, a UN official said yesterday.

The order was made on Saturday and particularly jeopardizes relief operations into Nasir, where the UN has been supplying refugees with food and supplies through air drops, said an official with UNICEF.

Hundreds of thousands of Sudanese fled to Nasir from refugee camps in Ethiopia when fighting that toppled Ethiopia's government spread to the camps near its border with Sudan.

Most of the Sudanese sought refuge in the camps in 1988 to escape war and the severe drought that killed more than 230,000 southern Sudanese.

Southern Sudan is controlled primarily by predominantly Christian and animist rebels who have been fighting the country's Muslim-dominated government in the north since 1983.

The ban came one day after a British Broadcasting Corporation reporter interviewed southern Sudanese People's Liberation Army rebels who claimed to have overthrown their commander, John Garang.
LONDON — SA is reported to be making a bid to get involved in oil and mineral exploration and rail transport in Sudan.

The latest Africa Confidential says Pretoria’s deputy director-general of Foreign Affairs, Rufty Evans, met Lt-Gen Omer el Bashir during his August visit to London.

It says the quid pro quo would be permission for SAA to overfly Sudan.

Genmin, Engen and Transnet representatives are expected in Khartoum soon, it says.
Mazrui's love, faith in Africa

IT is difficult, at first, to ascertain exactly what it is that makes Ali Mazrui such a compelling person.

His eyes are gentle, and his smile is real. He walks almost like a priest, slowly and compliant ...

The observer is almost at once overwhelmed by his presence. It is when he speaks of Africa that you recognize the humanity and that conviction in him.

Mazrui speaks out of a love for the continent that runs deeper than Africa's own history. He speaks of Africa's problems as if they were injuries to himself.

As a Kenyan national who has lived through the Mau Mau period and a second "home" in Uganda - Mazrui is cautious about Africa's future.

The continent has been the ideological battleground for the superpowers - the Soviet Union on one hand and the United States of America on the other.

Conflict

South Africa did not escape this conflict altogether.

"Some of your most difficult times are still ahead," Mazrui says.

A political settlement is a long way off, and there are no guarantees it will amount to equal power-sharing.

The two most important levers, the armed struggle and economic sanctions, have been taken away from the liberation movements, Mazrui explains.

The arrival of President Mikhail Gorbachev's glasnost and perestroika is largely to blame for current situation in South Africa.

The ANC and the PAC waged a multilateral struggle against Pretoria with considerable aid from the Soviet Union and countries in the former East Bloc, where Moscow played a decisive role.

And, because of the emerging world order, where American foreign policy now dictated the decisions taken by most developing countries when it came to aid and economic leverage, the South African liberation movements found themselves floundering like beached whales.

This reality made the option of armed struggle and sanctions much more difficult.

"Everywhere else in Africa where there has been a large white minority in power ... there hasn't been a readiness to give up that power without not just a brief but a sustained, armed encounter," he says.

Mazrui was a young man during Kenya's Mau Mau period, and later the Algerian liberation war.

But the Kenyans and Algerians were politically triumphant - though they lost the military struggle - without aid from socialist countries, he says.

The armed struggle of the ANC and the PAC (with the help of socialist countries) could have eventually broken Pretoria (politically) if the socialist countries had sustained their military aid.

Superpower

Nevertheless, the Third World as a whole has been affected by the decline of the Soviet Union, he says.

Africa has emerged as the only superpower and, therefore, no longer is there a world order with checks and balances - a concept which was born in the US.

"It was possible for the Third World to play one superpower off against the other to secure a veto in the (United Nations) Security Council."

Predicament

But where does Africa fit into all of this? What is Africa's predicament in the present world order?

Economically, Africa is going nowhere. Politically there are many achievements. It is likely to be a pretty difficult decade, economically, for much of Africa.

"We haven't solved our problems of production effectively. We may become more dependent, especially on international financial institutions like the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. "Perhaps more than ever, especially if the West diverts money to the Soviet Union."

The relative good news is political ... which is part of the Gorbachev legacy.

"One is that many of our civil wars are coming to an end more rapidly as they used to before Gorbachev.

They (America and the Soviet Union) used to provide Africans with more and more weapons to kill each other with ... the war in Eritrea lasted 30 years. Angola more than 15 years.

"Now that superpower rivalry has ended, there are prospects of very rapid pacification by Africans themselves in Africa," Mazrui says.

There is also a groundswell in pro-democracy movements.

Dictatorships

"Many African populations have become sick and tired of dictatorships and insensitive governments. They are no longer just taking it lying down. They are on the streets demanding change ...

There is widespread change in Africa, much less than in America and Soviet policy on the horizon for Africa. Both are concerned with their traditional ideological bent and who the victors are.

Africa is alone and Africans must take Africa back into the world order - as an economic and political asset not as a liability or a side-show.

Mazrui is the guest speaker at the Weekly Mail Book Week's discussion Race and Culture Identity at the Wits Theatre on Friday September 6.
Reform pays economic dividends.

Political freedom will create growth in Africa, which promotes wealth.
African hunt is on to find billions of ‘stolen’ dollars

ABIDJAN — If Africa’s new breed politicians are to be believed, the hunt is on for billions of embezzled dollars salted away in foreign bank accounts.

In August alone, four governments announced legal moves to recover assets they said were stolen under previous one-party regimes whose fortune was certainly not book-keeping.

Mali, Congo, Liberia and Sao Tome have started a trend which diplomats predict will catch on as more veteran presidents are forced from office.

Ironically, it was Switzerland, whose banks are reputed to be the safest haven for presidential nest eggs, that set the cat among the pigeons.

On August 21, while the world’s attention was focused on the failed coup in the Soviet Union, a statement by the Swiss foreign ministry may have been overlooked among the headlines.

The ministry said it had accepted a request by Mali to hire lawyers to establish whether deposed President Moussa Traore and his entourage had illegally transferred $1bn abroad during the 33 years they ruled.

Mali, as one of the world’s poorest countries, has been a high priority for Swiss development aid.

The upshot of the decision is that part of the Swiss aid budget will pay for Swiss lawyers to investigate whether Swiss aid money has been wrongful deposited in Swiss bank accounts.

In a number of countries a morning-after feeling has already set in as new governments, confronted by empty coffers and mountainous debts, try to recover ill-gotten assets abroad.

In Togo, delegates at the national conference, which has taken effective power from President Gnassingbe Eyadema, asked to be given the same help as Mali.

Liberia’s interim government followed suit, creating an “assets recovery team” working with New York attorneys. Justice Minister Philip Banks said their task was to trace funds allegedly embezzled by high-ups in the 10-year regime of President Samuel Doe.

The national conferences unfolding in French-speaking Africa have heard startling allegations of corruption and embezzlement running into billions of dollars and involving presidents, their families and their cronies.

Congo’s marathon conference this year, ending two decades of authoritarian rule by pro-Marxist soldiers, built a huge radio audience throughout central Africa as the seamy side of power was laid bare.

Two former dignitaries, including a brother of figure-head president Denis Sassou-Nguesso, are in custody over corruption allegations. Justice Minister Martin Bomba went to France in August “to start the process of repatriating assets abroad”, a spokesman said.

But as old-style African presidents have often replied when challenged about the alleged venality of their regimes: “It takes two to tango.”

An economist with the African Development Bank said: “The presidents have to be incriminated, of course. But the Western companies who pay out bribes are just as guilty.”

He feared that even if new African leaders wanted to unearth the truth, they would face resistance from all sides. Foreign governments which looked the other way while their companies paid bribes to obtain huge contracts were unlikely to lead the clean-up, he said. Nor are aid agencies whose managers failed to stop leakage of funds meant for development projects. — Sapa-Reuters.

AMERICAN "ROAD & TRACK" MAGAZINE, DEC. 1990.
Businessmen look at Sudan

LONDON - South Africa is making a bid to get involved in oil and mineral exploitation and rail transport in Sudan, according to the British-based political newsletter, Africa Confidential.

It reports recent talks in London between Mr. Rusty Evans, Pretoria's Deputy Director-General of Foreign Affairs, and Sudan's Lieutenant-General Omar el-Beshir to discuss South African technical co-operation.

The quid pro quo, says the report, would be permission for SAA to overfly Sudan.

Secret meetings

According to Africa Confidential, Mr. Evans declined to comment on reports of a series of secret meetings in Khartoum 18 months ago, but said: "There is hardly a country on the African continent with which we're not in contact at this time."

He said the contacts concerned economic development rather than politics and were "largely through the private sector, with the Government acting only as facilitators."

Representatives of Grumman and Engen companies and the railway, Transnet, are expected to go to Khartoum soon for further talks, Africa Confidential adds.
Acid test for beleaguered Kastriakes.

Navigating the first outcome - a government vendor in Anaheim.

The government has decided to implement a new policy, focusing on the efficient use of resources and the promotion of sustainable development. This decision has been met with mixed reactions from various stakeholders, ranging from environmental activists to business leaders. The government's primary goal is to reduce waste and pollution, thereby improving the quality of life for all residents. The proposed changes include implementing stricter regulations on industrial emissions and promoting the use of renewable energy sources. Critics argue that these measures will stifle economic growth and lead to job losses. While supporters believe that the new policy will create new opportunities and lead to long-term benefits. The debate continues, with many hoping that a compromise can be reached to ensure a sustainable future for all. #Government #Sustainability #EconomicGrowth #Jobs #RenewableEnergy

A NOTABILE - NEW VERSN

POLICY'S EMERGENCY

smart money says that

$24,414

smart money says that
Striking Madagascan civil servants reject ultimatum

By Ken Vernon
Star Africa Service

ANTANANARIVO — Tens of thousands of striking Madagascan civil servants demonstrated through the streets of the capital Antananarivo yesterday in an emphatic rejection of a government ultimatum to return to work or be fired.

The show of solidarity by the country's civil servants has put the political ball firmly back in the government's court.

There is widespread speculation that the week-old government of Prime Minister Guy Razanamasy will now stand down. This move would put further pressure on the embattled President Didier Ratsiraka to do the same.

The civil servants, along with most other workers in Antananarivo, have now been on strike for almost three months as part of a widespread campaign to force President Ratsiraka to resign from office.

Although all the government offices were open and guarded by police and soldiers armed with riot batons yesterday, one government official confirmed that fewer than 5 percent of the civil service had reported for work.

The Star was told by an official at the Ministry of Agriculture that fewer than 50 of the 2,000 workers who normally turned up for work in the government building had obeyed the government's ultimatum.

As the strikers marched past their offices in the centre of Antananarivo they carried banners proclaiming their various ministries and chanted "No, no, no" in reply to the government's demand.

Shops and offices throughout the capital were partially shuttered, the owners fearing that violence could break out between the strikers and security forces.

However, a holiday atmosphere prevailed among the marchers, many of whom carried bunches of flowers to proclaim their peaceful intentions.

As has happened almost daily for the past three months, the strikers gathered at the vast Independence Avenue square to be addressed by opposition politicians.

There has been no communication for some time from Mr Ratsiraka, who remains in seclusion in his heavily guarded palace outside the capital.
SA in bid for new African markets

By Garner Thomson and Phil Molefe

South Africa is trying to get involved in oil and mineral exploitation and rail transport in Sudan, according to the British-based political newsletter Africa Confidential.

It reports on recent talks in London between Rusty Evans, Pretoria's deputy director-general of Foreign Affairs, and Sudan's Lieutenant-General Omer el Becher to discuss South African technical co-operation.

The quid pro quo, says the report, would be permission for South African Airways to overfly Sudan.

According to Africa Confidential, Mr Evans refused to comment on reports of earlier secret meetings in Khartoum 18 months ago.

But he said: "There is hardly a country on the African continent with which we are not in contact at this time." Mr Evans added that the contacts concerned economic development, rather than politics, and were largely through the private sector, with the two governments acting only as "facilitators".

Representatives of Gemmin and Engen companies, and the railway parastatal Transnet, are expected to go to Khartoum soon for further talks, Africa Confidential adds.

Investigate

Contacted for comment by The Star, Mr Evans said South Africa was conducting dialogue with many prominent persons and governments in Africa.

He was, however, not prepared to confirm that he had held a meeting with General el Becher.

In the case of Sudan, the situation was exactly the same as with many other African countries.

"Just as we have sent technical delegations to countries such as Gaben, Cameroon, Congo, Zaire — among others — so we have indicated to the Sudanese government that we would be happy to investigate areas of possible co-operation," Mr Evans said.

"There is no firm agreement for a visit by a delegation to Sudan at this time.

"But nothing stands in the way of the private sector in exploring areas of interest in that country, such as transportation, mineral and petroleum exploration, and the agricultural sector," Mr Evans added.

An Engen spokesman said the company was considering various opportunities on an ongoing basis and would be sending senior personnel to Sudan in the near future to discuss possible business opportunities.

A Gemmin spokesman said the company was not considering any project in Sudan at present.

Transnet referred media inquiries to Economic Coordination and Public Enterprise Minister Dr Dawie de Villiers.

But his office said Transnet was run on normal business principles and did not fall under the Minister's portfolio.

A Sudanese environmental and conservation scientist looks for damage caused by oil spill to the coral growth off the Saudi coast.
Sacób backs call to scrap Africa's debts

Proposals that international banks should cancel the multibillion-rand mountain of foreign debts that burden black Africa have been backed by the South African Chamber of Business.

The proposals that black Africa should be released from official debt obligations — as Poland and Egypt have been — were first put forward by United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

Support for the proposals was urged in Maputo yesterday by Sacób deputy director-general Ron Haywood when he addressed a conference discussing closer cooperation among the nations of southern Africa in a post-apartheid era.

Mr Haywood said it was costing black Africa $23 billion (R66 billion) a year just to pay service charges on loans.

Both the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund were now enforcing greater financial discipline.

Release from debt burdens would have an immediate positive impact on economic development, he said.

There was enormous potential to increase Africa's total exports — which at the moment accounted for only 4 percent of world trade.

But it was critical to reach closer co-operation in the financial sphere, and raise investor confidence with evidence of civil order, overall stability and trustworthy laws.

Mr Haywood welcomed suggestions that some form of corporation be created to channel funds into cross-border co-ordination of joint ventures.

An important lead had already been taken by the Development Bank of Southern Africa, which had so far committed about R5.8 billion to 760 projects — with another 540 projects under consideration.

It was crucial that southern Africa laid the foundations to inspire banks and businessmen with maximum confidence, he said.
No alternative to true democracy

The suspension this week of World Bank assistance to Zambia because it failed, in the face of its first multi-party election, to implement economic reforms should be a lesson to those in this country who want to tamper with the market mechanism, however innocent their motives.

Both foreign investors and aid donors are going to look twice at a country where those in influential positions recommend that a tax be placed on electricity to fund a State television service; or that pension funds be precluded from investing in tobacco companies or in those perceived to be trade union unfriendly. Both these views are reported elsewhere in this edition.

And both would be such a flagrant abrogation of free enterprise principles and lead to such a substantial misallocation of scarce resources that investors and donors will most certainly shy away.

The Third World in general, and Africa in particular, has so mismanaged its affairs that conditionality, hated though it may be by the inefficient and corrupt, has become an essential part of all aid flows.

Moreover, economic conditionality is not going to be enough. It was made very clear at the annual meeting of the World Bank in Washington last September that a rising standard of human rights was also required.

And as most African countries south of the Sahara seem to have taken the view that the only thing worse than a World Bank loan is no World Bank loan, they are going to have to toe the line and democratise. Political inconvenience is no longer the defence — if it ever was — which used to be put up in the Seventies and Eighties.

In SA, those who advocate affirmative action and the misallocation of resources for dubious social reasons may have difficulty securing justification for their views in a world where human rights and free enterprise have found new impetus and where the consequences of past mistakes of this kind are all too obvious.

If interventionists like those in the ANC and Viljoen’s broadcasting Task Group don’t reconsider their policies very carefully, they could become to prosperity what some believe Peter Stuyvesant is to national health.
Page 10.

See Editorial

Commercial failure but from

The UK's economic forecast

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Strong case for interim government

The dispute between the ANC and Pretoria over an interim government is not new in Africa, reports GARY VAN STADEN, senior researcher at the SA Institute of International Affairs. Because incumbent regimes always tend to undermine movements striving for greater democracy, interim governments are imperative, he argues.

AS THE people of South Africa make new demands for their freedom, an identical process has been taking place elsewhere in Africa.

And as minority rule opponents campaign against tyranny and dictatorship, they are all being frustrated by very similar phenomena: incumbent regimes using their power to undermine progress towards democracy.

These events provide a watertight case for interim governments - or transitional authorities.

The Ghanian example. The besieged military government of Jerry Rawlings, facing growing demands from a multiparty democracy, recently passed laws establishing a National Consultative Assembly to draw up a new constitution, another to establish a committee of constitutional experts and yet another granting temporary amnesty to political exiles. Good news for the democrats, hardly.

First, the Rawlings government gets to send 22 nominated representatives to the 260-strong National Consultative Assembly. Then the navy, police, air force and army get to send another 10. The Cocoa and Coffee Farmers Association (government supporters) will be allowed to send another four, while commerce and industry get one each.

Between them the current regime and vested-interest groups have reserved for themselves 143 of the 260 NCA seats. The people get 117, but must select their delegates from existing district assemblies.

To make it harder, the Rawlings government has decreed that any "inappropriate" verbal attacks on the head of state or any of his Ministers during the NCA deliberations will be a crime.

Opposition groups, such as the Movement for Freedom and Justice, are beginning to smell a rat.

They thought democracy would allow for a greater degree of free choice, and feel some type of interim authority would help make the playing field more level.

In Zambia, the opposition to incumbent President Kenneth Kaunda, the Movement for Multiparty Democracy (MMD), is facing similar problems.

The first is that the regime will not disclose the election date.

Secondly, a draft constitution drawn up by the ruling United National Independence Party (Unip) gives more power to the president and very little to an elected parliament.

The draft constitution was approved by the current regime against the recommendations of a parliamentary select committee and without consulting opposition parties.

It makes use of State resources to assist their election campaign, they control the media, and use it to boost their campaign and run down the opposition.

When some editors and journalists began to think democracy meant free speech, they quickly discovered otherwise as they helped swell the ranks of the unemployed.

When the State-controlled radio and TV was accused of biased coverage in favour of Unip, the answer was that the higher profile and functioning of the regime tended to generate greater coverage and there was nothing deliberate in the imbalance.

MMD meetings tend to suffer from minor problems such as power cuts and stolen equipment, and some major ones such as kidnapped speakers. The only things free and fair about the Zambian elections seem to be Unip's free ride and the fact that the MMD is fair game.

In Tanzania the incumbent regime has added new dimensions to the art of electioneering, using the same demands for multiparty democracy, it appointed a presidential commission to collect views on whether Tanzania should keep its one-party system or opt for a multiparty one. The commission was representative - of the government - and that was the beginning of the problems.

The regime always knew where the commission would be going next, so districts were visited by party officials extolling the virtues of a one-party state just before the commission arrived to canvass opinions. The tactic tended to stifle the debate somewhat.

Then, of course, there is that African country closest to our hearts, where the Government has been caught using State funds to undermine its main opposition. That same regime has full control of the most powerful communications networks in Africa and gives its opponents just enough time to make themselves look silly.

When its security forces are accused of attacking the opposition, it swiftly undertakes an investigation, finds itself blameless, and then, without consultation, spends a billion dollars in a transparent attempt to buy political support.

Finally it comes up with a constitutional plan which interprets democracy as five votes for me and one vote for you.

Such behaviour threatens to nip African democracy in the bud. An incumbent regime will play fair when its future is at stake. Interim government, therefore, is a necessary condition for a successful transition to democracy in Africa - the southern tip included.
WRITING THE WRONGS

AT LEAST 60 leading writers from around the world – including 30 well-known Africans – are expected to arrive in South Africa in December for an international literary conference.

The conference will be held at Wits University for a week from December 1 and will concentrate on a post-apartheid perspective.

The writers will then travel around the country for a week, giving workshops and delivering papers.

Nigerian writer Wole Soyinka, winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1986, and Chinua Achebe, the first African to publish a novel in English, are on the list of those invited to participate in the historic gathering.

So, too, are Ngugi Wa Thiong'o, who recently visited the country at the invitation of the Congress of South African Writers, Ayi Kwei Armah, Buchi Emecheta, Jack Mapanje, Semene Ousmane, Micere Mugo and Charles Mungoshi.

Many acclaimed African writers invited to the conference have expressed eagerness to attend.

The conference entitled “Making Literature – Reconstruction in South Africa” is aimed at marking a turning point in relations between local writers and their counterparts in other parts of Africa and the rest of the world.

It is also hoped the conference will forge closer links between different writers’ organisations in the country, which are divided along racial and ideological lines.

A move in this direction has been made by drawing on the expertise of high-profile writers professors Es'kia Mphahlele and Njabulo Ndebele, writer Nadine Gordimer and poet Sipho Sepamla to serve on the planning committee.

So far, 12 writers from North and South America, seven from Europe and one each from India, the West Indies and Japan, are also expected to be among the superstar lineup.

These include Americans Alice Walker and Noam Chomsky, Brazilian Augusto Boal, Canadians Michael Ono- daite and Margaret Atwood, Colombian Gabriel Marquez, Ariel Dorfman from Chile, Mario Vargas Llosa from Peru and Claribel Alegría from El Salvador.

From the United Kingdom will be Benjamin Zephaniah, Harif Dureshi, Linton Kwesi Johnson and Caryl Phillips; German Gunther Grass and Per Wästberg from Sweden.

Kenziburo Oe from Japan, George Lamming from the West Indies and RK Narayan from India have also been invited.

It is hoped the conference will help to integrate South Africa with the rest of the world and afford guests and participants the opportunity to make a practical contribution to the development of a new literary culture in the country.

The conference will also restore cultural links between South Africa and the rest of the world, which were severed by the cultural boycott.

A steering committee member, Gordimer, said she was excited about the conference.

"The time is just right for such a conference and I believe we cannot wait for apartheid to be totally defeated and for change to be completed before we do anything," she said.

"The importance of the conference is that we are opening up the world for both our writers and readers to be exposed to ideas from other parts of the world," she said.

"Our cultural connections were running towards Europe and we had very little to do with our own continent before apartheid becomes a thing of the past."

"One important thing about the conference is to change the perception that English is the only language of literature," said Gordimer.

Ndebele said the conference would have a positive impact on local writing, especially as it came soon after Ngugi Wa Thiong'o's visit.

Working committee member Andries Oliphant said the conference was of historic significance.

"Never before has such a concerted attempt been made to make the ideas, views and literature of the world available to as many people as possible in our country," he said.
SHOCK DECLINE IN WOMEN'S RIGHTS

Africa: THE SICK CONTINENT

AIDS IS MAJOR KILLER

AIDS orphans are becoming a major problem in Africa.

A UN report on African economic recovery released this week estimates that six million people on the continent are now HIV-positive - half of them women. One million adults are expected to have full-blown AIDS by next year.

Nearly 900,000 children have been born in the last five years with HIV infection and millions more are expected this decade.

The report noted that AIDS was attacking the economically active age group, mainly in the cities and towns, but also in rural areas. AIDS is now the leading cause of death for women between 20-49 in some major cities of sub-Saharan Africa and the incidence of AIDS orphans, without parents or welfare institutions to help them, is a growing problem on the continent.

MILLIONS JOBLESS

UNEMPLOYMENT on the African continent has leapt dramatically. A UN report on Africa finds that there were 30 million more under-employed people last year than five years ago. Unemployment increased by an average 10 percent in the last five years.

By 1989, unemployment affected more than 50 million Africans while severe under-employment another 20 million.

Real wages suffered a drastic decline - in some countries it was as steep as 75-80 percent.

By 1989 there were 150-million severely undernourished people in Africa - 70-million more than in the mid-1970s.

The report says: "In 1990, an estimated 22.6 percent of Africa's children were underweight, 53.3 percent were stunted and 10.2 percent were wasting."

The infant mortality rate, despite major efforts by the UN agencies, remained constant during the five-year period at 192 per 1,000 - the highest in the world. The incidence of AIDS soared and unemployment increased at a rate of 10 percent a year.

Desperately needed skills also fled the continent - between 50,000 and 60,000 professionals left for overseas.

The recovery programme was started in 1986 to put the continent on the road to sustainable economic growth. Full implementation of the programme, estimated the African participants, would take $128-billion of which $45-billion ($133.1-billion) would come from external sources.

Africa, however, had not been able to keep up its pledge - largely because the continent lost nearly $50-billion ($142.5-billion) of export earnings because of the plunging value of international commodity prices during the five years of the programme. Foreign aid also fell far short of the target.

"Consequently, there was scarcely any change for the better for the structure of the African economies during the period of the programme," says the report.

"The recurrence of drought in many parts of Africa, political instability, civil strife, military conflicts, weak institutions and often less-than-effective policies to mobilise and utilise domestic resources continued to be both cause and consequence of the poor economic performance of most countries.

Urgent

"The situation of Africa is as precarious today as it was prior to the programme."

"There remains an urgent need for a major drive by African countries to reverse the socio-economic deterioration and put the continent on the path to sustained growth and development."

For Africa, to survive the report, it will need $30-billion ($28.5-billion) a year in aid - current levels are half that.

The report also urges substantial debt write-offs or donor sponsorships to reduce the continent's $700-billion ($695-billion) debt burden.
Third World wants to be in Security Council
Madjegascar searches for a leader

By Ken Vernon

and protocol machinery designed

while most Mafageroa

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Business considerations setting pace of change

WINDHOEK — Economic rather than political considerations could force the rate of change in South Africa, former Nigerian head of State, General Olusegun Obasanjo, said in Windhoek on Sunday.

He was speaking at the opening of an Africa Leadership Forum (ALF) conference on the Challenges of Post-Apartheid South Africa.

“The pace of business links with South Africa has quickened in the last few months and is well ahead of formal links,” General Obasanjo said.

“In the end the business community could be calling the tune, leaving politicians no option but to provide the right climate, in which positive trade considerations will fuel the economic integration of South Africa with her immediate neighbours and the rest of Africa.”

He warned that whoever took over power in the “New South Africa” would inherit an economy in distress and gravely out of balance.

“If the South African situation can be ameliorated and rectified it may well serve as a lesson for and have impact on other countries which struggle with racial tension throughout the world,” he said.

“South Africa is recognised as a great African country,” General Obasanjo said, adding that the dilemma had been how to destroy apartheid without damaging its economy.

“A peaceful end to apartheid, as it now seems, would remove this dilemma, as it will leave the economy intact for South Africa to legitimately play an important role within the sub-region and the continent as a whole.”

Acceptance

“At the formal levels, the admission of South Africa into the Organisation of African Unity will symbolise Africa’s acceptance and ratification of the end of apartheid.

If South Africa was to become “the entrepreneur” of Africa, it had to shed apartheid mentality and culture and demonstrate it belonged to the continent.

“The aim must be integration and co-operation rather than domination.”

The Preferential Trade Area, Southern African Customs Union and Southern African Development Coordination Conference were bodies whose structures served as models for sub-regional cooperation.

The United Nations had estimated destabilisation due to apartheid had cost almost R18 billion.

A reduction in security spending should lead to expanded production capacity and greater economic efficiency.

There ought to be immediate gains from the “New South Africa” being a partner in the success of a “re-orientated” SADCC.

“We should add that the envisaged high performing regional organisations are an ideal plank and building block for the African Economic Community,” he said.

A number of academics and politicians from Africa and abroad are attending the three-day conference in Windhoek, which was officially opened by Namibia’s President, Mr. Sam Nujoma.

South Africa is being represented by Dr. Frederick van Zyl Slabbert and Dr. Alex Boraine of the Institute for a Democratic Alternative for South Africa (Idasa).

While the focus of the conference would mainly be on economic issues, political and strategic matters were also to be discussed. ALF director Mr. Felix Mosha of Tanzania said. — Sapa.
Africa to have ‘frightening’ population.

JAMES TOMLINS
Foreign Staff

PARIS.—A French survey of population growth in the world warned that African cities faced “frightening” overcrowding in the near future.

It named Lagos, Nigeria, with a population of 7.5 million and Abidjan, Ivory Coast, which has increased its population by 35 times to 10 million in 40 years, as particularly vulnerable. Lagos’ population increased by 25 times in that period.

The survey noted that 100 major cities accounted for 560 million, or 11 percent of the world total.

The survey was published in the magazine Economie et Statistique.

The most populated city is Tokyo (24 million), followed by New York (23.9 million) and Seoul (18.3 million). Cairo (11.3 million) is the only African city in the Top 20 chart.
Strikers barricade roads, force UCT campus to close

CAPE TOWN — The strike-bound University of Cape Town (UCT) was closed yesterday after roads to the campus were blocked for a second day — sparking angry scenes between students wanting to attend lectures and supporters of striking workers.

An estimated 14,000 students were said the TGWU had been given a mandate to propose a resolution of talks. Up to 600 UCT workers — including kitchen staff, cleaners, gardeners, messengers and printers — struck on Tuesday to demand a R100-a-month across-the-board increase. It followed 1½ months of pay talks which had been held off. 

Mr Harvey said only 150 workers were affected by the pay talks would be given the maximum 15 percent increase. He said 650 workers would receive 13.5 percent, "which is below inflation and well below the food inflation rate. Neither does it take VAT into account."

While the academic programme was not interrupted, Mr Harvey said the university would not keep students in class if the strike continued. Asked about the union's attitude towards the disruption and damage, Mr Harvey said any strike was disruptive, adding: "We will never distance our selves from the actions of workers if decisions are taken demo-
One ministry of agriculture?

PRETORIA. — The creation of one Agriculture Department to replace the 10 in SA and the homelands had become a possibility, the Minister of Agriculture, Mr Kraai van Niekerk, yesterday told a conference of homeland agricultural ministers.

Agricultural services were too heavy, creating problems in the administration and handling of agricultural issues, he said.

But informed sources said there was strong opposition to the proposal from homeland ministers who were reluctant to surrender control in their own territories.
Hundreds die in Somalia as battle for control rages

NAIROBI — Up to 2,000 people, many of them women and children, have been killed or wounded in Mogadishu since Friday by rival factions fighting for control of the Somali capital, the aid agency Medecins Sans Frontieres said on Sunday.

The French charity has a small medical team working in the city's three main hospitals, which are reported to be overflowing with casualties after 72 hours of shelling and mortar fire.

Sources in Mogadishu contacted by satellite phone said sporadic fighting continued in the city centre on Sunday after a ceasefire on Saturday.

The conflict is the worst since January when President Siad Barre fell from power in the war-torn country, and food aid for the city's 1-million inhabitants has virtually stopped.

Forces led by Gen Farah Aidid were reportedly gaining the upper hand against the new president, Ali Mahdi, who was installed by United Somali Congress rebels.

Relations between President Mahdi and Aidid have been tense since January when Mahdi's United Somali Congress rebels became the first to occupy Mogadishu.

The two men come from the same clan, the Hawiye of Central Somalia, but loyalty within the clan has split along sub-clan lines. The main factor contributing to the instability is that the guns are in the hands of young, illiterate men, nomads and the city's poor.

The flare-up erupted after Aidid's followers objected to Mahdi's allocation of money to southern clans as compensation for war damages.

Save the Children Fund has had to suspend a feeding programme for 5,000 malnourished children in Mogadishu. The majority of the city's population depends on food aid which is being looted and sold on the black market for high prices.

Apart from residual authority in the Mogadishu Police Force, law and order has completely broken down, and Somalia has virtually disintegrated as a modern state.

The relatively peaceful north broke away last May to form a separate nation — Somaliland. The rest of the country is devoid of control.

Hundreds of thousands of Somalia's wealthy elite now live in Kenya, Sudan and Europe.

Senior members of Mahdi's administration have been selling off the country's assets, factories and stocks of electrical equipment to buyers in the Gulf states. — Daily Telegraph.
Population Shock
Democracy on the table at aid talks

PARIS - African ministers met international aid donors for talks yesterday with democratic rights high on the agenda.

The two-day event in Paris is the first meeting of the advisory committee of the Global Coalition for Africa (GCA), set up last year to co-ordinate African aid policy.

In his opening address, Botswana's President Quett Masire said democratic change was sweeping Africa.

"We Africans are not uncomfortable with the subject. Africa is not by nature or by culture undemocratic," Masire said.

UN secretary-general Javier Perez de Cuellar urged big cuts in debts owed by Africa to commercial banks, cancellation of African inter-governmental debt and an increase in aid.

Among the delegates were ministers from a dozen sub-Saharan African states and senior officials from aid organisations and multilateral institutions.

— Sepa-Reuters.
Ease isolation of SA — Obasanjo

By Dale Lautenbach
Star Africa Service

WINDHOEK — General Olusegun Obasanjo, the former Nigerian head of state who arrived in South Africa last night, has called for “informal people-to-people and business contacts” with South Africans to remove the isolation created by apartheid.

Concluding a two-day Africa Leadership Forum conference in Windhoek, General Obasanjo said only the people of South Africa themselves should determine the moment when the death of apartheid might be proclaimed.

“Yet the local and international environment must encourage progression, rather than regression, of the process.

“Government-to-government and formal, official contacts may be slow in the early stages of the process. Informal people-to-people contact and business contacts must be encouraged as (they) could hasten the removal of the walls of isolation built by apartheid, and promote formal, official contacts without slowing down the process.”

The general was reflecting the deliberations of the conference in his concluding summary after more than 60 delegates from Nigeria, South Africa, Namibia, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Lesotho, as well as a number of international academies, had debated the topic of “Challenges of post-apartheid South Africa to southern Africa in particular, and Africa in general”.

Once the people of South Africa had declared apartheid dead, it would be up to the rest of Africa and the international community to ratify and reinforce the proclamation, said General Obasanjo.

A number of speakers, among them Bob Tucker, chairman of the Old Mutual-Nedcor Scenario Team, had cautioned against high expectations of a post-apartheid South Africa.

“In social and economic terms, South Africa is weak and unwell,” said General Obasanjo. However, it was still the strongest economy in the region “and neighbouring countries look up to the new South Africa as a pre-eminent nation and economy within southern Africa.

“The perception and reality of an uncaring and dominating South Africa as an oasis in the midst of a desert of poverty and poor economies in the sub-region will be inimical to national security and stability and regional development and cooperation.”

On the question of security in the region and whether a post-apartheid South Africa would signal an end to internal conflicts, cross-border raids, destabilisation and “dirty tricks”, General Obasanjo called for southern Africa to “learn the lessons of the supremacy of economic power over military power”.

In conclusion, he said the goal was not the end of apartheid, but rather the evolution of a nonracial, democratic society.

• The dream ... and the reality — Page 14
and the Real

...
Poverty Rising in Africa

One cycle of the vicious cycle of poverty: unless you break it...

In many African countries, poverty is widespread. The reasons are many and complex, but they often boil down to a lack of resources and infrastructure, coupled with a lack of education and job opportunities. This cycle can be broken, but it requires a concerted effort from all levels of society. Education is key, as it provides people with the skills and knowledge they need to find jobs and improve their lives. Additionally, investment in infrastructure, such as roads and healthcare facilities, can help to create opportunities and improve living conditions. With the right support and policies in place, it is possible to break the cycle of poverty and build a brighter future for all.
WINDHOEK. — Former Nigerian military ruler and chairman of the African Leadership Forum, General Olusegun Obasanjo, yesterday called on African countries to drop their hardline attitude towards South Africa.

He told the ALF conference here that countries neighbouring SA must plan for a post-apartheid SA in which the country could be politically integrated into Africa.

General Obasanjo said Southern Africa should nurture a "peace culture" and SA must begin converting its military industries.

General Obasanjo also called on Africa to build regional structures for mediation, peacekeeping, peace-making and conflict prevention, advocating the introduction of peace corps activities as an alternative to military service.

"Africa and Southern Africa must learn the
General keeps his genial eye on Africa

GENERAL Olusegun Obasanjo is best known in SA as the co-chairman of the Commonwealth's Eminent Persons Group, which made one of the first concerted attempts to draw government and the ANC into exploratory talks in 1986.

At the time he was reported to have drawn the then Defence Minister Gen Magnus Malan aside during discussions with members of the PW Botha government to tell him: “We generals understand each other.”

In retrospect, given the fact that the group’s mission came to naught, primarily because of military attacks authorised by Malan against neighbouring states, Obasanjo’s comments errred generously on the side of diplomacy.

This seems entirely in character. He was also the first African military leader to voluntarily relinquish power to a civilian government, only to see the military takeover again three years later.

The situation in SA has changed and the Eminent Persons’ Group’s aims almost have been realised. But Obasanjo continues in his genial — if slightly naive — way to mediate, assist and cajole Africans en to a path of co-operation and development.

And the size of his task has increased dramatically. No longer satisfied with being mediator in a number of African squabbles, he has embarked on a mission to “change the living conditions of the African people”. The tool he has forged for this purpose is the African Leadership Forum.

The latest topic canvassed by the forum was Challenges of Post-Apartheid SA, which were discussed at last week’s conference in Windhoek. Obasanjo told delegates: “The new SA may represent a turning point for Africa as it should mark the beginning of effective continental co-operation and integration.”

One of the techniques Obasanjo has devised to develop this process of integration is the Pretoria-Abuja-Cairo axis — an idea he shares with President F W de Klerk.

The idea is that these centres should share their efforts and act as nodes for the development of a trading and investment axis.

But on the specifics of how such an axis would work in practice, Obasanjo is vague. It’s just an idea, he says, which like the idea which formed the basis for the EC, will be tossed around until there is enough impetus for it to take a concrete form. However, the idea’s real application will not begin until SA is back in the African fold. On when this will occur, Obasanjo believes it should take place, loosely speaking, when the ANC and other organisations say so.

In his speech at the Windhoek conference, he said: “The oppressed non-white citizens of SA, who have been the victims of apartheid and who led the struggle to destroy the evil system, are best placed to make the final pronouncement on the victory which primarily belongs to them.”

But he leaves open the possibility that this may happen when an “interim government of alliance” has been formed.

In the meantime, Obasanjo expects that trade between SA and other African countries will increase, speculating that the OAU’s pro-sanctions stance is likely to be observed mainly in the breach.

“The OAU will continue to maintain a sanctions stance until apartheid is dead, if not buried. I am not saying that this stance will mean that sanctions will be maintained. But the stance will be maintained, effectively or non-effectively, as a policy.”

He says this does make sense. His apparent belief that there is no necessary connection between concrete reality and political policy has served him well. It may also boost his chances of becoming the next UN secretary-general.
Somalia 'a nation in ruins'
South 12/9-18/9/99
By Simon Brown

FIGHTING in Mogadishu between rival forces within the ruling United Somali Congress (USC) appears to be continuing despite some reports of a respite.

On Monday the United Nations withdrew its officials from the Somali capital after three local staff members were killed in an upsurge in the faction-fighting which flared at the end of last week.

The new clashes have deepened the crisis facing this poverty-stricken nation on the Horn of Africa after a year of conflicts and drought.

Revealing that 20 million people in the region are now affected by drought, the UN this week described Somalia as "a nation in ruins".

Clashes

Although reports continue to be patchy, the root cause of the latest clashes appears to be a dispute between the recently appointed interim president, Ali Mahdi Mohamed, and rival forces loyal to the military commander and leader of the USC, General Mohammed Farrah Aidid.

The two men are reported to have had a bitter row last Thursday over a proposal from the president to send food and money as a conciliatory gesture to a rival armed group, the Somali Patriotic Movement (SPM).

The southern-based SPM, which was allied with the ruling party when the USC ousted former president Mohammed Said Barre and seized the capital in January, draws its support mainly from the Darod clan.

This group has been at loggerheads with the USC-dominated Hawiye clan in Mogadishu since Barre's overthrow.

General Aidid is reported to have called for the resignation of the interim president, prompting the latter to order his supporters to attack the general's house.

The president on Monday claimed on Somali radio that the fighting had died down and that "self-styled leaders" had been arrested.

However, other reports suggested that General Aidid's forces had virtually succeeded in staging an internal coup.

Many people were reported killed and hundreds wounded in the fighting for control of Mogadishu, and there are fears that unless renewed attempts to secure a ceasefire are successful, the whole country could be plunged into chaos.

The ceasefire was called for by Colonel Umar Hashi Adan, regional commander of the Mogadishu area, who told local elders and community leaders to co-operate in restoring calm.

The prolonged and bitter fighting which preceded the overthrow of Barre, coupled with the effects of the drought, has produced problems of a daunting scale for the new and inexperienced government.

Instability

Aid workers, many of whom have been forced to flee, estimate that some 400,000 Somalis have crossed into Ethiopia, which itself has huge problems feeding its population.

The instability and lack of development in this largely pastoral country can be traced back to misrule since independence in 1960, and the highly damaging war Somalia fought with Ethiopia in 1978.

Barre, who took power in a coup in 1969 and whose Somali Revolutionary Socialist Party was the only legal political force, ruled with an iron hand for nearly 20 years.

During this time the country sank further into the economic mire.
Bogged down in Staination

Tony Walker

September 14, 1994

1022 Ross Street

Dear Mr. Smith,

I am writing to express my concern regarding the recent decision to implement a new policy at the station. As a long-time employee, I have observed firsthand the impact of this policy on our daily operations.

The policy in question is the introduction of a new cleaning protocol that requires all employees to spend an additional hour each day disinfecting the station. While I understand the importance of maintaining a clean environment, I believe the implementation of this policy has had unintended consequences.

Specifically, the increased cleaning requirements have led to a significant decrease in productivity among employees. Many have reported feeling overwhelmed by the additional workload, which has negatively impacted their ability to perform their duties effectively.

Moreover, the financial implications of this policy cannot be ignored. The cost of the cleaning supplies and labor has risen dramatically, leading to increased expenses for the station. These additional costs will undoubtedly strain our budget and could potentially lead to cuts in other areas.

I urge you to reconsider the implementation of this policy and to explore alternative solutions that can address the cleanliness concerns while minimizing the impact on our employees and the station's financial health.

Sincerely,

Tony Walker

Station Manager
Now the Commonwealth is a club worth joining.
Brazil drums up African trade

By ANDREW MELDRUM: Harare

SUAVELY smiling and smoothly moving through southern Africa, Brazil's glamorous President, Fernando Collor de Mello visited four nations to drum up sales of Brazilian products.

Facing many economic woes at home, Collor de Mello's government needs to boost export sales.

Brazil hopes to increase trade with its Portuguese-speaking cousin. Brazil would like to buy Angola's oil, report diplomats here, while winning a number of contracts in the reconstruction needed to get the Angolan economy back on its feet. Brazilian firms are carrying out the US$500-million Catande dam hydroelectric project. Angolan oil will pay for the contracts.

Brazil is courting Zimbabwe for sales of airplanes and a contract to build Harare's planned new airport.

Although Zimbabwe has no resources or products that Brazil wants, there is, perhaps, a diplomatic quid pro quo. Zimbabwe President Robert Mugabe is understood to have encouraged Latin America to support the candidacy of Finance Minister Bernard Chidzero for the post of United Nations secretary-general.
Indian Ocean Islands have eye on tourists' wallets
Ghana to open new gold mine

By Hugh Robertson
Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — The International Finance Corporation has announced a $31 million financial package to fund a new gold mine in Ghana.

This is its third financing of a gold mining venture in Ghana since 1985, which has enabled the country to increase its gold output by 50 percent.

The new package, for the development of a new mine near Semipriam in Ghana's western region, will include loans of $30 million to Ghanaian-Australian Goldfields Limited, which will be the majority shareholder in the venture.

According to an IFC statement, the new mine will produce 110,000 ounces of gold a year, boosting Ghana's existing gold output by 10 percent. The mine has enough gold reserves to last for 16 years based on prevailing gold prices.

The IFC is a branch of the World Bank that finances private sector projects in developing countries.

The new package includes a $15 million credit facility with the Swiss Bank Corporation that will allow Ghanaian-Australian Goldfields to sell a significant part of the new mine's production.
Africa’s other rare species

THE king is dead, long live the king, they say when a king goes to the great palace in the sky. What it is supposed to mean is that kings come and kings go but their kingdoms last forever. Actually, they don’t, as we all know, not even in Africa, which used to have more kingdoms than the rest of the world put together.

Today the crowned heads of Africa can be counted on one hand without using the thumb. Hassan of Morocco, Mswati III of Swaziland, Letsie III of Lesotho and Zwelithini of the Zulus.

Unlike their counterparts in Europe, however, some of Africa’s remaining kings have retained political power. Hassan’s is somewhat circumscribed by the Moroccan parliament, but Mswati still rules as an absolute monarch.

Letsie and Zwelithini, on the other hand, have had to resign themselves to seeing power being wielded almost entirely by the politicians.

Letsie has shown no great hunger for power, however, unlike his father and predecessor, Moshoeshoe II, who was noted for it, or at least for his unwillingness to stay out of politics.

Being dethroned by Lesotho’s military government has apparently not taken the edge off Moshoeshoe’s political appetite. Recently he travelled from his exile in London to Swaziland to meet a delegation of Basotho who are seeking his restoration to the throne, obviously at the expense of King Letsie. (Rumour has it that Letsie in any case took the throne only to keep it warm for his father’s return.)

The visit, incidentally, caused some surprise among guests at Swaziland’s poshest hotel when they heard patriotic Basotho songs being belted out in broad daylight in the hotel’s nightclub, where the meeting was held.

Ostensibly, Moshoeshoe was in Swaziland to attend the annual reed dance ceremonies. Zwelithini was there too, making it a rare royal get-together.

While Mswati presided over the ceremonies, some of his subjects were awaiting trial on charges of engaging in political activity, which amounts to challenging the absolute royal rule that was imposed by his father, Sobhuza II.

Ironically, if the charges are found true by the courts, it will in fact reflect and confirm the growing pressure on Mswati’s power from populism.

Hassan, to a lesser extent, faces a similar problem.

One should not write off the kings just yet, though; reports come trickling in of an upwelling of royal sentiment in Africa.

It may be nothing more than nostalgia, freed for expression by the topping of the dictators who seized power in much of Africa after the departure of the European colonialists.

Whatever it is, it almost certainly will not lead to the reoccupation of any of Africa’s former thrones, for most of the old kingdoms were carved up or swallowed up by the colonialists.

Come what may, the Organisation of African Unity is going to stick with its decision to respect the colonial boundaries. That is one can of worms that hardly anyone in Africa wants to open.

The support for the kings seems, however, to reflect growing dissatisfaction with the often artificial colonial divisions, or at least a growing willingness to articulate it. It is quite possible that it will be expressed as tribal assertiveness, which could cause problems for governments trying to install democratic systems in the place of the one-party dictatorships as they fall like ninepins across the continent.

In Zambia, for instance, the Barotse, who used to have a powerful monarchy, are talking of demanding the return of the well-filled tribal coffers that were ingested by Kenneth Kaunda’s central government when Zambia was formed from Northern Rhodesia. And there are said to be demands for greater autonomy in Barotseland.

We will not soon see the end of the kings. Come to think of it, it would be rather nice if they could get together some time and sing “We four kings of Africa are”.

Out of Africa
Gerald LANGE
MIRIAM Makeba joined Nigerian officials and businessmen on Monday to launch a project to help African children suffering from hunger and disease. Businessman Onwuka Kalu, organizer of the "Children of Africa" project, said about one million of Africa's children died each year from preventable diseases.

Kalu said fund-raising concerts with singers such as Makeba, Fela Anikulapo-Kuti and Yvonne Chaka Chaka, would be held in Lagos in November after a two-day seminar to discuss the problems of children. - Sapa-Reuters
War-torn Rwanda's appeal

KIGALI - Rwanda's President Juvenal Habyarimana has appealed for emergency aid for 100,000 people displaced in a year-long civil war.

After visiting war-torn regions of Byumba and Ruhengeri, Habyarimana on Tuesday announced the creation of a national fund for victims of the war.

Peace talks are currently taking place in the eastern Zaire town of Gbadolite between Rwanda's government and rebels who invaded from Uganda a year ago.

Each side accuses the other of constantly violating a ceasefire agreement in February. - South African Press Association-Reuters.
The north calls

Though trade barriers are falling between SA and Africa, the Organisation of African Unity will not formally drop sanctions against this country until “the people of SA” say apartheid has been removed.

This is the view of General Olusegun Obasanjo, former Nigerian head of state and a nominee for the post of UN secretary-general.

creation of four economic power points will increase efficiency and growth.”

Chief Sunny Aki, chairman of the United African Corporation, who visited SA with Obasanjo, said that in terms of economic cooperation, “if anything is going to happen in the future, now is the time to lay the foundation. The industrial sector in SA is very solid and I think we can learn from that. The most important thing is to find out whether or not there can be acceptance on both sides.”

He said that Nigeria was interested in SA’s oil-from-coal technology. “We have a substantial amount of coal in Nigeria and that is perhaps an area we could work together on.”

Chief Obafemi Olowo, a director of the First Inter-State Merchant Bank of Nigeria, who accompanied Obasanjo, said Nigeria and SA could begin building bridges now, by creating facilities for entrepreneurs and business executives in both nations to have cross-pollination of ideas and experiences.

have been itching to come here for some time to see what I can do at government level behind the scenes, to begin building strong foundations for future economic cooperation.”

Olowo said he had still encountered a lot of ignorance and fear in SA, but was convinced that with increased interaction between businessmen from the two countries, this would disappear.

Obasanjo and his group of top Nigerian businessmen and academics met SA businessmen and senior government officials including State President F.W. de Klerk. He said the mistakes of Africa could be sourced to two primary causes: “Those of omission and those of commission. Those of omission were when Africans wanted to help their own nests, or that of a section of the community. The mistakes of omission were often made because we lacked the knowledge or competence. If we gather up the leaders of Africa now in every field and begin working together, we can prevent the continent from becoming marginalised.”

Continued →
The suspension this week of World Bank assistance to Zambia because it failed, in the face of its first multi-party election, to implement economic reforms should be a lesson to those in this country who want to tamper with the market mechanism, however innocent their motives.

Both foreign investors and aid donors are going to look twice at a country where those in influential positions recommend that a tax be placed on electricity to fund a State television service; or that pension funds be precluded from investing in tobacco companies or in those perceived to be trade union unfriendly. Both these views are reported elsewhere in this edition.

And both would be such a flagrant abrogation of free enterprise principles and lead to such a substantial misallocation of scarce resources that investors and donors will most certainly shy away.

The Third World in general, and Africa in particular, has so mismanaged its affairs that conditionality, hated though it may be by the inefficient and corrupt, has become an essential part of all aid flows.

Moreover, economic conditionality is not going to be enough. It was made very clear at the annual meeting of the World Bank in Washington last September that a rising standard of human rights was also required.

And as most African countries south of the Sahara seem to have taken the view that the only thing worse than a World Bank loan is no World Bank loan, they are going to have to toe the line and democratise. Political inconvenience is no longer the defence — if it ever was — which used to be put up in the Seventies and Eighties.

In SA, those who advocate affirmative action and the misallocation of resources for dubious social reasons may have difficulty securing justification for their views in a world where human rights and free enterprise have found new impetus and where the consequences of past mistakes of this kind are all too obvious.

If interventionists like those in the ANC and Viljoen’s broadcasting Task Group don’t reconsider their policies very carefully, they could become to prosperity what some believe Peter Stuyvesant is to national health.
Finally, business for Africa

MORE than 600 business leaders from the Cape to Cairo are expected to attend the world’s first all-Africa business conference, Sidco ‘91, to be held in Cameroon next month.

The three-day conference, aimed at exploring opportunities in a changing Africa, is being arranged by the Movement for Dialogue and Co-operation (MDC), an international foundation for Africa based in Paris.

Sidco ‘91 (Semaine Internationale du Dialogue et de la Coopération) will take place in Yaounde, capital of Cameroon from October 29 — 31, and will be attended by business leaders from more than 30 African states, including South Africa, as well as North and South America, Europe and Asia.

MDC president Mr Desire Atangana will make a presentation to business leaders at the President Hotel in Cape Town on September 25 at 5:30pm.

For details contact Jacques Verster (011) 8862440.
OUSTED ISLAND CHIEF'S PLEA TO SA

By TERRY VAN DER WALT

The deposed leader of the Seychelles, Sir James Man-
cham, flew into SA this week to convince Pretoria
not to support the island’s "dictator" leader Albert
René. 5

On Friday the ousted leader met with Foreign Affairs
officials in Pretoria as part of his global Crusade for
Democracy in Seychelles. 22/1991

"Our message to South Africa is: Don't interfere
or in any way sustain a government that has been
internationally discredited.

He also voiced concern
about a visit to the islands
by a "certain South African
minister".

"We don't know if it was
private or official, but the
point is that as you deal with
your own self-searching economic
problems in your country,
you must not do anything
that could interfere with
the return of democracy to
the islands," he said.

London-based Sir James
was deposed in June 1977 in
a coup by Mr René, who
ousted all opposition and
doubled his army strength
with assistance from Tanzania, Cuba and North
Korea.

"Mr René built up an
army of five percent of the
population — not to defend
against outside aggression
but to rule by fear," he said.
6-million infected by AIDS in Africa

THE World Health Organisation estimates that about 10-million adults worldwide have been infected with the HIV virus, six million of whom are in sub-Saharan Africa.

Dr Helene Gayle, of the Centre for Disease Control in Atlanta, in the US, also told a Medical Research Council conference in Pirow that about one million children were believed to be infected, most of them in Africa.

"While early data highlighted the importance of the epidemic in central and eastern Africa, increasing evidence indicates the rapid rise of HIV prevalence in western and southern Africa as well," Dr Gayle said.

She said there was an urgent need for effective AIDS prevention programmes in SA.

She said the spread of AIDS started later in SA than in neighbouring countries and it would be a shame if the country was hit by a major epidemic "when things are looking so hopeful here at last".
'Democratising' Africa for R84-m

By Hugh Robertson
Star Bureau

WASHINGTON — The United States expects to spend about $30 million (R84 million) over the next three years to help African countries build the infrastructure for multiparty democracy, the Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, Mr Herman Cohen has announced.

Speaking at a Voice of America symposium, he said assistance programmes would promote civic education, human rights monitoring, assistance with national conferences and constitution-making.

"The US will also help support non-governmental democratic institutions," he said. "The development of a civil society is an essential ingredient."

"We intend to assist African countries to cultivate this 'civil society' with its multiple centres of power and influence."

"Democratic labour unions, literary and cultural groups, bar associations, women's associations and traditional human rights watchdog groups all have a role to play in a civil society."

Mr Cohen said he wished to stress the need for a free press in Africa.

"In the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, the most concrete challenge to the old order took the form of a proliferation of newspapers and non-government media. Vigorous national debates were ignited."

"In many African countries a similar move has upended the state monopoly on information. The expanded political dialogue has not only undermined dictatorial rule, but insures that all have an outlet for their opinions."

Mr Cohen said democratisation and economic empowerment were two sides of the same coin.

"While fragile new democracies will have difficulties in the short term, the necessary readjustment can only be made in a democratic environment, with the people's informed consent, and in an environment in which the private sector has maximum room to grow."
Plea for African to head the UN

NEW YORK — Nigeria's UN ambassador has urged the election of an African as UN secretary-general for the first time. Elections are due in October.

Ibrahim Gambari said an African secretary-general could bring greater "sensitivity" to the most important job of the UN secretariat, resulting in a "more just world in which the interests of both the rich and the poor, the big and the small, will be protected."

"Africa is the only region which has not had the opportunity to provide a secretary-general... We want the United Nations, the Security Council and the General Assembly to pick the best secretary-general who happens to be African, not an African secretary-general," Gambari told a news conference.

Last month African states at the UN issued a list of six African candidates endorsed by the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) in a letter to the Security Council president.

They are Egyptian Deputy Prime Minister Boutros Boutros Ghali, Zimbabwe's Finance Minister Bernard Chidzero, Kenneth Dadzie of Ghana, secretary-general of the UN Conference on Trade and Development James Jonah of Sierra Leone, UN under secretary-general for special political questions, former Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo, and former physics professor and culture ministerNguema Francois Owono of Gabon.

Gambari said Africa was the only continent that submitted official candidates for the job, which becomes vacant on December 31 when Javier Perez de Cuellar completes his second five-year term.

But more than two dozen names have been mentioned in informal speculation about a successor, although no clear front-runner has emerged.

Gambari said the West was neglecting Africa as its attention turned to the fledgling democracies in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union.

Backing

Meanwhile, Malawi has announced it will support Zimbabwe's Chidzero for the post.

John Tembo, treasurer-general of the Malawi Congress Party, was speaking to Ziana news agency in Harare after presenting a letter to Zimbabwe President Robert Mugabe from Malawi's President Kamuzu Banda.

Tembo said the letter also referred to issues on bilateral relations between Zimbabwe and Malawi. Although the level of trade between the two countries was good, there was always room for improvement, particularly in the transport sector, he said. — Sapa-Reuters.
Gold Fields invests in Africa

GOLD FIELDS of SA was set to invest in a Zairean gold mining company which had a major concession and a first option to mine the balance of Zaire’s gold mining district. Chairman Robin Plumbridge said yesterday.

In his annual chairman’s review he said Gold Fields had embarked on a cautious expansion programme outside of SA in the last year, and, of the projects it was considering, the Zairean venture was at the most advanced stage pending the completion of financial arrangements.

Gold Fields would be in partnership with a Zairean state company, a group of Belgian-based entrepreneurs and international finance agencies. The mine would start as a small operation, but it had the potential to expand rapidly if a proposed exploration programme was successful.

“Gold Fields’ expansion into Africa follows Geamme’s announcements of investigations into mining possibilities in Zambia and Hagen’s forays into oil exploration off the African coast.

Plumbridge said the economic future of SA and the rest of the continent were inextricably linked. “We must sink or swim together,” he said.

Many developing countries were in the grips of a full-scale depression, the lack of international demand for their products accentuating the despair of peoples facing abject poverty. “Regrettably the developed nations are so concerned with their own economic conditions and those of the countries surrounding them that the less developed countries are being fed little more than a diet of rhetoric,” Plumbridge said.

African countries faced a “well-nigh impossible situation”. In a national and regional context, it was critical that the SA economy should recover rapidly from the recession.

The current economic policy mix with its heavy socio-political overlay needed urgent review, he said.
Road to the World Wins
New charity aims to bring relief to Africa

By Stan Hlophe

Children of Africa (southern Africa) — a new charity to help Africans to help themselves and to create awareness of the plight of children worldwide — was officially launched in Johannesburg this week.

The target is to raise $50 million (about R140 million) through a music concert on November 30 in Lagos, Nigeria, and film, TV and recording rights.

Founder and vice president Miriam Makeba said at the launch: "Our aim is to show the world and ourselves what it means to be an African. "During the recent and continuing tragedy of famine, other countries and organisations have given their support and aid to Africa. Now we ourselves, the Africans, must do something for Africa — in Africa."

ANC president Nelson Mandela, also on the board of trustees, said: "The children of Africa are the most valuable treasure. It is they who are destined to preserve the environment and keep it as a home for the people of Africa."
Makeba starts charity

SINGER Miriam Makeba and two top Nigerian personalities have established a charity drive aimed at solving the educational, health and social development problems affecting the African child.

The drive was unveiled at a Johannesburg hotel yesterday.

It was initiated by Makeba, "Nigerian" TV producer, Faith Isiakpere and businessman Chief Onwaku Kalu.

The charity's biggest launch will be held in Nigeria in November.

It will be marked by a major music show in Lagos.

Some of the acts expected at the show are Mbongeni Ngeva's Sarafina Choir, Ladysmith Black Mambazo, Hugh Masekela and Yvonne Chaka Chaka.
Swiss banks urged to disclose leaders' accounts

PARIS — Pressure is mounting on Switzerland to disclose information on huge sums deposited in its banks by corrupt African leaders and to help repatriate recovered funds.

Swiss officials have already agreed to co-operate with Mali's new government in the investigation of accounts allegedly held in Swiss banks by deposed dictator Moussa Traore.

It is alleged that he may have salted away $1bn in Switzerland, with family members and cronies allegedly accounting for a similar sum. Mali is one of Africa's poorest countries, according to World Bank figures.

The deposed dictator is in prison and his family under house arrest, but his lawyer in Paris has denied allegations of corruption.

African economists have dubbed Swiss deposits Africa's second AIDS epidemic, with Aids standing for "Acquired Investments Deposited in Switzerland". "Flight capital" has become one of Africa's main economic plagues.

A recent United Nations report estimated that "flight capital" out of Africa between 1986 and 1990 was $40bn.

Zairean President Mobutu Sese Seko is by far Africa's richest leader. Western diplomats estimate his overseas assets at close to $3bn, equal to the country's foreign debt.

Exporting capital is made easy in West Africa by the use of the French-backed CFA franc, a convertible currency.

Each year the Banque de France is forced to buy huge amounts of CFA banknotes in European financial centres. — Daily Telegraph.
Economic community on cards for the New Africa

By CHARLENE SMITH

The first all-Africa businesspeople's conference — including 150 South African businessmen — will be held in Cameroon at the end of October.

The conference — which has as its central theme “Exploring Opportunities in a Changing Africa” — hopes to foster regional and continental co-operation. In terms of the Lagos Plan of 1980, Africa is aiming for an African Economic Community by the turn of the century.

At present the continent has 11 regional economic blocs, as opposed to three for Europe and one in Asia.

Economists believe the continent has to streamline and improve regional and continental co-operation if it is not to be completely marginalised and cut out of the major economic blocs developing in Europe, the Americas and the Pacific Rim countries.

The conference is organised by the Movement of Dialogue and Co-operation. Eight hundred delegates, of whom 600 will be businessmen, are expected to attend from every country in Africa.

There will also be delegates from major international non-governmental organisations and businessmen and government representatives from Europe, Asia, Latin America and the United States of America, according to local organiser, Mr Jacques Verster.

Dr D.E. McRae, chief executive of Eskom, will be one of the main speakers.

A number of SA companies are sponsoring black businessmen to ensure that any benefits are not restricted to the corporate sector — in fact, small business and the informal sector will be a key part of the talks.

Daily workshops will enable businessmen to debate a variety of topics, including agriculture and rural development, energy, mineral and hydro resources, computerisation and development; African markets and obstacles toward economic expansion.

The conference will be opened by President Paul Biya of Cameroon.
More women in parliament

GENEVA – African countries below the equator – with the exception of South Africa – individually have more women in their national parliaments than the world average, an Inter-Parliamentary Union official in Geneva has found.

IPU information officer Mr Michel Barton said that although Africa as a whole was below the world average of 11 percent, some countries below the equator had higher percentages, such as Rwanda (17.1 percent), Mozambique (15.7 percent), Angola (14.5 percent) and Zimbabwe (12 percent), which all scored better than northern Africa.
NICOSIA - Sudanese rebels said yesterday that secession by the non-Muslim southern area would end the country's tragic civil war. 21/10/91.

The Sudan People's Liberation Army said: "This is the first time the issue of an independent southern state has been raised in public."

Rebels and the military government are due to meet in Nigeria next month.
Sapa-Reuter.
‘US aid is reward for democracy’

The Argus Correspondent

LONDON. — The Bush administration will announce soon a "cut-off" date after which aid to African and other countries will depend on whether they democratise their political and economic systems.

"The US feels that aid should be used as a reward for democracy," Mr Herman Cohen, Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, told a Wilton Park conference in West Sussex.

"We will announce the cut-off date in the near future. If we demand democracy, of course, we must also provide aid to achieve it — to help create acceptable systems, accountable governments, independent judiciaries, and so forth."

Similar warnings were given by Mr Simon Hemans, Assistant Under-Secretary for Africa at Britain's Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), and by Mr Yoshi Nogami, Deputy Director-General of the Middle-Eastern and African Affairs Bureau of Japan's Foreign Ministry.

Conferences on world affairs are held regularly at Wilton Park. The conference was organised with the African-American Institute of New York and is supported by the FCO.

It is on "Reconciliation and Reconstruction in South and Southern Africa."

The conference is attended by South Africa's Deputy Foreign Minister Mr Renier Schoeman, Dr Jan Lombard (Professor of Economics at Pretoria University and adviser to the Development Bank), representatives of the ANC, PAC and Inkatha, and of the governments of Portugal, Sweden, Angola, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Botswana, Senegal, Namibia, the EC and Germany.

Mr Cohen enunciated five principles for successful democratisation: recognition of ethnicity as a factor, growth-oriented policies and government disengagement from micro-economic management, a sense of winner-takes-all that makes others feel they are being left out (although multiparty democracy is not necessarily the final answer), political democracy accompanied by good governance and financial accountability, and an independent judiciary and justicable bill of rights.

Mr Hemans said aid would go to good governments. Good governance meant it was perceived as such by the people — it meant stability, prosperity, it cost as little as possible and it interfered as little as possible with people's lives.

It also meant honest and uncorrupt governments, which allowed defence of individual and group rights and fair and free elections.

Mr Hemans criticised the tendency towards centralised government and the "big man" leader in Africa.

The West's role, he said, was to work with the tide of popular expression in Africa. There had been far too much emphasis in the past on supporting governments when forces among the people were stirring against them.
Bush to set aid deadline for Africa

By Stanley Uys

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Mr Nogami said that when Japan allocated its aid, it looked at the proportion of defence spending, and whether the country was moving to a good government and a market economy.

For governments to give aid they needed their taxpayers’ consent, and taxpayers were “fed up” with undeserved aid.

Japan had a fairly extensive aid programme in East Africa, but its taxpayers were asking why failed socialist systems were being supported.

“We need some response from host countries to enable us to continue,” Mr Nogami said.
For Africa ... 'a year of encouragement'" LONDON. — The authoritative International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) says the past year has been encouraging for Africa.

"In South Africa the government has repealed all the laws which established and regulated the policy of apartheid, but violence in the townships is increasing, primarily between the ANC and the Zulu Inkatha Freedom Party," the IISS says in its annual military balance report.

"A growing number of countries are lifting sanctions imposed on South Africa..." The report notes that on July 8 South Africa acceded to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, as did Tanzania and Zambia.

"On the whole, it has been an encouraging year for the African continent, with major developments which may lead to the peaceful settlement of a number of its longest civil wars..." the institute says.

On other southern African issues the IISS says:

- In Angola a settlement has finally been reached by the government and the Unita movement led by Jonas Savimbi. All Cuban forces have been withdrawn.
- In Mozambique a limited ceasefire was agreed to in December 1990 but no substantive progress towards a settlement has yet been made. — Sapa.
Mbabane - Miriam Makeba is in Swaziland to publicise a charity concert to raise money for African children which will be held in Lagos, Nigeria next month.

The South African-born singer will hold a reception for Swazi cabinet ministers this evening to ask for support for the concert, which will raise funds for her organisation "Children of Africa".

She told local reporters the aim of the organisation was to use the talents of African artists to raise funds for Africa's needy children.

The concert is scheduled for November 30. - Sowetan Africa News Service.
Africa's new colonialists come from the Far East

A PLANNING consultant friend who roams the world says Far Eastern firms are moving into Africa, buying out mining properties.

The Far East needs minerals and sees Africa as its Big Chance.

What interested me was that he said the new colonialists lay down ground rules, sometimes using bribery to get them accepted.

They then erect First World hospitals, schools and houses, throw a fence up around them and declare them out of bounds to all but themselves.

They do all the mining themselves.

No strikes, no days off to mark revolutionary events, no queues of Aids or TB sufferers or kids with runny tumns.

Just a monthly royalty.

The influx of Japanese, Taiwanese and Koreans may be a future megatrend as Aids creates population vacuums.

Is Africa dying? I wonder. There are signs that the Aids event could be blunted by Aids education.

Uganda — the first African country to declare it had an Aids problem — is persuading its people to change their sexual habits. Like most of Sub-Saharan Africa, Uganda stands to lose a large slice of its population because 1 percent already have the virus.

According to The Economist, Uganda's population, which was to have been 37 million by 2015, will now be about 23 million.

That sounds a manageable num-

ber for a country a quarter the size of ours — except that already Aids is breaking up villages and families, orphaning children and leaving only the aged to look after them.

Alarming

I spoke to Rosetta Sutner, of Aloe Educational in Randburg, who spends most of her day talking to companies and workers about how to deal with Aids.

She has her own collection of alarming statistics: in KwaZulu, 11.2 percent of children aged between 15 and 17 are HIV positive.

Thus the mighty Zulu nation should begin its decline about now.

What is all this going to do to development programmes?

Rosetta bumps into some intriguing problems in her work.

A worker asked: "You say I must sleep only with my wife. I have five wives. Which one should I choose?"

She answered: "You must sleep with all of them. They are your wives."

She says: "There is no need for any of us to change our cultural habits. We simply must understand that as long as we have 'outside' sex, there's a strong possibility we'll get Aids."

It's about time
No respite ahead for Third World

LONDON — Developing countries have lost billions of dollars in export earnings as commodity markets have slumped in recent years and prospects remain dim for a price revival, commodity experts say.

Poor nations in Africa, Latin America and Asia have struggled to keep up payments on huge foreign debts against a backdrop of plunging prices for coffee, cocoa, cotton and tin.

"There is little scope for optimism," said Colin Greenhill, deputy director of commodities at the UN Conference on Trade and Development.

Many impoverished grain-importing nations have benefited from a plunge in wheat prices to near 20-year lows, but most of all they need a recovery in markets of their basic commodity exports to help them on their way.

Wealthy countries and developing states have turned to international pacts to stabilise commodity prices, but these have floundered as the agreements ran out of money to support raw materials in chronic oversupply.

Only the rubber accord has survived, but that is linked to the fact that it was able to sell off its huge stocks during a boom in rubber prices due to the AIDS epidemic.

Coffee and cocoa producers came to London last month to talk to rich nations about ways of stabilising prices but, despite pledges to talk again, the negotiations made little headway.

The international tin agreement collapsed in 1985 with hundreds of millions of dollars of debts and this has since made rich nations more sceptical of commodity pacts.

"Commodity agreements have to defend a price which is justified by the market — if the price is too high, surpluses are generated and oversupply breaks the pact," one expert said.

Christopher Gilbert at London University says real non-oil commodity prices have slumped nearly 40% in the past 17 years, with the biggest declines in coffee, cocoa and tea — all grown in tropical African countries.

Coffee futures hit their lowest in nominal terms for 16 years earlier this week.

Coffee growing countries have lost over $6bn in hard currency earnings since the collapse of export quotas under the international coffee agreement in 1989, a spokesman for the coffee pact said.

Rich nations depend on non-fuel commodity exports for only 15% of their earnings, but for Latin America they account for 42% of earnings and for Africa 45%, Gilbert said.

Greenhill does not see any chance of an improvement in the price of coffee or cocoa in the near future.

Cuba depends critically on sugar exports for foreign currency, but with prices around $180 a ton, it is in dire straits.

Brazil, once highly dependent on commodity exports, has been at pains in recent years to diversify its exports. Malaysia has too, but it is still very sensitive to movements in tin, cocoa, palm oil and rubber prices.

Tin prices are just above 17-year lows, while cocoa is recovering from 15-year lows earlier this year.

However, Third World producers of copper and cobalt have recently enjoyed a reprieve as major producers Zaire and Zambia have been hit by civil unrest. — Reuters.
aid agencies!

Windhoek - President Tito of South Germany and Dr. Kafi of the AU have called for a re-examination of the conditions of aid by donor agencies to African countries. Dr. Kafi said, "We in South Africa have been using aid agencies for years, but we have not seen any positive results. The conditions of aid are too strict and they are working against the development of African economies." President Tito added, "We have been receiving aid from the World Bank and the IMF, but these institutions have imposed stringent conditions on us. We need more flexibility in the way aid is given."
Half the world's HIV cases in Africa, say experts

Wilma Wanjiku, 16, 1981, from Kenya, has been living with HIV for 10 years. She started taking antiretroviral therapy (ART) in 2012. She now has a 15-year-old baby and helps thousands of other HIV-positive women and children in her community.

Wilma's story is not unique. In Africa, where half of the world's HIV cases are located, millions of people are living with the disease and facing daily challenges to access care and treatment.

Experts estimate that there are more than 17 million people living with HIV in Africa, with the highest prevalence rates in Southern and Eastern Africa. Access to treatment and care is a critical issue, as many affected by HIV lack the resources needed to access ART and other medical interventions.

The fight against HIV in Africa continues, with efforts focused on increasing access to care, strengthening public health systems, and raising awareness about the importance of prevention and early detection.

Wilma's story serves as a reminder of the ongoing struggle and the importance of support and resources for those living with HIV in Africa.
Chapter 1: Africa

In the внутрностях фотографий... John Ford, Frank Capra, and Republic Pictures... in the history of cinema, John Ford is one of the most celebrated directors for his work in the Western genre. His films such as "Stagecoach," "The Searchers," and "Stagecoach," have become iconic, and his influence on the Western film is undeniable.

Ford was known for his realistic depiction of the American West, his use of the landscape, and his focus on the human element in the stories. His films often featured rugged landscapes, innovative camera work, and a sense of epic scale.

Ford's work in the Western genre was not limited to his own films. He also directed Western episodes for television series such as "The High Chaparral" and "The Virginian." His films continue to be celebrated and admired by film enthusiasts around the world.
Soviet woes high on IMF agenda

BANGKOK — Africa and the economic problems of African countries are unlikely to be high on the agenda of this year's annual meeting of the World Bank and IMF that opens officially today.

Centre stage will be occupied by relations with the Soviet Union, trying for IMF and World Bank membership in the hope of staving off economic collapse.

It is staggering under a foreign debt burden of $60bn and at the weekend again officially admitted to having gold reserves of only 245 tons worth about $10bn.

That compares with earlier Western estimates of 1.500 tons. The official figure, though questioned by Western countries, is helping to support gold prices.

As a sideshow there is the rift over a French-sponsored proposal that a $120m international aid package be made available to Vietnam.

The aid would allow Vietnam to repay overdue IMF loans which, in turn, could open the door to World Bank advances to the impoverished communist country.

Vietnam would appear to be the only major public rift between the US, which enforces a strict trade and financial embargo against its former adversary, and the rest of the developed world.

Other Third World programmes have become of minor significance. The Third World situation is not helped by the growing irritation expressed by the developed countries' representatives with the reluctance of many developing nations to implement sound economic policies.

Zambia, which has abandoned IMF approved restructuring and economic programmes ahead of its October 31 election, is cited as an example of Third World irresponsibility.

In contrast, Mexico, which was threatening to default a few years ago, is held up as the shining example of what corrective economic policies can lead to.

The developed world's irritation is reciprocated by the developing countries.

Many of them pay scant regard to human rights and are resentful of attempts by the World Bank and IMF to tie assistance to political reform.

Repeated calls by IMF MD Michel Camdessus for cuts in developing countries' military spending were shrugged at the weekend by the Group of 24 (G-24) which fronts for the poorest nations of the developing world in their relations with the IMF and World Bank.

In a joint statement G-24 finance ministers bluntly told the IMF and World Bank not to become involved "in issues beyond their strict economic and financial mandate."
Winds of change are blowing in renewal of democracy

By ROBIN LODGE

HARARE - The heads of government of the Commonwealth's 50 countries, in Harare for this week's summit meeting, are uncomfortably aware of a looming presence casting an authoritarian shadow over the proceedings' main theme of "good governance".

Only a few yards from the conference centre stands a mighty concrete tower, the headquarters of Zimbabwe's ruling Zanu-PF Party, epitomizing the image of oppression, dictatorship and abuse of power that the developing world - Africa in particular - is trying so hard to shed.

At long last, Africa is beginning to grow up. To peer out of the fog of the phony and complex, rigidly post-colonial ideology it dreamed up for itself in the 1960s and applied with such vigour and thoroughness as to wreck the continent and inflame human conflict across the continent.

Now, 20 years on, the rejected notions of Western democracy are slowly being picked up again, and a tide of pluralism is sweeping across Africa.

It is not a smooth process. In Zambia, it took food riots and an attempted coup to persuade Kenneth Kaunda, the gravelly dean of independent Africa, that the West was not picking at his characterisation which had given him absolute power for three decades - and allow free multi-party elections at last this month.

Tanzania has finally abandoned the socialist policy which its founder, Julius Nyerere, co-inventor of the Movement for Universal Peace and Independence, believed would lead to human exploitation and the creation of a workers' and peasant paradise. Now he, too, favours building a new society based on Western-style multi-party democracy.

Realism

There are still some stalwarts of the old era. President Mobutu of Zaire is still struggling to retain his ruthless grip over his bleached-out people; in Kenya, Daniel Arap Moi seems as determined as ever to crush any opposition and lead his once prosperous country into social and economic bankruptcy.

With a foot in each camp stands his Excellency Comrade President Robert Mugabe, the former guerrilla leader who horrified the West with his talk of Marxism during the Rhodesian civil war and who continued to hold up the cause of socialism and one-party rule as prime minister and president. Now there are signs that this is changing.

Earlier this year, without fanfare or preamble, Zanu-PF announced that it had abandoned the ideologies of Marxism-Leninism and scientific socialism. The move has so far had no impact on the way Zimbabwe is governed but is nonetheless a sign of a wind of change.

For all his anti-Western dictates, passivity and ruthless pursuit of power, Mr Mugabe has retained a canny awareness of reality. Even as his most socialist he has been careful not to destroy the mainly white-owned private enterprise that forms the basis of the country's prosperity.

Since independence he has repeatedly pledged to resettle hundreds of thousands of landless black people on what he refers to as an "under-utilised" land, a thinly disguised euphemism for white-owned farms. So far, only 60,000 black families have been relocated as things stand, and a new million refugees now live in camps. The government's own figures show 4,000 white farmers occupying 15 million hectares to provide food for 10 million people.

Of Zimbabwe's food production and tobacco exports.

It could all change but at present, Mr Mugabe seems anxious to reassure the country's 100,000 remaining whites that they still have a future here. In April 1990, a month after Zanu-PF won 136 out of 119 seats in a general election, he appointed three whites to key Cabinet posts.

And, as if to show the world that democracy could remain alive and well under his vision of one-party state, his old adversary and comrade-in-arms Joshua Nkomo, whose Zaps had earlier been mauled up by Zanu-PF, was made one of two vice-presidents. Another former opponent was given the post of prime Minister of Home Affairs.

Similarly, Mr Mugabe is eager to mend fences with Britain. The visit by the Queen turned into a celebration of British-Zimbabwean mutual praise and admiration. The government-controlled Herald newspaper even ran an editorial that was so complimentary to the Queen and the Queen's role in the Commonwealth as to leave diplomats staggered.

Behind Mr Mugabe's warmth is his desire to use the summit to persuade the richer Commonwealh countries, such as Britain, Canada and Australia, to use their influence in other organisations such as the European Community and the G7 group of industrialized countries, to help relieve the burden of Third World debt and impoverishment.

Unity

Last week he singled out for praise a move by Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney to cancel the debts of several developing countries. Mr Mugabe said: "This is the kind of examination that the Commonwealth can give to the others." On the other hand, he rejected the notion that economic aid should be linked to any way with human rights. This, he said, was "unrealistic".

He said he was happy that a democratic trend was catching on in Africa, where military regimes were still often a visit to their people and now going towards democracy but that this could not be achieved through coercion.

As far as the summit is concerned, there will be no coercion or blackmail. There will be no qualification to join the motion on good governance. Not an eyebrow will be raised when Presidents Moi, Kaunda and Mugabe put their signatures to the final declaration. Nor do they risk being embarrassed by direct criticism during the session. This emphasis is on unity and with the old stumbling block of South Africa now more or less out of the way, it is likely to be achieved.

Austerity

In the end it will be a less a matter of communist pressure than that Mr Mugabe knows that he will be able to resist. If, for example, he may find blackmail or coercion, the developing countries will eventually have no choice but to accept their situation, knowing that if they did not, the West would stand up and knuckle down and fall back to blackmail. The post-colonial guilt is over - when the former imperial powers and their industrialised societies threw money at tyrants such as Idi Amin and Mobutu and Bokassa, they had no world powers trembled at accusations of colonialism and economic exploitation.

It will take a long time to make up for the damage done by the post-colonial imperial era. The widespread policy of "nationalisation of foreign-owned companies" worked well, but it was a success only in New Markets in Eastern Europe look safer and more lucrative from an economic point of view, the stress on the more attractive politically to a Western world war-damaged by decades of Third World whingeing. On or off, the main keys to Western aid, for Eastern Europe, the Soviet Union and all, will be economic growth, social progress and political stability; and democratic government in their part of the divided world.

In this age of harsh realities, it is best to be inside a club. And for many African countries, Commonwealth membership could prove to be a life-line.
free trade zones

duce significant steps toward liberalisation, trade zones have become one of the best hopes for reducing impediments to trade.

Summers said the benefits of free trade zones, the spur of competition and the transfer of technology, would extend to all nations, even those not included in a bloc.

But to those that do not see themselves included in any trade group, the blocks present a two-fold problem. Blocs could use the threat of lifting trade barriers to muscle advantageous trade agreements from isolated nations; bloc participants might win access to markets at the expense of those on the outside.

In addition to the EC's drive toward a common market in 1995, the US and Canada have already begun negotiating a free trade agreement with Mexico and an Asian trade group has been proposed by Malaysian Prime Minister Mohamad Mahathir. — Sapa-Reuter.

Africa needs more aid to fight poverty

BANGKOK — African nations yesterday painted a grim picture of growing poverty, meagre investments and environmental crisis while asking the international community for large aid input.

But Steven Kibona, who heads Tanzania's delegation to the World Bank's annual conference, stressed African states were implementing economic reforms despite "the difficulties and sacrifices encountered".

"It must be unmistakably clear that African governments are committed to doing what is necessary and feasible to rejuvenate their economies and set the stage for improved standards of living," he said.

Kibona, who is Tanzania's finance minister, spoke on behalf of the African members of the World Bank and IMF.

"The debt overhang is still an albatross around the neck of many African countries," Kibona said.

"There is now a heightened risk that Africa will be left on the periphery of the international economy.

He said it was critical that domestic and foreign investment be increased and that debt relief be offered by foreign monetary institutions.

He said that the ratio of investment to national income had fallen by some 25% since 1989. Warnings about a global capital shortage meant that African countries would have difficulty competing for capital.

"In sum, we are appealing to the donor community to increase its support of our growth-oriented adjustment efforts," he told the 155-member World Bank.

— Sapa-AP.
Opportunity in aid bodies

INTERNATIONAL non-governmental aid organisations are providing excellent export opportunities in Africa for SA companies.

Safta executive Paresh Pandya said yesterday that non-governmental organisations' (NGOs') spending aid to Africa was about $500m a year, and SA companies were best placed to supply them with requirements such as food, pharmaceuticals, clothing, water purification chemicals, educational material and training programmes.

SA companies were best placed to develop these markets because of the low exchange value of the rand and geographic proximity.

Safta announced recently that SA companies could be eligible to take part in major EC-funded African development projects.

Safta has produced a guide to non-governmental organisations. It covers about 60 operating in Africa.
CSIR takes aggressive steps deeper into Africa

GOVERNMENT’s scientific and industrial technology organisation, the CSIR, has embarked on an aggressive African expansion programme now that political attitudes towards SA have started to thaw.

Although the CSIR has been indirectly involved in southern Africa over the past two years through exported technology, the organisation was now marketing its management and technical services directly as far north as the Ivory Coast. Africa business development manager Loic Desselas said in an interview this week.

Desselas said most of the infrastructural development projects which the CSIR had targeted were of more than R10m and normally involved international funding. He added the CSIR was involved with a road-upgrading project in Malawi, which had been financed by the World Bank.

Although competition for African development projects was fierce between US and European technology developers, Desselas said the CSIR was ideally placed “as the organisation has been involved with developing and adapting technology for Third World conditions for years”.

The CSIR was formed specifically to develop technology to suit African conditions.

“The First World technology available from overseas developers often exceeds the needs and financial resources of developing African countries.”

Citing a case in point, Desselas said the CSIR recently adapted a solar cell system which could be used for cheap irrigation, among other things.

He noted the CSIR’s annual budget of R460m accounted for roughly 25% of Africa’s total research expenditure a year. The CSIR had the largest permanent research centre on the continent.

Although the organisation’s revenue generated from Africa was “very modest”, Desselas noted the groundwork of establishing contact with African countries and financing institutions like the World Bank was now in place.

As a result, he expected demand for the CSIR’s services to increase dramatically in coming years.

Efforts

“The number of official African representatives who have approached the CSIR this year has more than quadrupled.”

Desselas noted CSIR’s marketing efforts were also opening up business opportunities in Africa for SA manufacturing companies. He added the CSIR only developed and marketed technology, and left the production to outside manufacturers.

“The CSIR is also looking to joint projects with local and outside private firms to manufacture developed equipment.”

He added the Africa expansion programme was in line with a general re-organisation of the CSIR to that of a market-driven operation.

Once fully funded by government, roughly 55% of the CSIR’s annual budget was now self-generated.
Africa slated over Aids

BANGKOK — African nations are failing to confront the Aids epidemic that threatens to devastate the region's economy along with the lives of its victims, a top World Bank official said.

"Countries are still in the denial stage," Mr Edward Jaycox, head of the bank's Africa division, said this week.

Aids has struck more people in Africa than anywhere else in the world, Jaycox said. He said more than six million people were believed infected by the Human Immunodeficiency Virus, precursor of Aids.

"It's a major problem, not just a health problem. It has a tremendous development impact," Jaycox told reporters.

Jaycox said he was disturbed by the apparent failure of Africa's leaders to come to grips with the epidemic.

He criticised African finance ministers for failing to attend a lecture earlier in the week by a leading Aids expert.

"There was one African in the whole room," Jaycox said. This is tragic." - Sapo-Reuter.
ALGIERS — Algeria's first multi-party legislative elections, called off this summer after deadly riots by Muslim fundamentalists, will be held December 26, its president has announced.

President Chadli Bendjedid's televised statement Tuesday was his first national appearance since declaring a state of emergency June 5. - Sopo-AFP.
War: A competition for scarce resources
C'wealth: 'No role sans SA'

CANBERRA. — Foreign Minister Mr Pik Botha said yesterday that the Commonwealth might have no role once the South African issue was settled.

Mr Botha, on a three-day visit to Australia, told reporters that while he thought the Commonwealth was important, the apartheid issue and South Africa had helped bind its members together.

"You only have to look at their agendas of the past 20 years and then find out yourself what a decisively important role the South African issue played," Mr Botha said.

The Commonwealth groups about 50 former British colonies which meet annually to discuss common problems. South Africa, which left the Commonwealth in 1961, will again be on the agenda at the group's Heads of Government meeting in Zimbabwe starting on October 16.

The SA government obviously is aware of the weight that Australian Prime Minister Mr Bob Hawke can carry when he attends the meeting. Mr Hawke last month said he was postponing a planned trip to SA, citing dissatisfaction with the pace of reforms.

Grilled

Australian Foreign Minister Mr Gareth Evans said yesterday that trade representatives would visit SA soon.

During his visit Mr Botha was grilled by reporters on every possible controversy — from the Inkatha slush fund scandal to his comments two years ago criticising Australia's treatment of its aboriginals.

No matter how pointed the question, he smiled and either provided a detailed response or deflected the barb methodically in his slow, deep voice.

Mr Botha stressed the need for the resumption of foreign investment in South Africa.

"We can adopt the best constitution, but if we cannot grow at a real rate of 5%, it doesn't matter who's going to govern the country. Disaster will be facing us," he said.

Along with New Zealand, Australia will co-host next year's World Cup cricket tournament, in which South Africa hopes to compete.

Asked whether he thought the Springbok rugby team would have won this year's World Cup now under way in Britain and France, Mr Botha said "Easy." — Sapa-Reuters-AP
Africa in danger of being forgotten

BANGKOK — Africa is running the danger of becoming the "forgotten continent" in the wake of the enormous sums of money needed to rebuild the economies of Eastern Europe.

Several speakers from African countries at this week's meeting of the World Bank/IMF have expressed fears that the Soviet problem in particular could cause the international financial community to ignore the world's poorest continent.

But Lewis Preston, president of the World Bank, played down these fears at a press conference, saying that the financial requirements needed by the collapsing Soviet economy would not impact on the World Bank's existing funding.

Despite the reassurances by Mr Preston and Michel Camdessus, the managing director of the IMF, African delegates have left this year's venue rather disconsolate and depressed.

Africa and its enormous problems were hardly ever men-
tioned by key delegates at the meeting.

"It's a familiar situation," said M. Manea, the Finance Minister of Cape Verde. "Africa is no longer a continent that really counts in the global economy," he said during his address.

This is despite the fact that the African continent is currently facing some of its most intense financial and political problems since the end of the colonial era.

The economic picture was summed up by Edward Jaycox, World Bank vice-president for Africa: "Most of the countries of sub-Saharan Africa have been in an economic free-fall over the last decade.

"No goods on the shelves, no spare parts, no chalk in the class-rooms while foreign debt is piling up (currently at $27 billion)."

The situation has not changed over the past five years. Africa remains a continent in crisis. What has changed, however, is that Africa is of little concern to the international community, which is turning its focus to the rapidly developing economies of Asia and the newly democratic East European countries.

"Nobody has an answer to the African crisis," Mr Jaycox said. "African has chosen consumption over production and has cut its ties with the world economy."

For South Africa the economic upliftment of the sub-Saharan region is of crucial importance. More than a quarter of South Africa's foreign trade today is with African countries and any increase in this trade is largely dependant on the availability of foreign trade credits.

While the South African delegation here has had "extensive meetings" with delegates of neighbouring countries in Southern Africa, it is known that trade prospects are badly hampered by the lack of foreign exchange.

In comments to the SA press, Barend du Plessis, Minister of Finance, expressed some concern about the three major developing free trade areas, the European Community, North America and the newly announced Asean trade-bloc.

"This effectively leaves South Africa, and the rest of Africa out in the cold and will force African countries to take a hard look at establishing its own free-trade areas to compete on global markets."

"These developments could even hasten the plans to develop a Southern African constellation of states in the near future," he said.

M. Magnus Heystek will resume his popular Money Matters column and answer Readers' queries on his return from the IMF meeting next week.
Oil companies set sights on Africa

SOUTH Africa's oil industry, headquartered in Cape Town, has set its sights on capturing refined oil markets in Africa and has embarked on massive capital expenditure programmes to increase its refining capacity.

Strong demand from the east coast of Africa and the Indian Ocean islands is expected. Shell and BP are spending R400m to expand capacity at the jointly owned Sapref refinery in Durban, the largest refinery on the continent.

Its present capacity of 280 000 barrels per day (bpd) is to be expanded by 30%.

The project will start this year and is due to be completed by end-1993.

Engen, which owns Mobil SA and Trek Petroleum, is planning a R2,2bn expansion to its Genref refinery in Durban, with the new capacity intended for the export market.

Caltex SA is spending R240m to double its daily production of 55 000 barrels.

If all three groups are looking to expand their horizons into Africa, they are also looking inwards to their social responsibility programmes.

Shell has donated R5,5m so far this year to educational institutions and is also involved in job creation, art and culture, environment and socio-political programmes.

Caltex has contributed R75m to the corporate social investment programme over the last 15 years since the introduction of the Sullivan Code, with R14m being contributed in the last year.

As far as Engen is concerned, the Energos Foundation (previously Mobil Foundation) is involved in about 150 projects involving funding of over R2m a year.
Press freedom takes pumping across Africa
Yearning for uncertainty Freedom

Richard Dowden tests the mood and climate for democracy in Africa
Red Cross keeping 35,000 alive at camp.

MEKELE (Ethiopia) — At least 35,000 civilians expelled from Eritrea by the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF) are surviving in a camp here, sustained only by emergency support from the Red Cross. Many of those who arrived on foot have already died.

Most are families of former government soldiers and officials who were forced to leave immediately after the takeover of Eritrea by the EPLF in May, but new arrivals in Mekele include traders who say the front is now giving business and employment priority to Eritreans.

Conditions at the camp are reported to be "critical," but the new transitional government does not have the resources for a repatriation programme. The EPLF is running Eritrea as a de facto separate state but will not declare independence.
Feasts for leaders and starvation for babies...

MOGADISHU - Somalia's new political elite is lunching in a Mogadishu hotel. A cabinet minister complains to his friend the police commissioner that the only item on the menu is lobster.

"I'm a nomad," he sniffs as his meal arrives, "I should be eating milk and meat."

At a hospital across town, Catholic Sister Maria Antonia holds up what has become a familiar sight in the last nine months - a baby dying of hunger.

These are the grotesque contrasts of Somalia, where savage clan warfare has raged since garuva forces ended dictator Mohamed Siad Barre's 21-year rule in January.

Relief groups and diplomats say with growing anger that the country's new leaders neither can nor will stop the fighting between the armed factions they control.

"They sit in rooms and talk as if in a dream, while the streets outside people go without food, live in constant terror," said one frustrated Somali relief official.

Fighting has put 4.5 million people - or 60 percent of the population - at risk of starvation, a UN Food and Agriculture Organization report says.

"The situation is catastrophic... people have been dying for five months," a UN official said.

Guarantee

President Ali Mahdi Mohamed heads a government formed this month which promises to restore law and order, rebuild shattered institutions and guarantee security for relief operations.

But his leadership is unrecognized in most parts of Somalia. In the north one clan has declared independence from the rest of the country. The south and centre have been carved into clan territories ruled over by gunmen.

Hundreds of people died last month in Mogadishu street battles between Ali Mahdi's faction and forces of his military chief of staff, Mohamed Farah Aidid. Aidid accuses the President of mismanagement and wants him to resign.

Forces loyal to Siad Barre, who has been holed up in the west of the country since he fled the capital, are advancing on the city once more, apparently seeking to regain power.

Somalia's disintegration was well-advanced by the end of Barre's rule, widely seen as corrupt, nepotistic and brutal.

But now, the situation is worse than ever.

Those hospitals which are functioning overflow with gunshot and shrapnel victims. Schools have stopped functioning.

FAO estimates that food harvests up to June 1992 will reach 170,000 tons, only 25 percent of normal, because of disruption to farming by the war.

Most foreign relief agencies have found conditions too dangerous to work and only a handful remain.

"We are trying to stay, to work with the Somalis in this horrible time for them," says ICRC delegate for Somalia Mr Peter Stocker. He says armed bandits have robbed ICRC workers several times and looted 45 cars.

The United Nations has been criticised for not re-establishing a presence throughout the country since January. But it says the security situation is still too dangerous.

Only Italy, Sudan and Egypt have reopened embassies in Somalia. A major obstacle to the return of foreign organisations is that their offices and equipment were destroyed or looted in the fighting, diplomats and aid workers say.

The FAO report says Somalia needs about 555,000 tons of food aid over the next year, but if security is not improved it "cannot be distributed in time and widespread suffering and loss of life seem inevitable."

The ICRC currently distributes 2,000 tons of food a month in Mogadishu, the capital, about one-third the actual need.

Armed militia men provide protection, paid in food rather than wages of nearly worthless Somali currency.

They perch on lorries emerging from the ICRC compound, besieged daily by hungry crowds.

"Food is power, big money," said ICRC official Wim Van Boxelaere. "A truck of rice is worth R7,500, so of course it happens that they (bandits) try to rob them."

Pyramids of grapefruit, camel meat and bread loaves stand in the marketplace. But with the collapse of the money economy, most people have no cash to buy these goods.

"Luckily the extended family system is still intact, so people can rely on that," says Sister Maria Antonia. - Sapa-Reuters.
Political in-fighting hampers progress

Dreams of freedom shattered in Bissau

BAPATA - The little house where Mr Amilcar Cabral was born is boarded up and falling apart, just like Guinea-Bissau, the small West African state he led to independence.

The dilapidated building in this northern market town was to have become a museum to honour the revolutionary hero who inspired millions of Africans with his fight against Portuguese colonial rule in the 1960s and 1970s.

But his African Party for the Independence of Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde, which won independence in 1974, is too busy with renovations of a different sort to call in builders.

The fall of communism in Eastern Europe and the need for Western aid in one of the world's poorest countries is pushing the PAIGC to adopt the very multi-party democracy and capitalism that Cabral scorned.

"The path towards democracy is irreversible," National Assembly spokesman Mr Helder Proenca said as debate opened on laws permitting freedom of the Press, unions and strikes.

Cabral was murdered in mysterious circumstances a year before the PAIGC took power in this coastal state of a million rice and groundnut farmers.

Today his dream of a union between Guinea-Bissau and the nearby Cape Verde islands, with the PAIGC leading both to socialism and prosperity, is in tatters and his party racked by infighting.

A coup by Guinea-Bissau's present leader, Mr Joao Bernardo Vieira, led to a rupture with Cape Verde in 1980 and the PAIGC's island wing lost power in free elections earlier this year.

In Guinea-Bissau, the PAIGC admits its socialist policies are not working.

Five years ago it began opening up to private enterprisers and in May passed a law allowing other parties to exist.

The opening has encouraged dissent long frustrated by jail to openly criticise PAIGC leaders.

The target of their attacks is Vieira, popularly known as "Nino," who earned a tough image when he executed a band of officials accused of conspiracies in 1986.

Strong-arm techniques are still common according to five opposition groups - the Bafata Movement, Democratic Front, Social Democratic Front, Democratic Convergence Party and United Social Democrat Party.

They complain of police harassment and Kafkaesque bureaucracy blocking their legalisation.

"The government is scared of us," FD leader Mr Aristides Menezes told Reuters after several of his supporters were arrested for putting up posters in the capital Bissau.

Reassurances

Frustration with the slow pace of change has also led to the rise within the PAIGC of the reformist "Group of 121," which wants reassurances there will be free elections soon.

The group claims 2,000 members including Finance Minister Manuel Dos Santos, one of the most powerful cabinet members who fought in the guerrilla war.

The reformers note that Guinea-Bissau lags behind Portugal's other four former colonies - Sao Tome and Principe, Mozambique, Cape Verde and Angola - in embracing political pluralism.

"There has to be change," said Secretary of State for Information Mr Agnelo Augusto Regalia, another reformist.

Vieira argues that Guinea-Bissau must proceed gradually with change to avoid creating a political void and that the reformists should air their views within the party behind closed doors.

"The party leadership believes the democratisation process is not going slowly, if we take into account Guinea-Bissau's specifics and our unequivocal desire to promote a peaceful transition," Vieira said.

"They feel they earned their revolutionary credentials and want to hold on to their big houses and cars," said one diplomat.

Pigs

For many in the capital, life is a struggle to buy a R40 bag of rice and home is a hovel with no running water shared with pigs.

City dwellers bore the brunt of chronic food shortages in the early 1980s when mismanagement emptied the shelves of state stores and housewives had to search for hours for eggs.

"Though the situation has improved the economy is in crisis."

The World Bank has frozen credits, demanding that Guinea-Bissau cut inflation and spending and effectively crack down on the parallel market - moves that will not be popular at the polls.

Vieira's strongest support is in the countryside, where nine-tenths of the population lives, diplomats say.

Personalities count more than ideology in a country where nine out of 10 people cannot read and many villagers are still loyal to the 35-year-old party which freed them from Portugal. - Sapo-Reuters
Marx is going, but his legacy haunts African recovery

- Excess liquidity caused by central banks printing money to finance state companies, resulting in falling currency values;
- Exchange rates held down artificially. One dollar buys 80 Angolan kwanzas at official rates, 600 on the parallel market;
- Lack of basic goods means external aid is used to buy essentials rather than for productive investment;
- A shortage of trained managers with experience of free market conditions. Finding the right solution will not be easy.

Free market moves, which are likely to result in higher consumer prices, could increase hardship for populations already mired in poverty.

Credit can be reined in and interest rates in-

Source: Sapa-AP.
Ambassador: form co-operation network

By Esmaré van der Merwe Political Reporter

US ambassador William Swing has proposed a network of human rights, security and economic co-operation agreements between southern African states which could serve as a model for the rest of the continent.

Addressing the SA Institute of International Affairs in Johannesburg last night, Mr Swing said regional co-operation had largely failed in Africa.

But it had a better chance of succeeding in the 10-state region south of Zaire and Tanzania because of significant moves towards peace and democracy in the region. And South Africa could play a leading role in this process.

"For decades, the battlefield in Pretoria's fight to uphold white minority rule knew no national boundaries. Thanks to courageous decisions by many South Africans, that long war is now over, with the struggle about to move to the negotiating table.

"Thus, for the first time in memory, peace throughout this entire region is within reach. In fact, the ingredients are present for a lasting peace."

Time ripe ... for peace, says ambassador William Swing.

He said the previous priority given to abolition of apartheid had made it impossible to shine the spotlight on human rights abuses elsewhere in Africa.

Now the time was ripe to establish a regional mechanism to monitor human rights violations which could prove to be a powerful moral force.

On security co-operation, he suggested the setting up of a regional mechanism to create regional dialogue with a view to reducing tensions, overcoming historical suspicions and animosities, promoting arms reduction and resolving disputes which might arise.

A body for economic co-operation could increase southern African economic interdependence, he suggested.

Mr Swing concluded: "In a world where Africa as a whole runs the increasing risk of marginalisation, the states of southern Africa have little option but to build together an integrated region or otherwise risk oblivion and irrelevance."
Ethiopian democracy not a fact
SA group at all-Africa business conference

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — A delegation of about 110 businessmen, politicians and journalists leaves today for the first all-Africa business conference in Cameroon's capital, Yaounde.

The group included a wide range of businessmen from company directors to Soweto entrepreneurs, said yesterday. Both Eskom CE Ian McRae and Safair MD Braam Loots will be speaking at the conference, which has attracted up to 500 businessmen.

The conference is being organised by the Paris-based Movement for Dialogue and Co-operation.
SA group abuzz over Africa talks

History will be made today when a delegation of 30 South African business people leave for Cameroon to attend the first all-African business conference.

The conference, starting in Yaoundé, capital of Cameroon, and will be attended by business leaders from all over Africa, as well as a number of business and political observers from the US and Europe.

Known as Sideco '91, the conference has been organised jointly by two SA firms, Baird Communications and Network International, on behalf of the Paris-based Movement for Dialogue and Co-operation.

"With all the exciting news in the past few days about trade, sports and cultural links, Sideco could not have happened at a more appropriate time," Baird chairman, Jacques Verster, said yesterday.

Safair managing director, Braam Loots, who will be in the South African delegation, said yesterday: "For South Africans trading in Africa, the conference provides a golden opportunity for bringing key customers and trading partners together in one place at one time.

"This is far more effective than travelling from country to country. I'm really looking forward to a few days of important discussions with business leaders who are gearing up for a new dispensation for this continent."

Staff Reporter.
YAOUNDE - About 110 delegates, comprising business people and representatives of political organisations, yesterday arrived at Yaounde, Cameroon, to attend the three-day All-Africa Business Conference - Sidco '91.

The conference, with a theme "Exploring opportunities in a changing Africa", is expected to provide the first forum of its kind for businessmen in Africa to discuss and explore opportunities in a fast-changing continent.

Business people from South Africa include Eskom's chief executive Mr Ian McGregor, Mr Joas Mogale of the Federation of African Business and Consumer Services while the Pan Africanist Congress is represented by Mr Mark Shinnies and Mr Mosebyane Malatjie.

The conference has been organised by South African consultancy firms, Bird Communications and Network International on behalf of the Paris-based Movement for Dialogue and Co-operation.

A spokesman for the conference said it had come at a time when the dismantling of apartheid coincided with the process of economic recovery.

During the conference delegates will hear a panel of about 36 speakers, experts in their fields, from Africa and other parts of the world.
UN focuses on African debt

NEW YORK — UN secretary-general Javier Perez de Cuellar said on Monday there was a widening gap between rhetoric and action on the part of creditor countries dealing with African debt.

He said that positive steps had been taken by some creditor nations but indebtedness of African countries still "hangs, like a dark cloud over the continent, obscuring prospects for the renewal of growth." He added that the gap between rhetoric and action remains largely unbridged.

Perez made his comments at an "African Day Devoted to Debt Relief" at the UN, initiated by the Rev. Leon Sullivan, who originated the rules for ending apartheid among employees of US firms in SA.

In addition to Sullivan's appearance, the day was marked by speeches from a wide array of international and American political figures, including New York Mayor David Dinkins and General Motors chairman Robert Stempel.

Perez said it was "disheartening to see how, in spite of the widespread recognition of the gravity of the situation ... the gap between rhetoric and action remains largely unbridged.

He said there was no single, easy way out "but it is surely feasible to find a lasting solution.

Assistant director-general of the UN Children's Fund Richard Jolly said Africa for eight years had spent 4% to 5% of its resources merely to service debt, double the volume the US spent on the Marshall plan to rehabilitate Europe.

US ambassador Thomas Pickering added a note of regret that the US and the Soviet Union had in the past expended resources in Cold War competition, often in unproductive areas.

He also pointed out that a "few nations" in the developing world had military budgets two or three times their expenditures on education and health. — Sapa-Reuters.
Africa can become an economic giant

By JOSHUA RABOROKO, reporting from Cameroon

YAOUNDE - South Africa's State President, Mr FW de Klerk and ANC President Mr Nelson Mandela should play a role in the process of economic recovery and unification of the African continent in a post-apartheid era.

They should provide a forum for businessmen in Africa to discuss and explore opportunities in a changing continent; an All-Africa business conference was told here yesterday.

Opening the conference - dubbed Sidco '91 - Cameroon

Secretary of State for the Ministry of Industrial Development and Commerce Mr Louise Marie Abogo Nkono said Africa had great potential and resources to become an international economic giant.

He called on African leaders, including De Klerk and Mandela, to take the challenge in making that dream a reality by cooperating and establishing contacts with other African states.

"The conference is intended to make leaders and decision-makers aware of opportunities in agriculture, food, energy, transport and tourism and the development of the informal and small business sectors in Africa.

Some 600 delegates from more than 30 countries in Africa are participating in the conference. The conference is also expected to make important decisions on the role of women.

The chairman of the Paris-based Movement for Dialogue and Co-operation, Mr Desire Atangane Oumambele, who is organizing the conference, said Africans must wake up and develop their economy after many years of suffering as a result of struggles against "imperialistic rule and other conflicts."

He said businessmen and politicians must come together and build a strong economy."
No buyers for African debt

SA banks have turned down discreet offers to buy billions of dollars of debt owed to the Soviet Union by its former African allies.

According to a report in the London newsletter Africa Confidential, the $10bn of debt, owed by countries like Bein, Mozambique, Ethiopia and Angola, is up for sale by the Soviets at bargain basement prices of around "five cents in the dollar".

African Confidential, quoting "financial sources in Johannesburg", said a group of SA banks had already bought much of the debt with a view to obtaining lucrative debt-equity swaps (exchanging the debt for an equity stake in a given company) in the countries concerned.

But enquirers at the major banks yesterday established that while informal approaches had been made, not all banks were aware of them and, in any case, were not interested.

One banker said privately that African countries' credit ratings were so bad he would not touch their debt. Another likened it to playing Russian roulette.

Standard Bank MD Mike Vosloo said he would rather foster trade with corporate clients in Africa than enter speculative ventures.

Nedbank executive GM Derek Muller said while debt-equity swaps were a theoretical possibility, there was very little new direct investment taking place in Africa.

FNB group treasurer Ken Russell said he would be surprised if the Reserve Bank allowed such transactions while SA was a debtor nation.
France backs democracy

PARIS—Within the pages of France's 1992 overseas aid budget lies confirmation of a policy shift on Africa towards support for democracy in its former colonies.

Co-operation ministry officials have said that 1992 spending would switch aid within the military category towards the training of police to ensure respect for law and order.

At the same time, a French desire to see Africans take more responsibility within their societies should translate into a reduced number of French nationals in African civil services.

The 1992 budget for overseas aid, which was to be debated in the National Assembly (lower house) yesterday, shows an increase of 3.6 percent from 1991 to Fr3.92 billion.

Within that total, the military aid budget, which covers military personnel working for African forces, training and materiel, falls by 1.3 percent to Fr440 million.

**Resources**

Officials at the cooperation ministry, which oversees most of French aid to black Africa, said post-Cold War prospects for democratic change in Africa had prompted a shift of resources within the military category.

In most cases, priority will be given to the establishment of police forces modelled on the French gendarmerie rather than to strictly military assistance.

In a note on its budget, the Ministry said the shift reflected changed security needs as democratic institutions struggled to take root during social and economic upheaval.

"It seems fitting that the co-operation ministry lends its support to the policy of democratisation," one official said, adding that the analysis in Paris matched the thinking of most African heads of state.

Officials denied that there was any "carrot-and-stick" approach, with development projects funded or halted depending on progress towards democracy.

"We're not working according to some yardstick which lends itself to blow-by-blow adjustments," he said.

**Political point**

But, referring to current unrest in Zaire, he noted that decisions on aid to individual countries could be taken quickly, both for security reasons and to make a political point.

Civil unrest in Zaire and the rejection of democracy by President Mobutu Sese Seko led France to cut off aid to the country, a former Belgian colony, on Monday.

This year's budget has been drawn up during a period of slow economic growth and Ministry officials reckon that they have done well to get credits increased by 3.6 percent, more than the overall budget increase of 3.1 percent. - Sapa-Reuters.
Forum to discuss SA's regional role on cards

YAOUNDE — A regional conference to discuss SA's very sensitive role in the region is a “distinct possibility”, says Foreign Affairs deputy director for Africa Derek Auret.

Auret, who was appointed to his post recently, said it was not clear when such a conference would take place.

But discussions on SA's role in the region were necessary to combat fears of SA domination and to gear SA's integration accordingly, he said in an interview.

Auret is on a trip to Ivory Coast and Senegal, principally to introduce himself, and he also visited Cameroon.

He was warmly welcomed to the Cameroon capital by a variety of ministers and during meetings was assured visas for South Africans would be issued speedily.

Auret emphasised that although SA was currently a “sexy topic” in Africa, his department would engage in its own version of US negotiator Chester Crocker's “quiet diplomacy”.

But the barriers to SA were coming down “very, very fast” and expectations were high, he said.

"This is not surprising. What we are seeing is the coming to fruition of something that has been latent for some time."

Sapa reports that Organisation for European Cooperation and Development executive director Jean Bonvin said on Tuesday that Africa would have to attract foreign private investment and generate its own investment to survive.

Speaking at the All Africa Sidco 91 conference in Yaounde on Tuesday, Bonvin said the continent had seen private foreign investment halve in the last decade while it had doubled in Asian countries.
From JOSHUA RABOROKO
In Cameroon
YAOUNDE - Major African states yesterday resolved to co-operate in promoting trade links and economic growth on the continent.

As a matter of urgency, links will be improved in various sectors including finance, mining, agriculture, informal and formal business.

The resolutions were taken at the end of a three-day conference, which explored business opportunities in a changing Africa in Yaounde, Cameroon.

The conference aimed at encouraging a new dynamism in inter-African cooperation, from Cape to Cairo.

The conference also resolved to encourage the private sector to reverse the order that government played in business; allow the private sector to become generators of wealth; establish factories that must be so developed that they create economic growth; promote inter-state investment and create an African Economic Business Community like the EEC.

In putting these ideas, Mr Abdon Kane from Burkina Faso said a sub-committee has been appointed to study these and other problems and to prepare a paper for Sidco '92.
‘Africa must not expect too much’

By Sven Lunsche
Star Africa Service

YAOUNDE — South Africa will have to dampen the high expectations African countries have of the role it can play in lifting the continent’s stagnating economies, says Derek Auret, a senior South African diplomat.

Noting that South Africa was already trading with nearly all African countries, Mr Auret, the Deputy Director-General of Foreign Affairs with responsibility for Africa, said talks with various African countries were largely focussed on economic interactions.

“The idea of a more formalised structure for intra-African trade is very much under discussion and there is a lot of talk that South African can be the driving force behind such a configuration,” he said in an interview during the all-Africa trade conference here.

“Through the contacts we are having now we must stress the need for bilateral relations and that we have no desire to dominate the region economically.”

Mr Auret, who was appointed to his present post a few months ago, is leading a delegation in a visit to four West African countries — Senegal, Ivory Coast, Cape Verde and Cameroon— in what he described as an introductory visit.

Trade plan

In Cameroon he met the foreign minister as well as the ministers handling economic planning and energy affairs. “There is a general understanding that we need to interact economically to advance growth in both countries,” he said.

He emphasised, however, that his task was to establish the framework in which private business could start trading without bureaucratic interference.

“South Africa can provide Africa with skills and technology, but trade will eventually have to be a two-way development.”

Asked whether South Africa’s rapidly expanding contacts with African states was undermining the sanctions stance of the OAU, Mr Auret said that “African countries are realising where their economic interests are.

“It is not an erosion of OAU policy, but with Europe walking away from Africa, we have to turn to our direct neighbours for economic cooperation.”

Mr Auret rejected the idea that South Africa should limit economic relations in Africa to states that practice good governance, operate free market economies and allow multi-party democracy — a condition being demanded by many Western aid donors.
CHARLENE SMITH in Yaoundé, Cameroon, reports on the perils facing SA businessmen as they venture into Africa.

- TWO PACKETS OF PEANUTS
- TWO BOTTLES OF WATER
- TWO WHISKY MINIATURES

It’s an African bargain at R390

Despite Africa’s vast economic woes, sanctions pressure remains firm — as businessmen discovered in Cameroon this week when a bill for an eight-minute phone call was more than double the cost in South Africa.

In Cameroon, prices for goods and services can be up to twice those in South Africa. The exchange rate is also significantly higher, making it more expensive for businesses to operate there.

One concern for SA businessmen is the lack of infrastructure in many African countries. Road networks are often inadequate, and communication services can be unreliable. This can lead to delays and additional costs.

Another challenge is the bureaucracy and red tape that businesses must navigate. Paperwork can be extensive, and delays in receiving visas and permits can be common.

Language barriers are also a factor. Many African countries have their own languages in addition to English and French, which can complicate communication and business transactions.

Despite these challenges, there are opportunities for SA businesses in Africa. The continent has a growing middle class with increasing purchasing power, and there is a push towards economic integration and development.

Communications and logistics improvements are key to unlocking these opportunities. The development of infrastructure and the improvement of services will be crucial for businesses looking to expand into Africa.

Jail

Corruption is a serious problem in many African countries, and businesses must be aware of the risks associated with doing business there. It is important to establish strong governance and ethical standards to mitigate these risks.

Photographs show government buildings, and government officials and status cars can often be seen in Africa. Despite the potential pitfalls, SA businesses are investing in Africa, and the potential rewards are significant.
Diamonds are a dictator's best friend

African heads of state are being advised of the advantages of forgoing Swiss bank accounts and investing their assets in diamonds, which "concentrate maximum value in the smallest possible space".

The advice comes from a German company, Prisma Edelstein GmbH, in letters sent to the heads of state.

The revelations come at a time when former Philippines first lady Imelda Marcos is fighting to free more than $500 million of her assets from Swiss bank accounts, frozen after the Philippines demanded the return of the looted millions.

President Mobutu Sese Seke of Zaire is also said to have more than $2 billion, or the equivalent of his country's foreign debt, in numbered Swiss bank accounts.

According to Swiss bank officials, the president of Mali — the poorest nation in Africa — has more than $1 billion in numbered bank accounts, an amount equal to its nation's foreign debt.

Mr. Jean Bonvin, director of the Paris-based Organization for Economic Co-Operation and Development, a major European donor and research organization, last week called for more open debate and discussion about money looted from nations' vaults and invested in northern countries.

Speaking at the Sidco Africa conference in Yaoundé, Cameroon, Mr. Bonvin said laws concerning bank secrecy "argently needed to be re-evaluated.

"We should be able to confiscate these funds. Today there are exceptions to the secrecy rule for drug money; why not do the same for embezzled public funds? This money could help regenerate private-sector growth in Africa," he said.

The Cameroon Post last week published a confidential letter addressed to an unpopular Cameroon President Paul Biya from the Düsseldorf-based company.

The letter, dated February 27 of this year, which the newspaper says "arrived into their hands," quotes the "good example of Saddam Hussein of Iraq'.

Quoting the January issue of Stern magazine, the company noted that with the outbreak of the Gulf war all Iraqi accounts in Swiss banks were frozen.

Nevertheless, it says, Saddam Hussein had foreseen such problems, and shortly before the outbreak of the war invested US$325 million in diamonds, precious stones and jewellery.

Prisma says high-quality precious stones are portable, anonymous and easily converted back into cash assets.

The company advises President Biya to make contact with it, "preferably from a country other than Cameroon."

"On the basis of our long experience," the letter says, "we also make various recommendations and suggestions to your trustee as to how and where this 'crisis fund' can be deposited or lodged with discretion and safety — safety above all — from seizure."

Cameroon officials said that President Biya will now in Germany.
Beating words into diplomacy

ANGOLA

The找不到的地方...
Contacts, not contracts. In Cameroon

Tim Cohen

The conflict over rights for an oil gas field in the Spekkershoek region of Cameroon has divided the country's government and opposition parties, with the latter accusing the former of exploiting its resources for personal gain. The conflict has been ongoing for years, with both sides accusing each other of negligence and corruption.

The opposition is pushing for greater transparency and accountability in the management of the country's natural resources. They argue that the government has failed to properly manage the oil and gas industry, leading to widespread corruption and mismanagement.

The government, on the other hand, has been accused of enriching itself at the expense of the country. They claim that the opposition's demands for greater control over the industry are motivated by political gain rather than the best interests of the country.

The conflict has sparked a debate about the role of the private sector in Cameroon's economy. Some argue that foreign investment is necessary for the country's development, while others believe that national sovereignty should take precedence over foreign interests.

The government has promised to negotiate a new contract with the foreign companies involved in the oil and gas industry, but the opposition remains skeptical. They demand that any new agreement be transparent and fair to all parties involved.

In the meantime, the conflict continues to escalate, with both sides accusing each other of using violence and intimidation to gain an advantage.

The situation in Cameroon is a reminder of the challenges faced by many countries in their efforts to balance the needs of their citizens with the demands of international investors. It is a complex issue that requires careful consideration and a commitment to transparency and accountability.
The Independent News, 85

The road to democracy in Africa

Changes are taking root throughout the continent, says The Independent.

The Independent News, 85
Cameroon parties break off talks

YAOUNDE - Cameroon's opposition parties have broken off talks with Prime Minister Sadeou Hayatou on electoral procedure, dashing hopes of a swift end to months of political deadlock.

Opposition sources said the parties decided late on Monday not to continue the meeting after Hayatou refused to broaden it into a national conference on democratic reform. Alliance chairman Samuel Ehoua said the main obstacle was Hayatou's refusal to discuss constitutional issues. He also denounced the government for deciding unilaterally whom to invite.

The talks, which began last week, brought together 200 representatives from 48 parties. — Sapa-Reuters.
Frenzy greets ANC boss in Ghana

ACRRA: ANC president Mr. Nelson Mandela arrived in Ghana on Monday night to begin a three-day official visit.

Mandela, leading an 11-member delegation, was met at the airport by the Ghanaian leader, Flight-Lieutenant Jerry Rawlings.

By 7.45pm, a large crowd of people from all walks of life had gathered at the airport to await their arrival.

The crowd went into a frenzy at 8am when the aircraft touched the tarmac. When the ANC leader stepped out of the plane, he drew wild cheers.

Immediately after he stepped onto the tarmac, Rawlings and Mandela fell into a warm embrace. An 80-year-old lady hugged Mandela, followed by a huge outburst of cheers.

As they proceeded to the VIP lounge, there were more cheers from the crowd which had converged at the top of the airport's main building.

Nothing subdued until he left the airport at 9.20pm.

Source: Africa News Service
African States Urged to Establish Trade Links

BY JOSUA ABOHOKO
Winds of change gather force

Africa's pro-democracy movement has new impetus, reports Carter Thompson
Firstly, it is important to note that the current situation in South Africa is one of economic struggle and political unrest. The country is facing numerous challenges, including high unemployment rates, poverty, and inequality. These issues have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, which has caused significant disruptions to the economy.

In order to address these challenges, the South African government has developed a range of policies and programs aimed at promoting economic growth and social development. These include initiatives to create jobs, improve education and skills development, and invest in infrastructure.

However, there are also significant challenges to achieving these goals. For example, the country faces a difficult political landscape, with ongoing protests and challenges to the government's policies. Additionally, there are concerns about corruption and a lack of accountability in government.

Despite these challenges, there are also positive developments in South Africa. The country has a strong and diverse economy, with significant potential for growth and development. There are also opportunities for investment, particularly in sectors such as tourism, mining, and renewable energy.

In conclusion, while South Africa faces many challenges, there are also significant opportunities for progress and development. With the right support and policies, the country can overcome its current difficulties and realize its potential for growth and prosperity.
SA is the pivot of African progress

AFRICAN countries must strengthen relations with South Africa.

This country will become Africa’s centre of development, says Jean Bonvin, director of the Paris-based Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

He paints a gloomy — but not hopeless — picture of Africa as an economic disaster area.

Mr Bonvin warns African countries with their “inefficient public sectors, overprotected and unstable economies” that they have to “reform to allow free business activity”.

The OECD, a powerful aid agency, represents 24 donor nations.

Mr Bonvin spoke at a Cameroon-SA business conference in Yaounde last week.

Running

He says African nations should “restructure, liberalise and privatise.”

Private money in Africa and Latin America accounts for 65% of investment in those countries with debt.

“In the past five years direct private investment in Africa has stagnated. Capital is running away from Africa.”

Mr Bonvin says political instability and disastrous economic policies resulted in a $46-billion capital outflow from Africa in 1987 — half of the continent’s foreign debt. Latin America, on the other hand, has received a huge inflow of capital since it began liberalising its economies.

“The development of the private sector is a priority.”

It is a mistake for Africa to rely on outside investors to rescue it.

“Foreign investment can bear fruit in three years in Europe, but in Africa it takes far longer.”

Nonetheless, Mr Bonvin believes Africa is in a better position to attract foreign investors than Eastern Europe.

By CHARLENE SMITH

“Eastern Europe has to start from scratch. Their factories are good for the scrapheap, their managers have to learn how to operate in a market economy.

“In many ways some African countries would be more attractive if they liberalised their economies and had proper market policies.”

It is important for African countries to study the impact of the informal sector on their economies — 30% of economic activity in most developing countries is from the informal sector.

It is vital to get the right mix of trade in banks and to get rural people in particular to take their money from under mattresses and place it in banks.

His view is backed by Tetteh Kofi, a Ghanaian professor of economics at the University of San Francisco.

Professor Kofi says development takes place when a nation saves and invests at least 15% of its income annually.

Savings in Southern Africa are only about 11% compared to 24% in developed countries.

“Africa has a savings gap that can be filled by direct foreign investment. But that investment is not only inadequate, it is unevenly distributed. The five African countries that account for 90% of direct foreign investment in Africa are all oil producers.”

Professor Kofi says: “Africa will have to come up with its own initiatives. Foreign investment is too erratic.”

Mr Bonvin warns that aid is a fickle friend. Public development aid amounted to $65-billion in sub-Saharan Africa in 1988, a minimal rise over the $11-billion the region received nine years before.

“Africa receives 30% of the world’s development aid, even though it has only 11% of the population of developing countries.”

Some poor nations like Mozambique and Guinea-Bissau depend on aid for more than 70% of their income.

“If aid was reduced, consumption and development in those countries would crumble. This gives power to the donors which can amount to interference.”

Mr Bonvin says: “Africa has the world’s highest failure rate for development programmes.”

“The World Bank has a 70% success rate for Africa compared to 90% for Asia and 81% for Latin America.

“If we want to make aid effective, we should stop putting it in government parastatals which have a high failure rate.”

“Africa must seek other solutions. It will increasingly find difficulty in obtaining external financing. It has to rely on its own development and its private sector. This has to include streamlining the public sector and reducing external indebtedness.”

Reform

External debt is crushing African economies. In 1981, Mr Bonvin says, the long-term debt of Africa amounted to 90% of continental gross domestic product.

“The ratio between debt service and export is 26%. Sixty percent of interest due is not paid.”

A state which cannot honour its debts does not inspire confidence and will not obtain direct investment.

“It also discourages internal investment and prevents economic reform.”

Africa’s GDP increased by 4.5% between 1965 and 1980, but in the past decade the rate dropped to 2.1% while population soared.

“A Swiss Nobel Prize-winning economist said South-East Asian states had no hope of developing rapidly on Western models. Fewer than 10 years later South-East Asia has proved him wrong.”

“Africa has to look within itself for the resources of its development.”
South Africa needed for reconstruction

AFRICA expects South Africa to power development on the continent, economists at a conference in Yaounde, Cameroon, have said.

The dismantling of apartheid and the creation of an equitable order in South Africa are facilitating the country’s formal involvement in African economic development.

A liberated South Africa would be a member of the Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference, which is already investigating the possibility of orchestrating resources to enable the whole region to benefit from those pooled resources.

A free South Africa joining the SADCC will develop immeasurable potential and even stimulate economic development in the south-west African Preferential Trade Area and possibly in Africa.

The future of trade relations with the rest of Africa is positive due to the economic principle of supply and demand, African economists observed at the All-Africa Conference last week.

Participants contended that, because of its knowledge of local conditions and established industrial infrastructure, South African business is able to offer competitive services.

This also applies to South African merchandise, whose competitive prices, comparatively short delivery times and compatibility with African conditions stimulate demand.

There are few African countries which do not have trade agreements with South Africa.

The efficiency and credibility of South Africa’s transport system, its technical and research services in agriculture, nature conservation, engineering, construction, transport, telecommunication, water and energy supplies, health, education and training, focus on the specific problems which plague Africa.

Mr. Piki Botha, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, said: “South Africa is part of Africa and must survive or die in Africa. It has a calling to assist in the development of Africa.”

What is needed now is a concerted effort to initiate, co-ordinate and execute an African development programme.

This historic conference was attended by 11 African states including Cameroon, Nigeria, Tunisia, Senegal, Morocco, Guinea and Togo.

The president of the Paris-based Movement for Dialogue and Co-operation, Mr. Desire Atangana Onambele, said with the end of the century near, the collapse of communism and thawing of the cold war, Africa was still characterised by a lack of strategy.

“Now is the time to take up the challenge for economic growth. In this regard, the huge disengagement of the Soviets and lack of political interest by the United States now frees Africa from numerous constraints.

“We at the MDC have invested a huge effort in our determination to bring Africans a truly great event and we are very fortunate to have the backing of several distinguished guests, including South Africa,” he said.

Speaking on “Finance, Aid and Development in Africa,” Mr. Jean Boivin stressed that most African states were in debt as a result of mismanagement of funds, corruption and lack of education and training.

Consequently many African states were in a state of poverty and poor economic conditions seemed to have dealt a heavy blow on any development with unemployment growing at an alarming rate.

One delegate said: “I know of a country in Africa where the state actually borrowed money from the monarchy - a clear indication of the extent of corruption.

This monarch had obtained money from the International community but it was used for his own needs. He built his own economic empire. This is the reason why there are many coups d’etat in Africa. Let us stop this,” the delegate pleaded.

“Africa must learn that political power must be accompanied by economic power,” another delegate said, adding, “Most African leaders are interested in empowering themselves and forget the interests of the people who elected them.”

Different solutions were proposed and Mr. Joao Mogale, general secretary of the Foundation for African Business and Consumer Services, said: “Southern Africa in particular has the potential to become a prosperous region.

“Whatever is needed is for the nations of Africa to join hands and work together. It is time to put behind all the differences that have separated us in the past.

“There is a changing mood in Africa and also a growing realisation that true independence and a national identity can only be accomplished once economic stability has been achieved,” he said.

Seven workshops during the conference came up with possible solutions that could be undertaken to make the African continent economically viable with less dependence on countries like the United States, the United Kingdom and the European Economic Community.

One of the salient points was reached with the appointment of a committee to look at stimulating inter-African developments.

Some of the solutions included:

-The creation of an African Economic Business Community like the EEC - a means through which finance could be channelled in Africa through the use of a unitary currency.

-Investments must be directed towards utilising local potential and should include manufacturing, industry, agriculture, food production and rural development.

-With the help of South Africans, transport and tourism should be encouraged in Africa and communications improved.

-African markets and obstacles towards economic expansion must be looked into as a matter of urgency.

-The development of the informal and small business sectors must be encouraged and joint ventures and matchmaking, finance, aid and development among the African states must be encouraged.

This was backed by the Cameroon Minister of Social and Feminine Affairs, Mrs Yao Aiatsou, who encouraged women to improve their agricultural skills.
Kenyans are told: "This election is like a war ..."

Inheritance

Africa's Troubled Some

Page 7

SOWETAN Thursday November 12 1991

The police are on high alert is an
injunction to the ZAPU pro-
ponent commission for

NATIONAL ALICE

"Inheritance

Africa's Troubled Some"
of tourism and economic affairs recently invited him to pick two hotels to manage. "It could not have been better timed," he says: "South Africans will soon be able to go anywhere they want in Africa. There's a potential flood of them waiting for the doors to the rest of Africa to be finally opened."

The group manages 65 hotels in SA, making Protea the country's largest hotel group, and recently moved into Mauritius and Mozambique. It is negotiating to take over the management of hotels in Namibia and Botswana. Protea is also eyeing Zimbabwe and Angola and has been retained by the Malawi government to help develop a major resort on the banks of Lake Malawi.

The most recently announced addition to its portfolio is the 250-room Rovuma Hotel, in Maputo, which the group took over in June of last year at the invitation of the hotel's owners, the ruling political party, Frelimo. The Rovuma, which was the Portuguese Naval Officers' Club before independence, was losing R2m a year when Protea took over. It is now running at 70% occupancy and showing a R1m annual profit.

"We weren't prepared to mention a word about our involvement until we had it operating our way and wouldn't be ashamed to call it a Protea Hotel," Stehlik says. "There was no management or any systems or controls when we took over. There were 500 people on the payroll but not all of them pitched up for work."

He says the hotel's customer base has changed to mainly west European, South African, Zimbabwean and Malawian businessmen. It is no longer a happy hunting ground for east European "advisers."

He believes that the hotel has the potential to become the equivalent of an SA four-star hotel but the owners will have to invest more money on upgrading the structure. Stehlik is having talks with the IDC about funds for refurbishing its interior.

Protea Hotels took over the management of another Mozambican hotel last month — the 40-room Inhaca Island hotel, owned by Banco Mozambique. Stehlik, who sees the hotel becoming "a better two-star hotel" and is aiming it at SA anglers and conservationists, has tied up with Gone Fishing, an SA company.

In Mauritius, Protea is putting the finishing touches to the Moonlight Bay Hotel, at Grand Riviera Sud-Est, where Stehlik says the open-for-business sign will be up by Christmas.
Timor Demonstrates...
SA Buying up debts?

At the cents a dollar, lucrative default deal

LUCRATIVE DEFAULT DEAL

AS Detectives

LUCRATIVE DEFAULT DEAL

LUCRATIVE DEFAULT DEAL
3 held in Ghana over Chiavelli loan claims

ACCRA — Two politicians and a newspaper editor have been arrested in Ghana in connection with allegations about a loan to a political party by South African-based Italian multimillionaire Marino Chiavelli.

George Nanyene, editor of the Christian Chronicle, Kweisi Armah, Ghana’s former high commissioner in London, and Nana Okutwe Bekoe were detained by the military government of Flight-Lieutenant Jerry Rawlings last week.

The detention of Mr Armah and Mr Okutwe Bekoe is in connection with a loan raised by leading members of the People’s National Party (PNP) from Mr Chiavelli in 1979 to fight the general elections which the PNP won, replacing the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC).

The PNP government was overthrown by Lieutenant Rawlings in 1981.

It is an offence in Ghana to accept funding from foreign sources for political purposes.

Mr Nanyene is accused of having claimed in his publication that members of the AFRC government — some of whom are serving in the Rawlings government — also benefited from the loan received from Mr Chiavelli.

A spokesman at Mr Chiavelli’s residence, Summer Place, in Hyde Park, Sandton, refused to comment.

Mr Chiavelli lived in Ghana in the early ’50s and ’60s and was reported in the Ghanaian press to have claimed that he made his first millions by exporting timber from Ghana to Europe and America.

His emigration to South Africa in 1980 was said to have left “a bitter taste” in official circles as he had apparently intimated he was going to invest some of his money in Ghana. At one stage Mr Chiavelli is said to have offered the then president of Ghana, Hilla Limann, a R500 million loan.

Mr Chiavelli wound up his business in Ghana in 1985 after the overthrow of Dr Kwame Nkrumah by the military. Mr Chiavelli, however, returned briefly to Ghana when Dr Nkrumah’s government re-emerged under the banner of the PNP after the 1979 elections.

Mr Chiavelli brought an action against senior PNP members in the High Court in London in 1981, claiming he had never been repaid his R800 000 loan as promised.

A PNP official, Krobo Edu, admitted to receiving the loan through the London branch of the Arab Bank Limited.

It seems the government of Lieutenant Rawlings has been annoyed by the publication of the story in the Chronicle recently and suspects that Mr Armah and Mr Okutwe Bekoe supplied the information to the newspaper.

Mr Okutwe Bekoe, who is a former PNP chairman, and Krobo Edu were each jailed for 11 years by a military tribunal in 1982 for “demanding and accepting a loan” from Mr Chiavelli, an alien.
Curfew lifted in Ethiopia after clashes

ADDIS ABABA - The Ethiopian government has lifted a curfew in Dire Dawa, the country's second-largest city, after order was restored following violence between tribal groups.

An official statement on Sunday put the final death toll from last week's fighting at 25. It said 164 people were injured, and described as exaggerated unofficial reports of 61 deaths and 300 injured.

Residents of Dire Dawa, in eastern Ethiopia, said the violence began on Wednesday when members of the Oromo tribe, who dominate the area, tried to disrupt a meeting of Amhara people.

The statement accused political groups in the area of deliberately provoking their opponents. It said 60 ringleaders had been arrested and 400 guns, 29 handgrenades and 8,000 rounds of ammunition seized.

Political organisations in the area have been forbidden to carry arms at meetings.

Tribal clashes have erupted in different areas since Marxist dictator Mengistu Haile Mariam fled when troops of the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front captured the capital in May.

The Oromo is the largest of the country's many tribal groups, outnumbering the Tigrayan people who dominate the EPRDF.

Sapa-Reuters.
Somali president booted out

NAIROBI  Pockets of fighting continued in Somalia's capital yesterday one day after President Ali Mahdi Mohamed was reportedly overthrown by his chief rival, General Mohamed Farrah Aidid, aid sources said.

The fighting appeared contained in Mogadishu's northwestern corner, where Ali Mahdi has a home and which traditionally is a stronghold of his Abagal clan.

Ali Mahdi's whereabouts remained unknown, although sources said there were unconfirmed reports he had fled to a town north of the city controlled by his clan.

After two days of fighting between the factions, Aidid (about 60) claimed in a radio broadcast on Monday to have overthrown Ali Mahdi (52) and seized control of the capital.

Aidid and Ali Mahdi have never had an easy relationship. Aidid refused to recognize Ali Mahdi as the nation's president, while Ali Mahdi has sought to have Aidid removed as United Somali Congress chairman.

Southern Somali remains riven by feuding among clans which have carved the region into separate fiefs. Northern Somalia acceded as the Somali Republic in May and has established peace.

Italy evacuated its diplomatic staff yesterday after its embassy was destroyed in the two days of fighting, sources said.

Aidid accused the Italians of having too close a relationship with Ali Mahdi and warned the Italians to stay out of Somali affairs. - Sapa-AP
AFRICAN countries are so hopeful the new South Africa will help them that any explanation that this country will be busy with its own problems is met with disbelief.

So says Erich Leistner, director of the African Institute.

Writing in the latest issue of the institute’s publication, *Africa Insight*, Leistner says African countries, starved of Western aid, are nursing frantic hopes that South Africa with its supposedly unbounded wealth will step into the breach to help them.

He says South African businessmen, diplomats and scholars visiting African countries regularly have to contend with these expectations.

“'Their attempts to explain South Africa’s actual position are often met with polite disbelief,’” he says.

“The visual impact of South Africa’s bustling metropoles with their fleets of late-model cars, their gleaming high-rise buildings, functioning telephones, and luxurious suburban villas is greater than mere statistics on unemployment, housing, education and the like.”

Leistner says even “sobering words” from people like the ANC’s Thabo Mbeki - who has argued that a future South African government may in fact pursue policies harmful to its neighbours by reducing the number of foreign workers in order to ease unemployment in South Africa - have made no impression.

“'If South Africa’s rapidly normalising relationship with the rest of sub-Saharan Africa is not to get off on a wrong foot, it is imperative that its partners be familiarised with the country’s structural social and economic realities,’” Leistner says. *Sowetan/Africa News Service.*
It is of the utmost importance that South Africa strengthens its ties with the market research industry in Africa as soon as possible after sanctions have been lifted.

Local contact with this market has been limited because of political isolation, said Mr Deon Herbst, chairman of the Marketing Research Standard Authority.

Herbst, who was recently appointed as the new chairman of MRSA, is also the director of Marketdata, a division of the Human Sciences Research Council.

He said: "The opening up of international ties after a period of political isolation gives MRSA the opportunity to strengthen relations with similar associations in other countries."

"Over the years MRSA members had close liaison with sister organisations abroad on individual and company levels. As a result of this, the general standard of research in South Africa is on a par with the standards accepted internationally."

"Contact with the market research industry in Africa has been limited and permanent relations will have to be established next year."

**Bond**

Herbst said MRSA's other main objective for next year was to improve the image of the industry with users in market research and the general public.

"South Africa is undergoing a definite period of change. Market research and surveys will become prominent and relevant either for business, government, communities and decision makers in general."

"MRSA will have to play an important role to promote the significance of quality information for effective decision making."

"The generation of information in the market research industry is largely dependent on the goodwill of the general public. MRSA will address the issue of professional standards during this interviewing process."

He said MRSA would also address black advancement within the industry.

"During last year MRSA voiced its concern about the shortage of qualified and experienced black people within the marketing industry."

It identified the vital importance of adequate resources of trained black market researchers for the future. A project has been started to identify ways and means of bringing and attracting more people to this industry by providing suitable employment opportunities and setting up appropriate training for such people. Marketing of the industry at training institutions will have to receive the necessary attention.

"The industry can only position itself in the future with the basic statistics at hand. Managers within the market research industry should have statistics at hand about the environment in which to operate."

"Statistics and information, for example, on total turnover of the industry, number of operating companies, salaries of researchers/interviewers, usage of different data collection methods and the conditions of employment of permanent/contract personnel is of the utmost importance," he said.
Lack of telephones a hang up in Africa

A recent World Bank report showed that most developing nations' telecommunications authorities have failed to provide even the most elementary phone services and were, in the main, bungling bureaucracies.

At the Aiter South Southern Africa Computer Expo in Harare last week, Computer Society of SA's Peter Davies said the report cited waiting times of 10, 20 and even 30 years for basic phones, and indicated figures of 67 employees in the authority for every 1,000 phones installed.

In developed nations, figures of about two employees for every 1,000 phones were cited.

"Of 150,000 villages in Africa, some 120,000 have no phones; Africa has 13.5% of the world's population yet only 1.4% of its phones. SA has 5% of Africa's population, but 49% of the continent's phones.

"In Zimbabwe, there are three phones for every 100 people -- and this is 50 times more than there are in Mozambique."

He stressed the importance of telecommunications for socio-political development.

The question is whether to deregulate telecommunications, because countries often use telecommunication earnings to fund other developments instead of ploughing funds back into enhancing their services.

Prof Robert Horwitz of the University of California's department of communication said that in Third World countries with histories of corrupt state bureaucracies, privatisation may be a good idea, but it depended how this was carried out. "Perhaps joint ventures are viable, but only if the subsequent company has both autonomy from political interference and clear-cut guidelines regarding its basic objectives.

"Under privatisation, there are often no means to expand services to rural areas, but new technologies such as cellular radio and party lines for these areas are becoming more viable."

It was probably not viable to have competitors in the telecommunications industry if a basic infrastructure did not exist.

"The telecommunications authority can't generally afford to both install the basic network and still compete...{
Africa told aid follows reform

PARIS — President Francois Mitterrand, opening a summit of French-speaking countries including heads of authoritarian African regimes, said democracy was needed to bring about economic progress in the Third World.

"By clarifying the way the state is run, democracy will make it easier to launch economic and financial reforms which will promote growth and mobilise the international community (to give aid)," Mitterrand said.

"France backs this evolution because it believes in the universal values of democracy," Mitterrand told delegates.

The three-day summit, the fourth since France inaugurated such gatherings in 1986, was attended by a majority of former French sub-Saharan colonies, including some of the world's poorest countries.

Many leaders are worried about a possible drop in aid because of competition from countries such as Romania, Bulgaria and Laos. — Reuters.
Africa needs a lesson in reality, writes Barry Mumbothi

The region is warned to lower its expectations, writes Barry Mumbothi
NICOSIA - Third World nations are calling for "new era of partnership" with industrialized nations, the government-run Islamic Republic News Agency said yesterday.

The call by the "Group Of 77" - a loose conglomeration of developing countries - was in sharp contrast with the group's statements in past years, which sometimes blamed the problems of poorer nations on richer countries.

"The Tehran declaration said dialogue towards a new partnership for development must be pragmatic and realistic, non-confrontational and based on a mutuality of interest," IRNA reported.

The declaration, issued late on Saturday, called for this "new era of partnership" with developed nations to be built around "comprehensive dialogue on all issues affecting trade and development ... in balanced discussions based on the imperatives of genuine interdependence," the agency reported.

But, echoing past policy, the Group Of 77 also urged the industrialised world to provide "special and differential treatment for developing countries," a reference to development aid, forgiveness of a portion of the Third World's huge debt burden and other preferential treatment.

The group also said it would seek agreement on "halting and rolling back all forms of protectionism by developed countries".

The undeveloped nations, many of which rely heavily on exports of one or few primary goods, have been hit heavily over the past two decades by reductions in the prices of raw materials and increased moves to restrict imports to industrialised nations.

-Sapa-AP.
African disbelief over problems facing ‘new’ SA

Argus Africa News Service

Johannesburg. — African countries are so hopeful the “new” South Africa will come to their rescue that any explanation that this country will be too pre-occupied with its own problems to throw them a lifeline is met with disbelief.

So says Erich Leistner, director of the African Institute. Writing in the latest issue of the institute’s publication, Africa Insight, Dr Leistner says African countries starved of Western aid “are nursing frantic hopes that South Africa, with its supposedly unbounded wealth will step into the breach to help them.”

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Dr Leistner says even “sobering words” from people like the ANC’s Thabo Mbeki — who has argued that the future SA government may in fact pursue policies harmful to its neighbours by reducing the number of foreign workers in order to ease unemployment in SA — have made no impression.

“If South Africa’s rapidly normalising relationship with the rest of sub-Saharan Africa is not to get off on the wrong foot, it is imperative that its partners be familiarised with the country’s structural social and economic realities,” Dr Leistner says.
Known as the “water beetle”, the water collector Clyea and Berlin have built consists of a cylinder on top of three hollow legs, with a brush hanging from the cylinder and a wax ball below the brush.

Forgive Africa’s debt — Nujoma

WINDHOEK — Namibian president Sam Nujoma has appealed to the international community for R3bn annually to assist African development and for “massive debt forgiveness”.

He was speaking at the opening of the joint meeting of African planning ministers, UN development programme representatives and regional agency representatives in Windhoek yesterday.

Nujoma said each African country’s specific objectives in investment, human resources development, protection of land and maritime resources, arresting flight of capital and repatriation of capital should be encouraged.

“At the same time, international action in areas of economic aid, including a massive R3bn annual inflow, massive debt forgiveness, and serious attention to commodity prices, will be an indispensable complement to our own efforts in Africa,” Nujoma added. — Sapa.
HIV-infected pregnant women ‘should be able to have abortion’

By Helen Grange
Pretoria Bureau

Statistics indicate that there will be about 10 million Aids orphans in the world by the year 2000 as a result of their parent or parents dying from the killer disease.

Consulting obstetrician and gynaecologist at Baragwanath Hospital Dr James McIntyre yesterday argued at a legal and ethical workshop on Aids in Pretoria, that, in the light of the statistical projection, HIV-infected women should have a choice of abortion.

In Africa, the ratio of women to men infected with the Aids virus was 14 to one, and if they gave birth, their babies had an up to 50 percent of inheriting the virus. These women should have the option of terminating their pregnancies, Dr McIntyre said.

He was staunchly opposed by Dr Claude Newbury, president of Pro Life, who vehemently insisted that unborn foetuses be accorded “the most fundamental human right — the right to life”.

Confidentiality in the testing of suspected HIV-positive patients also inspired lively debate.

Warwick Allan, co-ordinator of Act Up, Aids Coalition to Unleash Power, said the social stigmas attached to Aids were not the same as in the case of other diseases, and that there should never be breach of confidentiality.

“I have never come across a case (during counselling) where breach of confidentiality is acceptable,” he said.

However, Dr Mandla Holmshaw, head of the Aids unit at the Department of National Health, said confidentiality about Aids was a way of saying it should be hidden, adding that a Western approach to Aids counselling and treatment was not necessarily fitting in Africa.

“In Africa, individualism is not the highest value. Patients are more interested in having a community representative, a way of getting Aids education to the community.”

“We need an African response to Aids, not one that is imposed from the Western world,” she said.

Debating the role of legislation on Aids, Dr Edwin Cameron of the Centre for Applied Studies at Wits University, said the time had come for a charter of rights for HIV sufferers to be adopted in legislation.
Links with Africa
Red light for trade
Sowetan Business

BY JOSHUA

The conference, which opened yesterday, was attended by more than 100 South African business leaders, government officials, and representatives from various countries. The theme of the conference was "Enhancing Economic Cooperation Between South Africa and Africa." The conference aimed to foster greater economic integration and trade between the two regions.

"Africa's economies are growing rapidly and there is a need for greater collaboration to benefit from these growth opportunities," said Mr. John Dladla, the CEO of the South African Business Council.

"We believe that through increased cooperation, we can unlock new growth opportunities and enhance our ability to compete in the global market," added Mr. Dladla.

The conference also featured a panel discussion on the challenges and opportunities of doing business in Africa. Participants highlighted the need for improved infrastructure, better governance, and stronger institutions to facilitate trade and investment.

"There is a lot of potential in Africa, but we need to work together to unlock it," said Mr. Mandela, the President of South Africa.

The conference concluded with a call for action from governments and businesses to strengthen their partnerships and collaborate for the benefit of both regions.

"We must work together to overcome the challenges we face and harness the opportunities that exist," said Mr. Mandela.

SOUTH AFRICANS HAVE

SOWETAN BUSINESS
'Western aid drying up'

By Helen Grange
Pretoria Bureau

The bad fact is that Africa can expect more moral support than funds from the West over the next decade — as more assistance will be ploughed into the Soviet Union and Eastern European countries, a Nato representative said in Pretoria yesterday.

Colonel Roel Hallerbach, Nato representative for the magazine European Security, speaking at a conference on southern African security relations towards the year 2000, said that in Europe and America "nobody feels in the mood to spend a single penny for more social experiments".

"Those who can't stop dreaming should consider the fact".

If countries in southern Africa could establish a self-contained regional trading block, inter-regional trading would be enhanced and a climate created for foreign investment, acting deputy director general of the Department of Foreign Affairs, Derek Auret, said.

South Africa's trade with the region could also be greatly improved if the buying power of its neighbours could be enhanced through development.

South Africa, he said, currently exported between 25 and 33 percent of its manufactured goods to Africa.

Speaking on methods of integrating the military into a new South Africa, the director of the Institute for Defence Politics, Dr Jackie Cilliers, proposed that the defence budget be discussed in public and approved by Parliament — thereby determining the manpower, structures and objectives of the forces.

There should also be no restriction on members of the armed forces or police force joining any legal political party. Although the armed forces and police were accountable to the constitution, they should not simply serve the government of the day.

He warned that with the dramatic cut in the defence budget, the SADF could easily end up as a low technology counter-insurgency force, suitable for little else but border control and support to the police.

"This would, in my opinion, not only be a tragic development for our country's stability."
NAIROBI (Kenya) - Sudanese rebels said poor communications barred them from confirming whether a ceasefire agreement among their warring factions had taken hold yesterday.

But aside from getting word of the truce to their combatants in Sudan's vast Southern region, neither side expected any problems in halting the fighting which erupted in September.

**Hostilities**

"We don't expect any hostilities," said Mr. Elijah Malok, of the Sudan People's Liberation Army. "But in a place like Sudan, it will take some time to get word to all the combatants."

The two rebel groups, known as the Torit and Nuer factions, said they agreed to the ceasefire to "deny the enemy the benefit from our internal feud."

The enemy is the government in Khartoum and the rebel factions. Sudan is still a war against the central authority would continue.

Sapo-AP
Leak not from us

THE Ghanaian government yesterday denied that its military ruler, Jerry Rawlings, has leaked United Nations documents.

Lieutenant Rawlings had leaked minutes of a meeting addressed by the African National Congress (ANC) at the United Nations last week alleged that ANC leader Nelson Mandela had told the UN that the ANC and the South African government had entered into a "secret pact" on various issues including apartheid government.

The Ghanaian Foreign Ministry, however, rejected the claims about Rawlings.

It said to attribute the source of the leak to Rawlings was "inaccurate." - Sapa-Reuters.
SA 'springboard for mining'

THE international mining industry will have to look to the Third World for new mining ventures, and SA will provide the springboard for tapping the underexploited mineral reserves of this continent, says former Anglo American and De Beers chairman Harry Oppenheimer.

Addressing a recent mining seminar in London — which coincided with his 83rd birthday and which was organised by merchant bank S G Warburg — Oppenheimer said: "The best, the safest, perhaps the only way to approach the mining development of all southern Africa is through SA, which alone has the experience of local conditions, the technical skills, and the financial resources, know-how and connections which are required."

Oppenheimer recalled that Anglo had thought of SA "as a springboard for the development of the sub-continent to the North" in its early days, which took its political form in the development of the British Empire in Africa.

He said the geography of mining, which would be transformed by the changes in Eastern Europe and Africa, was determined as much by the location of mineral deposits and the state of technology as by politics and historical accident.

He said apartheid had, in a combination of ways, destroyed the whole sub-continent's economy. Little exploration or investment had been undertaken in the region since the early '70s, which meant the potential for finding new deposits was probably good. Countries such as Zimbabwe, Namibia, Zaire, Mozambique, Angola and Tanzania had missed out on the gold boom of the '80s for political reasons although their prospects were now promising.

However, mining in Africa might be subject to exceptional political risks.

Developing countries were inclined to equate mining with exploitation in its worst sense, he said. These countries tended to react to world recession by increasing instead of cutting basic mineral output.
MADRID — Several African countries have threatened to boycott the Olympic Games in Barcelona if a nearby museum continues to exhibit a stuffed and mounted Bushman.

The Nigerian Embassy in Madrid is the latest to complain about the grisly exhibit in a museum in Banyoles, which lies north of Barcelona. The body stands with a spear in his hand and has a metal collar around his neck, which hides the fact that the man was decapitated.
Togo calls for aid to block coup

LOME—Togo's fledgling civilian government appealed yesterday for international aid to block former military dictator General Gnassinghe Eyadema from retaking power.

A spokesman for Prime Minister Joseph Koffigoh said the soldiers had not kept their promise to retreat to their barracks and were trying to terrorise the government into accepting their demands.

"Eyadema wants to retake power. If he succeeds it will set a precedent and everywhere in Africa these military dictators will try to make a comeback," said Horatio Freitas, Minister of Youth, Sports and Works.

"We are in trouble, our young democracy movement all over Africa is on trial here. We are appealing for help from the world to protect democracy."

Troops, who had surrounded Mr Koffigoh's palace with tanks on Thursday, withdrew on Saturday when France threatened a military intervention.

Lome was calm yesterday. Mr Freitas said the soldiers had returned to their camp outside the capital at dawn. Those at the radio station continued to broadcast demands that Mr Koffigoh surrender and allow General Eyadema to form a new government. — Sapa-AP.
Govt should resign over violence

The South African Government should resign if it was unable to contain violence sweeping the country, renowned Nigerian political economist Professor Claude Ake said yesterday.

Speaking at a lecture for a Democratic Alternative for South Africa forum in Durban, Ake said the basic responsibility of any state was to maintain peace and law and order.

"If you can't do this, you cease to be a state. If the Government can't do so, it should abdicate," he added. "The South African Government has the resources to maintain security."

Ake said he did not accept any explanation of "black on black" violence other than that it was the Government's responsibility to ensure it did not happen.

Addressing South Africa's transition, Ake said the country could expect a foreign aid package of about R103 billion for this period.

Aid injection

3/12/97

He said he had recently heard from informed sources in the United States that the government was considering an aid package of about R10 billion, while the European Community could provide between R20 billion and R40 billion.

Ake said the process of democratisation taking place in South Africa was also taking place in the rest of Africa.

"Democracy in Africa is a new reality and it is an irreversible trend."

He said the lack of democracy in Africa was the major reason for underdevelopment, economic stagnation and political instability.

Most African nationalist democratic movements had in the past been hijacked by elites who had not pursued their supporters' aspirations. This had led to a gap between leaders and supporters which inevitably resulted in violence.

Many South Africans were being marketed deracialisation when they should be promoting democratisation and the upliftment of the poor, who had been prevented from participating properly in society.

Ake said the vast majority of South Africans were not incorporated into society. Instead, there was a situation where people lived in large labour reserves without being used in the minimum they don't contribute to society, they're just there."
Troops take Togo's premier hostage

LOMÉ — Troops in tanks blasted into the oceanside palace of Prime Minister Joseph Koffigoh and took the human rights lawyer hostage yesterday in their bid to restore Togo's military ruler of 24 years to power. There were unconfirmed reports of deaths in the assault on the palace, the seat of Togo's fledgling democracy where Koffigoh was protected by only 60 French-trained presidential guards.

The attackers, apparently loyal to strong-arm President Gnassingbé Eyadema, used tanks, machineguns and small arms in their 15-minute attack.

Togo national radio, controlled by the military, said the troops had "decided to seize Joseph Koffigoh. Sentimentalism has lasted too long. At this very moment, he is safe in the hands of the Togolese Armed Forces."

Later, the radio broadcast a list of interim government officials it demanded surrender themselves at army headquarters, including Monsignor Philippe Kodzo, the Roman Catholic archbishop who heads the government's legislative high council.

Eyadema condemned the violence and, in a statement, ordered "the belligerents to lay down their arms." The general did not order the release of Koffigoh.

In Paris, officials from the ministries of foreign affairs, defence and co-operation held an emergency meeting about the trouble in the former French colony.

Spokesman Maurice Gourdault-Montagne said afterward France "does not believe it is too late to renew dialogue."

Sapa-AP.
Togo leader wants time

LOMÉ - Soldiers began withdrawing from strategic points yesterday, a day after their bloody assault on the Togo prime minister's office forced him to agree to name a new government. (c)

At least 17 people, including President Gnassingbe Eyadema's half-brother, died in the battle.

The soldiers want Eyadema's presidential powers restored by the civilian government that stripped him of everything but his ceremonial duties in August.

Prime Minister Joseph Koffigoh, released late on Tuesday after being put on television to announce his surrender, said he needed time to put together a government the soldiers would accept.

Koffigoh refused to describe the 90-minute attack but said he had sent staff to investigate the damage.

This was the fourth attempt by the military to overthrow the fledgling civilian government. — Sapa-AP.
more converts
democracy in africa gains

ruthless idee sweeps through the continent
Multidisciplinary Image Interpretation in a Clinical Setting
Mystery Mission into the Communist Tunnels

By JAMES MICHENER

BOOK OF THE WEEK

Reviewed by JONATHAN MENDOZA

"The Scarlet Letter" by Thomas Pakenham

"Mystery Mission into the Communist Tunnels" by James Michener

The Search for Nixon's Memoirs

"The Scarlet Letter" by Thomas Pakenham

Mystery Mission into the Communist Tunnels
NAIROBI - Fighting escalated in Somalia's devastated capital, where three weeks of clan battles have left more than 3,000 people dead, sources said yesterday.

As many as 7,000 people have been wounded in the clan-based conflict which pits President Ali Mahdi Mohamed against General Mohamed Aidid Farah, chairman of the ruling United Somali Congress.

Battles intensified between their forces on Saturday, with heavy fighting reported in several parts of the city, said aid workers in contact with their staff in Mogadishu by satellite telephone. The sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said they did not know if the fighting remained intense yesterday.

Killed in conflict

Heavily armed bands of looters have added to Mogadishu's murderous melange, and aid workers say more than 3,000 people have been killed in the conflict.

The city's four hospitals have been overwhelmed by casualties, mostly civilians and predominantly children.

A number of international aid agencies are working with Somali doctors to treat the wounded, but food and medical supplies are in desperately short supply.

The International Committee of the Red Cross said it finally had won guarantees of safety from Mogadishu's combatants, enabling it to try yesterday to dock a relief ship carrying 800 tons of food and fuel.

The vessel has been unable to dock for more than two weeks because of heavy shelling of the port, which is under Aidid's control.

Mr. Greg Tavernier, of the ICRC office in Nairobi, said the Red Cross today would send another boat carrying about 800 tons of food, fuel and medical supplies to Mogadishu's north, which is Ali Mahdi's stronghold.

The ICRC, Doctors Without Borders, Save the Children, and the International Medical Corps, throughout the conflict have been helping doctors working in Mogadishu's hospitals, which are all in areas under Aidid's control.

Makeshift clinics

Last week, the ICRC also sent a medical team to the city's north to aid the thousands of wounded there who either have sought treatment at makeshift clinics established in homes or not at all.

Tavernier said that with the supplies they aim to bring in by boat, the ICRC would try to establish a hospital in a jail that was built by former president Mohamed Siad Barre before he was ousted in January.

The United Somali Congress drove Siad Barre from power after a month of heavy fighting in Mogadishu.

Ali Mahdi was named president soon after Mr. Siad Barre's fall while Aidid in June won the United Somali Congress chairmanship, a post he had long sought.

Although both men belong to the same party, they are from different subgroups of the large, central Hawiye clan from which the United Somali Congress draws its strength, and seek to oust each other from power.

- Sapa-AP.

* See picture page 12.
Lesson in African han
Counting the cost in blood

Africa must decide on its future. A push to freedom is now possible. The continent is ripe for the political and military changes that will determine its future. The time is right for Africa to take control of its destiny. The continent must choose between the path of progress and the path of stagnation. The choice is clear. The future belongs to those who choose freedom.
AIDS:

Africa's real enemy

AFRICA'S biggest catastrophe in the 1990s — worse than war, famine or economic chaos — is likely to be the spread of AIDS.

Despite widespread attention to AIDS in the United States and Europe, health experts and scientists around the world agree that sub-Saharan Africa's problem is of far greater magnitude. Some warn that it could change the very fabric of African society, negating efforts at economic development.

The World Health Organisation estimates that some six million adults in Africa are infected with the HIV virus, out of 10 million worldwide.

In some African countries, one in 10 adults is infected, and so many people have died from AIDS that it has wiped out recent progress in reducing mortality rates from other diseases.

It looks set to reverse population trends — something that war, famine and pestilence have not done.

These disastrous facts and figures lend special urgency to the Sixth International Conference on AIDS in Africa, to be held in Dakar, Senegal, next week. About 1 500 delegates will grapple with the question of how to stop a disease that has no cure.

World Bank economist Jill Armstrong echoed the concerns of many development groups in a recent report on finance and development in Africa.

She said the Aids epidemic “threatens to alter dramatically the economic and social fabric of many societies, raising serious questions about the development process itself”.

No part of a country's economy was safe from Aids, she said. In agriculture, for example, productivity would drop along with shortages of healthy adults able to work on the land.

Another recent study of the impact of Aids on Africa, published by a team of British researchers, predicted that in a few decades some areas of Africa will for the first time show a net population loss rather than a gain. The report estimated that the number of Africans infected will double in three to five years.

The African Aids conference is unlikely to attract the same international press attention as the annual International Aids Conference, of which there have been seven so far.

African health officials and researchers frequently complain that the Third World is virtually ignored at the “main event” meetings, where Western scientists eagerly report on treatments under development that might work, at a cost of up to R255 000 a patient.

Such solutions are wildly unrealistic for Africa, where some countries have a total health budget of just R10,50 a person.

The pattern of Aids in Africa differs from the developed countries in two key respects. The disease is contracted primarily by heterosexual sex rather than through homosexual sex or drug use, and the prevalent HIV virus has a different structure from strains found in the West.

Africa is afflicted not only by the HIV-1 virus but also by another strain, harder to diagnose, called HIV-2.

The HIV-2 strain is now beginning to show up in industrialised Western countries, where no Aids blood tests in regular use screen for it.

Scientists at the African conference will also highlight research into vaccines under development that are specifically targeted for the Third World, an area virtually ignored at the International Aids Conference in Florence last July.

African officials are concerned that drug companies are ignoring research into medications that could work in Africa because governments there have no money to pay them, no refrigeration in many areas to store them and even a shortage of needles to administer them.

Sapa-Reuter
Quicker relief urged for Third-World debt

WASHINGTON — The World Bank has warned that the $1.3 trillion Third World debt problem is far from over and urges rich nations to move quickly to forgive more developing-country debt.

"The debt burden of a large number of the poorer countries remains unsustainably high," the Bank says in its annual review of developing-nation debt.

While the level of Third World debt has held roughly unchanged over the last year, that figure masks a steep rise in the obligations of the world’s poorest countries, it says.

Some middle-income debtor nations, particularly those in Latin America, have been able to take advantage of the so-called Brady initiative to reduce their foreign debt.

"Those that have come to the party have had a very good time," World Bank chief economist Lawrence Summers told a news conference on Sunday.

"The problem is that so far it hasn’t been a very large party."

The initiative, unveiled some three years ago by US Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady, only applies to debt owed to international creditor banks, not to rich nation governments.

Poorer countries, particularly those in Africa, owe most of their money to governments, not to banks.

Britain is pushing ahead with a plan — the Trinidad terms — that would effectively allow poor nations to reduce their official debt to foreign governments by about two-thirds.

The World Bank says that plan will offer many poorer countries a realistic chance of being able to service their remaining debts and enjoy better economic times.

But a few nations, including Mozambique, Somalia and Sudan, require even more relief, it says.

Although the US backs the plan in principle, it has been hamstrung from joining in by legislative guidelines set down to contain its burgeoning budget deficit.

Washington, though, was able to lead the drive this year to halve the official debt of two lower middle-income countries, Egypt and Poland, rewarding one for its cooperation in the Gulf War and the other for its embrace of democracy.

The World Bank urges that other such countries with big official debts, including Morocco, Nicaragua and the Philippines, be given a chance to obtain comparable relief.

It says that the near-term outlook for developing countries hinges largely on the economic performance of the industrial world next year.

"The consensus view is that major economies will show a weak recovery in output in 1992," the Bank says.

"But the preponderance of the risk now appears to be on the downside."

It says that all indebted developing countries will probably have to live with high real interest rates in the coming decade because of competing demands for funds from the Gulf, the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, including the former East Germany.

It estimates that the extra demand from those areas will amount to about $100 billion per year.

All other things being equal, that means real international interest rates, after taking account of inflation, will need to be about one percentage point higher than otherwise.

But the World Bank does not expect those extra demands to crowd out developing countries and prevent them from raising funds, unless they are barely creditworthy.

Mr Summers said the problem was not so much the overall quantity of money available for investment in the 1990s, but its allocation.

"Too much money during the 1980s was used to build office buildings in the world’s richest nations, and not enough went to the construction of factories in developing countries where the population was growing the fastest," he said.—Sapa-Reuters.
Six million African adults infected

AIDS catastrophe

LONDON - Africa's biggest catastrophe in the 1990s - worse than war, famine or economic chaos - is likely to be the spread of AIDS.

Despite massive attention to AIDS in the United States and Europe, health experts and scientists around the world agree that sub-Saharan Africa's problem is of far greater magnitude.

Some warn that it could change the very fabric of African society, negating efforts at economic development.

The World Health Organisation estimates that some six million adults in Africa are infected with the AIDS-causing HIV virus, out of eight to 10 million worldwide.

In some African countries, one in 10 adults are infected, and so many people have died from AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) that it has wiped out recent progress in reducing mortality rates from other diseases.

It looks set to reverse population trends - something that war, famine and pestilence have not done.

These disastrous facts and figures lend special urgency to the Sixth International Conference on AIDS in Africa, to be held in Dakar, Senegal, next week. Some 1,500 delegates will grapple with how to stop a disease that has no cure, no vaccine.

World Bank economist Ms Jill Armstrong echoed the concerns of many development groups in a recent report on finance and development in Africa.

She said the AIDS epidemic "threatens to alter dramatically the economic and social fabric of many societies, raising serious question about the development process itself."

No part of a country's economy was safe from AIDS, she said.

In agriculture, for example, productivity would drop off along with shortages of healthy adults able to work the land.

Another recent study of the impact of AIDS on Africa, published by a team of British researchers, predicted that in a few decades some areas of Africa will for the first time show a net population loss rather than a gain. The report estimated that the number of Africans infected will double in three to five years.

Attention

The African Aids conference is unlikely to attract the same international Press attention as the annual International Aids Conference, of which there have been seven so far.

African health officials and researchers frequently complain that the Third World is virtually ignored at the "main event" meetings, where Western scientists eagerly report on treatments under development that might work, at a cost of up to $210,000 dollars a patient.

Such solutions are wildly unrealistic for Africa, where some countries have a total health budget for all diseases of just $10 a person.

The pattern of Aids in Africa differs from the developed countries in two key respects. The disease is contracted primarily by heterosexual sex, rather than through homosexual sex or drug use, and the prevalent HIV virus has a different structure from strains found in the West.

Africa is afflicted not only by the HIV-1 virus but also by another strain, harder to diagnose, called HIV-2.

The HIV-2 strain is now beginning to show up in industrialised Western countries, where no AIDS blood tests in regular use screen for it.

Scientists at the African conference will also highlight research into vaccines under development that are specifically targeted for the Third World, an area virtually ignored at the International Aids Conference in Florence last July.

There, American researchers said that all strains of the virus under study for potential vaccines were from the West, so that any drug developed to stop them would not work in Africa.

African officials are concerned that drug companies are ignoring research into medications that could work in Africa because governments there have no money to pay for them, no refrigeration in many areas to store them and even a shortage of needles to administer them. - Sapa-Reuters.
Peace Dawns on Broken Ethiopia

A new mood of optimism is sweeping Addis Ababa
Trials, tribulations of restless continent

FAR REMOVED from the gaze of an indifferent world, Africa is still a continent of struggle.

The number of people killed in Mogadishu, the capital of what was once Somalia, is reported to have climbed to 2,000 in an inter-clan war which has raged between subgroups of the Hawiye clan for three weeks — the third bout of fighting since President Siad Barre was overthrown in January.

Red Cross workers say most casualties are civilians, caught in crossfire or attacked by bandits.

The Red Cross says food is running out but the hundreds of thousands of people who have fled the shattered city face more banditry, hunger and thirst in waterless scrubland around the capital.

In northern Somalia, however, renamed Somaliland when it declared independence in May, there is relative peace and optimism but, without international recognition, the new state will not obtain sufficient aid to rebuild its ruined infrastructure.

In west Africa, Liberia still hangs in the balance. It imploded in killing and looting last year but order has returned to the capital, Monrovia, which is now under the control of the west Afri- can peacekeeping force, Ecomog.

Following a peace agreement signed on October 30, its troops are now deploying throughout the rest of the country to disarm fighters from Charles Taylor's National Patriotic Front of Liberia.

Elections are supposed to be held within six months, but most observers estimate the timetable is unrealistically short. Meanwhile, the war has split over into neighboring Sierra Leone, forcing hundreds of civilians to flee.

Togo, one of the first countries to introduce democracy through a national convention, is still not free from the threat of military rule.

The prime minister appointed by the convention, Joseph Kokou Koffi gho, was recently seized by soldiers and forced to agree to a new government including members of the corrupt old regime of President Gnassingbe Eyadema.

However, at the weekend the people of the capital, Lome, who have driven the military back to their barracks twice this year, demonstrated against the deal forced on Mr Koffigho and called for a general strike.

To emphasise there is no inevitability in African politics, Kenya has been pulled back from the brink since President Daniel arap Moi ended one-party rule.

The opening up of politics in Kenya has split the opposition movement, the Forum for the Restoration of Democracy, which fought under the multiparty democracy banner.

The May peace agreement which brought nearly 25 years of war in Angola to an end appears to be holding, and Unita leader Jonas Savimbi has accepted the government's date of September 25 1992 for elections.

As it to contradict the popular belief that democracy is new to Africa, Botswana recently celebrated 26 years of independence and multiparty democracy. And in the Gambia, another country which has an open political system and elections, Sir Dawda Jawara, who has led the country since independence, has announced he will not be seeking re-election when his term of office runs out in April.

— The Independent News Service.
SA links with Africa 'regular'

PRETORIA — Open and regular contact between SA and other African states was increasingly taking place, said newly appointed Deputy Foreign Minister Renier Schoeman.

In the first 11 months of the year 70 official delegations from African states other than the SADCC countries visited SA, he said.

Schoeman said this process would be continued and intensified next year.

Government was eager to meet all other governments in the region in a comprehensive and structurally sound masterplan.

Schoeman said SA should place special emphasis on developing interdependence with other countries in the region rather than a one-sided dependence.

SA's credibility on the continent had risen to an unprecedented level.

In the past two or three years trade growth with the rest of the continent had increased by between 20% and 25%.

"Against this background there is no doubt the scene is set for our trade to expand even further, both in volume and in the variety of destinations" he said.

The future lay firmly in consolidating regional economic interests and the World Bank had pointed out that a stable SA would be a great regional asset.

Schoeman said there was growing realisation in Africa that a vital element was missing in certain regional structures.

He referred to comments by Tanzanian Prime Minister John Malecela, who said the SADCC had failed in its original purpose-in that it had neither reduced economic dependence on SA, nor created regional economic integration.
Ghana 'silencing critics'

LONDON — Ghana's government has been using imprisonment to silence its critics and political opponents since it took power 10 years ago, Amnesty International says. The human rights group says in a report: "The threat of the death penalty and arbitrary detention are violations of human rights and should be ended."
AIDS strain that does not show up in tests

A N INTERNATIONAL conference on AIDS in Africa starting in Dakar on Monday will focus on HIV-2, a strain of the virus sweeping the Third World that resists drugs and does not show up on screening tests.

In Europe and North America, Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome is almost exclusively caused by the HIV-1 strain. But in parts of Africa, HIV-2 is just as widespread. The virus is transmitted in exactly the same way as HIV-1, but has not yet shown up in the West, for reasons that are not yet clear.

However, health officials in the US are beginning to warn that the new strain may emerge as a Western problem as cases of AIDS victims infected by it are beginning to be reported.

Because AIDS is primarily a heterosexual disease in Africa, rather than homosexual as in the West, scientists wonder if the structure of the second virus allows it to be passed on more easily through heterosexual contact.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) estimates that 6 million adults in Africa are infected with either HIV-1 or 2 out of a total of 2 million to 10 million victims worldwide.

By 1995, WHO predicts that 10 million will be infected in Africa alone.

The Sixth International Conference on AIDS in Africa will be chaired by Professor Souleymane Mboup of Senegal, credited with discovering HIV-2.

Deadly

The four-day meeting, attended by 1500 delegates, will also focus on the deadly combination, endemic to Africa, of AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases.

The vast majority of African AIDS victims also suffer from such venereal diseases as syphilis and gonorrhoea, and researchers are trying to understand the role each plays in the spread of the other.

The Africa AIDS meeting will also address the difficult problem of designing preventive programmes in countries where up to 80 percent of the population is illiterate and religious taboos often prohibit open discussions of sexual behaviour.

A recent editorial in Nairobi's Sunday Times summed up common attitudes in Africa.

"Unfortunately, some people are still taking it as some kind of sick joke, a hoax being played on them by the gods, and have been going on blithely ignoring all warnings about casual and irresponsible sex."

SAPA-REUTER
Pretoria details African trade

The Government has released details of its trade relations with the rest of Africa disclosing business links with nearly every country despite the sanctions campaign.

The figures are the first released since 1985 when publication of trade figures with individual countries was stopped because of the sanctions campaign.

Zimbabwe is by far the largest trading partner, accounting for 31 percent of the trade in the continent.

After Zimbabwe, Zambia is South Africa's largest trading partner on the continent, followed by Mozambique, Zaire and Malawi, all SADCC countries.

The five biggest exporters to South Africa were Zimbabwe, Malawi, Ivory Coast, Mozambique and Zaire.

The five biggest importers were Zimbabwe, Zambia, Zaire, Mozambique and Malawi.

Exports to Africa grew by 40 percent in 1989 and by 22 percent last year. - Financial Times
African states snap up SA maize

PRETORIA — The demand for SA maize from other African countries had been overwhelming this year mainly because of drought, failed crops and the needs of exploding populations, Maine Board GM Hen- nie Davell said yesterday.

Total forex earnings from the latest season’s 1.1-million-ton surplus from buyers in African countries as well as overseas are estimated at between R400m and R450m.

Of the 1.1-million tons, 384 000 tons were exported to African countries and 512 000 tons were shipped abroad — 89% to Japan- ese buyers.

In Africa consignments have been railed or will be railed to Zaire, Zambia, Zim- babwe and Angola.

The board also supplies maize to Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland and TBVC states but they are regarded as part of the domestic marketing programme.

Davel said it was clear SA was becoming the bread basket of the southern half of the continent.

On the controversial Zimbabwe export deal Davell said the board would start rail- ing 100 000 tons as soon as the money — R45m — was in the bank.

Earlier this week it was reported from Harare that the deal was threatened by Zimbabwe’s forex shortage. However, Davel said he had been assured by the Zim- babwean Grain Marketing Board yester- day that payment would be made today.

He said some African countries had asked for options to buy bigger volumes — 200 000 tons are still available — but whether these could be granted would depend on the success of the 1991/92 crop.

Davel said of the overseas buyers Ja- pan’s purchases were by far the largest.
AIDS impact worst on developing countries

THE high incidence of AIDS and HIV infection could have dire economic consequences for developing countries — including many in Africa, says World Bank economist Jill Armstrong.

In a report compiled for the World Bank and the IMF, Armstrong says about 90% of the 30-million people who will have contracted the HIV virus by the year 2000 will be living in the developing world.

Presently there are an estimated 10-million people infected with the virus, 80% living in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean.

"The epidemic threatens to dramatically alter the economic and social fabric of many societies, raising questions about the development process itself," she says.

"No sector of a country's economy is safe from AIDS. Productivity in the agricultural sector may drop off in rural areas as the incidence of AIDS increases. Shortages of manpower may lower overall agricultural output in countries where production is labour-intensive."

"On smallholder plots farm production may also fall as funds are diverted away from key farm inputs to medical expenses." Armstrong says AIDS-related deaths are wiping out recent progress in reducing mortality rates. The health sector, while struggling to improve general health conditions, is now also having to cope with a growing demand for hospitalisation, health personnel and drugs for AIDS patients.

School enrolment is likely to be affected, with many breadwinners falling ill and no longer being able to send their children to school or helping them to do tasks that used to be done by parents. Up to 10-million children will have been orphaned by 2000 because of AIDS, says Armstrong.

"The extended families in parts of Africa are already beginning to feel the strain. Often the responsibility to feed, clothe, shelter and educate the children falls on elderly grandparents, with little means of financial or physical support."

"In the event of the death of a male head of household, insurmountable problems may result due to local customs often prohibiting the transfer of land titles to anyone but a man."

"Without access to means of production, widows and children may be forced into petty theft or prostitution to support themselves," says Armstrong.

"To lessen the economic impact of the epidemic, development strategies will need to take into account the effects of AIDS on people and the economy."

'Justice on wheels' on the expansion trail

DURBAN — Another 24 mobile courts will be established throughout the country in the next four months. This was announced by Justice Deputy Minister Danie Schutte in Port Shepstone yesterday when he opened one of those mobile courts established recently to deal with unrest, traffic and other cases.

The other were at Thohozizwa and Vosloorus on the East Rand.

Schatte said he believed the mobile court or "justice on wheels" concept was the first of its kind in the world.

"Apart from the setting up of the mobile courts, 80 other courts next to major routes had been placed on a 24-hour standby to deal with cases arising during the holiday season."

Justice Minister Robie Coetzee's Press secretary Werner Kruil said there would be no short cuts in the mobile courts and accused people would not lose their right to a fair trial.

"More than R11m had been spent on the initial three courts, he said."
New strain of Aids is found in Africa

DAKAR - A less virulent strain of Aids virus discovered in Africa appears to spread and kill victims more slowly, promising important clues in the search for a vaccination against the deadly disease, scientists say.

African researchers at the Sixth International Conference on Aids in Africa have complained the HIV-2 virus has been largely ignored by their Western counterparts because victims were Africans.

"The world has become too small for this. The same effort must be made for the treatment and vaccination of these two viruses," said Professor Souleymane Mboup, the Senegalese conference chairman who was on the team that discovered the African strain.

Americans and Africans working on the project said it could answer questions about the HIV-1 virus plaguing the West.

"Because the HIV-2 virus has distinctive immunobiologic properties, vaccine development with this virus will also yield important information to help the development of an effective HIV-1 vaccine," Max Essex, chairman of the Harvard Aids Institute in Boston, told the conference that ended yesterday. - apex-AP.
Aids will ‘wipe out’ Africa’s small elite

THE Aids epidemic sweeping Africa is thinning the already sparse ranks of the continent’s elite - the skilled, educated people who keep countries running,

Scientists say the deadly disease could kill 20 percent of Africa’s workforce in the next five years and that a disproportionate number will be from the small pool of managers, civil servants, teachers and other skilled people.

Many African nations are desperately short of skilled workers to keep their economies and vital services running.

The plague of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome could set those countries back decades, scientists say.

"We need to know what the loss in nurses and doctors is going to mean in your countries, as well as educators and other professionals," Dr Michael Merson told a conference in Namibia.

Behaviour

"We’re talking about the loss of elites in the urban work force," said Merson, an official of the World Health Organisation’s Aids programme.

Health workers say members of the urban elite are disproportionately affected by Aids for many reasons, including greater wealth, numerous sexual contacts and reluctance to change their behaviour.

It is common for African men with important positions or good jobs to have many sexual relationships as a demonstration of their wealth and standing, health workers say. Such men often have more than one wife, plus mistresses and frequent casual sex.

The elite, with their greater wealth, also hire prostitutes more often. Prostitutes are a common part of African life and health workers say they are major carriers of Aids.

Poor men are less likely to have numerous sexual relations and consequently less likely to contract and spread the Aids virus, the health officials said.

Elite Africans "are being hard hit by Aids because of their affluence," said Samuel Lewis, director of Kenya’s Aids Control Programme.

Succumbing

"They occupy the top positions and tend to use their seniority to coerce women, going from one to another."

Many people who should be leading the fight against Aids ignore it and are succumbing at a quicker rate than other groups, scientists say. No figures are available on how many skilled Africans have Aids.

Specialists in the disease say even some health workers in travelling Aids education programmes spread the virus because they refuse to use condoms and have many sexual contacts as they tour villages.

Many among the elite do not want to limit sexual contacts or acknowledge the danger of Aids, they say.

A study by the South African Institute of Race Relations said polls indicated many Africans regard Aids as a "white men’s disease" and refuse to believe it threatens them.

Many students, the next generation of skilled workers, see Aids as a white plot to reduce growth in the black population by promoting condoms, the study reported.

"The indirect costs of the epidemic - the loss of many valuable years of often highly trained labour - clearly depend in some measure on how the educated elites behave," said RW Johnson, a South African writer on Aids. Even to those who understand the threat, Aids does not seem so great a danger in a continent wrecked by war, political chaos and famine, the specialists say.

Persuade

"Given political unrest and poor socio-economic conditions, it is difficult to persuade people to alter their sexual behaviour to prevent them acquiring a disease which initially has no symptoms, and from which they may not die for over a decade," said Robin Hamilton of the Institute of Race Relations.

Aids could claim 20 million lives in Africa by the year 2000 and account for 60 percent of the world’s cases, the World Health Organisation projects. Doctors cite various reasons for the Aids plague, ranging from promiscuity to poor medical services.

In Africa Aids is primarily "transmitted heterosexually and," as many women are infected as men.

Pearl Nwashi, an Aids worker in Nigeria, said the disease could destroy the progress African nations have made in recent decades.

"All the development activities we have achieved so far will be wiped off with the loss of the bulk of the sexually active work force," she said.

"How do we replace them?" Sapa-AP.
UN plan to cut Africa’s debt

NEW YORK — The UN General Assembly on Wednesday approved a new 10-year programme to reduce Africa’s staggering $270bn foreign debt after the failure of its previous five-year plan to raise living standards on the continent.

The new programme, approved unanimously, lists a series of political commitments between donor nations and developing countries and recommends an average growth of 6% a year for African economies.

The document commits wealthy nations to “bold and innovative” measures to increase aid and reduce debt as a commitment to a substantial reduction or removal of tariff and other barriers affecting African exports.

In return, developing countries commit themselves to promoting investments by the private sector, respecting democracy, a respect for human rights, and the development of farming, small trade, crafts and enterprise.

Sapa-Reuters.
Aids will halt growth.

ABIDJAN — The Aids epidemic in Africa is threatening to reverse the continent's population growth, devastating economic development. Latest estimates suggest that adult infection rates will double to 14 million in the next five years. Already, 8 million people out of the 10 million infected worldwide are Africans. Nearly one million African children now carry the HIV virus received from their mothers. — Foreign News Service.
Year the rules changed

Dramatic changes in the world's political, economic and physical landscape in 1991 provide a sobering look at what could be in store.

FILE

The world was a very different place at the end of 1991. As the end of the Cold War approached, there was a growing list of headlines newsmen frequented. The Berlin Wall went down, and with it the old certainty of the divided world, the term "superpower" took on new meaning. The idea of a world order, controlled by the United States and the Soviet Union, was on the verge of becoming a reality.

But even as the Cold War ended, the world faced new challenges. The Gulf War, which began in January 1991, was a turning point in the world order. The war was fought between Iraq and a coalition of countries, including the United States, to retake Kuwait, which had been invaded by Iraq.

As the war ended, the world looked to the future. The Gulf War was a test of the new world order, and it showed that the United States was still the world's dominant power.

In politics, the year was marked by the end of the Cold War and the rise of democracy in Eastern Europe. The fall of the Berlin Wall and the collapse of the Soviet Union marked the end of an era.

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Dictators have fallen, but this is not a brave new world, writes Richard Dowdeswell in STAR 24/12/91

New light on ‘African dawn’

IN THE past 14 months 10 African countries have changed their leaders. Only two were overturned by the traditional method of changing governments in Africa: Mozambique and Zimbabwe. Four have been voted out in multiparty elections—a breakthrough in African constitutional history. Three others succumbed to rebel movements after years of civil war. And in one case—Mali—the army took power in order to hand it to a constitutional assembly.

It has been seen as the “end of liberation,” freeing Africa from corrupt megalomaniacs, a second dawn bringing democracy and freedom; as in Eastern Europe, the country will be replaced by parliamentary democracies presiding over freedom and prosperity. This is a deep misconception.

In Africa, there is no common pattern of political opposition or understanding about the sort of government the continent needs.

The common factors are well known: the Soviet Union’s withdrawal from非洲 has pulled the rug from under its allies and removed an alternative political model. The West no longer had to prop up tyrants just because they were anti-communist; through the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the West pushed for privatization, free markets, floating currencies and other economic reforms. Realizing these could not come about without political reform, Western donors began to write “good governance” into the agreements.

The immediate effect of the structural-adjustment programmes was a sharp drop in living standards for urban Africans and a steep rise in the price of food, education and health care. The corruption and remoteness of the old leaders were the easy target of an already untenable dish of high prices, shortages and unemployment that the people had been forced to swallow. Perhaps the multiparty democracy movement in Africa is no more than an uprising against imperialism.

If so, then the new leaders will be no more successful than the old in dealing with it. The crunch will come for Frederick Chiluba, the new Zambian president, when he has to reward the electorate for putting him into power by raising the price of food, fuel and every other essential. The result could be rapid disillusionment—including, for the financial institutions which may find that, after all, dictatorships can impose tough economic reforms more easily than democracies.

The even if its causes are primarily economic, the multiparty democracy bandwagon is, in the short term, as unstoppable as the independence movement of 50 years ago. In France’s former colonies, governments were forced to legalise opposition parties and hold sovereign national conferences made up of politicians, lawyers, teachers and others. In Togo and Niger, conferences have rewritten the constitution and appointed new governments.

The former British colonies have been more pragmatic. Ghana and Nigeria have military governments that are pledged to bring back civilian government. President Museveni in Uganda retains a broad-based government but shows no sign of enduring an electoral test. Only Kenneth Kaunda in Zambia took the plunge and held an election. He announced he would accept its outcome and his victorious opponent has encouraged him to stay on as leader of the opposition—an important precedent for the continent.

But what happens next? Africa contains such a vast diversity of ethnic groups, social structures, languages and beliefs that it is impossible to generalise about a traditional African political or social system. Its ancient societies were squeezed artificially into nation states only 50 years ago. The family, village, tribe and language groups are still vital components of African politics. The pre-colonial political systems—kings, in Uganda, Zambia and South Africa, nomadic clans in Somalia and Mali, tribal chiefships in Ghana and Tanzania—were broken long ago, however. They are inappropriate for the modern world and no one looks to them as models of African political development.

Where can Africa turn in the search for a new political order? Not only the five advocates of multiparty democracy were regarded as cranks or subversives. Africa’s way was the one-party state. Such opposition as President Nyere in Tanzania and the British high commissioner in Kenya could agree on that—national unity was best preserved by single-party government. Yet, in theory, democracy should be better suited to Africa. Most African societies are very open: talking, arguing, negotiating are all African talents. There has always been a contradiction between the God-like status the continent’s leaders have assumed and the easy openness of its societies.

The first obstacle to building democracy, however, is that African countries are poor and likely to get poorer. The second is that the newly elected leaders are essentially technocrats, not decision-makers. Economic policies can no longer be managed by them. The World Bank and the IMF establish economic criteria, backed by Western and Japanese aid donors.

But even when African governments do sign up to these terms, they are still far from salvation. Despite statements by donors that they will reward free-market policies, aid flows to Africa have fallen in the past five years. And the promise of private investment as a natural product of economic reform is not being remotely fulfilled. Ghana, which implemented both World Bank and IMF policies with the massochistic fervour of a reformed sinner, has been no flood of investment.

Aid is of secondary importance to trade, but should the new leaders look to their own resources, they would find that the prices paid for most of their commodities continues to fall. An assessment by the Overseas Develop-
Cultural tips from Africa's fums
Alu Gni says development funds should play a subsidiary role, reports Michael Chester

OPINION
Ghana’s Rawlings gets a head start

ABIDJAN - Ghana’s military leader Jerry Rawlings seems to be honing his image to fight free elections after ruling for a decade with revolutionary rhetoric and hard-nosed economies.

The 44-year-old flight lieutenant, who seized power in a coup on December 31, 1981, has not yet said if he will stand in presidential polls next year, but most people think he will.

He has been travelling widely in the West African country - opposition activists accuse him of sneaking a head start before parties are legalised - and has taken increasingly to civilian dress instead of his once hallmark military fatigues.

Many Ghanaians say they have had enough after 10 years of Rawlings’ leftist fervour, his tight rein on dissent and his slowness to accept the multi-party tide sweeping Africa.

“Rawlings has done his bit for 10 years but people are just fed up with him,” said Accra accountant Mr Egua Samson.

Others say his undoubted charisma, reputation for honesty and progress in rural development could carry him through.

“He could win - what works in his favour is the thrust his government has given to roads, pipe-borne water, electricity,” said one Ghanaian diplomat.

Victory would be a big achievement. Long-serving African presidents have found it very hard to keep power when their mandate is put to its first real democratic test. Several, including Zambia’s Mr Kenneth Kaunda, have been swept from office.

Despite radical speeches putting Ghana on the left of the world stage alongside Dr Fidel Castro’s Cuba, Rawlings has a shining image in world financial circles after eight years of textbook structural adjustment.

Inheriting an economy sick from years of mismanagement and corruption, Rawlings swallowed tough medicine from the World Bank and International Monetary Fund which dragged Ghana back to relative health but left a bitter taste for many Ghanaians.

The country has clocked up one of Africa’s highest annual growth rates at around five per cent and the government recently said it had paid off all its external debt arrears.

But Ghana’s 15 million population has felt the pinch of austerity moves and economists say life is likely to stay hard for ordinary people for several more years.

Rawlings’ leadership style, described by some critics as messianic, brooks little dissent. Diplomats say his human rights record is not the worst in the region but he has not been slow to crack down on opponents, sometimes violently.

Sweeping punishments including execution were imposed early in his rule on people accused of corruption or trafficking.

In 1982 soldiers were implicated in the kidnap and murder of three high court judges, a move which terrified Ghana’s liberal bourgeoisie. Rawlings’ close ally, Captain Kojo Tsikata, was briefly implicated in the killings but not prosecuted.

A blistering Amnesty International report this month accused the ruling Provisional National Defence Council of jailing hundreds of opponents since 1981.

The government reacted sharply, calling Amnesty a tool for dissidents wanting to slander the country.

Ghana was one of the slowest countries in the region to start multiparty reforms, despite pressure at home and abroad.

Ghanaians will vote on a new pluralist constitution early next year and elections are due later in 1992.

Many critics accuse Rawlings of naive idealism and say he was a Sandhurst-trained Marxist who fought for the Soviet-backed MPLA government in Angola’s civil war, is the real power behind the throne.

Rawlings has shown the popular touch, often chatting informally at official functions and departing from prepared speeches into emotional aside.

He has scrupulously guarded his name for honesty in the dirty world of politics, handing power back to civilians after an earlier 1979 coup and then taking over again in 1981 saying the country was drowning in corruption.

In 1987, his nephew Hansp Addy was acquitted of murder charges. Fearing accusations of favouritism, Rawlings ordered a re-trial. Addy was found guilty and executed.
Algerian Women Fear Return to Dark Ages
Algerian Women Fear Return to Dark Ages
Welcome to the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The Islamic Republic of Iran is a theocratic republic located in Western Asia. It is the world's 15th largest country by area and the 51st most populous country with around 80 million people. The capital and largest city is Tehran.

The official language is Persian, also known as Farsi, and Persian is the national language. The official currency is the Iranian rial.

The government of the Islamic Republic of Iran is a theocratic republic with a constitution that guarantees religious freedom and the right to education. The President is the head of state and government, with the help of the Supreme Leader, who is the highest authority in Iran.

The economy of the Islamic Republic of Iran is based on oil and gas exports, as well as the manufacturing of goods, and agriculture. The country is also known for its cultural and historical sites, such as the Persepolis and the Naqsh-e Jahan Square.
Africa on collision course with Aids

DAKAR - Even the most conservative official estimates of the Aids infection rate expect the disease to wipe out at least 25 per cent of Africa's workforce by the year 2010.

Economists warn that the Aids pandemic threatens Africa with economic chaos beyond anything it has yet endured as it kills five million or more adults in the next eight years.

African officials say the entire world has a stake in helping their countries stem a disease that is already laying to waste some economic sectors of the continent.

"Africa must not be abandoned," said Dr Kekoura Kourouma, head of Guinea's national Aids programme. "Remember, a sick population will not be able to work, will not be able to pay its debts."

One in every 40 adults in Africa is already infected with the HIV virus that causes Aids. These victims are part of Africa's economic engine - 15 to 40-year-old farmers, mine workers, even the educated elite.

Research presented at an International Conference on Aids in Africa held here this month found that the labour-intensive agricultural and mining industries, the two most important economic sectors of sub-Saharan Africa, are already suffering the impacts of Aids.

Satellite pictures show evidence of farmland returning to the bush and homes abandoned in some African villages where the population has been decimated, researchers said.

In Zambia, where infection rates are as high as 20 percent in cities, the country's critical copper mining industry is threatened with collapse as Aids cuts into the workforce.

The economic impact of the disease is being felt in the more economically stable countries and classes of the continent as well.

Kenya, for example, lost several billion shillings in foreign exchange in 1988 after Western Press reports of the Aids breakout there caused a steep drop in tourism. The government has since been accused of suppressing public dissemination of information on infection rates.

**Infection**

In Uganda, a study found that women with high income male sexual partners were at significant risk of infection.

Even South Africa will face huge economic costs, despite having fewer than 1,000 AIDS cases to date. A mathematical model designed by South African researchers predicted that, based on the most conservative projections, AIDS will cost South Africa 2.3 to four percent of its Gross National Product by the end of the century.

The costs to South Africa of caring for victims and of lost productivity could total R30.6 billion rand between 1991 and 2000.

Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome has hit Africa harder than any other region of the world. The World Health Organisation estimates that six to seven million African adults are already infected with the HIV virus, out of 10 million worldwide, and one million Africans have died so far.

WHO projects that at least 14 million adults in Africa will carry the infection by the year 2000. Since virtually all HIV-positive adults develop the fatal Aids symptoms within 10 years of infection, WHO says it is clear that more than five million currently infected adults in sub-Saharan Africa will die in the next eight years, and deaths will continue to increase into the next century.

"These millions of projected AIDS deaths will double or triple the total number of deaths in young and middle-aged adults from all other causes by the end of the 1990s," said Dr Michael Merson, director of WHO's Global Aids Programme.

Aids systematically destroys the body's immune system, leaving the victim prey to infections. It can only be contracted through blood and bodily fluids, usually through sexual intercourse or intravenous drug use.

But its pattern of infection in Africa has been far different than in industrialized nations.

In North America and Europe HIV initially hit homosexuals and drug users the hardest, but in sub-Saharan Africa 90 percent of HIV infections have always been spread through heterosexual intercourse.

Preventative measures, especially condom use, have been slow to get off the ground through a combination of government disinterest, lack of funds, illiteracy, religious taboos and widespread promiscuity.

The burden on overstretched public health budgets is already crushing, African officials said. In some cities 80 percent of hospital beds are occupied by Aids victims.

Few patients can afford AZT, the primary drug for the symptoms of Aids, which costs R238 000 a year to administer. Even wealthy South Africa has decided not to offer AZT to Aids victims in its public hospitals.

But even without AZT, caring for victims is still expected to take up between 34 and 70 percent of South Africa's total health care expenditures by the year 2000.

Costs go beyond health care and lost workers, however. In Africa, extended families are the norm and one wage can support several dependents.

Researchers say that as parents die, 10 million African children may be orphaned by 2000, overwhelming the orphanage system.

Productivity will drop off even before death, as weakened workers stop to rest and family members take time off from their labours to care for them. Regular funerals and the traditional grieving time they require, will also reduce productivity among survivors.

Governments are already hard pressed to manage other indirect costs of Aids. Uganda's policy of paying funeral allowances for civil servants, including the cost of a coffin, may have to be withdrawn, economists say, as death rates in this group continue to rise.
A new political landscape

1991 — a year of drastic world changes

NEW YORK - As 1991 neared an end, the repudiation of communism, a growth in democratic movements and a surge in ethnic violence reshaped the world's political landscape.

The disintegration of the Soviet Union had centre stage. But the pace of change was no less dramatic beyond the Soviet borders.

In the Balkans, Serbs and Croats waged Europe's bloodiest war since World War 2. In Africa, juntas and military dictators were swept away by winds of democracy blowing across the continent. In southeast Asia, a fragile peace replaced a long-running war in Cambodia.

The year began with the world community rallying to boot Iraq out of Kuwait.

But while the Mideast balance of power shifted away from war-devastated Iraq, President Saddam Hussein remained firmly in control in Baghdad.

Military coup

Longstanding authoritarian regimes also held sway in Syria, Burma, China, North Korea and Cuba. The Rev Jean-Bertrand Aristide was sworn in as Haiti's first democratically elected president, and ousted in a military coup within seven months.

Indian Prime Minister Mr Rajiv Gandhi was assassinated while campaigning to regain his nation's leadership.

South African President FW de Klerk repealed his white-rulled country's apartheid laws and moved to share power with the black majority.

The prospects were clouded by opposition from rightwng whites and continued black factional clashes in the townships.

The warring factions in Cambodia's 13-year civil war signed a peace accord in October calling for elections, expected in 1993. But the country's painstaking path to self-determin-

ation was marked by the political re-emergence of the Khmer Rouge, the guerrilla group behind a reign of terror in the 1970s.

In the Soviet Union and Africa, the end of one-party regimes presented opportunities for reforms but also raised concerns about instability.

In Moscow, Mr Mikhail Gorbachev resigned as president last week, and the dissolving nation's powers shifted to Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin, a hero of the botched coup by hard-liners on August 19-21. The coup's aftermath spawned independence movements among nearly all the 15 Soviet republics and the removal of the Communist Party from power.

Thus far, the Soviet break-up has produced relatively little bloodshed. But the vicious, six-month-old civil war between Serbs and Croats in Yugoslavia highlighted the threat ethnic disputes pose to a new world order.

Yugoslavia's fragile, ethnically diverse federation of six republics was shaken by the June 25 declaration of independence by Croatia and Slovenia, the country's two richest republics.

Elsewhere in 1991, Africa was shaken by extraordinary change, from the war-ravaged Horn of Africa to island nations off its Atlantic coast.

Marxism and one-party rule fell in country after country after decades of oppressive, corrupt administration.

At least 19 African nations - many former French and Portuguese colonies - have now approved multiparty politics since a wave of violent demands for democracy began sweeping the continent two years ago.

The changes can be linked in great part to the end of Soviet and US support that occurred during the Cold War, especially in the case of Ethiopia and Angola, one-time proxy states where two long civil wars ended in 1991.

Western donor nations, Africa's main lenders, began demanding democratic and economic reform in exchange for aid to African governments.

The most recent case was Kenya, where President Daniel arap Moi in December bowed to domestic and foreign pressure by offering to allow the legal existence of more than half of his original ruling party.

But an International Monetary Fund official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said pluralism would make life more complicated for Africans.

Results

"The people want to see instant results," he said. "It's going to be difficult for a newly elected government to ask for additional sacrifices from its people."

In the African upheaval of 1991, devastating civil wars ended and long-time leaders, both famous and infamous, fell.

Ethiopia's Marxist ruler, President Mengistu Haile Mariam, fled after 14 years of iron rule. The new transitional government in Addis Ababa has moved to spur private enterprise in one of the world's poorest countries.

Next door in Somalia, President Mohammed Siad Barre ended his 21-year rule by fleeing his country's civil war, which has killed 20,000 people. Angola ended its 16-year-old civil war, in which 300,000 people were killed.

President Kenneth Kaunda, Zambia's founding father, was soundly defeated in multiparty elections. During his 27-year leadership, the country slipped from one of Africa's wealthiest to one of its poorest. - Sapa-AP.

Half-blind Serbian pensioner Jela Vukovic lies frozen in her courtyard in Glevica at the weekend after Croatian forces took over the village in Europe's bloodiest war since World War 2.