

Power shift in Kenya

MANOAH ESIPISU AND
HELEN NYAMBURA

Nairobi, Dec. 29 (Reuters): Opposition leader Mwai Kibaki swept to a historic win in Kenya's presidential and general election, ending nearly 40 years of rule by President Daniel arap Moi's KANU party, the electoral commission said today.

KANU candidate Uhuru Kenyatta conceded defeat even before official results were declared, telling Kenyans in a state-

ment: "I accept your choice."

"I now concede that Mwai Kibaki will be the third President of the Republic of Kenya," he said. "KANU and I will respect him and his position in accordance with the Constitution."

A commission spokesman said hours earlier that provisional results showed Kibaki's National Rainbow Coalition (NARC) alliance had won Friday's poll. "He has won convincingly, and we will announce it officially later today," he said.

But commission chairman Samuel Kivuitu later said he could not declare a Kibaki victory until all result certificates had arrived from the constituencies.

"Looking at the figures we have so far, Kibaki is leading," he said. "If it goes like that he is likely to be the next President of Kenya. But one must follow the law which says we must receive all the certificates."

His statement caused an uproar among Opposition supporters expecting to hear him announce the final result, and he made a hasty exit, jostled and shoved by angry onlookers.

Moi, who has ruled East Africa's most important country and economy largely unchallenged for 24 years, was constitutionally barred from running.

Kenyans reeling under harsh economic conditions turned massively to Kibaki's alliance of about 10 parties that finally set aside years of bickering to forge a common front.

The economy shrank in 2000 for the first time since 1963 and grew by only 1.2 per cent last year. Well over half its 30 million people live on less than \$1 a day.

Kibaki, a former finance minister who studied at the London School of Economics, has pledged to revive the economy and end Moi's patronage-based style.

But critics say NARC represents only an illusion of change, pointing to the many recent defectors from KANU among its ranks, and to Kibaki's decade as vice president under Moi during one of the most intolerant periods in recent Kenyan history. Kenyatta told Kenyans to ensure "that leaders you have elected deliver on their promises".

3 0 DEC 2002

Opp takes early lead in Kenya polls

ASSOCIATED PRESS ^{Ken}

NAIROBI, Dec. 28. — Political veteran Mr Mwai Kibaki, who heads an opposition alliance that is promising to fight corruption and revive Kenya's ailing economy, took an early lead in elections that mark the end of President Daniel arap Moi's 24-year rule, independent monitors said Saturday.

Mr Kibaki, leader of the National Rainbow Coalition (NARC), is pitted against Mr Uhuru Kenyatta, who was hand-picked by President Moi to be the flag-bearer for the Kenya African National Union (KANU), the party that has ruled this once-prosperous East African nation since independence from Britain in 1963.

"We are on the eve of a historic victory. This is the Christmas gift NARC promised Kenyans," Mr Raila Odinga, a leading member of the National Rainbow Coalition, said Saturday.

Vote counting was slow and the Electoral Commission announced no results early on Saturday, 12 hours after most polling stations in this East African nation closed.



Kenyans scan newspapers for poll results in Nairobi on Saturday. — AFP

The Institute for Education in Democracy, an independent body that is observing the elections, said preliminary results showed that 71-year-old Mr Kibaki had won 452,718 of votes counted so far, while Mr Kenyatta had won 197,201 votes. The institute, which is

part of an umbrella of Kenyan organisations providing election observers, has 178 volunteers at polling stations.

Some 10.5 million people had registered to vote at 18,366 polling stations in Friday's elections. Official results for the presidency, 210 seats in

parliament and 2,104 local council seats are not expected until Sunday or Monday.

Citizen Radio also said Vice President Musalia Mudavadi, who was appointed by President Moi in November, had lost his Sabatia parliamentary seat in western Kenya.

29 DEC 2002

Kenya signals end of era

MANOAH ESIPISU AND
HELEN NYAMBURA

Nairobi, Dec. 28 (Reuters): Kenya's Opposition appeared on course for a landmark victory today as unofficial results trickled in from general elections marking the end of President Daniel arap Moi's 24-year rule.

If the trend continues, Kenya could record one of the most remarkable democratic changes in Africa by peacefully retiring one of the continent's last old-style political strongmen.

The poll was also shaping into a rout of Moi's KANU party, for long the unchallenged ruling organ of East Africa's biggest economy. Nine senior KANU Cabinet ministers, including the vice president and the finance minister, were rejected by voters, according to preliminary results. "We are cruising to a fantastic and historic victory," leading Opposition politician Kijana Wamalwa said as early returns appeared in line with most analysts' predictions.

With almost a quarter of the electorate counted by 1520 GMT, unofficial results gave NARC candidate Mwai Kibaki 65 per cent of the key presidential vote. KANU's Uhuru Kenyatta, Moi's handpicked successor and son of Kenya's independence leader Jomo Kenyatta, was trailing with 28 per cent.

NARC had won 71 seats against 26 for KANU in the race for the largely powerless Assembly, according to unofficial results compiled by the Institute for Education in Democracy (IED) and private Nation Television. Parliament has 210 elected members and 12 nominated by the parties.

Three minor presidential contenders are given little chance.

The Electoral Commission begun issuing preliminary tallies today, similar to those by independent poll trackers. It says the official presidency result might not be out until January 1.

"The mood here is very sombre," said an official at State House, Kenya's seat of power.

NARC leaders sensing victory were already in a jubilant mood. Some excited supporters staged noisy joyrides down Nairobi's main business thoroughfare in dangerously overloaded pickups.

Opposition stalwart Raila Odinga toned down his persistent warnings against possible poll foul play by KANU, but advised Moi and his party at a news conference: "I think the most honourable thing to do now is accept defeat and hand over gracefully."

The Commonwealth congratulated Kenya for holding what it called responsible and orderly elections and showing faith in democratic values. It appealed to all parties to accept the results and act with statesmanship.

KANU has wielded absolute power for most of the time since Kenya, a leading tea and coffee grower and major tourist destination, won independence from Britain in 1963.

Moi today shrugged off the prospect of poll humiliation for his anointed successor, telling reporters at an army farewell parade: "Well, that is the way demo-



Daniel arap Moi

cracy goes. I had said whoever wins, I will hand over power." Moi, 78, is bound by the Constitution to step down.

In another blow to KANU, election officials said Vice President Musalia Mudavadi lost his seat, as did KANU's top politician in the Indian Ocean

region, Shariff Nassir. Voting went mostly peacefully but two people were killed

in western Kisii district yesterday evening when a policeman accompanying a car carrying ballot papers to the main counting centre opened fire on another car, mistakenly fearing an ambush.

Downpours hit voting by disrupting transport in a handful of constituencies where voting was taking place today.

The national mood appeared mostly calm and upbeat despite widespread complaints from individuals who were barred from casting ballots after finding themselves left off voter lists.

29 DEC 2002

Amid promises of change, Kenya goes to the polls

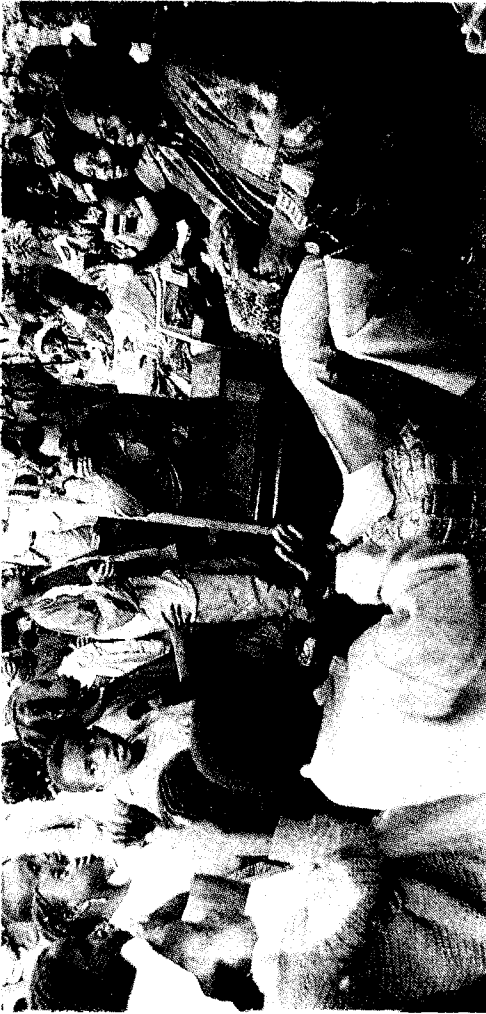
ITEN, (KENYA), DEC. 26. The Kenyans will vote on Friday in the elections that will end the 24-year rule of the President, Daniel Arap Moi, and herald, what many hope, a more prosperous era for the East African nation plagued by corruption and an ailing economy.

The contest to succeed Mr. Moi pits the ruling party's Uhuru Kenyatta against Mwai Kibaki, leader of an alliance of Opposition parties that have united like never before.

The contrast between the two front-runners in the Presidential race is huge.

Mr. Kenyatta is Moi's hand-picked choice and the son of Kenya's first President — Jomo Kenyatta — but at 41 and with just a year in Government, he is a political novice.

Mr. Kibaki is a 71-year-old political veteran who was Mr. Moi's Vice-President from 1978



The Opposition National Alliance Rainbow Coalition presidential candidate, Mwai Kibaki (right), with a cast on his right foot chats with orphaned children in Nairobi, as the nation goes to the polls on Friday. — AP

to 1988. He has been a leading Opposition figure since multiparty politics were reintroduced in 1991, and came second to Mr. Moi in 1997 elections in which

But both Mr. Kibaki and Mr.

Kenyatta claim to represent change. Mr. Kenyatta argued that he represented a new generation of leaders, while Mr. Kibaki said his Opposition alliance, the National Rainbow Coalition, or NARC, could right the wrongs of the past 39 years of Government under the Kenya African National Union party, known as KANU.

Both the candidates, members of Kenya's largest tribe, the Kikuyu, had one thing in common, ending rampant corruption and turning around the economy — East Africa's largest and most important — would be their priorities. Mr. Moi, who became President in 1978 after Jomo Kenyatta's death, is constitutionally obliged to step down at the end of his current term, but he will remain as chairman of the KANU, which has run the country since independence from Britain in 1963.

MISSILE ATTACK ON ISRAELI PLANE FAILS

Suicide blast kills 12 in Kenya hotel

Amica
ST-3
29/11

Agence France Presse

NAIROBI, Nov. 28. — Twelve people, including three Israelis, were killed today when attackers rammed a suicide car bomb into a hotel near the Kenyan resort city of Mombasa, Kenyan police said.

Nine Africans and three Israelis, two of them children, were killed in the hotel attack that took place on the eve of *Hanukkah*, a major Jewish holiday. The three attackers died instantly.

The bombers aboard a four-wheel drive vehicle rammed the gates of Mombasa Paradise hotel at around 8.25 a.m. (local time), ploughed into the reception area and set off the explosives, witnesses said.

The explosions took place just as a group of about 140 Israeli tourists were checking into the hotel, located some 25 km outside Mombasa, after arriving on a charter flight by Israeli carrier *Arkia*, an Israeli foreign ministry spokesman in Jerusalem said.

Almost simultaneously the *Arkia* plane, which had just taken off from Mombasa with 261 passengers on board, narrowly escaped being hit by two missiles, the spokesman said. Kenyan police said they had recovered a missile launcher and the casings of



Mr Netanyahu briefs the media in Jerusalem on Thursday. — AFP
'The missile attack on a packed Israeli airliner flying over Kenya today was a very serious escalation... We saw serious attacks by the PLO in the seventies, but this is an escalation in ferocity'

exploded missiles used by attackers who tried to shoot down the plane.

Earlier, a Kenyan journalist and another witness at the scene said they had counted eight corpses. "I can count eight bodies, seven Africans and one Israeli," the journalist said.

A doctor travelling with the tourists who administered first aid to the victims, told Israeli television that 15 Israelis were injured.

The Mombasa district commissioner, Mr Kaunya Oku, said: "The building is on fire and we have sought assistance from the Kenyan Navy. We have evacuated people from the hotel, including the injured."

Sharon for Mossad probe: The Israeli Prime Minister Mr Ariel Sharon tasked the Mossad intelligence services with investigating today's attacks, adviser Mr Zalman Shoval said. "All in all, what we are seeing here is an increased terrorist offensive which is not entirely surprising following the warnings issued by Osama bin Laden a few days ago," he said.

British travel advice: Britain is reviewing its advice on travelling to Kenya after the terrorist attacks, the foreign secretary Mr Jack Straw said, adds AP from London.

THE STATESMAN

29 NOV 2002

First the cattle die, then the people

GEWANE (ETHIOPIA), NOV. 24. Ever since the summer rains failed, Bushta Abdi, headmaster of Gewane junior school, has seen the mounting horror of Ethiopia's famine reflected in his pupils' faces. "The first thing I noticed was they lost their concentration in class. Then I saw their bodies changing as they lost fat. And now the numbers in class are declining as the children are forced to leave."

Mr. Abdi does not expect much by way of creature comforts for his 315 pupils. There is no electricity or water, no lavatories, and no food to provide a school lunch. Yet by virtue of having a school to go to, Mr. Abdi's charges are, in Ethiopian terms, relatively privileged, so the teachers and pupils do not complain.

But the disaster that is playing itself out around this town and throughout the Afar region is one challenge for which Mr. Abdi has no answer. In one class, 40 of the 110 pupils have simply disappeared as their parents take their chances and flee to the cities, knowing from their memories of past droughts of the horrors that lie ahead.

If this famine reaches the peak that sober and scientifically based predictions suggest,

many of the children who are left behind around Gewane will be dead within a year. And, by wiping out Ethiopia's tentative efforts to educate its children, this famine is entrenching the relentless cycle of hunger and underdevelopment by throwing the consequences of this crisis forward into the next generation.

We are conditioned by haunting television images to see famine in terms of fly-blown faces and swollen bellies, but that stage has not yet been reached. Ethiopian famines have their own awful rhythm: first the cattle die, then the goats, and then the people.

The first stage has now been reached because the meher (main) rains of June to September failed, so there is no grass on the ground, and the cattle are dying in their hundreds of thousands. FARM-Africa, one of the aid agencies active in this region, believes that one third of the cattle in Afar have already died, and that soon none will be left.

Afar is largely a pastoralist farming society in which the economy is based entirely on livestock. The pastoralists build up herds of cattle, move them around from season to season in



A child clings to his mother's beads in Western Haraghe in southeastern Ethiopia, one of the region's hardest hit by a severe drought that officials say require emergency food aid for as many as 14 million people in the impoverished nation in the Horn of Africa in this file photo.

search of pasture, then exchange them for grain to feed their families. There are no banks, and virtually no cash economy to speak of, so cattle are not just a form of exchange, but also the only store of capital. In Afar, a man's wealth is calculated by how many head of cattle he owns. Therefore, as the entire rural economy is destroyed. The local people

have no way of feeding themselves other than to cadge sacks of maize from the relief agencies.

Husiene Ibrahim, a local headman and agricultural commissioner for the Afar region, fears that this famine will be worse than the one of 1984-85. "The people are already eating just one meal a day from the aid food stores. There is no fresh water to drink so the children are drinking from rivers and spreading diseases because that is where people throw the dead cows."

The local sense of despair is compounded, he explained, by the witch doctors' confident predictions, based on readings of the stars, that the next rains in March will also fail. But even if the lighter spring rains bring limited relief next year, some 17 million Ethiopians in the affected areas are facing the terrible struggle of getting through the next four months of dry season with no prospect of rain.

In times of famine, it is often impossible to know precisely

what has caused a child's death, because so many diseases are caused or made worse by malnutrition. It is clear from talking to local medical personnel in the villages that children are already dying of diseases that they would survive in normal times. FARM-Africa sends units of experts to set up camp for three months in villages and advise the communities on animal husbandry and disease prevention, but it is clear that the relatively small charity is overwhelmed by the scale of the crisis. It has been working to improve the health of livestock, but is now planning to offer assistance in slaughtering animals efficiently, rather than simply wait for them to die. At one settlement at Beida on the banks of the Awash river, the consequences of the drought were plain to see. The clan leader, Aden Uda, used to be a rich man, but he has lost 93 of his 100 cattle and was clearly humiliated having to rely on supplies of international aid to feed himself and his family.— ©Telegraph Group Limited, London, 2002

Congo: pact on power-sharing

Africa

25/11

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JOHANNESBURG, NOV. 24. Negotiations between the Congolese Government and two rebel groups have produced an agreement in principle on how a transitional government would work in the war ravaged country, the South African Government said.

Negotiations on power-sharing have been ongoing in South Africa's capital, Pretoria, and the parties agreed over the weekend to form a transitional government based on the principles of nation building, inclusion of all parties and respect for Congo's territorial integrity, a South African Government statement said.

The negotiations between the Congolese Government, Opposition leaders, rebel groups and civic organisations have been aiming to create a transitional government that would rule the massive central African nation until democratic elections could be held.

The parties remain in negotiations. Negotiators were scheduled to begin committee work in Pretoria later this week. War broke out in Congo in August 1998 when Rwanda and Uganda backed Congolese rebels seeking to oust the then — President Laurent Kabila.

— AP

THE HIND

25 NOV 2002

Africa
NIGERIA / CHURCHES, MOSQUES DAMAGED 129-14

Violence-hit town calm but tense

LAGOS (NIGERIA), NOV. 24. The death toll in rioting between Muslims and Christians in the northern Nigerian city of Kaduna jumped to more than 200, a senior Red Cross official said on Sunday, more than double previous estimates.

The violence began after a 'blasphemous' newspaper article. The contest has been moved to London.

Emmanuel Ijewere, president of the Nigerian Red Cross, told The Associated Press the relief organisation had by late Saturday counted 215 bodies on the streets and in mortuaries throughout the city. Previous estimates had 100 people killed.

An unknown number of others killed in the riots were believed to have been buried individually by family members, Mr. Ijewere said.

By Sunday morning, a tense calm was reported in Kaduna, a Muslim-dominated city with a large Christian minority.

Families timidly ventured out of their homes to attend church services and replenish food stocks with what they could find in local markets, where a few meat and vegetable stalls reopened.

The fighting, which began on Wednesday and continued until late Saturday, injured about 500 people and left 4,500 homeless, he said.

At least 22 churches and eight



Some of the Miss World contestants arrive at the Gatwick Airport, London, on Sunday. The organisers of the annual pageant had earlier decided to move the competition to London from Nigeria, following religious riots. — Reuters

mosques were destroyed in the mayhem, said Shehu Sani of the Kaduna-based Civil Rights Congress. Ten hotels were also badly damaged, he said, whose group estimated "well over 200 people" had been killed.

One policeman and one soldier were arrested on allegations of dragging 15 Muslim men out of their homes and summarily executing them, he said.

The victims' bodies were

then thrown into a river, he said.

Allegations that police and soldiers gunned down more than a dozen other civilians without provocation have also been filed with the authorities, Mr. Sani added.

A police spokesman could not immediately confirm the reports.

Ethnic and religious fighting is common in Africa's most populous nation, where thousands have been killed in clash-

es since civilian government replaced military rule in 1999.

Much of the violence Friday and Saturday was by Christians retaliating against Muslim neighbourhoods, Mr. Ijewere said.

"Some Christians feel especially bitter, because with the exit of Miss World, they have lost a symbolic battle while the Muslims have won," he said. "Our greatest fear is that it could spread to other cities now." — AP

THE HINDOO

25 NOV 2002

Beauties take off, Nigeria counts cost

JOHN CHIAHEMEN

Abuja, Nov. 24 (Reuters): The death toll rose to 175 in Nigerian riots sparked by controversy over the Miss World pageant, whose contestants flew to Britain today after organisers hastily moved the event.

Human rights workers said fighting was still going on in the northern Nigerian city of Kaduna and soldiers and police officers had been arrested on suspicion of taking sides in the Muslim-Christian blood-letting.

The Nigerian Red Cross sharply raised the death toll in Kaduna today to 175 from 105.

The rioting in Kaduna began as a protest against a newspaper article that offended Muslims because it said the Prophet Mohammad would probably have married one of the Miss World contestants were he alive today.

The allegations of killings by security forces could, if confirmed, dramatically raise the stakes in the fighting in Kaduna.

Relieved beauty queens climbed aboard a chartered flight and headed to London, the city now slated to hold the contest still scheduled for December 7. On arrival, the contestants managed a smile and a wave for the cameras at London's Gatwick airport.

"I feel wonderful to be here," said Miss USA, Rebekah Revels, wearing a black top and jeans, as she waved to a media scrum packed behind

airport crush barriers.

"I am so excited, I feel so happy," said Miss England, 22-year-old Daniella Luan, wearing a translucent brown top and a long denim skirt.

"I am so pleased to be back in Britain, and that's the general feeling among all of us," said Willie Hendrey, 27, from Brighton, southern England one of two hairdressers on the flight. "All the girls wanted to look their best, so they all clamoured for the bathroom towards the end of the flight," he added.

"What has happened is a bit of a shame because the international press has highlighted a little incidence of some rioting way out of all proportion," Guy Murray-Bruce, the director of Miss World Nigeria, told BBC radio.

As the relieved beauty queens arrived at London's Gatwick airport aboard a chartered flight from Abuja, Nigeria faced the prospect of serious economic and political damage from the fiasco surrounding the event.

The government had thrown its weight behind the pageant, hoping to show Nigeria in a good light and boost tourism in a country almost totally dependent on oil exports for its foreign earnings.

Even before the riots the contest had proved controversial, some participants threatening to boycott it if a Muslim woman sentenced to death under Muslim Sharia Law for bearing a child outside marriage were not reprieved.

NIGERIA / THOUSANDS SEEK SHELTER IN POLICE STATIONS

Africa

Riots spread to more areas

LAGOS (NIGERIA), NOV. 22. Rioting between Muslims and Christians in the northern city of Kaduna has killed as many as 100 people and seriously injured 500 others, Red Cross officials said on Friday, as thousands of residents sought refuge in army bases and police stations.

Christian youths retaliated against Muslim attacks in the third day of riots triggered by a newspaper article allegedly denigrating Prophet Mohammad.

George Bennet, head of the International Federation of the Red Cross in Nigeria, said Nigerian Red Cross officials gathering the dead and helping the wounded had reported a "ball-park figure" of 100 killed by Friday morning. But he stressed an exact figure was impossible to confirm.

Other Red Cross officials said more than 500 people had been wounded in the mayhem.

Sporadic gunshots and shouting could be heard on Friday morning by residents who still cowered inside their homes. Muslim mobs have stabbed, bludgeoned or burned bystanders to death, torched churches and cars, and rampaged through streets in recent days.

On Friday morning, plumes of black smoke rose above the city from makeshift barricades lit by rioters. Authorities extended a curfew to 24 hours a day, although large numbers of people were ignoring the order.

In Ungwa-Rome and Larayi — neighbourhoods dominated by the city's Christian minority — witnesses said youths smashed windows and set fires in mosques. Rioting was also reported in Kabala Costain, one of the predominantly Muslim neighbourhoods of Kaduna, a cosmopolitan city of several mil-



Nigerians salvage goods as smoke billows from the cargo wing of the Lagos airport after an explosion ripped through the building killing at least one person and trapping many inside, witnesses said on Thursday. — Reuters

lion people. Fearful residents of all faiths were rushing into police stations and military facilities for protection. Previous riots in Kaduna, a largely Muslim city with a sizable Christian minority, have escalated into religious battles that have killed hundreds since a civilian Government replaced military rule in 1999.

The latest protests began on Wednesday with the burning of an office of *ThisDay* newspaper in Kaduna after the Lagos-based daily published an article questioning Muslim groups that have condemned the Miss World pageant.

Muslim groups say the pageant to be held on Dec. 7 in the capital, Abuja, promotes sexual promiscuity and indecency.

Large contingents of security forces also patrolled other major cities on Friday, including the northern trading hub of Kano, where Muslim women chanting "Allahu Akhbar," held a peaceful demonstration calling for the cancellation of the pageant. Miss World organisers insist contestants have respected Muslim values by dressing conservatively. Islamic fundamentalist groups had for months

warned of protests against the Miss World pageant, prompting organisers to postpone the finale until after the Islamic holy month of Ramadan.

The pageant has also drawn protests from other parts of the world.

Contestants from five countries — Costa Rica, Denmark, Switzerland, South Africa and Panama — are boycotting the event because Islamic courts in Nigeria have sentenced several women to death by stoning for conceiving babies outside wedlock. — AP

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Africa **BURUNDI / CEASEFIRE NOT IN SIGHT** ✓
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7/10

Leaders push for peace

DAR-ES-SALAAM (TANZANIA), OCT. 6. With little prospect of a cease-fire between the Government and rebels in Burundi's nine-year civil war, more than a dozen African leaders began to arrive on Sunday for the final regional summit aimed at ending the conflict that has killed more than 200,000 people.

The South African Deputy President, Jacob Zuma, is expected to have few positive results to report when he addresses the one-day summit on Monday on the progress of the tortuous cease-fire talks he has been mediating.

Fighting between Burundi government troops and several rebel groups from the Hutu majority has been on the rise in the past months, and rebel attacks on the outskirts of the capital, Bujumbura, more frequent.

On Sept. 9, at least 183 civilians were slain as rebels fought with the army. Human rights groups claim government troops killed the civilians for being rebel sympathisers. A government commission has

confirmed the deaths but has not identified the killers.

"The report will be negative," said Jan Van Eck, an independent consultant on the peace process. "The objective (to end the war in Burundi) has not been achieved ... fighting will not end or decline."

The Ugandan President, Yoweri Museveni, chairs the 14-nation regional Great Lakes Initiative on Burundi. At least 10 Presidents, including the South African leader, Thabo Mbeki, and the former President, Nelson Mandela, have confirmed their attendance. Representatives from the European Union, which has been funding much of the Burundi peace process, and the Africa Union also will attend.

A three-year transitional government set up in November 2000 after political talks mediated by Mr. Mandela in Arusha, Tanzania, is implementing a power-sharing agreement between Hutu parties and those of the minority Tutsis. But the rebels did not take part in the

talks, and subsequent splits in the two main groups have stymied attempts to secure a cease-fire.

"The main problem with the Arusha accord is that it was never inclusive, and it never tried to include the two rebellions," Mr. Van Eck said.

The cease-fire negotiations under way since August were to bring the Government and army officials face to face with the rival factions of the Forces for the Defence of Democracy, or FDD, the largest rebel organisation as well as the National Liberation Forces, or FNL, Burundi's oldest rebel group.

But only one of the two lesser factions of each group has even tentatively agreed to a cease-fire. The war broke out in October 1993 after Tutsi paratroopers assassinated the country's first democratically elected president, a Hutu.

Despite being in the minority, Tutsis have effectively controlled the nation of 6 million for all but a few months since independence in 1962. — AP

7-10-00

BURUNDI

French come to rescue Westerners in Ivory Coast

French troops were deployed in Abidjan, the political capital of Ivory Coast, on Monday to prepare for a possible evacuation of Westerners if the military rebellion worsens.

It was reported on Monday night that the Government and the rebels had contacted the French in the hope of brokering a ceasefire. There were also reports of gunfire in Bouake, a central trading town.

The 200 French troops set up a forward camp at Yamoussoukro airport, 62 miles from Bouake. "We are here to approach the centre of the crisis and the area where there is a threat to the expatriates," a French commander said.

The 148 American children who have taken refuge in the International Christian Academy in Bouake were said to be "hunkered down" and being cared for by staff. One diplomat said that they had "food, electricity, water - they may be frightened but they are all right."

The school is within the grounds of a large compound with eight buildings and they have been moved to the most easterly corner, which is furthest from the gate and the road where the rebels have been cruising.

On Monday night, there were fresh reports of heavy gunfire after earlier, conflicting reports suggested that the fighting had diminished. Rebels said that they had beaten back a heavy assault by government troops.

"We captured a truck when

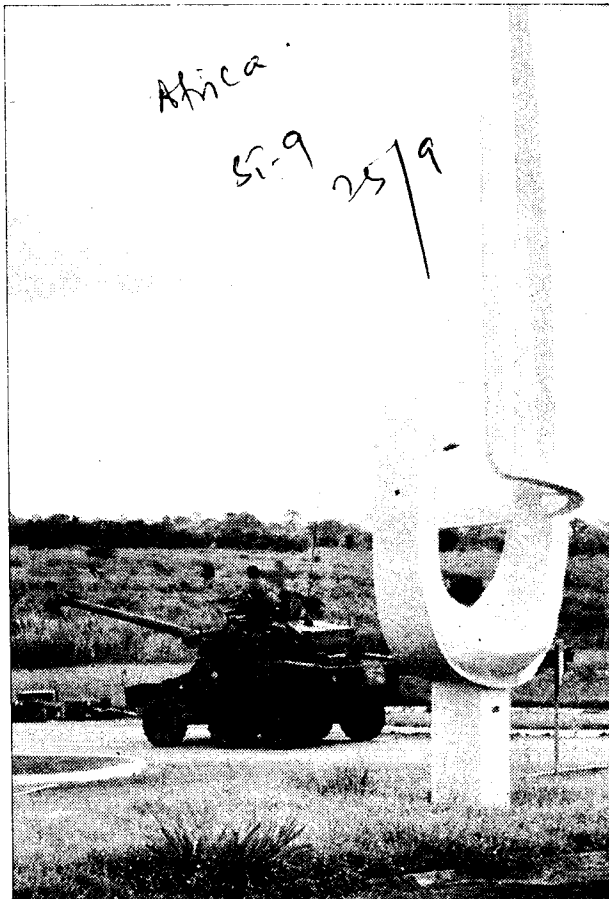
There have been fresh reports of heavy gunfire in the west African nation. Rebels said they had beaten back a heavy assault by government troops, writes JANINE di GIOVANNI

they came to attack us in the night," one of them said. "We do not want to shoot our brothers in arms, but we are ready to defend ourselves."

In Abidjan, the country's main city, where fighting first erupted before dawn on Thursday when the rebels attacked the National Police Centre, many people returned to work. Shops were full and, despite numerous rumours that the airport would soon be closed and all foreigners moved out, the city appeared calm.

Officials at the British Embassy said that they had no plans of evacuating their estimated 430 citizens, most of whom are in Abidjan, but they do have contingency plans. The embassy uses a warden system to relay messages to British communities throughout the country in emergencies.

"Things are calmer here in Abidjan than



A French Army tank patrols the airport of the Ivory Coast capital, Yamoussoukro, just 100 km south of the rebel-held city of Bouake, where their mission is to evacuate foreigners if need be. Recently, the Army quashed an uprising by mutineers that left 270 dead and 300 wounded. — AFP

for the past few days but we have told people to be careful and to allow yourself plenty of time to return home before curfew kicks in," Mark McGuinness, an embassy official, said.

Trudy Oliveira, one of the British wardens in the Deux Plateaux neighbourhood, who looks after 30-40 families, said: "Newcomers tend to be worried, but people who have been through it once or twice know the system."

Ms Oliveira, who has lived in the country for 15 years and gone through four coups, mutinies and upheavals since 1999, began a calling round at 5 am on Thursday when the shooting started.

"People were already awake, there was a lot of noise," she said. "Most people heard the shooting before I called."

Though many people have left the country since 1999,

remaining Britons are taking this latest uprising, which has left 300 dead and is being touted as the biggest crisis to hit the country since French independence in 1960, with typical sang-froid.

"I'm an optimist," Craig Hitchcock, a Londoner who has run a computer security software company in Abidjan since 2000, said. "If I had had a car on Monday, I would have driven out to the British Club for the day." Mr Hitchcock is membership secretary of the club, founded in 1998.

At the Tiama Hotel in central Abidjan, to which foreign correspondents have moved their offices, living quarters and families, a semi-siege mentality has begun to take hold.

"Please, Madam, if you know someone who can help here, ask them," the manager said. He is serving his guests a *plat du jour* each night and keeping them well oiled with wine from the cave.

Disinformation and rumours are rampant, about everything from the airport closing to the UN being evacuated.

None of it appears true. The government is also accusing foreign journalists of distortion and lies.

But for some it is business as usual. One French doctor turned off his mobile phone on Sunday to play his usual round of golf. "Why should I stay home behind locked doors," he asked. "One must take exercise."

— *The Times, London.*

25 SEP 2002

THE STATESMAN

France sends troops to Ivory Coast

Africa
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ABIDJAN (IVORY COAST), SEPT. 22. Rebel soldiers in Ivory Coast called for talks with the Government to avoid a bloodbath today as a showdown loomed in the country. France rushed troops to Ivory Coast, saying the reinforcements were to protect French citizens



A man walks past a burning shack in the Agban district close to a military base in Abidjan, on Sunday. Residents said paramilitary forces set fire to houses, beat people and arrested them. — AP

and the international community in its former colony. The French Defence Ministry did not say how many extra troops had been sent, but France-Info radio reported about 100 more soldiers were bolstering the approximately 600 based at a fortified military base on the outskirts of Abidjan. Some 20,000 French citizens live in Ivory Coast. Ivory Coast denied it had

asked for French help for putting down the uprising. The conflict threatened to spill across borders, as Government officials spoke ever-more harshly of suspicions that the country's neighbours were involved in the coup attempt. Top officials have yet to name any nation, but have long accused Burkina Faso to the north of aiding insurrection.

A French military source said loyalists this morning encircled Ivory Coast's second largest city Bouake held by rebels, who say they are angry at being thrown out of the army. State television said at least 270 people had been killed and some 300 injured in a bloody uprising has left swathes of land in rebel hands. — Reuters

23 SEP 2003

INDU

1 Aug 1998

Not guilty, says former Rwandan army chief

2/18

ARUSHA (TANZANIA), AUG. 21. Augustin Bizimungu, who ran Rwanda's armed forces during the 1994 genocide in the central African nation, pleaded innocent before a U.N. tribunal on Wednesday to charges of involvement in the genocide in which at least half a million people died.

Bizimungu, 50, entered his plea after listening to prosecutors read out charges of genocide, conspiracy to commit genocide, crimes against humanity and rape at the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda. Most of the victims of the slaughter were members of Rwanda's Tutsi minority, though several thousand victims, including the Prime Minister, Agathe Uwilingiyimana,

were political moderates from the Hutu majority.

Prosecutors accuse Maj. Gen. Bizimungu, a Hutu, of personally participating in the planning and the execution of the genocide.

The indictment holds him, as senior army commander, responsible for the conduct of his subordinates. No date was set for a trial. Prosecutors also accuse Maj. Gen. Bizimungu of forming and arming Hutu militia which carried out much of the slaughter that began on April 7, 1994, the day after the President, Jovenal Habyarimana's plane was shot down returning from neighbouring Tanzania. — AP

22 AUG 2002

Genocide accused transferred to U.N. tribunal

ARUSHA (TANZANIA), AUG. 15. The head of the Rwandan armed forces during the 1994 genocide in that country has been transferred to the U.N. tribunal here to stand trial for allegedly leading the atrocity that killed at least half a million people.

Former Maj. Gen. Augustin Bizimungu was flown to Arusha from Luanda, Angola, on Wednesday night, Kingsley Moghalu, spokesman for the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, said on Thursday.

Bizimungu, accused of being one of the masterminds of the 100-day slaughter in Rwanda, would soon appear in court to face charges of genocide, conspiracy to commit genocide and crimes against humanity in connection with the deaths, the spokesman said.

Angolan officials announced on Monday they had found Bizimungu in a camp for demobilized fighters from UNITA, the former Angolan rebel movement.

UNITA had bases in southwestern Congo where former Rwandan armed forces soldiers, known as ex-FAR, and Hutu militiamen known as Interahamwe also gathered after fleeing Rwanda in July 1994.

Angola's capture of Bizimungu came two weeks after the U.S. State Department announced on July 29 that it would pay up to \$ 5 million for information leading to the arrest and transfer to Arusha of nine genocide suspects, including Bizimungu.

He is the first of the group to be arrested.

Bizimungu, believed to be in his late 40s, went into exile after the Tutsi-led Rwandan Patriotic Front overthrew the extremist Hutu government in July 1994.

He first went to Europe, and later to Congo, then known as Zaire.

Once there, he formed the rebel Army for the Liberation of Rwanda that attempted to retake power in Rwanda in 1997-98 and last year.

Although most of the victims of the 1994 genocide were members of Rwanda's Tutsi minority, several thousand victims, including Prime Minister Agathe Uwilingiyimana, were political moderates from the Hutu majority.

Bizimungu's transfer brings the number of detainees in the tribunal's detention facility to 52. Trials are in progress for 22 detainees at the court established in November 1994.

Among those on trial is Col. Theoneste Bagosora, who was commander of the Kanombe air base in the Rwandan capital, Kigali, when President Juvenal Habyarimana's plane was mysteriously shot down on April 6, 1994, sparking the genocide.

According to Human Rights Watch, it was Bagosora who pushed to have Bizimungu, then a regional army commander, named to take over the army. — AP

THE END

V V
ZIMBABWE / 'AFRICAN SOLUTION NEEDED'

U.K. vows to marshal global support against Mugabe

110-4
1988
By Hasan Suroor

LONDON, AUG. 13. With up to 3,000 white farmers in Zimbabwe facing forcible eviction from their lands, Britain today vowed to lead international opposition against the Zimbabwean President, Robert Mugabe's policies which the Foreign Office Minister, Peter Hain, said had created one of the biggest "man-made" tragedies in Africa.

Mr. Hain warned Zimbabwe's neighbours that the crisis in their backyard had started to hit international investor confidence in the entire region. "The message to Zimbabwe's neighbours is that good government matters and, like charity, begins at home," he said.

Mr. Hain's tough remarks came as pressure grew on the Blair Government to take a harder line against the Mugabe regime. The Shadow Foreign Secretary, Michael Ancram, asked the Government to stop "shilly-shallying" and launch a diplomatic offensive to force Mr. Mugabe to abandon his "disastrous" land distribution pol-



The Zimbabwean President, Robert Mugabe, delivers his speech at the Heroes Day ceremony in Harare on Monday. — AFP

icy under which all white farmers have been threatened with eviction by the month end.

"The world has got to say to them that this type of behaviour — the murder, the mayhem, the obscenity of starvation on the one side against agricultural land which could be producing food lying idle on the other — this simply is not on," he said urging the Prime Minister, Tony Blair, to make it a campaign issue at the coming Earth Summit in South Africa.

Mr. Hain described the situation in Zimbabwe as "desperate" and squarely blamed Mr. Mugabe for turning the "jewel in African crown" into an international basket case. "Despite Harare's claims that this is purely a result of drought, everyone known it is a manmade tragedy: one man's," he said accusing Mr. Mugabe of instigating "state-organised violence" against his political opponents.

But Mr. Hain rejected calls for outside intervention saying it was an "African problem" to which there could be only an "African solution".

Writing in *The Times* today, he admitted indirectly that the limited sanctions imposed by the European Union and the U.S. on Zimbabwean leaders, restricting among other things, their freedom to travel abroad had not worked. "Britain, the Commonwealth and the European Union have done all we can to persuade the regime to change course. But a regime that cares so little for its own people obviously cares nothing for international opinion," he said.

ZIMBABWE / 'ONLY LOYAL CITIZENS WILL HAVE LAND'

Mugabe orders defiant white farmers to leave

HARARE, AUG. 12. The Zimbabwean President, Robert Mugabe, ordered white farmers defying eviction orders to pack up and leave but said today that loyal farmers willing to co-operate with his Government would not be left completely landless.

"All genuine and well meaning white farmers who wish to pursue a farming career as loyal citizens of this country will have land to do so," Mr. Mugabe said. After ignoring government orders throwing them off their land, hundreds of white farmers had anxiously awaited Mr. Mugabe's annual Hero's Day address to the nation, marking the guerilla war that ended white rule more than two decades ago.

The deadlock between white farmers and the Government continued for a fourth day today.

Farmers remaining on their land reported no official action to forcibly evict them since the deadline midnight on Thursday.

Mr. Mugabe stopped short of calling for immediate action against defiant farmers.

However, those who "want another war should think again when they still have time to do so," he said.

Mr. Mugabe said no white farmer would go without land but his Government would not allow whites to remain on large properties or own more than one farm while clinging to ties with Britain, the former colonial power. "To those who want to own this country for Britain, the game is up and it is time for them to go where they belong. There is no room for rapacious supremacists," he said. There was no immediate reaction to the speech from the Commercial Farmers Union, which represents the country's 4,000 white farmers.

Justice for Agriculture, a new group urging farmers to challenge the evictions in court, said at least 1,000 farmers affected by eviction orders owned only one property. The group took no solace from Mr. Mugabe's speech.

"We would be much happier if words were met with action on the ground," said Jenni Williams, spokeswoman for the



Renowned Zimbabwean artist, Larry Norton, and Sara Norton with their 6-month-old daughter visit the grave of their third child, Oscar, for the last time before they vacate their farm in Mvurwi, Zimbabwe at the weekend. — Reuters

group. Nearly 3,000 white farmers have been ordered to leave their land as part of the country's often violent programme to seize white-owned farms and give them to blacks.

The Government has targeted 95 per cent of white-owned farms for seizure. Several senior government officials have warned white farmers they face arrest and possible imprisonment of up to two years if they continue to defy eviction orders. Mr. Mugabe did not directly refer to the eviction deadline. But in his fiery speech railing against colonialism and Britain, Mr. Mugabe strongly criticised white farmers opposing the Government's policies. "No farmer to our knowledge has been rendered landless. Only the greedy are complaining," he said. Opposition officials, human rights workers and farm

leaders say hundreds of farmers have been thrown off all their land. The Government says its "fast track" land seizure programme was launched in 2000 as a final effort to correct colonial era imbalances in land ownership.

Critics say it is part of the increasingly authoritarian Government's effort to maintain power amid more than two years of economic chaos and political violence mainly blamed on the ruling party. The evictions deadline came as half of Zimbabwe's 12.5 million people face a severe hunger crisis, according to the World Food Program. The U.N. agency blames the crisis on drought combined with the agricultural chaos caused by the seizures of commercial farms, mainly owned by whites. — AP

Jaded Congolese sceptical of peace accord

KINSHASA (CONGO), JULY 31. The signing of a peace agreement hailed as a landmark in efforts to end four years of ruinous war received scant attention in Congo's tumbledown capital, whose jaded residents have seen a series of accords come and go without an end to the conflict.

"This accord won't have the chance to see the light of day," said Etienne Manueno, a university student who lives in Kinshasa.

He spoke to a chorus of approval. Preoccupied with survival after years of shortages and privation, many residents weren't even aware of Tuesday's agreement, signed by the leaders of Rwanda and Congo in the South African capital,

Pretoria. The Presidents' pledges go to the roots of a war that has drawn in six foreign countries, carved up Congo between Government and rebel regimes, and killed more than 2.5 million people — most from disease and hunger.

The two leaders who signed the accord were optimistic. "No more blood must run," said the Congolese President, Joseph Kabila, before signing the agreement with the Rwandan President, Paul Kagame. Mr. Kagame called the agreement a "big step" in resolving the conflict "so that the Congolese people can be able to live in peace and struggle to build their country."

— AP



The Democratic Republic of Congo President, Joseph Kabila (right) shakes hands with his Rwandan counterpart, Paul Kagame, in Pretoria on Tuesday as the South African President, Thabo Mbeki, looks on. — AFP

Spanish troops oust Moroccans from disputed island

By Vaiju Naravane

PARIS, JULY 17. What began as a minor spat between Spain and Morocco a week ago — the occupation by a handful of Moroccan gendarmes of a disputed Mediterranean islet, a small, uninhabited sandbank — has now become a full blown diplomatic crisis, with the European Union (E.U.) and the Islamic Conference Organisation (IOC) taking sides in the matter.

On Wednesday, Spanish forces stormed the tiny sandbank of Perejil near the Spanish enclave of Ceuta in Moroccan territorial waters, and dislodged a dozen or so Moroccan troops who had occupied it last week. There were no casualties.

Spain said it was “forced to order Moroccan forces to abandon the position they had established on the island of Perejil”. Moroccan soldiers who had established a camp and planted a Moroccan flag on the islet were handed over to their own border authorities. Morocco says it set up the outpost in order to discourage illegal immigration into Europe, an explanation the Spaniards reject. Spain sees the Moroccan act as an attempt to take possession of

the island by changing the “status quo”. The island’s final status was not properly defined when the Spanish protectorate of Morocco ended in 1956. Morocco claims sovereignty over the islet while Spain says the agreement calls for both sides keeping the island uninhabited.

On Tuesday, Spain recalled its Ambassador to Rabat but gave no sign that it was preparing to mount an offensive. The island is one of several disputed Spanish enclaves in Morocco, including Ceuta and Melilla. Morocco says Spain cannot claim Gibraltar from the British contending the rock lies in its territorial waters while refusing Morocco’s sovereignty over Spanish enclaves located in Moroccan territorial waters. The islet of Perejil is just 200 metres away from mainland Morocco and is 500 metres long and 300 metres wide. Locals say a cave on the island is used to drop off drugs and as a hideout for illegal immigrants being smuggled in from north Africa into Europe.

NATO and the E.U. have both supported Spain. The Organisation of the Islamic Conference said it backed the Moroccan position.

Africa
11-2-14

18/7

THE HINDU

13 JUL 2012

Congo, Rwanda peace deal

PRETORIA (SOUTH AFRICA), JULY 30
The peace agreement between Congo and Rwanda has been hailed as a milestone in efforts to end the war that engulfed central Africa.

The agreement, the latest bid to end a war that has embroiled six African nations, commits Rwanda to pull its 30,000 troops from Congo in exchange for Congo repatriating thousands of Rwandan rebels that have used the country as a base for attacks on Rwanda.

"I firmly believe that these two issues ... constitute the ultimate solution to the conflict," the Rwandan President, Paul Kagame, said on Monday. "We are more than willing to resolve this issue once and for all."

Mr. Kagame and the Congolese President, Joseph Kabila signed the peace deal on Tuesday in a ceremony in South Africa. War broke out in Congo in August 1998 when Rwanda and Uganda backed Congolese rebels seeking to oust the then-President, Laurent Kabila, whom the two nations accused of supporting rebels who threatened their security. — AP

31 JUL 2007

Africa Sudanese President meets rebel leader

KAMPALA (UGANDA), JULY 27. Sudan's President and the leader of southern rebels met for the first time on Saturday, a week after the Government and rebels agreed on a framework for talks next month to draft a final peace deal to end the 19-year civil war, an official said.

The meeting between the Sudanese President, Omar el-Bashir and John Garang, leader of the Nairobi-based Sudanese People's Liberation Army, was hosted by the Ugandan President, Yoweri Museveni, said Mary Karoro Okurut, a spokeswoman for Mr. Museveni. Ms. Okurut could not provide details of what the leaders discussed.

The rebels said in a statement released on Friday that Mr. Garang would endorse in the meeting the framework agreement and ask Mr. El-Bashir to leave all "essential and technical" issues to the upcoming talks. The statement did not elaborate. Mr. Garang would also call for the participation of the National Democratic Alliance, an umbrella group of all Sudanese opposition parties, including the rebels, in the peace process, the statement said.

Sudanese officials were not immediately

available for comment. Under the framework agreement, signed on July 20 in Kenya, the Government, which had vowed to create an Islamic state after seizing power in 1989, agreed the Sudanese constitution would be rewritten to ensure that Islamic law, known as sharia, can be used in the north, but would not infringe on the rights of non-Muslims in the south. It was also agreed that six years after a full peace agreement was signed, Sudanese in the mainly Christian and animist south would be allowed to vote on whether to remain part of the country.

Government and rebel officials have said the talks next month, which will again be held in Kenya, will focus on integrating the rebel leaders into the national government, sharing the country's oil wealth, ensuring security and organising a cease fire.

Sudan's civil war broke out in 1983 when the rebels took up arms against the predominantly Arab and Muslim northern government in an attempt to obtain greater autonomy for the south, where most people follow traditional beliefs. Between five and 10 per cent of southerners are Christians. An estimated two million people have been

killed during the conflict, mainly through war-induced famine, and another four million have been forced to flee their homes.

The fighting has intensified in recent years as foreign companies have begun drilling for oil along the line that separates north and south Sudan. The Sudanese government has stepped up attacks with more sophisticated equipment and the rebels have lost ground around the oil fields.

The United States has applied pressure to both the Government and the rebels to find peace. The U.S. President, George W. Bush, appointed a retired Senator, John Danforth, as a special envoy to Sudan. Last year, Mr. Danforth was able to negotiate a cease fire in the Nuba mountains which has largely held. But fighting has intensified in recent months in other areas of southern Sudan, especially near oil field around Bentiu, 1,000 km south of Khartoum.

During the late 1980s and early 1990s Mr. Museveni supported the rebels and allowed them to operate from northern Uganda. But, in recent years, he has sought to normalise relations with Sudan's Government. — AP

Congo, Rwanda sign peace deal

CAPE TOWN (SOUTH AFRICA), JULY 23. Congolese and Rwandan officials announced they had agreed to end four years of fighting in a war that has claimed more than 2 million lives.

AP - 10 11 2017
The peace deal announced on Monday, which must be ratified by the Presidents Joseph Kabila of Congo and Paul Kagame of Rwanda, was brokered during five days of talks mediated by South Africa's Deputy President, Jacob Zuma.

It will commit the Congolese Government to rounding up and disarming Hutu militias in territories under its control and sending them back to Rwanda, said an official who spoke on condition of anonymity. Rwanda, which blames the militia for the 1994 Rwandan genocide, in turn agreed to subsequently withdraw its troops from Congolese soil.

It remains to be seen how successful the agreement will be. — AP

After civil war, Angola crawls out of the jungle

SAMBO (ANGOLA), JULY 22. The fog of war is lifting in Angola to reveal a country close to the Dark Ages, with more than a million people starving and homeless after years of living wild in the bush.

By the thousand they emerge each day from the jungle, children with stomachs bloated by malnutrition, scrawny mothers dressed in rags and terrified fathers who fear punishment for supporting the defeated rebel force.

But the end of the war has not come soon enough for some, such as eight-year-old Alice Lusate who died on Sunday from malaria in Sambo, a huge settlement of 7,531 grass huts hastily erected for new arrivals.

She was one of hundreds who have died of disease and starvation since the peace treaty was signed in April. Many more are expected to die.

Blinking against the bright winter sun, four-year-old Cambala Kandambo was too sick to cry as his mother walked him on her hip to beg for humanitarian aid in Mavinga, a once prosperous Portuguese town.

One of his eyes was gummied with infection and his drum-tight, distended stomach strained his splayed ribs, as the nightmare of his feral existence came to an end.

"We had nothing out there," said his mother, Mampande Kandambo (40). "One day we might find some melons,



A woman holds a saucepan showing how little food they have as a group of children look on at a refugee camp near Luanda, Angola, in this recent photo.

but then nothing for days." She shook her head and declined to discuss it further. For every family member that has made it through the savage life in the bush, there are likely to be others not so lucky.

They faced persecution from all sides softer, routinely depopulating swathes

of Angola's hinterland to deny support to their enemy.

The result was a vast population living in fear deep in the bush a long way from international aid organisations.

They included Antonio Mongombo (12), whose sole possessions were a tattered anorak and a collection of pepper seeds he offered to sell for 7 pence.

"I have eaten nothing today and I had nothing yesterday," the forlorn boy said.

His legs were blistered and scarred. A villager explained that children like Antonio often suffer such injuries because without any clothes or bed linen they are forced too close to the fire at night.

Starvation is now the norm in Angola, yet it is unnecessary.

The failure here is man-made — the rains continue to water the land.

During the colonial era which ended in 1975, the Portuguese farmed the rolling highlands of central Angola. But that infrastructure has been destroyed.

Until April's peace deal ended almost 27 years of civil war, no one knew just how bad the situation was.

The death of Jonas Savimbi, the UNITA leader, in a government ambush in February and the resultant defeat of his movement revealed the nation's horrors.

Aid workers who entered the ruins of Mavinga found more than 75,000 people. — ©Telegraph Group Limited, London, 2002

19-19 Africa
27/7

SUDAN / SELF-DETERMINATION FOR SOUTHERNERS

Govt., rebels sign historic pact

KHARTOUM (SUDAN), JULY 21. Opposition groups on Sunday cautiously welcomed a deal to resolve Africa's longest-running civil war, but some worried that Sudan's Islamic Government was offering southern rebels too much under the accord.

The agreement, signed on Saturday in Kenya between the Government and the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army, resolved the major causes of the 19-year-long war and established a framework for talks next month to draft a final peace deal.

The most contentious issue of the war — which has left more than 2 million people dead — has been the SPLA's demands for some form of autonomy for the southern Sudanese, who are mainly animist or Christian.

The deal between the rebels and Khartoum's Islamic Government includes agreement on the separation of state and religion as well as self-determination for the southern Sudanese.

A leading opposition leader, Hassan Turabi's Popular National Congress Party offered cautious praise for the deal.

Mohammed Hassan al-Amin said the party "welcomed in principle Saturday's signing ... (but) issues and established facts such as Islamic law, Federal rule and unity should not be compromised."

"International sponsorship of the agreement" might also



Ghazi Salahuddin, Presidential Adviser of the Sudanese Government (left), and Salva Kiir Mayardit, leader of the Sudan People's Liberation Army delegation, shake hands as the Kenyan President, Daniel Arap Moi, looks on in Nairobi on Saturday. — AP

pressure the Government into making a compromise, Mr. Hassan al-Amin said.

Sudan's main Opposition party voiced support for the breakthrough agreement, which demonstrates the strength of Khartoum's desire to hold Sudan together by sharing power and backing away from Sudan's Islamic revolution.

"The Umma Party welcomes the agreement and all that leads to peace," the party's deputy chief, Omar Nur el-Dayem, said.

Ghazi Suleiman, a human rights activist, said the agreement was historic.

He urged the Government to

"lift the injustice that befell the southerners from successive northern Governments."

The ruling National Congress party said in a statement, "we have passed the major hurdle on the road to achieve peace."

Government and SPLA officials on Saturday said further peace talks next month in Kenya would focus on integrating rebel leaders into the national Government and sharing the country's oil wealth.

They also said the Sudanese Constitution would be rewritten to ensure that *sharia*, or Islamic law, can be used in the north but will not infringe non-Mus-

lims' rights in the south.

Under the agreement, Khartoum will have six years to prove it is serious about creating a pluralistic country in which religious differences are respected.

Six years after the signing of a peace agreement, the Government has agreed to hold an internationally monitored referendum to allow southerners to choose whether they want to remain as part of Sudan.

The Sudanese President, Omar el-Bashir, came to power in a 1989 coup orchestrated by Mr. Turabi, the Islamic ideologue also responsible for instilling the fundamentalist brand of Islam that became the basis of Sudanese law.

Mr. Turabi and Mr. Bashir later fell out after the President accused his one-time ally of trying to undermine his rule.

Mr. Turabi has been under house arrest since early 2001.

In recent years, Sudan has backed away from extremism and taken on a more moderate outlook.

Ordinary Sudanese have embraced the easing of strict Islamic dress and other social codes and exiles have begun returning home.

The U.S. President, George W. Bush, has been pressuring the warring parties to find peace through appointing a special envoy, the retired Senator John Danforth, to act as his point man on the Sudanese file. — AP

Africa unites

Or is it window dressing?

Does the erstwhile Organisation of African Unity morphing into the brand new African Union serve any real purpose? The OAU was launched in 1963 when only 32 out of 53 African nations had gained independence; its objective was to free the rest of Africa from political rule by colonial masters as well as domestic apartheid regimes. That objective has been achieved, and Africa's problems now stem from a different source: corrupt and despotic regimes run by locals, as well as chronic civil conflicts. The OAU was founded on the principle of national sovereignty which, it must be noted, provided a convenient cover for Africa's dictators and kleptocrats. Even good intentions can go wrong: take the case of South Africa. It fought and won an epic struggle for freedom from apartheid, but is losing the battle against Aids. One in five South Africans are infected with HIV, and by 2010 the population of South Africa — along with Botswana, Mozambique, Lesotho and Swaziland — is expected to start shrinking due to Aids deaths. One of those responsible for this is its current President, as well as the driving force behind the new African Union: Thabo Mbeki. For a long time Mbeki refused to recognise the scientifically established link between the HIV virus and Aids, which held up the Aids prevention programme. Which points up the reasons for skepticism about whether the AU will be able to enforce the new norms of democracy, accountability and good governance, crucial to a solution for Africa's problems — many of those at the helm of the new grouping were also the ones who ran OAU — a cosy dictators' club.

The inspiration for the AU is the European Union, which has evolved into a powerful regional bloc; there will be a pan-African parliament, a central bank, a court of justice and a peace and security council, which certainly sounds like the EU. Despite higher levels of communication and cultural integration, it is well to remember that the EU concept faces resistance in European countries because of the dilution in national sovereignty involved. How much stronger will this resistance be in African countries if it means that dictators and corrupt rulers will be subject to scrutiny on governance? And to what extent will rulers who do not have parliaments in their own countries subject themselves to a pan-African parliament? Despite such reservations, the New Partnership for Africa's Development (Nepad), adopted by AU and endorsed by G8 leaders who met in Canada, is a good idea whose time has come. Under this deal, Africa will receive more foreign aid and investment in return for better governance and a reduction in corruption, in other words, the assurance that foreign assistance is being actually utilised for development. At least there is now a conceptual grip on what is needed to secure Africa's future. One has to start somewhere.

DURBAN SUMMIT / NEW NAME, OLD PROBLEMS

African Union replaces OAU

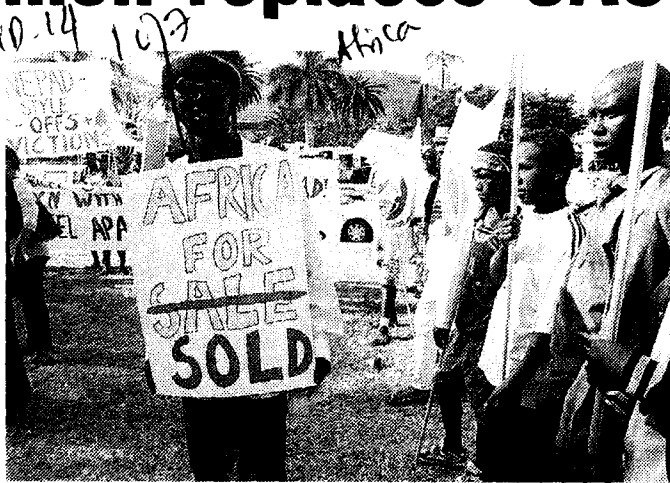
DURBAN (SOUTH AFRICA), JULY 9. African leaders launched their new union with a blaze of optimism on Tuesday, hoping the organisation will be the first step in bringing prosperity and good government to the world's poorest continent.

"We have reached a proud, but a challenging moment ... I declare the first session of the summit of the African Union open," the South African President, Thabo Mbeki, said with a slam of his gavel.

The inauguration has inspired a wave of celebration, including fireworks, a commemorative stamp and a theme song. Critics, however, fear leaders are replacing the Organisation of African Unity with another bureaucracy with no real power to control some of the despots and corruption-riddled governments that plague the continent.

"The mutation of the OAU into the AU does indeed raise hopes. But these hopes are measured when we realise the new union will be run by the same people who were responsible for the failure of the OAU," said Joachim Mbandza, who runs the Catholic publication *The African Week* in the Republic of Congo.

The OAU was created 39 years ago as the wave of post-colonial liberation swept across the continent. Many have complained the toothless organisa-



Anti-NEPAD (New Partnership for African Development) activists staging a protest in Durban, South Africa, on Monday. — AP

tion did little more than prop up dictators. The 53-nation African Union, by contrast, is billed as a new organisation for a new era — one that links a commitment to democracy and human rights to economic development.

"To achieve these objectives, and therefore give hope to the hundreds of millions of Africans who necessarily carry the deep scars of centuries of humiliation of the peoples of Africa, today's leaders of these masses will have to convince themselves that they have to exercise their stewardship in a new way," Mr. Mbeki wrote in his party's newsletter.

Inspired, in part, by the European Union, it will have a se-

curity council, a legislature, and an economic development plan. The union's muscle is to be the peace and security council, whose 15 rotating members will be able to authorise a proposed peacekeeping force to intervene in cases of genocide and war crimes.

The union's other key element is the New Partnership for African Development, which seeks billions of dollars of international investment in Africa in return for stable democratic governance and fiscal responsibility.

The world's wealthiest nations embraced the programme at last month's G-8 meeting in Canada.— AP, Reuters

THE HINDU

1997 JUL 12

Whites told to stop farming

HARARE, JUNE 24. Some 2,900 white-owned farms in Zimbabwe have been ordered to cease operating today after a controversial land reform law was amended to give the Government sweeping powers to

seize farmland for redistribution, according to a farmers' spokeswoman.

But many of the affected farmers ignored the deadline and continued their business, a Commercial Farmers Union spo-

ksperson said. On May 10, the Government amended the Land Acquisition Act to order farmers whose property has been earmarked for acquisition to stop farming 45 days after a notice of acquisition has been issued.

THE HINCH

2 5 JUN 2002

Kabbah 'ahead' in Sierra Leone

718-19
1715

UNITED NATIONS, MAY 16. The United Nations welcomed the peaceful election in Sierra Leone which the U.N. Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, called "an eloquent testimony" to the desire of its people to turn the page on the nation's tragic 10-year civil war.

"It is also a major step on the road to lasting, sustainable peace," Mr. Annan said on Wednesday.

He appealed for "continued calm and restraint" as the results from Tuesday's election are tabulated and urged political leaders and their supporters "to be magnanimous in both victory and defeat," said a U.N. spokesman.

Unofficial and incomplete results on Wednesday showed the President, Ahmed Tejan Kabbah, far in the lead with the party of reconstituted rebels trailing well behind. Final official results weren't expected until Friday.

The rebel Revolutionary United Front launched its insurgency in 1991 to take control of the country and its diamond fields. By the late 1990s, rebels had begun targeting civilians, making a



Ahmad Tejan Kabbah trademark out of hacking off the limbs of those victims they allowed to live. The civil war ended in January with the decisive intervention of a U.N. peacekeeping force and British troops.

The U.N. Security Council issued a brief statement on Wednesday welcoming "the peaceful conduct" of the presidential and parliamentary elections and noting the role of the 17,500-strong U.N. peacekeeping force and British troops "in bringing this about."

The Undersecretary-General for Peacekeeping, Jean-Marie Guehenno, told a news conference that behind the peaceful election "is two years of very hard work" by the U.N. force, the largest of 15 U.N. peacekeeping operations around the world. — AP

17 MAY 2002

SIERRA LEONE / PEACE HOPES RISE

Africa H10-14 Large turn-out in elections 15/5

FREETOWN (SIERRA LEONE), MAY 14.

Long, winding lines of laughing and jostling voters formed before dawn on Tuesday, as Sierra Leoneans cast ballots in elections intended to turn the page after 10 years of savage fighting.

"After these elections there will be permanent peace," said Hassan Bah, who waited patiently in a queue of close to 500 people at a camp for men, women and children whose limbs were hacked off in a grisly rebel campaign.

Mr. Bah's right hand was chopped off by the rebels, who — as he watched — raped his wife, abducted his 9-year-old son to take him away to fight, and killed his 9-month-old boy and threw the baby's body down the toilet.

Having survived so much, Mr. Bah said he was heartened by the vast crowds that turned out to vote under the watchful eye of blue-helmeted U.N. troops. Hours before the polls opened, voters hurried to secure places in line across the capital, Freetown.

The President, Ahmed Tejan Kabbah, was the first person to cast his ballot at Rumors Entertainment Club, in the old colonial district near the presidential residence.

He was greeted with cheers and applause by 400 people who had already formed two winding lines at 7 a.m. Smiling and waving, he acknowledged the crowd but he did not speak to reporters.

The presidential and parliamentary elections are seen as a test of the West African country's hard-won peace. Nine parties fielded presidential candidates, and 11 were vying for the 112 parliamentary seats.

Calling the vote a milestone, the U.N. Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, on Monday urged Sierra Leone's people "to exercise their right to vote in the same spirit of peace and tolerance." Parties from across the political spectrum traded accusations of intimidation ahead of the vote. But excluding minor incidents, election officials said campaigning was unusually peaceful. The last time a poll was held, in 1996, the rebels rejected the ballot and punished voters by chopping off their hands. This time, however, the Revolutionary United Front rebels have officially disarmed and are participating in the vote. Their leader, Foday Sankoh, is in jail. But they are fielding another candidate, Pallo Bangura, a longtime political figure who admits little knowledge of their past crimes. Mr. Kabbah's main challenger is Ernest Koroma, head of the opposition All Peoples Congress, which governed the country for 24 years.

Candidates also include Johnny Paul Koroma, a former junta leader once allied with the rebels who switched sides to defend Mr. Kabbah's Government against the last major rebel offensive, in May 2000. — AP

THE HINDI

1 3 44 2000

SIERRA LEONE / TENSION IN CAPITAL

Clashes erupt ahead of polls

FREETOWN, MAY 12. Street fighting erupted between supporters of rival political parties in the Sierra Leone capital just three days before landmark elections aimed at turning the page on 10 years of brutal civil war.

U.N. peace-keepers fired warning shots into the air as clashes flared between stone-throwing supporters of the Revolutionary United Front Party (RUF) of former rebels, the ruling Sierra Leone People's Party (SLPP) and the Opposition All People's Party (APP).

Rocks and stones were scattered on roads near the flash point areas near RUF headquarters and local police cordoned off the site, while a U.N. helicopter circled overhead.

Tensions remained high in the capital ahead of Tuesday's presidential and parliamentary elections, the first since the end of the civil war in Sierra Leone that is estimated to have claimed up to 200,000 lives.

The President, Ahmad Tejan Kabbah, widely tipped to win the presidential election after six turbulent years in office, appealed for calm as he addressed a massive rally of his SLPP party at Freetown's main stadium.

The 60,000-capacity stadium was packed and the supporters worked themselves up to a frenzy when Mr. Kabbah arrived.

Mr. Kabbah, who is competing against eight other candidates including the RUF secretary-general, Paolo Bangura, appealed to supporters to refrain from violence, saying: "We inherited the war, now it is behind us."

Observers from the Commonwealth as well as from other African nations are due to monitor the proceedings on May 14.

"Security is the responsibility of all of us," Mr. Kabbah told his supporters. "Let us behave like civilised people. ... All ex-combatants who have come forward begging for forgiveness, let us receive them as brothers and sisters," he said.

Coming just months after the rebels' campaign of cruelty was officially declared over, pre-election festivities in the bullet-pocked capital found many equally scarred residents in a mood to forgive.

"Some of us have been destroyed by them, but we are ready to forgive them," Garnett Sesay, a 30-year-old soccer player, who was among the crowds, said of the rebels — notorious for their signature atrocity of hacking off the hands, feet, noses, ears and lips of adults and children alike.

"Because we don't need fighting anymore," Mr. Sesay said. "We just need to build a beautiful Sierra Leone."

Mr. Sesay jogged through streets of burned-out buildings with about 100 other Kabbah supporters with pictures of the incumbent pinned to their clothes. Thousands around them waved the palm-frond symbols of Mr. Kabbah's party.

The day-long rally was the largest yet among a nine-candidate field for Sierra Leone's presidential vote. The voters will also pick 112 members of Parliament. — AP

THE HINDU

~~Congo peace~~
~~talks end in~~
~~failure~~ *ND-5*

SUN CITY (SOUTH AFRICA), APRIL 19. Peace talks on the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) collapsed early today as the Kinshasa regime and two rebel groups failed to reach an accord to end their war and govern together, the parties said.

The negotiations between the three belligerents, mediated by the South African President, Thabo Mbeki, achieved 'nothing', said Olivier Kamitatu, secretary-general of the Ugandan-backed Congolose Liberation Movement (MLC) rebels.

This means, Mr. Kamitatu said, that a two-way deal between the MLC and Kinshasa signed on Wednesday would go ahead and that the other party to the war — the Rwandan-backed Congolese Rally for Democracy (RCD) — will be excluded. "There is no deal with the RCD, but there is an accord between the MLC and the Government," he told AFP. — AFP

Africa **Congo rejects** *HD-15*
S. African plan *1977*

KINSHASA (CONGO), APRIL 17. Congo's Government on Tuesday rebuffed a peace plan by the South African President, Thabo Mbeki, that reportedly would have it yield control of the military and other key powers to Congo's rebels.

The Government remains open to sharing power to end Congo's 3 1/2 year old war — but not under Mr. Mbeki's plan for a largely ceremonial role for the President, Joseph Kabila, said Vital Kamerhe, spokesman

for government negotiators.

The South African proposal "bears within it the seeds of future conflict," Mr. Kamerhe said by telephone from Sun City, South Africa, where power-sharing talks with rebels are heading to Thursday's scheduled closing day.

Talks are meant to reunite Congo under a transitional government that would lead the central African country to democracy.— AP

Zimbabwe parties agree on talks

AP in Co HD-19 11/2

HARARE, APRIL 10. Ruling party and Opposition officials agreed on Wednesday to reconvene next month, despite gaping differences over how to resolve their dispute over last month's elections.

In a brief statement, the two sides said they adopted a set of procedural rules and "an agenda for dialogue" for the talks scheduled to resume May 13.

The rules said the top agenda item was a discussion on the legitimacy of the March 9-11 polls, an apparent concession by the ruling party to keep the talks alive. The Government has dismissed Opposition calls for a rerun of the Presidential poll, which it says the President, Robert Mugabe, won. The Opposition Movement for Democratic Change insisted at the opening of talks on Monday that the nation's political stalemate could only be resolved by new elections.

Several independent observer groups have said the elections were deeply flawed. The United States condemned the vote and the Commonwealth of Britain and its former colonies suspended Zimbabwe for a year. Official results showed the Opposition leader, Morgan Tsvangirai, losing with 1,258,401 votes to Mr. Mugabe's 1,685,212. Mr. Tsvangirai condemned the tally as rigged and tainted by political violence and demanded an immediate end to state-orchestrated reprisals against his supporters. Officials from Nigeria and South Africa are mediating the talks.

Zimbabwe's political crisis is seen as the first test for South Africa's calls for an African "Marshall Plan," where Western countries direct trade and investment to the impoverished continent in exchange for African promises of good govern-

Global panel to draw Ethiopia-Eritrea border

1994 AD-1 Africa
ADDIS ABABA (ETHIOPIA), APRIL 9. Peace between two former foes in the Horn of Africa faces a tough test this week when a neutral commission draws a border between Ethiopia and Eritrea.

About 70,000 people lost their lives in a two-year border conflict which featured gruesome trench warfare and uprooted some of the poorest people on earth.

Nerves could be strained when the final ruling is made on April 13 with possession of land and national prestige at stake for the two countries, whose relationship remains bitter despite a December 2000 peace accord.

It is the Government of the Ethiopian Prime Minister, Meles Zenawi, that has faced the most public signals of disquiet about the international commission's ruling, diplomats say. The key issues for many Ethiopians are a demand for control over the Red Sea port of Assab for their landlocked country of 67 million, and opposition to Eritrea's 1993 independence from its much larger neighbour.

Demonstrations have been held in Ethiopia opposing the Algiers peace agreement, which did not guarantee access to Assab, once a key Ethiopian lifeline to the sea. If the border

ruling fails to address some of these questions, some diplomats predict a revival of accusations against Mr. Meles's Government that it was too soft on Eritrea.

His domestic critics complain that he was reluctant to go to war, made peace too easily, failed to destroy Eritrea's military capacity or remove its President, and did not take the opportunity to retake the port of Assab. Mr. Meles, in a recent interview, brushed off the charges.

"We plead guilty to most if not all of these charges. And we are very proud that we are guilty of most if not all of these charges," he said. "We have sought peace. We have been willing to go the extra mile to seek peace. We plead guilty to that," he said.

For Mr. Meles, who sees Eritrea's ruling establishment as a hotbed of guerilla wheeler-dealers, the key issue is whether the finalisation of the peace process will transform what he sees as his neighbour's unlawful economic behaviour.

He says Eritrea's rulers are unable to shake off a guerilla mentality acquired during their 30-year liberation struggle, accusing them of trying to build an economy based on contraband — from Congolese diamonds to illicit alcohol for Saudi Arabia. — Reuters

Genocide trial of Rwandan officers postponed

Africa 10-15

ARUSHA (TANZANIA), APRIL 3. A U.N. tribunal on Wednesday adjourned the trial of the man accused of masterminding the 1994 genocide in Rwanda and three other senior military officers to allow defence teams to receive key documents and witnesses statements from the prosecution, officials said.

The trial of Col. Theoneste Bagosora and his three co-defendants opened on Tuesday with defence attorneys claiming that they had not received French translations of the prosecution's pre-trial brief and the report of the first witness, American human rights activist, Alison De Forge. Trial documents are supposed to be translated into English, French and Kinyarwanda. Judge Lloyd

Williams allowed the United Nation's top prosecutor, Carla Del Ponte, to make the prosecution's opening statement on Tuesday, but following a closed-door conference on Wednesday he adjourned the trial until September.

Bagosora, Lt. Col. Anatole Nsengiyumva, Maj. Aloys Ntabakuze and Brig. Gen. Gratién Kabiligi are charged with between 10 and 12 counts of genocide, crimes against humanity and rape. They refused to leave their jail cells to attend the

trial's opening, claiming their rights had been violated by the failure to supply them with the translations. All four pleaded innocent to the charges at previous hearings held at the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda in this northern Tanzanian town. Defence attorneys accused the prosecution of not being ready for the trial. "We did not apply for an adjournment, we simply said we did not have the documents," said Gersdom Otachi Bw'omanwa, defence attorney for Nsengiyumva. "We are very disappointed. We came yesterday for the trial and are now being told to wait four months."

A Tribunal spokesman, Kingsley Moghalu, said the adjournment was to ensure that when the trial

resumed there would be no more problems. He said the problems on Tuesday were the result of "logistical challenges." "The problem is ... that the indictments were amended and it was

brought as a joint trial (rather than as individuals)," Mr. Moghalu told AP.

Rwandan and tribunal officials hope the trial will reveal the military's complicity in the genocide, as well as the planning behind the 100-day slaughter in which more than 500,000 Tutsis and politically moderate Hutus were killed. — AP

Journalist arrested in Zimbabwe

Africa *HD 34*
29/3
JOHANNESBURG, MARCH. 28. A veteran South African journalist has been arrested in Zimbabwe on charges of allegedly spreading false information and threatening the security of the President, Robert Mugabe's government.

Fifty-seven-year-old Peta Thornycroft, who is a Zimbabwean national, was detained and charged yesterday by Zimbabwean Central Intelligence Organisation (CIO).

Her son, Adrian, speaking from Cape Town told the national SABC radio here that he had spoken to his mother before she was arrested.

"I have spoken to her lawyer after she was arrested and he tells me that she has been arrested and charged with fomenting violence and spreading false statements," he said.

Ms. Thornycroft, who works as a correspondent for Britain's *'Daily Telegraph'*, faces the prospect of being imprisoned for two years under Zimbabwe's new laws



Peta Thornycroft

restricting the freedom of the Press.

Under that law, criticism of the President is a criminal offence; public gatherings of more than three persons have to be authorised by police and the authorities have sweeping powers of detention without trial. — PTI

THE HINDU

29 MAR 2002

Vicious dictatorship

Africa Mugabe cracks down on opposition *2003*

Considering the fact that Morgan Tsvangirai polled just 400,000 votes less than Robert Mugabe in the teeth of massive electoral fraud and intimidation, it would be fair to say that, morally, the incumbent lost the election. This thought has obviously been bothering Mugabe because every Zimbabwean now knows that there is a viable alternative to his corrupt and brutal regime. Mugabe had taken the precaution of registering a case of treason against Tsvangirai and two other opposition figures, based on a very obviously concocted video in which Tsvangirai is shown discussing Mugabe's assassination with a private Canadian security firm. It is true that the judiciary did show some independence when it extended polling by a day on a petition filed by the MDC, but can it withstand the kind of brute force that Mugabe can deploy against it. International opinion is gradually mobilising against him. To begin with, Nigeria and South Africa gave the swearing in ceremony a miss. This has been followed up by suspension from the Commonwealth. Mugabe may give a damn, but the Swiss have moved to freeze his assets and impose sanctions.

If conditions within Zimbabwe deteriorate beyond a point, the European Union and the United States may conceivably follow the Swiss example. A major trade union federation, closely affiliated to the MDC, has given a call for a three-day general strike, which Mugabe, predictably, has declared illegal and begun repression. Much will depend on the support Mugabe derives from neighbour South Africa, without which its fragile economy would probably collapse.

UNITA endorses cease-fire talks

← Africa
40-12

LUANDA (ANGOLA), MARCH 26. UNITA's senior political representatives on Tuesday endorsed cease-fire negotiations with the Government aimed at ending a two-decade civil war.

UNITA law-makers in Parliament voted to support the negotiations which began last week in an eastern Angolan city. The rebel delegation is headed by UNITA's secretary-general, Paul Lukamba Gato. Also, UNITA's representatives abroad issued a statement backing the talks but urged them to be switched to a different location where they could be monitored by independent observers.

The formal backing for Mr. Lukamba Gato, UNITA's interim leader, dispelled initial doubts that he and senior rebel

commanders had been captured and were negotiating under duress. The deaths of the rebel leader, Jonas Savimbi, and the group's vice-president, Antonio Dembo, in the past four weeks raised hopes that the civil war could soon end.

The Government army is represented at the talks in Luena, about 700 km east of the capital Luanda, by the deputy armed forces chief, Gen. Geraldo Nunda. Only state media has been allowed into the talks. The foes are discussing the broad terms for a cease-fire deal, including government proposals on the demobilisation of rebel troops and the handover of weapons, as well as their incorporation in the army or return to civilian life.— AP

27 MAR 2002

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ZIMBABWE / LUKEWARM RESPONSE TO GENERAL STRIKE

Tsvangirai charged with treason

HARARE, MARCH. 21. Morgan Tsvangirai, Zimbabwe's Opposition leader, was charged with treason on Wednesday and thousands of police were deployed to disrupt a general strike as the President, Robert Mugabe, brushed off his suspension from the Commonwealth and tried to reassert his authority.

Chances of the Opposition Movement for Democratic Change capitalising on the Commonwealth's decision lessened when Mr. Tsvangirai was charged in connection with an alleged assassination plot against Mr. Mugabe. Jack Straw, Britain's Foreign Secretary, said the treason charge suggested that Mr. Mugabe was not interested in pursuing reconciliation to solve Zimbabwe's crisis.

In Harare, a call by the Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions, which is closely allied to the Movement for Democratic Change, for a general strike received only a lukewarm response, with many businesses remaining open in the face of heavy police presence nationwide.

Some factories and shops in Harare were forced to close after workers did not show

up but most government offices, post offices and schools opened. Union sources said they were disappointed but hoped that the 72-hour strike would pick up further support over the next two days. The treason charge was based mainly on a video shot secretly at meetings between Mr. Tsvangirai and a political lobbying company in which the elimination of Mr. Mugabe was allegedly discussed.

Video experts have found the tape to have been edited considerably and the Israeli employee of the lobbyist firm who organised the meeting was described in an earlier U.S. Congress report as a "liar". But it has not stopped Mr. Mugabe's regime broadcasting the tape on television *ad nauseam* and referring to it repeatedly in political statements. Mr. Tsvangirai denies any wrongdoing.

Eric Matinenga, Mr. Tsvangirai's lawyer, said the arrest might have come in response to the Commonwealth decision. "Maybe it is a typical knee-jerk reaction to events that unfolded in London," he said.

Mr. Tsvangirai was released on bail of about £20,000 by the court in Harare. He

was ordered to surrender his passport and the deeds to property worth about pounds £40,000 and told to report to police every week. The authorities also charged Renson Gasela, another senior Opposition figure, before releasing him on bail of about £7,000. The party's secretary-general, Welshman Ncube, has already been charged in connection with the video.

It is not the first time Mr. Tsvangirai has been charged with treason. An earlier action last year following a political rally in which he urged his supporters to consider direct action against the Mugabe regime was thrown out of court after it was found to be unconstitutional.

John Howard, the Australian Prime Minister, who announced the suspension of Zimbabwe from the Commonwealth, said after a meeting with Mr. Straw that he was worried about the legal action against Mr. Tsvangirai.

"Any notion of the prosecution of the Opposition leader in Zimbabwe is quite inimical to the prospect of national reconciliation," he said. — ©Telegraph Group Limited, London, 2002

THE HINDU

20 MAR 2002

HD-14

Africa

African leaders fall in line

21/3

By Hasan Suroor

LONDON, MARCH 20. The Commonwealth has survived fears of a racial divide by agreeing, in a last-minute compromise, to suspend Zimbabwe from its decision-making bodies for one year following allegations of large-scale rigging in the recent Presidential elections that saw Robert Mugabe return to power for a record fifth term.

The decision, announced here late on Tuesday, came after intense speculation that the 54-member group of former British colonies was divided along racial lines with black member-States, particularly South Africa, opposing calls from Britain and other nations for tough action against Harare. It is believed that South Africa, which was part of a Commonwealth troika that finally decided on suspension, resisted the move until the end but some behind-the-scenes arms twisting by Britain forced Thabo Mbeki to give in.

Besides Mr. Mbeki, the troika comprised the Nigerian President, Olusegun Obasanjo and the Australian Prime Minister, John Howard, who played a key role in clinching the issue. Unnamed British officials were quoted as praising him for "playing the blinder" in breaking down the resistance from the two African leaders. Apparently what forced them to relent was a "veiled warning" that a £50 billion economic development plan for Africa to be funded by the West could be at risk if Mr. Mugabe was allowed to get away with what Britain believes was a "stolen" election. A telephone call by the British Prime Minister, Tony Blair to Mr. Mbeki added to the pressure on him. The hands of the two African leaders were also forced by Mr. Mugabe's refusal to agree to a compromise deal under which he could form a government of national unity with the Opposition Movement for Democratic Change in return for a clean chit from



Protesters demonstrate outside the Commonwealth secretariat in London on Tuesday. — AFP

the Commonwealth. His continued belligerence left them with no option but to act on the Commonwealth observers' damning report on the manner in which the elections were held. The report said the conditions in Zimbabwe "did not adequately allow for a free expression of will by the electors".

The troika, in a joint statement after a four-hour heated discussion here on Tuesday, said it "deemed these conclusions... to be an adverse reflection on the electoral process, requiring an appropriate Commonwealth response". And the "response" was a one-year suspension of Zimbabwe with immediate effect, to be reviewed "in twelve months' time having regard to progress in Zimbabwe based on the Commonwealth Harare principles and reports from

the Commonwealth Secretary-General".

Pakistan is the only other country which is currently suspended. The statement said the Commonwealth would continue its efforts to promote political reconciliation in Zimbabwe and address issues relating to the country's economic problems, most crucially the issue of land distribution.

The decision, seen as a "blow" to Mr. Mugabe, was welcomed by the British Foreign Secretary, Jack Straw, who said the Commonwealth had "spoken with one voice". Mr. Howard said it had vindicated the Commonwealth's "credibility". "I would like to see free, fair and totally democratic elections held as soon as possible," he said amid confusion whether the Commonwealth continued to regard Mr. Mugabe as the legitimate leader of Zimbabwe.

Disputed poll

Mugabe declares war on democracy

President Robert Mugabe tried every trick in the book and outside it to win the elections in Zimbabwe, and according to official results just declared, he has defeated his opponent, the courageous Morgan Tsvangirai who heads the Movement for Democratic Change (MDC). Skulduggery is suspected, as ruling ZANU-PF activists have been beating and murdering opponents since MDC candidates won 57 seats in parliamentary elections held in June 2000. An example of Mugabe's terror tactics is rural Mashonaland, a traditional ZANU-PF stronghold which, however, has suffered precipitously from the current economic malaise, with food shortages widespread in the region. ZANU organised youth militia to kidnap and murder opposition figures and election monitors; human rights groups estimate that more than 100 people have disappeared in this region alone in the last two months. The administration suspiciously cut back the number of polling stations in Zimbabwe's cities, where MDC support is the strongest, with the result that many urban voters could not exercise their franchise. In the villages, a campaign of intimidation appears to have driven most independent monitors away, and widespread ballot-stuffing is reported. While local and Norwegian observers reported large-scale electoral fraud, observers from Nigeria, Namibia and South Africa surprisingly found the elections to be legitimate and above-board, while the Organisation of African Unity has announced that "in general the elections were transparent, credible, free and fair". If this is so, why did Registrar-General Tobaiwa Mudede announce on March 10 that 2.4 million had voted, then within the space of the same day raise that figure by 500,000 votes, whose significance may lie in that Mugabe was certified by the same Mudede to have won by 400,000 votes?

Unlike Nelson Mandela, who is a democrat, Robert Mugabe is a doctrinaire Marxist, which may account for why South Africa is in relatively better shape these days. Nevertheless, the baton has passed in South Africa from Mandela to President Thabo Mbeki, some of whose dispositions are troubling, to say the least. Mbeki denied for a long time that there was any connection between HIV infections and the AIDS epidemic; failure to attend to the problem has meant that 1 in 5 South Africans is now infected with the dread disease, making this otherwise prosperous and technically competent country one of the worst victims of AIDS. Likewise, Zimbabwe had a prosperous agriculture which kept its people fed; but Mugabe's expropriation of white farmers and their replacement by his own political cadre, itself a response to his sliding popularity, has caused food output to drop sharply. If Zimbabwe's elections are found to be rigged, sanctions against the country should not target its poor but make life selectively difficult for its political elite. Mugabe, like fellow-Marxist Jyoti Basu, is known to like shopping in London; the EU and US could freeze assets and refuse visas to members of the ZANU-PF elite and those involved in rigging elections. The Commonwealth ought to move to suspend Zimbabwe as it did Pakistan; although the attitude of many African nations, whose own democratic traditions do not pass muster, may prove a roadblock here.

THE STATESMAN

20 MAR 2002

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Regional leaders meet Mugabe

HARARE, MARCH 18. A white farmer was killed on Monday in escalating post-election violence in Zimbabwe as the President, Robert Mugabe, met the leaders of South Africa and Nigeria to discuss the country's disputed presidential vote.

Several independent observer groups have condemned the March 9-11 elections as deeply flawed and unfairly structured to ensure Mr. Mugabe's victory. The South African President, Thabo Mbeki, and his Nigerian counterpart, Olusegun Obasanjo, arrived in Harare on Monday and met Mr. Mugabe at the State House mansion to discuss the conduct of the election and the future of Zimbabwe after two years of widespread violence blamed mainly on ruling party militants.

Both leaders were also expected to meet the Opposition candidate, Morgan Tsvangirai, said his Movement for Democratic Change (MDC).

Mr. Mbeki, Mr. Obasanjo and the Australian Prime Minister, John Howard, were scheduled to meet on Tuesday in London to discuss possible actions against Zimbabwe by the 54-nation Commonwealth of Britain and its former colonies. The Commonwealth observer mission said the election did not adequately allow voters to freely express their choice. Industrialised Commonwealth nations have called for Zimbabwe's expulsion for abusing the group's charter on democratic rights.

Since Mr. Mugabe was declared the winner last week, white farmers have reported an upsurge in violence in farming districts. A white farmer was shot dead near Norton, about 30 km west of Harare, early on Monday in an assault on his homestead by suspected ruling party militants, the Commercial Farmers' Union said. He was the 10th white farmer killed since militants began often violent occupations of white-owned land two years ago. Terry Ford (51), contacted neighbours late on Sunday and reported a group of about 20 militants were besieging his home, the union spokeswoman, Jenni Williams, said. Mr. Ford, whose political affiliation was not immediately known, smashed his car into a farm fence to make a getaway but was dragged from the



The Zimbabwean President, Robert Mugabe (left), welcomes the South African President, Thabo Mbeki, in Harare, Zimbabwe, on Monday. — AP

vehicle and shot in the head against a tree in an execution-style killing, the union said. Police reported his death around dawn.

"There is great concern there has been more activity in the last week in terms of evicting farmers and looting homes" across the country, Ms Williams said. White farmers have been accused of providing transport and logistical backing for the MDC, the biggest-ever threat to Mr. Mugabe's rule. Ruling party militants have occupied more than 1,700 white farms, and the Government has announced plans to nationalise about 4,500 white-owned properties for redistribution to landless blacks. Mr. Mugabe led the nation to independence from Britain in 1980 and faced little dissent until recent years, when the nation's economy collapsed and political violence erupted. Mr. Mugabe won the presidential vote with a disputed 56 per cent of votes to Mr. Tsvangirai's 42 per cent.

The Opposition party said it would re-

lease election statistics that differ greatly with those announced by the Government. The MDC said in a statement that official figures from the state Electoral Commission showed the MDC getting more votes than those announced and the ruling party less in up to 50 of the 120 voting districts. It said it would raise the disparities with Mr. Mbeki and Mr. Obasanjo.

On Monday, the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa observer team declared the elections free and fair. "We strongly believe that the elections were credible and peaceful and that all those who wished to vote had an opportunity to do so," Siteke Mwale, leader of the team from the regional economic alliance, said in a statement. Thousands of would-be voters in the Opposition stronghold of Harare were chased from the polls by police using clubs and tear gas after long lines prevented them from voting over the three-day election. — AP

ZIMBABWE / 'RACISM WILL BE DEALT A MORTAL BLOW'

Africa

Mugabe sees Western conspiracy

#10-14
18B

HARARE, MARCH 17. Zimbabwe's longtime ruler, Robert Mugabe, was sworn in to serve another six-year term on Sunday, after being declared the winner of last weekend's elections that many observers said were deeply flawed.

In the gardens of the colonial-style State House mansion, Mr. Mugabe (78), swore to "bear true allegiance to Zimbabwe and uphold the laws of Zimbabwe." In his inauguration speech, Mr. Mugabe railed against colonialism and imperialism, and urged other African leaders to support him against hostile Western nations.

Chief Justice Godfrey Chidyausiku bedecked Mr. Mugabe with a red sash of office, as five regional Presidents and three Vice-Presidents looked on. Chief Justice Chidyausiku officiated, alongside the nation's judges in British-style scarlet and black robes and shoulder-length horsehair judicial wigs. A 21-gun salute sounded and four Chinese-built MiG fighter jets of the Zimbabwe Air Force swept overhead. Mr. Mugabe won the poll against Morgan Tsvangirai, leader of the Movement for Democratic Change, who had posed the most significant threat to Mr. Mugabe's 22 years of autocratic rule.

The Government and Mr. Mugabe's ruling party have been widely accused of vote rigging, orchestrating state-backed political violence and abuses of the



The Zimbabwe President, Robert Mugabe, takes the oath of office witnessed by the Chief Justice, Godfrey Chidyausika, in Harare on Sunday. — Reuters

nation's laws and Constitution.

Mr. Mugabe said Britain, the former colonial power, and its "white allies" in the West declared the poll not to be free and fair because Mr. Tsvangirai, their favoured candidate, lost. "But, it is our people who decide, who must say so, not you, sirs, and not one person in 10, Downing Street," Mr. Mugabe said. "That ugly head of racism we thought we had smashed, we have left it alive, it has risen again. A blow to the head and not the body of the monster is what we need," he said.

"Thanks to the people of Zimbabwe for loudly saying: Never

again shall Zimbabwe be a colony. I thank them for their resolute anti-imperialist stand". Mr. Mugabe led the nation to independence in 1980 and faced little dissent until recent years, when the nation's economy collapsed and political violence erupted.

He won the presidential vote with a disputed 56 per cent of votes cast, to Mr. Tsvangirai's 42 per cent.

The 54-nation Commonwealth of Britain and its former colonies, which includes 19 African countries, were among international observers who condemned the elections for not

adequately allowing for a free expression of will by the electors.

Mr. Mugabe banned British observers from the Commonwealth observer mission. Many African leaders have supported Mr. Mugabe's election victory in what was seen as an effort to maintain regional stability and protect their own undemocratic regimes. Turning to regional leaders from Botswana, Congo, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Tanzania, South Africa and Zambia, Mr. Mugabe said his nation needed their continued support against what he called hostile international attention and "Mugabe-bashing" caused by his seizures of white-owned farms.

"When they aim at Zimbabwe it is not Zimbabwe alone, they have other countries in mind," he said.

Sanctions being considered to protest the election by the European Union and the United States were "contrived against us and shortages will affect everybody."

The U.S. and E.U. ambassadors in Zimbabwe were not invited to the inauguration and the Opposition's 57 lawmakers stayed away.

The South African Deputy President, Jacob Zuma, represented the country's President, Thabo Mbeki.

Mr. Mbeki and the Nigerian President, Olusegun Obasanjo, are scheduled to visit Harare on Monday. —AP

THE HINDU

18 MAR 2002

Mugabe wins tainted polls

Africa

AP-11

14/3

Harare, March 13

PRESIDENT ROBERT Mugabe swept back to power in Zimbabwe on Wednesday after an election fiercely condemned by local monitors, the Opposition and the West but praised by African nations.

Opposition leader Morgan Tsvangirai, easily beaten by the veteran President according to official results, said Mugabe had stolen the vote through violence and intimidation and by preventing hundreds of thousands of people from voting. The US said the election, extending Mugabe's 22-year rule for another six years, was "fundamentally flawed". Zimbabwe had ignored its commitment to a free and fair poll.

But a deep split appeared between Western nations and African countries monitoring the vote, who closed ranks behind Mugabe, calling the election legitimate.

Zimbabwe's political and economic crisis threatens to destabilise the entire southern African region. South Africa's rand currency, battered by concern over Zimbabwe, fell about 2.8 per cent to 11.88 to the dollar at one stage after the result.

Registrar-General Tobaiwa Mudede declared Mugabe the winner after results were in from all 120 constituencies. He said the former guerrilla won his fifth term as leader after taking 1,685,212 votes against 1,258,401 for Tsvangirai.

The opposition leader said his Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) would not accept the result.

"The election results...do not reflect the true will of the people of Zimbabwe and are consequently illegitimate," he said.

But despite fears of a violent opposition backlash against the result, Tsvangirai said: "We seek no confrontation with the state because that is what it is looking for. We foresaw electoral fraud but not daylight robbery."

Norwegian and local observers said tens of thousands of people, mostly in Opposition strongholds, had been prevented from voting.

But observers from South Africa, Namibia and Nigeria all said Mugabe's re-election was legitimate.

South Africa and Nigeria, together with Australia, comprise a special Commonwealth group given the power to take measures against Zimbabwe if the election is deemed not to have been free and fair.

Australia, a strong critic of Mugabe, said Wednesday it feared violence if voters believed the ballot was unfair.

Zimbabwe security forces went on high alert and erected roadblocks around Harare after the result was announced.

The MDC said dozens of heavily armed soldiers had surrounded its office in the second city of Bulawayo. Small groups of armed riot police moved into Harare townships loyal to Tsvangirai.

Several hundred Mugabe supporters danced in celebration and carried mock coffins for Tsvangirai in two Harare townships. One of the coffins was draped in the US flag.

Reuters

Africa

A migraine called Mugabe

H-8

IF THE Robert Mugabe regime was a headache for the international community before Zimbabwe's presidential polls, it has now become something of a migraine. President Mugabe's apparently convincing victory puts his critics in an awkward position. The West had counted on a disillusioned Zimbabwean electorate voting out Mr Mugabe and his autocratic government, thus escaping sanctions. Although Mugabe supporters were hell bent on rigging, the opposition Movement for Democratic Change leader Morgan Tsavangirai may have pulled through. But Mr Mugabe's political experience and strong-arm tactics paid off. Mr Tsavangirai's involvement in a political scandal made matters worse for the opposition.

It will now be very difficult for the West to prove that the polls were rigged and consider further punitive measures against Harare. Their case is weakened by the fact that the polls were fiercely contested. The European Union and the

US have already imposed targeted sanctions on the president and his associates, but are unlikely to go in for trade sanctions, as these would hit the general population. A suspension from the Commonwealth would also be largely symbolic, as it has no economic power.

Mr Mugabe probably knows this and is using it to resort to political violence to cling to power. He may now also use the divided international opinion to augment his position. South Africa, for instance, is obviously not keen on punishing Harare as it would involve cutting electricity and fuel supplies, and lead to more Zimbabweans crossing the border. So as he stretches out for another six-year term, Mr Mugabe may continue his programme of redistributing white-owned land to his black peasant vote bank. The best the West can now hope for would be for him to acknowledge, sooner rather than later, his country's ravaged economy and turn to the international community for help.

THINK IT OVER

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

Counting begins in Zimbabwe

HARARE, MARCH 12. Election officials on Tuesday began counting ballots cast in the most bitterly contested election in Zimbabwe's history, in which Government officials prevented thousands of people from voting.

The election pitted the President, Robert Mugabe, the only leader the country has known in 22 years of independence, against Morgan Tsvangirai, a former labour organiser.

Officials delivered ballot boxes to central counting stations established in the country's 120 voting constituencies on Tuesday morning. Eddie Mamutse, a Government spokesman, said thousands of workers began counting votes at 7 a.m. local time at stations across the country. First results were expected on Wednesday. Ruling party militants were seen waiting outside at least one Harare counting station.

On Monday night, would-be voters, some chanting the Opposition's slogan for change, were beaten back by police at polling stations throughout the capital in what observers said appeared to be a calculated plan to disenfranchise Opposition supporters. Yet Zimbabwe's Information Minister, Jonathan Moyo, denied there was foul play, saying the ruling party did not have the capacity to rig the election even if it



Zimbabwean officials verify postal votes polled by army personnel in the presidential elections, prior to starting the vote count in Harare on Tuesday. — AP

wanted to. "It's absolutely a figment of someone's (imagination who) is staring defeat in the face to say there was disenfranchisement of one voter in Harare," he told state television on Tuesday.

Riot police swept into polling stations on Monday evening which had remained open for a third court-ordered day of voting and abruptly shut them down even though thousands of voters still remained in line. Government officials had earlier promised that anyone still in line

would be allowed to vote.

Police fired eight tear gas canisters and shot into the air at a polling station in the Harare neighbourhood of Glen Norah to disperse 600 people waiting to vote.

When told to go home, they began chanting "Change, change, we want to vote!"

On Monday night, lawyers for the Opposition MDC asked the High Court to order a fourth day of voting, but the judge rejected the appeal. — AP

THE HINDU

12 MAR 2002

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Zimbabwe at crossroads

Africa
Mugabe tries all the old tricks again

Robert Mugabe is not the first African demagogue ever nor will he be the last. Absolute master of Zimbabwe for 20 years he has become increasingly aggressive and autocratic not something unfamiliar to so many poor countries in the continent. The lengths to which he has been prepared to go to rig the elections he was forced to hold have exceeded all that has happened in the past. International observers are limited in number and it is easy for Mugabe's goons to avoid their scrutiny. But this time the old survivor has possibly overreached himself. For once he faces a formidable opponent, Morgan Tsvangirai, a confident and courageous man with a worthwhile following especially in urban areas. Mugabe's plan to send him into the jungle as it were while he fixed Harare and urban towns have come unstuck. His ploy to deny the franchise to opposition voters by simply arranging excruciating delays in the polling process have been countered by a successful appeal to the High Court which has ruled that there shall be a third day added to the two-day poll to enable voters who have been excluded to exercise their franchise. Reports speak of an initial acceptance of the Court's order only to let it fall by the wayside again but Tsvangirai is tenacious and will not give up easily. He has already been charged with treason, another example of Mugabe's desperation, but remains unmoved.

At the recently concluded Chogm meeting of heads of Commonwealth nations, Mugabe and Zimbabwe were discussed extensively but it would have been better it were led by some African countries. Not that Tony Blair is wrong to zero in on Mugabe, but the wily dictator has been able to suggest that Blair is affected by Mugabe's expropriation of white farmlands, something he has carried forward despite court rulings. It is the expropriated farms which are the worst affected by disturbances because they are now with Mugabe supporters who are not necessarily good farmers. The result has been that farms, which were among the best in the world, are today unproductive and overrun by political animals with neither experience nor desire to work them. The result has been chaos, which Mugabe is quick to lay at the door of the evil white man. He has not hesitated to mount a personal attack on the British Prime Minister and for the time being at least has avoided sanctions. It is true that sanctions do not hurt the likes of Mugabe who are wealthy beyond imagination and hurt only the poor and the deprived. And yet some action is justified. Perhaps suspension from the Commonwealth would be more appropriate and would tell on the leadership more than Mugabe imagines. There are a host of Commonwealth programmes in which Mugabe is interested; if in addition he is persona non grata in the Commonwealth, his many and expensive foreign jaunts would be severely curtailed if not ground to a halt.

If Morgan Tsvangirai manages to win, not only will he have proved that Mugabe was not unbeatable, he will have made a statement which will reverberate right through Africa and beyond. Meanwhile African countries should reconsider. This is not a black versus white issue, although Mugabe continues to project it that way. They should ask Mugabe to answer the serious charges hurled at him by his own countrymen instead of indulging in abuse. The man who thumps the table usually has no arguments left.

Asset recovery

THE STATESMAN

110-12
1073
Africa

ZIMBABWE / VOTING IN PRESIDENTIAL POLL BEGINS

Large turn-out enthuses Opposition

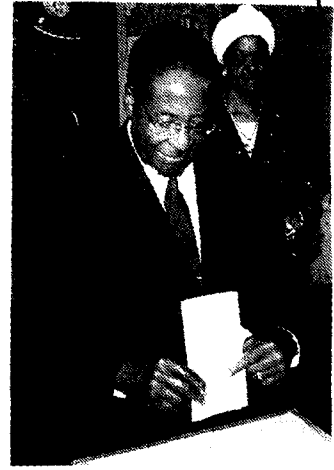
HARARE (ZIMBABWE), MARCH 9. Zimbabweans waited in long lines outside polling stations on Saturday, some knitting and playing with their children while waiting to vote in the most competitive presidential elections in the nation's history.

Voting was going very slowly in the election that pits the President, Robert Mugabe, who has ruled the country for 22 years, against a trade unionist promising reform. At one polling station on the outskirts of Harare, between 800 and 1,000 people stood in line, but only about 100 people voted in 2 1/2 hours. Following a campaign wracked by intense political violence and intimidation, which human rights groups blame on the ruling party, the Opposition leader, Morgan Tsvangirai, said he was pleased to see so many people voting, but was worried about the pace. "The intention, of course, is that you frustrate as many voters as you can. Mugabe is trying to move the goal posts to disenfranchise people, these people he thinks will vote against him," Mr. Tsvangirai said. He urged people to be patient, believing that a large turn-out would favour him.

Lines were far longer than during parliamentary elections in June 2000, which Mr. Mugabe's party narrowly won. Mr. Mugabe has been in power since independence in 1980 and has only in recent years faced significant dissent as the economy has collapsed. The number of polling stations in urban areas, considered Opposition strongholds, were cut by half by



Zimbabwean riot police monitor a queue outside a polling station during elections at a school in Mbare, near the city centre of Harare, on Saturday. — Reuters



The Zimbabwean President, Robert Mugabe, casts his ballot in a Harare polling station on Saturday. — AP

the Government. People were also uncertain about where to vote. Mr. Mugabe's name did not appear on the list at the polling station in the Harare township where he had planned to vote. Shortly before he arrived, his advance team was informed of the gaffe and he was whisked to another station, where his name was listed. After casting his ballot, Mr. Mugabe lashed out at his critics, including the European Union, the former colonial power Britain and the United States that have imposed punitive restrictions on him to protest Government-sanctioned violence and repressive legislation.

"They are supporters of the Opposition," Mr. Mugabe said. "It is not only prejudice, it is bias against the (ruling party), bi-

as against President Mugabe, and bias in favour of the Opposition." In what appeared to be a show of force, witnesses in Harare reported unusually large number of soldiers and military vehicles around the capital. Government officials declined to comment on the deployment. In the rural town of Chinvinga, 12 farmers were arrested and held on unspecified charges after helping election monitors reach polling stations, the Commercial Farmers Union said on Saturday. The election comes amid the country's worst economic crisis since independence. Inflation is over 110 per cent, unemployment is 60 per cent and hundreds of thousands of people are going hungry.

The few pre-election polls re-

veal voters' fears with one reporting that 70 per cent of people questioned refused to say who they would vote for. "That's my secret, I can't tell you," Ronnie Dube, a 48 year-old carpenter, said when asked how he would vote. "I want to vote for a good future." The election is the biggest challenge to Mr. Mugabe's Zimbabwe African National Union Patriotic Front party since he led the country to independence.

Mr. Mugabe (78), has promised public works initiatives if he is re-elected and has pledged to continue his controversial programme of seizing white-owned farms and giving them to landless blacks. Whites make up less than one per cent of the country's population but own about a third of the nation's

commercial farmland. Mr. Mugabe has called Mr. Tsvangirai and his Movement for Democratic Change servants to white interests and Western powers who want to see the country fail. Mr. Tsvangirai (49), is promising to revive the economy, end corruption and promote a more orderly land reform system. He urged supporters on Saturday to vote despite Government intimidation. "I know you are tired; I know you are scared and I know you are hungry. But have courage, people of Zimbabwe. The darkest hour is always before the dawn," Mr. Tsvangirai said in a statement.

Human rights groups and many political analysts say the election already is too tainted to be free and fair. — AP

THE HINDU

10 MAR 2002

Zimbabwe goes to polls as violence continues

NICHOLAS KOTCH &
CRIS CHINAKA
HARARE, MARCH 9

WB
Africa
9/9

ZIMBABWEANS queued through the night to vote in large numbers in presidential elections on Saturday but violence that has marred the campaign continued right up to the vote.

In many areas, people began queuing in the darkness, hours before polls opened around 7 am (0500 GMT) in the two-day election, which will decide whether President Robert Mugabe can defeat the toughest challenge of his 22-year rule. A high urban turnout may favour opponent Morgan Tsvangirai.

Even as the bitter two-month campaign ended there was more of the violence that has drawn international condemnation and charges by Tsvangirai that Mugabe is trying to steal the vote.

Tsvangirai's Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) reported on Friday night that 30 of its election monitors were assaulted by ruling ZANU-PF militants with clubs and broken bottles in Shamva.

Police detained 12 White farmers overnight after a confrontation with ZANU-PF militia who stopped them from transporting MDC polling agents north-west of Harare. The farmers were released early on Saturday.

Voters wrapped in blankets against the cold formed long lines at polling stations in poor parts of Harare — strongholds of MDC. "I could not. I came early to make sure I do," said Japhet Dongo, who cast his ballot at a school in Glenview suburb after waiting in a queue since midnight.

Under grey skies and in a light drizzle, at least a thousand people were lined up at Glenview no. 2 primary school. "This is what we have to say to the world — we are voting today for our new leader," one man said.

— Reuters

INDIAN EXPRESS



The president of the Zimbabwean Opposition Movement for Democratic Change (MDC), Morgan Tsvangirai, addresses a rally in the industrial area of Harare on Friday. — Reuters

Thousands of Zimbabweans disenfranchised

ARCO 9/3 HD-15

HARARE, MARCH. 8. The final day of campaigning in the most-contested presidential race in Zimbabwe's history ended on Friday ahead of the two-day polling beginning on Saturday. Earlier on Thursday, the Supreme Court ruled that tens of thousands of people were not eligible to vote.

The court ruled in favour of a Government appeal that would ban those who hold dual citizenship from voting, disqualifying many whites and tens of thousands of black farm workers from neighbouring countries.

In his last day on the campaign trail, the President, Robert Mugabe (78), toured his ruling

party's rural strongholds north of Harare. The increasingly unpopular Mr. Mugabe has resorted to repressive legislation and violent intimidation of the Opposition to stay in office after 22 years in power.

His opponent, Morgan Tsvangirai (49), spent the day visiting industrial districts in Harare, strongholds of his labour-backed Opposition party, Movement for Democratic Change.

In their ruling issued late yesterday, the Supreme Court granted an appeal by the state against an earlier decision by the High Court that permitted residents with a second foreign citizenship to vote. — AP

Mugabe move a 'blow' to judiciary, Opposition

HARARE, MARCH 6. Just days before hard-fought presidential elections, the Zimbabwean President, Robert Mugabe, unilaterally reinstated controversial election laws today that had been struck down by the Supreme Court.

Opposition lawmakers had complained the laws disenfranchised many of their supporters and would make it easier to rig voting in this weekend's elections.

The reinstated laws give state election officers sweeping powers and restrict vote monitoring, identity requirements for voters campaigning and voter education.

Mr. Mugabe's decree also restores a ban on absentee voting by as many as half a million Zim-

babweans living abroad.

The Supreme Court ruled on February 27 the elections laws were improperly forced through Parliament in January after they were initially defeated.

In a notice in the official Government Gazette today, Mr. Mugabe overruled the court order, saying the laws had been validly enacted and "shall be deemed to have been lawfully" adopted ahead of the presidential vote.

Mr. Mugabe's decree dealt a harsh blow to the authority of the judiciary, already the target of threats and intimidation by the Government and by ruling party militants. Adrian de Bourbon, an attorney for the opposition Movement for Democratic Change, said the decree was illegal and unconstitutional. — AP

THE HINDU

27 MAR 2002

An African story

Rise and fall of Robert Mugabe

Mugabe has turned Zimbabwe into a banana republic. The turning point came in the mid 1990s when a referendum on constitutional reform was defeated, after which a steady loss of support has turned him into a typical African maverick in the Idi Amin-Mobutu mould. He now says that the spirit of a dead guerrilla leader regularly visits him at dinner time and reproaches him for having ruined the country. The problem is that the economy is in a mess. Inflation is at over 100 per cent. In 2000, Mugabe came up with a bright idea: just before parliamentary elections, he unleashed former war veterans, led by an unlikely hooligan called Hitler Hünzvi, on white-owned farms, leading to widespread criticism not only by the world community, but also by neighbours such as Malawi. There was violence, displacement, loss of life, property and employment and a hostile campaign against the political opposition.

In the event, the opposition MDC did very well in the parliamentary elections, only Mugabe amended the Constitution to suit himself. He also appointed his own men to the Supreme Court and got them to reverse an earlier ruling, which had declared the forced seizure of white farms illegal. The future of whites in Africa has been even more uncertain as Mugabe desperately tried to revive some of his lost anti-colonial appeal. Most recently, he banned independent election monitors, denied voting rights to millions of citizens, enforced a clampdown on the independent media and on the opposition, preliminary to the holding of presidential elections. EU monitors have left the country and the Union has imposed sanctions. Mugabe is said to be negotiating a deal with Obasanjo for eventual exile. This is a sad, but typically African, story. One hopes that with Obasanjo in Nigeria, Chiluba in Kenya, Mbeki in South Africa and a relatively stable regime in Kinshasa, Africa's days of tribal chieftainship are fading. Traditions die hard. Mugabe started out as a socialist reformer. Now he accuses his main political rival of treason.

THE STATESMAN

0 MAR 2002

Zimbabwe gets a reprieve

Africa 119-15

5 B

COOLUM (AUSTRALIA), MARCH 4. Commonwealth leaders today decided not to suspend Zimbabwe from their organisation over violence that has marred the country's ongoing presidential campaign.

Britain, Australia and New Zealand had demanded Zimbabwe's immediate suspension but African nations successfully blocked that and insisted no action be taken until after the March 9-10 vote. The leaders of South Africa, Australia and Nigeria - the Commonwealth's past, present and future Chairmen - will await the report from Commonwealth election observers before making a decision. However, the British Prime Minister, Tony Blair, remained adamant Zimbabwe should have been suspended ahead of the poll.

"We should have gone further," Mr. Blair said. "The case for suspending Zimbabwe now I think is very plain".

"I think in a sense, we have postponed the day of judgment on Zimbabwe," he added.

The organisation of Britain and its former colonies can move to censure or suspend Zimbabwe if the observers rule

the polling was not free and fair. Individual member states can also impose economic sanctions.

Speaking at the Commonwealth summit here, the Australian Prime Minister, John Howard, rejected criticism that the organisation had buckled under pressure from African nations.

"I think it is a very good outcome," Mr. Howard said. "It provides a sure mechanism, a quick mechanism for dealing with the issue, but a fair mechanism." The Canadian Prime Minister, Jean Chretien, agreed. The observers "will report within days, we will have a quick resolution," Mr. Chretien said.

Commenting on the Commonwealth decision, Zimbabwe's opposition Movement for Democratic Change said it amounted to a green light for the President, Robert Mugabe, to continue with his intimidatory election tactics. "We came to the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting to get action and instead we get words and nothing else," the MDC spokeswoman, Sekai Holland, said. — AFP

THE HINDU

5 MAR 2001

Chogm decides not to suspend Zimbabwe before presidential polls

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The observers "will report within days, we will have a quick resolution," Mr Chretien said. (AP)

THE TIMES OF INDIA

25 MAR 2002

Mugabe unleashes terror campaign

London, March 3

TORTURE CAMPS where suspected opponents are being murdered and mutilated have been set up in Zimbabwe as Robert Mugabe unleashes a reign of terror ahead of elections this week.

Faced with defeat for the first time since his party came to power in 1980, the 78-year-old President is turning on his own people in an orchestrated campaign of violence and intimidation.

As Commonwealth leaders meet in Australia today to decide whether to take action over human rights abuses in Zimbabwe, an Observer investigation has uncovered evidence that Mugabe's state-security apparatus has created dozens of camps where civilians are being tortured for suspected 'disloyalty' to the ruling Zanu-PF government.

Mugabe, who last month reas-

ured the international community that the elections would be 'free and fair', has barred British newspapers from reporting them.

The Observer entered the country illegally last week and found scores of incidents where ordinary Zimbabweans had been shipped to the camps, beaten and in some cases killed after being branded opponents of the regime.

During a 625-mile trip through Matabeleland, where Mugabe's notorious Fifth Brigade massacred an estimated 20,000 people in the Eighties, there were villagers displaying horrific wounds after being held at camps by gangs of youths dubbed 'the Taliban' by local people.

The youths, whose ages range from 10 to 30, are officially members of the National Youth Training Programme, a supposedly voluntary organisation formed last year by Mugabe's government to



ROBERT MUGABE

instill 'patriotism' in young people and remind them of the sacrifices made in the war against Ian Smith's Rhodesian army.

Instead, after training at military camps, the 20,000-strong militia has been deployed to set up camps and round up sus-

pected dissidents, 're-educating' them by means of psychological and physical torture.

In what one leading Zimbabwean academic described as an attempted coup d'état by Mugabe, youth militias last week seized dozens of suspected opposition sympathisers identified by agents of the Central Intelligence Organisation, the Stasi-trained secret police force.

With blood still oozing from his ears, his arm broken and a gap where his front teeth had been knocked out, Trust Sibanda, 31, slumped under a tree as the sun rose and gave a chilling insight into the militia, whose members receive wages and food from the government.

Sibanda had been seized two days earlier as he arrived home empty-handed at dusk after going to a depot 200 miles north of Bulawayo Zimbabwe's second

largest city, where maize is usually sold. Chronic food shortages meant there was no maize.

Twenty youths approached him, waving a piece of paper with his name at the top. They accused him of being a supporter of the Movement for Democratic Change (MDC), the opposition party tipped in unofficial polls to win the elections, and demanded to know why he was not carrying a Zanu-PF membership card.

They took him to a camp and beat him up. At one stage, a group of men forced his mouth open under a tap of running water. He could not breathe or swallow. Then the men started beating him again. He was dumped unconscious outside his wife's hut.

Across hundreds of miles of Zimbabwean countryside, similar stories were repeated again and again last week.

Africa
AP-15

Tsvangirai charged with treason

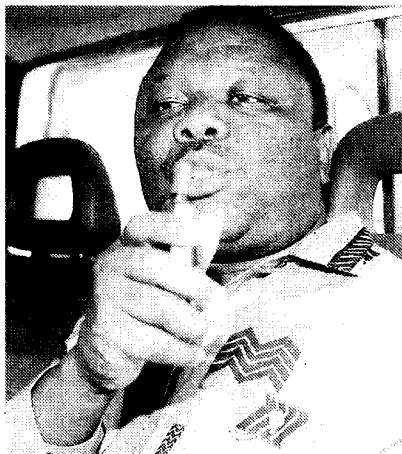
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HARARE, FEB. 26. Zimbabwe's Opposition leader has been charged with treason — less than two weeks before the Presidential elections that threaten to end the President, Robert Mugabe's almost 22-year rule.

Monday's charges against Morgan Tsvangirai, who heads the Opposition Movement for Democratic Change and two other party leaders, marks the latest twist in an election campaign fraught with violence mainly blamed on Mugabe supporters. Mr. Tsvangirai, who represents the

biggest threat to Mr. Mugabe's grip on power, was released after two hours of questioning by police on alleged plans to assassinate the President ahead of the March 9-10 polls. Treason is punishable by death.

Meanwhile, South African observers railed against the police for not protecting opposition supporters from attacks by ruling party activists. Asked about the treason charges, Richard Boucher, spokesman for the U.S. State Department, said: "This falls against a backdrop of a very well documented campaign of violence and intimidation against the Opposition. "We're aware of no convincing evidence that there's any basis for these allegations. It just appears to be another tragic example of President Mugabe's increasingly authoritarian rule, his Government's apparent determination to intimidate and repress the Opposition..."



Morgan Tsvangirai, Zimbabwe's main Opposition leader, talks to the media in Harare on Monday after he was charged with treason. — AFP

The Australian Foreign Minister, Alexander Downer, who is attending a meeting in Indonesia, said his country would ask the Commonwealth to withdraw election observers from Zimbabwe if Mr. Tsvangirai was arrested. "If the leader of the Opposition is prevented from participating in the elections, they're hardly going to be free and fair," he said. In two recent incidents, election monitors were themselves the tar-

gets of violence by Mugabe loyalists.

Mr. Tsvangirai said police told him he would be summoned to appear in court at an unspecified later date. A police spokesman, Wayne Bvudzijena, confirmed treason charges had been made, but would give no further details. Mr. Tsvangirai said he was freed with no restrictions on his movements and would continue with his election campaign. He said he was formally charged with a plot to kill Mr. Mugabe along with two senior party colleagues, the secretary-general, Welshman Ncube and the Shadow Agriculture Minister, Renson Gasela. "Of course, I denied it completely. The timing is obvious. This was all along part of the ZANU-PF (ruling party) strategy to eliminate me from the race," Mr. Tsvangirai said. Mr. Ncube and Mr. Gasela have not yet been questioned by the police.

Mr. Tsvangirai described the allegations as "political drama of the highest order" by Mr. Mugabe and the State media. Mr. Mugabe said last week that he would not have Mr. Tsvangirai arrested before the elections despite allegations of the assassination plot. The Government claims Mr. Tsvangirai met members of a Montreal-based political consulting firm last year to arrange for the "elimination" of Mr. Mugabe. Ten days ago, the firm released a secretly recorded videotape of a December 4 meeting in Montreal which they said incriminated Mr. Tsvangirai.— AP

REC'D
27 FEB 2002

ANGOLA / END TO CIVIL CONFLICT IN SIGHT?

UNITA leader killed in clash

Africa
HD-14
29/2

LUANDA (ANGOLA), FEB. 23. The body of the UNITA rebel leader, Jonas Savimbi, riddled with 15 bullet wounds, is being kept in a government building in a village near where the army killed him, State media reported Saturday.

Savimbi, who has led the rebel group's fight for power in Angola for more than 30 years and was blamed by the United Nations for scuppering peace efforts, was killed on Friday during a gunbattle, the armed forces said. There was no independent confirmation of the claim, but State broadcaster Televisao Popular de Angola was expected to show footage of the body later on Saturday.

Officials said they had not yet decided what to do with Savimbi's body, which is in Lucusse, about 700 km east of Luanda, the capital. A correspondent for the State-run Radio Nacional de Angola

reported seeing the body on Saturday. Savimbi's reported death raised hopes for peace in Angola which has been devastated by two decades of civil war which broke out after the south-west African nation's 1975 independence from Portugal.

Dozens of people were hurt by stray bullets in Luanda overnight as government soldiers celebrated Savimbi's death by firing into the air, police said. The armed forces said in a statement that Savimbi died during an army attack on UNITA forces in Moxico province in south-east Angola on Friday at around 3 p.m. (1400 GMT). UNITA officials, who are hidden in the Angolan bush, were not available for comment.

Joffre Justino, a UNITA member living in Portugal, dismissed the army's claim as "just government propaganda." However, he was not in contact with UNITA — a Portuguese acronym for the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola — inside Angola. Savimbi rejected three peace deals designed to end the fighting because they did not give him control of the country. Savimbi, who was 67, was a key player in the Cold War struggle for dominance in Africa but became internationally isolated after he resisted democracy. He has not been seen for several years. His animosity toward the President, Jose Eduardo dos Santos, who has ruled since 1977, has repeatedly frustrated efforts by the international community to end the fighting. However, Savimbi's threat has kept the governing MPLA united against a common enemy, and his death could prompt a power struggle in the ruling party.

The civil war is believed to have killed about 500,000 people, though there are no confirmed figures. About four million people — roughly one-third of the population — have been driven from their homes by the fighting, creating a humanitarian crisis. The Government said it would now prepare for an end to Angola's civil war and said it was ready to implement fully a failed 1994 peace accord that called for regular democratic elections. It was not clear whether anyone from UNITA's ranks could replace Savimbi, who has ruled the group ruthlessly since he founded it in 1966 to battle Por-

tugal's colonial administration. The UNITA vice-president, Antonio Dembo, as well as Savimbi's close aide, Paulo Lukamba Gato, are believed to be hiding out in rural Angola.

UNITA is thought to have a stockpile of diamonds, sold on the international black market, which have allowed it to keep fighting despite U.N. oil and arms sanctions. The Government has financed its war through offshore oil production. Human rights groups claim both sides have committed atrocities. The government army has routed UNITA from its main strongholds over the past year, following the country's return to war when a 4-year-old peace accord, brokered by the United Nations, collapsed in 1998, like two prior agreements.

Savimbi became the proxy of the United States and South

Africa in the Cold War battle against the then-Marxist government. In 1986, the rebel leader travelled to Washington where he was received like a Head of State, meeting then-President, Ronald Reagan in the Oval Office. But after the breakup of the Soviet Union, the Government dropped its Marxist policies and moved closer to the United States, prompting U.S. oil companies to invest billions of dollars in Angola. Also, Savimbi's rejection of his defeat in Angola's first elections in 1992 and his return to war left him isolated as Western powers pushed for democracy in Africa.

Born into a poor family in the village of Munhango in the Southwest African nation's central highlands, Jonas Malheiro Savimbi was a university-educated guerilla fighter who spoke three African and four European languages. — AP



The leader of Angola's rebel group UNITA, Jonas Savimbi, is seen in this file picture. — AFP

THE HINDU

24 FEB 2002

Africa

ZIMBABWE / E.U. IMPOSES TARGETED SANCTIONS

HD-124

An attack on sovereignty: Harare

HARARE, FEB. 19. The Zimbabwean Government on Tuesday condemned European Union economic and diplomatic sanctions, accusing Europe of orchestrating "hostile action" to influence March elections.

"There is no price that is going to be high in defending our independence," said the Information Minister, Jonathan Moyo. "They said they were going to do it and they have done it. We said as Africans who fought for our liberation against some of these European countries, we would defend our independence and sovereignty and that's what we are going to do," Mr. Moyo told the *State Herald* newspaper.

The European Union, angered by Zimbabwe's refusal to let its observers freely monitor the March 9-10 Presidential elections, imposed sanctions on Monday against the President, Mr. Robert Mugabe's Government and ordered its observer team home. E.U. Foreign Ministers meeting in Brussels imposed "targeted sanctions" with immediate effect, the Spanish Foreign Minister, Josep Pique, the meeting's chairman said. Mr. Moyo described the decision as "an orchestrated and self-fulfilling process," *The Herald* said. "There is no amount of hostile action through sanctions or otherwise that will make us move from our principle to defend our independence," he said. "We will never allow a situation where our sovereign rights are hijacked under the guise of elections observation," he said. E.U. Ministers said the 15-nation bloc was seriously concerned about political violence, human rights abuses and restrictions on the media which called into question the prospects for a free and fair election.

The sanctions include cutting off 128 million euros (\$110 million) in development aid for the

2002-2007 period, a ban on travel to the



Zimbabwe's ruling party activists stage a protest in downtown Harare on Monday against European sanctions imposed on the country. — AP

E.U. for Mr. Mugabe and 20 of his Cabinet Ministers and freezing their assets in Europe. The E.U. said it would also pull out 30 European elections observers already in Zimbabwe. Zimbabwe has been wracked by political violence for the past two years that opposition supporters, human rights activists and many international officials blame on Mr. Mugabe's ruling ZANU-PF party.

Mr. Mugabe, 77, who has ruled Zimbabwe since it won independence from Britain, is fighting to maintain his 22-year

grip in power. As his popularity has waned, he has imposed curbs on journalists and opposition parties and many of his critics have been attacked or threatened with prosecution. The State media, a platform for official policy, carried no reaction to the E.U. decision from Mr. Mugabe early Tuesday.

In a defiant statement on State television on Sunday, a visibly angry Mr. Mugabe said Zimbabwe was capable of running its own elections without interference from Western countries. — AP

ZIMBABWE / MUGABE DEFIANT

**E.U. starts talks
on sanctions**

AD-19
BRUSSELS, FEB. 18. European Union Foreign Ministers started talks today on calls for sanctions against Zimbabwe, continuing violence in West Asia and plans for an E.U. police force to take over from the United Nations in Bosnia.

Ministers will also be playing host to the Afghan Foreign Minister, Abdullah Abdullah. Discussions on Zimbabwe will be attended by Pierre Schori, the head of the E.U. electoral observer mission who was expelled from Harare over the weekend. The Swedish diplomat, Mr. Schori arrived in Zimbabwe last week in defiance of a government blacklist which excluded six E.U. nations — Britain, Denmark, Finland, Germany, the Netherlands and Sweden — from taking part in the mission.

The Zimbabwe Government accuses the six Governments of "sponsoring the (opposition) Movement for Democratic Change." They have all been in the forefront of criticism of Mr. Mugabe's regime and its cam-

paign of violent intimidation ahead of Presidential elections on March 9-10. Diplomats say E.U. Ministers face a tough choice on Zimbabwe. Any imposition of sanctions will mean the bloc has to withdraw all its monitors from Zimbabwe. At the same time, however, the E.U. is anxious to secure guarantees that its monitors will be able to operate effectively. — DPA

Telegraph reports from Harare:

In a television broadcast on Sunday, Mr. Mugabe denounced Mr. Schori as "dishonest and crookish". He said: "Mr. Schori went to our Embassy in Washington and got a tourist visa which was unlawful, irregular, dishonest and crookish, and used the tourist visa to come to the country."

"He came for 14 days. So when his 14 days expired we told him it was time to go... (and) he said he would remain in our country with or without a visa. What cheek!"

THE HINDU

19 1 2002

NIGERIA / ARMS DEPOT EXPLODES

Africa 580 of fleeing crowd drown 29/11 HD-12

LAGOS (NIGERIA), JAN. 28. More than 580 bodies were pulled from a Lagos canal on Monday after a massive crowd stampeded as it fled a huge arms dump explosion in the city.

"I have counted more than 580 (bodies), I am looking for my children. I have been here since the morning," said Shola Odun, a printer. "They have been pulling the bodies out of here since first thing. They are taking them away. I am looking for my children, my relatives, there are more than 580 bodies. One man here lost six of his children. He found them. He is dying," Mr. Odun added.

Black Africa's most densely inhabited city — home to 12 million people — was shaken repeatedly late on Sunday night by the massive explosions, set off by a fire at a military armoury.

The Lagos State Information Commissioner, Dele Alake, said the State Governor, Bola Tinubu, was due at the scene. "We have had the reports of the drowning. It seems there was a stampede last night. The Governor is going to visit so until then we cannot confirm on numbers but we fear it was big," Mr. Alake said.

Burning shrapnel from the blasts also lit fires that caved in the roof of a church on the top floor of a four-storey building in the nearby neighbourhood of

Oshodi. A radio and television repair shop there was destroyed by a shell, which left jagged fragments jutting from the ground nearby. "I was so afraid, I ran away without being able to save even a pocket radio," said the shop owner, Sani Mohammed. Next door, the windows and ceiling tiles of the Mandela Hospital were destroyed, though all patients were safely evacuated, hospital staff said. State and military officials went on national television to appeal for calm. They said the explosions were an accident at an old facility and assured the population they were not an indication of military unrest.

A police officer said the blasts had apparently been touched off by an explosion at a nearby gas station.

This could not be independently confirmed.

An army spokesman said a fire spread to the munitions depot, but had no details on where it started. The oil-rich nation of Nigeria is Africa's most populous country, and Lagos is its largest city.

The President, Olusegun Obasanjo, toured the base on Monday morning, addressing hundreds of soldiers and their families who had fled the barracks. He promised the military would investigate.

THE FINISH

Turmoil in Zambia over poll rigging

211
Lusaka, January 2 *Amca* *H. V.*

ZAMBIA SWORE in ruling party candidate Levy Mwanawasa as President on Wednesday amid high political tensions with heavily armed riot police deployed to keep Opposition protesters away.

A Zambian judge had cleared the way for Mwanawasa's inauguration, rejecting an Opposition petition to force a recount of the elections. In capital Lusaka, police barred Opposition supporters from approaching the court buildings, the scene of pitched battles between police and protesters on Tuesday.

Mwanawasa, the chosen heir of retiring President Frederick Chiluba, spent much of the campaign fending off questions about health following a car crash in the early 1990s. Zambia's 10 Opposition parties have accused the ruling Movement for Multiparty Democracy of rigging the polls in favour of Mwanawasa. The MMD and the Electoral Commission have denied the allegations.

Reuters

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

- 3 JAN 2002

Africa summit to focus on terrorism

NAIROBI, JAN. 4. Seven African leaders will discuss the fight against terrorism at a summit in Khartoum next week but will follow the United Nations' agenda and not Washington's, a Sudanese diplomat said today.

The leaders of Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan, Somalia and Uganda would not single out Somalia for attention at the January 10-11 gathering despite U.S. allegations that it was a potential terrorist haven, the charge d'affaires at Sudan's embassy in Kenya, Dirdeiry Ahmed, told a news conference. "We are not going to implement a U.S. agenda. We are going to implement a U.N. Security Council resolution," he said. "We are going to hammer out ways of combatting terrorism in the region, but that does not mean we are going to single out Somalia." He said the heads of state would examine a U.N. Security Council resolution passed a day after the September 11 at-

tacks on the U.S., calling on member states to bring the perpetrators to justice and combat all forms of terrorism. Somalia, named as one of the states the U.S. could target in a widening war on terror, is seen by many analysts as an attractive base for terrorists seeking secrecy because it is a lawless patchwork of fiefdoms ruled by rival militias. Western warships are patrolling the seas off Somalia as part of efforts to prevent Osama bin Laden's Al-Qaeda fighters escaping there following their defeat in Afghanistan. The seven leaders will be holding the ninth summit of the Intergovernmental Authority for Development (IGAD), a grouping of African states that seeks to solve regional conflicts and promote development in the east of the continent.

The gathering will also be attended by the U.S. special envoy to Sudan, John Danforth.

Mr. Ahmed said the top politi-

cal priority of the meeting would be peace efforts in Sudan and Somalia but no negotiations would take place because Sudanese rebels and Somali warlords opposed to their respective Governments had not been invited to the meeting. The rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army has been fighting the Islamist Government for greater autonomy for the mainly Christian and Animist south in a war that has killed an estimated two million people since 1983. — Reuters

NORTHERN RAILWAY

**If reference to Employment
Notice No. 201/Sec(ABE)RR/5/1
dated 28.12.2001**

How to Apply The last date of acceptance of application has been mentioned **30th November 2001 (30.11.2001)** which is actually **31st January - 2002 (31.01.2002)**

S/14/2002

THE
- 5 JAN 2002

HD-12
1391

Zimbabwe backs down

Africa

BRUSSELS, JAN. 12. Zimbabwe appeared to back away from a showdown with the European Union on Friday, accepting demands for independent observers at the elections in March and agreeing to a political "code of conduct" respecting civil liberties.

Stanley Mudenge, the Foreign Minister, who headed a team of five Ministers at the last-ditch talks in Brussels, agreed to the concessions in a bid to head off punitive sanctions against President Robert Mugabe's regime.

But his promises were met with scepticism. E.U. diplomats were concerned that Zimbabwe could be playing for time, since Mr. Mudenge did not make it clear whether he would let election observers into the country for the six weeks before the vote. "We're going to need firmer commitments and we're going to need it in writing," said an official.

E.U. officials, ending their softly-softly approach, demanded a

halt to human rights abuses, the lifting of press curbs, safeguards for the judiciary, free and fair elections, and an end to arbitrary land seizures.

Mr. Mudenge claimed his government was the victim of a smear campaign by the British press and Zimbabwe's former masters in London. "Britain has used its membership of the E.U. to gain sympathy for white farmers in Zimbabwe and to try to evade its colonial responsibilities," he said.

He argued that new measures curbing the press and political freedoms pushed through Parliament in Harare this week have been "misunderstood", and said Zimbabwe needed time to sort out a land-reform crisis inherited from the colonial era.

The mounting pressure on Mr. Mugabe came as Australia and New Zealand called for Zimbabwe's suspension from the Commonwealth.

"We don't want a country sitting

around the table with us, or a president sitting around the table with us, who doesn't stand for the things we stand for," said Alexander Downer, the Australian Foreign Minister.

E.U. Foreign Ministers will decide later this month whether Zimbabwe has done enough to avoid "smart sanctions" involving a travel ban on Mr. Mugabe and his close circle, and a freeze on their overseas assets.

The E.U.'s development projects in Zimbabwe, worth £ 79 million over five years, could also come under review, though food and medical aid will not be touched.

Geoffrey Van Orden, MEP, the Tory foreign affairs spokesman in Brussels said: "They're just trying put off the evil day for longer. We have to move ahead with the preparatory steps for smart sanctions anyway, so that Mr. Mugabe sees we really mean business." — ©Telegraph Group Limited, London, 2002.

THE HINDU

13 JAN 2002

Africa

CONGO / TOLL IN VOLCANIC ERUPTION PUT AT 45

HD-12

Refugees return despite warnings

NAIROBI, JAN. 20. Despite warnings, thousands of refugees on Sunday began returning to the Congolese city of Goma, which was destroyed by lava flowing from Mount Nyiragongo.

The U.N. relief organisation and other international agencies working in the Congo were urging the refugees to stay put, but the refugees remained defiant. "We are Congolese," said one refugee after spending a third night in Gisenyi. "We want to stay near Goma."

Congolese rebels too appealed to the refugees not to return. The rebel group - Congolese Rally for Democracy - warned refugees, who had fled to the Rwandan town of Gisenyi, that it was still too dangerous to return.

The lava and the ensuing fires had damaged up to 80 per cent of the buildings in Goma, according to the Red Cross. It has also claimed the lives of 45 persons and rendered thousands homeless. The port on Lake Kivu, the main electrical power generating stations, and two of the city's water pumping stations were destroyed.

The two main lava flows that cut through the heart of the city had slowed by yesterday morning, but in other places lava continued flowing. Aid agencies started distributing assistance yesterday to those rendered homeless. Anywhere from 100,000 to 200,000 people were estimated to have fled



NATURE'S FURY: Congolese try to walk on the hard, but still hot, lava rocks in Ofisi, Congo, on the outskirts of Goma, on Sunday. — AP

Goma for the town of Gisenyi, across the Rwandan border. The aid agencies were trying to persuade the displaced people to move further east, toward the Rwandan town of Ruhengeri, because the numbers were overwhelming and the tiny town of Gisenyi fears the lava could reach it.

The United Nations and the Rwandan Government on Sunday urged refugees to gather in approved camps where aid agencies can deliver food, water and shelter, but most Congolese just want

to go home. People are crowded on sidewalks, sleeping on the shore of Lake Kivu and drinking water from the heavily polluted lake without food or sanitation, causing U.N. officials to fear a possible cholera outbreak.

Laura Mello, spokeswoman for the U.N. World Food Program, said the agency distributed 8.5 tonnes of high energy biscuits to refugees on Saturday and that the agency has 7,000 tonnes of cooking oil and maize flour in the area. "But at the moment we can't distribute that because people do not

have their cooking items," she said. "We hope people will go into the camps. There is no way we can distribute food in Goma. With the volcano, it is simply too dangerous."

Three U.N. volcanologists will study the volcano to determine whether it is safe to distribute aid in the city, said Oluseyi Bajulaiye, the head of the U.N. refugee agency in Rwanda. Many of the mostly urban Congolese don't want to go to camps, where they would live in improvised tents made from plastic sheeting.

Most said they would prefer to go to other Congolese cities, such as Bukavu, Kalemie or Kisangani, and make a new start. "Why should you put us in small camps ... when our country is so big?" said Fifi Banza, a refugee trying to get on a boat back to Congo.

Like two spokes extending from Mount Nyiragongo, lava flows 50 metres wide and up to 3 metres deep in places, cutting through the city. Sighted from a Rwandan Air Force helicopter, a small black cone could be seen forming in what was once a green banana plantation on the border with Rwanda.

The bright red lava poured southwest, covering one-third of the runway at Goma airport, destroying the city's Roman Catholic cathedral and thousands of homes. — AP, AFP

THE HINDU

Zimbabwe's no-win situation

Africa
only this weekend's election can save Zimbabwe - once the star of black Africa - from total ruin. And even that is uncertain. A country so mismanaged requires more than a new leader and governing party.

It requires 10 years of political calm and incorruptible government to get back on its feet. And Zimbabwe, for all the intimidatory tactics of President Robert Mugabe remains a democracy and thus Mr Mugabe, even if he loses the poll, will live to fight another day, able to mobilise the bitterness and resentment of the poor and unemployed to undermine a new government, as he has worked to undermine the Opposition the last few years.

The trouble with Robert Mugabe is that his single-minded, Marxist militancy that was a useful tool in driving to defeat the white, racist, government of Rhodesia (as it then was) and its British supporters in the conservative party is the same blinkered earnestness that has destroyed the economy and undermined its one-time potential for becoming an oasis of racial reconciliation and economic and social progress.

Instead of becoming an inspiration for its neighbour South Africa, it is now a fearful warning for what could become of South Africa if the spirit of Nelson Mandela, its first black President, is crushed by the growing number of serious policy mistakes of his successor, Thabo Mbeki.

Already in Mr Mbeki, with his peculiar inability to listen to his own medical advisers on the dangers of the Aids epidemic and his spending of a scarce \$4 billion on new submarines for the navy to be used against a non-enemy, we see the early signs of the amalgam of economic incompetence and political paranoia mixed with defensive grandstanding that one could see starting to develop in Zimbabwe two decades ago, a few years after it won its independence.

Mr Mugabe argues that the political imperative today is to give the dispossessed land, taking from the white farmers who were first settled by the great British imperialist, Cecil Rhodes, 110 years ago.

In this, he is as correct as the Palestinians today as they rail against the imposed Israeli settlements on Arab soil. The difference is that having made such a fuss about the land issue during the war for majority rule, Mr Mugabe promptly forgot about it once he came to office, only resurrecting it three years ago when he realised how unpopular his incompetent and corrupt government had become.

Believing he could play to the gallery of the landless and the poverty-stricken, he has allowed the storm troopers of his party to demoralise, intimidate and, on occasion, to kill white farmers whilst, in fact, during his 22-year term of office, doing little about providing viable agricultural holdings (with good agricultural advisers on call) to enable the

poor to economically progress.

Indeed, over the years it has been the better-off blacks, politically well-connected, who have done best from the government's land policies.

While it is true that immediately after winning independence, Zimbabwe would not have been able to raise the money to buy out white farmers from either Britain or the USA (who did not deliver on what they had promised), it could have raised the money from the World Bank, the Scandinavians, the Dutch and other such countries that had more liberal constituencies.

It was a well-researched fact at the time that 20 per cent of the white farmers were producing 80 per cent of the output and the other 80 per cent of the farms could be made more productive under African small-scale management.

But once it had achieved power, the Mugabe government simply lost interest in the issue, as its black bourgeoisie comfortably inserted themselves into the slots left empty by the departing whites.

South Africa, it is to be profoundly hoped, will not go the same way. Yet the pressures on it are formidable. Like Zimbabwe before, it is finding its best efforts

cannot deliver a growth rate sufficient to give jobs to everyone and to start to lift the masses out of poverty.

The world economy has not been kind to South Africa. Moreover, its workforce is undereducated and underproductive compared with its Asian competitors. Des-

pite many impressive achievements in building better housing and extending the reach of basic health clinics and clean water supplies, rank and file blacks well know that the main beneficiaries of the end of white rule have been the highly educated or well-connected blacks who have taken plum jobs with conspicuous benefits.

It is a country of such gross income inequalities that its extraordinarily high crime rate is one of the inevitable results. Another is a seething political volatility that underneath the seemingly dominating hand of the governing African National Congress could erupt into land grabs in emulation of Zimbabwe, encouraged by dissenting local leaders.

It would take only a few fatal shots by old school white farmers to upset the delicately balanced, racial applecart. After that new foreign investment would be even harder to attract than it is today.

But there is a more positive end to the story still within reach. Mr Mugabe may well lose the election. The new government of Zimbabwe may learn how to make good use of all the competent people, both black and white, just waiting for the right lead, to put the country back on its feet.

And the South African government, watching the Zimbabwean crisis unfurl, may learn the price of its own skewed priorities before it is too late.

world view

JONATHAN POWER



President Robert Mugabe at a ZANU-PF party rally in Bulawayo on Saturday. — AP/PTI

THE STATESMAN

8 MAR 2002

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1007

CONGO / MT. NYIRAGONGO SPEWS LAVA ON CITY OF GOMA

Half a million people rendered homeless

GOMA (CONGO), JAN. 19. A river of lava flowed through the centre of the eastern Congolese town of Goma on Saturday, burning everything in its path, creating a 5-foot high wall of cooling stone and leaving half a million people homeless.

The 130-foot wide path of molten rock made a fish hook pattern as it rolled down Mount Nyiragongo, 50 km to the north of Goma, passed through the central business district and flowed into Lake Kivu, sending sulfuric smoke and steam into the air. More than a dozen earthquakes shook the region every hour, some of them severe enough to send people running into the street in panic. Hundreds of thousands of Goma residents, ordered to abandon their impoverished city as it burned, slept outdoors in neighbouring Gisenyi, Rwanda, seeking shelter under porches. More than half of Goma has already been consumed by the lava. A fire cracked at the art deco Black and White Dance Club as lava filled the patio and the dance floor. Propane gas tanks exploded throughout the town as lava entered more homes. Only a handful of police patrolled the otherwise empty city. Officials were trying to determine the number of casualties

amid concerns there could be many dead. The night sky glowed scarlet from the fires, and international aid workers withdrew 50 km from the city because they were afraid the large quantities of methane gas that exists naturally in the lake would explode or bubble up and kill people close to shore. Stephen Johnson, an official in the U.N. office for the co-ordination of humanitarian affairs in New York, said there were no indications the

eruptions that began on Thursday had finished. He said about 100,000 people had fled west into Congo, while 300,000 others crossed over to Rwanda in the east. The lava cut the only road connecting the two sides.

Adolphe Onusumba, head of the Rwandan-backed rebels who control Goma and the surrounding region, implored residents not to try to return to their homes. "We are declaring a state of emergency and

urge people not to return to their homes because of the losses," he said in a radio broadcast from the devastated city. "Right now, we have no office or home because they were destroyed by the lava," businessman Eloi Mboso Kiamfu said on Friday, as he prepared to leave for Gisenyi. "Goma almost does not exist any more."

Brian Baptie, a volcano seismologist at the British Geological Survey in Edinburgh, Scotland, said

Nyiragongo is one of the most active volcanos in Africa. "Although the lava moves quite fast going down the flanks, once on flat land it moves quite slowly so people can get out of the way if they have warning," he said. "It's the refugee problem created that's the big cause for concern." Florian Westphal, regional spokesman for the International Committee of the Red Cross, said two of the three water purification plants in the

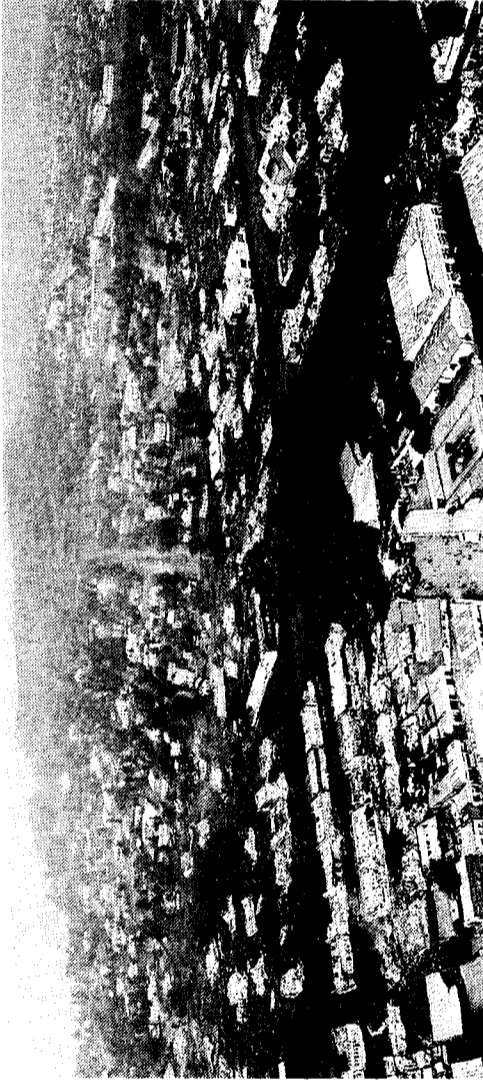
city of an estimated 500,000 inhabitants were no longer operational. "We're discussing how to best assess this situation," Mr. Westphal said. A large explosion had destroyed the main fuel depot at the port on the north end of Lake Kivu, he said.

The United Nations has sent several thousand military observers and peacekeepers into Congo following a ceasefire in the civil war that broke out in August 1998 in Goma.

A U.N. official who evacuated Goma to the Rwandan capital, Kigali, said the deputy force commander, Gen. Roberto Marinelli, arrived there on Friday and would travel to Gisenyi and Goma to assess the situation. Britain said on Friday it will give \$2.9 million to help the volcano's victims.

The International Development Secretary, Clare Short said \$1.4 million had been "immediately allocated" to humanitarian agencies on the ground in Congo.

The 11,381-foot Nyiragongo and 10,022-foot Nyamulagira volcanoes north of Goma are the only active ones in the Virunga chain of eight volcanoes that runs east into Rwanda. Nyiragongo last erupted seriously in January 1977.



An aerial view shows the city of Goma after it was destroyed by the eruption of Mount Nyiragongo volcano. (Right) A large group of people fleeing the lava line the road near Goma on Saturday. — AFP