

AFRICA NEWS

A Weekly Digest of African Affairs

UGANDA The Beginnings Of Normalcy

[AN] Tanzanian and Ugandan government troops have now secured the road from Kampala into Kenya. The important Owens Falls dam and hydro-electric plant at the town of Jinja were secured April 22 and Tororo fell the following week.

Ugandans, who have been without trade links to the sea by either road or rail for months, are eager for traffic to resume. With food and gasoline especially in desperately short supply there are fears of famine if supplies are delayed much longer, and government officials consider success in meeting the food crisis to be essential to gaining the public's confidence.

To this end, a Ugandan team spent month's end negotiating in Kenya with exporters who are complaining about large debts run up in the past by Amin. The exporters want millions of dollars in back payment before resuming credit to Uganda. The Mitchell Cotts conglomerate alone wants \$14 million.

Uganda, however, has no foreign exchange whatsoever and is urgently seeking massive foreign aid to help deal with its problems. Ugandan Finance Minister Sam M.K. Sebagereka estimates that Uganda will need \$2 billion in emergency aid for the first year.

Assistance offers have been quick to appear, primarily from Western countries. The U.S., Britain, Canada, and Australia have all recognized the new government, as have a dozen other countries mostly African, and Britain's envoy has already reopened the Kampala embassy. The U.S. Congress is soon expected to lift the trade ban it had imposed on Amin's Uganda and to allocate emergency relief as well.

The U.S.S.R., a major source for Amin's arms purchases, has also finally criticized the Amin regime and indicated guarded pleasure at the new government's promises of a return to the rule of law.

In the meantime, mop-up operations continue in both the north and the east. Remnants of Amin's troops have reaked havoc as they retreated, killing hundreds and commandeering vehicles and other private property. One group tried to enter Kenya but was turned away because it refused to lay down its arms and turn in its vehicle. It then headed north where other similar fugitives are fleeing, into southern Sudan. According to Kenya's *Weekly Review*, however, Tanzanian troops have advanced well into northern Uganda, meeting little resistance, by the beginning of May.

Kenya, which has received a new influx of Ugandans in the past months, has agreed to repatriate all Ugandans found to have been Amin supporters. It has already extradited one top Amin aide, British-born Robert Astles. Former vice-president Mustapha Adrisi is also reportedly in detention in Uganda, having been found in a Kampala hospital when the government changed hands.

In Uganda itself, meanwhile, there are the beginnings of a return to order. Local elections have been held in Kampala and in some sections of the south. Farmers are beginning to bring crops to market again. Furniture and equipment looted from government offices in the euphoria of the fall of Amin are gradually being returned as the new regime urges public cooperation in making it possible for the administration to function.

If gasoline and food supplies also begin to flow in Uganda this week, the

new government's first major crisis will have been averted.

LIBERIA

Monrovia Quiets Down

[AN] A relative calm has returned to the Liberian capital of Monrovia after a spontaneous uprising three weeks ago deeply shook the government of President William Tolbert.

A demonstration on April 14 against the proposed increase in rice prices turned into a large scale riot when police opened fire on the protesters, and millions of dollars of damage was done to the downtown area before order was restored. Thirty persons were killed in the incident, and hundreds more were wounded.

President Tolbert, who said he regarded the uprising as an organized attempt to overthrow his government, moved swiftly to arrest key opposition leaders, and offered \$5,000 rewards for the capture of those who had gone into hiding. Togbah Nah Tipoteh and Dew Mason of the Movement for Justice in Africa (MOJA) and Prof. Amos Sawyer of SUSUUKU were detained and quickly released by the authorities. At least two other dissident figures, however, James Yarsiah of the All Peoples Freedom Alliance and Gabriel Baccus Matthews of the Progressive Alliance of Liberia (PAL), the group that organized the April 14 protest march, remain in jail after turning themselves in during the police manhunt.

While cracking down on the political opposition, President Tolbert moved to mollify public opinion, deciding against the proposed 60% increase in rice prices. The Liberian leader declared the government still intended to strive for self-sufficiency in rice production by 1980, but would find incentives or subsidies for rice farmers other than the proposed price hike.

To assess just how successful Tolbert has been in defusing the dissident movement political observers will be watching to see how many turn out for an anti-government rally scheduled for May 14 in downtown Monrovia. — in defiance of a government ban. The protest has reportedly been organized by market women and laborers in the capital city, and will likely be attended as well by university students, whose campus has been closed indefinitely by presidential order.

Fearful of further turmoil, Tolbert has assumed emergency powers for a period of one year, and he has kept on a contingent of troops from neighboring Guinea Conakry that arrived in the aftermath of

April 14 demonstrations.

"We intend to deal mercilessly," Tolbert has warned, "with these vicious and wicked people and all their diabolical designs and conspirators; but the lives and property of our people will be heroically protected, secured and preserved at all cost."

Among those who fear reprisals are some Liberian students in the United States who registered their anti-government protest at the embassy in Washington, D.C. Liberia's foreign minister, Cecil Dennis, and one other high official traveled to the U.S. to meet with Secretary of State Vance last week, and student sources alleged that the subject under discussion was the possible deportation of radical Liberian students. A State Department official, however, simply said the meeting "reviewed various aspects of bilateral relations."

South Africa Can Botha Afford Wiehan?

[AN] South Africa's edifice of discriminatory labor laws and practices may not be tumbling down, despite the recommendations made last week by the fourteen-man Wiehan Commission, according to observers in South Africa and the United States.

The commission's key recommendations, which have been accepted "in principle" by the government, include legalization of black labor unions, the opening of union apprenticeship programs to all races, and the relaxation of restrictions which have reserved some jobs for whites only.

However, white job reservation will be preserved in the vital mining sector "because of the reluctance of the trade unions concerned," the commission said, "summary removal" of certain restrictions could cause "unrest."

The continued existence of the all-white unions was also proposed. And the 1.5 million migrant workers from neighboring African countries appear to be excluded from full union rights.

According to labor law specialist, William B. Gould from Stanford University, even what appear to be far-reaching changes could have a limited affect: "The government persistently and systematically...discourages employers from dealing with black unions, and that could continue to take place despite the report. I think we will have to watch [the government] very carefully."

Despite their shortcomings, however, the recommendations are being viewed by blacks in South

Africa as an improvement

Zwelakhe Sisulu, deputy editor of South Africa's *Transvaal Post* newspaper told AFRICA NEWS "what the report does recommend is the phasing away of job discrimination."

"You'll notice that it's not in fact completely doing away with it," he said, "but phasing it away piecemeal."

It's not certain, however, that the commission's recommendations will become law. White labor unions are already gearing up to fight against the proposed changes. And last week Wessel Borman, a union leader in the iron and steel industry was quoted saying: "If this is accepted by the government, one wonders how long it will take before other legislation near and dear to the hearts of the whites will disappear."

Three months ago white mine workers engaged in wildcat strikes to oppose advancement of black mineworkers.

South Africa's ruling National Party can ill afford a major battle with a constituency as key as the white unions, which have been longtime backers of the party, especially since it is already being shaken by scandal and disruptive internal political rivalry.

Noting that the National Party is under "tremendous pressure," Sisulu went on to explain: "If these [recommendations] are implemented then the Nationalist party will have to sacrifice quite a large portion of its electorate, and one wonders if it can in fact afford to do that at this stage."

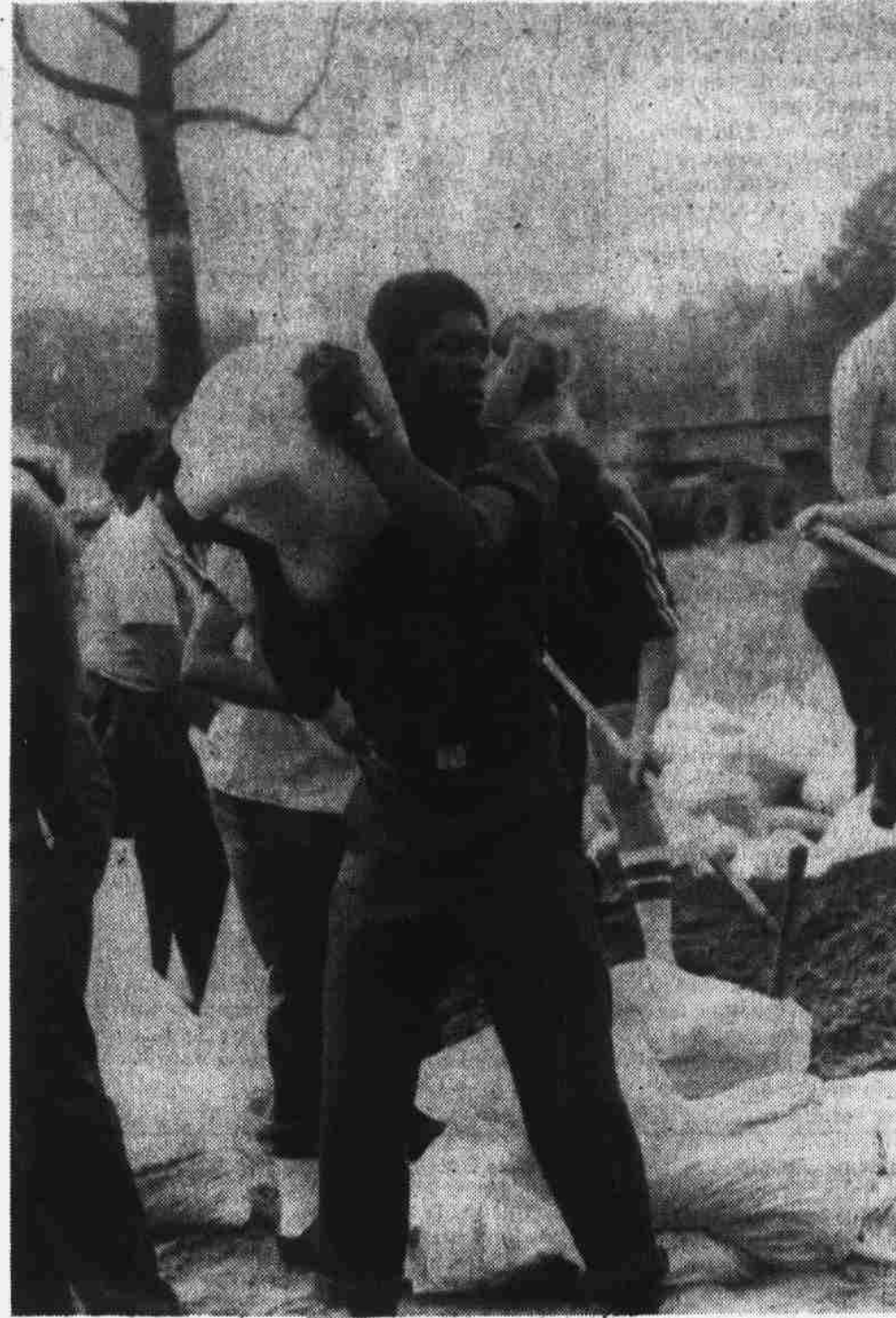
Probably not, most analysts think few observers believe that Prime Minister Botha is prepared to risk a significant part of his constituency to increase the power of blacks.

Even at the U.S. State Department, which is anxiously looking for some concrete signs of change in South Africa to point to, the response has been cautious. Sources there acknowledge that legislative implementation is a long way off.

One State Department official described Botha as being in the process of "tactical adjustment." He, like other political analysts and observers, thinks South Africa is attempting to buy time by giving the appearance of major reform when in fact Pretoria is only prepared to make minor changes.



Good sources of vitamin E include wheat germ oil, green leafy vegetables, legumes, nuts, eggs and meat.



Sandbagging Operation

Corpsmembers and staff of the Mississippi Job Corps Center assist with the sandbagging operating in the Flooded community near Jackson in an attempt to contain floodwaters for the swollen Pearl River.

Wilson Student Gets Scholarship

Miss Clarissa Lewis of 1811 Farrior Avenue, Wilson, has been awarded a Chancellor's Scholarship by North Carolina Central University.

Miss Lewis will begin her freshman year at NCCU in August, 1979. The scholarship, valued at \$500 for the academic year 1979-80, is awarded on the basis of academic merit and is renewable for a period of four years of study.

The award was announced by Mrs. Maria B. Creed, director of admissions at NCCU.

Your Personal MONEY Management

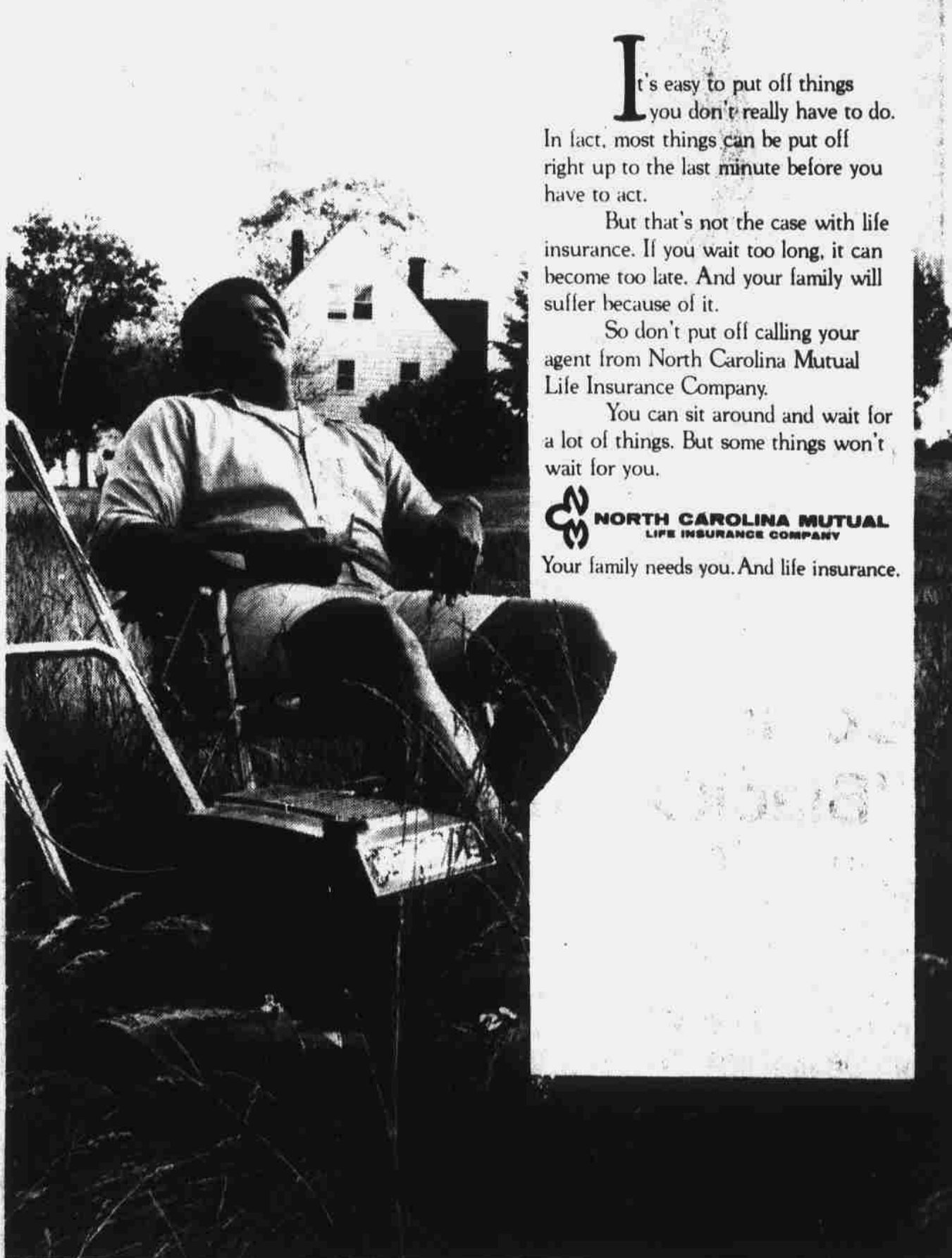
If you'd like to acquire credit but have some questions about the requirements, The Consumer Credit Institute, a counseling service of 800 consumer finance companies nationwide, has some answers.

By and large, lenders look at your record of repayment of other loans and other signs of responsibility and trustworthiness: your financial ability judged on the basis of your job stability and your current assets.

It's a good idea for people applying for credit to have some sort of identification: social security card, driver's license; a permanent address; a stable employment record and no obvious plans for leaving town.

If you have any questions about whether you'll be able to get credit, consulting a consumer finance company can be a credit to your intelligence.

A lot of things can wait until they're needed. Life insurance isn't one of them.



It's easy to put off things you don't really have to do. In fact, most things can be put off right up to the last minute before you have to act.

But that's not the case with life insurance. If you wait too long, it can become too late. And your family will suffer because of it.

So don't put off calling your agent from North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company.

You can sit around and wait for a lot of things. But some things won't wait for you.

NORTH CAROLINA MUTUAL
LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY
Your family needs you. And life insurance.

Lauch Henry helped find the missing ingredient to educate minority engineers. Money.

Lauchland Henry is a teacher. And a scientist. And an engineer. He's genuinely concerned about other people. And he has expressed some of that concern in his participation with the National Fund for Minority Engineering Students.

The fund is a non-profit organization attempting to increase the number of Blacks, Puerto Ricans, Chicanos, Mexican-Americans and American Indians enrolled in engineering schools. These under-represented minorities constitute a rich untapped resource to help fill the growing need for engineers, a need that is expected to continue through the mid-1980's.

IBM's social leave program enabled Dr. Henry to take a year's leave to assist the fund. And IBM continued to pay him his full salary.

The National Fund for Minority Engineering Students is a very worthwhile program. We think so. Lauchland Henry thinks so. But most important of all, lots of minority engineering students enrolled at colleges and universities all over the country think so. **IBM.**



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