

AFRICA NEWS

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UGANDA

Death Still Stalks
[AN] Murders, robberies, and other instances of indiscriminate violence continue to plague Uganda, with shootings by armed uniformed persons reported daily in major towns such as Kampala and Jinja.

During the last weekend in August, in Kampala alone, unidentified persons killed twelve and injured thirty. The dead include two doctors from the city health department who stepped outside one of their homes to investigate a nearby burst of gunfire.

Ugandan President Godfrey Binaisa and the Uganda National Consultative Council have taken various steps to curb the violence. A month ago, soldiers were recalled to their barracks, and street patrols and the manning of roadblocks were handed over to the police. The government has called for the turning in of unauthorized weapons and has helped local citizens organize vigilante groups.

By mid-August, authorities began issuing identity cards and impounding cars without license plates and registration.

The problem seems never-ending, however, and the government's control of its own police and soldiers seems tenuous at best. This is illustrated by a recent consultative council directive that from now on soldiers and police should be forbidden to fire at random.

Although much of the trouble stems from the state of near chaos following the ouster of Amin, there is widespread speculation that the violence is organized rather than just political haymaking by a criminal element.

Admittedly, soon after the fall of Kampala, 4,000 prisoners were released, including persons convicted of theft and murder. And both weapons and uniforms, left in caches around the country by Amin's forces, have become common property, making it easy to impersonate authorized military or police personnel.

Proponents of the theory that at least some of the violence is politically motivated, however, point to an incident on August 28. On that evening two fuel trucks were found parked in the midst of the Nile Mansion hotel complex where a number of governmental officials live. According to the official sources, a plot to blow them up with anti-tank rockets was uncovered just in time.

Some observers raise the possibility that the current reign of violence is being exploited, if not planned, by political opponents of President Binaisa. Sources variously suggest that followers of Idi Amin, of Yusufu Lule, or of Milton Obote—all former Ugandan presidents—may be implicated.

Obote, the elected president ousted by Amin in 1971, supports current political developments in Uganda, however, and has said nothing against President Binaisa. He is believed by reliable sources to feel that the time is not right for his return from exile in Tanzania to live in Uganda, much less for his return to Ugandan politics.

The possibility of a new power bid by Amin is taken more seriously. President Binaisa has charged in recent weeks that Amin has recruited a 30,000-strong military force, now grouping in Zaire and southern Sudan in preparation for an assault on Uganda. Sudan denies it harbors any such Amin units on its border.

Inside Uganda, a major part of the security efforts have been directed toward flushing out former members of the notorious

ANGOLA

MPLA Reorganization Campaign Continues
[AN] In late July, Angola's president Agostinho Neto dissolved the Department for Information and Security (DISA) and created a new Ministry of Interior,

charging that the DISA had "shown hesitancy with respect to our policy of clemency." "We receive letters every week from people wanting explanations about their relatives in prison," Neto said, implying that many had been arrested unjustly.

The Angolan president referred to problems of abuse and bureaucratic authority, and to the need to build a greater sense of national unity. Applying a just policy, he stressed "is not a sign of sentimentalism but of conscious political science."

Appointed to head the new Ministry of Interior, which will assume DISA's functions was Kundi Palhama, former provincial commissioner of Cunene, on the border with Namibia.

The appointment of Palhama, a southerner, was, in part, a gesture towards national unity—the ruling MPA's traditional base of greatest sup-

port has been in the hinterland of the capital, Luanda, in the northern half of the country. But it was also an affirmation of the success of Palhama and the rest of the provincial leadership in Cunene in establishing mass organizations, cooperatives and literacy programs, under difficult conditions. Southern Angola has suffered recurrent attacks from Southern African troops and guerrillas of the opposition movement UNITA.

Palhama, a member of the MPLA since 1970, became provincial commissioner after independence in 1975, and he was chosen to the central committee of the MPLA in 1977. In an earlier reshuffle in December 1978, President Neto stressed that the government must be more effective in serving the needs of the people, and the example of mass mobilization in Cunene province was evidently

one of the models he had in mind. The July action apparently not a new shift of direction, but rather a continuation of the tightening-up of government structures begun in 1978, an effort to eliminate abuses and to make possible a more effective response to economic and social needs. The government changes have also been accompanied by a continuing "rectification" campaign within the ruling party, begun after the December 1977 MPLA congress. The focus of that campaign is to ensure that the party represents primarily Angolas' workers and rural peasants rather than the country's educated minority—intellectuals, bureaucrats and small businessmen. One illustration was the April dismissal of Benguela Provincial Commissioner Garcia Lourenco Conreiras, amid charges that the party organization in the city had elitist ideas and was trying to keep workers from positions of influence.

The repeated changes do seem to have resulted in a higher level of organization, which is beginning to deliver increased services. But efforts are still hampered by

severe shortages of trained personnel and managers in all sectors. Between 1973 and 1979, for example, school enrollment has increased by a factor of four, to more than 1 1/2 million, leaving the supply of teachers and school material far behind. And in the economy, according to an MPLA Politburo statement in June, there is still "low production and low productivity in almost every sector." Price control imposed in May provided some relief to the urban consumer, as did reductions in salary

differentials instituted during the year, but no one claimed that economic recovery had advanced much beyond initial stages. Angolas' political stability is also still threatened by attacks

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ANSBACH, GERMANY LTC Norborne S. Bowles assumed the command of the 141st Signal Battalion, recently in a military ceremony with the review/ LTC Bowles assumed the command from LTC Harvey J. Reynolds. The solemn change of the Battalion colors was musically framed by the Old Ironside Band from Ansbach. A delegation of Signal Battalion 4 of the Bundeswehr from Regensburg, having a partnership with the unit for five years, also participated in the ceremony. The departing commander will remain in Ansbach and will assume the position of the executive officer in the U.S. military community. LTC Bowles is the husband of Mrs. Ann Conrad Bowles of 2815 Dark Circle and is the father of Catrina Denise Motte and Angela Jones.

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