

Habre's Armed Forces Meet Little

Resistance In Final Assault On N'Djamena

[AN] The capture of N'Djamena by Hissain Habre's Armed Forces of the North (FAN) on June 7 proved surprisingly anti-climactic, as the former defense minister's troops encountered almost no organized resistance in their final assault on the capital after an 18-month guerrilla campaign.

Within hours of FAN's dawn attack, the city's markets were conducting business as usual, and many of those who had fled in anticipation of a major battle have already returned. The only difference between N'Djamena before and after Habre's victory, noted one correspondent on the scene, is that "now the rag-tag soldiers patrolling the streets wear red cloth on the arm instead of blue—a symbol of loyalty to Habre rather than the

ousted President Goukouni Oueddei.

Oueddei's Transitional Government of National Unity (GUNT) never did show itself able to administer the sprawling nation, wracked by war and recurrent poverty. Forged at a peace conference in August 1979, GUNT encompasses eleven Chadian political and military factions representing various regional, ethnic and political tendencies, and the differences among them were simply never overcome.

Following Habre's rebellion in March 1980, a number of the factions had been more or less united in their mistrust of the defense minister, whom they considered personally ambitious and opportunistic, but even this link weakened in recent months.

In view of some observers, it was perhaps

the Organization of African Unity meeting in February that sounded the death knell for GUNT when it decided that the OAU peace-keeping force in Chad should not side with the government militarily against the FAN rebels. That same OAU meeting also stipulated that Goukouni should engage in peace talks with Habre and reach an accommodation by the end of June.

In fact, the OAU troops never did serve as an effective buffer force between the opposing armies. And Habre's FAN conducted a well-orchestrated campaign that took town after town, leaving Goukouni angered and embarrassed.

Goukouni and his allies in GUNT had fought Habre to a stalemate in 1980 before the Libyans intervened

and routed FAN. But this time Goukouni lacked the support of two major factions in his would-be government: Neither the Chadian Armed Forces under Abdel Kamougue nor the Libyan-backed militia under Aycl Ahmed contested Habre's final advance on N'Djamena. Ever since the OAU peace plan, both men have been more open to negotiations with Habre than has Goukouni.

Goukouni's troops made their last real stand against FAN in a June 5 battle at Massaguet, some 50 miles outside the capital.

Currently, Goukouni, along with much of his army, is in Cameroon. The GUNT leader held talks with Libyan officials in Tripoli just prior to his defeat, and there is now speculation that he might attempt to regroup his forces to conduct a guerrilla campaign against Habre. No hard evidence, however, supports the theory of renewed Libyan backing for Goukouni, particularly with the OAU summit in Tripoli fast approaching.

FAN leader Habre, meanwhile, has called on the OAU to maintain its forces in Chad, saying the troops still have a role to play. In an interview with the French News Agency, Habre said that it would be unrealistic to conclude that the civil war in Chad was over, since there are "still armed elements here and there raiding

the countryside, oppressing and punishing the peasants."

The FAN leader has promised to open negotiations for a national reconciliation government soon, but he has not yet set a date. In the meantime, Habre says, the FAN command council is the supreme authority in Chad.

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City Council Moves To "Bleed" Local Agencies to Death

By Donald Alderman

Wandering about the second floor corridors of City Hall, a youngster who appeared to be about seven years old told Assistant City Manager Cecil Brown that he wanted to see the mayor. Since the mayor was out, Brown offered to help the youngster. According to Brown, the youngster told a grim story about child abuse and asked for help.

Brown turned the boy over to the Youth Division of Durham's Public Safety Department. His case was later picked up by Durham's Child Advocacy Commission where the neglected, abused boy later got the attention and care he needed. The Commission is one of thirteen independent agencies that operate partially on taxpayers money from the City Council. But recently, the council's Finance Committee began the process designed to wean these agencies off the tax coffers.

A motion failed that was aimed at phasing out city funding for these agencies over a four year period. But still the council wants to gradually cut these agencies from the city budget.

Whether agencies such as the Child Advocacy Commission will have the funds in the near future to handle cases like the one Brown described is not altogether clear.

Some agencies are making efforts to secure private funding while others say their existence hinges on city support. Still others say that they hope the county or some other government agency will take up the slack.

City support of independent agencies dates back to 1958, according to Brown. Between that year and 1981, the city spent \$1,704,630 for independent agencies.

According to Mac Sudduth, director of the North Carolina Museum of Life and Science, the museum was the first independent agency to be funded by the city.

From 1946 until 1958, the museum was under the city's recreation department. Then the city got enabling legislation from the General Assembly to provide money for any independent agency.

Sudduth said the museum requested \$3,000 more than the \$85,000 the city's Finance Committee has recommended. Asked if a gradual phase-off from city funds would seriously hamper the museum operations, Sudduth said, "we'd probably have to close down and ask the city to

pay the whole bill instead of part of it."

The museum's budget for the coming fiscal year beginning July 1 is projected to be \$500,000. That money will come from the state, the city and county governments as well as donations, grants, fees and tuitions for classes taught at the museum.

Sudduth said he was shocked to hear of talk of phasing out agencies such as the museum. "It sounds like a backtrack to me," he said. "Who wants to move here when the city can't afford a museum?"

Ms. Ann Johnson, director of the Coordinating Council for Senior Citizens, said, "unless the county picks it up, we'd be in serious trouble". The council's budget is made up in part from city and county funds of about \$12,000 each, and another \$12,000 coming from a Community Development allotment. But the council, Ms. Johnson said, must have those funds to get a federal grant of \$300,000. The local funds are called matching funds. They are about eleven per cent of the federal grant.

Bill Baucom of the Chamber of Commerce said that the proposed \$15,000 for the Chamber is an investment for the whole of Durham. The funds, he said, are used to recruit businesses for the city. He said the Chamber would keep on operating at 100 per cent, even if the council began phasing off agencies.

Ms. Maryellen Rankin of the Child Advocacy Commission said private funding is being sought just in case the city decides to cut independent agencies. The Commission's proposed city funding is about \$12,000. The United Way and the county account for the remainder of the budget.

Some of the agencies, Brown said, deliver direct services while the services of other agencies are indirect. But both groups offer services from which many citizens benefit. Funds for the agencies, proposed to be about \$219,000 for next fiscal year, come from the general fund which is made up mostly of property taxes.

Other agencies and proposed funding are: American Dance Festival, \$30,000; Clean Community System, \$11,750; Durham Arts Council, \$30,000; Durham Day Care Council, \$3,000; Durham Striders, \$3,000; NCCU Intern Program, \$5,000; N.C. National Guard, \$3,000; Salvation Army, \$600; YWCA Coalition for Battered Women, \$8,000.

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43 Years
(Continued from Front)

Now, 43 years after starting his ministry, Bishop Saunders and Mrs. Saunders are still preaching together. This week, their members, about 300 of them, several other Pentecostal ministers throughout the city, and others are helping the couple celebrate their anniversary.

How have they managed more than four decades of preaching together, through ups and downs?

"Through all our trials and tribulations," she said, "We've had faith and the Lord has preserved us just as sugar is preserved and keeps."

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