

AFRICA NEWS

A Weekly Digest of African Affairs

ZIMBABWE New Basis For Anglo-American Diplomacy

WASHINGTON, D.C. [AN] Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Richard Moose left for London last week for "consultations" with British officials on Rhodesia.

The London meetings are expected to produce the outlines for future British-American efforts to secure a Rhodesian settlement. Britain's new Conservative administration has already told the State Department that it doesn't intend to pursue Anglo-American plans drawn up under the former Labor government. This stance by Britain, more than purported change in Rhodesia, led to recent statements by the Carter administration suggesting a "new reality."

"Britain doesn't want to go back to square one," according to one State Department official deeply involved with Rhodesian diplomacy.

"Square one" means the basic assumptions of the now-abandoned Anglo-American proposals; that because Rhodesia's government is illegal it cannot unilaterally establish a viable settlement, and that an effective settlement must have Rhodesia's conflicting parties agreed on drafting a constitution, a transition process and United Nations-supervised elections.

The "new reality" accepts the Smith constitution as the basis for negotiating a settlement and focuses British-American diplomacy on improvement and refinement of that constitution.

One State Department source, reflecting acceptance of the British policy, acknowledged when asked about the Anglo-American proposals, that "the United States does not think it possible to start from scratch."

The London meetings this week will explore (1) the ways and means of "improving the substance of Rhodesia's constitution, and (2) the ways and means of selling this approach to a Rhodesian settlement to Africa's frontline state, the Patriotic Front and to Bishop Abel Muzorewa. The report and recommendations of a term of British government officials traveling in Africa will form the basis of the discussion.

Moose and British officials will seek to resolve differences on how best to pursue this emphasis on "improving" the constitution. American officials want to stress persuading the front-line states and the Patriotic Front to accept "significant" reform of the constitution. British officials believe persuading Bishop Muzorewa to take the initiative and offer a reformulation of the constitution is crucial.

Underlying this divergence is a disagreement between U.S. and British officials over real and potential power in Rhodesia. U.S. policy makers believe that no settlement in Rhodesia will work without backing from the guerrillas, and that a guerrilla government will be friendly to the West if it is aided in securing independence by the West. British officials believe that if Muzorewa

makes "significant" constitutional reforms he will be able to secure and consolidate popular support, thereby undermining the guerrillas' strength and giving a "moderate" government a reasonable chance for survival.

Both Britain and the United States are agreed that a government friendly to the West and cautious toward backing armed struggle against South Africa is vital.

—Charles Cobb

Meanwhile, in Rhodesia, Prime Minister Bishop Abel Muzorewa is already having difficulties showing he is in charge. Muzorewa attempted to replace Cabinet Secretary Jack Gaylard with his own nominee, a Rhodesian of Indian origin, but the candidate was disallowed by the white-controlled civil service commission, and the post was taken by Solicitor General George Smith, a white who had played a leading role in writing the constitution.

On the parliamentary front, Muzorewa's party was reduced from 51 to 43 seats in the 100-member House of Assembly when party vice-chairman James Chikerema and seven other MPs announced the formation of a new Zimbabwe Democratic Party. The new development increases the Bishop's dependence on his alliance with Ian Smith's Rhodesian Front, which holds the 28 seats reserved for whites.

FRANCE/AFRICA An Embarrassment For Giscard

[AN] The reported murder of more than a

hundred Central African school children by Emperor Bokassa's troops in April has caused an international furor that is putting the French government in a particularly awkward situation. Neither a cut-off of French military aid to Bokassa nor the promise of further action pending an official African inquest into the incident has muffled the clamor of the French press and influential African publications.

An investigation by the Paris daily *Le Monde*, in fact, has brought new charges implicating the Emperor himself in the bizarre killings. On the night of April 19, says the paper's special correspondent Jean de la Guerièrre, Bokassa went to the prison of Ngaraga and personally shot a number of the sixty-odd jailed students with a revolver. The Emperor subsequently visited the Kassai army camp where some soldiers were using automatic weapons to execute detainees, according to *Le Monde* account.

Amnesty International originally published the charges that over 100 school children between the ages of eight and sixteen were killed in Bangui as a reprisal for their anti-government protests, such as stoning official cars.

The *Le Monde* disclosures, supported by the testimony of teachers, hospital personnel, relatives of the deceased students and children who escaped, blows up the theory of "police excesses" forwarded by Senegalese President Leopold Senghor at the Franco-African summit last month in Kigali,

Rwanda. It also puts in an embarrassing light French Cooperation Minister Robert Galley's reference to the alleged violence as "pseudo events" and makes more delicate the task of the five-nation inquest set up in Kigali.

Recent reports from the Central African capital of Bangui cite evidence of widespread hostility to the imperial government and the existence of an ongoing resistance movement among students, who call for a "return to the republic." *Le Monde's* de la Guerièrre says sources told him that during the January student uprising some youth avenged the deaths of their colleagues by shooting poisoned arrows at members of the Imperial Guard; hospital workers confirmed that roughly 100 of the soldiers were killed in this fashion. And the April crackdown by government forces was apparently triggered by an incident in which youths attacked two policemen and stole their weapons.

Most of the violence — both the January demonstrations and the April round-up of youths by the government troops — took place in Bangui's northern suburbs, which are populated by ethnic groups known to harbor deep resentment against Bokassa's Mbaka people.

The French press, in its effort to unearth and publish further details of the case, has adopted an openly critical attitude toward President D'Estaing. *Le Monde* titled its series "Paris-Bangui: A Reprehensible Cooperation," and charged that the cessation of military aid was a "sham measure."

The weekly *Jeune Afrique* devoted seven pages to the story, headlined "No Charge Without France," and argued that the aid suspension — if it had any effect — would simply strengthen the position of Bokassa and his well-equipped Imperial Guard against a possible military coup.

Finally, *Le Nouvel Observateur* indicted D'Estaing for a blatantly "cynical" policy, with cutting references to the D'Estaing family's hunting lodge in the Empire and similar personal connections. The paper suggested, moreover, that human rights appear to be a secondary consideration for French policy when Central Africa's uranium and strategic location are at stake.

UGANDA

Lule Out, Binaisa In [AN] Yusufu Lule was voted out of the presidency of Uganda last week by the National Consultative Council (NCC). But after demonstrations in his favor in which troops killed two and wounded more than fifty, Lule backtracked, claiming that he had been forced to read the letter of resignation, and should still be considered presidency.

Although Lule was still in the state house at Entebbe, the NCC swore in a new president, Godfrey Binaisa. Binaisa, like Lule a Muganda, was attorney general in the early years of Milton Obote's presidency. He was removed by Obote after a disagreement over the promulgation of the 1967 constitution, which gave very wide powers to the president. This piece of history may have contributed to Binaisa's selection now, when there is once again struggle over limiting the powers of the presidency.

Lule has used the pre-Amin 1967 constitution as his authority for making day-to-day decisions and appointments, and frequently has not consulted with the NCC. The Amin government abolished the 1967 constitution and the NCC feels that until a new constitution is approved governmental authority rests with the Consultative Council. They say its authority comes from the meeting in Moshi, Tanzania, earlier this year that laid the ground rules for the current government.

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ST. AUG. STUDENTS LEAVE FOR INTERNSHIP PROGRAM
These Saint Augustine's College students left in May for Hartford, Connecticut to participate in a twelve week internship with the Aetna Life Insurance Company. Dr. Wiley M. Davis, vice president for administration at the college is congratulating Roderick Bryant of Washington, D.C., who will serve as cooperative auditor. Bryant is president elect of the Saint Augustine's College Student Government Association; Miss Joyce E. Stephenson of Murfreesboro, will be in treasury services. She has been elected to reign as "Miss Saint Augustine's College for 1979-80" Mrs. Millie D. Veasey, director, Career Planning and Placement/Cooperative Education, Not pictured: Miss Gayla Williams of Atlanta, Ga., who will also be interning in treasury services. The students are accounting majors, and they will be paid during this 12-week internship period.

The crisis came when Yusufu Lule shuffled his cabinet for the second time in 12 days on June 19. The Council dissociated itself from the action and removed Lule.

A spokesperson for the NCC explained that Lule was too authoritarian and that the change was prompted by a desire for "a democratic government with freedom of the people." He was emphatic

that the change was neither a prelude to bringing back former president Obote nor to setting up a socialist government.

In Tanzania, Obote claimed to have no contacts with or knowledge of the actions in Kampala and said he had no immediate intentions of returning to Uganda.

For its part, Tanzania, whose army still is the main military force in Uganda, says it considers

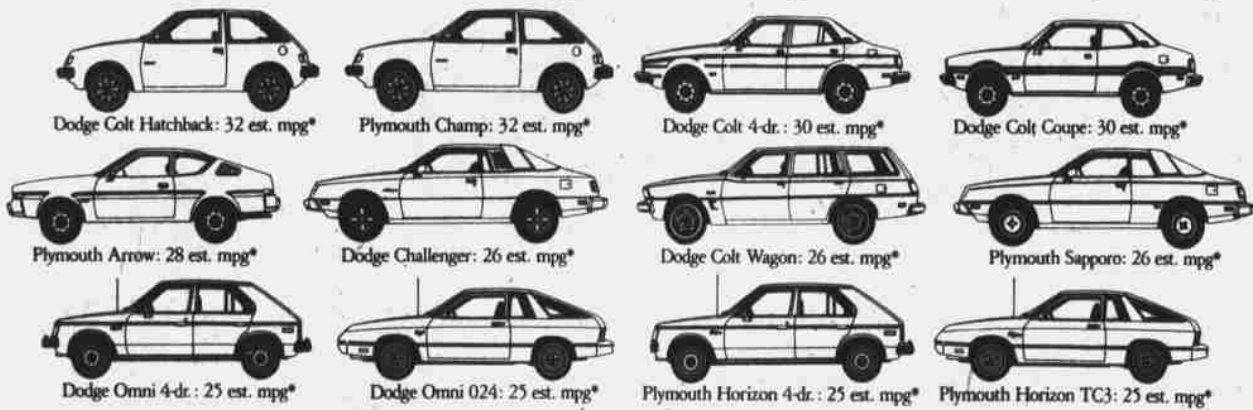
the shift to have been carried out legally. High officials say Tanzanian troops are at the request of the Ugandan government will work with the legal head of state. However, they have been instructed to avoid getting in the middle of a faction fight or shooting against Ugandan civilians. They have also been ordered to protect the persons of both Lule and Binaisa.



WOOLWORTH PRESENTS PLAQUE
Aubrey Lewis (right), vice president of F.W. Woolworth, presents a plaque to N.C. A&T State University professor and former basketball coach Cal Irvin while Mrs. Irvin looks on. The plaque featured a sealed first-day cover of the Martin Luther King, Jr. postage stamp issued earlier this year by the United States Postal Service. The first day cover was designed by the F.W. Woolworth Company as a memento of the 50th anniversary of Dr. King's birth and a salute to Dr. King as "Impresario of freedom" and "crusader for brotherhood."

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