

President Binisa Fired From Post; UNLF To Rule Until Elections

UGANDA The Military Steps In

Months of simmering conflict between President Godfrey Binisa and various factions within the Uganda National Liberation Front (UNLF) were resolved dramatically last week when the UNLF Military Commission fired Binisa from his post and declared that it would rule in his stead until elections could be held later this year. Based on telephone reports from correspondents in Kampala and Dar es Salaam, Africa News was able to compile this summary of the recent events in Uganda and the background to those events.

[AN] The final confrontation for President Binisa began during the week of May 5 when the Military Commission of the UNLF detained for questioning, without police approval, Roland Kakooza, editor of the conservative Ugandan periodical *The Economy* and James Namakajo, an aide to President Binisa. The military commission believed that the two men were suppressing evidence of arms shipments to President Binisa as well as information connecting him to corruption in Kampala.

President Binisa held that the detentions were illegal and sought to have the two men released. On Saturday morning, May 10, after the military had refused to release Kakooza and Namakajo, President Binisa announced that Brigadier David Oyite Ojok, Ugandan army chief of staff, would be relieved of his post and reassigned as ambassador to Algeria. In addition, the president announced that Col. Samuel Nanyuma, a southerner unpopular for his support of Idi Amin until 1977, would replace the northerner Ojok as army chief of staff.

Just hours later, on Saturday afternoon, the military commission announced on Uganda radio that President Binisa's removal of Brig. Ojok was illegal and that it would not be accepted.

The following day, the military commission chairman, Paulo Muwanga, who also serves as minister of labor, announced that President Binisa and his Cabinet had been relieved of their posts. Muwanga added that a Presidential Commission would be appointed to take charge of the nation in cooperation with the UNLF military command until elections could be held.

The commission accused President Binisa of seeking to destroy the Ugandan army, of setting tribe against tribe and of failing to give direction to the government and to the economy.

President Binisa remained at State House in Entebbe, guarded by Tanzanian soldiers, but he issued no more official communiques.

While these events were taking place in Kampala, Edward Rugamayo, the chairman of the National Consultative Council (NCC), Uganda's interim legislative body, flew to Arusha, Tanzania, to consult with President Julius Nyerere. Nyerere met for several days with Rugamayo and sought to get him to return to Kampala to convene a meeting of the NCC to rule on the actions of the military commission. Nyerere said that Tanzania would support whatever position the NCC took on the matter.

The military commission itself, perhaps recognizing the importance of Tanzanian support, called for a meeting of the NCC on Monday. However, Rugamayo held that the actions of the military commission dissolved the Consultative Council itself and therefore no such meeting was possible.

Less than one year after the overthrow of Idi Amin, because no persons or parties inside or outside Uganda seem prepared to present a serious challenge

to the military commission, the Ugandan military appears once more to be in complete control. What remains unclear, however, are the precise balance of power within the commission and the direction which it is likely to set for Uganda in the months ahead.

The military commission was created at the unity conference in Moshi, Tanzania, last year which preceded the fall of Idi Amin. Though it actually commands no troops, it is composed principally of military commanders. Paulo Muwanga, a veteran politician and supporter of former President Milton Obote, was elected chairman of the body at the Moshi conference.

The commission was relatively inactive for many months but escalating differences with President Binisa led to its reactivation in an attempt to exercise more power over the president. The military commission is composed of persons from many different political factions in Uganda, but in these early days of its assumption of power appears to have a strong orientation to Obote's Uganda Peoples Congress (UPC) party.

On one key issue the commission already came down on Obote's side last week, deciding that all political parties will be allowed to contest the coming elections. The multi-party election had been strongly opposed by President Binisa and the National Consultative Council but is strongly favored by UPC elements supporting former President Obote, as well as by other political parties such as the Democratic Party.

Another key figure in the military commission (which has been expanded to include battalion commanders) is the man at the center of the present controversy, Brigadier Ojok. Ojok is a career soldier from northern Uganda and a longtime friend and supporter of Dr. Obote. It had long been rumored that Ojok was the commander of one of the larger private armies in Uganda and that he had been preparing his troops to march on Kampala. Still unclear are whether the actions of the military commission were a spontaneous response to Brigadier Ojok's dismissal or whether the dismissal simply provided an opportunity for the implementation of a preconceived takeover plan.

It is reported that the situation in Kampala is relatively quiet following the takeover by the military commission and security problems appear somewhat lessened. Public reaction in the capital seems to be quite mixed. Some Ugandans are opposed to the move because of a general feeling against any form of military control. Others, particularly some among the Baganda people, harbor an extreme dislike for Paulo Muwanga and are opposed to this apparent increase in his power. Still others viewed President Binisa as corrupt and welcomed the military takeover.

Since its takeover of power, the military has taken several steps to consolidate its authority. First, it has announced that within a few days, it will make public the names of the members of the presidential commission that is to govern the country until elections can be held. Second, although David Rugamayo, chairman of the National Consultative Council, remains in Arusha, the military commission has announced that the council will hold an emergency meeting on Thursday, May 22, to consider the actions of the military.

Many uncertainties still cloud Uganda's future. Key among these are questions about how the military will fare in building a harmonious relationship with the presidential commission, obtaining Tanzanian support for its actions,

Happiness Through Health

BY OTTO McCLARRIN

STERILIZATION METHOD THAT REQUIRES NO SURGERY BEING TESTED

A new method of female sterilization that requires no surgery, no hospitalization and no general anesthesia is being tested with success at the Lankenau Hospital in the Philadelphia area. The method will soon be tested on women at eight other hospitals.

The procedure involves injecting liquid silicone into the Fallopian tubes, which carry the ova from the ovaries to the uterus to be fertilized. Several minutes after injection, the silicone hardens into a rubbery consistency and blocks the movement of an ovum.

Currently, a woman undergoing sterilization generally has a choice of two methods. Both require a hospital stay of one or two nights, a general or regional anesthetic and surgery that results in the destruction of the tubes. The procedures are the Pomeroy method, in which the mid-section of the Fallopian tube is tied off, and both ends are tied off, or a laparoscopy, in which the Fallopian tubes are cauterized—burned closed.

In the new procedure, a tube-like instrument is inserted into the uterus and then into the Fallopian tubes, and the silicone is pumped through the device. Traditional methods can cost between \$350 and \$1200. The cost of the new procedure would be \$350 to \$500.

Dr. Robert A. Erb, a scientist at the Franklin Institute Research Center in Philadelphia, who developed the technique, hopes the

new method will be free from the systemic side-effects of the (birth control) pill and the local side-effects of the IUD (intra-uterine device). Hospitals in Washington, Baltimore, Wilmington, Reading, Pa., Allentown, Pa., Brooklyn and Hartford, Conn., are each expected to test the procedure on about 100 women each during the next year. The Federal Drug Administration (FDA) requires tests on a minimum of 1,000 women before a drug or procedure can be used widely.

BLINDING DISEASE SPREADS WIDELY IN AFRICA

A viral disease called Rift Valley Fever that devastates livestock and can cause blindness in human beings has now spread the length of Africa, and world health officials are concerned that the disease may invade other areas of the world.

Rift Valley Fever is not now known to be in the United States. However, Col. Gerald A. Eddy, the chief virologist at the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute in Frederick, Md., says "The world is relatively unprepared for this potentially devastating disease." Some experts are concerned that insufficient steps have been taken to control this disease which characteristically hits explosively and that could cause

NEWS OF HEALTH

Tips On Summer Eye Care

A vacation may not be just what the doctor ordered—for your eyes, unless you're careful.

Annoying and sometimes seriously sunburned eyes are just one of the hazards your eyes may face on a vacation. Other typical vacation-related problems are black eyes and eye socket fractures from baseball beatings or rackets, cuts and bruises from excursions into the woods, dry eyes from over-exposure to wind and stinging, burning eyes from chlorinated swimming pools.

Although the low-grade irritation from pools usually clears up within a short time, cool compresses or decongesting eye drops available over the counter will ease discomfort, says the American Association of Ophthalmology, an organization of physicians specializing in eye care.

Eye drops can also help eyes dried by long exposure to the wind, but they should be used sparingly and according to directions. Those who have spent hours on a beach in the bright sun may also experience temporary night blindness, so they should be cautious about driving home at night.

A far more serious problem is the eye sunburn common to skiers. Temporary blindness known as *actinic keratitis* can result from too-great exposure to the intense ultraviolet rays of the sun in clear air.

What can you do to protect your eyes while on vacation? Eye physicians suggest safety glasses for

billions of dollars of damage in developed countries and aggravate malnutrition problems in the Third World.

Rift Valley Fever is transmitted by at least 18 species of mosquitos, including several in the United States, as well, as by direct contact and through the air. It affects a wide variety of animals, including cattle, cats and dogs.

around the eyes, yet permit peripheral vision during those active summer days.

Odd-colored sunglasses may look good but can interfere with true color perception. Eye specialists say stick with natural gray, green or brown.



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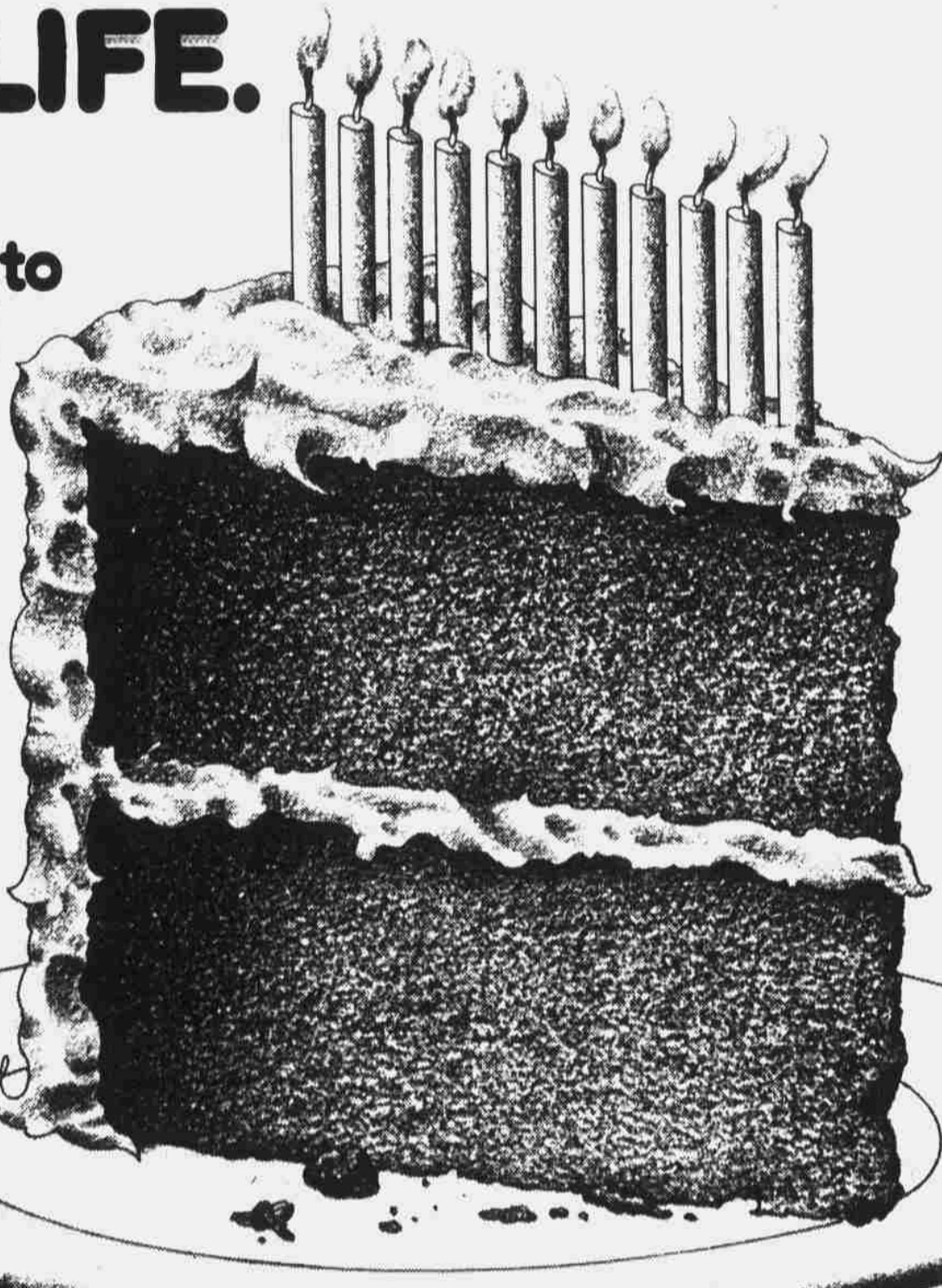
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Skipping meals could shorten your life, so eat regularly and wisely—three square meals a day to stay healthy.
- 3 Limit alcoholic beverages.**
If you drink, do it in moderation. Try to avoid drinks served on the rocks or straight up. Have some food in your stomach. And sip, don't gulp.
- 4 Limit your smoking.**
If you smoke, use moderation. Don't smoke your cigarette all the way down. Limit the number of cigarettes you smoke. Don't smoke till noon. You'll breathe a lot easier if you cut down a little or even stop.
- 5 Watch your weight.**
Each extra pound you put on brings you closer to diseases of the heart, arteries, internal organs, even diabetes. But diet wisely. Follow your doctor's advice.



- 6 Schedule enough sleep.**
Your body needs enough time to rest. Get 7-8 hours sleep if you're between 20 and 55. If you're over 55, you could get by on slightly less.
- 7 Get plenty of exercise.**
Long walks count as exercise. So does dancing, gardening, climbing stairs. Plan to get moderate

exercise of some sort two or three times a week.

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Africa News

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France and the U.S. maintain large offices to administer projects which spend millions of dollars in the financing of primarily agricultural work. China is involved in the tobacco and cotton industries, while the Soviet Union has educated several thousand Malians and is busy building two large airstrips at Mopti and Gao.

Mineral development is in its infancy and looks inviting, making Mali ripe for an influx of foreign capital to exploit various reserves. Japan has been prospecting near Gao since 1974 in the hopes of finding a continuation of the uranium ore now being mined in the Air mountain region of neighboring Niger. Though the quantity and richness of the uranium found is a guarded secret, sources report that there is continuing recruitment for jobs in the uranium mines. Large deposits of phosphate and iron ore are known to exist, and the search continues for other important resources, including oil and gas.

Before the mineral wealth of Mali can be tapped, the transport system to market them must be built. This will require more assistance and several years work. The African Development Fund has started construction on a 71 km. (44 miles) long road connecting the Mopti-Segou-Bamako triangle, the economic nerve of the country. The Bamako-Dakar railway will then provide a route of trade with the Atlantic.

A prerequisite for economic growth is a faith in the country's leaders' ability to properly develop and implement projects. For his part, Traore recently announced a three year recovery plan for the bankrupt state-owned enterprises, opening them up for the first time to foreign and private capital. An economic police force has also been established to combat food smuggling.