

more pro-active, and release more funds to what has been referred to as, probably, the worst humanitarian disaster in the history of the world. And we are hoping that the European Union step towards the Congo will be followed by the United States and the rest of the world, to help Congo get back to its feet.

EIR: And has there been any response to the request for pressure to get the invading countries to pull out?

Ambassador Mitifu: Obviously, everybody is supportive of the Lusaka Accord, and everybody feels that all must be done, within this framework. But, the Congolese people want these armies to leave now, today; because that, for them, is the only jump-start of economic recovery, and the only jump-start to put an end to the humanitarian disaster.

Uganda, Rwanda Armies Must Leave Congo Now

by Lawrence K. Freeman

Since the Jan. 16 death of President Laurent Kabila and the “official peace” in the Democratic Republic of Congo (D.R.C.), two reports have been published which provide a public glimpse into the dimension of devastating *physical destruction* of that nation as a result of the years-long succession of wars perpetrated by Uganda, Rwanda, and Burundi.

One report, issued by the International Rescue Committee (IRC) in May, details the fantastic increase of mortalities as a result of the “protracted and violent conflict” that raged in the occupied eastern section of the D.R.C., which is the area the invading armies have militarily occupied since August 1998.

The second, 56 pages long, is the result of an investigation commissioned by United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan in June 2000, and submitted to the Security Council on April 2, entitled, “Report of the Panel of Experts on the Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources and Other Forms of Wealth of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.”

Slaughter and Looting of Wealth

The investigative panel appointed by Kofi Annan cited, in particular, Uganda and Rwanda, and their proxy armies, the MLC (Congolese Liberation Movement), and the RDC (Rally for Congolese Democracy). Here are only a few of the incidents contained in the UN report.

- RCD soldiers collected “taxes” at gunpoint from the areas they occupied, and stole between \$1 and \$8 million in Congolese francs from Kinshasa Central Bank.

- RCD and MLC forces took over commerce and trade by force when necessary, and established unprecedented con-

trol of the economy in eastern and northeastern D.R.C.

- Uganda, which produces virtually no gold at all, became a gold exporter of 11.45 tons in 1999 and 10.83 tons in 2000, as a result of shipping stolen gold across the border.

- Uganda increased its export of diamonds from 1,511 carats in 1997 to 11,303 carats in 1998, and more than 11,000 carats in 2000, also as result of stealing from the D.R.C.

- Rwanda increased its exports in diamonds from 166 carats in 1998 to 30,491 carats in 2000 by the same looting methods.

The Executive Summary of the IRC report, which covers the period from February 1999 to April 2001, estimates that as a result of the war, 2.5 million people died in excess of normal mortalities. Officials from the D.R.C. estimate that for the entire war period, it is closer to 4.5 million excess deaths, of whom more than 4 million died of diseases untreated due to the absence of health care in the fighting zones, and more than 300,000 in the combat. Even now, as the humanitarian disaster has been recognized, because of the non-existence of basic infrastructure, relief cannot reach the suffering population. It is estimated that 70-80% of the population—35-40 million people—is *presently* considered “endangered” due to these conditions.

In eastern D.R.C., where the invasions began, five of the seven areas visited showed fewer births than deaths, and four of seven showed 8% or more of the population dying over the two-year period. Before the war these areas had a population growth of approximately 3%. It is estimated that nationally one in eight households has experienced a violent death, and 40% of those deaths are women and children.

In Moba and Kalemie, the estimate is that 75% of children born during the war have died, or will die before their second birthday.

For the D.R.C. to reconstruct itself as a nation, the rest of the world, especially the West, must: 1) provide not only immediate humanitarian aid, but teams of workers and engineers to build roads and other infrastructure necessary for the delivery of food and medicine to the beleaguered population; 2) order the invading armies from Rwanda and Uganda out of the D.R.C. without any delay.

Hearings Confirm EIR Congo Warning of 1997

by Suzanne Rose

The truth about the catastrophic genocide occurring in the Congo and Great Lakes region of Africa, and the British and American role in that genocide, began finally to emerge in Congressional hearings May 18. Congresswoman Cynthia McKinney (D-Ga.) convened a hearing of the Human Rights

Subcommittee of the House International Relations Committee, together with Subcommittee Chairwoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, (R-Fla.) to reveal what EIR News Service had repeatedly insisted, since Spring of 1997, was happening in Congo—a genocidal slaughter on the magnitude of millions of human beings.

This was Representative McKinney’s second hearing this year on this subject. The testimony was long past due. Readers of this news service will be familiar with the scenario presented, first reported on in *EIR* and *New Federalist* beginning June 1997. *EIR* warned that the invasions of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (D.R.C., formerly Zaire) in 1996 and 1998 by its neighbors, Uganda and Rwanda, were not carried out to liberate the country from tyrannical dictator Mobutu Sese Seko (the reason given in 1996), nor (as claimed in 1998) to protect Rwandan and Ugandan borders from worsening civil war conditions in the D.R.C. Rather, the armies of Uganda, Rwanda, and Burundi invaded to achieve the dismemberment of the country for the benefit of the mineral cartels which are now gobbling up the resources of the mineral-rich eastern part of Congo.

A similar fate is being prepared by neo-colonial circles in the West for another neighbor, Sudan, on the pretext that the Christian south of the country must be liberated from the the Islamic government in the north.

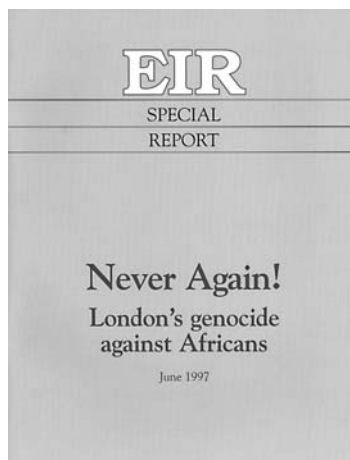
McKinney’s hearing, (“Suffering and Despair: Humanitarian Crisis in the Congo”), featured testimony from investigative reporter Wayne Madsen; Suliman Ali Baldo, Africa Division of Human Rights Watch; the Rev. Jean Bosco Bahala, Archdiocese of Bukavu, Congo; Anne Edgerton, Refugees International; and Les Roberts, International Rescue Committee.

The International Rescue Committee has released a “2001 Survey of the Death Toll in D.R.C.’s War,” which was available at the hearing and cited in testimony (see preceding article). Congresswoman McKinney compared the lack of response to this catastrophe to the response of the international community to other crisis spots, such as the Persian Gulf and the Balkans.

Diamond Looting, Drug Running

Another important report cited in the hearings, was released by the UN on April 12 on the looting of eastern Congo of gold, timber, and vast mineral resources—looting which the occupying armies are protecting. Anne Edgerton of Refugees International confirmed that the scale of mineral exploitation going on in the areas occupied by the invaders is immense. Untold amounts are leaving the area by helicopter. She said rough diamonds from Kisangani are more worth more on the market than diamonds from Brussels. This is the place people go to get diamonds to launder drug money.

McKinney opened the hearing by stressing the importance of setting the record straight on what has happened in Congo over the past three years, telling the truth about what Rwanda and Uganda have done, which she described as—on



Four years ago, warnings against the genocide ongoing in the Congo and the Great Lakes region more broadly, were published by EIR in a worldwide campaign against the Anglo-American support and instigation of that genocide. Now, detailed confirmation is being revealed at Congressional hearings.

the pretext of protecting their security—having been to invade and occupy the country, and to protect the mineral cartels which are stealing the resources, including timber, cobalt, diamonds, and zinc. She referenced a report from the Catholic news agency MISNA, charging that the Rwandan Army is now setting up “concentration camps” in the Numbi area of South Kivu in order to have sufficient labor on hand to extract coltan and other precious minerals. She compared the savagery of the Rwandan occupying armies to the Nazis. She scored the West for its failure to respond.

Journalist Wayne Madsen, author of *Genocide and Covert Operations in Africa 1993-1999*, charged that U.S. military and intelligence services were involved in assisting the invasion and occupation of northern and eastern Congo. Madsen charged that the 1996 invasion against Mobutu Sese Seko, and the 1998 invasion, were covers for breaking up the country. Early U.S. support for rebel leader Laurent Kabila was to open up the Congo further for the mining companies.

Madsen reported U.S. spy satellites provided intelligence to the Rwandan Patriot Front (RPF) during the invasion, and that NASA had a communications intercept in Uganda. He said U.S. military aid programs, planned and administered by the U.S. Special Operations Command and the Defense Intelligence Agency, provided overt and covert assistance to the invading and occupying armies in 1996 and 1998. He also alleged that logistics and training were provided to Rwandan and Ugandan militaries by private military training firms and logistics support contractors. As an example, he cited Military Professional Resources, Inc., (MPRI) of Alexandria, Virginia, whose officers include a former director of the DIA. He says that MPRI was providing covert training assistance to Paul Kagame’s RPF troops, in preparation for combat in Zaire.

Madsen said sources in Africa’s Great Lakes region report the presence of a U.S.-built military base near Cyangugu, Rwanda, near the Congolese border, which was partly constructed by Brown and Root, a subsidiary of Halliburton, Vice President Dick Cheney’s former employer. The base is said to be involved with training Rwandan Patriotic Front forces

and providing logistics support to their troops in the D.R.C.

British, Bush Connections

Madsen attacked the increasing reliance by the U.S. Defense Department on so-called “private military contractors,” and charged that these contractors have close links with some of the largest mining and oil companies involved in Africa. A March 2001 report issued by UN Special Rapporteur Enrique Ballesteros of Peru, concluded that mercenaries were linked to the illegal diamond and arms trade in Africa. “Military security companies and air cargo companies registered in Nevada, Channel Islands, South Africa, Zimbabwe, are engaged in the transport of troops, arms, munitions, and diamonds.”

The Rwandan-backed Goma faction of rebels in the east are seeking to restore mining concessions for the Bush-linked Barrick Gold, Madsen alleged. He said that currently Barrick and tens of other mining companies are stoking the flames of civil war in the D.R.C. “Each benefits by the de facto partition of the country into some four separate zones of political control. First the mineral exploiters from Rwanda and Uganda concentrated on pillaging gold and diamonds from the eastern Congo. Now, they have increasingly turned their attention to coltan.” As an example of the collaboration between the mining companies and mercenaries, he reports on the fact that America Mineral Fields bought 75% of the shares of IDAS Belgium, SA, a mercenary firm based in Curaçao and headquartered in Belgium. IDAS entered into an agreement with the Angola state mining company for diamond concessions along the Angolan-Congolese border.

Detailed as the Madsen testimony was, about the involvement of the U.S. military and private military services in the the destruction of the Congo, he omitted that the companies he cites as benefitting from the plunder, America Mineral Fields, and Barrick Gold, are *British Commonwealth* mineral companies, headquartered in Canada. Similarly, the International Monetary Fund is pressuring the successor of the slain President Laurent Kabila, his son Joseph, to sign over the mineral rights of the territory under his control in the Congo to such neo-colonial interests as Anglo American Corp., in return for alleviating pressure for so-called democratic reforms.

The fact is that the blame for the planning of the destruction of this region to the benefit of raw materials looters, must be placed at the doorstep of the former colonial powers, particularly the British Commonwealth and its puppet Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni. Museveni planned the war in the Great Lakes, beginning in 1990 with the first invasion of Rwanda by Uganda, together with Lady Lynda Chalker, Minister of Commonwealth Affairs in the John Major government. U.S. military and intelligence involvement should be attributed to the longstanding problem of Anglophile and neo-colonial circles in the U.S. State Department and military circles, who reject President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s commitment to ending colonialism and to developing Africa and the rest of the world’s underdeveloped sector.

Düsseldorf Voters Defeat Privatization

by Our Special Correspondent

In a vote May 20, 2001, the citizens of Düsseldorf, Germany defeated, unexpectedly, the privatization of the city’s public utility. On Nov. 9, 2000, the city council had decided to sell the shares held by the city; the citizens have stopped this, in a shot against privatization being heard all over Europe. The votes of 97,702 citizens determined that the utility Stadtwerke AG, which supplies gas, water, and electricity, must remain a public enterprise, and this decision may not be altered for at least two years. Stadtwerke AG had been founded in 1865 by a city council decision, after the earlier, private, supplier of gas had misused its monopoly.

Already in September 2000, employees of the utility, who understood the consequences of the city council’s decision, joined to develop an efficient counter-strategy. The group—consisting of members of the public workers’ union, the union factory council, and the social caucuses of the Social Democratic Party (SPD) and Christian Democratic Union (CDU)—decided to use a clause of local law to organize a public referendum, which could nullify the city council’s decision. At least 13,200 petition signatures had to be collected from city residents. In November, the citizens’ initiative was founded, including several former Mayors; its spokesman was the former Düsseldorf chairman of the Metal Workers Union (IGM).

Mayor Tried to Ignore the People

A unique mobilization followed and 63,000 signatures were collected, forcing the city council either to withdraw its own decision of Nov. 9, or have the citizens decide in a vote. At least 20% of the electorate must vote in favor of the citizens’ referendum initiative. This means, in the case of Düsseldorf, at least 88,000 “yes” votes had to be cast. During a session of the city council in March, some 5,000 citizens demonstrated outside city hall against privatization. The city council did not give in to the demands, and May 20 was set as a date for the public vote.

The city’s Mayor is supported by a city council coalition of the CDU and the liberal Free Democratic Party (FDP). Mayor Erwin presents himself as a neo-liberal, who wants to prepare the city for the world soccer championship in 2006, and a bid for the Olympics in 2012. To realize these “visions,” he wanted to “sell the silverware,” to fill the city treasury. Fully in tune with the world of stock market rule, he also engaged in highly risky leasing deals, supposedly to aid the treasury: for instance, by selling the sewage plant to a U.S. investor—aided by Deutsche Bank—to later lease it back,