

African leaders indict IMF, call for new economic order

by Our Special Correspondent

Meeting in Paris on July 11, the Schiller Institute and the former President of Uganda, Godfrey Lukongwa Binaisa, were joined by a delegation of members of the National Constitutional Conference (NCC) of Nigeria to discuss Binaisa's initiative to form an African Civil Rights Movement and to present the "Truth about Nigeria." The two delegations were the speakers at a public conference, which the Schiller Institute had organized under the title "Peace, Development, and the Rights of Man." This was followed by a press conference the next morning. During the week in Paris, the delegations also met privately with members of Parliament and diplomats.

The Nigerian delegation was led by Chief Chukwuemeka Odumegwu-Ojukwu, the former leader of Biafra, and included Chief Abiola Ogundokun, Mr. Baba Adi, Sen. Sharif Ali, all members of the NCC, and Dr. George A. Obiozor, the director general of the Nigerian Institute for International Affairs. They were joined at the podium by Prof. B. O. Olusanya, the Nigerian ambassador to France. More than 200 Africans and Frenchmen participated in the public debate, and about 20 representatives of the press came to the press conference. In the report that follows, we publish the texts of many of the speeches.

The struggle for liberation

Commanding the authority of an elder statesman from Africa, who had served his country as Attorney General and as President, and who was forced to flee for his life three times, Godfrey Binaisa analyzed Africa's fate after independence. He described how, 35 years ago, the African colonies received their own flags and how their elites began riding around in Mercedes, but the former colonies were never granted real economic independence. According to Binaisa, most of the colonial oppression lived on through the institu-

tions of Bretton Woods: the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, which were formed in 1944, with no African present.

Binaisa made a passionate appeal to all Africans of good will to join him now in an African Civil Rights Movement (see *EIR*, May 19, 1995, for the text of his call). "This is the last mile we have to walk in our struggle for total liberation," he declared. He pointed out that in the 1940s and '50s, no colonialist ever came to offer independence to Africa, but the African nationalists fought for it until they got it in the 1960s. The same is true today. The IMF and the World Bank must be replaced by a new, just world economic order.

Binaisa drew attention to the tragedy in East Africa. He strongly opposed the often-held view, that the recent war in Rwanda was a civil war, pointing to the fact that the conflict escalated in 1990, when neighboring Uganda equipped and trained an invasion force which later claimed to be the Rwandan Popular Front rebel force. Binaisa placed the responsibility for the genocide in Rwanda with those outside the country who aided and abetted the crime, and he stressed that many people in the former colonial power, Great Britain, whose Overseas Minister Lynda Chalker enjoys personal friendship with Uganda's present regime, hold the cynical view that "there are too many Africans anyway, and wars reduce the population." Binaisa warned, that the United Nations tribunal against genocide in Rwanda would be one-sided, and would only provoke a new round of revenge later on. Instead, he proposed to go back to the African tradition of mediation and reconciliation, proposing Archbishop Desmond Tutu of South Africa, Chief Ojukwu of Nigeria, Leopold Senghor of Senegal, and Albert Tevoedgere of Benin to be part of such a mission.

The Nigerian delegation supported Binaisa's call for changes in the world economic system, and stressed in partic-



Nigerian leaders mobilize at a Schiller Institute-sponsored conference in Paris, to defeat the lying propaganda campaign against their country. Left to right: Baba Adi, Chief Abiola Ogundokun, Nigerian Ambassador to France Prof. B.O. Olusanya, Chief Chukwuemeka Odumegwu-Ojukwu.

ular their responsibility as the biggest nation in Africa. The speakers explained that they were not a government delegation, but that they came to Paris on their own initiative to join the Schiller Institute and Binaisa, because they thought that only this global approach could solve Africa's problems. They refuted the picture of Nigeria that is usually given in the western press, by reporting on the procedures of the National Constitutional Conference, which sat for almost 12 months in Nigeria's capital, Abuja, and on June 27 presented a new draft Constitution to head of State Gen. Sani Abacha. Chief Ojukwu described the conference as a national peace conference, and said that he was very confident that their proposals for transition to an elected government would be accepted by the military. Dr. Obiozor outlined Nigeria's commitment to fulfill its regional and Africa-wide responsibilities. He pointed to the missions in Liberia and other countries, where Nigerian forces were trying to help restore or preserve peace. In conclusion, the Nigerian delegation appealed to the western governments to give Nigeria a fair chance for its attempts at nation-building, which would be successful, if outside interference would stop and the economy could be freed from IMF conditionalities and return to successful growth and stability.

Schiller Institute proposes solutions

The speakers from the Schiller Institute, Jacques Cheminade of France and Uwe Friesecke of Germany, stressed the strategic context as the background to Africa's problems. After outlining the global financial crisis, which has reached

the point of a threatening collapse, they presented as a solution Lyndon LaRouche's plan for a new, just world economic order, which is based on a global bankruptcy reorganization and the realization of continent-wide great projects, such as an east-west railway link in Africa across the Sahel and the Lake Chad water project.

They warned that nobody should underestimate the ferocity with which the western elites behind the IMF system, centered in the City of London, would try to destroy anyone who tries to build an alternative to their dying system. For this, they deploy their intelligence services, which do not hesitate to organize coups and assassinations, as could be seen during the coup attempt against the Nigerian government in March. In the eyes of London, General Abacha's crime is not the fact that his government was not democratically elected, but that he broke with the IMF Structural Adjustment Program.

Friesecke stressed that not only Africa was a victim of the IMF's murderous policy, but also Ibero-America, and since 1990, eastern Europe, in particular Russia and Ukraine. He appealed to the Nigerian delegation to use their influence to make sure that the Nigerian government joins with those forces who are demanding a new, just world economic order. For this, the African Civil Rights Movement will go back to the principles of the inalienable rights of man, as they were formulated in the American Declaration of Independence, and as they define the right of a people to acquire the most advanced technologies for their own development. In this way, development becomes the basis for peace.