

Kenya challenges London's genocidal games in Africa

by Linda de Hoyos

In a speech before the United Nations General Assembly on Oct. 3, Kenyan Foreign Minister Stephen Kalonzo Musyoka lashed out at the western press and governments for what he called a "systematic campaign to denigrate African countries as if there was an agenda to bring them into international disrepute. We reject these destructive approaches designed to promote divisive elements and to manipulate domestic public opinion with a view to pitching people against their own governments." He further stated that his government condemns "in the strongest terms the tendency by certain sections of the international press to present the image of African countries in terms of tribal superiority or inferiority, to inflame ethnic conflicts and to depict the continent as replete with corruption and catastrophes." In reality, he stated, African countries are struggling to create nation-states after many years of "destructive colonial policies of divide and rule."

In this case, the angry words of an African foreign minister to the United Nations are *not* rhetoric. In the last six months, the government of President Daniel Arap Moi has been battling a systematic campaign by the British Ministry of Overseas Development (formerly the Colonial Office) to destroy the nation-state of Kenya.

At stake is not only Kenya, but the entire East African region, home to more than 100 million people. The British gameplan has been executed on the ground by warlord Yoweri Museveni, President of Uganda, his National Resistance Army, and the allied militaries of the Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF), now in power in Rwanda, and of Burundi. This war machine is London's designated enforcer for murderous austerity against their populations and the handing over of region's assets and resources through International Monetary Fund "reform" policies of "privatization" and re-

moval of support to the population.

This is the gameplan behind the October 1993 murder of elected President Melchior Ndadaye of Burundi; the April 6, 1994, double murder of Rwandan President Juvenal Habyarimana and Cyprien Ntaryamira at Kigali airport in Rwanda; the subsequent blitzkrieg invasion of Rwanda by the Ugandan-backed RPF; the slaughter of nearly 1 million people in Rwanda; and the panicked exodus of over 2 million Rwandans into neighboring countries.

The forces that have stood up against this wave of destruction are Sudan, London's primary target in the region, which has now largely defeated the Ugandan-British-backed insurgency of John Garang's Sudanese People's Liberation Army; a tenacious Burundi elected civilian government that is fighting what one British analyst describes as a "creeping coup" by the Ugandan-backed military; and Kenya.

Piercing the veil of lies

On Oct. 9, Moi became the first Head of State in Africa to challenge the prevailing western portrayal of the events in Rwanda and to raise questions about the actual process that destroyed the country and its government. Stunning the British, Moi declared that Kenya would not extradite to Rwanda any persons in Kenya wanted as suspects to stand trial at the United Nations-sponsored "genocide tribunal."

Moi explained his action:

"It has always been my considered view that the problems of Rwanda and Burundi, which are deep rooted, can only be resolved once and for all by finding a permanent and lasting solution. In order to achieve this, it is necessary to appreciate the reasons for the present problems. In this context, I had expected the United Nations to go beyond the genocide arising from the killing of the two Presidents [of Rwanda and

Burundi] in April 1994 to the events leading to the shooting down of [their] aircraft. It is a well-known fact that before the shooting down of the plane carrying the two Heads of State, there had been an invasion of Rwanda and many people had been killed.

"For justice to be seen to be done, the U.N. should investigate why Rwanda was in turmoil before the death of the two Presidents and the subsequent genocide. In leaving out this part of the problem, I cannot see how Rwandese who feel aggrieved by the invasion of their country could possibly trust the tribunal.

"Kenya is not pro-Hutu or pro-Tutsi. We do not even have a common border with the two countries. It is a well-known fact that we have had Tutsi and Hutu refugees in Kenya since 1940. We have treated them well, as we have treated other refugees or visitors.

"I am not against the tribunal set up by the U.N. I am convinced that the mandate of the tribunal is limited. My position regarding the Rwanda-Burundi crisis is that no lasting solution will be found unless the terms of reference of the U.N. tribunal are widened to include:

"A. Investigations to determine who was responsible for the April downing of the aircraft in which the Presidents of Rwanda and Burundi were killed.

"B. Investigations to determine those responsible for the invasion of Rwanda prior to the assassination of the two Presidents.

"To ignore this vital aspect and to concentrate on the period after the death of the two Presidents would be superficial and a miscarriage of justice. Consequently, it will not be useful in bringing lasting peace to the region."

Reaction to Kenya's stance was swift and drastic. Rwandan Defense Minister Paul Kagame, the strongman of the RPF, declared that Rwanda would "find other ways" to punish alleged perpetrators. Rwandan President Pasteur Bizimungu warned that if countries consider Rwandans as "normal refugees, then this region would be in total chaos."

Richard Goldstone, a judge from South Africa known to be close to London's Anglo-American mining conglomerate, is in charge of the tribunal for the United Nations. Upon hearing Moi's challenge to the tribunal as "currently constituted," he charged that Kenya's refusal to cooperate with the tribunal was a "breach of Kenya's obligations under international law, a matter for the Security Council of the United Nations."

Chalker lays siege to Kenya

With its action, Kenya is seeking flanks with which to withstand the siege against the country put into place by Britain's Minister of Overseas Development, Baroness Lynda Chalker. In December 1991, Britain placed Kenya under an aid embargo, with release of funds contingent on Moi's holding a multi-party election. When he did so and won, the embargo remained in place. Since June of this year, Chalker

has been working to force an aid freeze from all Kenyan donors. In July, the baroness visited Kenya, declaring, even before she had even met with the President: "I will not make any further announcement of aid until I am satisfied not only by political reform but also economic reform and human rights. We want to see a step back from the political brinkmanship and a cooling of political invective."

The International Monetary Fund has also suspended credits to Kenya, because the government has failed to deregulate maize prices—that is, end effective food subsidies. In June, President Moi had announced that his "government would no longer swallow wholesale all conditions of the [IMF] Structural Adjustment Programs that are detrimental to the welfare of the common citizen."

The British are also stirring up trouble within Kenya itself. Moi's multi-tribal Kenyan African National Union is the balancing force between the two major opposition groups in Kenya—the Forum for Democracy (Kenya) and the Forum for Democracy (Asili)—which are divided on tribal lines between the two largest tribes, the Kikuyu and Luo. The western press has blamed violent strife between these two groups—both of which are funded by the donors that have embargoed Kenya—on Moi.

In May, Richard Leakey, affiliated with Prince Philip's World Wide Fund for Nature, started a new party, Safina, in an attempt to replace Moi's Kanu as the balancer. Also joining Leakey is Robert Shaw, a Kenyan-based financier and point man for the IMF in Kenya.

There is little question who directs Safina. In a May 31 interview with the London *Daily Telegraph*, Leakey put himself forward as the man who would bring Kenya back into the British fold: "I am given the time of day in Whitehall, Washington, Paris, not because I'm white, but because of what I've done." The paper added: "He says he will not hesitate to use his personal friendship with Lady Lynda Chalker, whom he met on a recent trip to Europe, to further his party's objectives."

However, as Moi pointed out in answering Chalker's tirade in Nairobi, Kenya "attained independence from Britain in 1963." The Kenya President also earned London's ire by refusing to endorse the idea of a peacekeeping force under the Organization of African Unity, stating such a force would violate the OAU's charter, which holds national sovereignty sacrosanct.

On Oct. 21, Moi reported at a rally that there are rumors that South African mercenaries are preparing to invade Kenya from Uganda, and that the opposition is coordinating with both the Rwandan and Burundi militaries on how to destabilize Kenya. Safina leader Paul Muite was in Rwanda this month, conferring with leaders of the Rwandan Patriotic Front. Such collusion serves to underline the point: The nation-state of Kenya is an obstacle in the way of the annihilation of East Africa. It is for this reason—and no other—that Kenya and its President are under fire.