

British complete their coup in Burundi

by Linda de Hoyos

The President and prime minister of Burundi have jointly signed a letter to United Nations Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, stating that the Burundi government stands opposed to any deployment of U.N. peacekeeping troops into or near Burundi.

The letter signifies that the coup in Burundi, perpetrated against the elected government by the military, is, for all practical purposes, complete. The U.N. secretary general on Feb. 17 proposed sending peacekeeping troops to Burundi or into any neighboring country as a "rapid deployment force," should the slow genocide that has taken place in Burundi since October 1993 quicken to a bloodletting on the scale of Rwanda in 1994.

In September-October 1995, Burundi President Sylvestre Ntibantunganya had visited Washington and various other capitals to plead for precisely the kind of U.N. force he now rejects. His about-face demonstrates that the President, a leader of the ruling Frobebu party brought to power in the first national elections in Burundi in June 1993, is now completely at the mercy of Prime Minister Antoine Nduwayo, a leader of the opposition party who unconstitutionally assumed his present post (see *Chronology*) and who is suspected of being a controller of the Tutsi militias terrorizing the capital of Bujumbura. If a U.N. military intervention takes place, Nduwayo told the French daily *Le Soir* Feb. 6, "the whole country will blow up, because we will oppose these foreign troops, including myself as an ordinary citizen."

The Tutsi military—which ruled over Burundi since 1966 in a tyranny punctuated with the slaughter of hundreds of thousands—is now the power in Bujumbura again. Madeleine Albright, U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, unabashedly admitted as much, in an interview on Jan. 30 after a visit to Burundi. "The Tutsis, who are the minority, have combined in a government that also has a Hutu President, but basically the Tutsis are in the minority and they are trying to figure out how to run a country that is majority Hutu."

Albright's assessment knowingly omits the fact that not only is there a "Hutu President," but that Ntibantunganya officially heads an elected government, composed of popular parties that won 80% of the vote in elections. Employing a strategy of systematic assassination, the violent extirpation of all Hutus from the capital of Bujumbura, and massacres

of civilians throughout the country, the Tutsi military has virtually destroyed that government. The United States had originally been the primary backer of the 1993 elections in Burundi.

Systematic betrayal

The United Nations has aided and abetted the brutal return of the Tutsi military to power. Since the attempted coup against the first Hutu President, Melchior Ndadaye, in October 1993, the three Western permanent members of the U.N. Security Council have encouraged the successors of Ndadaye to negotiate, rather than defend themselves. In September 1994, a government convention was imposed on Burundi by which the Tutsi opposition party Uprona and its allies would control nearly half the cabinet. In successive campaigns—in December 1994, in February 1995, in September 1995, and again in December 1995—the military/Uprona combine has either forced major government changes or policy changes through unconstitutional means.

Compare the silence on Burundi with the international outcry and demands for sanctions against Nigeria, when the Abacha government hanged nine convicted murderers.

As *EIR* has so far been the only publication to document, the Tutsi military in Burundi is part of the same military force as the Tutsi Rwandan Patriotic Front, and Uganda's National Resistance Army of Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni. In fact, three of the known plotters of the coup against Melchior Ndadaye in Burundi, are at large in Uganda today.

The power behind this military combine lies outside Africa—in London, where British Minister of Overseas Development Baroness Lynda Chalker has overseen the British financial takeover of Uganda, and the reorganization of Rwanda and now Burundi as military and financial satellites of the British puppet-regime in Entebbe. Uganda is also the center of London military operations against Sudan.

The Tutsi military caste has emerged as London's key asset in east-central Africa, its unique qualifications stemming from the oligarchical worldview it shares with the House of Lords, the belief in its genetic superiority and right to rule. As such, Museveni (a Tutsi Hima himself) and his allies have shown themselves to be willing to impose any suffering on their population to create an environment for British geopolit-

ical and financial aims, for which Uganda has earned the title "IMF success story." The same is clearly expected from the now-ruling militaries of Burundi and Rwanda. Former Tutsi military dictator Pierre Buyoya is now a "special adviser" to the World Bank.

So far, no significant power has bucked London's design. In April 1995, when U.S. Ambassador to Burundi Robert Krueger denounced Tutsi military killings of civilians, he was publicly attacked as a "warmonger" by French Cooperation Minister Bernard Debré. Britain, France, and the United States have stated that they will not supply troops for any peacekeeping force in Burundi.

Will it hold?

Although the Uprona/military hold on the Burundi government and capital are now effectively complete, it is unlikely that the Tutsi military will succeed in restoring Burundi to its pre-1993 condition of tight-fisted rule over a cowed population. First the northwest, then the northeast, and now the southern sections of the country have become war zones. At the very least, London's gameplan and the acquiescence to it by Paris and Washington have hurled Burundi into civil war and economic collapse.

War does not seem to concern the Tutsi military. Tutsi militarist Pierre Buyoya told the *Libreville Africa*, No. 1, Jan. 7: "Peace is unfortunately threatened in Burundi, the level of violence is high, and there are dead and injured people almost everywhere, but this is nothing new. Actually, the country is currently going through a situation of apparent civil war." U.N. Special Rapporteur on Burundi Paulo Pinheiro estimates that each week 4 soldiers are killed in attacks, and 200 civilians, 40% of them women, are also murdered every seven days, most killed in retribution by the Tutsi military.

Chronology

Murder of a government

"Basically, . . . some of the leadership that had been elected was in fact assassinated, and there has been a political vacuum."

—U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Madeleine Albright, in a TV interview, Jan. 30, 1996

The Burundi government is composed of a President, 23 cabinet ministers, 64 members of the National Assembly, and 16 provincial governors. In June 1993, the Frodebu Party of Melchior Ndadaye won the first national elections in Burundi, bringing a Hutu to the Presidency for the first time. In 1995,

eighteen members of the National Assembly signed the petition for the exoneration of American statesman Lyndon LaRouche.

Beginning with the October 1993 attempted military coup against the Ndadaye government, two Presidents have been murdered; 8 out of 16 provincial governors have been assassinated; 16 cabinet ministers have either been murdered, removed unconstitutionally, or forced to flee the country; and 10 members of the National Assembly have been murdered or forced to flee.

In the Frodebu party, 48 party leaders across all posts, have been killed since October 1993. By comparison, the death of 48 party leaders in Burundi, a country of only 6 million people, is equivalent to the murder of 2,100 politicians in the United States. Especially targeted for assassination were Tutsis who joined the Frodebu in rejection of the Tutsi military's clinging to the oligarchical view, encouraged by former colonial powers, of Tutsi ethnic superiority.

The chronology below shows the pace of the now effectively completed military coup against the Frodebu elected government:

Oct. 21, 1993: Attempted coup against the government of President Melchior Ndadaye. Ndadaye is murdered. Also killed are six members of his cabinet; the chairman and vice-chairman of the National Assembly, and four provincial governors. One of the provincial governors murdered, Engelbert Sentano of Karuzi province, was a Tutsi, as was the vice-chairman of the National Assembly, Gilles Bimazubute.

March 1994: Interior Minister Leonard Nyangoma, Frodebu party leader, is forced to flee the country. Under multi-party government agreement negotiated in September 1994, this post will go to opposition Uprona party. Francoise Nyangoma, a member of the National Assembly, also flees.

April 6, 1994: President Cyprien Ntaryamira, who replaced the deceased Ndadaye in February 1994, is assassinated, along with Rwandan President Juvenal Habyarimana, when their plane is shot down at Kigali airport, Rwanda. Also killed on the plane are Burundi Minister of Communications Cyriaque Simbizi and Minister of State for Economic Development and Reconstruction Bernard Ciza.

Sept. 16, 1994: Frodebu MP Norbert Ndikhikubwayo is shot.

October 1994: Schadrak Nyonkura, just ousted as transport minister by the September Convention, flees the country.

Nov. 9, 1994: Managing director of the National Planning Commission Emile Ntanyangu is murdered.

Nov. 11, 1994: Uprona leader Fridolin Hatungimana, Hutu minister in the government of Pierre Buyoya, is murdered.

Dec. 28, 1994: Jean Minani, Speaker of National Assembly, is forced out of office by Uprona mass demonstrations and slaughters in Bujumbura and in provinces.

Jan. 27, 1995: Fidele Muhizi, governor of Muyinga

province, is murdered.

Jan. 30, 1995: Prime Minister Anatole Kanyenkiko is forced out of office by demonstrations and massacres led by Uprona party leader Charles Mukasi. Although an Uprona member, Kanyenkiko had refused to back Uprona's drive to remove Minani as Assembly Speaker. Kanyenkiko was then ousted from Uprona on grounds of "treason." Kanyenkiko is replaced by current Prime Minister Antoine Nduwayo.

January 1995: Administrators of Kanyosha, Mubimbi, Bwambarangwe, Mpanda communes (districts) are murdered.

March 3, 1995: Home of Frodebu MP Deo Nkinahamira is attacked by Tutsi youth gangs; Nkinahamira barely escapes with his life.

March 13, 1995: Minister of Energy and Mines Ernest Kabushemeye is assassinated.

March 1995: Provincial governor Malachie Surwavuba is murdered.

June 25, 1995: Frodebu Foreign Minister Jean-Marie Ngendahayo flees to South Africa.

July 1995: Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly Stany Claver Kaduga, a Frodebu Tutsi who signed the exoneration petition for LaRouche, flees the country after two armed attacks on his home.

July 20, 1995: President's chief of staff Mames Bansubiyeko survives assassination attempt.

September 1995: Justice Minister Melchior Ntahobama, a non-party Hutu, is forced out of office by Prime Minister Nduwayo.

Summer 1995: National Security Council leader Bukuru Zacharie, an Uprona Hutu, flees the country.

Aug. 29, 1995: Transport Minister Innocent Nimpagaritse flees the country, stating from Nairobi, "I am very disappointed by the government, which has shown itself to be incapable of assuring security in Burundi." He had escaped several assassination attempts.

Sept. 21, 1995: Interior Minister Gabriel Sinarinzi of Uprona is forced out of office, for his attacks on U.S. Ambassador Robert Krueger, when Krueger called for investigation into the military's slaughter of 67 civilians.

Oct. 12, 1995: Foreign Minister Paul Munyembari is forced out of office by Uprona/military agitation.

November 1995: Governor of Bubanza province resigns, due to fears for personal safety.

November 1995: Former intelligence chief Audifax Ndbitoreye flees to Zaire.

Dec. 12, 1995: MP Innocent Ndikuimana, a Tutsi in the Frodebu party, is murdered. Ndikuimana had signed the petition for LaRouche's exoneration.

Dec. 22, 1995: Bede Nzobonimpa, governor of Ngozi province, is murdered.

Dec. 22, 1995: MP Juvenal Manirambona is murdered.

January 1996: Frodebu MP Kassien Bucumi is summarily imprisoned by the military.

John Paul II brings hope to Venezuela

by David Ramonet

All of Venezuela ground to a halt the afternoon of Feb. 9, to receive Pope John Paul II, and the country remained at a standstill until his departure for Rome on Feb. 11, capping a week-long apostolic visit to four countries of Ibero-America. Venezuelans crowded the streets through which His Holiness would pass; tens of thousands of youths waited for him, day and night, at the residence of the Papal Nuncio; and Caracas's notorious violence—so extensive and brutal nowadays that the media compare Caracas to Bosnia—ceased while the pope visited Venezuela. Despite the enormous crowds, for that weekend, Caracas enjoyed peace and freedom of movement, at all hours of the day and night.

Conservatively, it is estimated that 13% of the population, 3 million people, took to the streets, or participated in the almost non-stop religious events, while virtually every Venezuelan closely followed the pope's activities and messages throughout.

Two weeks before the pope arrived, the country was swept with rumors and threats that a new "explosion" was imminent, reminiscent of that which erupted on Feb. 27, 1989, when mobs of the poor, enraged at the economic shock package adopted by President Carlos Andrés Pérez, looted and burned stores in several cities. One rumor warned that the poor from the Catia district in Caracas, together with people from the impoverished slums which cover the hills surrounding the capital, "would come down to loot."

At the same time, there were daily violent student protests, led by hooded extremists identified with former Lt. Col. Hugo Chávez's Revolutionary Bolivarian Movement 200, in various cities. The daily *El Nacional* reported on Feb. 17 that the Security, Intelligence, and Prevention Directorate (DISIP) had prepared an official report which documented that the student disturbances were being coordinated by the São Paulo Forum, Fidel Castro's continental terror apparatus, of which Chávez is a member, along with the Radical Cause (Causa R) party, whose members also participated in the protests.

Because of his resistance to imposing the genocidal policies of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) upon his country, President Rafael Caldera has been a target of a destabilization campaign combining economic pressures and political uprisings, orchestrated by various international forces deployed, in each case, by the international financial elite. Pope John Paul II's visit, elevating the Venezuelan