

## Editorial

### *It's the British who are looting Zaire*

The April 17 editions of the *Washington Post*, *New York Times*, and several leading international newspapers reported that a company called American Mineral Fields (AMF) had signed a \$1 billion deal with Laurent Kabila to lock up copper, zinc, cobalt, and diamond mining rights in southern Zaire. The "American" company, they all took care to note, is based in Hope, Arkansas—President Clinton's birthplace. All the coverage emphasized that "American" interests are moving in behind Kabila's troops to gobble up mining rights formerly held by British and French firms.

*EIR's* readers know better. We published the real story in our Jan. 3, 1997 feature on "George Bush's Heart of Darkness," which exposed the role of Bush's Barrick Gold Corp., the South African-based Anglo American Corp., and other British Commonwealth companies, in the genocide and looting against Zaire.

AMF is a *British* raw materials cartel firm; its activity in Zaire does not reflect the outlook of President Clinton or the United States, no matter where its executives decide to hang their shingle.

*EIR's* Richard Freeman wrote about AMF's invasion of Zaire, in a Jan. 3 article, entitled "British-Backed Mining Companies Are Stealing Zaire's Patrimony":

"The second example, is that of American Mineral Fields (AMF), which is based in Hope, Arkansas, but run from Canada. AMF has acquired from Gecamines [Zaire's state company, which owns much of the country's mining operations], the Kipushi copper-zinc mine, one of the world's premier copper-zinc mines, located in Shaba province. . . . The Belgians developed Kipushi and began mining in 1925. At its peak in 1988, the Kipushi mine produced 143,000 tons of zinc, and 43,000 tons of copper. Its total known and probable reserves stand at 22.6 million tons, grading 2.1% copper and 13.8% zinc.

"AMF is the brainchild of its owner, Jean-Raymond Boule, a former executive for DeBeer's Diamonds. In turn, AMF signed an agreement with Anglo American, which allows Anglo American to invest up to \$100 million in any AMF venture in Shaba province, representing up to a 50% equity stake in the venture, including the

Kipushi mine. Once again, ubiquitous Anglo American shows up."

*EIR* has subsequently learned that Anglo American's 50-50 stake in the Kipushi mines is not limited to a \$100 million investment in this venture, but is virtually unlimited. Anglo American, which is run by the Oppenheimer family, and was started with financing from the Rothschild and Morgan banking interests, also owns DeBeers Diamonds, which controls the world diamond market, and Minorco, the Luxembourg-based raw materials giant. The Anglo American-DeBeers-Minorco complex is the world's largest mining company, and a key cog in the House of Windsor raw materials cartel.

But, Anglo American did not have a large presence in Zaire, because it was blocked by President Mobutu's refusal to privatize most of the holdings of Gecamines. Kabila's military forces, backed by the British, are laying waste to that Mobutu policy.

Further investigation reveals AMF and its chairman and chief stockholder, Jean-Raymond Boule, to be active in the milieu of the mercenary hit squads that are used by British mining interests to eliminate competition. Boule developed a nickel property in Canada, the Voyseys Bay project, in partnership with Robert Friedland, a Vancouver-based wheeler-dealer. Friedland, in turn, jointly runs a company, Diamond Works, with Tony Buckingham, a former British Special Air Services (SAS) special forces officer, who is one of the controllers of the South Africa-based Executive Outcomes. EO runs a mercenary army that conducts military operations on behalf of raw materials and other companies, in Africa and elsewhere. It was recently active in "cleaning up" Sierra Leone and Angola. (In fact, Executive Outcomes was started up by DeBeers Diamonds.) AMF's Boule also sits on the board of the Bronfman family's giant nickel company, Inco.

Much of *EIR's* information came from the public domain, and yet the "prestigious" international media, with all their resources, did not report it. Thus, *EIR's* indispensable role is to tell the truth, and months ahead of the competition.