

Editorial

After Kabila, an African World War?

With the assassination of Congolese President Laurent Kabila, the situation in the mineral-rich Great Lakes region of Africa has again come into the forefront of international politics. And the international financial oligarchy's game of recolonizing Africa has come full circle. While we at *EIR* are still putting together a precise assessment of the developments in Congo and its neighbors, there are certain fundamental realities that we know, and you should, too.

Kabila, you may recall, came into power through a vicious genocidal war in 1997. Backed by the international mineral companies, British and American covert operations, and the governments of Rwanda and Uganda, this provincial military leader and scalawag assembled a rag-tag army, and mercilessly mowed down hundreds of thousands of people, to take control of what was then Zaire, from the government of Mobutu Sese Seko. In a spree of mass murder virtually ignored by the international community, except for this news service, Kabila was hailed as a liberator of his nation from the corrupt, oppressive old regime.

As you might expect, however, this victory did not lead to peace, stability, or prosperity in the region. Those who backed Kabila's rise to power were, in fact, committed to the dismemberment of what is now called the Democratic Republic of Congo, in the interest of either their mineral profits, or their territorial expansion. The international community, epitomized by the International Monetary Fund and World Bank, did not reduce debt payments, or provide cheap credit, for the restoration of economic life in the devastated, war-torn nation.

Therefore, the war went on, this time with President Kabila being the one, who was attempting to preserve the sovereignty of his nation. Kabila found himself at war with his former allies, Uganda and Rwanda, which continued to use the excuse of alleged guerrilla fugitives from their countries, to maintain an aggressive military drive in the eastern part of the Congo. It just so happens, of course, that this is where the heavy mineral deposits of the Rift Valley are located.

Not surprisingly, the "international community"

weighed in against Kabila and national sovereignty. All of a sudden, the stories about his corruption began to come out. And an international conference was called, which put together an agreement called the Lusaka Accords. These accords, signed by the warring parties in July 1999, effectively ratified the presence of Uganda and Rwanda in Congo. Kabila refused to honor this "agreement," and now, by some sequence of events, he's dead.

At his funeral, no less than the Foreign Minister of Belgium, Congo's former brutal colonial power, immediately demanded that the countries of the region go back to the Lusaka Accords.

This is a prescription for continuing war, among all the countries of the area, most of which have been drawn in on one side or another over the past three years. Add to that, the fact that the continent of Africa, which has been effectively blacklisted by international banks from receiving substantial infrastructure investment for the last two decades, is being ravaged by disease, and the picture of perpetual war becomes even more devastating. The figure, that tens of millions of Africans are reported to be living with AIDS, on top of the fact that more than 10 million have been killed by it, is obviously a gross understatement. Even without war, the whole continent is being murdered.

Where is the hope? We will be reporting in a forthcoming issue on a major conference in Sudan, co-sponsored by *EIR*, which discussed extensive development plans for Central Africa. Participants from Nigeria, Ethiopia, and Egypt joined Lyndon and Helga LaRouche and Sudanese leaders to discuss "Peace Through Development Along the Nile Valley, in the Framework of a New, Just World Economic Order," which, even at this late date, is still capable of pulling Africa out of the abyss. Some of these ideas have been put forward before, and they all depend upon a major financial reorganization under LaRouche's New Bretton Woods idea. Under the gun of the new drive toward world war in Central Africa, we have new urgency for considering these ideas again.