

## Rwanda targeted for World Bank genocide

On Oct. 26, the Presidents of the central African nations of Rwanda, Uganda, Zaire, and Burundi agreed on measures to enforce a ceasefire between Rwandan government troops and an invading force of Rwandan refugees of the minority Tutsi tribe bent on overthrowing the government.

The agreement, under the auspices of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), calls for the posting of a small interim force of approximately 45 peacekeeping troops from Rwanda's three neighbors until a larger force of 200-300 troops can be assembled and financed with the backing of Belgium. Their task will be to monitor the border between Uganda and Rwanda, which the invading force of 10,000 crossed on Sept. 30.

Over the past 30 years since the independence struggle from Belgium, more than 250,000 Rwandans of the Tutsi tribe have fled their homeland following their overthrow by the majority Hutus. Since approximately the 13th century, the cattle-rearing Tutsis from the Nile had dominated the agricultural Hutus, with continual inter-tribal conflict between the two over centuries.

The central African region has never broken out of what has been described as "cyclical massacres." One of the most horrible was the 1972 murder of hundreds of thousands of Hutus by the minority Tutsis in Burundi, where the Tutsis still rule. The late-September invasion of Rwanda by Tutsi refugees, against the government of the Hutu and Catholic President Habyarimana, raised the

specter of rekindled tribal warfare.

The Rwandan government responded to the invasion by requesting military support from Belgium, France, and Zaire to help repel the attack. A combined force of more than 1,500 troops was deployed, with the Zairean forces becoming heavily engaged in fighting, while the others took up positions around crucial transportation arteries and the airport in Kigali, Rwanda's capital. France and Belgium emphasized that their mission in Rwanda was to ensure the safety of their citizens living there. At this time, all but the French troops have left, and the government has declared the military aspect of the conflict at an end.

Though Uganda has been one of the parties engaged in ceasefire talks, its attitude in the conflict is highly suspect. As recently as the second week of September, Ugandan President Museveni met with the leadership of Zaire and Rwanda, assuring them that no invasion would occur from Uganda, in whose army 20,000 Rwandan Tutsis have enlisted over the years. But the soldiers who invaded were led by a member of the Ugandan Armed Forces who was originally a Rwandan Tutsi. Museveni, from a Rwandan Tutsi family himself, was put into power with the backing of Tutsi guerrillas. He had also promised in 1989 that there would never be an invasion of Rwanda from Uganda. Rwanda had suspected that an invasion was being planned since 1987, at which time the government requested assistance from the CIA to evaluate the invasion potential. But in 1988, the CIA also assured Rwanda that there was no threat.

### Tribalism aids the World Bank

Two circumstances appear to have played a role in precipitating this most recent crisis. The first was the total collapse of the Rwandan economy and the collapse of intensive negotiations with the World Bank, which had been ongoing since January of this year and reached a climax in May with 15-hour-a-day sessions. A prelimi-

### What now?

The IJI campaign was studded with anti-U.S. rhetoric. Repeatedly, Nawaz Sharif has condemned Pakistan's overdependence on the United States. The reason behind such attacks was Capitol Hill's holding up of the \$500 million-plus aid package earmarked for Pakistan. The U.S. Congress has stipulated that the aid package be released as soon as President Bush produces documents which can prove that Pakistan is not pursuing its efforts to make nuclear weapons. So far, Bush has not come up with the required documents.

Besides, the IMF is sitting on Pakistan's back, demanding to get its conditionalities implemented. The draco-

nian Structural Adjustment Facility (SAF) program signed between the IMF and Pakistan when another caretaker government under President Ishaq Khan was ruling the country, has virtually handed over Pakistan's economic management to the IMF. Since then, the IMF has succeeded in forcing "conditionalities" down Pakistan's throat and forced the country to impose austerity (see *EIR*, Nov. 2, p. 7). However, the fourth and final tranche, amounting to \$248 million, scheduled for delivery last June, has been withheld, because the IMF, in the wake of rising oil prices, wants Pakistan to implement additional structural adjustments—raising the imported oil and natural gas prices by 41% and hiking the

nary agreement was reached in late September, days before the invasion. The second was a visit by Pope John Paul II to the region, and Rwanda specifically, whose population is 80% Christian, the vast majority of whom are Hutus. The Pope's intervention provided the spiritual strength which could lift the population out of its destitution.

Rwanda, with the highest population density in Africa—700 people per square mile, compared to Belgium's 840—has long been a target of malthusian population reductionists. Other than the availability of precious metals, Africa, let alone Rwanda, is, in the words of one U.S. AID official, "of no strategic interest." If these people can be induced to butcher each other in regional power struggles, the malthusians say, so much the better for population control. As Bertrand Russell, one of the architects of 20th century genocide, happily noted in 1963, the inter-tribal warfare was "the most systematic human massacre . . . since the extermination of the Jews by the Nazis."

The invasion was timed at a moment when Rwanda's economy was at its nadir. After four years of collapsing prices for coffee and tin, Rwanda's major exports, the regime was vulnerable to destabilization. Earnings from coffee exports, which make up 75% of the nation's hard currency revenue, dropped to one-third of the 1986 high. After years of trying to avoid World Bank and IMF "structural adjustment" programs, a desperate Rwanda was forced to come to an agreement in a state of desperation. This was an opportune time to destroy the Habyarimana government.

### **Pope urges regional economic projects**

Pope John Paul II arrived in Rwanda on Sept. 7 in the course of his seventh tour of Africa, undertaken in part to provide a source of strength to overcome the region's periodical descent into fratricidal warfare. The Pope first challenged the regional and international diplomats. "But

is it sufficiently estimated that a decent existence, with a minimum of security, constitutes a common right, and that it is a common duty to guarantee it to everyone in all the countries of the world?" he asked. "In the first place, I am thinking of problems still extant as a result of the shifting populations which occurred after the painful confrontations of these last decades. I hope with all my heart that through open and sincere dialogue it will be possible to heal ancient wounds and find an equitable solution to a problem whose complexity is common knowledge. And I have good reason to hope Rwanda will not lack help from friendly countries."

The Pope proposed that "an emphasis on regional cooperation would be profitable to the economic development of the various countries. The concrete implementation of projects conceived in common will support everybody's activity, whether in technical fields of transportation, the commercialization of basic commodities, credit, or scientific research programs adapted to the necessary programs of agricultural production, to the struggle against diseases and their prevention, to mention only the most urgent examples." Transportation and disease are two of the most crucial questions of survival for this landlocked country so afflicted by the AIDS pandemic.

But Pope John Paul II made absolutely clear his opposition to the use of foreign aid as a weapon for population reduction. The Catholic News Service reported that he "cautioned that aid agreements must not pressure the people on family matters—an apparent reference to birth control programs promoted by development agencies." The Pope said, "Through mutual cooperation and understanding, people must be assured that their rights will be respected and that they will enjoy a peace inseparable from justice. Equal partners in dignity, it is right that they expect true support from their brothers and sisters in the world, free from any threat to their own spirituality . . . and to the free exercise of their rightful responsibilities, notably at the family level."—*Michael Gelber*

electricity and mass transit tariffs. It has since been reported that the new government will deal with the IMF demands and an agreement with the IMF has been assured before Nov. 30, the day the SAF agreement lapses.

There is no question in anyone's mind that the IJI government will satisfy the IMF in order to get the \$248 million, at a time when Pakistan's foreign exchange reserves have reached a crisis level. Facing the possibility of a debt default, one caretaker cabinet member has said that Pakistan would default if Washington did not release the \$500 million-plus aid package. In the coming days, the new government will be subjected to the IMF's ruthless screw-tightening, and in

the long run, complying with such an economic policy will create economic chaos. It is unlikely that the government has either the gumption or capability to bring any order out of such chaos.

In addition, the IJI cannot rule out the possibility of the PPP exploiting every political scandal that surfaces and each economic debacle. Although the IJI has won the elections handsomely, the street power rests with the PPP, and Benazir Bhutto may turn out to be much tougher when in the opposition than when in power. Pakistani people, who have seen many self-proclaimed messiahs come and go, may not remain as docile as the power elite would like them to be.