

# Is Zaire Britain's next African target?

by Linda de Hoyos

For the second time in the six weeks since the Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) swept the Rwandan government army out of Rwanda, Lady Lynda Chalker, British Minister of Overseas Development, has been touring the East Africa region. During her first trip, Chalker, whose ministry is the former Colonial Office for the British Empire, spent five days in Uganda hosted by her friend President Yoweri Museveni, logistical and ideological sponsor of the RPF, and briefly visited the refugee camp in Goma, Zaire. This time, Chalker, reported the British Broadcasting Co., is visiting Burundi with a different message: All governments of the region must ensure that the former Rwandan government army, now holed up in Zaire, must not be permitted to rearm or regroup.

Her trip puts the British imprimatur on demands already coming from the RPF. A delegation of the new government in Kigali, led by Interior Minister Seth Sendashonga and Rehabilitation Minister Jacques Bihozagara, arrived in Goma on Aug. 29, to place demands before the Zaire government for repatriation of Rwandan refugees to their homeland. Zaire, the RPF said, must help return cash, weapons, and equipment which the ousted Hutu government had taken with them into exile. In addition, the Zaire Army must disarm the remnants of the army of the former Rwandan government; the two RPF ministers claimed the Zaire government is now training and reorganizing the Rwandan refugee army.

Zaire Defense Minister Admiral Mavua stated that such disarmament is occurring continuously, and that the RPF has no proof to back its claims of Zaire aid to the Rwandan military.

And amid western press reports that the Rwandan Hutu army is now reorganizing and rearming, Chalker's pal Museveni has gone even further. In a mid-August statement, Museveni called on "the international community"—that is, the United Nations—to arrest Rwandans in Zaire who are suspected of war crimes. The U.N. has already called for a war crimes tribunal against the Hutu regime on charges of "genocide." Such action would likely necessitate direct UN military intervention into eastern Zaire itself.

There are already moves afoot for a forced repatriation of the Hutu refugees from Rwanda in Zaire. While the U.N. Development Program has moved into Rwanda to begin to establish satellite communications, the U.N. is making clear

it does not intend to sustain the refugees in Zaire over a long period of time. Panos Moutzisz, spokesman for the U.N. High Commission on Refugees, told BBC on Aug. 12 that the Hutu elders are prohibiting their villagers from returning, and likened the situation to that of the Palestinian refugees. The huge humanitarian operation in Goma may continue another six months, "but it clearly will not continue for the next 5, 10, 15 years." The Zaire government also will not be able to keep the refugees for "too long a time," he said.

The conditions are thus being put in place for additional military action in the region, either from U.N. or between the warring groups, this time bringing Zaire into the fray.

## Policy of destruction

Zaire, now primarily an asset of the French government, as was the former Rwandan regime, is one of the major targets in the British grand strategy for East Africa, launched with the October 1990 invasion of Rwanda. Reportedly, Rwanda is in the paradigm for the new British Foreign Office agenda in Africa.

As *EIR* documented in its Aug. 19 issue, the gameplan, as it is unfolding outward from Uganda, involves the destruction of all independent and local political structures and their replacement with entities willing to be tools of the British Overseas Development Ministry, with a healthy component of British citizens functioning as the top local technocrats. The so-called "success story" for this policy is Uganda, where Chalker tool Museveni has held power with the British after Uganda had been destroyed by the first dictator, Idi Amin, and then a brutal seven-year civil war.

With the RPF invasion and victory, now Rwanda is poised either for more years of civil war, or the protracted displacement of the majority of its population. Not only has the 22-year political machine of assassinated President Juvenal Habyarimana been swept out of the country, but other institutions, such as the Roman Catholic Church, have been devastated.

Estimates are that the war eliminated one out of every four priests in Rwanda, where more than 75% of the population is Catholic, reported the church magazine *30 Days*. Many religious were also killed, many of them "en masse." Aside from the priests killed during the mass killing of April and May, the RPF murdered the archbishop of Kigali and two other bishops the Front had taken under its protection. Cardinal Roger Etchegaray, who visited Rwanda at the end of June, told *30 Days* that "the church has been completely dismantled, its surviving members scattered. It is in a state of shock." *30 Days* further reported that the church "found itself caught in the middle of this conflict for power because the men of the church also represented an authority, or because by opposing the spiral of violence, they were considered enemies by both sides. There is now no doubt that in eliminating the church hierarchy, the aim is to destroy the church as an entity and as a point of reference."