

EIRFeature

Who will answer for East Zaire holocaust?

by Linda de Hoyos

Laurent Kabila—the mercenary turned gold smuggler, turned “liberator,” and now turned “self-appointed President”—was inaugurated on May 29 as President of the Republic of Congo. Since arriving in Kinshasa on May 20, Kabila has already announced a series of sweeping decrees giving himself total authority over the government that rules 45 million people.

On May 24, he banned all political activities and the opposition parties. The edict signaled that those who disobeyed could be dealt with extremely harshly: “Those who contravene these measures will be considered enemies of the liberation of the Congolese, and will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.”

On May 28, he announced that the “government conducts the policies of the nation as defined by the President, it executes the law of the republic and the decrees of the head of state.” There are to be no constraints on Kabila’s personal power or the power of his Rwandan, Ugandan, and Angolan military backers to enforce the “decrees of the head of state.”

At the inauguration, the May 30 *New York Times* noted, “Kabila was flanked by the Presidents of the five countries who helped him during the war: Yoweri K. Museveni of Uganda, Pasteur Bizimungu of Rwanda, Pierre Buyoya of Burundi, Frederick Chiluba of Zambia, and Jose Eduardo Dos Santos of Angola.” In the cases of Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, and Angola, this aid extended to the deployment of military equipment, weaponry, and troops.

With the addition of Museveni’s military partners to the north, Eritrean President Isaias Afwerki and Ethiopian President Meles Zenawi, the group gathered at Kinshasa represents the military combine the British Privy Council has organized for its complete seizure of the mineral wealth of Africa—as indicated by Kabila’s May 9 Lubumbashi conference with 32 mining and investment houses, most of them representing financial interests of the upper crust of the British Commonwealth.

For the British Privy Council, the drive—whose preparatory phase began with



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the 1990 invasion of Rwanda from Uganda—to seize Africa's raw materials is fuelled by the ongoing collapse of the international monetary system. Under conditions in which the value of all paper instruments is nullified, it is the ownership rights to, and market control over, raw commodities, especially strategic minerals, oil, and agricultural production, that, the financial oligarchs believe, will give them the *political* power to dictate terms to the rest of the world. Hence, the drive to take Zaire, bringing it into the British Commonwealth at last, has brought the financial interests behind the British Privy Council into direct control of the heart of central Africa, and has put it in military position to lash out in all directions against any nation-state not already fully cooperative.

For Africans, this means systematic mass death, on a scale nearly rivaling the extermination campaigns of Hitler's Germany, and in intensity, already surpassing it.

Holocaust out in the open

Two days before Kabila strode into Kinshasa, the *New York Times* published a feature-length article detailing the mass murder of thousands of Rwandan and Burundian refugees in eastern Zaire, under the supervision of Rwandan Tutsi troops. "Since the middle of last month, no outsider has been allowed down the six miles of jungle road that begin at a roadblock manned by soldiers at Kilometer 42 south of here. But a growing number of accounts emerging from that zone suggest some form of systematic killing of refugees and disposal of the evidence has been taking place there," wrote

Donald G. McNeil, Jr., in an article entitled "Reports Point to Mass Killing of Refugees in Congo." This and other news accounts in the Western press since April 30 have detailed the liquidation of up to 45,000 refugees in eastern Zaire since April 20 (see press grid).

However, those killed were among the last remnants of more than 600,000 that remained in Zaire, after Kabila's Rwandan and Ugandan troops forced 500-600,000 refugees to return to Rwanda in November 1995. Hundreds of thousands of others are either dead through starvation, disease, and exhaustion, or were murdered in massacres at successive camps, or "hunted down like wild animals" in the Zairean jungles, as Emma Bonino, Humanitarian Affairs Commissioner of the European Community, described it. The safety of those who have returned to Rwanda is not considered secure.

The combination of leaders credentialed by British intelligence to enforce such mass murder are being heralded as the leaders of a "new Africa" to be aimed against those remaining old-style "dictators" who retained any link to their citizenry at all. This combine, claimed one promoter of London's game, Dr. Bob Arnot of the U.S. Committee on Refugees, will bring into being a "united states of Africa," a plan, he said on national television on May 15, that Museveni, Kabila, Afwerki, John Garang, and others hatched at the Dar Es Salaam University under then-Tanzanian President Julius Nyerere.

Museveni himself is more honest about the role model he has taken. At the opening of the East African Law Society General Assembly and Conference on April 4, 1997, accord-

ing to the newspaper *Shariat* of April 15-21, Museveni declared: "My mission is to see that Eritrea, Ethiopia, Sudan, Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi, and Zaire become federal states under one nation. It is not a choice now, but a must that East Africa becomes one nation. Either we become one nation or we perish. If we don't come together, we shall perish as the Red Indians perished. . . . As Hitler did to bring together Germany, we should also do it here. Hitler was a smart guy, but I think he went a bit too far by wanting to conquer the whole world."

There are immediate targets on the agenda, now that Kinshasa is taken. According to reliable sources, 3,000 Ugandan and Burundian troops have been redeployed into Burundi, with the aim of destroying the National Council for the Defense of Democracy, the multi-ethnic resistance to the long-standing extermination policies of the Burundi Tutsi military. Another immediate target is Kenya. It is reported that a major force of Ugandan troops and Kenyan insurgents is amassing on the Kenyan border in the Mt. Elgon region, with the aim of targeting Kenya's General Services Units stationed along the border. Sources also indicate that soon we can expect "the ingestion of Congo-Brazzaville."

Never again?

Despite the evidence of the mass murder that has been carried out by the gang of invaders assembled under Kabila's

name last November, there has been little outcry in the Western world. To the contrary, the op-ed pages are filled with those ready to make excuses for Kabila and his friends, along the vein of Bob Arnot himself, who, after describing Kabila's wholesale destruction of village after village in Zaire and the indiscriminate murder of their inhabitants, declared: "This is a great opportunity."

Kabila and his gang are winning friends and congratulations from all levels. To enumerate only some of them:

- U.S. Rep. Donald Payne (D-N.J.): According to a report from Voice of America, Payne and Thomas Campbell (R-Calif.) ran to Kinshasa to meet with Kabila and his finance and foreign affairs ministers, before they went to Kigali, Rwanda, to meet with Tutsi leader Paul Kagame. As news of the mass killings was hitting the press, Payne was cited by VOA as saying that "now is not the time for Western political standards of democracy. . . . A country that has been in existence for two days, I do not think can be called un-democratic because they are not going to allow demonstrations." In January, after meeting Kabila, Payne praised him for treating the refugees "humanely."

- Jeffrey Sachs: The resident dope-economist at the Harvard Institute for International Development and whose recommendations destroyed the economies of eastern Europe, Sachs has weighed in on Kabila's side. In an op-ed in the *New York Times* on May 29, Sachs declared that "the West should

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save the morality lessons for later. . . . It seems likely that Kabila will rely more on direct military support from Uganda, Rwanda, and Angola to consolidate his rule than on the allegiance of his countrymen. . . . First the United States should abandon its calls for early elections. These will have to wait.”

Sachs then hails Museveni’s Uganda—the country whose life expectancy is falling faster than any other country in the world—as the model for Congo. “The experience of neighboring Uganda is instructive. Since President Museveni came to power in 1986, Uganda has recovered from the most harrowing depths of violence and economic collapse to become one of Africa’s fastest-growing countries, while improving its human rights record.”

- President Nelson Mandela of South Africa, wearing the mantle of the symbol of the fight against apartheid, is either not briefed or is forced to play the game as it is called by the Privy Council’s Anglo-American conglomerate that owns most of his country.

In a speech on May 28 after meeting with Ugandan President Museveni in Johannesburg, Mandela, who has complained of U.S. distrust of Kabila, declared: “You must judge what President Kabila is doing against the specific conditions that exist there. It would be suicidal for him to allow the operation of parties before he has a firm grip on the government of the country. I think that we can trust him, on the basis of his record, to keep his word.”

Mandela conferred on Museveni South Africa’s highest honor, the Order of Good Hope Grand Cross, during the Ugandan’s two-day visit.

- Tanzanian former President Julius Nyerere: “Please give Mr. Kabila a chance to organize himself,” he told the International Peace Academy in New York. In the same speech, he defended the actions of the Tutsi Rwandan government, claiming that the refugees were armed, implying thusly that the Rwandan Army was justified in its mass murder of civilians.

Despite the pressure coming from various private entities and reportedly from U.S. Ambassador Daniel Simpson himself, that Kabila be given a *carte blanche*, it does not appear that the Clinton Presidency agrees.

U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Bill Richardson is to return to the Congo, Secretary of State Madeleine Albright announced from Paris on May 26. On orders from President Clinton, Richardson had travelled to Zaire at the end of April, in a mission to ensure that the taking of Kinshasa would not result in a general bloodbath, and to press upon Kabila the conditions for U.S. support. Richardson’s trip also began to bring to the U.S. media the plight of the hundreds of thousands killed or starved under Kabila’s watch in eastern Zaire since October 1996.

But Kabila’s record on adhering to U.S. demands is as poor as his human rights record. He dances to the tune of a different master—London. It will take confrontation with this reality to bring to account those responsible for the mass murder in eastern Zaire.

Documentation

Genocide in Africa: Some of the truth comes out

The following are excerpts from articles appearing in the world’s press on the genocide of the Rwandan and Hutu refugees and also displaced Zaireans in eastern Zaire since Nov. 4, 1996. The articles are listed in reverse chronological order. This chronology does not include reports from aid agencies, some of which, like Amnesty International, Refugees International, and Doctors Without Borders, have consistently reported on atrocities carried out by the combined “Tutsi legions” organized by Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni from Rwanda, Uganda, Burundi, and Zaire.

May 22, 1997, Donald G. McNeil, Jr., “Reports Point to Mass Killing of Refugees in Congo,” *New York Times*.

“Since the middle of last month, no outsider has been allowed down the six miles of jungle road that begin at a roadblock manned by soldiers at Kilometer 42 south of here. But a growing number of accounts emerging from that zone suggest some form of systematic killing of refugees and disposal of the evidence has been taking place there. . . .

“The accounts come from refugees who have emerged from the jungle, from aid workers who deal with the victims, from Congolese who live nearby, from a disaffected Congolese soldier who says he worked in the zone, and from aid workers who saw a military unit move into the area. All of the more than 25 people interviewed refused to be identified or to have their aid agencies identified for fear of retribution. . . .

“‘They march them down the road—yes, children and mothers, too,’ said a terrified 34-year-old man in the Biaro camp, just south of here. He said he had heard from other refugees what had happened. ‘They kill them, and then at Kilometer 52 they mix corpses together and make fire with them. . . .’

“One reason the accounts are now emerging is that the soldiers operating in the zone have needed the help of local people to carry out their work. Local people say they have been dragooned to work south of Kilometer 42, carrying bodies, driving trucks or digging graves.

“Witnesses have reported the arrival of a well-drilled and heavily armed military unit in the days before the jungle area was sealed off. Second-hand accounts report killings and funeral pyres deep in the rain forest, and soldiers carrying off bags of human ashes. . . .

“At least one former Zairean soldier who worked in the zone said about 30 refugees are still being killed each day as