

## Australia Dossier by Allen Douglas

### Australian miners invade Africa

*Australian mining companies are part of the British Crown's mad drive to secure raw materials in Africa.*

In 1994, with the world already careening toward a financial crash, Ugandan dictator Yoweri Museveni's British imperial masters directed him to invade Rwanda, on the road to ultimately taking over Zaire. The British plan is to survive the crash by grabbing as much of the world's valuable raw materials as possible, of which Zaire has copious amounts.

Lawfully, therefore, as Museveni stooge Laurent Kabila's forces carried out the conquest of Zaire in 1996-97, they were financed by Her Majesty's raw materials cartel, including the Commonwealth "juniors," i.e., the fronts for such "majors" as Anglo American Corp./DeBeers. And, right in there with the worst of them, were the Australian "juniors."

A snapshot of the activities of one of them, the Perth, Western Australia-based Anvil Mining NL, provides an instructive look at the whole process.

In 1994-95, the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) tried to force Zaire's President Mobutu Sese Seko to break up Zaire's state minerals monopoly, Gecamines, which he resisted, and to allow foreign mining companies free access to Zaire, to which he partially conceded. The first to sign a contract, in 1995, was George Bush's Barrick Gold, for vast reaches of eastern Zaire; the fourth to sign, was Anvil Mining, for 12,000 square kilometers of the world's richest copper territory, in Shaba province in southeastern Zaire. Anvil was by no means the only Australian company moving into Africa. In 1996, some 22% of all new Australian foreign mining ventures were launched in Af-

rica, as opposed to 21% for all of Asia, including such mineral-rich traditional Australian prospecting grounds as Papua New Guinea, Indonesia, and the Philippines.

In 1995, what became Anvil was called KKR Resources, a small Australian miner (as they are called down-under). KKR was given new financing and new management, and renamed Anvil Mining NL (with a branch office in London), to begin the move into Africa. Its chief financial backer was ANZ Nominees, tied to the ANZ Bank, the most British of all Australian banks. ANZ Nominees also sponsored the rise of another Australian miner, "Diamond Joe" Gutnick, who finances the terrorist settler movement on the West Bank in the Middle East. In a prospectus, Anvil said that it expected additional large financing from South Africa, which Australian mining sources told *EIR* means Anglo American/DeBeers, or Gencor.

Anvil's British pedigree was also evident in a March 25 letter to stockholders, in which Anvil Chairman Peter Walker admitted that Kabila was being heavily armed by his neighbors, "most noticeably the *U.S.-backed* Ugandan government" (emphasis added). Besides his witting lie that the United States — not Britain — was Museveni's chief sponsor, Walker shamelessly puffed Kabila as a peace-loving democrat: "Kabila's advance has met with little opposition due to a number of factors: 1) The ADFL [Kabila's] troops have been well-behaved and disciplined and not indulged in looting. 2) Kabila has moved quickly to set up new political administrations in

the area he now occupies and these are meeting with support from the general populace. 3) Kabila has stated that he wants to see elections take place in the provinces he now controls."

In these propitious circumstances, Walker concluded that Anvil was pushing ahead with its Shaba mine, adding, "Although most if not all of our project area is within the region controlled by the ADFL there is no suggestion of physical confrontation or risk. We have established an office in the provincial capital of Lubumbashi."

A followup letter from Walker, dated April 30, made clear why Anvil was in "no risk": "During the week of 14 April 1997, Anvil management met with senior representatives of the Alliance in Lubumbashi. At those meetings Anvil received strong encouragement to continue with the [Shaba] project." Needless to say, no one mines in that area without paying the genocidal Kabila, as the infamous America Mineral Fields-organized meeting in Lubumbashi on May 9 demonstrated, in which more than \$50 million was handed over to Kabila.

As the case of Zaire shows, the IMF-World Bank financial mafia, a front for the City of London, not only exerts bone-crushing pressure on African countries to allow Her Majesty's minerals cartel to enter their countries, *but also helps finance them to do so.* As a prospectus for Anvil's Zaire project noted, "The main risk is political, however the presence of the International Monetary Fund and the International Finance Corporation provide a backstop. . . . The IFC, which is essentially an arm of the World Bank, provides debt funding for mining and development projects." Not only will IFC help finance Anvil, the prospectus says, but the "IFC's political clout is seen as potentially useful" if any problems arise.