
II. Africa

Congo-Zaire: The dissolution of the nation-state

by Linda de Hoyos

Kinshasa, capital city of what used to be Zaire (now renamed Congo), was the scene on Aug. 13-16 of a summit of African leaders of the “new breed” so praised by such outlets as the London *Times*: Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni, Rwandan President Pasteur Bizimungu, Eritrean President Isaias Afwerki, and newly self-appointed President of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Laurent Kabila. Tanzanian former President Julius Nyerere is also due to arrive in Kinshasa for the summit. Just prior to this confab, President Kabila had visited Eritrea, where he met with Afwerki, and also Angola, where he was wined and dined by Angolan President Jose Dos Santos, whose troops provided a major boost to Kabila’s successful takeover of western Zaire in May. Simultaneously, Museveni was playing host in Kampala to Tanzanian President Benjamin Mkapa.

The series of visitations suggests the tightening of coordination among the African leaders who have been projected by British intelligence as ushering in a “United States of Africa.” But this will not be achieved on the basis of diplomacy among sovereign nation-states. The events unleashed in eastern Africa since the Ugandan invasion of Rwanda in 1990, orchestrated by former British Minister of Overseas Development Lynda Chalker, and her favorite underling Yoweri Museveni, show that boundaries among states are to be dissolved, and their contents organized as a new business franchise with two purposes: first, the security of foreign investment and seizure of property titles on raw materials by primarily British Commonwealth mining and other companies; and, second, the lining of the pockets of the government enforcers of the policy. In this context, the actual borders of the east African countries will soon cease to have effective existence.

The following dissolutions of borders have occurred.

Rwanda-Uganda. Since the 1994 takeover of Kigali by the Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF), itself a section of Museveni’s National Resistance Army of Uganda, Rwanda has become a virtual satellite of Uganda. Rwanda’s change in status was made official in August 1996, when Museveni visited Kigali and Rwandan “President” Bizimungu declared that the two countries would cooperate closely in the areas of “commerce and industry, transport and communications, energy, finance, especially in the fields of *privatization, and tax*

collection, defense and internal security, justice and education” (emphasis added). Ugandan citizens are not reaping the benefit of this new attachment, however. There are loud complaints against Rwandan Defense Minister Paul Kagame’s constant use of Museveni’s own Presidential jet, and also of the fact that Kagame and the RPF leaders have long-standing non-performing loans from the major Ugandan bank, the Ugandan Commercial Bank, which loans were used to finance the 1990 and 1994 invasions. Now, the British-Asian Madhvani family of Uganda has announced the takeover of Rwanda’s non-performing sugar industry — extending its slave-labor sugar dynasty southward.

The erasing of the Ugandan-Rwanda border has gone so far, that in 1996, during the elections, Rwandan troops moved in to occupy the Ugandan district of Kisoro, to ensure a turnout for Museveni. Kisoro was formerly part of Rwanda, until it was handed over to Britain’s Ugandan colony in 1910.

Rwanda-Congo. This border has also, for practical purposes, ceased to exist. The RPF has made no attempt to hide its desires to convene a modern replay of the Berlin Conference of 1884, whereby the colonial powers carved up Africa to their own perceived best interests. Former leader of the RPF Fred Rwigema was murdered in 1990, for his lack of interest in using Rwanda as a springboard to move into Zaire, according to multiple sources. In the early days of the RPF-Ugandan invasion of Zaire in 1996, Rwandan Foreign Minister Pierre-Celestin Rwigema showed a correspondent for the Brussels paper *Le Soir*, a map in which the Zairean provinces of North and South Kivu are incorporated in “Greater Rwanda.” The invasion was launched from “protected areas” (**Figure 1**).

The annexation is not official, but is efficient already today. Idjwi Island in Lake Kivu has already been retrieved by Rwanda, and Rwandan flags can be seen in Kivu towns such as Jomba, Bunagana, Ntamugena, Rugari, Uvira, and Nyangezi. Rwanda and Ugandan businessmen are also looking to set up shop in the area. Aiding this process is the annihilation of the Zairean currency, and the increased usage of the Ugandan shilling as the only reliable tender in the region — especially since the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank have knocked the Kenyan shilling to the floor.

FIGURE 1

Protected areas in Africa



From 1995 to 1996, Uganda registered nearly a tripling of gold exports to \$60 million, with the central bank declaring that the gold increase stems from increasing gold leakages from Zaire to Uganda.

Aside from the economic penetration of particularly eastern Zaire, there has been mounting evidence that politically

and militarily, Kabila may well be only a front man for the Rwandan-Ugandan takeover of especially eastern Zaire. According to reports, Kabila spends most of his time in Lubumbashi, the capital of the mineral-rich and highly contested province of Shaba, where British Privy Council interests are focussed.

What Congolese army?

The concern over Kabila's actual political power has arisen over the shroud of secrecy that covers the actual command structure of his army. Even the outgoing U.S. ambassador to Uganda noted in an interview with *Le Figaro* on July 25, that "there is also the question, always a timely one, to know if Kabila will be capable of managing the situation, and to what extent he is operating, as his point of departure, *from a political base which is Rwanda*" (emphasis added).

As the reports of the Rwandan troops' mass murder of Hutu refugees in eastern Zaire hit the Western press, finally, in April 1997, it became clear that the Rwandans, not Kabila's Alliance of Democratic Liberation Forces (ADLF), were running the military show. According to anti-Kabila forces, a Ugandan Hima (Tutsi), James Kabari, is the actual commander of Kabila's armed forces today, and the command structure remains under Rwandan-Ugandan control. There is, in fact, no Congo army. Those forces under the label of Kabila control only sections of the country — North and South Kivu, Shaba, and areas around Kisangani and Kinshasa, and are comprised of up to 4,000 Rwandan troops, with Burundian, Angolan, Ugandan, and Eritrean troops also present. The primary mission of this multinational force, according to reliable sources, is to provide security for the foreign mining ventures in the country.

A similar military configuration is currently in Uganda, reportedly preparing for a renewed assault on southern Sudan. This 15,000-man force is comprised of 5,000 Ugandan troops, with the rest from Angola, Eritrea, Rwanda, and Congo, augmented by Tanzanian medical services and trainers.

Another Thirty Years' War

The multilateral forces operating on behalf of the British Commonwealth are mirrored by the makeshift alliances of their on-the-ground opponents. According to multiple sources, remnants of the Rwandan Armed Forces of murdered President Juvenal Habyarimana, remnants of the Zairean Armed Forces of ousted President Mobutu Sese Seko, Jonas Savimbi's Unita in northwestern Angola, and various localized armed opposition groups to Kabila all operate in a loose coalition against the Uganda-Rwanda-Angola-Kabila combine. Such operations are not really a problem for London, as long as business is permitted to proceed unmolested. Meanwhile, entire populations will continue to be caught in the crossfire, pushed back into the *terra incognita* of "the bush" in order to escape certain death. A look at the model, Uganda, where Museveni's wars against the opposition have taken hundreds of thousands of civilians' lives (see *EIR*, Aug. 8, 1997), illustrates the point.

The London *Times* and other misinformation outlets might hail Museveni et al. as the "new breed" of Africans, who no longer listen to the western powers. But the ultimate beneficiary of the dissolution of the Congo is emerging: Rwanda has now officially requested admission into the British Monarchy's Commonwealth, following in the footsteps of Mozambique and Angola.

London reaps a harvest of death

by Richard Freeman

On May 9, in Lubumbashi in western Zaire, less than two weeks before he was to take power over Zaire and its 45 million inhabitants, Laurent Kabila met with top members of the British Commonwealth's oligarchical financiers. The meeting was organized jointly by Kabila and a Canadian mining company, America Mineral Fields (AMF); representatives from approximately a dozen financial institutions attended.

For three years before then, the raw materials cartel had been laying the groundwork for the attack on this huge, mineral-rich country (see **Figure 1**), with an economic invasion of its own. Operating through a series of what are called junior companies — small mining firms, usually with hidden backing and control from such as Anglo American Corp., or else oligarchical financier forces — it began to map out, and, through preliminary contracts, lay claim to the country's various deposits in rich mines of cobalt, tin, diamonds, zinc, copper, etc. This first invasion commenced in 1994-95, and gained substantial force during 1996, when preliminary contracts were signed with the government of President Mobutu Sese Seko. But the Mobutu contracts had too many restrictions limiting the "free-enterprise rights" of the mining cartel to plunder.

Former U.S. President Sir George Bush's Barrick Gold led the mining invasion of Zaire in 1996, when it claimed gold mines at Kilomoto and Doko, in Haut-Zaïre province. Joining Bush in this looting expedition were the Canadian junior companies, which, amazingly, often had office staffs of only 10 people, and little capitalization of their own. But, like America Mineral Fields — which, despite its name, is a Canadian (i.e., British Commonwealth) company — they claimed huge mining properties. AMF had signed a deal to mine the mammoth Kipushi copper mines in Shaba province.

America Mineral Fields was founded in 1995 for exploration purposes. Its stock was first floated on the Vancouver Stock Exchange, and it is now traded on the Toronto Stock Exchange. It is run and owned by Jean-Raymond Boulle and by his British-educated brother, Max. Jean-Raymond Boulle's business partner and president of AMF, is Mike McMurrough, who happens to live in Hope, Arkansas (a town that young President-to-be Bill Clinton left when he was seven years old). They made Hope the temporary headquarters of AMF. There is therefore absolutely nothing to the widely circulated British propaganda lie, that AMF is an