

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

FIGURE 1
Congo's strategic resources



Symbol	Resource	
Au	Gold	
C	Coal	
Cb	Columbium (niobium)	
Cd	Cadmium	
Cem	Cement	
Co	Cobalt	
Cu	Copper	
Dm	Diamond	
Mn	Manganese	
Pet	Petroleum	
Re	Rhenium	
Sn	Tin	
Ta	Tantalum	
W	Tungsten	
Zn	Zinc	
○	Group of producing mines or wells	
<u>○</u>	Plant	
—	Railway	

“American” firm with “ties to President Clinton.” McMurrough neither has, nor had, any business dealings with Clinton. As an AMF official told *EIR* on April 18, “AMF’s operation in Hope, Arkansas is just a shell company.”

Boulle’s pedigree shows that for his entire life, he has worked for the British Commonwealth raw materials cartel. During the 1960s, Boulle ran the Zaire operations of the Oppenheimer family’s DeBeers’ Diamonds. During the 1970s, he and his brothers set up shop in Dallas, Texas to sell diamonds and jewelry. In the 1990s, Boulle developed a nickel property in Canada, called the Voyseys Bay project, in partnership with Robert Friedland, a Vancouver-based wheeler-dealer. Through selling his share in the property to the Bronfman family’s Inco Company, Boulle now sits on the board of Inco, which is based in Canada. In 1996, Boulle lined up business deals in Zaire with Anglo American Corp. Through business deals, Boulle is linked to Tony Buckingham, who oversees Executive Outcomes, the mercenary police force in Africa.

On May 20, an executive vice president of a Canadian investment bank, who attended the Lubumbashi meeting, confirmed and added to what the AMF official reported occurred at the meeting: “Zaire has potential for food growth, timber reserves, and great mineral wealth: diamonds, copper, cobalt, and zinc,” he said. Asked why invest now, rather than five years ago, he explained that Kabila promised privatization of Zaire’s mineral holdings. During the 1980s, when Zaire produced at its peak, it was one of the five biggest raw materials producing entities in the world. In 1993, the International Monetary Fund and World Bank organized a credit cutoff to force Zaire to privatize its raw materials holdings. As a result, between 1987 and 1993, cobalt production fell 82%, and copper output fell 91%. Though some concessions were made to privatization, basically, it still resisted. The Kabila forces have now levelled that resistance.

At the start of May, as part of the payment to help Kabila to get into power, the Vancouver-based firm, Eurocan Ventures International of Alfred Lundin, which has renamed itself Tenke Company, and which has a large cobalt investment in Zaire, gave Kabila a \$50 million payment, as a “down-payment” on its mining project. In April, AMF’s Jean Raymond Boulle provided Kabila with a personal plane to fly him around Zaire. By then, AMF had started to refer to Kabila’s government as the actual government.

The corporate invasion

The British Commonwealth raw materials cartel operated behind and through the Canadian juniors in Zaire:

- The Canadian mining company, America Mineral Fields of Jean-Raymond Boulle, lined up to purchase for approximately \$1 billion, the Kolwezi project and the Kipushi copper and zinc mine in Shaba province from Gecamines. The Kipushi mine is one of the largest copper and zinc mines in the world (copper and zinc are often mined together), and

mining operations started here in 1925. Its known and probable reserves stand at 22.6 million tons, grading 2.1% copper and 13.8% zinc. AMF will realize more than \$20 billion in revenues from the mines, achieving a very high rate of return.

- Tiny Consolidated Eurocan of Vancouver, which renamed itself the Tenke Company in February, is purchasing from the state mining company Gecamines, a 55% interest in the Tenke-Fungurume copper-cobalt deposits in Shaba province. Eurocan/Tenke will pay \$250 million over 72 months for its stake, but the stake is worth potentially tens of billions of dollars in revenues. The Tenke-Fungurume mines have geological reserves of 222 million tons of copper and cobalt, with potential reserves of 1 billion tons, the world’s largest operating cobalt reserves. Consolidated Eurocan/Tenke is owned and run by Swedish wheeler-dealer Adolf Lundin, who operates from Vancouver. One U.S. mining industry source reported, “There is no way that Eurocan can develop the mines on its own. It doesn’t have the capabilities. It will have to sell off shares to established mining companies, most likely Iskor and Gencor, to work the properties.” Iskor and Gencor are both South African companies.

- Vancouver and Cayman Islands-based Panorama International has obtained cobalt holdings in Shaba.

- Banro Corporation of Toronto, Canada.

Zaire has three eastern provinces: Haut-Zaïre, in the northeast; Kivu, in the central-east; and Shaba. The leading mining concern in Kivu is the Société Minière et Industrielle de Kivu, or Sominki. Sominki was formed in 1976 as an amalgamation of nine companies that had been operating in Kivu province since the early 1900s. It operates 47 mining concessions, encompassing an area of 10,271 square kilometers. In 1996, Banro Corp. of Toronto bought 36% of Sominki, raising some of its money for the purchase by floating shares in Singapore. Banro was previously a small financial institution, with little apparent aptitude for mining.

Another large chunk of Sominki was bought by the Belgium-based company Mines D’or du Zaire, or MDDZ. Owning 60% of MDDZ is Cluff Mining Co. of London, and controlling 65% of Cluff is Anglo American Corp., the world’s largest mining company. On Sept. 21, 1996, Banro and MDDZ announced their merger, with Banro selling its shares to MDDZ. The new Banro-MDDZ company consolidated a 72% stake in Sominki, while the government of Zaire holds 28%. The Banro-MDDZ entity has announced that it plans to acquire that 28% from the government. Thus, Anglo American is the *éminence grise* behind the project.

According to various Banro corporate reports and news releases, Banro was anxious to get its mining operations started as quickly as possible. However, the Sominki mining zone that Banro acquired started in the town of Bukavu, the center for the major camp for Rwandan refugees who had fled to Zaire, with nearly a million people. To get mining started, the entire zone would require clearing—a task which Kabila et al. have dutifully accomplished.