

more pro-active, and release more funds to what has been referred to as, probably, the worst humanitarian disaster in the history of the world. And we are hoping that the European Union step towards the Congo will be followed by the United States and the rest of the world, to help Congo get back to its feet.

**EIR:** And has there been any response to the request for pressure to get the invading countries to pull out?

**Ambassador Mitifu:** Obviously, everybody is supportive of the Lusaka Accord, and everybody feels that all must be done, within this framework. But, the Congolese people want these armies to leave now, today; because that, for them, is the only jump-start of economic recovery, and the only jump-start to put an end to the humanitarian disaster.

## Uganda, Rwanda Armies Must Leave Congo Now

by Lawrence K. Freeman

Since the Jan. 16 death of President Laurent Kabila and the “official peace” in the Democratic Republic of Congo (D.R.C.), two reports have been published which provide a public glimpse into the dimension of devastating *physical destruction* of that nation as a result of the years-long succession of wars perpetrated by Uganda, Rwanda, and Burundi.

One report, issued by the International Rescue Committee (IRC) in May, details the fantastic increase of mortalities as a result of the “protracted and violent conflict” that raged in the occupied eastern section of the D.R.C., which is the area the invading armies have militarily occupied since August 1998.

The second, 56 pages long, is the result of an investigation commissioned by United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan in June 2000, and submitted to the Security Council on April 2, entitled, “Report of the Panel of Experts on the Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources and Other Forms of Wealth of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.”

### Slaughter and Looting of Wealth

The investigative panel appointed by Kofi Annan cited, in particular, Uganda and Rwanda, and their proxy armies, the MLC (Congolese Liberation Movement), and the RDC (Rally for Congolese Democracy). Here are only a few of the incidents contained in the UN report.

- RCD soldiers collected “taxes” at gunpoint from the areas they occupied, and stole between \$1 and \$8 million in Congolese francs from Kinshasa Central Bank.

- RCD and MLC forces took over commerce and trade by force when necessary, and established unprecedented con-

trol of the economy in eastern and northeastern D.R.C.

- Uganda, which produces virtually no gold at all, became a gold exporter of 11.45 tons in 1999 and 10.83 tons in 2000, as a result of shipping stolen gold across the border.

- Uganda increased its export of diamonds from 1,511 carats in 1997 to 11,303 carats in 1998, and more than 11,000 carats in 2000, also as result of stealing from the D.R.C.

- Rwanda increased its exports in diamonds from 166 carats in 1998 to 30,491 carats in 2000 by the same looting methods.

The Executive Summary of the IRC report, which covers the period from February 1999 to April 2001, estimates that as a result of the war, 2.5 million people died in excess of normal mortalities. Officials from the D.R.C. estimate that for the entire war period, it is closer to 4.5 million excess deaths, of whom more than 4 million died of diseases untreated due to the absence of health care in the fighting zones, and more than 300,000 in the combat. Even now, as the humanitarian disaster has been recognized, because of the non-existence of basic infrastructure, relief cannot reach the suffering population. It is estimated that 70-80% of the population—35-40 million people—is *presently* considered “endangered” due to these conditions.

In eastern D.R.C., where the invasions began, five of the seven areas visited showed fewer births than deaths, and four of seven showed 8% or more of the population dying over the two-year period. Before the war these areas had a population growth of approximately 3%. It is estimated that nationally one in eight households has experienced a violent death, and 40% of those deaths are women and children.

In Moba and Kalemie, the estimate is that 75% of children born during the war have died, or will die before their second birthday.

For the D.R.C. to reconstruct itself as a nation, the rest of the world, especially the West, must: 1) provide not only immediate humanitarian aid, but teams of workers and engineers to build roads and other infrastructure necessary for the delivery of food and medicine to the beleaguered population; 2) order the invading armies from Rwanda and Uganda out of the D.R.C. without any delay.

## Hearings Confirm EIR Congo Warning of 1997

by Suzanne Rose

The truth about the catastrophic genocide occurring in the Congo and Great Lakes region of Africa, and the British and American role in that genocide, began finally to emerge in Congressional hearings May 18. Congresswoman Cynthia McKinney (D-Ga.) convened a hearing of the Human Rights