

*Corriere Della Serra* of May 21, as well as a *Le Monde* editorial of May 21 both assert that Belgium would be happy with a "new Tshombe" leading an independent Katanga.

Moise Tshombe was the vehicle for predominantly Belgian and British financial interests who attempted to separate Katanga (now Shaba) from the rest of the Belgian Congo (later Zaire) at the time of independence in the early 1960s.

Commenting on editorial support for the Shaba secessionists such as a May 19 *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* editorial, a Zaire diplomat in Europe commented that this represented "the old conservatives behind the Oppenheimers." he added that the rebels were telling the local population of their intention to return the state-owned mines back to the Belgian-based Union Minière.

#### *Belgians Angry At French*

The Belgian government was clearly hoping for prolonged negotiations between the rebels and Mobutu as a way of gaining political leverage on Mobutu, which could serve on eventually pushing him out of office. *Matin de Paris* reported on May 20 that Belgium has accused France of going to war (British-connected press such as Rupert Murdoch's *New York Post* accused France of invading Zaire) and of sabotaging the contact Belgium had with the rebels through the Red Cross (a notorious cover for secret British intelligence operations). One Belgian official expressed his dissatisfaction with the unceremonious end the French put to this scenario thus: "It's another example of Giscard's Africa Corps." The pseudo-liberation front cover for the rebel operation,

FNLC, charged in a May 22 press conference in Brussels that the French alone had destroyed their plans, adding that the FNLC plans of finding a reasonable partner in the West (for their dismemberment plans) "has been deceived."

#### Mobutu Attacks Belgium

The first blast levelled by Mobutu against the Belgians was published in the conservative Belgian daily *Libre Belgique* on May 18. Responding to an attack on Zaire by Belgian Foreign Minister Henri Simonet, Mobutu said: "Belgium should remain quiet as they are the ones to offer protection to the FNLC, et al.," referring to large anti-Mobutu lobby maintained in Belgium. Mobutu later charged that the whole invasion was planned in Brussels, according to the Berlin daily *Tagespiegel*. *Tagespiegel* also reported that Simonet had to cancel an upcoming trip to Africa after being criticized for wanting to gain sympathy for Mobutu's opponents.

"I want to know if Simonet is both the Prime Minister and the King," said Mobutu, taking a jab at Foreign Minister Simonet, who Mobutu charged with withholding his request for armed assistance. "Anyway, I never asked these Belgians anything because I know their mentality." Mobutu ordered Zaire diplomats not to have any contact with Simonet, "even if it means a break in diplomatic relations."

The FNLC is threatening to go back to Kolwezi as soon as the French troops leave. Notwithstanding this, the rebels and their backers have already accomplished their goal of sabotaging the economy, putting Mobutu in a very precarious position.

## Franco-African Summit Focuses On Peace And Development

The leaders of 20 French-speaking African nations met with French President Giscard D'Estaing in Paris May 22-23 to discuss a full range of topics in African security and development, including the current French stabilization role in Zaire.

Not mincing any words, President Giscard set the tone of the summit with a statement that "peace itself becomes a first precondition for the progress of Africa." At a press conference later, Giscard stressed: "We must do everything so that the still fragile tissue of Africa not be cruelly torn by the rivalries of the blocs. . . We must reinforce the African tissue through development."

Although the full details of the meeting are not yet public, it is clear that the discussions were, in part, defined by the terms of the historic Brezhnev-Schmidt 25-year economic development deal concluded earlier this month. As the diplomats were gathering, the USSR-West Germany accord was celebrated in the French industrial press, which suggested that the accord — which France could, but has yet to, join in — could be a vehicle for the industrial development-based stabilization of Africa. The

Gaullist magazine *Perspectives* editorially hailed the deal as a "Grand Design whereby the Western world and the East bloc would cooperate toward the industrialization of the Third World." A second article, in the review published by a think tank associated with the Paribas, warned that French industrialists must not slough off the importance of the 25-year agreement, as their participation is urgently required to meet the task of Third World development.

In this context, French Prime Minister Barre introduced the debate on economic questions at the summit by saying that: "We are in solidarity when what is at stake is to establish on new bases the economic relations between industrialized countries and developing countries.... France ardantly hopes that the North-South dialogue, which it initiated, will bring about a just economic order..."

The Sahel region, and its terrible drought problems, was also a particular subject of emphasis at the summit; Giscard met with the leaders of Senegal, Mali, and Mauritania on May 20 to discuss the question. At the

summit, Giscard pledged \$32 million beyond the \$50 million already pledged to develop the Senegal River and dam.

It now remains to be seen if this excellent Franco-African beginning will be matched by the international commitment to develop the Sahel, especially from the Arab oil producing nations, which can generate the billions in credit necessary to finish the job.

Input into the Summit's economic development debate also came from West Germany itself. While the summit was taking place, Dresdner Bank President Hans B. Friedrich wrote a feature for the *Süddeutsche* on the convergent interests of Europe and the Arab world on nuclear power, "in the long term, energy cooperation with the Arab world will preeminently concern nuclear energy. Our interests, the export of nuclear plants, coincides with Arab interests to save the oil for chemical processes and so forth." Freiderich then pointed out the need for increased integration of the Arab world — a need stressed for Africa at the summit — so as to facilitate development projects and dealings with Europe as an entity. Note that France and West Germany are now on line for the development of Egypt's nuclear industry. On the African continent, West Germany is building Nigeria's first nuclear reactor, an event to be celebrated in an upcoming visit of Chancellor Helmut Schmidt to that country.

### Giscard: Europe and Africa Must Work Together

*Below are excerpts of the opening remarks made by French President Giscard d'Estaing to the summit conference of French speaking African nations in Paris May 22:*

In this difficult world, France wants to be a pole of stability at the same time as a source of animation, initiatives and reinforcement of solidarity... Thought and action are in this respect intense in the present period, with the opening of a new phase of French re-establishment, to renewal of efforts in the European Economic Community tending towards reducing instability in exchange relations and relaunching economic activity, and the preparation of a Western "summit" aimed at concerting the action of the Community with that of its North American and Japanese partners...

But beyond the action it is pursuing with its industrial partners and in world organizations, France is directing its attention towards Africa and intends to continue to do so. The Franco-African dialogue is for France a privileged North-South dialogue, which must be ahead of the world dialogue and show the way. As you know, we want the Euro-African dialogue to be broadened into a greater one, because we see between the two continents a complementarity which prolongs and reinforces the

affinities that we already have with your states....

We must prevent the politics of the blocs from ravaging Africa. In the action that must be carried out, the initiative must be taken by the African states. It is now peace itself which becomes the primary condition for the progress of Africa.

As much as I am convinced that in the political field Africa must remain to the Africans, I am convinced that in the economic field, the Africans would impoverish themselves by limiting their interest to their continent alone.

There is not paradox, for a country that entertains with your states very tight and particular relations, to emphasize the importance of this opening toward the outside. It has never been the intentions of France to close you up in an exclusive... although undoubtedly fruitful... tete-à-tete with us. Our ambition, on the contrary has always been to coordinate our policy with yours so that, together, we can defend our interests which are in great part linked.

### Giscard and Houphouet-Boigny: "Only Development Ensures Real Security"

*Below are excerpts of the statement issued by Ivory Coast President Houphouet-Boigny, May 23, during a joint press conference with French President Giscard D'Estaing and President Bongo of Gabon:*

We have stressed (during the summit talks — ed.) the problems of development and the quest for peace. Peace founded on justice within our countries. Peace between African states. Peace with the rest of the world. It is development which ensures real security... On the level of the community of Western African states, we have signed a non-aggression pact. We will reach an agreement with our brothers in Central Africa to broaden this pact... We must ensure that our countries not become pawns in the rivalry of the blocs. To this end, we must reach an agreement between each other and ensure that the only competition in Africa between the big powers is in the economic, cultural and scientific fields. The only competition, acceptable in Africa is that for development...

*In remarks at this same press conference, President Giscard stated that:*

We must do everything so that the still fragile tissue of Africa not be cruelly torn by the rivalries of the blocs... We must reinforce the African tissue through development... I will tell this to the leaders of the European Economic Community and to President Carter... Africa and Europe being particularly tried by the present disorders and unruliness of the international economy, it is more than ever necessary for them to manifest between each other a narrow solidarity...