

it by the international press.

**Q:** Who put Uganda on its feet again, who reorganized it?

**A:** Call the World Bank, they will give you the breakdown of the aid flows. It was a lot of British, U.S., EC [European Community] and, I expect, Japanese [funds], and then, of course, the World Bank. Another \$820 million was pledged two or three days ago, and there were no political conditionalities on it at all, like, "Keep your fingers out of Rwanda and Burundi, please." If it was raised, it was to sympathize with Museveni that he had such a problem neighbor. Which is like saying, "We're sorry you are an orphan," when you have just killed your father and mother.

## British role still dominant, says banker

*This interview with an official of Barclays Bank of London with wide experience in Uganda was made available to EIR by a journalist.*

**Q:** The Rwandan Patriotic Front was trained in Uganda. Could you give me some background?

**A:** In the late 1950s there were similar troubles in Rwanda, and at the time the Tutsis were thrown out, most of them into Uganda. So now the second generation have organized themselves and invaded Rwanda.

Now, they were all along considered as Ugandans, until suddenly they realized that they needed to go back [laughs]. It is as if you had generations of Italians, and then they suddenly decided to pick up arms and go back.

So they were Ugandans as far as they were concerned, until they realized that they wanted to go back home, and [many were] obviously recruited. And many of them, surprisingly, had joined the army. Therefore, they were competent fighters, all they needed were the weapons.

**Q:** So they got support from President Museveni, I presume?

**A:** Officially, I do not think they did. Officially, they wouldn't.

But I think because some of them were senior commanders in the army, they would have kept in touch with them. Whether he gives them proper support, logistics, it is likely, yes, but I can't comment on that. They wouldn't make it public. But it has been said and I believe there is truth to it. . . .

**Q:** Who gave Museveni his initial help, in his guerrilla days?

**A:** Initially, he had leftist tendencies. It was thought maybe he had some backing from the Soviet Union. But it would appear that he got some money from the Libyans, some from

the Scandinavian countries—Norway, Sweden.

Tiny Rowland gave him some money, but when he got into power he didn't want to deal with him. I think he realized he was the wrong chap. He did give him some business in the beginning, but Museveni privatized everything, and Rowland would have got some of that.

**Q:** What is the extent of British corporate or banking presence in Uganda now?

**A:** Barclays is there. Grindlays was there also, and then it was bought by Standard Bank of South Africa. They are the main foreign banks; then you have local banks.

**Q:** With Uganda's privatization plan in full swing, has there been a lot of British capital flowing in?

**A:** Yes, you had that, but much of it came from Americans, also.

**Q:** How about the British multinationals?

**A:** You have BAT [British American Tobacco], which is the largest; they still have I think a monopoly on tobacco. But I know that one has also been privatized, so they may be getting competition. Shell, Lonrho is there, but very small, mainly agencies for British motor cars and some cotton. Coffee, obviously, is the biggest export of the country and you have very many companies in there, mostly small companies, but they sell to the large commodities companies. There used to be a government monopoly on marketing coffee, but that also has been privatized.

**Q:** Is there much of a presence of British advisers?

**A:** Oh, yeah! I mean the economy is virtually run on expatriates, as they are called. They virtually run the ministries. That is how you get things done. Otherwise the local people, first of all local skilled people, are away. But, more importantly, the education system was disrupted during the troubles, and you have not turned out many intellectuals. And certainly there is a lot of corruption.

So the only way to make it work is to bring in expatriates. I mean, the tax collection is run by a company which is expatriate, the Uganda Revenue Authority. They run the tax management. The government just gives them a budget and gives them targets and they go out and collect the taxes.

**Q:** That is mainly British nationals?

**A:** Yes, British. Some Scandinavians, but mostly British.

I know the Overseas Development Agency [under the Foreign Office], they are seconding people out there. You have the Ugandan Investment Authority, which is also run by expatriates. That's in charge of all investment policy. The deputy executive director is British, Martin V. Hogg.

Yes, here I see the Overseas Development Institute [funded by the British government] has been seconding people out there.