

London wants Zaire partitioned

In Brussels on March 17, two days after the forces behind Laurent Kabila had taken the key city of Kisangani in north-central Zaire, Zairean Foreign Minister Kamanda wa Kamanda warned that the capture of the city carries "the seeds and the risks of a partition of Zaire." The dividing line would run through the east of the country along "the 25th parallel which goes from Kisangani in Upper Zaire, to Kamina and Shaba [province]," he said.

That is precisely London's gameplan, as called for by the March 10 London *Financial Times*, and also through that outlet for British intelligence in the United States, the *New York Times*, on March 18. The *Times* declared that "Kisangani gives the rebel leader, Laurent Kabila, substantial control over Zaire's mineral wealth. He can now consolidate his rule over the gold-producing eastern third of the country [George Bush-Barrick Gold country] while commanding river access to the rich copper and cobalt deposits of the south. . . . At this point, it is not even certain that the ethnically divided, politically demoralized country can remain united."

As per the desires of the British monarchy's Privy Council, eastern Zaire is to be attached to a mega-empire ruled from Yoweri Museveni's Uganda, that would incor-

porate most of the vast mineral wealth of the Great Rift Valley—southern Sudan, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, eastern Zaire, Tanzania, and at least the copper belt section of Zambia.

Although Kabila's political cover depends upon his appearing to be the "liberator" of Zaire from the regime of President Mobutu Sese Seko, there are indications that he will receive no backing from London to go further eastward, once he has taken the diamond areas of Kasai in central Zaire, and completed the takeover of the copper-rich Shaba province to the south. One British outlet indicated that if Kabila rejected a cease-fire and tried to take all of Zaire, he would lose the support of Uganda and Rwanda who, the outlet says, have backed him in hopes of creating a "buffer zone."

In fact, 17,000 Ugandan troops and large sections of the Rwandan Patriotic Army and the Burundi Army comprise nearly the entirety of Kabila's fighting force. Without them, he will not get very far. Kabila and Museveni's coordination is such that on March 14, Kabila traveled to Gulu, Uganda, to meet Museveni, where the Ugandan warlord is directing the Ugandan invasion of Sudan, begun Feb. 21.

The United States has consistently stated its commitment to a united Zaire, and is demanding that Kabila and Zaire adhere to a UN Security Council peace plan, beginning with a cease-fire. However, London has no desire for a unified, democratic Zaire. It wants eastern Zaire—where the loot is, and thinks it only needs mercenary marcherlord armies to get it.—*Linda de Hoyos*

Combined, all three armies are heavily deployed into Zaire, where the Burundi military is the major force behind "Zairean rebel" Laurent Kabila's march into Zaire's southern copper-belt province of Shaba.

Origins of the CNDD

The leading opposition to the Burundi military inside the country is the CNDD, which was organized by Leonard Nyangoma, the interior minister of the government of the first Hutu President, Melchior Ndadaye, who was *elected* to office in June 1993. In October 1993, the Tutsi military murdered Ndadaye, and was only prevented from taking power immediately by the United States. Even so, the military action and the bloodletting in the aftermath of the coup had a major impact on neighboring Rwanda and the expectations of the Rwandan government, if the all-Tutsi Rwandan Patriotic Front were to take power there.

In Burundi, after October 1993, the United States backed successive, impotent Hutu-Tutsi coalition governments, as the military carried out a persistent campaign of slaughter of Hutu civilians. Scores of Tutsi and Hutu democratic leaders, provincial governors, and parliamentarians have been mur-

dered since 1993 by the military. In March 1994, Nyangoma fled Burundi for his life, and organized the CNDD. Although its base is largely Hutu, the CNDD executive is comprised of both Hutus and leading Tutsis, including author Laurence Ndarubagiye and former deputy speaker of the Burundian parliament Staney Kaduga, both of whom also fled Burundi in fear of their lives. In July 1996, the democratic fig-leaf was ripped off the Burundi military, when a coup was carried out, bringing Buyoya back to power. Since his removal after elections in 1993, Buyoya had been a frequent visitor to Washington, and to the Carter Center in Atlanta, Georgia, and was named an adviser to the World Bank.

Between July and December 1996, the CNDD has calculated, on a month-by-month and province-by-province basis, that the Burundi military had murdered in total 38,572 Burundians. Now they are attempting to carry out a "final solution" to the Hutu problem, placing, as of now, 800,000 men, women, and children behind barbed wire in what can only be described as Nazi-like death camps.

This is the process the British Privy Council has put into motion with its deployment of warlord Museveni and his allies. The question is: Will the United States act to stop it?