

butu contracts had too many restrictions limiting the “free-enterprise right” of the mining cartel to plunder. For all his Marxist rhetoric, a retooled Kabila, under Museveni’s wing, would open up Zaire to plunder by outside forces, in a way that Mobutu would not permit. This centered around the privatization of Gecamines (La Générale des Carrières et des Mines du Zaïre), which is the state holding company for a large share of Zaire’s raw materials wealth patrimony. Mobutu resisted International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Bank, and financier calls for complete privatization of Gecamines.

George Bush’s Barrick Gold led the mining invasion of Zaire in 1996, when it laid claim to 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 company—they laid claims to huge mining properties. AMF had signed a deal to mine the mammoth Kipushi copper mines in Shaba province. Others of these Canadian juniors included Consoli-

dated Eurocan of Canada (now renamed Tenke Company), Banro International of Vancouver, and Panomara International of Vancouver and the Cayman Islands.

AMF’s role in organizing the meeting at Kabila’s request gave rise to a disinformation operation, with which it is useful to deal at the outset. Right after the fall of Kinshasa, columnists Ambrose Evans-Pritchard and Chris Ruddy wrote articles about the May 9 meeting in the *Pittsburgh Tribune-Review*, on May 17 and May 18, respectively. The *Pittsburgh Tribune-Review* is owned by right-wing financier Richard Mellon Scaife. Ruddy regularly writes for the *Tribune-Review*, and Evans-Pritchard, who regularly writes for the Hollinger Corp.’s London *Sunday Telegraph*, also writes columns, usually unsigned, for the *Tribune-Review*. Mellon Scaife and the Hollinger Corporation are enemies of the United States, and have led vicious attacks against President Clinton (see p. 62).

The truth about America Mineral Fields

Ruddy and Evans-Pritchard concocted the tale that it is principally American firms that are gobbling up resources in

EIR nails Kagame for his role in genocide

If Rwandan strongman Paul Kagame hoped to top off his highly controversial stay in Mainz, Germany with a triumphant press conference, he was extremely disappointed. At his press conference on May 21, *EIR* hammered Kagame with questions on his role in the massacre of Hutu refugees in Zaire, and his failure to hold elections in Rwanda. Under the headline “No Date for Elections, Kagame Denies Taking Part in Massacre; Tense Atmosphere During Visit,” the *Mainzer Allgemeine Zeitung*, the local daily, reported on the unfriendly reception for Kagame.

This author first challenged Kagame to admit his collusion with Zairean rebel leader Laurent Kabila, prior to Kabila’s invasion of Zaire. Holding up the May 4 issue of the daily *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, in which reporter Robert von Lucius described the Kagame-Kabila cooperation, I demanded of Kagame, “Will you admit, as it says here, that your troops participated in the massacre of Hutu refugees?”

Kagame’s response was to accuse me of being “one of those distorting” what he says. He denied telling von Lucius that he had had any discussions with Kabila, claiming that he “knew the man,” and no more.

When *EIR* demanded clarification of Rwanda’s role in

the refugee massacres, Kagame spit back: “You go and find out.”

By this time, other members of the press corps had caught on. The next reporter also demanded an explanation of reports that Rwandan soldiers have been involved in the massacre of refugees in Zaire. “I do not know of any massacres in Zaire,” Kagame claimed. “I have no troops in Zaire and have nothing to do with what is happening there.” This became Kagame’s stock answer, as other reporters demanded he answer the same question.

EIR then pointed to the widespread reports of the ongoing genocide in Zaire—documented by the United Nations, international relief and refugee organizations, and prominent individuals, including the European Parliament’s Humanitarian Relief Commissioner Mrs. Emma Bonino. *EIR* also detailed Kagame’s central role, along with President Yoweri Museveni of Uganda, and Kabila, in the conquest of Zaire, and this genocidal operation’s backing from the British government and allied mining companies. Kagame’s answer: “You have a problem sir, you have a problem. . . .”

Finally, Kagame was challenged by another journalist on why he has scheduled no elections in Rwanda. Kagame’s answer, that he had no obligation to hold elections for five years, only provoked more aggressive follow-up questions. At this point, the press conference was closed down on the pretext that a helicopter was waiting to take Kagame to meet the German President.

—Dean Andromidas