

of war and the urgent need to act against it; it was received by another standing ovation.

She concluded with a story: A man had a bird in his hands, and two boys came up and asked him, "Is the bird dead or alive?" The man answered, "What do you think?" He had decided that if they told him it was dead, he would crush it, but if they told him it was alive, he would let it fly to its nest. "It's as you wish," he told the boys. One answered, "It is alive," and the man let the bird fly high into the sky. "It's the same with the war on Iraq: You can either watch and see, or decide to mobilize to stop this war, call on your representatives, on your elected officials, to send a delegation to Washington and stop this war. It's as you wish." Mrs. Robinson was given an ancient print of a monument in Rome, the Titus Arch (a victory arch), and also offered a special Japanese dance with drums. Dozens of people lined up to get an autograph from Mrs. Robinson before she could move on to an exhibition and a reception.

In the course of her five days in Italy, Mrs. Robinson was interviewed by many daily newspapers, magazines, and radio and television. On Sept. 25, *Corriere della Sera* and *Liberio*, publishing the picture of her meeting with President Formigoni of Lombardy, noted that he "shared her total opposition to the Iraq war," and reported the substance of the Catholic parish meeting in Milan as well. A full-page interview was published on Sept. 27 by the Italian daily *Il Manifesto*, under the headline "But America Is Not Bush," accompanied by many pictures of her and of Bloody Sunday in Selma.

"Her biography encompasses a century of American history," *Il Manifesto* wrote. "Amelia Boynton Robinson, an energetic 91-year-old lady who, with her mother first and Martin Luther King later, fought for black rights. Today, for the rights of Latinos, Chicanos, and white people who expose the responsibility of U.S. banks in recycling dirty money and drug money. Among the white people she supports, there is Lyndon LaRouche. And of President Bush she says 'in Afghanistan he acted like Herod.'" "

The same day she was interviewed live by Radio 24, a national station, in its evening transmission "Helzapoppin," hosted by Giancarlo Saltamassi. There, she had the opportunity to answer questions coming from listeners all over Italy, and to sing "We Shall Overcome," moving her host to tears. Saltamassi had asked her to sing, despite the fact that the tear gas used against her on Bloody Sunday damaged her vocal chords, changing her from the lyric soprano she was when she sang in her church choir, to an all the more moving, dark voice. Her singing was so beautiful that Saltamassi recorded it in order to play it every time a civil rights issue comes up on that radio program. Besides Mrs. Robinson's voice, listeners had the opportunity to listen also to important quotes from Dr. King's speech "I Have a Dream."

Mrs. Robinson had a one-hour interview on Sept. 26 with a Rome TV station, Tele Ambiente, which had interviewed Lyndon LaRouche after one of his recent Rome conferences.

Book Review

What Is Rwanda's Kagame Afraid Of?

by Christine Bierre

Les Secrets du Génocide Rwandais— Enquête sur les Mystères d'un Président (The Secrets of the Rwandan Genocide— Investigation on the Mysteries of a President)

by Charles Onana, with Deo Mushayidi
Paris: Duboiris, 2001
187 pages, 19 euros

The Paris 17th Court, on July 3, rejected a lawsuit filed for defamation by Rwandan President Paul Kagame against Charles Onana, an investigative journalist and author of *The Secrets of the Rwandan Genocide*.

Let us first review the basic facts concerning that genocide. On April 6, 1994, the airplane transporting Presidents Juvenal Habyarimana of Rwanda and Cyprien Ntaryamira of Burundi, returning from a regional heads of state summit in Tanzania, was shot down, killing the two Presidents and the soldiers accompanying them. This attack sparked the explosion that led to the deaths of hundreds of thousands of Rwanda's moderate Hutus and Tutsis, through genocide unleashed by the Hutu extremists.

The truth about these crimes has been covered up, including by the UN's International Criminal Tribunal on Rwanda, which is being held in Arusha, Tanzania (see *EIR*, July 26, 2002). As *EIR* has uniquely documented for the past eight years, the events in Rwanda cannot be understood as merely an "ethnic conflict." It is the international character of the conflict in Africa's Great Lakes Region that defines crucial, notably Anglo-American support for Kagame, and for Uganda's Yoweri Museveni, as part of a strategy for control of the region's rich raw materials resources; population reduction; and political control, including preventing the rise of independent nationalist forces committed to the economic development of Africa.

Downing of the Plane

At the time of the deaths of Habyarimana and Ntaryamira, three hypotheses dominated the debate over who had plotted the downing of the plane: 1) for the winners—Kagame and

his friends in the Tutsi camp—it was the Hutu extremists who had murdered the Rwandan President, accused of having made too many concessions to the Tutsis under pressure from the international community; 2) others saw the attack as directed at the Burundian President, and planned by his opponents in that country; 3) a third group denounced Kagame, then leading the Rwandan Patriotic Army, for having planned the attack with the help of a foreign government.

It is this last thesis that Charles Onana defends ruthlessly in his book.

Before the book was published, the existence of a confidential report by the UN in 2000, going in the same direction, was revealed by the Canadian newspaper *National Post*. In that document one can read: “Today, our investigations have three sources within the present Tutsi regime who declare having been members of a secret elite group called Network which, assisted by a foreign government, shot down the Presidential plane. They affirm that General Paul Kagame was responsible for the operation, and have described precisely how it was carried out.” That report is still under lock and key, in the custody of UN officials who refused to give it to French police investigators who tried to obtain it.

Onana assembles many other troubling facts: He shows the rivalries which opposed Belgians and Americans on the one side, both supporting Kagame’s Patriotic Rwandan Front (PFR), to the French, who were supporting Habyarimana; he denounces the so-called “reasons of state” which account for the fact that the three powers involved in this affair—and the UN whose troops were deployed in Rwanda in the context of the Minuar peace keeping deployments—have done everything to stop the truth from coming out; he describes finally, convincingly, the brutal plan Kagame elaborated while in Ugandan exile, to take power by force of arms in Rwanda, hesitating neither to put into peril the lives of hundreds of thousands of Rwandan Tutsis, nor to eliminate all those who dared to oppose his designs.

Onana examines closely the events surrounding the downing of the plane. He wonders about the real purpose of the summit in Dar es Salaam prior to the attack on the plane: a strange summit, with no agenda, convoked barely eight days before. Suspecting something, another invited guest, President Mobutu Sese Seko of Zaire, had refused to take part for security reasons, and had advised Habyarimana not to go. Worried, Habyarimana had gone to meet Mobutu in Zaire before travelling to the summit. Honore N’gbanda, a former adviser to Mobutu, participated in this meeting, and speaks about Habyarimana’s apprehensions about his own security: “I receive threats from the Americans and the Belgians all the time,” he is quoted. “They demand each day more concessions, while they demand absolutely nothing from my political adversaries.”

The author presents the facts which condemn Kagame. Three months before the events, one of the two landing strips in Kigali, the capital of Rwanda, had been closed, following strong pressure from Kagame’s Rwandan Patriotic Front

(RPF) on the UN mission. To get the landing strip closed, Kagame’s armed forces, installed just outside Kigali, didn’t hesitate to take potshots at incoming planes. The attack on Habyarimana’s plane was committed when it was attempting to land on the other landing strip. Yet, as proven fully by a message sent by the Frenchman piloting Habyarimana’s plane the night of the attack, the airplanes landing on that strip were not secure: “With the RPF at the CND; i.e., one kilometer away from the tower; and with the well-known bias of the UN—alias Minuar—operation, we are almost certain that there are SAM-7 missiles and other types of similar weapons which represent a threat to us. What can we do to avoid getting caught?”

Many documents attest to the fact that for the French present in Rwanda at that time, the Belgian Minuar troops were part of the American deployment in favor of Kagame.

Indeed, the attitude of those close to Habyarimana in the hours that followed the attack, showed that the Belgians had played a part. The airstrip was part of the zone they were in charge of surveilling, and Belgian teams were seen lurking around the airport before and after the attack, attempting to get close to the remnants of the airplane. A few hours later, all the Belgians belonging to the Minuar, from Lieutenant Lotin’s unit, were brutally murdered, while the nationals of Ghana who were part of that same unit were spared.

Beyond that, the author reports that Kagame’s troops were perfectly trained to carry out this attack. Since 1992, the RPF forces had been trained in the use of ground-to-air missiles by the Ugandan Army, accustomed to the Soviet-made SAM-7s. Three elite shooters were part of the unit of Lt. James Kabarebe, operating in the vicinity of the airport. Two Hutu colonels who had joined forces with the RPF, among which Lizinde Theoneste, who was murdered in Nairobi in 1996 by Kagame’s men, are said to have delivered precise information concerning the movement of airplanes on take-off and landing. The rest was nothing but child’s play.

Many Questions Remain

Finally, from the strange attitude of the big powers involved, Onana concludes that they have all something to hide. Why did France accept, without a cry of protest, that the three members of the crew of Habyarimana’s Falcon 50, as well as two adjutant-chiefs of the Gendarmerie—specialists in transmissions and communications who, according to Rwandan sources, worked for the French foreign intelligence services (DGSE)—were killed by elements of the RPF after the plane crash? What about the Belgian authorities, who have done everything to cover up the investigation concerning the killing of their own UN troops? What about Kagame, who becomes hysterical when his close collaborators demand an investigation into the attack which provoked the death of hundreds of thousands of his own Tutsi ethnic group, and who is eliminating physically, little by little, all the important witnesses from that time? These are some of the key questions posed by this investigation.