

Africa Report by Douglas DeGroot and Mary Lalevée

The IMF's warning to Kenya

The coup attempt this month may not have been intended to succeed, but population-control demands certainly are.

The Kenyan capital of Nairobi was the scene of an attempted coup on Aug. 1. Air Force troops took over the main radio station and broadcast appeals to the public to support their efforts to oust President Arap Moi. Hordes of looters raided the stores in central Nairobi, and several hundred soldiers and civilians were reportedly killed in rioting and in the crushing of the coup attempt by army personnel loyal to President Moi.

The coup attempt was organized in a way that would lead to ethnic conflict in the future, conflict that could wreck the nation-state. The coup attempt was led by young members of the Air Force, who were reportedly predominantly members of the Luo tribe, while the political direction of the country is predominantly in the hands of the Kikuyu tribe. At this point the entire Air Force has been arrested.

While press reports claim that these "ethnic rivalries" were behind the recent events, in fact the real reasons for the coup attempt lie elsewhere.

The entire continent of Africa is being targeted for destabilization, in order to carry out the genocidal policy of decoupling Africa from the world economy, and preventing the development of nation-states on the continent. The Organization of African Unity is divided and unable to deal with the fundamental crises. There will probably not be a quorum of African heads of state at the

OAU summit in early August because the Polisario-Morocco issue has split the OAU.

The destabilization of Kenya hits the country long considered to be the most stable in the Horn of Africa, and makes more ominous reports received earlier this year by *EIR* from British surces that the entire Horn of Africa would become a chaotic nightmare. Tremors have been reported from the south of Sudan. New fighting is reported in Somalia, and President Obote's attempts to stabilize Uganda are being hindered by Qaddafi-aided rebels.

Kenya has traditionally been one of the few stable, prosperous countries in Africa, with its exports of tea and coffee bringing in high earnings, and tourism adding needed foreign exchange. However, in the last five years, the world market prices for tea and coffee, like those for other commodities, have fallen drastically. Tourist revenue is being carefully managed by outside financial circles, according to Kenyan diplomatic circles, with the result that Kenya never sees a cent of its money.

Kenya has a thriving population growth of 4 percent per annum, with existing population merely 15 million or so. But this growth rate is being attacked by the Club of Rome and Global 2000 circles as "catastrophic."

In June 1981, *EIR* published a report on the RAPID program, a

scheme for brainwashing officials from Third World countries into thinking that population growth is the root cause of poverty. A leader of the program, Malcolm Donald, was quoted as commenting, "Kenya has the highest birth rate in Africa, and President Moi says he wants Kenya to start a population program. But there is tremendous resistance, and the efforts they are making are only lukewarm. Moi may not mean what he says. We have made two trips to Kenya, a third is slated, and we are still not out of the batter's box."

The IMF and the World Bank have increased the pressure, with the World Bank officially telling the Kenyan authorities that no more loans would be forthcoming unless a population control council was set up.

The coup itself seemed virtually designed to fail, with no serious attempt by the Air Force troops involved to attack other major installations than the radio station, or to capture government ministers. This could be the last warning to Moi to knuckle under to IMF demands . . . or else.

The *Financial Times*, the voice of the City of London, warned Kenya that the West's readiness to help out financially depended on "internal reforms," especially an end to the policy of subsidizing food prices to allow the urban population cheap food. This is one of the standard IMF demands to every Third World country—a step which has invariably led to unrest where it has been forced through.

In future issues *EIR* will report on what is happening in other African countries lacking the "privileged" position Kenya has had.