

Bush told Robertson, 'Get into Zaire'

Televangelist Pat Robertson, whose diamond mining adventures in Zaire were criticized in Virginia's *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, responded in a Feb. 1 guest column in that paper. Robertson explained that his Zaire operation was undertaken on President George Bush's request, and that besides looking for a big killing in the world diamond market, he worked as an agent of Bush's politics against Zaire's government. Around 1991, Robertson said, he received an invitation to bring over "Christian television programs" for broadcast in Zaire.

Robertson wrote, "Before a visit to Zaire, I met with George Bush in the White House and asked his advice." Bush told him he should go into business in Zaire—allegedly, according to Robertson's story, in order to save Zaire's President: "Bush told me that, in his opinion, without Mobutu, Zaire would be plunged into chaos."

Robertson was not just in the religion and diamond businesses; he was enforcing the International Monetary Fund-new world order austerity and privatization regime.

"I brought with me a former undersecretary of state from the Bush administration for the purpose of advising Mobutu on fiscal and monetary issues. . . . I personally met

with the Cabinet of Zaire and warned them that if they continued printing money there would be runaway inflation with rioting and looting in the streets. I went on television . . . to say that leaders must be 'servants of the people, who do not abuse the people or take bribes,' " Robertson said.

Robertson "evangelized" with advice to lay off workers and to give away the national patrimony to foreign looters. "I . . . analyzed the . . . Gecamine copper mines, where I discovered 16,000 surplus workers . . . [and] the government-owned Kilomoto gold mines, where 3,300 workers produced a pitiful [quantity] . . . of gold . . . and the government-owned industrial diamond facility in Mbuji-Mayi, where I discovered production limping along at 50% of peak capacity."

The nation's poverty does not come from speculators and looters, such as himself. Robertson explained, "In all my visits to Zaire, I found a nation terribly mismanaged with endemic greed and corruption. . . .

"My own company, African Development Co. . . . secured the concessions from the government." The giant diamond operation failed because of "American dredging equipment that was poorly constructed . . . and . . . the internal chaos in the country." Yet, "one thing really worked," Robertson claimed. "Through our television, radio and evangelistic meetings, more than 4 million people in Zaire have accepted Jesus Christ as their Savior."

—Anton Chaitkin

the Zairean government, which tells of mass graves in the areas taken by the Ugandan-Kabila forces. The report states: "Calling every Hutu refugee a 'genocidalist' is tantamount to legitimizing in the eyes of international opinion and also the rebels, the use of force, or worse, the elimination of these refugees. . . . The number of mass graves betrays a systematic will to finish off the refugees. These graves are everywhere." It cites mass graves in Mugunga (a camp taken over by Kabila), Kibumba camp, and Katala camp. "On the lava plain, behind the Katala and Kahindo camps, toward the West, one can see thousands of skeletons," the report states.

The report relates that "on Dec. 24, two young Zairean Hutus from R. village, were kidnapped and tortured. They came back two days later, having been forced to become the guides for a group of about 100 Tutsi rebels they were leading to three small camps in the forest where 'they killed everybody,' one of them told me. These were three camps with about 100 refugees each."

The reporter states that he regrets that he was unable to go to the Masis and Walikale zones, which are zones that Kabila has forbidden to foreigners, but "where reliable eyewitnesses reported that tens of thousands of refugees had been eliminated."

Roger Winter covers for genocide

The Belgian account notes that the battle over the number of refugees inside Zaire "is strategic," because it "is meant to prevent any foreign intervention on behalf of the remaining refugees." Here, this puts the spotlight on Roger Winter, director of the U.S. Committee of Refugees. In November, Winter, along with Robert Gribbin, U.S. ambassador to Rwanda, claimed that only a few refugees remained in Zaire—a position used to scuttle the UN multilateral force. Winter, who was with Kabila most of November, when refugees were driven at gunpoint out of their homes, told the *Washington Post* on Nov. 22, "Those who have gone further west are either family [of the Hutu militias] or other very bad people. If they are in a bad position, so be it." In testimony before the House Subcommittee on International Operations and Human Rights on Dec. 4, Winter happily stated, "The threat of an international military deployment in eastern Zaire was helpful in mid-November," because it prompted Kabila to attack the Mugunga camp. The Belgian eyewitness reports: "Above Mugunga, at one and a half hour's walking distance, I saw three graves with 10, 12, and 30 bodies. They were men, women, some with a baby on their back, old people. They all had been shot in the head, including the infants."