

Who will be next on London's target list?

by Linda de Hoyos

With the arrival of Zairean mercenary Laurent Kabila in Kinshasa, Zaire, now the Democratic Republic of the Congo, on the night of May 20, the forces of the Privy Council to the British monarchy completed phase one of their seizure of central Africa for the British Commonwealth. That first phase began with the October 1990 invasion of Rwanda from Uganda, under the direction of Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni. Preparations for the direct assault on Zaire were completed with the May 1994 total seizure of Rwanda, and the July 1996 coup in Burundi which brought the Tutsi military in that country back to power, *sans* democratic or foreign constraints.

However, commentaries coming from well-known British outlets such as the *Times* of London and the U.S. Committee on Refugees indicate that the strife in Africa, which has already caused the most intense levels of mass murder of this century, is far from over.

'Democracy,' Kabila-style

As could be expected, given his lifelong record, Kabila's orchestrated "soft landing" in Kinshasa, has not extended to the formation of a new coalition government or specifics on when elections might be held. Kabila, acting under the advisement of Museveni, has relied upon his military power as his ultimate bargaining chip. Declaring himself President and announcing part of his cabinet, Kabila refused to meet with Etienne Tshisekedi, the long-standing opposition leader against ousted President Mobutu Sese Seko, and indicated that Tshisekedi would have no place in his government. The secretary general of Kabila's Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of the Congo, Deogratias Bugera, declared on May 19 that elections would not be held until the Alliance had reorganized the population. "We must reawaken the population politically," said Bugera. "It is our first duty." He declared that

this meant reorganizing the peasantry into a "collectivity."

Such rhetoric and Kabila's flouting of the diplomatic requests of the United States government have fueled a line coming from such entities as the *Times* of London on May 20, that "if Washington and London believe their African stars are rising, they may be mistaken. For the first time in a century, African leaders are starting to take charge of the destiny of the continent. . . . By dint of his victory in Kinshasa, Laurent Kabila has joined a growing firmament of African leaders disinclined to take orders from outside powers."

Such statements are designed to create an environment for "plausible deniability" by London of the past atrocities of the Museveni-Kagame-Kabila-Buyoya combine, and those yet to come.

They also fly in the face of reality. From Museveni to Kabila, the "stars" of this leftist-clacking "African clique," as the *Times* calls it, are being boosted because these warlords have demonstrated their willingness to turn their countries over lock, stock, and barrel to the largely British Commonwealth mining, financial, and agricultural companies looking to Africa as the key looting ground going into the next century. In 1994, *EIR* documented that Uganda had economically reverted to the status of a British colony, with British "expatriates" running the ministries and investment authorities, while from all accounts, the Ugandan population had been left to die of rampant disease, in total destitution. As one Ugandan opposition leader put it: "I have met with three successive British ambassadors. They do not support Museveni; they run him; they tell him what to do every step of the way."

Through Museveni, who in turn runs Rwandan Defense Minister Paul Kagame and Kabila, the combine also includes Isaias Afwerki of Eritrea and Meles Zenawi of Ethiopia, who have taken the point against Sudan, and also opened their economies up to unprecedented looting.

Kabila makes no attempt to hide his willingness to perform the same mercenary function. The last leg of his march on Kinshasa was funded with a hefty cash injection from the firm America Mineral Fields, which organized a conference of financiers to meet with Kabila in Lubumbashi on May 9. Contrary to its name and the location of its headquarters in Hope, Arkansas, America Minerals is a Canadian firm—although the United States, and France, also can be expected to get a “cut” of the mineral wealth to be extracted from Zaire (see following article).

Geopolitical games continue

As heralded on May 20 by the *Times* of London, which often dictates foreign policy to the British Foreign Office, the combine of Museveni et al. is now poised to take the “whole lot.” Writes the *Times*: “The fall of Zaire to the Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire completes a network of friends and allies stretching from Angola to Eritrea who are expected to reshape the continent in an image of their own, and scrub out the colonial map of Africa drawn up at Bismarck’s Berlin conference of European powers in 1884.” That is, this time, London takes it all.

This line was foreshadowed on May 15 by U.S. Committee on Refugees operative Bob Arnot, who declared on PBS-TV: “There was, in essence, some people would say, a plot between Kabila, Kagame, and Museveni in the 1970s, that they wanted to create a united states of Africa. They looked to Museveni, because he now has one of the fastest growing economies in the world in Uganda. . . . So, you’re seeing a bloc that could come out of this that could go from the south of Egypt all the way down through Angola. There could be new stability, new democracy, and tremendous new hope for the African people.” Arnot added: “. . . it is incumbent on us in the United States to make certain that it happens.”

The domino effect of catastrophe will continue. Immediate targets are:

1. **Zaire-Congo:** The reorganization of the peasantry into a “collectivity” declared by Bugera portends continued upheaval for this country, in which 500,000 Zaireans are already among the displaced. Arnot, who travelled with Kabila for a month, reported: “What we found in village after village was that the Alliance forces had come in, shot indiscriminately into the village—indiscriminately in that they didn’t care whether it was a local Hutu or Chi or whether it was a Rwandan refugee. They burned many of these villages to the ground and then went on their march.” In the village of Rushoga, “When soldiers entered the village, 30 homes . . . were burned to the ground. Seven individuals were shot and killed. The rest of the villagers fled into the surrounding hills. Of those, 50 died of starvation or cold. Now in the village there are only 15 families left. Thirty are still missing.” Arnot predicted, “The civil war in Zaire has just begun.”

2. **Angola:** The Angolan government of President Jose Dos Santos has announced that its Armed Forces would now

proceed to go into areas formerly under the control of Jonas Savimbi’s Unita, given that Mobutu, Unita’s chief supporter, is out of the picture. Angolan troops are already known to have been one of the forces militarily supporting Kabila’s march to Kinshasa over the last month. As the *Times* of London predicts, “Now with Mr. Mobutu gone and Mr. Kabila the new President of the Democratic Republic of Congo . . . the stage is set for another showdown with what Mr. Museveni and his clique see as a destabilizing rebel group in Africa: Jonas Savimbi’s Unita.”

3. **Sudan:** Roger Winter, executive director of the U.S. Committee of Refugees and conduit for British policy into Washington, told Congressional hearings on May 15 that the United States “must see a new, more moderate government in Sudan”—that is, overthrow the Khartoum government. “This is an achievable goal the United States should actively and unambiguously pursue.” Ed Marek of Zaire Watch, emanating from Reston, Virginia, reported on May 21 that “Ugandan President Museveni may now turn his full attention to Sudan and search for ways to help destabilize and ultimately topple the Government of Sudan. . . . Colonel John Garang [of the SPLA] most likely will find support from Mr. Kabila as well in the future.”

4. **Kenya:** “How comfortable is Mr. [Daniel arap] Moi in Kenya” these days? the *Times* of London asks. Threats against Kenya are already being issued by the Ugandan security forces, who leaked to *The Monitor* newspaper the disinformation that 17,000 combined troops of Zairean Armed Forces, Hutu armed rebels, and guerrillas of the “Ninth of October Movement” were collecting at the Kenyan border with Uganda, poised to invade. Kenyan diplomatic sources have categorically denied the story, noting that in fact the planted leak represents a threat against Kenya.

5. **Francophone central Africa:** Rwandan Defense Minister Kagame has already warned the Central African Republic that it must not take in Rwandan Hutu refugees, lest it want to chance destabilization. In an interview in the May 15-21 *Le Nouvel Observateur*, Jean François Bayart, of the Paris Center for International Studies and Research, warned that Congo, Gabon, the Central African Republic, and Cameroon are “in danger of finding themselves in the eye of the hurricane very shortly. . . . The pieces that it [France] regarded as its own dominoes are toppling down one after the other. It all began with the fall of Rwanda in 1994, and it could now spread to the other side of the Congo, for the crisis has shifted from the Great Lakes to the Great River. The stake now being played for is the vast Congo basin, the flow of its amazing informal economy, and the emergence of a political axis extending from Angola to Eritrea on the Red Sea.”

This multi-pronged scenario cannot be realized without massive bloodletting, on a scale not seen since World War II. That puts the question to the United States: Will it challenge the might of the British Commonwealth, or it will turn a blind eye to the murderous recolonization of Africa?