

EIR seminar sets the record straight on Uganda's Museveni

by Andrew Spannaus

On Sept. 10, *EIR* held a forum in Washington, D.C., to debunk the myth of Uganda's economic recovery, and expose that nation's President, Yoweri Museveni, as a genocidal dictator used by the British Privy Council in its raw materials grab in Central Africa. The special guest at the forum was Cecilia Atim-Ogwal, a member of the Ugandan Parliament, and the chairman of the Interim Executive Council of the Ugandan People's Congress. Mrs. Atim-Ogwal effectively leads the opposition in Uganda to Museveni, who has banned all political parties in the country except his own, the National Resistance Movement (NRM), which has been merged with the state institutions, in a manner reminiscent of the former Soviet bloc nations.

The forum, which was attended by various African diplomats and political activists, as well as African and non-African students and activists from the Washington, D.C. area, was prompted by the ongoing campaign in the major international press to build up Museveni as a "new breed" of African leader, who is at the head of a group of leaders in Central Africa who are praised as different from the old corrupt dictators in Africa. Included in this group of new leaders, are Paul Kagame of Rwanda; Isaias Afwerki of Eritrea; Laurent Kabila, the "liberator" of Congo; and other leaders from Ethiopia and Burundi.

In stark contrast to this propaganda, Mrs. Atim-Ogwal presented the murderous reality of Museveni's policies, which, far from bringing an economic boom, have left Uganda as "one of the poorest countries in the world." "People are dying of hunger; they are dying from lack of aspirin; people are not able to go to school," she said. "But you don't see this in the press."

Mrs. Atim-Ogwal showed that Uganda is at the bottom of the world's list, even according to economic statistics from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, institutions at the forefront of proclaiming Uganda's "economic miracle." Since the 1980s, Uganda's debt has more than tripled, while per-capita income has plunged. While in 1986, there were 639,000 children in primary school, out of a total population of 13 million, today that number is only 424,000, with a population which has increased to 20 million.

Accompanying and fueling this economic disaster, are the actions of Museveni in completely banning democracy in Uganda, which also gives the lie to the British propaganda

about him. Mrs. Atim-Ogwal gave numerous examples of how Museveni himself, as well as his controllers such as Britain's Baroness Lynda Chalker, have benefitted from massive corruption, including looting the nation's budget to sustain the wars of aggression which have caused millions of deaths in the region since the beginning of the decade.

In fact, said the speaker, Museveni has always been at war, since he first came on the scene. He started out in the bush in the Luwero triangle, near Kampala, and then, when he came to power, he shifted the fighting to northern Uganda, where the civil war is still going on. Mrs. Atim-Ogwal charged that Museveni is deliberately prolonging this war, which allows Uganda to act as an arms-corridor into the entire area.

This situation, she said, should not come as a surprise. In order to impose the brutal policies of globalization and structural adjustment of the IMF, democracy must be defeated. "You need a dictator like Museveni to push these types of policies," she stated.

British control

EIR Asia and Africa Intelligence Director Linda de Hoyos then traced the rise to power of Museveni, under the sponsorship, and manipulation, of the British Privy Council. Museveni, ever since he began fighting to take power in Uganda in the early 1980s, was backed by Baroness Lynda Chalker, former Minister for Overseas Development of the British Empire. This is the former Colonial Ministry, which merely changed its name when the British attempted to put on a modern face, when they shifted from a policy of direct empire, to that of the invisible empire run through the British Commonwealth, which is the most powerful financial and raw materials cartel on the planet today. Chalker has been the controller of the genocide which Museveni and his henchmen Kagame and Kabila have carried out in Central Africa.

De Hoyos demonstrated how the Privy Council made use of two very important ideological aspects of their lackeys, in order to create a virtually unstoppable marcher-lord force which threatens all of Africa today.

The first of the ideological strings which was pulled, was the oligarchical mentality of those Tutsis who think that they are destined to rule the region. This oligarchical caste identity among the Tutsis was exacerbated under colonialism, and



Ugandan parliamentarian Cecilia Atim-Ogwal: There is no Ugandan "economic miracle."

was then seized upon by the British for their own purposes. "It is not a Tutsi phenomenon per se," said de Hoyos. "It is a phenomenon controlled by the British."

The second ideological string is the existential philosophy of Frantz Fanon, who advocated "revolutionary violence" for Africans, and claimed that such violence even has purifying power. All of the "new leaders" in Central Africa studied this murderous ideology at Dar Es Salaam University in the 1960s.

The result of the British use of these two factors, is a fascist force which is committing genocide on a scale not seen since the Nazis. And the beneficiary of the genocide is the British Empire, which is moving in to grab up the incredibly rich raw materials deposits in that area, and replacing nation-states with colonial looting grounds controlled by private mercenary armies. "This is, in effect, a marcher-lord force, a mercenary force, for the British Commonwealth," said de Hoyos.

Will the Clinton administration act?

Mrs. Atim-Ogwal travelled to the United States in order to tell Americans about the real situation in Uganda, and to convince the United States to take a stand against Museveni and his backers. Before the *EIR* seminar, she addressed the Congressional Black Caucus, and met with other members of Congress. Commenting on the difference between these meetings and those she had in the United States in 1995, she said that there has been a tremendous change. "When I came in 1995, I was devastated in spirit and soul," she said. "But

today there has been a tremendous change. People are becoming more and more conscious. They have seen the collapse, and seen that there is a bad regime in the region. Today I have more hope." Mrs. Atim-Ogwal called on those present to work to change American policy.

The shift that she noted, is, in significant measure, due to the campaign that the political movement of Lyndon LaRouche has carried out, to force a change in U.S. policy on Africa. At the seminar, *EIR* released a Special Report containing the proceedings of a seminar held by the Schiller Institute, an association founded by LaRouche's wife Helga Zepp LaRouche, in Walluf, Germany on April 26-27 of this year, in which members of refugee groups from the Great Lakes region of Africa discussed a strategy for peaceful solution to the crisis in that region.

A change in U.S. policy, Mrs. de Hoyos made clear, must come from the United States. If the sponsor of this genocide in Africa is the British Commonwealth, which has a stranglehold on raw materials and financial power in the world, who could possibly challenge this force? Clearly, only the United States. The question then becomes, she said, "Will the United States do something? Will we hand over all of Africa to mass killers? If the U.S. does something against the British Commonwealth, then we can begin to change the situation."

Real economic development

"We are in a process of a change of American thinking on Museveni," said de Hoyos, "but the question is, what will happen now? Will we change the IMF globalization policies which have brought about the Musevenis and the Kabilas?" Only if that is done, she said, can we begin to talk about real economic development.

What such economic development could look like, is vividly shown by the project proposed as the beginning of the 1990s by the Italian state conglomerate IRI, under the name of Transaqua (see *EIR*, Aug. 29). Transaqua would have constructed a huge canal parallel to the Congo River across Central Africa, and would have provided the water to bring between 12 and 17 million acres of land under cultivation. The project, which was approved by the countries of Central Africa, but which is now dead, due to the chaos unleashed by the British in Africa, as well as the destruction of Italy's state economic institutions, shows very clearly that the only thing needed to develop Africa, is the political will to do so. "It is a subjective, political problem," said de Hoyos, who also attacked the racist policies of the World Bank, which propose "appropriate technologies" for the countries of the Third World, and deny them education and technology.

In conclusion, de Hoyos stated that industrial development, of the type proposed by the Transaqua project, "is the only fitting memorial for those who have died. This would indicate that the British methods, which have imposed the suffering and murder, and the principle of oligarchism, have been defeated."