

## Africa in flames

**Sudan-Horn of Africa:** The civil war in **Sudan** has been raging for 16 years. In April 1997, seven factions of the rebellion in the south signed a peace accord with the Sudan government, and the war is now being carried out by John Garang's Sudanese People's Liberation Army, with the instigation and backing from London, Washington, and **Uganda**. The British and allied factions in the State Department had organized **Eritrea** and **Ethiopia** to invade Sudan, along with **Uganda**, in 1995, 1997, and 1998. In early 1998, **Eritrea** invaded **Ethiopia**, ending their anti-Sudan coalition. As of this writing, Sudan is accusing Eritrea of massing troops at its border in preparation for another invasion; the region is bracing for an escalation of the Ethiopia-Eritrea border war. **Uganda** itself faces insurgencies in the north and east.

**Somalia** has been in the throes of a civil war since President Siad Barre was overthrown in 1989, one of the first African leaders to be deposed by London's post-Cold War plans to destroy the African nation-state.

**Congo and Central Africa:** On Aug. 2, **Rwanda** and **Uganda** invaded the eastern section of the **Democratic Republic of Congo**. Efforts to take the western capital of Kinshasa were foiled by **Angola** that month, but the war has continued in the east. The **Burundi** military is also believed to be fighting with Rwanda and Uganda in the east. Congo President Laurent Kabila has received on-the-ground military backing from **Angola**, **Chad**, **Zimbabwe**, and **Namibia**.

To the east, **Rwanda** and **Burundi** remain in perpetual states of war, against their Tutsi military regimes.

In Angola, Jonas Savimbi's Unita launched total war against the government in December, with the backing of South African-British mercenary outfits

such as Sandline, and from **Uganda** and **Rwanda**, in part in an effort to draw Angolan troops out of Congo. In **Congo-Brazzaville**, militias in December attempted to overthrow President Nguesso, and **Angolan** troops reported came to defend the government which it helped to militarily install in 1997.

**West Africa:** The Revolutionary United Front of **Sierra Leone** opened a major front against the government in December, nearly taking the capital of Freetown in January. The RUF has been heavily armed from **Liberia** and **Burkina Faso** and also by British mercenary outfits. The target of the operation ultimately is **Nigeria**, which dominates the regional peacekeeping force of Ecomog, which has led the fighting against the RUF in Sierra Leone. Fighting with the Nigerians are troops from **Ghana** and **Guinea**. **Guinea-Bissau** went through civil war in 1998, and there is now a fragile peace settlement. The Guinea-Bissau conflict involved **Senegal** fighting on the side of the government. **Algeria** remains in a state of low-intensity war.

FIGURE 1  
London's wars in Africa

