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A. UGANDA — Overthrow of President Amin as a Result of Combined Operations of Ugandan Exiles and Tanzania's Armed Forces - Earlier Annexation of Part of Tanzania by President Amin - Establishment of Provisional Government by Uganda National Liberation Front - Related Internal Developments

Following an invasion of Uganda by forces of the United Republic of Tanzania and of organizations of Ugandans who had lived in exile and were opposed to President Amin, the latter's regime was effectively overthrown with the fall of Kampala, the country's capital, to the invading forces on April 10-11, 1979.

The Tanzanian action was itself the consequence of an earlier invasion in October 1978 by troops of President Amin, which occupied the "Kagera salient" between the Ugandan-Tanzanian border and the Kagera river (west of Lake Victoria). Relations between the two countries had, however, already been strained for many years, President Amin having repeatedly accused Tanzania of planning to invade Uganda, in particular with the object of reinstating his predecessor, ex-President Milton Obote, whom he had overthrown in January 1971 [see 24450 A] and who was living in exile in Tanzania. [For Radio Uganda's allegations of May 1977, see 28407 A.] President Nyerere of Tanzania, on the other hand, had never concealed his opposition to the Ugandan President and had persistently refused to meet him [see also 28904 A].

Details of the developments leading to President Amin's overthrow are given below.

October 1978 Invasion of Tanzanian Territory by Uganda - International Reactions

Action inside Uganda by groups opposed to President Amin's regime was reported from time to time in the latter part of 1978, while during October 1978 the Ugandan authorities repeatedly claimed (as they had done on numerous occasions in earlier years) that Tanzanian forces had invaded or attacked the country.

On Sept. 21, 1978, President Amin himself claimed that arms shown to him by Maj.-Gen. Yusuf Gowon, his Army Chief of Staff, had been sent into the country and used by "armed gangs" operating for ex-President Obote and committing robberies and "terrorizing" the people.

On Oct. 1 it was reported that during the previous week a mutiny had been crushed at Tororo (eastern Uganda) and that there had been numerous desertions from the Army, for which a forced recruitment campaign had taken place two months earlier.

In a report from Nairobi (the Kenyan capital) on Oct. 13 it was alleged that President Amin had escaped a further attempt on his life (it being said that there had been at least 10 earlier such attempts).

Meanwhile, Radio Uganda announced on Oct. 12 that a battalion of Tanzanian troops had crossed into Uganda during the previous night and that fighting was going on near Mbarara, where the Tanzanians were said to have advanced 12 miles into Uganda. In Tanzania, however, this announcement was officially dismissed as "nonsense", and a Foreign Ministry official was quoted as saying: "Whenever Amin is in trouble he looks for a scapegoat."

President Amin said on Oct. 15 that he had himself investigated the situation in the area west of Lake Victoria and had found that Tanzanian troops were more than 15 miles inside Uganda, and he added that he was still waiting for a reply to a protest telegram which he had sent to President Nyerere and that he was confident that the situation would be brought under control by the Organization of African Unity (OAU).

On Oct. 27 Radio Uganda again claimed that Tanzanian forces (this time allegedly "supported by Cubans") had invaded Uganda and seized the town of Mutukula, and it asked diplomats not to travel to the invasion area near Lake Victoria. In Tanzania, however, Mr Benjamin Mkapa, the Foreign Minister, described the claim as "absolute nonsense".

On Oct. 29 Radio Uganda claimed inter alia that Ugandan aircraft had repulsed an attack by Tanzanian jets (which had shot down one Ugandan jet) and that Ugandan forces had been surrounded near the Tanzanian border. From Nairobi, however, it was reported on the same day that forces loyal to President Amin were "fighting for their lives" against dissident elements in his armed forces in western Uganda. According to a report published in the Nairobi *Daily Nation* of Oct. 30, mutinous Ugandan troops had, at Mbarara, destroyed part of an armoured regiment loyal to President Amin and had killed 150 of its men.

However, according to other reports, a mutiny had started on Oct. 10 by soldiers supporting Maj.-Gen. Mustafa Adrisi, the former Vice-President and Minister of Defence (who was still in hospital in Cairo—see 29306 A), and the mutineers had subsequently been taken to Masaka, where they had been killed between Oct. 25 and 27 by troops loyal to the President and led by Lt.-Col. Juma Ali.

It was further reported that on Oct. 27 the combined southern and western commands of Uganda's forces had presented President Amin with certain demands which were to be fulfilled by Oct. 31, and it was subsequently claimed (in *The Sunday Times* on Nov. 5) that 24 hours before the expiry of this ultimatum the President had ordered his loyal units to invade Tanzania.

The Tanzanian Government accused Uganda on Oct. 31 of sending troops across the border west of Lake Victoria, stating that "fierce fighting" was going on there. It was also announced that three bombs had been dropped on Oct. 26-27 on the Tanzanian town of Bukoba (near the Ugandan border) and that three Ugandan aircraft had been shot down over north-western Tanzania during the previous week. [Radio Uganda had earlier announced on Oct. 27 that Uganda had closed its frontiers not only with Tanzania but also with Rwanda.]

President Amin, however, announced on Nov. 1 that his troops had expelled Tanzania's forces from about 400 square miles of Ugandan territory and had, within "only 25 minutes", captured 710 square miles of Tanzanian territory, and that all territory north of the Kagera River was "now part of Uganda". He also stated that he had appealed to the OAU and to the United Nations over Tanzania's "invasion" of Uganda, and that he "would be happy if Cuba mediated" in the dispute.

President Nyerere, on the other hand, declared on Nov. 2 that Uganda's annexation of Tanzanian territory was "tantamount to a declaration of war", and with reference to President Amin he asserted: "We have the capacity to hit him; we have the reason to hit him; and we have the determination to hit him."

In this situation, numerous appeals for a peaceful solution of the conflict were made by international organizations and by governments of other countries.

The Government of Kenya appealed to both sides on Oct. 31 to "end all propaganda and provocative acts" and offered to mediate in the dispute. (According to diplomatic sources quoted on Nov. 2, however, Tanzania had rejected the Kenyan offer of mediation and had instead asked Kenya to cease supplying Uganda with fuel. For Kenyan-Ugandan relations, see 28904 A.)

For the United Nations Dr Kurt Waldheim, its Secretary-General, appealed to both sides on Nov. 2 to cease their armed confrontation; President Nyerere of the Sudan made a similar appeal in his capacity as President of the OAU; and Mr Shridath Ramphal, the Commonwealth Secretary-General, called on Nov. 5 for the withdrawal of Ugandan personnel from Tanzanian territory and for an end to violation and threats of violation of Tanzania's recognized frontiers.

Among African leaders making similar appeals President Moussa Traoré of Mali proclaimed his adherence to "the principle of the inviolability of African frontiers" (as enshrined in the OAU Charter), saying that unless this principle was observed "the invasions will never cease".

President Nyerere on Nov. 2 appealed to his "friends" not to offer to mediate in the conflict, stating: "We did not want to fight him [i.e. President Amin], but now we are going to fight until this snake is out of our house."

In the United States Mr Cyrus Vance, the US Secretary of State, declared on Nov. 3: "Our position is very clear; there is a clear violation of Tanzania's frontier by Uganda. We support President Nyerere's position according to which the Ugandan troops must withdraw immediately."

President Amin thereupon appealed to the United Nations, the OAU and the Arab League for support, accusing the United States of interfering in an African dispute with the aim of creating "a second Vietnam" and of "active participation" in the Tanzanian attacks on Uganda. (However, it was later reported that the African group of states at the United Nations had dissuaded President Amin from pursuing the matter before that organization.)

Shortly afterwards Mr Mohammed Bilqasim as Zuwai, the Libyan Minister of Information and Culture, delivered in Kampala a message from Col. Kadhafi, the Libyan leader, whereupon Radio Uganda announced on Nov. 5 that President Amin was ready to accept mediation by Col. Kadhafi, provided that President Nyerere was willing to accept it.

President Daniel Arap Moi of Kenya on Nov. 5 called on Uganda to pull back its troops if it had violated Tanzanian

sovereignty, and on the following day he offered his services as a conciliator to President Amin. The latter said in reply that the OAU should set up a special committee to mediate between the two sides, but that both he and President Nyerere would first have to approve it.

Strong support for President Nyerere was on Nov. 7 reported to have been expressed by President Kaunda of Zambia, who was said to have condemned Uganda for attacking Tanzania, to have assured the latter of his country's solidarity and to have appealed to African leaders to condemn Uganda as the aggressor and as being "in grave violation of the OAU Charter".

Following a visit to Kampala by Mr Philip Obang (a special envoy of President Nemery as President of the OAU) and Mr Peter Onu (Assistant Secretary-General of the OAU), President Amin announced on Nov. 8 that he was ready to order the withdrawal of his troops from north-western Tanzania and that he had "no intention of keeping an inch of Tanzanian territory", but that the withdrawal would be conditional on an OAU guarantee that Tanzania would no longer invade Uganda or support Ugandan exiles in Tanzania.

President Nyerere, however, rejected President Amin's conditional offer on Nov. 9, saying that he himself had "a duty" which was "to kick out the aggressor", and that he expected from other African heads of state "a clear-cut message directed at Amin saying 'Get out of Tanzania'".

In the Soviet Union *Pravda*, the organ of the Central Committee of the Communist Party, wrote on Nov. 12 that "each of the parties has made its own judgment on the causes of the conflict" and that both should find a peaceful solution to it—but it expressed no disapproval of Uganda's policy.

On Nov. 12 the Tanzanian Government announced that it had launched an offensive from the southern bank of the Kagera river, and Radio Uganda thereupon stated on Nov. 13 that President Amin was personally commanding military operations on the frontier.

President Amin repeated on the same day that he would immediately withdraw his forces from occupied Tanzanian territory if the Tanzanian Government guaranteed to stop interfering in Uganda and trying to overthrow him, and if ex-President Obote left his exile home in Dar-es-Salaam (Tanzania) and moved to another country, where he would not be able "to cause confusion".

Also on Nov. 13 the Ugandan President informed Dr Waldheim that he had ordered his armed forces "to withdraw to the recognized border of Uganda", and he confirmed this decision in messages sent to the OAU and various African heads of state on Nov. 14, saying that the OAU and the Arab League had been asked to send observers to witness the withdrawal.

In a Dar-es-Salaam broadcast on Nov. 14 President Amin's statement was described as "an absolute lie" and it was stated that he could not be "let off" in view of the fact that during more than two weeks he had allowed his Army to indulge in "pillage, massacre, destruction and rape" and had created "a state of war" between the two countries.

Tanzanian Military Action against Uganda

The Tanzanian Government announced on Nov. 15 that its troops were engaged in fierce battles with Ugandan forces and that it had been found that up to 10,000 civilians living in the Kagera salient were unaccounted for, while (according to an official of the International Committee of the Red Cross) 31,500 had fled to territory south of the Kagera river.

On the same day a high-ranking officer of the Ugandan Army said that all Ugandan troops, estimated at between 2,000 and 3,000, had pulled back behind Uganda's internationally recognized border, and this withdrawal was confirmed by President Amin himself on Nov. 16.

Meanwhile two delegations from Nigeria—which had strongly pressed President Amin to withdraw from occupied Tanzanian territory—had visited Kenya and Tanzania. During a meeting with Lt.-Gen. Theophilus Danjuma, Nigerian Army Chief of Staff, President Nyerere declared on Nov. 17 that he would not be satisfied until President Amin was overthrown, that it would be a dangerous precedent if matters were allowed to rest at a point where Tanzania was to pay for "the massacres and wanton destruction" (in the Kagera salient), and that one had to ask what the OAU was going to do about the violation of its Charter.

According to exiled Ugandan sources (reported on Nov. 18) 480 Tanzanians and 122 rebel Ugandan soldiers had been killed in a dynamite explosion at Mutukula prison and several thousand Tanzanian civilians were held prisoners at Kalisizo (30 miles north of the Tanzanian border). On Nov. 23 it was reported from Dar-es-Salaam that more than 120 dead Ugandan soldiers had been found in a Tanzanian forest and that they had apparently been shot dead inside Uganda by assassination squads and taken to Tanzanian territory to create the impression that they had been killed by Tanzanian forces.

Although Tanzanian troops subsequently penetrated northwards into Uganda, President Nyerere denied on Nov. 28 that they had invaded Uganda and declared that his Government harboured "no claim to an inch of Ugandan territory", had not done so in the past and would not do so in the future.

President Amin, on the other hand, on that day advised both Dr Waldheim and President Nemery that Tanzanian troops had invaded Uganda west of Lake Victoria.

President Nemery visited Dar-es-Salaam on Dec. 6-7, when President Nyerere was reported to have insisted that there could be no peace talks before President Amin renounced his claim to the Kagera salient.

In a speech made on Dec. 9 President Nyerere criticized African nations which, he said, had refused to condemn President Amin simply because he was Black, and he added: "Blackness has become a certificate to kill with impunity." On Dec. 10 he accused the OAU of behaving like "a trade union of heads of state" by refusing to denounce the violation of Tanzania's territory by Uganda.

On Dec. 18 President Amin again telegraphed Dr Waldheim and President Nemery, this time to inform them that Tanzanian forces had penetrated 17 miles into Uganda (although this was again denied in Dar-es-Salaam).

On Jan. 21, 1979, Radio Uganda claimed that an attempt by Tanzanian forces to cross the border had been repulsed, but in Tanzania it was stated on Jan. 23 that Ugandan forces had tried to invade Tanzania, that heavy fighting was going on and that three Ugandan aircraft had been shot down.

On Jan. 26 Tanzania first acknowledged that its forces had raided Ugandan villages and claimed that it had seized large quantities of arms and military equipment after Ugandan troops had shelled Tanzanian positions on Jan. 21-22.

President Amin on the same day appealed to Dr Waldheim to inform the UN Security Council of a "serious breach of the peace" and emphasized that he did not want war with Tanzania which should, he said, "withdraw from Uganda peacefully".

During the following few weeks, however, Tanzanian forces appeared to advance further northwards, and on Feb. 12 Radio Uganda stated that Tanzanian forces with heavy artillery and armoured vehicles had penetrated about 30 miles into Ugandan territory. On the following day the radio said that these forces were about 100 miles from Kampala, that the town of Kyotera (20 miles from the border) had been evacuated and that Tanzanians had occupied altogether about 350 square miles of Uganda.

Continued Mediation Efforts

At this stage a new attempt to mediate between the two sides was made by Libya, whose Foreign Minister, Mr Ali Abdessalam at Turayki, visited both Kampala and Dar-es-Salaam.

President Amin said on Feb. 18 that he had accepted Libyan proposals for ending the fighting and had ordered his forces not to attack except in self-defence. In Dar-es-Salaam it was officially stated that President Nyerere had told his Libyan visitor that Libyan mediation was unnecessary because the OAU was dealing with the matter, and that he had rejected the Libyan conditions involving a ceasefire, withdrawal of both armies to a distance of three miles from the border and an end to all hostile propaganda.

Prior to a meeting of the OAU Council of Ministers in Nairobi, the OAU's ad hoc committee on inter-state conflicts met there on Feb. 22, this meeting being attended by an 11-member delegation from Tanzania, led by Mr Mkapa (its Foreign Minister).

Mr Edem Kodjo, the OAU's Secretary-General, had said on Feb. 19 that the OAU could not comply with Tanzania's request to condemn Uganda because this could not be done under the OAU Charter, and he had added: "All we can do is to act as a kind of referee. We have to find all means to bring about peace. The first step is to organize a ceasefire."

Mr Matiya Lubega, the Ugandan Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, was said to have told the committee that his country was prepared to accept an immediate ceasefire, a pull-back of troops and missions to be sent by the committee to each country to investigate the position.

On Feb. 23 it became clear that the committee was deadlocked because Mr Mkapa had virtually boycotted its sessions and had maintained Tanzania's official attitude that Uganda was the aggressor and should be condemned as such by the OAU.

Missions from the committee flew to Kampala and Dar-es-Salaam on Feb. 25 for talks with the two Presidents. As specified by President Nyerere to the mission, Tanzania's conditions for a ceasefire were (i) condemnation of Uganda for invading Tanzania; (ii) President Amin's renunciation of his claim to Tanzanian territory; (iii) Uganda's agreement to pay compensation to Tanzania for loss of life and property during the occupation of Tanzanian territory; and (iv) an undertaking by President Amin to "cease using Tanzania as a scapegoat for his internal problems".

The OAU admitted on March 2 that its efforts to achieve a ceasefire had failed, while the opposition Save Uganda Movement [see below] was reported to have asked the OAU not to interfere any longer in what was "an internal Ugandan affair". Meanwhile, further successes by anti-Amin forces had been reported.

On Feb. 23 the Tanzanian Government announced the capture of Masaka (a major garrison town) by Ugandan "resistance forces". On Feb. 25 a Ugandan military spokesman said on Radio Uganda that Masaka had been reached by an "invasion force of 20,000 men" and that "fierce fighting" was going on there. After studying the situation, he said, Uganda was appealing to "all friendly countries"—African, Arab and third-world—and to socialist countries and the Palestine Liberation Organization to "come to the rescue of the people of Uganda", and to "immediately help Uganda in any form, especially by sending troops and military equipment". On Feb. 28 the Ugandan President called upon all Uganda's neighbouring states—Burundi (not itself contiguous with Uganda), Kenya, Rwanda, the Sudan and Zaire—to intervene with President Nyerere to induce him to accept the OAU's mediation.

President Nyerere was at the same time quoted as having said: "It is not my responsibility to overthrow Amin. That is the responsibility of the Ugandans. It was my task to chase him from Tanzanian soil. I have done so. The Amin Government is a government of thugs, and the Ugandans have the right to overthrow it."

Ugandan Anti-Amin Movements - Creation of Ugandan National Liberation Front

Ugandans opposed to President Amin's regime had earlier organized themselves in two principal groups—(i) the Forces of National Revolt (FNR) consisting of followers of Dr Obote and (ii) the Save Uganda Movement (SUM) based in Dar-es-Salaam.

Dr Obote, breaking eight years of political silence, declared on Jan. 11, 1979, that President Amin was guilty of "institutionalized gangsterism" and had created "widows and orphans by the thousands every year". The invasion of Tanzania in October 1978, he said, had brought about a situation in which people could rise against President Amin because his Army was "now in disarray", he had found it impossible to pay for his "war of aggression" and he had "arrested, possibly killed, all senior officials of the Bank of Uganda and the state-owned Commercial Bank". There was, Dr Obote concluded, "only one answer—a Uganda-wide rebellion", and he called on Ugandans to "start and expand a nationwide cell organization" for the overthrow of President Amin.

An FNR unit said to consist of 932 men advancing in two columns under the command of Lt.-Col. David Oyite-Ojok and Col. Tito Okello—survivors of the 1972 attempt to invade Uganda [see 25543 A]—was reported to have entered Uganda on Jan. 19 with detailed political instructions (among them warnings that there must be "no revenge" and no harassment of civilians, and that it must be remembered that Uganda was "one nation"). On March 2 an FNR force briefly occupied Tororo (in eastern Uganda) but suffered heavy losses when the town was reoccupied by units loyal to President Amin.

Dr Obote said on March 5 that he himself intended to return to Uganda, although "not as President".

The SUM first emerged early in February when it distributed pamphlets, especially in Kampala, announcing that it had been formed to "kill Amin and his henchmen" and calling on "patriotic soldiers to kill Amin now" or to be shot themselves, like prominent Ugandans before them, and on "the whole Ugandan population to prevent Amin from running away". The SUM admitted responsibility

for a number of sabotage acts, including the destruction of strategic bridges, and on Feb. 18 rebel groups of the Ugandan Army were reported to have linked up with SUM units, while a Ugandan military spokesman admitted that fighting had spread to the Nile Province, eastern Ankole and the area around Kampala (for which President Amin had held the Tanzanian Army responsible).

At the end of a meeting held at Moshi (northern Tanzania) on March 23-25, 1979, by representatives of 18 different Ugandan exile groups a Ugandan National Liberation Front (UNLF) was formed under the leadership of an 11-member executive council headed by Professor Yusuf K. Lule (68), a former vice-chancellor of Makerere University (Kampala).

The military affairs of the newly formed UNLF were entrusted to Mr Paul Mwanga, former Ugandan ambassador in Paris [see also 28798 B] and leader of a Ugandan Action Group in London, while its military operations were to be directed by Lt.-Col. Tito Okello.

In a statement issued on March 27 the UNLF declared that it would observe human rights, entertain friendly relations with Uganda's neighbouring states and take part in the work of the OAU, the United Nations and the Commonwealth.

Professor Lule had been educated at Fort Hare University College in South Africa and in Edinburgh, and he had become the first African lecturer at the then University College at Makerere. In 1954-61 he was one of three African ministers in Uganda's colonial Government, and in 1962 he was appointed chairman of Uganda's Public Service Commission [see 18673 A]. Subsequently he became principal of Makerere University College, but when this college came under the direct control of the Government of President Milton Obote in 1970, Professor Lule was dismissed and left Uganda. He later became assistant secretary-general in charge of education at the Commonwealth Secretariat in London, and in 1972 he was appointed secretary-general of the Association of African Universities in Accra (Ghana), a post from which he retired six years later.

Professor Lule was regarded as a neutral personality acceptable to all the different Ugandan exile groups, ranging from the followers of ex-President Obote—who did not attend the Moshi conference—to the Buganda royalists hostile to Dr Obote who had ended the rule of the Kabaka (King) of Buganda in 1966 [see 21429 A].

Capture of Principal Towns by Anti-Amin Forces

Following temporary setbacks for the invading Tanzanian forces, reinforced by Ugandan exiles returning to their country and also by deserters from President Amin's forces, the Ugandan Army suffered what appeared to be a decisive defeat in a battle near Lukaya, a town 65 miles from Kampala, on March 11, when the Tanzanian forces were said to have used 122-mm artillery.

In response to a renewed Nigerian mediation offer President Amin said on the same day that he was ready to meet President Nyerere on neutral ground on condition that the latter withdrew from Uganda "his troops, mercenaries and Ugandan traitors". He also claimed that documents "captured from the enemy" proved that the "conspirators" were in the service of "imperialism" and intended to "expel the Moslems" from Uganda and to resettle the Indo-Pakistani traders expelled in 1972 [see 25597 A].

While conflicting statements were being made on the military operations by Radio Uganda and the UNLF, it was clear that the invading forces were continuing to make progress in their advance towards Kampala.

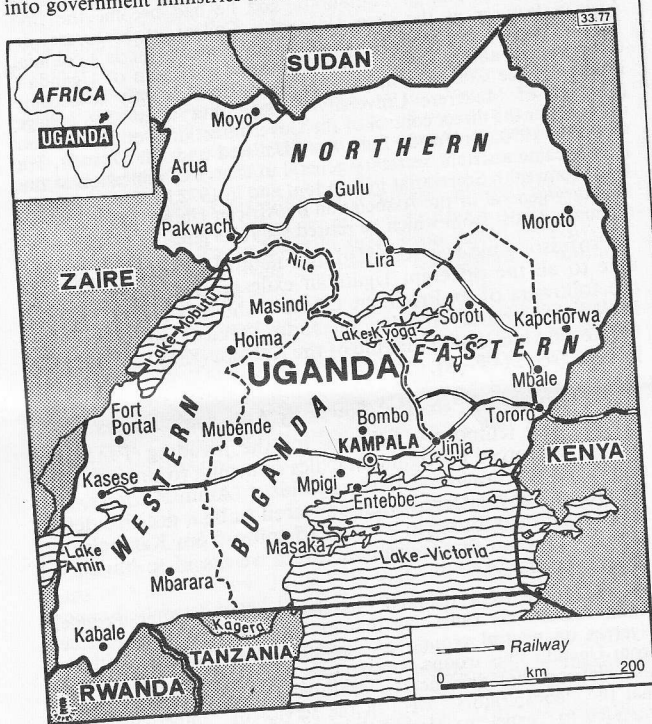
On March 25 it was reported that the invaders had directed artillery fire at Entebbe airport and Kampala, that the airport was closed to traffic, and that a curfew had been imposed in the capital and the use of electricity at night prohibited. The UNLF announced on March 29 that President Amin had fled Kampala and was heading for northern Uganda with a convoy of loyal troops. Radio Uganda admitted on the following day that large sections of the Army had deserted, and it called upon soldiers and civilians to "stand firm" against the invaders.

On March 28 Radio Uganda stated that the town of Mityana (35 miles west of Kampala) had fallen to the enemy. From March 29 onwards streams of refugees left the capital, many of them for Kenya, and UN and diplomatic personnel were also leaving the country—among them the ambassador of Saudi Arabia. Refugees reaching Kenya reported that Kampala had become a ghost city, where killing and looting was going on, that deserters from the Army had forced many vehicle owners to transport them to the border, and that Libyan troops [see below] were staying behind to erect road blocks against the advancing Tanzanian and exile Ugandan forces.

A Libyan Tupolev 22 jet was reported on March 29 to have dropped five bombs in and around the Tanzanian town of Mwanza, injuring only one person, while Tanzanian MiG aircraft bombed and strafed Entebbe airport on April 1.

On March 30 the UNLF claimed in Dar-es-Salaam that Maj.-Gen. Ibrahim (Emilio) Mondo—whom President Amin had appointed Minister of Defence on Dec. 28, 1978—and troops serving under him had joined the anti-Amin forces.

(Other ministers also appointed by President Amin on Dec. 28 had been Lt.-Col. Farouk Minawa as Minister of Internal Affairs and Mr Mohammed Bakhiti as Minister of Commerce vice Capt. Noah Mohammed. Maj.-Gen. Mondo had been Secretary of Defence, while the Defence portfolio had previously been held by Vice-President Adrisi—see above—who had reappeared in Kampala on Nov. 27. Lt.-Col. Minawa was director of the State Research Bureau, which had developed into the President's principal instrument for suppressing opposition to his regime and was later found to have been responsible for torture and mass killings—see below. The Internal Affairs portfolio had been taken over by President Amin himself from Vice-President Adrisi in May 1978—see 29306 A. Also on Dec. 28 President Amin had decreed an amnesty for all Ugandans who had fled the country since he took power in 1971 and had ordered his ministers to ensure that returning exiles were reintegrated into government ministries in line with their qualifications.)



(Carpress)

During April the forces loyal to President Amin gradually lost control of the country's major centres.

On April 4 Makindye, the headquarters of Uganda's police (some three miles south of Kampala), was taken by anti-Amin forces, while the barracks at Bombo (eight miles north of Kampala) were evacuated by their garrison and occupied by invaders. Professor Lule announced on April 6 that his forces had taken Entebbe airport, and on April 8 anti-Amin Ugandans stated that they had taken Fort Portal, the most important town in western Uganda.

The capture of Kampala by combined Tanzanian and UNLF forces was completed on April 11, when the invaders took the transmitter of Radio Uganda and announced: "From today the oppressive and illegal regime of Idi Amin is no longer in power." (President Amin nevertheless claimed on April 12 that his Government still controlled most of the country.)

While the invaders were enthusiastically welcomed by the majority of the population, the capital was badly damaged by artillery and rocket fire and also by widespread looting, first by soldiers of the defeated Army and later by civilians, whom the Tanzanian and UNLF troops did not prevent from causing considerable damage. Soldiers loyal to President Amin had, before their withdrawal, reportedly committed numerous murders in Kampala, and according to eye witnesses a number of such soldiers were, when captured by civilians, themselves beaten to death.

The force which took Kampala was estimated to number a total of 7,000 men, of whom 4,000 were members of the Tanzanian Army. Apart from artillery and a few tanks, the force consisted of infantry, whose progress did not exceed about nine miles a day. Of President Amin's forces of 21,000 men at the beginning of the war, only two battalions totalling about 2,000 men were said to be left to him by April 10. According to Mr Tony Avirgan, a US freelance correspondent (reporting on that day), casualties in the war amounted to fewer than 1,000 Ugandans killed in five months of fighting, as well as a smaller number of Tanzanians, while some 400 Libyans had been killed in several days of fighting near Kampala early in April. Unofficially the cost of the war to Tanzania was estimated at some \$500,000 a day.

The invaders gained complete control of most of southern Uganda by capturing intact the Owen Falls dam (the country's sole source of electric power) and the neighbouring town of Jinja (the second largest in Uganda) with some 2,000 Tanzanian and UNLF troops meeting with no resistance on April 22. There was no reliable information concerning the whereabouts of ex-President Amin.

Establishment of New Government

Following the fall of Kampala to the combined Tanzanian-UNLF forces, Professor Lule addressed the Ugandan nation in a broadcast from Dar-es-Salaam on April 11.

In his speech he declared inter alia: "The rule of terror, oppression and murder has ended. . . . From this day Ugandans can resolve never again to allow a dictator to rule them. We shall never again allow a foreigner to rule us. . . . From the day the murderous Idi Amin usurped power in January 1971 Ugandans of every tribe and from every family have suffered through his murders, torture, terror, robbery and plunder. Some 50,000 fellow citizens were forced to flee their motherland and live as refugees in other countries. Over 200,000 of our people were brutally murdered by Amin, leaving behind hundreds of widows and orphans throughout the country. . . . Now having got rid of Amin, we must set ourselves the following urgent tasks: We are committed to establish the rule of law in the country and to restore the dignity of our people; to embark on a programme of reconstruction and rehabilitation and to bring back to the people of Uganda the good life they once knew; and to establish friendly and meaningful relations with our neighbours and with the world at large."

He thereupon proceeded to announce the composition of his provisional Government as follows:

Professor Yusuf K. Lule	President, Minister of Defence and C.-in-C. of the Armed Forces
Mr Yoweri Museveni	Minister of State for Defence
Mr Samuel Sebagereka	Finance and Economic Planning
Mr Otema Alimadi	Foreign Affairs
Mr Paul Mwanga	Interior
Dr Arnold Bisase	Health
Dr John Dungu	Agriculture and Animal Husbandry
Mr Akena Pojok	Power and Communications
Mr Ateke Ejalu	Information and National Guidance
Dr Tarsis Kabwegyere	Lands, Natural Resources and Tourism
Mr Andrew Adimola	Reconstruction and Rehabilitation
Mr A. Byararua	Commerce and Industry
Mr Mathias Ngobi	Regional Administration
Professor A. Wandira	Education
Professor Daniel Wadada Nabudere	Justice
Dr George Kanyeihamba	Attorney General

Also appointed were four deputy ministers—one each for Defence, Foreign Affairs, the Interior and Health—as well as Mr Justice Sam Wambuzi (former chairman of the Kenya Court of Appeal) as Chief Justice; Col. Tito Okello as commander of the Uganda National Liberation Army; Lt.-Col. David Oyite-Ojok as Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces (with the rank of colonel); Mr David Barlow as Inspector-General of Police; and Mr Nkojo as Governor of the Bank of Uganda.

Mr Museveni was a former radical student leader and a member of the Front for National Salvation (FRONASA), a Marxist movement based in Dar-es-Salaam. **Mr Sebagereka** was a former commissioner for income tax at the East African Community and opposed to Dr Obote. **Mr Alimadi** had been Ugandan ambassador in Washington under Dr Obote's presidency. **Dr Bisase**, a dentist, was described as a strong supporter of the SUM. **Dr Dungu** had remained inside Uganda as a lecturer at Makerere University. **Mr Pojok** was a "leftist" engineer. **Mr Ejalu**, a journalist, was a former

member of Dr Obote's Uganda People's Congress. **Dr Kabwegyere** was a sociology lecturer at Makerere and later in Nairobi. **Mr Adimola** had been deputy high commissioner in London under Dr Obote. **Mr Byararua** was an economist, formerly with the Uganda Development Corporation. **Mr Ngobi** was a former Minister of Agriculture, who had been imprisoned by Dr Obote in February 1966 [see 21272 A]. **Professor Wandira** was a former (non-political) vice-chancellor of Makerere University. **Professor Nabudere** was a member of FRONASA and a Marxist. **Dr Kanyehamba** had been a human rights activist outside party politics.

President Lule also announced that those who had committed criminal offences would be brought before the courts and that no acts of revenge would be allowed; that elections would be arranged as soon as conditions permitted; and that until further notice all dealings in foreign exchange were suspended.

President Lule and his ministers were sworn in by the Chief Justice on their arrival in Kampala on April 13. The previous day all Ugandan diplomatic missions were reported to have expressed their adherence to the new Government.

Among those who publicly welcomed the new Government was the Anglican Archbishop Sylvanus G. Wani (the successor to Archbishop Janani Luwum, assassinated in February 1977—see 28281 B), who said in an Easter sermon on April 15 that it marked "the advent of the resurrection of Uganda" and who affirmed on April 21 that the (Anglican) Church of Uganda would "co-operate fully with the new Government".

The newly-established daily *Uganda Times* on April 18 warned people not to take the law into their own hands, deplored "the looting which has taken place these last few days and which is continuing in some parts of the country", and declared that "those who indulge in revenge" were "as dangerous to the revolution as those who sabotage the task of reconstruction". (Refugees who had fled to Kenya reported on April 19 that marauding bands of the former Ugandan Army were killing hundreds of civilians in areas not yet under the control of the new Government, while other civilians were killing fleeing troops.)

The first elections under the new Government took place in Kampala on April 21, when ward representatives were elected to act as spokesmen with the new Government and to help round up weapons and looted goods.

The fall of Kampala led to widespread disclosures, often based on eye witnesses' reports, of atrocities, committed under the Amin regime, often in the presence of the President.

It was reported on April 15 that at the offices of the State Research Bureau the invaders had found not only papers from secret files but also the decomposing bodies of detainees. Outside Kampala mass graves were dug in a field where some 2,000 bodies were said to have been buried in two days, most of them being victims of the State Research Bureau and many of them having been killed by strangulation.

The death at the hands of President's security guards of Mrs Dora Bloch, one of the passengers on board the aircraft hijacked to Entebbe by Palestinian guerrillas in July 1976 [see page 27892], was confirmed by several witnesses, as reported on April 19.

Among those who lost their lives during the fighting were two West German and two Swedish journalists, killed on April 5 by Ugandan soldiers after they had landed from a boat which they had hired to reach Uganda from Kenya by crossing Lake Victoria; also the former King Omugabe of Ankole, killed in western Uganda by fleeing Ugandan soldiers (as reported on April 5); and the Rt. Rev. John A. Wasikye, the (Anglican) Bishop of Mbale.

The new Government announced in Kampala on April 25 that the former Vice-President Adrisi had been found at Mulago hospital and was likely to be tried for crimes committed by the Amin regime.

Recognition of Lule Government by Other Countries

President Lule's Government was recognized by that of Tanzania on April 12 and subsequently also by Botswana, Ethiopia, Mozambique and Zambia, and by the United Kingdom on April 15.

Announcing his Government's decision, President Nyerere declared inter alia: "Those who say [that] Tanzania created a bad precedent [by acting against Uganda] are liars. What we did was exemplary at a time when the OAU found itself unable to condemn Amin. I think we have set a good precedent inasmuch as when African nations find themselves collectively incapable of punishing a single country, then each country has to look after itself." With reference to reports that he hoped to reinstate ex-President Obote, President Nyerere said: "The [exiled] Ugandans decided to go [into Uganda] and it coincided with our decision to punish Amin. It is not the Govern-

ment of Obote, it is the Government of Lule, and we have recognized it. We never had any intention of bringing back Obote."

(The Government of Nigeria had on April 9 issued a warning that interfering in another country's affairs to the extent of invasion—as Tanzania had done in Uganda—might cause a chain reaction in Africa in which "a few militarily powerful countries would be able to determine the leadership of other states".)

For the British Government Mr Richard Posnett, who had had over 20 years' experience in the UK diplomatic service in Africa, had arrived in Kampala on April 10 to explore the needs of the new regime and to reopen (on April 16) the British embassy, which had been closed since July 1976, when Britain had severed its diplomatic relations with Uganda [see page 27892].

On April 17 it was reported that M. Claude Cheysson, the European Community's Commissioner for Development, had advised the new Government that he was ready to send a mission to Kampala to discuss emergency aid measures under the Lomé Convention [see 27050 A]. [For the Community's June 1977 decision to link the granting of aid to Uganda to the observance of human rights, see 28928 A.]

Mr John Blane, a member of the US embassy staff in Nairobi, arrived in Kampala on April 23 to reopen the US embassy, which had been closed since 1973 [see 26456 A].

The US House of Representatives had on Sept. 29, 1978, finally approved a ban on all US trade with Uganda in protest against President Amin's "savage abuses of the Ugandan people"—this measure being a provision in a compromise bill on appropriations for contributions to the Witteveen supplementary financing facilities of the International Monetary Fund [see 29306 A]. Following the signing of this bill by President Carter, President Amin had on Oct. 11 threatened to take retaliatory action against US citizens in Uganda. On Oct. 31 it had been reported that the (US) Esso, Caltex and Mobil oil companies had stopped trading in Uganda. On Feb. 28, 1979, the US State Department had advised all remaining US nationals (said to number about 100) to leave Uganda.

The OAU issued no statement on the change of government in Uganda.

In Morocco, the pro-government daily *El Maghrib* on April 12 deplored "the silence of the OAU" and pointed out that for the first time in the history of Africa a country had "invaded its neighbour and taken its capital with impunity".

The Role of Libya in the Conflict

The role played in the conflict between Tanzania and Uganda by the Government of Libya was at first obscured by conflicting statements and reports on its attitude.

On Feb. 16 Col. Kadhafi was reported to have assured a Tanzanian envoy that he was sending neither arms nor troops to Uganda because it was President Amin who had started the existing conflict by invading Tanzania in October 1978.

A Norwegian journalist, however, returning from a visit to Uganda, reported from Nairobi on Feb. 19 that during the previous week "the airlift of weapons and ammunition from Tripoli has been running at the rate of one plane a day, though the week before it was twice that rate", and he also stated that some earlier flights had "brought in up to 600 Libyan soldiers a day".

According to SUM members quoted in Dar-es-Salaam on Feb. 25, some 1,000 "Arab advisers" had arrived in Uganda recently to "prop up" the Amin regime. The *Nairobi Times* reported on March 5 that there were about 2,500 Libyan troops with tanks and armoured vehicles in Uganda, and that a 10-day airlift was continuing to reinforce the Ugandan Army, while there was also "a large Palestinian presence" gathering to help President Amin.

Following US State Department accusations that Libyan troops had been airlifted to Uganda, the Libyan Jana news agency stated on March 6 that such reports were "completely false and groundless" and that all Libyans in Uganda were "teachers, bank employees or medical staff" and that Libya had been "making all possible efforts to stop the fighting between brotherly African countries". (However, one of the Libyan Air Force transport aircraft, a Tupolev 154, had made an emergency landing at Walikale, in north-eastern Zaïre, on March 3 and its crew had been taken to Kinshasa by an aircraft of the Zaïre Air Force.)

President Amin himself, speaking at the opening of the third annual conference of the Islamic Development Bank for Africa in Kampala on March 13, admitted that Palestinian guerrillas were fighting alongside the troops. (He asked the delegates of 34 member countries of the bank to invest in Uganda, and the conference decided on March 15 to grant Uganda credits worth \$4,000,000 to overcome its difficulties.)

President Nyerere stated on March 27 that Libya had threatened to throw its military power behind Uganda unless Tanzania stopped the invasion of Uganda within 24 hours, but that he rejected this ultimatum.

During March the Libyan troops in Uganda were repeatedly reported to have suffered heavy casualties. Nevertheless, a senior Libyan official was on April 2 quoted as having said in Tripoli: "We will not abandon President Amin. We consider him a Moslem revolutionary leader supporting the Palestinian cause and opposing foreign interference in African affairs."

On April 3, however, the Jana news agency reported a spokesman for the Foreign Ministry in Tripoli as saying that Libya was not involved in the war in Uganda, that it had merely sent a few advisers and fuel to that country, and that it had not aided President Amin because it was not clear whether Uganda was at war with Tanzania or whether this was an internal Ugandan conflict. Diplomatic sources in Kampala, however, stated on the same day that the capital was being defended by 3,000 Libyan troops.

On April 6 the Libyan ambassador to Uganda was reported to have left his post while Libyan troops had fallen back to Jinja, Nakosongola and Gulu before being taken by air to Uganda's extreme north, from where they were to be repatriated, with their losses remaining unknown.

Col. Kadhafi himself said on April 8 that his country was "not a party to the Ugandan-Tanzanian conflict" but that he deplored that "neither the United Nations nor the OAU had taken any initiative to arrest the crusade led by Tanzania against the Moslems in Uganda".

According to a report by the Moroccan news agency (Maghreb Arabe Presse) on April 9 the Libyan Government had paid the UNLF the equivalent of \$20,000,000 to allow Libya's expeditionary force to pull out of Uganda without being attacked.

Relations between Kenya and Uganda

Although the Government of Kenya had at first tried to maintain a neutral attitude in the conflict between Tanzania and Uganda, it later offered its co-operation to the newly-established Government in Kampala.

Mr Mkapa, the Tanzanian Foreign Minister, had on March 30 expressed (before the US and UK ambassadors in Dar-es-Salaam) his Government's concern at what he called Kenya's "anti-Tanzanian" position and "obstructiveness" shown by allowing fuel to be airlifted from Nairobi to Uganda by Libyan aircraft and also arms to be transported to Uganda from the port of Mombasa. On April 2 it was reported that Mr Edward Sokoine, the Tanzanian Prime Minister, had unsuccessfully pleaded with President Moi (whom he visited at State House in Nakuru, north of Nairobi) to end the transit of Libyan arms to Uganda. The Kenyan reply was said to have been that under the existing convention on land-locked countries, to which Kenya was a signatory, it had no right to deny Uganda essential military or economic supplies.

At the same time Kenya was admitting large numbers of refugees fleeing Uganda to escape being harassed or even killed by remnants of President Amin's disintegrating Army. When the fall of Kampala was imminent, a stream of fugitives, including government ministers and other office bearers under the Amin regime, moved into Kenya. According to reports of April 5, there were among them Mr Matiya Lubega, the former Minister of State for Foreign Affairs (who was later said to have reached Juba in the southern Sudan); Major Robert Astles, President Amin's British-born adviser (whose detention for interrogation was confirmed by the Kenyan police on April 18), and his wife, Mrs Mary Sewkatula-Astles (who had been Minister of Culture and Community Development); Brig. Ali Fadhul, former Minister of Provincial Administration; and Mr Abdul Nasuru, former Governor of the Bank of Uganda.

Mr Charles Njonjo, the Kenyan Attorney General, said on April 19: "Those people who have run away from Uganda and have come to Kenya after the overthrow of President Amin should go back to their country because they are not genuine refugees."

It was officially stated in Nairobi on the same day that up to 1,000 Ugandans who had come to Kenya would be taken to a reception camp at Kakemega (in western Kenya).

At the end of two days of talks held in Nairobi on April 23-24 between Mr Otema Alimadi, the Ugandan Foreign

Minister, and Dr Munyua Waiyaki, his Kenyan counterpart, it was announced in a joint communiqué on April 25 that Kenya would assist the new Ugandan Government by detaining fugitives and repatriating them to Uganda. At the same time it was reported that Kenya had promised Uganda immediate emergency aid worth £1,400,000.—(Times - Daily Telegraph - Financial Times - Guardian - International Herald Tribune - Le Monde - Neue Zürcher Zeitung - Observer - Sunday Times - BBC Summary of World Broadcasts - Africa Confidential) (Prev. rep. 29306 A)

A. MAURITANIA — Government Changes - Appointment of Military Committee for National Salvation - Conflict between Ethnic Communities

Political developments in March and April 1979 led to the emergence of Lt.-Col. Ahmed Ould Bousseif, who was appointed Prime Minister on April 6, as the effective leader of the Mauritanian regime.

Government Changes - Appointment of Military Committee for National Salvation - Drafting of Constitutional Charter

Col. Mustapha Ould Mohamed Salek, who had led the overthrow on July 10, 1978, of President Mokhtar Ould Daddah [see 29256 A], assumed broad powers on March 20, 1979, following reports that a coup was being planned by pro-Algerian elements within the Government. In a broadcast announcing the decision to extend his powers (which had been taken after a meeting of the Military Committee for National Recovery, CMRN), Col. Ould Salek said that he wanted to "take control of the extraordinary situation" in Mauritania; he also announced the creation of a National Consultative Council (CNC), representing all sectors of the population [see below], and reiterated that it was the Government's desire to extricate Mauritania from the Western Sahara conflict [see 29565 A].

On March 21 Col. Ould Salek dismissed from the Government a number of the most "progressive" members of the CMRN who were regarded as sympathetic to negotiation with the Sahrawi liberation organization Polisario with a view to forming a Mauritanian-Algerian axis, contrary to the wishes of the majority of the CMRN's members. Those dismissed were Maj. Jeddi Ould Salek (Interior), Lt.-Col. Sidi Mohamed Ould Bigeira (Finance), Mr Mohamed Yehdih Ould Brezilei (Civil Service, Higher Education and Vocational Training) and Lt.-Col. Viah Ould Mayoub (Transport, Communications, Handicrafts and Tourism). On the same day Col. Ould Salek assumed the additional portfolio of Defence (this responsibility having previously been exercised by Lt.-Col. Moaouia Ould Sidi Mohamed Taya) and announced a series of government changes (further to those effected on Jan. 16—see 29548 A), in which two new ministers were appointed, three took different portfolios and two took on additional responsibilities, as follows:

‡Col. Mustapha Ould Mohamed Salek	..	Prime Minister and Defence
*Lt.-Col. Moaouia Ould Sidi Mohamed Taya	..	Minister in charge of CMRN Permanent Secretariat
*Maj. Thiam El Hadj	..	Interior
†Mr Moulay Ould Mohamed	..	Finance
*Lt.-Col. Mohamed Mahmoud Ould Ahmed Louly	..	Civil Service, Higher Education and Vocational Training
‡Inspector Ly Mamadou	..	Environment, Development, Housing, Traditional Industry and Tourism
†Mr Mohamed Ould Mohamed Mahmoud	..	Youth and Sport
‡Lt.-Col. Ahmed Salem Ould Sidi	..	Equipment, Transport and Communications

* Changed portfolio. † New Minister.
‡ Took additional responsibilities.

Mr Mohamed Mahmoud was previously Mauritania's representative at UNESCO. The Ministry of State at the Prime Minister's Office was abolished.

After the composition of the new National Consultative Council [see above] had been announced on March 29 as 81 Arab-Berbers and 17 Black Africans, the 17 Black members presented their resignation on the following day, protesting in

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a letter to Col. Ould Salek at the "iniquity of the ethnic distribution" of the CNC (Blacks comprising about 40 per cent of the population). The resignations followed disturbances which had arisen in early February between the culturally dominant Arab-Berber population and the Black African community over the latter's linguistic and cultural claims [see below]. (For 1966 racial disturbances, see 23954 B.)

Following this development Col. Ould Salek on April 6 dissolved the CMRN and installed a "Military Committee for National Salvation" (CMSN) to rule the country under his own leadership (although he relinquished the premiership and the Defence portfolio—see below), stating in a communiqué that the previous Government had "committed the error of having too soon shared power with worn-out politicians and young idealists" and that "real" power would in future be exercised by the armed forces. The communiqué again reiterated the Government's desire to attain peace in Western Sahara, until which time "all political activity in the country is prohibited".

The CMSN also on April 6 announced the appointment of a Government containing two new ministers. Details are given below of these new appointments and of ministers taking on additional or changed responsibilities.

- *Lt.-Col. Ahmed Ould Bousseif Prime Minister
 - †Lt.-Col. Mohamed Ould Ba Ould Abdelkader Minister in charge of the CMSN
 - †Lt.-Col. Khouna Ould Kaydalla National Defence
 - *Maj. Moulaye Ould Boukheiss Justice and Islamic Affairs
 - *Mr Mohamed El Mokhtar Ould Zamel . . Planning and Fisheries
 - *Mr Mohamed Ould Mohamed Mahmoud Youth, Sport, Traditional Industry and Tourism
- * Changed or additional portfolio. † New Minister.

Lt.-Col. Bousseif was previously in charge of the Fishing and Marine Economy portfolio, while Maj. Ould Boukheiss had held the Justice and Mr Ould Zamel the Planning portfolio.

The members of the CMSN were as follows: Col. Ould Salek (President), Lt.-Col. Ahmed Ould Bousseif (First Vice-President), Lt.-Col. Ahmed Salem Ould Sidi (Second Vice-President), Lt.-Col. Cheikh Ould Beida, Lt.-Col. Moaouia Ould Sidi Mohamed Taya, Lt.-Col. Mohamed Ould Ba Ould Abdelkader, Maj. Thiam El Hadj, Maj. Ann Amadou Baraly, Maj. Yale, Maj. Soumare Silmane, Maj. Moulaye Ould Boukheiss, Lt.-Col. Khouna Ould Kaydalla, Lt.-Col. Mohamed Mahmoud Ould Ahmed Louly. All these officers with the exception of Lt.-Col. Bousseif, Lt.-Col. Abdelkader and Maj. Yale had been members of the former CMRN; several of them, including Maj. El Hadj and Lt.-Col. Abdelkader, were Black Africans.

Lt.-Col. Bousseif, who was regarded as a pro-Western moderate, stated on April 8 that Mauritania would "call on all its friends and allies to help it defend its territorial integrity" and said that the Moroccan troops who had been asked to leave earlier in the year [see page 29566] would now remain in Mauritania until the end of the Western Sahara conflict. Commenting on the recent government changes, Lt.-Col. Bousseif said that the installation of the CMSN would mean the re-establishment of military orthodoxy, adding that the military had not previously exercised real power.

The CMSN on April 11 adopted a new constitutional charter which confirmed the ultimate authority of the Prime Minister, who would in future be responsible only to the Committee; Col. Ould Salek's actions as head of state would be subject to the approval of the CMSN, which would also exercise legislative power, formulate the general policy of the nation and control the Government's actions. The charter specified that the CMSN would convene once every three months and its permanent committee every week.

The charter further stated that the head of government would not simultaneously be head of state and that, in the event of the latter's absence or incapacity, the Prime Minister would stand in only for a maximum of seven days in his capacity as First Vice-President.

Visit by President Senghor - Tension between Black African and Arab-Berber Communities

President Senghor of Senegal, a close friend of former President Ould Daddah, paid a "working visit" to Mauritania on

April 9 for talks with the new regime, stating on his arrival that it was in Senegal's interests for Mauritania to be united, stable and prosperous. The two sides discussed mutual economic problems, and President Senghor was believed to have urged Mauritania's leaders to follow a more equitable policy with regard to the Black African population. President Senghor had earlier told foreign diplomats in Senegal that he would call on the United Nations to supervise a referendum in southern Mauritania if the Black population there was threatened by developments in the region.

A number of tracts were distributed in Nouakchott in early 1979, variously criticizing the CMRN and Mauritania's membership of the Arab League. (On the other hand, Arab-Berber leaders were at the same time reported to be pressing the Government to withdraw from the Senegal River Development Organization, OMVS, comprising Mauritania, Mali and Senegal—see 25180 B; 26640 A—on the grounds that OMVS projects would benefit only the Black population living along the Senegal river.) A number of Blacks were arrested in March and held by the authorities for several days in this connexion.

The Black community in Mauritania opposed the imposition of Arabic as the main national language, calling for the continued use of French and of the numerous tribal languages, and also opposed what it saw as the systematic attempts by the new Government to "Arabize" the country. (In late 1978, Mr Seck M'Tiack, the Minister of Education, had pronounced himself in favour of maintaining Arab-French bilingualism, producing a reaffirmation from Maj. Jeddi of the "attachment of the whole country to Arab-Islamic culture". As Interior Minister Maj. Jeddi had also advocated a hardline policy against the Black population during disturbances.)

The Black population furthermore called for an even distribution of posts in the administration between the two ethnic communities, and supported the cession to Polisario of the southern sector of Western Sahara (held by Mauritania since 1976—see 27746 A), fearing that the creation of a federation between Mauritania and the southern sector would lead to the "swallowing up of the non-Arab Black race".

A letter received on March 26 by foreign ambassadors accredited to Dakar (Senegal) announced the constitution of an "armed front for the self-determination of the Black African populations of the southern Mauritanian regions of Walo, Fouta and Guidimaka" (the "Walfougri Front").—(Le Monde - International Herald Tribune - La Vanguardia, Barcelona - BBC Summary of World Broadcasts - West Africa - Der Tagesspiegel) (Prev. rep. Government Changes 29548 A; Overthrow of President Ould Daddah 29256 A; Western Sahara Conflict 29565 A)

A. UNITED KINGDOM — Vaccine Damage Payments Bill, Provisions and Enactment

Provision was made under the Vaccine Damage Payments Act, which received the Royal Assent on March 22, for payments of £10,000 to persons who had suffered severe disablement as a result of vaccination under a routine public policy vaccination programme.

On June 14, 1977, the then Prime Minister, Mr James Callaghan, published the text of an exchange of letters between himself and Lord Pearson (the chairman of the Royal Commission on Civil Liability and Compensation for Personal Injury, whose appointment had been announced on Dec. 19, 1972) about payments for the benefit of those who were seriously damaged as a result of vaccination; in his letter to the Prime Minister, Lord Pearson said that the members of the Royal Commission had "all reached the conclusion that some kind of financial assistance should be made available for very serious injury resulting from vaccination recommended by a public health authority". When the Royal Commission's report (Cmd. 7054) was published on March 16, 1978, it recommended inter alia that vaccine-damaged children should, if severely handicapped, be entitled to a benefit which it proposed for severely handicapped children generally (a non-taxable disability allowance of £4 a week from the age of two, payable from Exchequer funds); in addition, however, there was a special case for paying tort compensation for vaccine damage where vaccination was recommended by the state and was undertaken to protect the community, and the authority concerned should be strictly liable in tort for severe damage suffered by anyone, adult or child, as a result of such vaccination.

In a statement on May 9, 1978, Mr David Ennals, then Secretary of State for Social Services, announced that while the Royal Commission's recommendations were being considered carefully, the Government had decided to bring forward urgently a scheme of payment whereby a lump sum of £10,000, tax-free, would be payable in respect of those, whether children or adults, who had, since July 5, 1948 (the date of the foundation of the National Health Service),