'Zones of turmoil' theory behind abuse of African diplomat

by Stephen Brawer

The call for the founding of an African Civil Rights Movement, in the spring of 1995, by Godfrey Binaisa, former President of Uganda, was a long overdue intervention into the fight against the imposition of the International Monetary Fund's structural adjustment policies in Africa. The murderous economic hardships and social upheaval, caused by IMF policies, have catalyzed the military conflicts and civil wars that have destroyed Somalia, Liberia, Angola, Rwanda, and Sierra Leone. It is in the context of these injustices, that the case of Tinga Seisay, the former Consul General to the United States from Sierra Leone, highlights the necessity for an African Civil Rights Movement.

Mr. Seisay was Sierra Leone's Consul General in the United States between 1968 and 1974, and he received permanent residency in the United States in 1982, where he lived until 1986. From 1986 until 1994, he lived in Sierra Leone, as the president of Hermes International Business, a U.S.-Sierra Leone partnership dealing in precious metals. In the summer of 1994, his town of Moyamba was attacked by rebel forces of the Revolutionary United Front. They occupied his house, seized all his possessions, and forced Seisay to flee for his life.

It is at this point that Air France intervened directly and illegally against Seisay. In July 1994, Air France sold Seisay a ticket to the United States and approved his travel documents. However, the French airline then acted to prevent him from completing the journey. During the flight's stopover in Paris, the Air France supervisor refused to accept the same travel documents that had been approved by Air France authorities in Guinea, where the flight had originated. Seisay was thrown off the plane in the Paris airport, and left penniless, without food or a place to stay.

He was forced to remain in Paris for nearly two weeks against his will, and was eventually only helped by family members in Sweden, who managed to send him money, find him food and shelter, and secure a visa and an airline ticket which could allow him to finally travel to Sweden. As for Air France, they refused to honor their own food voucher which they had issued to Seisay, to eat in their restaurant. Seisay was treated like a fourth-class citizen with no rights and no dignity.

This mistreatment of a former African diplomat is an eye-opener in showing the ongoing plans for destabilization and destruction of the continent of Africa. It is likely only one of many examples of how black Africans are mistreated and abused in a hobbesian world of "each against all," and in which the name of the game is "survival of the fittest."

The blueprint for Africa's destruction was made official in 1993 in a publication of the Royal Institute of International Affairs (Chatham House) by Max Singer and Aaron Wildavsky, entitled *The Real World Order: Zones of Peace, Zones of Turmoil.* The geopoliticians argue for separating the world into two strictly divided parts: The first is the "zones of peace, wealth, and democracy," comprised of North America, western Europe, Japan, Australia, and New Zealand. The other is the "zones of turmoil, war, and development." Evidently, in the eyes of Air France, Seisay belongs to the latter, permitting abuse against him with impunity.

Singer and Wildavsky write: "Neither we nor anyone else is going to make that part of the world stable or peaceful in the next few decades. Millions of people will die unnecessarily in the next century—from starvation and disease, from war, and from government murder—and we cannot stop these horrors from happening. . . . The fundamental conditions that now exist in the zones of turmoil, as well as the lessons of history, make it clear that these zones will be the scenes of war and revolutions, and of mass murders, famines, and epidemics caused by governments or by wars. Stability would be an impossibility."

Turmoil in Sierra Leone

It is not irrelevant to Seisay's case that his country Sierra Leone, a small nation in West Africa, is being torn apart by civil war and armed conflict. Over 90% of Sierra Leone is presently controlled by rebel forces led by Foday Sankoh and his Revolutionary United Front (RUF). The RUF war against Sierra Leone is an offshoot conflict of the invasion of Liberia in 1989 by Charles Taylor's National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPLF). The NPLF invasion was based out of Ivory Coast, under the hopeful eye of France, particularly Christoph Mitterrand, son of the late French President François Mitterrand. The Taylor-allied RUF then seized the opportunity to maraud Sierra Leone in 1991. Today, only about 10% of Sierra Leone is under government control, including the capital city of Freetown and the airport of Lugi. The brutal conditions of pillage and wanton destruction inside the country are comparable to, and in some sense as grim as, the destruction of Rwanda.

But for French- and British-allied oligarchical networks, Sierra Leone's real importance is that it possesses the largest diamond mines in Africa outside of South Africa, as well as enormous, untapped gold mines.

Since approximately spring of 1995, when the British elites were themselves admitting the hopeless condition of their financial system, there have been major moves into raw

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material markets, especially targetting Africa, which although hopelessly poor and underdeveloped when it comes to modern infrastructure, is one the world's richest areas in raw material wealth. In May 1995, Sierra Leone brought in the South African mercenary force Executive Outcomes to lead the fight against the RUF. As payment for this service, it was agreed, the government would give Executive Outcomes rights to mine one of the country's richest diamond mines.

On the other side of the game, the French-backed RUF rebels are often illiterate, uneducated youth, who grow up with an AK-47 in hand, rather than a book. They even practice cannibalism, to terrorize the population into submission. They survive as mercenaries by looting and selling raw materials, in exchange for weapons. The game between the government and the rebels is a cynical theater-managed affair, which the population has come to call "sorbels," meaning rebels and government soldiers working together for loot.

On Jan. 13, Brig. Mada Bio carried out a palace coup against Sierra Leone's chairman of the National Provisional Ruling Council, Capt. Valentine Strasser. Strasser had ruled from 1992, but his popularity was thought to be insufficient to keep the Council in power after scheduled elections at the end of February.

Tinga Seisay is an outspoken opponent of this game. In fact, he had resigned his position as Consul General in 1974,

in protest, against both submission to the IMF policy to phase out the railway system in Sierra Leone, and the decision of then-President Siaka Stevens to execute Minister of Finance Dr. Mohammed Fornah. President Stevens also executed Seisay's cousin, Brig. John Bangura, who was Army Chief of Staff, and who had turned the country over to civilian rule. Seisay wrote his masters thesis at Long Island University in 1975 on why the phasing out of railway was wrong.

Suit against Air France

He has now filed a multimillion-dollar lawsuit against Air France, which is pending in U.S. District Court, Southern District of New York. However, Seisay sees the unjust and abusive treatment that he received at the hands of Air France, more as an issue of civil rights violations specifically directed against black Africans, and emphasizes his support for the growing African Civil Rights Movement, founded under the initiative of Godfrey Binaisa, together with the Schiller Institute. He fully supports Lyndon LaRouche's call to build an intellectual elite in Africa, which can join hands to turn the weapons of ideas against the British and defeat them at their evil game. He has, therefore, added his name to the growing list of international diplomats and parliamentarians who call for the full exoneration of Lyndon LaRouche and his associates.



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