

Africa needs 'peace through development'

On April 26 and 27, *EIR*, the Forum for Peace and Democracy (Bonn), and the Schiller Institute co-sponsored a seminar on the crisis in the Great Lakes Region of Africa. Meeting in a small town on the Rhine River in Germany, leading opposition figures from Uganda, Rwanda, and Burundi joined former Ugandan President Godfrey Binaisa, American statesman Lyndon LaRouche, Schiller Institute founder Helga Zepp LaRouche, and others, to issue a call for a policy of "peace through development" for Africa.

Almost exactly 25 years after the genocide against the Hutu population in Burundi began in April 1972, the participants in the seminar accused the international community of scandalous indifference to the ongoing genocide against the mostly Hutu refugees in Zaire. They appealed to President Clinton to intervene militarily to stop the genocide and protect the refugees from further mass murder by the mercenary forces of Laurent Kabila, and to exert political pressure on Uganda's President Yoweri Museveni, Rwanda's strongman Paul Kagame, and Burundi's putschist Pierre Buyoya to stop their war in Zaire.

Forty guests from Africa were present at the seminar.

From Uganda, former ambassador Dr. Peter Jjumba led a delegation.

Burundi was represented by a delegation of the National Council for the Defense of Democracy. The delegation was led by the CNDD's general secretary, William Munyembabazi, and the international spokesman, Jerome Ndiho, and included former high-level appointees of the murdered President Melchior Ndadaye: Jacques Bacamurwanko, former ambassador to Washington; Perpetue Nshimirimana-Gashaza, former ambassador to the United Nations; and Joseph Bangurambona, former ambassador to Nairobi. Also, Joseph Ntakirutimana, Frodebu member of the Burundian parliament, and Dr. Evariste Gafumbegete, secretary of the CNDD for Germany, as well as the secretaries for France and Belgium, were present.

From Rwanda, the Rally for the Return of Democracy and Refugees (RDR) was represented by its president, François Nzabahimana, former minister of trade. He led a delegation of representatives from Rwandan refugee organizations: from France, E. Rwirangira; from the Benelux countries, Dr. J.B. Butera; from England, J. Habimana; and, from Germany, Str. Musoni. The group Rwanda For All was represented by Nkiko Nsengimana. Jean Gahururu and Ignace Murwanashyaka from Rwanda participated as the co-sponsors of the Forum for Peace and Democracy.

From Kivu, Convergence Bukavu was represented by its secretary general, Paris attorney Hamuli Rety. Other intellectuals from Zaire, and John Agami, the Agofe of Lado, also took part.

The strategic picture

The seminar analyzed how the conflicts in East/Central Africa are being manipulated from the outside. It was stated, that the responsibility lies with that group of the Anglo-American establishment which locates its power in the British Commonwealth, and which is out to establish a new form of control over the raw materials of the region through warlords and mercenaries, while at the same time inciting fratricidal wars, such as between Hutu and Tutsi, to reduce the African population. The motivation of the heirs of Cecil Rhodes from London is to grab assets in minerals before the great financial crash occurs. The seminar documented the tragic history of the conflicts in the region and exposed the hypocrisy of the West in treating Museveni, Kagame, or Buyoya as respectable leaders, only because they make themselves willing tools of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank colonial policy, called structural adjustment.

The global strategic perspective was put forward by Lyndon LaRouche, who asked the participants to "climb the mountaintop" and see their situation in Africa globally, and from the standpoint of the last 500 years of world history. From this standpoint, said LaRouche, it is clear that civilization has been collapsing at an accelerating rate, and the world is now undergoing the "greatest financial collapse of all human history."

A plan for rapid development

In opposition to the colonial policies of the International Monetary Fund and the British, the seminar elaborated a strategy of peace through development, in the tradition of Pope Paul VI. The participants signed a call to President Clinton to convene a New Bretton Woods Conference to establish a new, just world economic order. The seminar resolved to put together a plan for the building of modern infrastructure, such as railways, highways, and water projects, to facilitate the rapid development of modern agriculture and industry in the region, which would benefit the people and bring the countries up to European or American standards of living.

The meeting ended with a passionate call by Godfrey Binaisa, who is the founder of an African Civil Rights Movement: "We, the people of Africa, must finally throw off the yoke of the new colonialism and exercise our sovereignty by choosing '20th-century methods' for the most rapid economic development, which will enable all the men in all the lands of Africa to live out their lives in freedom from fear and want."

The seminar, whose proceedings will be published by *EIR*, also heard reports that document the mass murder that has occurred in East Africa, and the way in which Rwanda and Burundi were both betrayed by the international community.