

Zhang spoke with Russian President Boris Yeltsin by telephone, and met with Prime Minister Sergei Stepashin, Security Council secretary Vladimir Putin, and Presidential Office Chief of Staff Aleksandr Voloshin. Zhang and Sergeyev “reached a broad consensus” on the “current international situation, regional security, bilateral relations, and issues of common concern,” Xinhua reported.

Zhang also visited Russia’s General Staff Academy and a command post of the Moscow Air Forces and Air Defense District in Moscow, and the command authorities of the Pacific Ocean Fleet in Vladivostok and of the Far East Military District in Khabarovsk. He visited the Aviation Production Association in Komsomolsk-on-Amur.

Earlier in the spring, Chinese Defense Minister Chi Haotian had visited Pakistan, and PLA Chief of the General Staff Fu Quanyou visited Malaysia and Australia.

On June 30, a PLA delegation returned to Beijing after visiting Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, and Myanmar.

In mid-June, a high-level PLA delegation, led by Deputy Chief of the General Staff Col. Gen. Kui Fulin, visited Croatia, where they discussed the Balkans regional military situation, and the world security situation. The Chinese visitors met with President Franjo Tudjman, and invited him to visit China. PLA delegations also visited Romania and Hungary during the first week of July.

Already this year, China has received military leaders from more than ten neighbors, including defense ministers from Cambodia, Thailand, Laos, Australia, and North Korea, as well as armed forces leaders from Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Mongolia.

Strategic cooperation

Russian arms sales to China now exceeds \$1 billion annually, or nearly one-fifth of total trade between the two countries, Ovchinnikov wrote. Military-technical ties between Moscow and Beijing, disrupted in the early 1960s, were reestablished 25 years later. “Chinese purchases of the newest types of arms in Russia soon became the concrete manifestation of the policy of strategic cooperation,” he wrote. These include Su-27 fighters, Su-27SK and Su-27UB aircraft, and a license to produce the Su-27SK. China also wants to acquire the newer model Su-30MK, of which India has already bought 40 planes, and the newest Su-37 fifth-generation multi-role fighter.

Despite the collapse of Russian-Indian military trade after 1991, India’s Armed Forces are still two-thirds equipped with Soviet and Russian equipment. “Deliveries of weapons to India today comprise nearly half of the annual exports of our country’s military-industrial complex,” Ovchinnikov wrote. These contracts, and joint research projects, are keeping Russian military-industrial plants in operation. Finally, “joint production of arms for third-party countries with subsequent guaranteed servicing may become a new promising direction in Russia’s military-technical cooperation with India and China.”

London prolongs war in the Congo

by Linda de Hoyos

Hopes have been dashed that the highly publicized negotiations taking place in Lusaka, Zambia, among the belligerents, would bring about an accord and the beginning of the end of the war in the Democratic Republic of Congo (D.R.C.). Although defense and foreign ministers of the warring countries involved in the year-old Congo war hashed out a peace plan, and although that plan was then signed by the relevant heads of state and witnesses in early July, the three Congolese rebel factions present at the talks refused to sign, and declared that the cease-fire, stipulated to go into effect 24 hours after the signing, did not apply to them.

Hence, the guns have not been stilled in the Congo: On July 13, Zimbabwean forces fighting on the side of the Congolese government reported that they had been attacked by rebels at three different locations. On July 15, the rebels announced that they had captured the northern town of Gemena after a “serious fight.” The same day, Zimbabwean forces reported that rebels “have started movements which are threatening our supply lines,” and that they were prepared to retaliate.

The war in the Congo perpetuates a conflict that affects nearly every country in Africa; Congo, located in the center of the continent, has borders with nine other nations. The countries now directly militarily involved in the war include: the Democratic Republic of Congo, Namibia, Angola, and Zimbabwe, which are fighting in defense of the Congo, against the Aug. 2, 1998 invasion from Uganda, Rwanda, and Burundi. To the west, continuing civil war in the Republic of Congo (Congo-Brazzaville) is a spin-off of the Angola and the Congo wars. Sudan has been accused by Uganda of involvement in the war on the side of Congo. On July 3, Ugandan-backed rebel leader Jean Bemba warned the Central African Republic that “this act of supporting [Congo President Laurent] Kabila will bring problems” for it.

Furthermore, the spillover of refugees from Congo places political and economic pressures on Tanzania and Zambia. In combination with the wars in the Horn of Africa now involving Ethiopia, Eritrea, and Somalia, and threatening Kenya; the war in southern Sudan; and the escalating war in Angola, much of Africa is besieged by war, with no immediate end in sight.

A war against Africa

It is, in reality, one giant war *against all of Africa*, as a detailed analysis of any one of these wars readily shows. The

real belligerents were not even at the peace table in Lusaka: the British Commonwealth and allied French interests who, operating with complicit channels in the United States, are seeking to destroy the nation-states of Africa in a domino chain of wars, and to ensure the full domination of Africa's vast resources for themselves. These are the powers that stand behind the invaders of the Congo, behind Jonas Savimbi's UNITA in Angola, and behind John Garang's Sudanese People's Liberation Army in Sudan. In each, domination of wealth, not ethnic conflict, is the key issue of the war, especially for the powers outside the continent.

While the peace plan hammered out in Lusaka looks unlikely to be implemented, an examination of its contents establishes precedents and assumptions that are guaranteed to keep the engine of war grinding onward. As stated by Rwandan President Pasteur Bizimungu, in an interview with Agence France Presse on June 23, "We are ready to agree to a cessation of hostilities, as we have already done, but on condition that there is *another engagement*, to deal with these problems" (emphasis added)—that is, *another war*.

This condition was written into the Lusaka agreement, which calls for a United Nations peacekeeping force to enter the Congo, charged with the task of "disarming" various militias and groups that are fighting in eastern Congo. These groups include: insurgent forces against Uganda, grouped in the Allied Democratic Forces; the Forces for the Defense of Democracy, the remnants of the elected Burundian government of 1993 which was overthrown by Tutsi military dictator Pierre Buyoya; Rwandan Hutus fighting the Tutsi military regime of Paul Kagame; and Congolese local militias which have not accepted the Rwandan-Ugandan occupation of one-third of Congolese territory. The military annihilation of these groups—euphemistically called "disarmament"—is a precondition of the agreement.

"As far as Rwanda is concerned, the most interesting aspect of the agreement is that the countries involved have committed to disarm and fight the genocidal forces, and that was our objective," said Rwandan President Bizimungu on the eve of the signing. This plan is to be carried out by the UN Security Council, which in cooperation with the Organization of African Unity (OAU), is to constitute a peacekeeping force to carry out the disarmament. The force, UN Secretary General Kofi Annan said, would be in place within three months. It was not envisioned that the foreign forces currently inside Congo would be withdrawn until after the operation was completed, projected to be nine months from now.

Thus, the Congo peace plan ratified a new future war in the Congo. The plan lacks "good will and commitment," said Kenyan President Daniel Arap Moi on July 13, in explaining why he did not go to Lusaka to witness the signing.

The Lusaka plan was warmly welcomed by the United States government. U.S. State Department spokesman James Foley indicated that Washington is considering sending troops to be part of such a force. "We're going to carefully study any proposal for a UN peacekeeping operation, espe-

cially its mandate, before making any decisions about U.S. support for the operations or role in it, but we are eager to be supportive," he reported on July 8.

A stand-off

The peace agreement reportedly was shattered by the failure of the three Congolese rebel factions represented at the talks to decide who among them could sign the agreement, with the upshot that none of them did. This imbroglio was precipitated by the presence of Ernest Wamba dia Wamba, the ousted chairman of the Rally for Congolese Democracy (RCD). The RCD's current chairman Emile Ilunga, who is based in Goma and has strong ties to Kigali, refused. Jean Bemba, the Ugandan-backed businessman-rebel based in Kinsangani, insisted that Wamba sign, leading to the stand-off. Behind this, however, are unresolved issues among the heads of state. Reportedly, Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni opposed the deployment of any UN force in Congo, arguing that the "disarmament" of militias should be carried out by the Joint Military Commission of all belligerents. This is essentially an argument to perpetuate the war. Zimbabwe refused cooperation in this venture, and the UN peacekeeping force was maintained as a point of the agreement.

From Museveni's standpoint, the deployment of a UN peacekeeping force into eastern Congo could block his drives for an offensive deeper into the south of Congo. *EIR* has received multiple source reports that Ugandan forces are preparing a major offensive in Congo, with the goal of seizing Mbuji-Mayi, the diamond-mining center that is currently financing Kabila's side of the war; the completion of the takeover of Katanga province; and then driving down into Angola to come to the aid of Jonas Savimbi's UNITA, completing the dismemberment of that country. This would carve a corridor out of the mineral-rich eastern Congo, across Angola's diamond and gold fields, handing these over for administration through the Kigali-Kampala nexus.

Given that the giant mining firm Anglo American finally managed this year to wrest the copper fields of Zambia from the Zambian government, this would put the British Commonwealth backers of Ugandan and Rwandan aggression in control of the great swath of mineral and other resources of central Africa. It would also place the British marcher-lords within striking distance of key countries of the South African Development Community, Zimbabwe and Namibia.

There are also indications that the Ugandans and Rwandans put forward ideas for a possible partitioning of Congo, which has been a longtime objective of the Museveni regime, but a far longer-standing goal of the British Privy Council. On July 29, Zimbabwean Foreign Affairs Minister Stan Mungende said that Zimbabwe agreed with the peace plan Zambia had drafted, but opposed the "new ideas" that Rwanda and Uganda "were bringing in," according to the *Lusaka Post*. Mungende reportedly "said his government would not support any move which would end up dividing the D.R.C. into two countries. 'We will not accept that.'"

Congo is already dismembered

A de facto partition of Congo already exists. Rwandan and Ugandan administrations are in place in the territories their troops control. Under Museveni's nephew, Col. James Kazini, operating out of Kisangani, Uganda is already hauling out large amounts of Congo gold and timber. According to Ed Marek's NCN, Rwanda is involved in a venture to retrieve the rare mineral, tantalum, from eastern Congo, with a consortium that includes Banque du Commerce, du Développement, et d'Industrie of Rwanda; the Banque Nationale de Paris of Switzerland; B&L Trading International of Ireland; Kenrow Inc. and California Natural Resources of the United States; and H.C. Starck of Goslar, Germany. It is unlikely that, with such deals in place, Rwanda would foresee budging from eastern Congo at any point in the near future.

At the same time, Rwanda continues to operate as a satellite of Uganda. On the eve of the OAU summit, Rwanda sent a message to the OAU state members to inform them that Rwanda wanted to leave the Central African union of which it has been a part, to join the East African union within the OAU, in keeping with Rwanda's changing the official language from French to English. Rwanda has also stated its desires to join the East African Community of Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania, and Rwanda has in fact overtaken both Kenya and Tanzania as Uganda's major regional trading partner—mostly Ugandan exports to Rwanda of electricity, fruits, milk, and agricultural produce. The same week the Lusaka agreement was being prepared, Rwanda and Uganda announced an agreement for the purchase from and sale of power to each other, with Uganda's border town of Kisoro using Rwandan power.

The consolidation of the Ugandan-Rwandan nexus and its move to take large bites out of the Congo follows precisely the plan behind the 1990 Ugandan invasion of Rwanda which ultimately led to the murder of Rwandan President Juvenal Habyarimana and the bloodletting of 1994. The return of the Tutsi refugees from Uganda to Rwanda, via force of arms and the Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF), was but the cover and first step for the bigger plan: the seizure of eastern Congo on behalf of British Commonwealth and allied interests which have backed the Ugandan and Rwandan regimes to the hilt. This explains the condominium of lies in the "international community" that surrounds the events that take place in eastern Africa.

Double standards

This also explains how Rwanda and Uganda are permitted to carry out their designs with impunity. For instance, although the U.S. State Department and British Foreign Office are insistent that D.R.C. President Kabila hold dialogue with all political parties in Congo and that he call elections, neither Rwanda nor Uganda is anywhere near the status of a "Western democracy." The RPF announced in May that it was extending its mandate for power in Rwanda another four years; in Uganda, one week before the Lusaka agreement, the ruling

National Resistance Movement rammed through a non-quorum Parliament a bill for a national referendum in the year 2001 to vote on the final eradication of all political parties, leaving Museveni's "Movement system" intact and without competition. And, while D.R.C. President Kabila is told that he must directly negotiate with the Congolese rebels, the insurgent forces of Uganda, Rwanda, and Burundi are slated for forced disarmament at the hands of the United Nations. No negotiations are necessary.

The cover for this operation is the Rwanda game of branding anyone who opposes the vengeful regime of Paul Kagame as a "génocidaire." All insurgents are labeled as "Interhamwe," after the militia group in Habyarimana's Rwanda that orchestrated the anti-Tutsi slaughters of 1994. However, most of these Interhamwe did not survive the 1996-97 onslaught of Rwanda and Uganda into eastern Congo. Since Kagame and the RPF came into power in July 1994, their practices of revenge in blood have created an entire new generation of insurgents who operated primarily in northwestern Rwanda, but were driven out into Congo and other countries. These forces are attempting to resist the anti-Hutu pogroms of the Kagame regime.

The Forces for the Defense of Democracy of Burundi, also reportedly slated for dismemberment, are resisting the Tutsi military coup and dictatorship of Pierre Buyoya. The FDD is the military wing of the National Council for the Defense of Democracy (CNDD), which was created by the leaders of Burundi's only elected government, the Melchior Ndayaye government of 1993. President Ndayaye himself was assassinated by the Tutsi military only three months after election. The Alliance of Democratic Forces in Uganda is a homegrown outfit born out of frustration with attempts to mount civil opposition to Museveni at home, but there is no pressure on Museveni, despite the fact that now hundreds of thousands have been displaced by the war *inside* western Uganda, to sit down and negotiate a settlement with this rebel force.

Lastly, among the groups to be disarmed is the Mayi-Mayi militia of *Congolese resistance to Rwanda and Uganda occupation* of Congo. That occupation has not been kind. In addition to eliminating most local and indigenous leaders, religious leaders, and intellectuals, the occupation has resulted in the loss of 75% of the livestock of the region, as the cattle were hauled off to points east. Even a peace plan that ostensibly seeks to end the war and to force the withdrawal of Ugandan and Rwandan troops from the region, incorporates within it demands from Kampala and Kigali for the clean up of all resistance to their drive for unchallenged power and expansion.

For these reasons on the ground, and for reasons of the relentless drive by British and allied intelligence networks to turn central and southern Africa into a corridor of "failed states," unless the Ugandan-Rwandan-Burundian military complex is decisively shoved back into its borders, there is little chance for peace in central and southern Africa.