

# INTERNATIONAL

## Zambia sends plea to Clinton on land mines

Special to Sentinel-Voice

LUSAKA, Zambia — Officials of Zambia's Campaign to End Land Mines has sent an open letter to President Bill Clinton, asking him to support a total ban on the weapons when an international treaty comes up for ratification in Ottawa, Canada in December.

The Zambian organization, part of the International Campaign to Ban Land Mines, says it fears that the United States is weakening and will agree to a proposal to allow the use of "smart mines," which detonate themselves after a specified time.

"Zambia is in the Southern African region, which is also the most mined region in the world. We have lost thousands of our brothers and sisters and some of them have been maimed for life because of the use of this indiscriminate weapon. Those who have survived the initial blast have required amputations, long hospital stays and extensive rehabilitative services," the letter said.

"We are living in a region where the majority of the people are so poor they cannot afford bread, let alone medical care," the letter said. "If the U.S. pushes in its agenda to make alterations to the treaty, our fight will have been a lost cause. You have the power to change this."

## Samba complains of tobacco promotion

SUN CITY, South Africa (PANA) — Ebrahim Samba, the World Health Organization's (WHO) regional director for Africa, says that the unregulated promotion of tobacco products in Africa is immoral and must be stopped.

"In Europe, America and other regions, tobacco companies are losing out because of the strong campaign being waged against smoking. They are turning their attention to Africa and we must resist this," Samba said in a press briefing.

He emphasized that young people in African cities, towns and villages were being targeted aggressively by these companies. "We must clamp down on this trend," he said.

Regarding the environment and its impact on people's health, he said the two cannot be separated. He said the WHO will use its mandate and limited resources to fully support member states responding to environmental concerns.

Information, education and communication are crucial in the search for a solution to Africa's health problems, he said.

Religious, traditional and political leaders, teachers, students, youth and women's associations can and should contribute to the attainment of good health for all, he said.

## Caribbean trade: Rocky road to single market

By Wesley Gibbings  
Special to Sentinel-Voice

PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad (IPS) - Caribbean leaders are finding that the road to a single market and economy is filled with many obstacles, and some are beginning to doubt this facility can be put in place by the turn of the century, said officials at June's Caribbean Community (Caricom) summit in Jamaica.

Prime Minister Kenny Anthony, St. Lucia's recently-elected leader, is pessimistic.

"A new style of governance in Caricom requires that we make decisions that are capable of implementation, that we argue and negotiate differences so that the final accord represents not a false, facile concession, but a genuine digestion of division that ultimately produces a decision that envelopes our hopes and dreams," Anthony told summit attendants.

But Shridath Ramphal, appointed by Caribbean governments to spearhead negotiations with Europe and North America on the region's participation in the new global trading environment, said the region has no choice but to get things going before the year 2000.

"What would be absurd is if the external negotiations run ahead of the fulfillment of our regional agreements," said Ramphal, the chief negotiator of the Regional Negotiating Mechanism (RNM). "It (a single market and economy) can't wait for the year 2000."

The single market, which would allow free movement of goods, capital, services and people across most of the grouping's member nations, is the region's response to a changing global environment highlighted by increasing liberalization of global trade and a reduction of the traditional aid and

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— Prime Minister Kenny Anthony trade packages of preferential treatment to which the region had been accustomed.

The establishment of the RNM by Caricom member states provides the opportunity for the region to present a coordinated approach to their negotiating strategies as they relate to entry to the Free Trade of the Americas (FTAA), the successor agreement to Lome IV, Caricom/Latin America trade and Caricom-Andean Pact trade relations.

It is a point underscored by Trinidad and Tobago's Prime Minister Basdeo Panday. He said that the negotiations over the next five to seven years will determine the terms of engagement on how the region will participate in the global economy.

"We endorse the view that Caricom must speak to the global community with one voice and must accordingly buttress its rhetoric by acting in concert," Panday said. "Any threat to the economic well-being of any Caricom state is a threat to the economic health of all of Caricom."

Ramphal, accompanied by the RNM's chief coordinator, Professor Vishnu Persaud, left Port of Spain for Barbados as

part of a series of consultations with national bodies.

From Bridgetown, the two-member team will travel to Guyana, then Dominica where the sub-regional Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECES) will hold its national consultations with Ramphal.

Jamaica, the Bahamas, Belize, the Dominican Republic, Haiti and Suriname will be visited in the on-going series of consultations.

"I believe there is an understanding among the political directorate of the seriousness of the situation," Ramphal said, indicating that the region's thrust into the new global reality underscores the need to establish network arrangements within the world economy "which opens our markets like they have never been done before."

President Clinton has already signaled his intention to seek a fast track approach for membership in the FTAA which, when established by 2005, will represent the largest trading bloc in the hemisphere.

It is an approach which Caricom officials say could well determine the future prospects of the entire region.

If Clinton gets the U.S. Congress to go along with his plans, it would mean that the region should be prepared for negotiations on FTAA entry by March of next year - a timetable which would have implications for negotiation of a new Lome Convention, the aid and trade pact which links the African Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) states with Europe. Those negotiations are due to begin in September 1998.

It is a situation which Ramphal acknowledges. "That's why these types of national consultations are so important," he said, noting that FTAA negotiations should begin in March next year. The combined talks, he said, would represent "an enormous burden" for a small region like the Caribbean.

### REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION OF CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA SEEKS INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS TO SERVE ON ITS CAT PARATRANSIT SERVICES CERTIFICATION APPEALS BOARD

This committee advises the Regional Transportation Commission on issues relating to resolution of paratransit eligibility disputes. Interested individuals are invited to apply. These appointments are for a two-year period from the date of appointment. The CAT Paratransit Services Certification Appeals Board (PSCAB) meets weekly — day and evening hearings. The committee meets in the Regional Transportation Commission meeting room. The room is accessible to those with disabilities and special accommodation can be made. Persons interested in membership are encouraged to call for a membership application form. Please respond by Monday, October 20, 1997.

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