

WORLD BRIEFS

AFRICAN LEADERS TO STRATEGIZE ON GOVERNMENT, WORLD BANK

KAMPALA, Uganda (PANA) — Twelve presidents and leaders from African countries are expected to hold a two-day summit in Kampala this month to discuss development strategies and synchronize their government's positions with those of the World Bank. The state-owned daily, New Vision, reported that the meeting would be co-chaired by President Yoweri Museveni of Uganda and the World Bank boss, James D. Wolfensohn. It quoted sources in the foreign ministry in Kampala who confirmed that the leaders expected at the summit include President Nelson Mandela of South Africa. The meeting's other participants will be the president of Kenya, Benjamin Mkapa of Tanzania, Pasteur Bizimungu of Rwanda, Meles Zenawi of Ethiopia, Isaias Aferwerki of Eritrea, Laurent Kabila of Congo and Joachim Chissano of Mozambique. The rest are Quett Masire of Botswana, Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe, Frederick Chiluba of Zambia, and Abdu Diouf of Senegal, New Vision reported.

MUGABE CALLS FOR END OF MILITARY DICTATORSHIPS IN AFRICA

HARARE, Zimbabwe (PANA) — Organization of African Unity chairman Robert Mugabe said recently that remaining military dictatorships in Africa should move away to allow civilian rule in this a new year. He said that 1998 should see most of Africa's political turmoil being resolved as more effort would be put into boosting the fragile peace processes and his organization is in support of most of the liberation movements making legitimate demands. "There are still places where there are military dictatorships and we hope these areas will go to civilian rule," he said. Nigeria, Africa's most populous nation, is still under the military rule of Sani Abacha who has promised that elections will be held in October 1998 to bring in a civilian government. "We are also hoping that the situation in Somalia is about to get its solution as the warlords have now come together," Mugabe said. Another trouble spot of Africa is Angola where the Lusaka protocol signed between President Eduardo Dos Santos and Unita leader Jonas Savimbi is threatened by the latter's non-compliance with provisions of the agreement.

UNITED NATIONS SAYS GROWTH IN AFRICA SLOWED IN 1997

NEW YORK, (PANA) — Economic growth in Africa in 1997 slowed to three percent from 4.4 percent in 1996, according to "The World Economy at the Beginning of 1998," a recently published United Nations report. A weakening economy in Morocco and South Africa, in particular, as well as other countries such as Kenya, Malawi, Tanzania, Tunisia, Zambia and Zimbabwe — which had grown relatively rapidly in recent years — contributed to the slowdown. The two most significant factors behind the surge in growth that Africa had enjoyed in 1996 — high oil prices and improved agricultural output — contributed much less to growth in 1997.

INTERNATIONAL

Caribbean outlook: Rocky year, uncertain future

By Wesley Gibbings
Special to Sentinel-Voice

PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad (IPS) — While Caribbean governments are entering the new year with hopes for growth in the economy, many are looking back on 1997 as a year of mixed fortunes in both the economic and political arenas. For instance, the average growth rate for 1997 for Latin America and the Caribbean countries was 5.3 percent, compared to 3.2 percent between 1991 and 1996 while the average inflation rate was below 11 percent. Not bad, analysts say.

Then, although the deficit on the current account of these countries increased considerably, from \$535 billion in 1996 to \$560 billion in 1997 — three percent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) — the flow of foreign capital assisted considerably in covering the gap. Foreign capital inflows reached an unprecedented high of \$573 billion with almost two thirds of that coming from direct investment.

However, even as the wider region's statistical profile offered relatively promising prospects for 1998, for Caribbean Community (Caricom) countries it has not been easy going in 1997.

The economy in the volcano-stricken island of Montserrat is in shambles, the steady erosion of the European banana market has spelled gloom for the countries of the Windward Island Caribbean chain and the economies of Haiti and Jamaica have stagnated.

In 1997, there were also important elections in The Bahamas, Saint Lucia, Jamaica

and Guyana. Only in Saint Lucia was there a change of government with the Saint Lucia Labor Party (SLP) under attorney Kenny Anthony scoring a landslide victory over the durable United Workers Party (UWP).

But in Guyana, continued instability following the Dec. 15 poll is threatening to undermine the foundations of an economy that has registered average growth of six percent over the last five years.

In Jamaica, fears of a violent poll on Dec. 18 did not materialize, but the new People's National Party (PNP) administration under Percival Patterson will be hard-pressed to make good on promises of better days as the country enters the new year.

In fact, even as the country prepared for elections, the Patterson administration was signing a \$100 million bridging loan with Citibank to offset projected revenue shortfalls over the next year.

During the course of 1997, a severe crisis in the island's financial sector continued and as the year ended there were fears that further collapse in the banking sector could be ahead.

The three-year-old Keith Mitchell administration in Grenada spent the year keeping

its eyes on investment possibilities within the context of a diversified economy and, by the end of the year, the Prime Minister was predicting that the current per capita income of approximately 2,800 would double by the year 2000.

"Wishful thinking," retorted opposition leader George Brizan.

The island projected growth of 3.5 percent in 1997 as the tourism sector continued to expand. Public and private sector investment projects and concomitant construction activities are expected in 1998 to contribute to further growth. Manufacturing is expected

to grow at a modest rate, but the prospect for agriculture is not particularly encouraging in the short term because of the endemic problems associated with the banana industry and the effects of pink hibiscus mealybug infestation in other areas of agricultural production.

In St. Kitts and Nevis, against the worrisome backdrop of possible secession by Nevis, the Denzil Douglas administration battled with the possibility of presenting a balanced 1998 budget and, in the process, increased electricity rates and reduced corporate tax.



MORTGAGE COMPANY

ATTENTION: BUYERS

- Think you have credit problems - No problem
- Assistance with down payments
- Low Rates
- Good Credit / Bad Credit - Fast Approvals
- Available 24 Hours - 7 Days a Week

CALL: TANYA for a FREE Confidential Consultation

389-6660 24-hr

4160 South Pecos Road, Suite 18 • Las Vegas, Nevada 89121



Tanya Sanders-Patterson
Mortgage Loan Consultant
"Born & raised in Las Vegas"

You Need A Lender You Can Trust!!!

Need a New or Used Automobile or Truck?

HENRY CROCKETT
Integrity • Honesty

Bad Credit • No Credit
It Doesn't Matter...
You could be driving today!!
\$0 Down Financing Available**

Hundreds of Cars
to choose from



HENRY CROCKETT

Send a Friend or Relative and Earn Cash
\$100 to \$500 Reward*



NISSAN *After transaction is completed ** On Approved Credit
Hours: Monday-Saturday 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. NISSAN

871-7000 • 264-8739

5050 West Sahara Avenue at Decatur • Las Vegas, Nevada

The Sahara Hotel
proudly presents
**LIVE FROM
THE CONGO ROOM**
DEF COMEDY JAM HOST
JOE TORRY
IN THE RAW



JOE TORRY

Put Your Hands
Where I Can See Them

4 NIGHTS OF RAW COMEDY

January 16-19 (Martin Luther King Weekend)

Doors open at 8:00 p.m., Showtime at 9:00 p.m.

For more information call the Sahara Hotel at 737-2515