

# WORLD BRIEFS

## KADHAFI BACKS DEPLOYING TROOPS TO ERITREA-ETHIOPIA BORDER

TRIPOLI, Libya (PANA) — Libyan leader Col. Moammar Kadhafi has suggested that troops from the six-nation Sahelian-Saharan Group be sent to the disputed border area between Eritrea and Ethiopia. The Group, set up in Tripoli in 1997, comprises Libya, Chad, Niger, Mali, Burkina Faso and Sudan. Libyan diplomatic sources told PANA that Kadhafi, the grouping's current chairman, has assigned the organization's assistant secretary-general, Adam Togoe of Chad, to submit the proposal to Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zena'awi and Eritrean President Isaias Afewerki. The Libyan leader's offer comes amid early reports of clashes between the forces of the two countries in the disputed border area. Togoe visited Addis Ababa and Asmara in late May, together with the grouping's secretary general, Madani Lazhari of Libya. They delivered Kadhafi's separate messages to the leaders, suggesting ways of promoting a peaceful settlement of the border dispute, which broke out on May 12. Meanwhile, a high-level Ethiopian delegation is expected in the Libyan capital for a meeting with Kadhafi. The Libyan leader is currently on a three-day visit to Egypt, where he is to chair a session of the Egypt-Libya Joint commission.

## ACCRA SAYS PLOT TO DESTABILIZE NIGERIA 'FAR-FETCHED'

ACCRA, Ghana (PANA) — Ghana has described as "far fetched and disappointing" an allegation by a Nigerian official that some Americans had met Nigerian dissidents in Ghana "to plan to destabilize" the regime of Gen. Sani Abacha. Alhaji Wadana, a special adviser to Nigeria's military ruler, is alleged to have told a news conference that Nigerian security had uncovered the plan where by some Nigerians were to be trained in the use of military weapons. He also said South Africa was implicated in the plot allegedly hatched in the Achimota Hotel in Accra. In an official statement issued in Accra, Ghana expressed its outrage at the Nigerian allegation. "The government of Ghana has learned with shock and disappointment the allegations that Ghana has been involved, with others, in activities aimed at destabilizing the government of Nigeria. The allegation is without any substance or merit and Ghana denies it unequivocally," said the statement issued by the Foreign Ministry. "Ghana views the allegation with particular regret and surprise given the excellent relations that our two countries have had over a long period and the frequent consultations which have been taking place between high level officials of the two countries." The statement continued to say that the Ghanaian government is taking immediate steps to investigate the allegation. "In the meantime, it is the hope of the government that officials of our two countries would desist from making public statements that might mar not only the excellent relations between our two countries but also the larger interest of peace and stability in the sub-region," the statement concluded.

## COMMISSION INVESTIGATES ALLEGED MANDELA COUP PLOT

CAPE TOWN, South Africa (PANA) — President Nelson Mandela has called for the appointment of an urgent judicial inquiry into a military intelligence report claiming there is a conspiracy to overthrow his government. The report alleges that disgruntled former members of Umkhonto weSizwe, the ruling African National Congress' armed wing, including foreign affairs director Robert McBride, who was arrested in Mozambique for arms smuggling earlier last month, are behind the alleged coup attempt. At the time of McBride's arrest, media reports, citing security sources, alleged that a military intelligence report gave details of a plot to oust the government and McBride was said to have been linked to the investigation. Mandela said he had appointed the commission to look into a report he received from the South African National Defense Force on organized activities. Senior government officials say the report might be an elaborate hoax to embarrass the government and delay transformation of the defense force. However, Mandela has described the report as "a very serious affair," saying there are elements within the force that support the status quo and the report names top generals who are likely to take over command of the force.

# INTERNATIONAL

## Banana's trial likely to shake Zimbabwe

By Tarcey Munaku

Special to Sentinel-Voice

HARARE, Zimbabwe (PANA) — While President Clinton fights to clear his name in a lawsuit involving his relationship with a former White House intern, Zimbabwe's former president might have to fight for his freedom if charges he sodomized former staff are true.

The trial could be Zimbabwe's most celebrated since the country gained independence in 1980.

Former President Canaan Banana faces charges of sexually molesting some of his male presidential staff, including a gardener and a job seeker he picked up on the streets.

Banana, a Methodist

Church priest and Zimbabwe's first head of state from 1980 until his retirement in 1987, has pleaded not guilty to all 11 counts of sodomy, attempted sodomy and indecent assault.

When his trial opened in the high court in Harare on June 1 before Judge Godfrey Chidyausiku, the 62-year-old cleric and father of four, denied he ever had any homosexual intimacy with the nine complainants, including his former personal bodyguards and cook.

Homosexuality and sodomy are illegal in Zimbabwe and punishment includes fines and jail terms of up to two years.

Through his lawyer, Chris Andersen, Banana served notice that he would call at least 10 witnesses, including

his wife, Janet, to rebut some of the charges.

Janet Banana was among 100 people who packed the courtroom to witness what could probably turn out to be the most sensational trial in Zimbabwe's legal history. The trial is expected to last up to a month.

The state will call at least 40 witnesses, including Vice President Simon Muzenda, Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Emmerson Mnangagwa, former police commissioners Wiridzayi Nguruve and Henry Mukurazhizha, retired head of the Air Force Josiah Tungamirai and current Air Force Commander Perence Shiri.

These officials received formal complaints from

Banana's former security personnel regarding his alleged acts of sodomy, attempted sodomy and indecent assault.

The state alleges that when he was president, Banana abused his authority and sexually molested some of his male subordinates, most of them police, military or intelligence officers attached to him for his security.

The former president, it is alleged, took advantage of his authority to coax various male employees into sexual relationships with him against their will and sometimes threatened them with punishment or dismissal.

Banana's alleged homosexual activities became public during the murder trial of his former aide-de-camp, (See Zimbabwe, Page 15)

## Scientist created weapons to kill apartheid enemies

Special to Sentinel-Voice

CAPE TOWN, South Africa — Jan Lourens, a scientist for South Africa's former apartheid government, testified Monday that he made weapons to kill enemies of white rule, and described how his efforts nearly killed him.

Jan Lourens said the poison-tipped umbrellas, walking sticks and screwdrivers, outfitted with concealed needles, were made at the request of apartheid-era security forces. He said he did not know if they were ever used to kill anyone.

"It is rather like a James Bond movie," commented Truth Commission member Dumisa Ntsebeza.

"Unfortunately," replied the tall, bespectacled Lourens.

At one point during his testimony before South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission, Lourens described taking vials of poison to a contact in Britain, referred to only as "Trevor."

Lourens said he accidentally spilled poison on his hand as he demonstrated one of the weapons in a cottage near Ascot, just outside London.

"I don't know how it happened, but I wiped my mouth and I lost consciousness very quickly," Lourens said.

He said he survived because he staggered to a bathroom after he awoke and drank antiseptic until he vomited.

Lourens also testified that he sent equipment to an army research laboratory for fertility experiments among primates. He said he suspected experiments were being carried out to discover ways of reducing birth rates among black women.

Reports that such research was conducted have surfaced in recent years, although there is no indication the research ever escalated into actual attempts to reduce birth rates among blacks.

Earlier Monday, the Truth Commission — set up by President Nelson Mandela in

1995 to probe apartheid-era human rights abuses and promote reconciliation — turned down a government request to hold the hearings behind closed doors.

The ruling African National Congress, which won South Africa's first all-race elections in 1994, believes some of the

information should not be withheld to prevent the spread of dangerous technologies.

However, Truth Commission chairman Desmond Tutu rejected the request, saying potentially sensitive documents had been withdrawn from the public hearings.

## WINNER OF TWO 1998 GRAMMY® AWARDS!

BEST JAZZ VOCAL PERFORMANCE  
BEST INSTRUMENTAL ARRANGEMENT WITH ACCOMPANYING VOCAL

dee dee bridgewater dear Ella



With this swinging, Grammy® Award-winning tribute to the late Ella Fitzgerald, Dee Dee affirms her place among today's premier jazz divas. *Dear Ella* displays Bridgewater's complete vocal artistry, from lush, intimate ballad readings to electric scat solos. *Dear Ella* is truly a labor of love.

★★★★ "... Bridgewater sings and scats with a rhapsodic gusto that lovingly gives Fitzgerald her due." — *Down Beat*

"... one of the best jazz singers around... *Dear Ella*: Dee Dee Bridgewater does you proud." — *Jazziz*



\$ 16.99 CD

visit us at [www.verveinteractive.com](http://www.verveinteractive.com)

SALE ENDS:

CD Signing • Wednesday, June 24, 7 p.m.

**BORDERS** COME INSIDE.

BOOKS. MUSIC. VIDEO. AND A CAFE.

2190 N. Rainbow Blvd. at W. Lake Mead  
(702) 638-7866