

WORLD BRIEFS

ALGERIAN PRESIDENT SACKS PRIME MINISTER

ALGIERS, Algeria (GIN) — Algeria's president has sacked his prime minister, Ali Benflis, because of what the president's office called "far-reaching divergences" between the two. President Abdelziz Bouteflika announced a government reshuffle and named Benflis' replacement as Ahmed Ouyahia, a presidential aide who was Algeria's prime minister from 1995 until 1998. Benflis had been prime minister since August 2000 and had been a confidant and close friend of President Bouteflika for the last 12 years. The turning point in their relationship apparently came in March when Benflis, secretary general of the ruling National Liberation Front (FLN) party, wouldn't accept the prime minister's bid to get the party's early backing for next year's presidential elections. Benflis himself is widely rumored to be considering running for president next year. The FLN came to power following the overthrow of Ahmed Ben Bella and the Algerian workers and farmers government, which emerged in 1963 from a powerful social revolution that ended 130 years of French colonial rule.

FLOODS SWEEP KENYA, MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT DROWNS

NAIROBI, Kenya (GIN) — After the hardest rains in 50 years, floods have swept parts of Kenya, forcing more than 1 million people to flee their homes, and drowning at least 30; one of the drowned was Philip Mutiso, a member of parliament who was driving when a torrent of water carried his car away. Among the 1 million displaced people, reports Africa's Nelspruit news service, are 130,000 refugees from Ethiopia, Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Somalia. Meanwhile, an additional 1 million people living in Nairobi have been without fresh water supplies since last Sunday when flood waters burst the Sasumua Dam, Kenya's second largest, and damaged pipelines. "Parts of the city will not have water for about 10 days," said Nairobi City Council water official Lawrence Musyoka. The government has appealed for aid, and Vice President Michael Wamalwa has asked in particular for drinking-water, food, anti-malaria drugs, treated mosquito nets and plastic sheeting.

KENYA'S FOUNDING FATHER IS BACK ON BANKNOTES

NAIROBI, Kenya (GIN) — To save money on printing, the Kenyan treasury this week brought back into circulation bank notes bearing the face of the country's founding president, Mzee Jomo Kenyatta. The Kenyatta notes (Kenyatta is Swahili for "light of Kenya") are still legal tender and were being held in the Kenyan Central Bank. Until last week, all Kenyan bank notes bore the face of Daniel arap Moi, who became president in 1978 when Kenyatta died and who stayed in power until last year when President Moi Kibaki was elected. One of Kibaki's election pledges was that he wouldn't print new bank notes bearing his own portrait. This is in line with Kibaki's other measures against the corruption and extravagance that marked much of arap Moi's rule. The Kenyatta notes will circulate along side the arap Moi notes while parliament oversees the design of new notes, which one MP suggested should feature national heroes, and traditional cultural images that reflect the nation's history.

GERMANY WRITES OFF ZAMBIA'S \$207 MILLION DEBT

LUSAKA, Zambia (GIN) — The German government has cancelled all the debt incurred by Zambia from Germany during the last 10 years—about \$207 million, says Erich Kristof, Germany's ambassador to Zambia. This debt relief, Germany hopes, will free up Zambia to spend money on development instead of interest on its massive loans. Although Zambia still has debts totaling more than \$6.5 billion, Emmanuel Kasonde, the country's finance minister, says, "This cancellation has assisted the Zambian government by easing the pressure on the limited scarce resources available." Observers note that Zambia spends more each year on paying the interest on its debts than it spends on education, health, welfare, water and sanitation combined. Germany's move is in line with the Enhanced Debt Relief Initiative started during the 1999 G-8 Summit in Cologne, Germany.

INTERNATIONAL

ANC veteran Sisulu succumbs at 91

JOHANNESBURG (GIN)—Anti-apartheid activist, Walter Sisulu, born in 1912, the year the ANC was founded, has died, days before he was to turn 91.

Sisulu was a veteran of the struggle against White rule in South Africa and a long-time friend of Nelson Mandela.

From humble rural origins, Sisulu rose to become a major figure in Mandela's ANC.

At his 90th birthday last May, President Thabo Mbeki said: "You, Walter, are indeed like a miracle that God has made."

It was a tribute taken from "An African Elegy," written by Nigerian poet Ben Okri.

"Walter Sisulu is a humble and selfless leader who taught us that wisdom comes from sharing insight," said former president Nelson Mandela said. Sisulu came to Johannesburg from Engcobo, Transkei, in 1929.

He was only able to attend school until grade six, after which he studied on his own to improve his education. From school, he held a variety of jobs, from mineworker, to kitchen boy, bakery worker

and finally trade union activist.

In 1940, he joined the ANC and was among the group of radicals who formed the Youth League in 1943-44.

The organization's leadership had, in the late 1920s, split over whether to cooperate with the Communist Party, and the ensuing victory of the conservatives within the ANC left the party small and disorganized through the 1930s.

In the 1940s, the ANC revived under younger leaders who pressed for a more militant stance against color bars in South Africa.

The ANC Youth League attracted Sisulu, Oliver Tambo and Nelson Mandela, who in turn displaced the party's moderate leadership in 1949 at what many view as the party's watershed conference.

Under Sisulu, Tambo and Mandela's leadership the ANC began sponsoring non-violent protests, strikes, boycotts, and marches, in the process becoming a target of police harassment and arrest. By the end of World War II the ANC had begun strong

agitation against the pass laws, and when the largely White electorate voted in the National Party in 1948, the ANC's membership grew rapidly, rising to 100,000 in 1952.

In 1944, Sisulu married Nontsikelelo Albertina, with whom he was to have five children.

She was a much-loved and internationally respected activist in her own right. Her work earned her the title Mama Africa.

Sisulu was elected ANC secretary general in 1949, a post he held until 1954, when banning orders forced him to resign the position.

He served on the joint planning council for the Defiance Campaign, and led one of the first batches of passive resisters when the campaign began in 1952.

Campaigners refused to carry the notorious "pass book" all native South Africans had to carry by law and hundreds were arrested.

Sisulu was one of the accused in the Treason Trial, which began in 1956.

In 1960, during a state of emergency, he was detained without trial. He was arrested

six times in 1962 and placed under 13-hour house arrest on Oct. 26 and under 24-hour house arrest on April 3, 1963.

Pending an appeal against a six-year sentence, he forfeited bail of R6000 (\$833) on April 19, 1963, and went underground. In July 1963, Sisulu was arrested and detained under the 90-day law.

At the 1964 Rivonia Trial, he was the main defense witness and was subjected to a fierce attack from the prosecutor, Percy Yutar.

Sisulu told him: "I wish you were an African. Then you would know..."

He was charged with sabotage and other offences in the Rivonia Trial and sentenced to life imprisonment on Robben Island.

He was released in October 1989 after 26 years in jail.

He was elected ANC deputy president at its national conference of July 1991 and remained in that position until after South Africa's first democratic election in 1994.

In January 1992, Sisulu was awarded Isitwalandwe Seaparankoe, the highest honor granted by the ANC, for his contribution to the struggle for liberation.

Kenyan scientists debate use of DDT pesticide

NAIROBI, Kenya (GIN)—A highly toxic pesticide has become the object of fierce debate in the scientific community here after a leading doctor recommended its use against malaria.

The Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI) has urged that DDT be lifted from a list of banned pesticides.

Institute director Dr. Davy Koech says DDT is one of the most effective pesticides against the anopheles mosquito, which transmits malaria.

In a study he presented recently in Nairobi, Dr. Koech proposed that DDT be introduced under strict conditions where malaria has reached epidemic proportions. According to World Health Organisation statistics, an average of 3,000 people die of malaria daily in Africa.

But experts are divided over this new use of the former pesticide. The chemical was developed in 1874 and its toxic effects on insects were discovered in 1940. It was used to control typhus, a skin disease transmitted by lice, and also to kill a wide range of household pests such as houseflies, bedbugs and cockroaches.

It was banned in Kenya in 1986 after research linked it to complex diseases such as cancer, nervous system disorders, allergies, genetic mutations and birth defects.

KEMRI researchers pointed out that DDT was, however, being used in effective malaria campaigns in South Africa, Ethiopia, Eritrea and Mauritius.

"These are some of the

countries with the lowest prevalence of malarial deaths in Africa," says Dr. John Vulule, a senior research medical epidemiologist at KEMRI.

Dr. Vulule argues that with strict control, the chemical can save many lives that are being lost to malaria.

But critics have dismissed the KEMRI study as unconvincing, and if the ban on

DDT was lifted this might reverse the gains made in public health management and control of malaria.

Dr. Laetitia Kanja of the University of Nairobi says studies prior to the ban showed the DDT residues were high in mothers' breast milk in areas where the chemical was widely used in Lake Victoria Basin and coastal areas.



MASSACRE UNEARTHED

Human remains sit in a pile as hundreds of relatives of disappeared Iraqis wait while bodies are identified after being exhumed from a mass grave in Mahawil, some 100 kms (60 miles) south of Baghdad.