deny Doe's charges of complicity in the coup attempt.

Nov. 21: The Ghana News Agency reports that five people have died during three days of clashes between members of the Moba and Konkomba ethnic communities in the Upper East region. By the end of December about 10,000 refugees have fled across the border into Togo.

Nov. 29: Ghanaian authorities expel four U.S. diplomats, including two it identifies as "officials of the CIA, who arrived in Ghana recently." Two days earlier the U.S. swapped an alleged Ghanaian spy-catcher, Michael A. Sassoudis, 39, with eight other Ghanaians accused of espionage on behalf of the U.S.

Dec. 7: The list of 83 parliamentary candidates presented by the ruling African Independence Party of Cape Verde receives a 94.5% endorsement from nearly 100,000 voters. The new Parliament later re-elects President Aristides Pereira to a third five-year term.

Dec. 12: Nigerian President Babangida orders negotiations to be stopped on the 1983 application for an International Monetary Fund loan, arguing that the price of taking the loan appears heavier than the cost of rejecting it.

Dec. 18: Abidjan and Tel Aviv announce the resumption of diplomatic ties between Ivory Coast and Israel, following talks in Geneva between President Houphouet-Boigny and Prime Minister Shimon Peres.

Dec. 20: Nigerian authorities claim they have put down an attempted putsch by army officers. Opposition to Babangida's shelving of the IMF talks is cited as one of the motives.

Dec. 25: Despite the impending World Court ruling on their border dispute, Mali and Burkina Faso go to war—their second in 11 years—over a 150-kilometer strip of land rich in mineral deposits. Mali's action apparently follows a Dec. 14 census in the disputed territory by Burkinabe officials. Two cease-fires are declared—one following mediation by the Non-Aggression and Defense Aid Agreement countries and the other involving Nigeria and Libya. ■

CENTRAL AFRICA

BURUNDI • CAMEROON • CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC • CHAD • CONGO • EQUATORIAL GUINEA • GABON • RWANDA • SAO TOME & PRINCIPE • ZAIRE •

Jan. 1: Equatorial Guinea, a former Spanish colony, joins the Franc Zone through membership in the Bank of Central African States.

Jan. 1: Key party officials and high-ranking civil servants lose their jobs in Zaire's "war against accumulation of posts," a stipulation requiring technocrats to choose between party jobs and other government employment.

Jan. 8: Gabon's President Omar Bongo addresses the 13th Afro-American conference in Libreville and calls upon industrialized nations to "demonstrate more concern for our preoccupations—external indebtedness, famine, and other natural calamities."

Jan. 28: During the 25th general assembly of the African National Radio-Television Union in Brazzaville, Congolese Minister of Information Christian Gilbert Bembet calls for the creation of a pan-African agency to monitor foreign broadcasts in order "to save the people of Africa from consuming programs of harmful taste."

Jan. 28: President Mobutu Sese Seko of Zaire names a new slimmed-down central committee of the ruling Popular Movement for the Revolution. By Feb. 1, he completes the reorganization exercise with a Cabinet reshuffle, naming Kengo wa Dondo prime minister.

Jan. 28: Gabon's President Bongo authorizes security forces to arrest suspected prostitutes and hand them over to soldiers. He raps "Lebanese" traders, who number about 600, saying they "rob us" and engage in petty trading, acquiring imported goods through questionable means. Following the speech, Gabonese nationals loot Lebanese-owned stores.

Feb. 14: Presidents Samora Machel of Mozambique, Joao Bernardo Vieira of Guinea-Bissau, Jose Eduardo dos Santos of Angola, Aristides Pereira of Cape Verde and Manuel Pinto da Costa of Sao Tome & Principe meet in Sao Tome for a two-day Lusophone summit meeting.

March 21: Four Chadian political factions merge in Paris to form the Chad Democratic Front, a "middle-of-the road" coalition. Members of the front are the Permanent Committee, the Group of Independent Democrats, the Group of Chad Patriots and Democrats, and the Democratic Union for Peace.

March 24: During the fourth congress of the ruling Cameroon National Union Party (CNU), President Paul Biya changes the party name to Cameroon People's Democratic Movement. Key members of the CNU are ousted from the new central committee.

May 13: During a six-day visit to Israel, Zaire's President Mobutu holds military and economic aid talks in Jerusalem. He calls for the creation of a sovereign state for Palestinians and a guarantee of Israel's sovereignty as conditions for Middle East peace.

May 14: Libyan Col. Muammar Qaddafi, in Burundi at the start of an official visit to the region, warns that the leaders of Zaire and Liberia and others who befriend Israel will be punished. He calls for efforts "to spread the word of truth and faith so that Islam's voice reaches out beyond the Equator, deep into the brown continent." In neighboring Rwanda, on May 17, he declares that Africa must be Islamic and demands a holy war against Zaire's Mobutu.

May 20: Gabonese air force Capt. Alexandre Mandja is arrested on charges of plotting a coup against President Bongo.

June 8: At the end of his visit to France, Equatorial Guinea's President Obiang Nguema expresses satisfaction at French economic aid and his country's new membership in the Franc Zone "despite some reservation on the part of Spain," the country's former colonial ruler.

June 21: Twelve former Rwandan government officials appear in a Ruhengeri court on charges of torturing and murdering political prisoners between 1962 and 1976. After eight days of hearings, five security and prison officers are sentenced to death for killing 58 prisoners.

June 22: Following the attack on the Zairian town of Moba in the Shaba region on June 17 by "outlaws from a neighboring country," President Mobutu forms a military intelligence and action agency with the capability to "destroy any cell of subversive saboteurs, to forestall any danger to territorial integrity, and to check and counter any action by potential enemies and their allies both inside and outside the national borders." In a June 24 speech, Mobutu threatens to destabilize unfriendly neighbors. He beefs up the army from 70,000 men to 100,000 men.

Aug. 9: The banned Gabonese Movement for National Recovery (MORENA) announces the formation in Paris of a government-in-exile with Anicet Koumba-Mabinga as prime minister.

Aug. 17: Gabon celebrates its 25th independence anniversary and President Bongo pardons the "last six political prisoners" who belong to the MORENA opposition group.

Aug. 22: Chadian opposition factions meet in Cotonou, the Benin capital, where President Mathieu Kerekou calls for peace in Chad. The factions announce the creation of the Supreme Council of the Revolution with Goukouni Oueddei as its head.

Sept. 21: Signalling a move toward civilian rule, Central African President Andre Kolingba dissolves the ruling Military Committee and names a new 22-member Cabinet that includes civilians for the first time since 1981.

Sept. 30: The Sao Tome & Principe National People's Assembly re-elects President Pinto da Costa to a third five-year term.

Nov. 24: A Congolese national, Auguste Mpasi-Muba, is elected director general of the Pan African News Agency (PANA) after two days of heated discussions by African information ministers in Cairo.

Nov. 24: Scores of African leaders join Zaire's President Mobutu in celebrating the 20th anniversary of his coming to power in a 1965 coup.

Dec. 7: The National Union of Cameroonian Workers dissolves itself during a congress in Yaounde. A new body, the Organization of Cameroonian Workers' Unions, headed by journalist Dominique Fauda Imah, replaces it.

Dec. 13: The Franco-African summit meeting ends in Paris. The civil war in Chad and racial unrest in South Africa dominate the agenda. ■

A BIG CHANGE AT *AFRICA NEWS*

Our deepest thanks to all of you who helped us end 1985 without a massive deficit. With that support and the prospect of other funding, we are hoping—and planning—for another year of publication. Look for more details in the coming weeks.

With this issue, Charles Ebel, who has guided *Africa News* from its first incarnation as newsscript for broadcasters, relinquishes his job as managing editor. For 12 years he has lived with twice-weekly, weekly, and biweekly publishing deadlines—shaping coverage, editing copy, cajoling contributors, and turning fledgling reporters into skilled journalists, as well as researching and writing his own excellent stories. He has built a communications experiment into the authoritative resource in its field; the praise *Africa News* gets for its terse but substantive style is due most of all to his distinctive work.

More than a decade of long days and longer nights has taken its toll and Charlie needs a respite. We will continue to draw upon his experience—as a consultant and a member of the editorial board. But he is irreplacable as managing editor, and we will miss him.

His former duties will be shared by Reed Kramer, who assumes overall direction of the publication, and Mills Crosland, whose new responsibilities include putting out the issues week-to-week.

—Tami Hultman ■