COMOROS • DJIBOUTI • ETHIOPIA • KENYA • MADAGASCAR • MAURITIUS • SEYCHELLES • SOMALIA • SUDAN • TANZANIA • UGANDA •

Jan. 8: In Ethiopia the rebel Tigre People's Liberation Front claims its forces engaged government troops and captured the northern town of Dabat, the Gondar capital, leaving 125 Ethiopian soldiers dead and 559 wounded. No rebel casualties are reported.

Jan. 11: Zanzibari President Ali Hassan Mwinyi announces the adoption of a new constitution, which among other things, restores the right of the accused to legal counsel, a provision that was abolished in 1970.

Jan. 14: More than 300 die in a train derailment near the Ethiopian town of Awash, 125 miles east of Addis Ababa.

Jan. 17: The Islamic Republic of Comoros is admitted as a full member of the Indian Ocean Commission during a ministerial meeting in Antananarivo, Madagascar.

Jan. 18: Prominent Sudanese religious leader Mahmoud Mohammed Taha, 76, leader of the Republican Brothers, is hanged at Kobar prison for "heresy," after President Jaafar el Numeiry ignores pleas for clemency. Four others on death row are spared after they reportedly repent, denounce Taha, and sign confessions.

Jan. 21: Former Ugandan president Yusufu Lule, 73, dies in a London hospital.

Jan. 25: Three Eritrean resistance groups, the Revolutionary Council, the People's Liberation Forces-Unified Operations and the People's Liberation Forces-Revolutionary Committee, merge as the Eritrean National Council during a meeting in the Sudanese town of Kasala and elect Yohannes Zere Marian president and head of a 15-member council.

The Eritrean armed struggle against Ethiopian rule is 25 years old. */Africa News/Dan Connell*

Feb. 6: Delegates from Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Somalia and Sudan end a meeting in Djibouti after forming the Permanent Inter-Governmental Authority on Drought and Development with headquarters in Djibouti.

Feb 12: Following a week of campus unrest that left at least one student dead and more than 60 others injured, Kenyan authorities close the main campus of the University of Nairobi.

March 8: Members of the Comoros' Presidential Armed Guard attempt a coup against President Ahmed Abdallah Abderemane, while he is visiting France, according to Comoros' acting president, Bazi Salim. Nearly 20 of the 70 accomplices are later sentenced to hard labor for life.

March 9: After four years of deliberation, Tanzania joins the Preferential Trade Area, providing the crucial link in the economic grouping spanning eastern and southern Africa.

March 9: The ruling Uganda People's Congress marks its 25th anniversary with a silver jubilee delegates' conference which showers praise on its founders, including President Milton Obote.

March 10: Sudan's Numeiry issues a decree dismissing Abdullah el Turabi, his presidential aide on foreign policy; Ali Tuhman Muhammad Taha, leader of the People's Assembly; and Muhammad Adam Isa, a minister of state. The three are among 20 detained members of the Muslim Brotherhood.

April 6: The Sudanese army overthrows Numeiry, as he is returning from an official visit to Washington, D.C. After two weeks of negotiations, the military leader, Gen. Abdel Rahman Siwar el Dahab, announces a Cabinet led by a civilian prime minister, Dr. Gizouli Dafallah.

April 9: Four Kenyan students are fined $330 each and another is jailed for a year for their roles in the February campus unrest.

May 5: Conceding that the nationalization of plantations in 1967 was "a grave error," Tanzania's President Julius Nyerere orders the state-owned Tanzania Sisal Authority to hand over to private operators all plantations it has failed to manage efficiently. Following the directive, 13 such projects are offered for sale.

May 15: To discourage ethnic-based politics, the Ugandan Parliament enacts a new law requiring political groups to prove that they have national support before taking part in a general election.

May 23: During celebrations marking the 22nd anniversary of the Abo Liberation Front which opposes the current Ethiopian government, the group's secretary general, Muhammad Haji Hassan, calls on resistance movements in the Horn of Africa to strengthen cooperation among themselves.

May 27: To mark the fifth anniversary of his return to power, Ugandan President Obote says all but 50 of "the 7,000 people we found in jails have been released," and he calls on exiles to return home.

July 8: The Organization of African Unity opens its 21st summit in Addis Ababa, with Senegalese President Abdou Diouf replacing Tanzania's President Nyerere as chairman. Niger's Ide Oumarou is elected administrative secretary general. Zaire's President Mobutu Sese Seko and Morocco's King Hassan II stay away.

July 15: The International Women's Decade culminates with a series of meetings in Nairobi, Kenya, drawing together women from all over the world.

July 27: During a bloodless coup, Uganda's army ousts President Obote, who flees first to Kenya and later to exile in Zambia. On July 30, the army chief, Gen. Tito Okello, is sworn in as head of state.

July 30: Twenty people, including four soldiers, are killed when Madagascar's security forces attack the headquarters of a 1,500-member "Kung Fu" sect accused of setting up "a state within the state." Among the dead is group leader Pierre Mizael Andrianarijaona.

Aug. 1: U.S. and Somali soldiers begin two weeks of joint war games codenamed "Bright Star 85."

Aug. 9: Members of the Undugu Group—Burundi, Central African Republic, Egypt, Rwanda, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda and Zaire—end a two-day meeting in Cairo to discuss joint efforts to combat drought and improve food production in the Nile Valley Basin.

Aug. 19: Pope John Paul II, on a twelve-day, seven-nation African tour, leaves Nairobi after closing the 43rd International Eucharistic Congress.

Aug. 21: The Roman Catholic Church and the Burundi government are at loggerheads over a government decision limiting church activities to Sundays. Archbishop Joachim Ruhuna, a senior cleric, is reported to have been arrested for defying the directive, according to a U.S. embassy official who later recants.

Aug. 22: The Eritrean People's Liberation Front claims that 6,504 Ethiopian soldiers have been killed,

A NEW VOLUME: This special Key Dates issue is numbered 1-2 of volume XXVI. Number 3, a regular issue, will be published in two weeks on Feb. 10.

A stately exit for Tanzania's Julius Nyerere */ Daily News (Tanzania)*

wounded or captured in 13 attempts to retake Barentu since Aug. 8. However, Ethiopia radio announces the recapturing of the town on Aug. 28. Another key town, Tessenei, near the Sudanese border, is also retaken, cutting a major rebel supply line. The Eritrean campaign enters its 25th year on Sept. 1.

Aug. 25: In an apparent attempt to appease its opponents, the Uganda Military Council dismisses Prime Minister Paulo Muwanga, a former Obote aide, and replaces him with Ibrahim Waligo.

Aug. 26: Peace talks between the Uganda government and the National Resistance Movement adjourn without a settlement shortly after opening in Nairobi.

Aug. 31: Somali rebels claim that the U.S. will pay Somalia some $600 million for aid programs in exchange for a 50-year lease on some 500 square miles to be used to bury "highly radioactive nuclear waste."

Sept. 15: Somalia says Ethiopian forces are mounting ground and air raids on three northwestern regions.

Sept. 15: Ghanaian leader Jerry Rawlings is the guest of Ethiopia's leader, Mengistu Haile Mariam, during celebrations marking the 11th anniversary of the overthrow of Emperor Haile Selassie and the first anniversary of the founding of the Workers' Party of Ethiopia.

Sept. 22: Comoros President Ahmed Abdallah Abderemane carries out a major reshuffle of his nine-member Cabinet, dropping all but two of his old ministers. One of those left out is former Prime Minister Ali Mroudjae.

Sept. 23: In a statement from Kuwait, the Eritrean People's Liberation Front announces the suspension of the three-year secret negotiations between itself and