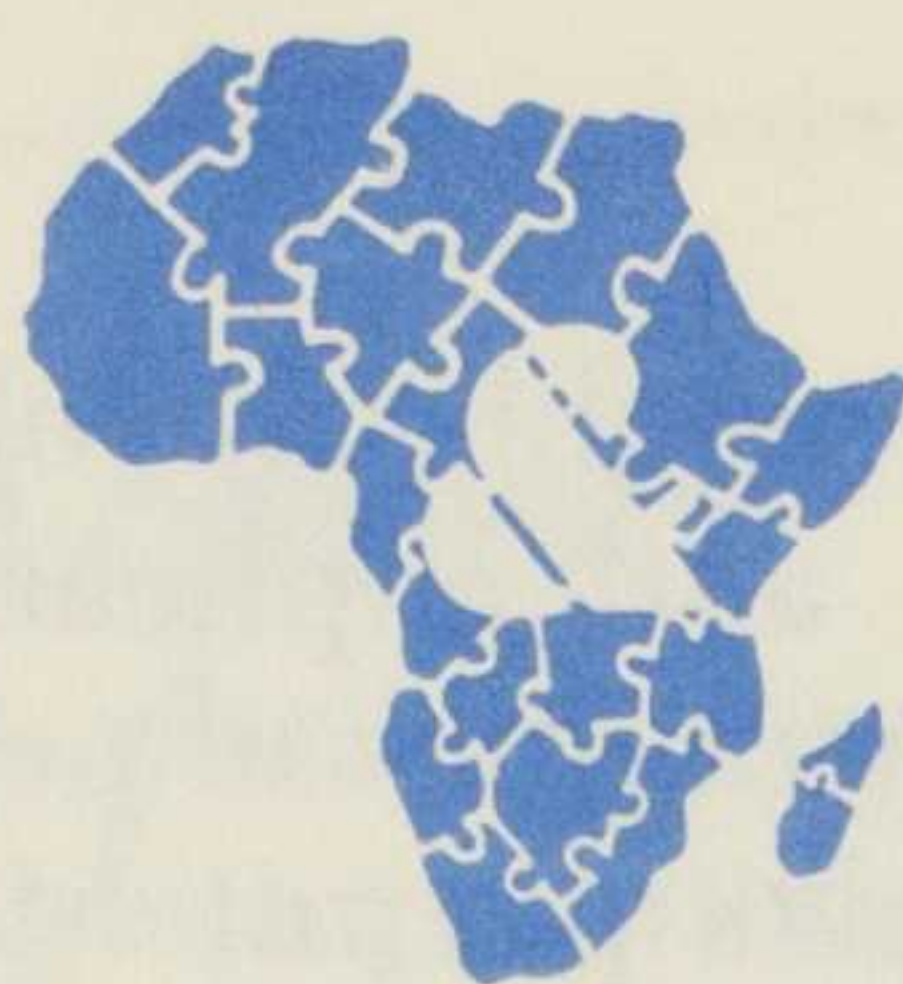


BITS**PIECES**

NAMIBIAN HERO RELEASED: Herman Toivo Ja Toivo, labor organizer and founder of the Namibian independence movement SWAPO, was taken from prison to the Namibian capital of Windhoek on March 1, apparently in preparation for his release by South African authorities. During his trial along with 36 compatriots for terrorism in 1968, after which he received a 20-year sentence, Toivo made a speech from the dock that has been widely quoted both inside and outside the country. "We are Namibians and not South Africans," he told the judge. "Only when we are granted our independence will our struggle stop." His release was the result of ongoing negotiations involving South Africa, its neighbors and the U.S. [AN]

TOO LITTLE FOOD: While natural disasters have contributed to the current food crisis facing many countries, a basic decline in food production worldwide is largely to blame, according to a new study by the Washington, D.C.-based Worldwatch Institute, ambitiously titled *State of the World 1984*. In Africa, per capita grain output expanded by 3.1% per year in the period 1950-1973, but it has slowed to 2% in the last decade, even while population growth rates continue to rise. [AN]

DIRE WARNINGS ON POPULATION: The second African conference on population, which has just ended in Arusha, Tanzania, has urged African countries to take positive steps to improve awareness of the relationship between population and socio-economic development and to incorporate demographic data in planning. Noting that Africa's population growth is the highest in the world, the delegates, drawn from 36 African countries, warned that large populations would put tremendous pressure on land and essential social services. [All Africa Press Service/AN]

ZAIRE DETENTIONS: Amnesty International reports the continued detention without trial of more than three dozen Zaire

citizens since late last year. All of them have been suspected of links to the outlawed Union for Democratic and Social Progress (UDPS). The entire group allegedly is being held at the headquarters of Zaire's National Agency for Documentation, the government's security branch. [AN]

MAYOTTE TO REUNITE WITH COMOROS? A French delegation has visited Moroni, the Comoran capital, to discuss French plans to hand Mayotte back to the Comoro Islands, nine years after Mayotte refused to go along with the other three islands in their 1975 unilateral declaration of independence. Mayotte opted for special links with France, but Comoran leaders, enjoying the support of the Organization of African Unity and the United Nations, have demanded Mayotte's reunion with the other three islands, Grand Comore (Ngazidja), Ajouan, and Moheli. France will seek the views of the 50,000 people of Mayotte in a referendum later this year. [AN]

IVORIAN DAM SHELVED: Economic recession, a cutback in public investment and prolonged drought have reportedly contributed to indefinite postponement of work on Ivory Coast's \$650 million Soubre hydroelectric scheme on the Sassandra River. Soubre would have been the nation's sixth and largest hydroelectric power scheme. Abidjan earlier rejected \$100 million of Arab aid because the donors insisted that Abidjan respect the Arab boycott of Israel and Israeli firms. [AN]

MASS BURIAL FOR RIOT VICTIMS: More than 100 Nigerians died last week in the northeastern town of Yola, when security forces clashed with militant Muslim fundamentalist followers of the late Mohammadu Marwa Maitatsine, according to the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN), which also said a mass burial for the victims has been planned. NAN put the death toll at 102. The troubles started when two militants escaped from police custody and were joined by others on a rampage. A market was razed to the ground. [AN]

AFRICA NEWS

P.O. Box 3851

Durham, NC 27702

SECOND CLASS Postage PAID at Durham, N.C.

NEWSPAPER TREATMENT

2112/SB0274
CAROL B. & W.H. FERRY
P.O. BOX 657
SCARSDALE, NY

10583