

BITS**PIECES**

SANCTIONS: Guinea Bissau's attorney general, Nicandro Barretto, has been suspended from holding any "leading party post" for 12 months, and Finance Minister Vitor Freire Montero has been "downgraded," both for their alleged close association with former Prime Minister Vitor Saude Maria, who was charged with plotting against state security earlier this year, reports *West Africa* magazine. Meanwhile, President Joao Bernardo Vieira announced a new Cabinet on July 17, a move that had been expected since the return to civilian rule on May 14. He abolished the post of prime minister. Trade Minister Jose Turpin, Administration Minister Jose Cruz and Education Minister Avito Jose da Silva were expelled from the party in May for allegedly supporting the ousted premier. Montero stays as finance minister. [AN]

SOUTH-SOUTH TALKS A WASTE OF TIME? Former Tanzanian Economics Minister Abdulrahman Mohamed Babu has warned that economic problems of Third World nations will be eased only if the nations change the structures of their shaky economies instead of waiting for a new world order. He described talks on South-South cooperation as "another ploy to fill the hungry with hope. No poor nation can help another poor nation improve its economy because the economies of these nations are competitive." He suggested "complimentary economic planning" as an alternative approach, whereby "specific products of one country go to fill in gaps in another." The "South-South thing should be re-examined," or it would become a useless slogan, he told an audience in Dar es Salaam last month after interrupting his long self-exile abroad. [AN]

FREE TRADE TERMS UNDER SCRUTINY: Tanzania has said it is still studying the terms for joining the 14-nation Preferential Trade Area (PTA). A government spokesman said Tanzania had learned to act cautiously from the experiences of the now-defunct East African Community. He said under PTA's current terms, some

nations could become net producers and others net consumers and an imbalance of trade would work against the less industrialized under the present stage of industrial development. Tanzania, Angola, Botswana, Madagascar, Mozambique and Seychelles have not signed the treaty. (See also *AN* July 30.) [AN]

ELECTIONS: Botswana's President Quett Masire dissolved the National Assembly (parliament) on July 20 in readiness for general elections in September. His Botswana Democratic Party held 29 of the 32 elected seats in the old parliament. Six parties will contest the election. Zaire's President Mobutu Sese Seko was re-elected to a third seven-year term on July 28/29. He was the only candidate sponsored by the sole Movement for the Popular Revolution (MPR) and voters were required to vote for or against him. In Morocco, King Hassan has announced that general elections will be held on Sept. 14. At its July 13 party congress, the Union of Popular Socialist Forces (PSFP) said it would leave the coalition government to fight the elections. The party condemned Hassan's economic policies. Voters in Burundi will go to the polls on Aug. 31 to elect a president. The ruling National Party for Unity and Progress (UPRONA) has nominated President Jean-Baptiste Bagaza as the sole candidate. In Congo, delegates attending the third congress of the ruling Congolese Labor Party re-elected President Denis Sassou Nguesso July 30 for another five-year term. And in Benin, the ruling Revolutionary National Assembly nominated President Mathieu Kerekou on July 28 as its sole presidential candidate in the forthcoming election. [AN]

PRO-APARTHEID CHURCHES SUSPENDED The 57-million member Lutheran World Federation, holding its general assembly for the first time in eastern Europe, on Aug. 1 suspended two white southern African churches — the 6,600-member Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southern Cape Province and the 15,000-member German Evangelical Lutheran Church in South-West Africa — for their failure to reject racism. [AN]

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