

BITS**PIECES**

ISRAELI CREDITS FOR ZAIRE: Israel has granted Zaire credit facilities valued at \$8 million. News of the loan, offered in the midst of what may be Israel's most severe economic crisis, came one day after Zaire announced it would increase its troop strength to 100,000. The Israeli money reportedly will be spent on the Zairian army's Kamanyola division and its presidential brigade. [AN]

ETHIOPIA'S HUNGRY: After visiting Ethiopia in August, U.S. Agency for International Development administrator Peter McPherson said last week that food aid had reached more than 5 million of the 8 million Ethiopians classified as starving. He also said more people could be reached if officials would allocate resources to distribute food stockpiled at port facilities. The northern provinces of Tigre and Eritrea remain the most severely affected, largely because of the ongoing conflicts in those areas between government troops and rebel forces. Last month Eritrean nationalists accused Ethiopian soldiers of chopping down ripe corn stalks near the town of Adi Kwala on the pretext the fields might become hiding places for Eritrean rebels. [AN]

WORLD RECORDS FOR AOUITA ... Within one month Olympic 5,000-meter champion Said Aouita set two world records and barely missed setting a third despite a recent hamstring injury. On July 25 in Oslo Norway, the Moroccan runner broke the men's 5,000-meter record with a time of 13:00.40. A month later, in Berlin, he broke the men's 1,500-meter record, clocking in at 3:29.45. Last week, Aouita won the 3,000 meters in the Ivo van Damme memorial track and field meet in Brussels, missing the world record by eighty-four hundredths of a second. [AN]

... AND BUDD: South African-born Zola Budd set a women's world record in the 5,000-meter run in London two weeks ago, slashing more than 10 seconds off the previous mark, set by Norwegian Ingrid Kristiansen. Fearing harassment by anti-apartheid protesters, the South African native secretly entered the race at London's Crystal Palace and later commented on the supportive nature of the crowd that cheered her on. The record-setting win was

Budd's third victory in nine days. [AN]

GROUP OF 24 ENDORSES STUDY: High-ranking officials of 24 developing nations met in Washington last month to discuss and approve a study on the future of the international monetary system. The study and plan of action put forth by the group contrasts a similar proposal drafted by their counterpart, the industrialized nations' Group of 10. The Group of 24 calls for harsher scrutiny of industrialized nations' economic policies, easier access to credit, and standardized development criteria for use by the IMF to monitor fiscal performance by industrialized nations. The study will be presented to the IMF at its annual meeting this October in Seoul. [AN]

CHANGE OF THE GUARD: In much of Africa the head of state is omnipresent. His picture is on the wall of every shop, restaurant and government office, and in some countries, even on the money. Now, however, at least one charismatic leader has decided to combat the tendency toward the personality cult. Flight Lt. Jerry Rawlings, head of Ghana's ruling Provisional National Defense Council and a proponent of collective leadership, declared last month that his portraits should be removed from government office buildings. They will be replaced by the country's flag and coat of arms. The pictures will, however, remain on walls in the country's embassies abroad. [AN]

SENATORS HELP MANDELA: Winnie Mandela, wife of imprisoned African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela, refused a Reagan administration offer of \$10,000 to help rebuild her Brandfort home and clinic after assailants destroyed it with a petrol bomb last month. Spurning the overture, Mandela cited the administration's support of the South African government. Last week, however, Mandela's daughter Zenani Mandela Dlamini accepted a private donation from 13 U.S. senators on behalf of her mother for the reconstruction effort. Sen. Howard Metzenbaum (D-OH) led the delegation and presented Dlamini with a check for \$6,750. [AN]

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