raw sewage.

The most serious threat to the marine ecosystem, however, comes from oil. Both the offshore oil fields and the tankers pollute.

In 1973 Nigeria had an oil well blow-out. In 1975 an oil spill from a grounded freighter damaged Senegal's oyster beds. Oil spills in Gabon have threatened tuna breeding grounds as well as local fishing.

Aside from untreated sewage, industrial pollutants and oil pollution, the Gulf's waters are simply littered with debris. Floating logs are said to be a common sight and a serious hazard to smaller ships. These come as wastes from plywood or logging operations.

In 1978 UNEP personnel are trying to pinpoint the region's problems—and possible solutions. By next year, representatives of the 19 governments involved will discuss the matter further and begin to activate a plan of action to preserve all of their offshore resources.

ZAMBIA

THOUSANDS ARRESTED IN CRACKDOWN

[AN] Some 2500 persons have been arrested in Zambia since August 10 in a round-up intended to snare both criminals and illegal aliens.

The military and police forces have carried out raids in Lusaka, Kabwe and Mindolo. Aliens affected are said to be from Malawi, Zaire, Tanzania and Rhodesia, the latter including defectors from the nationalist organizations that receive Zambian cooperation.

Government statements said the raids intended to curb the rising crime rate. As Zambia has deepened its economic crisis, the incidence of robbery and assaults has risen, on several occasions victimizing foreign personnel employed in the important mining sector.

Twice such incidents caused brief protest strikes by workers, and the lack of security has not only contributed to the exodus of some of the foreign white personnel but also increased the difficulty of hiring replacements.

Although detention centers are inadequate to house the large numbers being picked up, Zambia apparently has not yet announced any plan for the repatriation of the illegal aliens. The percentage of detainees who are aliens compared to those said to be criminals is unknown.

BENIN/GABON

FEUD BRINGS 10,000 EXPULSIONS

[AN] In early August, representatives of the Organization of African Unity tried unsuccessfully to defuse the tensions between Benin and Gabon that erupted last month. But the repatriation of some 10,000 Benin citizens who had been living and working in Gabon continues.

The entire Benin community was ordered home by Gabon's president Omar Bongo when he returned from the summit of the Organization of African Unity in July.

At the summit, Benin's president Mathieu Kerekou had repeated his charges that Gabon helped organize a raid by mercenaries in January 1977 that nearly toppled his government. Gabon representatives replied angrily that they could no longer take such provocative verbal attacks without reacting.

Benin nationals in Gabon are largely merchants and shopkeepers, and, like other foreign African communities in Gabon, they have a long history of difficulties with the local people. When the hostilities at the OAU summit were reported back home, the local Gabonese burned the central marketplace of the capital, Libreville, to the gound.

Since the central market was the location where many Benin citizens sold their goods, street fighting erupted between Benin and Gabonese citizens in Libreville and in Port-Gentil. A number of serious injuries resulted, and the shops and homes of Benin nationals were systematically ransacked.

By the time president Bongo arrived home from the OAU summit, some 5,000 Benin nationals had already been rounded up by police and were waiting for planes at a school near the Libreville airport. Because Benin refused landing rights to Gabonese aircraft, planes from Congo and Zaire had to be called in to airlift the evacuees.

The evacuation causes problems for both countries. Benin leaders worry about how to settle and absorb all the returnees, while the Gabonese commerce minister wonders how to keep the distribution network going without them.

President Bongo says the full evacuation may take more than a year and that Benin nationals to whom he has granted political asylum may stay.

ANGOLA *continued from page 4*

in the first trimester of 1978 production of several important consumer goods made with local materials was far below 1973 levels. Canned meat reached only 21% of the 1973 figures; cornmeal, 34.6%; wheat flour, 45.8%; and vegetable oils, 51.5%.

SOUTH AFRICA *continued from page 2*

from higher gold prices this year.

Because of the vital role gold and other minerals play in the economy, security in the mines is a pressing concern. A secret government report completed in 1976 points to the danger that "terrorists from outside the country will attempt to be absorbed" in the labor force recruited in neighboring states.

The inter-departmental committee which drew up the study for Labour and Mines Minister Fanie Botha says the labor supply from Mozambique is "especially exposed to infiltration by terrorists." Mozambique supports the African National Congress, which is committed to armed struggle against South Africa's white regime.

According to the *Financial Mail,* the report suggests that the mining industry reduce its dependence on foreign workers. For a variety of reasons, the percentage of outside labor in the mines has fallen from 70 to 50% during the past two years.

ZIMBABWE *continued from page 2*

rillas on missions they hoped would produce some sort of cease-fire accord. Most recently two Sithole aides were killed, apparently by guerrillas, on such a peace initiative in the countryside.

Rhodesian officials now have also to contend with the prospect of politically inspired strikes by black workers.

About 3,000 black miners at the Mangula copper mine 80 miles north of Salisbury went on strike last week and persisted in their walkout despite police intervention that resulted in the death of four miners.

Though the strike is ostensibly an attempt to get wage increases, reports from Rhodesia indicate that the strike may have been instigated by Patriotic Front organizers. The Mangula mine is located in an area that has experienced stepped-up guerrilla activity recently.

AFRICAN COFFEE SLIPS: According to a recent U.S. Department of Agriculture report, African coffee production fell by 8% this year, largely because of serious drop in the exports of the continent's leading producer, Ivory Coast. An early season drought left Ivory Coast with a disappointing harvest of approximately 3.3 million bags, as compared to a 1977 total of 4.8 million bags. USDA's coffee forecast, however, shows an 11% increase worldwide over last year's crop.