on its criticism of South African actions.

Tutu had urged just such a step, and more, during his session in the Oval Office and a well-attended appearance on Capitol Hill. The Anglican cleric, who received the prize in Oslo, Norway on Dec. 10, has served as another important catalyst for the rising pressure since he has been on sabbatical in New York this year.

Meanwhile, a delegation of South African trade unionists visiting the U.S. also urged American backing for 6500 black workers fired by the government-controlled Sasol Corporation for participating in a general strike last month. The California-based Fluor Corporation built the oil-from-gas facility and maintains it under contract to Sasol. ■

ZAIRE

SHABA EPISODE RAISES QUESTIONS

[AN] Shaba, the mineral-rich Zairian province that served as a battlefield for government troops and armed dissidents during 1977 and 1978, was again last month the center of fierce clashes between President Mobutu Sese Seko's army and rebels the government claimed invaded from neighboring Tanzania.

According to an official Zairian report, an unspecified number of armed intruders crossed Lake Tanganyika in the early hours of Nov. 13 and seized the shore town of Moba, killing at least a dozen civilians.

The Zairian government said a naval unit based in Kalemie joined French-trained paratroopers for a Nov. 15 counter-attack on the town. "More than 100" rebels were killed, many others were seriously wounded and at least two were captured, according to Information Minister Sakombi Inongo. "In less than 24 hours," Inongo said, "the zone of Moba was liberated and the enemy from Tanzania was routed." Zairian television reported that at least 10 soldiers died during the operation.

Representatives of the Belgian-based opposition to Mobutu's regime, however, have disputed official accounts of the Shaba turbulence. In a statement from Brussels, the People's Revolutionary Party (PRP) claimed that rebels also captured the town of Manono on Nov. 15. Rebel forces "disarmed" 300 paratroopers from Lubumbashi, the Shaba capital, who had been dropped on Manono, according to PRP spokesman Gaetan Kakudji.

The PRP claims widespread support in Shaba Province and advocates the policies of Patrice Lumumba, Zaire's first prime minister, who was assassinated in 1961. The PRP says Mobutu had a major role in the killing, and it has opposed him since he came to power in a 1965 coup.

Other dissidents claimed the fighting was the work of mutinous government troops.

The renewed violence prompted Mobutu to rush back to Kinshasa from Europe, where he had gone for "health reasons." On Nov. 25, the Zairian national radio reported he had made a "quick visit" to Moba to "thank" the soldiers of the 21st and 31st brigades, "who took back the district on Nov. 16."

Just before Mobutu's return, a government spokesman said that two intruders captured at Moba had revealed during interrogation that two emissaries of Brussels-based opposition groups had moved to Tanzania to organize the rebels in the days prior to the invasion.

Zaire also claimed international collusion in the recent attacks. Foreign Affairs Minister Umba Di Lutete summoned the Belgian and Tanzanian ambassadors to his Kinshasa office to lodge official protests of their nations' alleged involvement. Zaire's ambassador in Brussels, Tshibwabwa Ashila Pashi, also delivered a protest note to the Belgian government, which offers refuge to Zairian opposition groups.

The Zairian ambassador in Dar es Salaam, strangely, did not issue any protest.

Tanzania was quick to refute the Zairian accusations, denying any involvement in the attacks and calling the charges "spurious, slanderous and outrageous." A statement from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Dar es Salaam said Tanzania "does not harbor armed opposition groups against any of its neighbors," and has "scrupulously ensured that political refugees in Tanzania do not engage in subversive activities against their countries of origin."

The United Nations High Commission for Refugees reports that about 15,000 Zairian refugees live in Tanzania.

In a bizarre twist on Nov. 30, the Zairian embassy in Dar es Salaam issued a statement refuting "international press reports" that Kinshasa had ever "accused Tanzania as having been involved in the recent attack of Moba town," according to Tanzania's *Daily News*.

In the absence of a clear account of what happened in Moba, some observers in Brussels have suggested that the whole episode was masterminded by Mobutu, according to an *Africa Economic Digest* report.

Mobutu, the *Digest* says, could stand to gain by setting up France and Belgium as post-colonial rivals in Zaire. The Belgian-Zairian defense treaty is due for review at the end of the year, and Mobutu may have created the event to drum up French aid during President Francois Mitterrand's official visit to Kinshasa on Dec. 8.

Diplomats in Kinshasa, however, termed the raid a "suicide attack" by exile groups, aimed at discrediting the government on the eve of both the Mitterrand visit and Mobutu's Dec. 5 swearing-in for a third seven-year term as president. The Moba attack was the second major uprising in seven years in the mineral-rich Shaba region, long a hotbed of anti-government activity.

In spite of the unrest, many of Mobutu's friends turned out for inauguration ceremonies in Kinshasa, including Angola's Jose Eduardo dos Santos, Benin's Mathieu Kerekou, Cameroon's Paul Biya, Chad's Hissein Habre, Central African Republic's Andre Kolingba, Congo's Denis Sassou-Nguesso, Gabon's Omar Bongo, Mozambique's Samora Machel, Rwanda's Juvenal Habyarimana, Togo's Gnassingbe Eyadema, and Zambia's Kenneth Kaunda. Conspicuous by their absence were the leaders of four of Zaire's immediate neighbors —Burundi, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda.

Mobutu was particularly displeased by Burundi leader Jean-Baptiste Bagaza's failure to attend. In retaliation, Mobutu refused to travel to Bujumbura, the Burundi capital, for the two-day summit meeting between France and French-speaking African nations on Dec. 11. ■

ANGOLA

OIL SALES BOOST ECONOMY

LUANDA [AN] Bolstered by rising oil production and a sharp drop in imports, Angola's balance of payments edged $4.7 million into the black in 1983 after posting a deficit of nearly $9 million the previous year.

The turnaround came on exports totalling $1.8 billion, over 90% of which derived from sales of crude oil, refined petroleum products and natural gas. Diamonds (5.6%) and coffee (4%) accounted for virtually all the rest.

The key to the improvement in Angola's balance of payments position has been a dramatic increase in oil production—from 130,400 barrels per day (b/d) in 1982 to a record 178,900 b/d in 1983. The increase, the result of a five-year, billion-dollar expansion program by the Angolan oil company SONANGOL, has continued into 1984 with production this year estimated at 220,000 b/d.

Output is expected to top 250,000 b/d by the end of 1985, after the Soyo Offshore Field operated by France's Elf-Aquitaine begins production early next year.

Production at Cabinda, Angola's northern oil enclave, has more than doubled since 1982 to 165,000 b/d this year. According to Cabinda Gulf Oil Company General Manager Jack Agan, production at the complex will reach 200,000 b/d by the end of 1985.

Last year, also marked Angola's entry into the natural gas export market, where sales of 127,000 tons of gas, mostly to Brazil, earned over $31 million.

The increase in Angola's oil output is the one bright spot in an otherwise gloomy economic picture. Sales of diamonds, the country's second largest export, dropped to one million carats in 1983, while coffee production has tumbled from the pre-independence level of 200,000 tons a year to 26,000 tons in 1983 and just 24,000 tons this