power in Botswana.

Political observers don't give either the National Front or the other two opposition groups, the People's Party and the Independence Party, much of a chance in next year's elections. Yet President Khama considers the Front enough of a threat that he ordered the withdrawal of passports from a youth group it had organized to attend Cuba's youth festival in June. The government claimed it had "reliable information . . . that these youths were to be given specific instruction on how to subvert and overthrow the government by force" in some unnamed country.

Indeed, the harsh measures taken by the government to quash protest at the university last month reflect the current mood: a profound anxiety that both the enemies on its border and radicals at home will sink Botswana even deeper in southern Africa's quagmire, and leave it nowhere to hide.

TANZANIA

ETHNIC CLASH BRINGS DEATH SENTENCE

[AN] Fourteen persons have been sentenced to hang in Tanzania for the mass murder of 21 peasants in central Tanzania two and a half years ago. The victims were all of the Nyaturu people, and the persons tried were all Barbaig, an ethnic group that subsists traditionally by herding rather than by settled agriculture.

When the herdsmen were arrested and charged in early 1976, public opinion ran strongly against them. The government-owned Daily News, *for example, accused the Barbaig of "cherishing a tradition which involves the killing of others as a sign of bravery."*

The Barbaig, however, maintain that the government has not only misrepresented what is at issue in the case, but has mistreated the accused while in prison, causing the deaths of five detainees before their trial began.

In an interview, correspondent Tony Avirgan clarifies some of the details.

Q: How did the five die in prison?

Avirgan: The government says they died from meningitis and various diseases while in prison, but the Barbaig say in fact that all of the detainees had been tortured. There is strong suspicion that in fact these five died due to some sort of action by the police and prison authorities.

Q: How did the fourteen who have been sentenced to death plead in court?

Avirgan: They had made confessions, although later they said that these confessions were made because they had been tortured. The magistrate in reviewing the case said, however, that the story given by the police, the confessions, and other evidence all corroborated each other. He refused to accept the argument that the confessions were made under duress.

Q: Will the trial and sentences make the Barbaig people angry?

Avirgan: The Barbaig always have been angry. There has been a problem with the Barbaig for the Tanzanian government ever since independence. Way before that, there was strong tension between the Barbaig and the German colonial authority and later the British colonial authority.

Now, the Tanzanian government has claimed that the Barbaig are engaged in ritual murders and often attack neighboring peoples, particularly the Nyaturu. But the Barbaig claim the real problem is land. Agricultural people like the Nyaturu have been encroaching on the traditional Barbaig grazing lands.

The agriculturalists have always been favored by the colonial authorities and later by the Tanzanian government because the Barbaig, with their nomadic cattle-rearing ways, have not really contributed to the national wealth or accepted the development policies set down by Tanzania. So the Barbaig claim that they are being discriminated against in favor of the agriculturalists.

Q: Have the Barbaig any political power?

Avirgan: They are not really a significant political force at all. The neighboring tribes have sent people to school, have moved some of their own people into the civil service. Even other nomadic groups in the area such as the Masai, which have traditional rivalry with the Barbaig, have had some people who received education and moved into the government. But the Barbaig people have not gone to school and there are almost no Barbaig working in the civil service. They really have very little influence.

KENYA *continued from page 4*

who had run the farms under the previous owners were dispossessed rather than given first chance at owning and working the land as they had hoped.

The current suspension of land allocation has raised the hopes of the landless, and of such groups as the Luo, who have done poorly in competing for land. But what the decision will mean in practice is still uncertain.

UNITED NATIONS *continued from page 2*

speaking to the UN General Assembly, said that Britain was willing to put several hundred troops on standby for a UN force to deal with troublespots. Rhodesian Prime Minister Smith, however, on a visit to Durban, South Africa, said that his government had given no serious consideration to return to British rule, and was ready to fight African guerrillas for decades.

In spite of the oil sanctions scandal in England, Western diplomats apparently are unwilling to take steps to cut off Rhodesia's current flow of oil through South Africa. Instead, they are reported to be trying for new consultations when Rhodesian leaders Ian Smith and Ndabaningi Sithole visit the United States later this month. The internal settlement officials were invited by conservative Senator S. I. Hayakawa, and the administration is expected to grant the necessary visas soon.

Meanwhile, the UN Security Council on Friday voted approval of the decolonization plan for Namibia presented by Secretary-General Waldheim. Waldheim will report back by October 23 on implementation of the plan, and at that time, if South Africa has not changed its position, the Western countries will be hard put to hold off new calls for economic sanctions against South Africa.

For its part, South Africa has announced a two-week postponement of the Namibian election date to December 4, reportedly at the request of the right-wing National Party. Only the National Party and the South-African sponsored Democratic Turnhalle Alliance have agreed to take part in the elections. The Namibian nationalist movement SWAPO has announced its intention to step up the guerrilla war, while two smaller, parties, the Namibia National Front and Andreas Shipanga's SWAPO-Democrats, will also boycott the South African-run elections.

SOUTH AFRICA *continued from page 2*

dent John Vorster. But he is known to favor a more concerted effort to win the alliance of the country's 2.5 million Coloureds (persons of mixed race), most of whom live in the Cape province. Botha is the first South African Prime Minister from the Cape since 1948.

Within the next two years Botha is expected to move ahead with a new constitutional proposal which provides for Coloured and Indian representation, in a cabinet council selected from three separate parliaments, under a powerful executive presidency. The proposal has already been rejected by Coloured and Indian leaders as meaningless.