Catholic Relief sends funds to famine-stricken Rwanda

BALTIMORE — Catholic Relief Services (CRS) has allocated $77,400 for emergency feeding programs in Rwanda, where drought, pests and floods have brought famine to thousands and death to 237 in western and central prefectures.

The money will be used to purchase 193 tons of sorghum for incorporation into a coordinated relief effort to sustain 60,000 people until the January-February harvest comes in. Severe malnourishment has become chronic in this small, landlocked, French-speaking nation of Central Africa.

The governments of the United States and the European Community are also responding to a government call for emergency aid. CRS assistance will be channeled through Caritas of Rwanda, the local Catholic counterpart agency.

The most densely populated nation in Africa, Rwanda struggles to feed its people even during good harvests. According to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), more than 28 percent of Rwandan children under 5 are seriously malnourished and prone to disease.

A report issued by UNICEF this week stated that malnutrition in developing countries is on the rise and is likely to become critical in the next decade.

The funds released by CRS will be used to purchase 193 metric tons of Rwandan sorghum, which will be added to stocks of other commodities already obtained by CRS and other relief organizations.

Transportation and distribution of these commodities will be covered by a grant of $25,000 made available by U.S. Ambassador to Rwanda, Leonard Spearman, Sr.

Catholic Relief Services is the international relief and development agency of the American Catholic community.

Rwanda is one of the 68 countries where CRS assists the poor on the basis of need.

MEMBERS OF THE NEWSPAPER GUILD in San Diego picket outside the offices of the San Diego Union-Tribune. The union, whose members include writers, reporters, photographers and others, were to have gone on strike last week but guild leaders decided to continue negotiations.

Most Blacks are not anti-White, Michigan researchers say

ANN ARBOR — Can political candidates like the Rev. Jesse Jackson tap strong feelings of Black solidarity without crossing the line between racial pride and racial prejudice?

Yes, according to three University of Michigan researchers. Although Jackson supporters and Blacks in general display a strong sense of group identity, the vast majority are neither anti-White, separatist nor opposed to forming coalitions with other groups.

"Generally, we see Blacks using group solidarity productively as one of their most valuable political resources and doing so in a way that is 'not divisive,' the researchers say in their book "Hope and Independence: Blacks' Reactions to Party and Electoral Politics."

The authors are Patricia Y. Gurin, professor of psychology; Shirley Hatchett, research investigator, ISR; and

Jesse Jackson

James H. Jackson, professor of psychology and associate dean in the U-M's Horace H. Rackham School of Graduate Studies.

Historical exclusion from party politics and other American institutions gave Blacks a strong sense of group solidarity, while forcing them to adopt a political strategy of "independence," the researchers note. However, they add, awareness of group identity neither precludes the formation of coalitions with other groups nor engenders anti-White sentiment among most voting-age Blacks.

"Many commentators who characterized the bond between Jesse Jackson and his constituency as racist or as 'merely symbolic' failed to see the solidarity basis of his appeal as an instance of a broader political phenomenon — the historic significance of ethnicity in American politics and the heightened importance worldwide of identity politics since World War II," the authors say.

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1. ESSAY THEME: The Value of an Education (within the context of Black History Month).
2. Essay contest is open to all students grades 9-12.
3. Essays must be typed and double-spaced.
4. Essays may not exceed 500 words.
5. Only one entry per student.
6. Each school is entitled to one semi-finalist.
7. Entries must be written by the student.
8. Student's name, home address, school, grade, social security number (if available), and teacher's name must appear with each entry.
9. Essays will be judged on originality, creativity, grammar and vocabulary.
10. Essays become the property of Coca-Cola Enterprises and will not be returned.
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12. Judge's decision is final.
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12,000 see Dinkins take oath

By Dan Jacobson

NEW YORK (UPI) — Cheered by thousands at a historic ceremony marred by minor protests, David Dinkins was inaugurated as New York's first Black mayor Monday and vowed to dedicate himself to the struggle for human rights and social justice.

Dinkins publicly took the oath of office outside City Hall some 12 hours after being officially sworn in as the 106th mayor of the nation's largest city at a private fete in the Bronx just past midnight.

"I stand before you today as the elected leader of the greatest city of a great nation, to which my ancestors were brought, chained and whipped in the hold of a slaveship," Dinkins, 62, told the crowds.

"We have not finished the journey toward liberty and justice, but surely we have come a long way."

At least 12,000 people, including 200 homeless who received special invitations, jammed the park outside City Hall for the celebration that featured actor - singer Harry Belafonte as master of ceremonies, opera diva Marilyn Horne singing the national anthem and the New York City Gay Men's Chorus singing "New York, New York."

The festivities drew a host of elected officials and major political figures from across the state and nation, including New York Gov. Mario Cuomo and Jesse Jackson.

Mayors Wilson Goode of Philadelphia, Marion Barry of Washington and Sharpe James of newark, who are Black, also attended to honor a new member of their growing fraternity.

The carefully planned inauguration, held under partly sunny skies in 40-degree temperatures, was designed to mirror Dinkins' promise of "inclusiveness" by celebrating New York's racial and ethnic diversity — what he has called the city's "gorgeous mosaic."

It also was marked by scattered protests.

The protests were not directed at Dinkins but at two churchmen present — South African AnglicanArchbishop Desmond Tutu, who has upset some Jews with recent comments critical of Israel, and Cardinal John O'Connor, archbishop of the New York Roman Catholic archdiocese, who has angered many gay and women rights activists with his stands against homosexuality and abortion.

As Tutu gave an impassioned speech, extolling Dinkins's victory as "a sign for us that our victory is assured" in South Africa, a water balloon struck Bronx City Councilman Jose Rivera in the face.

Rivera, staggered by the impact, nearly toppled from his seat near the rear of the platform. But Tutu apparently was unaware of the incident.

The balloon was believed to have been dropped either from a City Hall balcony or window, said Dinkins spokesman Albert Scardino.

(UPI Photo)

BIG APPLE 'FIRST'—David Dinkins (c) is sworn in as the first Black mayor of New York City by Judge Fritz Alexander on New Year's Day at City Hall. Holding the Bible is Dinkins' wife Joyce. Behind them is Gov. Mario Cuomo.

MARGARITA GIANA LOST her land and most of her family to the civil war that has been raging in Mozambique for more than 14 years. Today, she and her infant niece, Carlotta — the only other surviving member of the family — wait to be placed in a camp for displaced persons and supplied with food.

A Mozambican woman's struggle to survive in midst of civil war

"Sometimes I think I've lived too long," Margarita Giana says bitterly, "because I've seen too much cruelty for one woman to bear."

Giana, a handsome, powerfully-built woman in her twenties, has spent most of life tilling the soil on her family's farm in Dondo, a poor rural community in central Mozambique. Recently, as a result of Mozambique's 14-year civil war, she waited at a hospital — hundreds of miles from her home. Her best hope of survival was to reach a camp for displaced persons, supplied with food and other basic necessities by CARE, the international relief and development organization.

Nearly eight months ago, anti-government rebels, who killed more than 100,000 civilians between 1984 and 1988, raided her village. "They came in with their guns drawn, screaming curses at us," Giana says. "They took our land, our food and most of the men and boys, including my husband, my son and my brother-in-law.

"That was the last time we saw any of them," she continues. "They're probably with the rebels now — if they're still alive."

During the months that followed, Giana and her 17-year-old sister, Maria Alberto, who was pregnant with her first child, lived on the run. They hid in the forest and scavenged for food among the wild roots and leaves that grew more scarce every day.

"We were frightened and hungry all the time," she recalls, "and it was hard for us to keep on the move, especially with Maria carrying a child. It's a miracle she lived long enough to have her baby, but I guess that's what kept her going, even though she was starving and sick."

Giana and her sister managed to reach a hospital in Cala, where relief workers rushed the pregnant woman to a clean bed. She survived long enough to give birth to a daughter, whom she named Carlotta.

Maria was too weak to survive, despite the round-the-clock efforts of the hospital staff. She died soon after delivery, leaving Giana to care for the newborn child.

"Carlotta is all I have left of my family," Giana says as she tenderly cradles the tiny infant in her solid embrace, "and I'm afraid I'm going to lose her, if we ever have to leave here and hide in the forest again."

"Giana's story is not uncommon," says David Neff, who directs CARE's programs in Mozambique. "In the next year, more than three million Mozambicans will be dependent on emergency food. But because of the fighting, it's not always possible to get the supplies where they're needed.

"The roads are a gauntlet of rebel activity, and that makes the deliveries a logistical nightmare," he explains.

Giana hums softly to Carlotta. The child closes her eyes and drifts off to sleep. "You know, I've always been strong," Giana whispers, "and I'm going to keep on being as tough as I can, so Carlotta will have a chance at life. I think I owe my sister that much."

Togo sets up duty-free zones

The West African nation of Togo is setting up the first privately operated duty - free export processing zones (EPZs) in sub-Saharan Africa.

Two zones have been reserved for the installation of EPZs in Togo; one of which already exists. With the aid of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC), and the U.S. Agency for International Development (A.I.D.), they are projected to become operational in late 1990.

In line with its ongoing privatization program, the establishment of the EPZs will complement the government's series of incentives for private enterprise in Togo.

"The regulation of the EPZs will be effected through a mixed - economy company, dominated by the private sector, and will be managed along the lines of a private company," said H. E. Koffi Djondo, Togo's minister of Industry and State Corporations. This EPZ Administrative Authority is expected to be established by January 1990. The EPZs will be located in the industrial zone of the Port of Lome.

Export Processing Zones or EPZs are industrial parks designated by a government to provide tax holidays and other incentives to export firms. EPZs basically offer an effective means of mobilizing new private sector resources and initiatives.

Unlike classic free zones, the industries operating within EPZ boundaries are usually engaged in the processing and manufacture of goods destined for export markets.

EPZs today account for more than 1.2 million jobs worldwide. Over 45 countries in the developing world have established EPZs to stimulate industrialization and export promotion. Togo's will be the first privately - operated EPZ in sub-Saharan Africa.

In view of developing its export - oriented activities, Togo sent missions to Mauritius, Tunisia, Hong Kong and Singapore to study the EPZs in these countries.

A preliminary draft bill on the statutes of an EPZ in Togo was then prepared by the government.

"This preliminary draft bill came to the attention of OPIC which was searching for a country in sub-Saharan Africa possessing all the assets required to launch such a project," said Mr. Djondo.

According to U.S. Ambassador to Togo, Rush Walker Taylor, Jr., Togo was not only chosen because of its excellent means of transportation, communication and banking, including its efficient port and one of the most modern airports in West Africa. "In addition, Lome was chosen because of the perceptiveness of President Eyadema and his government, and his will to creating the type of political, economic and social environment in order for this project to be a success," said Mr. Taylor.

American industrialist, John Moore, who took over Togo's state-owned steel mill five years ago, has committed $3 million to building the largest wire and fence manufacturing plant in West Africa in Togo's EPZs.

Mr. Taylor is convinced that Togo's EPZs "can serve as a model for the developing world." He stated: "We believe that the label, 'Made in Togo,' can become a symbol of pride for Togo, a symbol of quality known throughout the world.

Tutu's pilgrimage to Jerusalem ended on controversial note

JERUSALEM — South African Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu, criticized during his Christmas Pilgrimage for his condemnation of Israeli policy in the territories, Tuesday implied Jews must forgive Nazis and pray that they also "will not make others suffer."

"I pray and I pray fervently that the people of this land will be able to live in harmony and peace, happily with their Palestinian brothers," Bishop Tutu said shortly after touring the Yad Vasham Holocaust memorial.

Bishop Tutu, who has said his trip was designed as a pilgrimage of prayer and peace, altered his schedule to include the Yad Vashem visit as well as a meeting with prominent Palestinians Monday to respond to the "many local pressures and sensitivities."

Bishop Tutu also met Tuesday with Minister of Religious Affairs Zevulun Hammer, the only Israeli official to hold talks with the Anglican Church archbishop.

Because Bishop Tutu has repeatedly drawn parallels between the treatment of Palestinians by Israel and of Blacks by South Africa, Mr. Hammer said it was important for him to tell Bishop Tutu that the situations in the two countries were completely different."

"We were never received by the Arabs as people returning home." Mr. Hammer said after the meeting in his office. "We returned home to the homes of our forefathers for whom we had prayed for 2,000 years, and he has to see this if he wants to contribute to peace."

After his 1½-hour tour of Yad Vashem's museum detailing Nazi atrocities, Bishop Tutu and his delegation from South Africa's Anglican Church prayed for the Jewish people, for the peace of Jerusalem and that "the pain of all who suffer in this land and in the Middle East, Muslim, Jew and Christian, the grief of those who mourn, and the memories of those who cannot forgive past hurt, may experience God's redeeming presence."

South Africa's Archbishop Desmond Tutu watches a Palestinian boy give the 'victory' sign as he passes the Dome of the Rock during a tour of the Temple Mount. At right is Sheikh Mohammad Al-Jaami, deputy Mufti of Jersalem.

Kaunda meets with U.S. troops to discuss Southern Africa crisis

During a recent visit to New York for a speech before the United Nations Special General Assembly Session on southern Africa, President Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia held talks with leaders of a newly-formed educational and advocacy group in the U.S. called The Angola Foundation.

Rev. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr., president and founder, and Damu Smith, national coordinator, met with the African head of state to discuss a wide range of issues concerning southern Africa and the escalating war in Angola.

The meeting was held at the request of President Kaunda following a meeting with Damu Smith in Lusaka, Zambia late last month.

The two anti-apartheid leaders informed President Kaunda, who also serves as chairman of the frontline African states, about ongoing efforts by The Angola Foundation to mobilize public opinion in the United States against U.S. policy toward Angola.

The Angola Foundation has been established to educate Americans and the ongoing war inside that country.

The U.S. provides military assistance to the South African-supported group UNITA (National Union for the Total Independence of Angola), led by Jonas Savimbi.

Mr. Chavis and Mr. Smith told Mr. Kaunda about a nationwide petition campaign for peace in Angola, which was officially inaugurated by The Angola Foundation and The National Coalition for Peace in Angola, at a public meeting held on Dec. 9th in Washington.

The Angola Foundation leaders pledged to continue their support for African efforts to bring peace to Angola. As chairman of the frontline states, Mr. Kaunda has played a central role in helping to mobilize African endorsement of a peace plan agreed to by Mr. Savimbi and Angolan President Jose dos Santos in the presence of eighteen African heads of state on June 22 in Gbadolite, Zaire.

The plan is now known as the Gbadolite peace plan.

Mr. Savimbi, with U.S. backing, has since denounced the plan claiming he never agreed to key elements of the pact. Among these were that Mr. Savimbi would go into voluntary and temporary exile and integrate his forces into Angola's existing institutions. Mr. Savimbi visited the U.S. in September and met with President Bush.

Since then, the U.S. has reportedly rushed more than $50 million in additional military aid to UNITA.

In addition to the situation in Angola, the three men discussed the debt crisis of Zambia and Southern Africa, caused in large measure by South Africa's regional policy of destabilization.

They also talked about the ongoing independence process in Namibia and the state of affairs in South Africa. "Mr. Chavis and Mr. Smith proposed a series of conferences in the U.S. and Zambia to propose strategies to address the debt crisis and focus U.S. and world attention on the problem.

(Left to right) Damu Smith, National Coordinator/The Angola Foundation, Kenneth Kaunda, President of Zambia and Rev. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr., Founder and President of The Angola Foundation at meeting in New York.