Togo slows growth of population

NEW YORK — Recognized by the United Nations for its efforts in reducing population growth, the West African nation of Togo has been awarded the 1989 U.N. Population Award for its National Family Welfare Program. As the first African recipient, Togo's efforts will set an example for others, the U.N. announced.

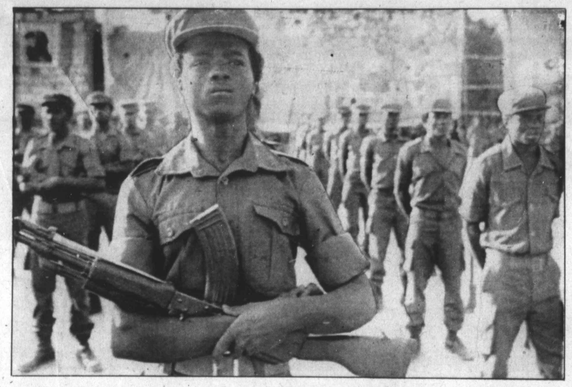
Javier Perez de Cuellar, secretary-general of the U.N., said, "Togo's efforts since the beginning of the 1980s have begun to bear fruit." He commended Togo on its program and particularly on its "spectacular reduction in maternal and infant mortality."

Togo's commitment to the objectives of its National Family Welfare Program has resulted in infant mortality dropping by over 50% since 1970. Togo's population rate of increase has dropped from 3.4% in 1970 to 2.9% in 1987-88. The fertility rate has also dropped from 6.6% in 1970 to 6% in 1987-88.

The program's focus on family planning has brought about a major increase in the use of contraceptives. Since 1984, the use of condoms and spermicides have both increased by over 300%.

Seeking to sustain long-term development, Togo's President Gnassingbe Eyadema instituted a 'green revolution' policy of agricultural self-sufficiency in 1977.

This policy included improvement in the quality of life of the Togolese population, estimated to be 3.1 million, but particularly for mother and child.



UNCONVINCED — Rebel Angola UNITA soldiers, who have been able to cause great damage to their country without ever having a chance to win a victory, paraded at their headquarters in Jamba to welcome home their leader, Jonas Savimbi from peace talks. The rebels have been able to carry on a 14-year civil war with the aid of South Africa and the United States. Only the presence of troops from Cuba prevented South Africa and the rebel troops from ousting the Angola government. UPI

ANC rejects S. Africa deal

By Arlene Getz

LUSKA, Zambia (UPI) — The African National Congress has rejected as a "shocking insult" a five-year racial reform program offered by South Africa's ruling party but left open the possibility of a truce to negotiate with Pretoria if certain conditions are met.

ANC President Oliver Tambo, speaking at the opening session of a conference on a post-apartheid society between the exiled rebel movement and 115 white South Africans, dismissed the ruling party's new program as an attempt to disguise continued minority white rule.

"Apartheid must be destroyed now, not after five years," Tambo said, noting the reform program unveiled in the South African capital offered "no meaningful alternative."

The program, approved by the party's federal congress, is intended to serve as the framework for negotiations with South Africa's 28 million black majority on power sharing. But it zealously guards minority white interests and suggests whites would maintain the power of veto in any new constitutional system.

Among the delegation of whites meeting with some 20 senior officials of the ANC was veteran opposition legislator Helen Suzman, who asked Tambo whether a suspension of its 28-year armed struggle was possible for a period of two years if Pretoria met the ANC's basic demands.

Those demands include the release of jailed-for-life ANC leader Nelson Mandela and all over political prisoners, the lifting of a 3-year-old state of emergency, the removal of the ban on the ANC and the withdrawal of troops from black townships.

"It is possible that under certain conditions the ANC might agree to suspend the armed struggle," said Tambo. "A number of things would have had to have happened before that state is reached."

He said suspension would depend on "reciprocity" by Pretoria, noting the ANC's armed struggle is related directly to the continuance of the apartheid system and the violence it perpetuates on our people.

"Theoretically it is possible that we could make this decision (to suspend the armed struggle) but that point has not yet been reached."

U.S. lawyers see trouble for Namibia

By Gwen McKinney
(NNPA
Special Correspondent)

WINDHOEK, Namibia — The United Nations has woefully failed to fulfill its mission to guide the Independence process in Namibia, while South African military forces still maintain unchecked power that could potentially rob voters of any chance for free and fair elections.

That is the consensus of a term of U.S. jurists here recently as part of a Washington, D.C.-based Commission on Independence for Namibia. The five-member delegation said they met with people representing the range of the political spectrum including South Africa's colonial governor, Louis Plenaar, and U.N. Special Representative Martii Ahtisaari.

Namibia, the last colony in Africa, is undergoing a U.N.-supervised independence process that is to culminate with elections in November. The territory has endured nearly 75 years of colonial occupation by neighboring South Africa.

The panel said it gathered reports of assaults, death threats, rapes and night raids by former members of South Africa's counter-insurgency unit, Koevoet. The commission's accounts bolster persistent reports of Koevoet intimidation and attacks on civilians in the northern region.

Forces from that disbanded unit have been integrated into the South West Africa Police (SWAPOL) force, which under the U.N. plan, is responsible for maintaining law and order.

"If, the elections were held tomorrow they would be a disaster, commented Nathaniel R. Jones, a member of the commission and a federal appeals court judge in Ohio. "The conditions here are chaotic. The climate is not ripe for free and fair elections. All we can hope is that the heavy hand of South Africa can be brushed aside. But that may be too much to hope for."

Commission member Goler T. Butcher, a Howard University law professor, also noted that South Africa's reign over the drafting of election laws is a "source of sobering concern."

Butcher maintained "There's no assurance that even if people go out and vote, that the results will be announced."

The registration laws, a month off schedule, are expected to be released soon, although legislation on the overall electoral process is still to be drafted.

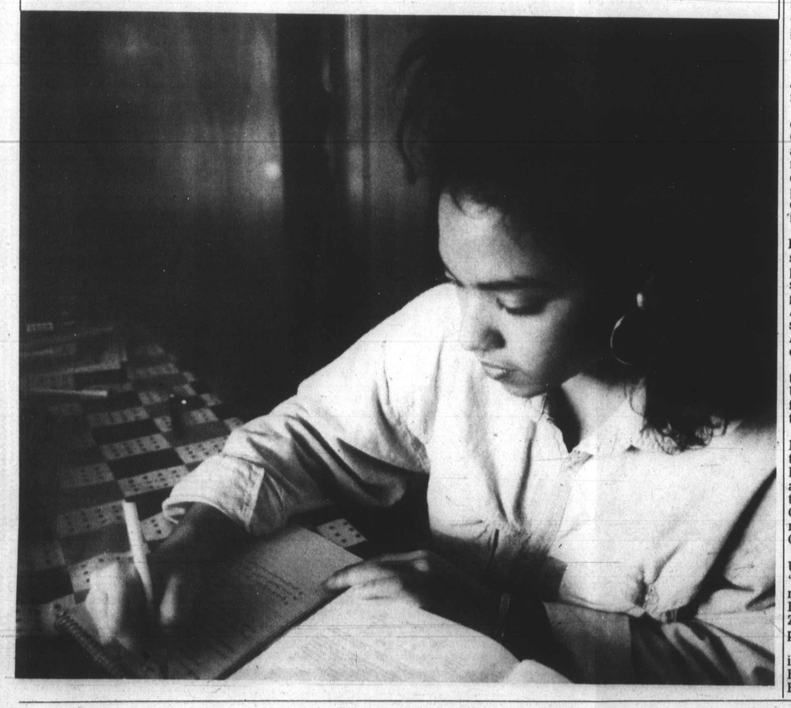
The commission visit was the first in a series of three fact-finding missions. Project Director Gay McDougall said the panel will release a report on their visit and conduct hearings on Capitol Hill.

A driven woman.

Deena Daggett doesn't give up. An honor student at Cornell University, Deena has overcome major obstacles to be able to get an education. Today she's well on her way to earning her degree in Operations Research/Industrial Engineering.

General Motors has a lot of respect for people with drive. That's why we assisted Deena financially toward completing her education and gave her a challenging summer assignment with our Advanced Engineering Staff at the General Motors Technical Center. Because at General Motors we believe that standing behind the people who buy our Chevrolets, Pontiacs, Oldsmobiles, Buicks, Cadillacs and GMC Trucks is more than just a corporate responsibility—it's good business.

GM MARK OF EXCELLENCE GENERAL MOTORS We never forget who's driving.



Mobutu starts telling how U.S. gets its way

By Jim Anderson

WASHINGTON (UPI) — President Mobutu Sese Seko of Zaire ended an official working visit Friday with some last-minute jabs at the inconsistencies in U.S. foreign policy as seen from an African point of view.

Mobutu, who arrived for the three-day visit on the crest of his success in putting together a cease-fire between the government of Angola and the U.S.-backed UNITA rebels, was greeted by President Bush and Secretary of State James Baker as a major force for stability in Africa.

But he also was met by criticism from members of Congress for human rights abuses and running his mineral-rich Central African country as a private financial preserve, accumulating one of the largest private fortunes in the world in the process.

At a luncheon at the Heritage Foundation, the conservative - oriented public policy group, Mobutu told a series of anecdotes that suggested resentment at the American criticism, and dissatisfaction with the way past American governments had dealt with him.

Bu he also repeatedly said that he remains a friend of the United States, despite any unfairness he saw in the U.S. treatment of him.

In one of the anecdotes, Mobutu mentioned a message that he had received from Baker about a month ago, asking Zaire to vote against the Palestine Liberation Organization's becoming a member of the World Health Organization.

He said he voted as the United States wished but, 'The same day, the U.S. representative at the World Bank voted against a loan for Zaire for a copper mining project.

Mobutu said he raised the issue with the president and Bush explained the World Bank vote was required by a law passed by Congress ordering U.S. representatives to oppose such loans if they would increase competition for U.S. copper producers.

In another case, Mobutu recounted, the Carter administration asked Zaire and other non-aligned countries to boycott the 1980 Olympic Games in Moscow in response to the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

Mobutu said he complied, even though Zairean athletes wanted to compete in the summer games, and his country was accused by other African nations of slavishly following U.S. orders.

When Zaire joined the boycott, Mobutu recalled, the Carter administration restored a "Food for Peace" program for Zaire that had been cut off earlier because of alleged human rights violations by his government. Speaking in French, he used the English words "human rights" as he noted, "Suddenly 'human rights' were not as important."

He also recounted events at an Organization of African Unity conference, where U.S. policies in Africa were severely criticized by the Marxist government of Sudan. At the time, Sudan was receiving $100 million annually in U.S. aid, he said, while Zaire was getting $12 million.

Mobutu confided, "I didn't defend the United States for the benefit of the Americans. I just wanted to annoy the Sudanese."

Despite the upward trend in women's earnings compared with men's, women to a large extent remain employed in jobs that yield relatively low earnings, according to the U.S. Labor Department's Women's Bureau. Women are generally employed in lower paying industries such as teaching, and in lower paying service and clerical jobs.

Police department graduates 23

Twenty-three Baltimore Probationary Police Officers, two Aberdeen Police Officers, five Annapolis Police Officers, two Baltimore City Sheriff's Department Officers, one Chestertown Police Officer, four Maryland National Capital Park Police Officers and two Maryland Port Administration Officers were graduated from the Department's Education and Training Division.

Commendation Ceremonies publicly recognized 14 civilians and 24 sworn menbers of the Department who rendered outstanding service to the community.

During the exercise, the Department issued the Unit Citation to the members of the Northern District's Drug Enforcement Unit.

Guest speaker was Dr. Maxie T. Collier, Commissioner of Health, Baltimore City.

The graduates were Thomas I. Alexander, Oliver I. Askew, Charles L. Ausby, Michael S. Barclay, Virginia L. Baugher, Douglas C. Baumgarten, John E. Bridgeforth;

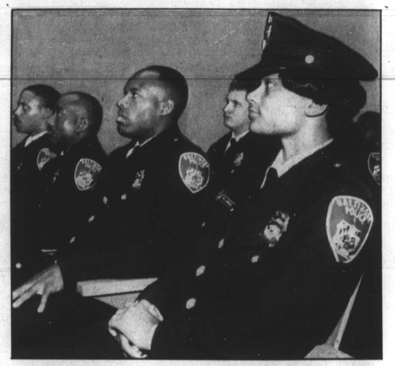
Julia A. Browning, Terry E. Campbell, Gordon K. Carew, Charles F. Connolly, Kenneth R. Custer, William S. Davis, Darryl D. Desousa, linda K. Dickinson;

David J. Dopkowski, Barbara L. Friend, Henry L. Gordon, Jr., Gwendolyn A. Hanan, Sean A. Harrison, William Hudgins, Jr., Ellison L. James, Robin Y. Johnson;

Sheri L. Johnson, Stacey M. Kinat, Ernest S. Laurel, George P. McClaskey, Mark D. Novack, Keith L. Owens, Dennis M. Raftery, Ronald F. Salmon;

Pamela A. Skaife, Brian J. Smith, Robert L. Smith, Carl E. Stambaugh, Ronald E. Weinreich, Jr., Lowman L. Wheeler, and Lisa A. Whiting.

RETIRED Police Commissioner Edward J. Tilghman extends congratulations to Robert L. Smith during recent graduation exercises.



AMONG the 23 graduates of the Police Department's education and training division were Sean Harrison, William Hudgins, Ellison James and Robin Johnson.

Michele Hunt, model employee

The Central Maryland Red Cross has named Michele Hunt Employee of the Month for July.

Ms. Hunt has been a Red Cross employee for close to seven years and is currently acting supervisor in the components laboratory of Red Cross Blood Services.

When not volunteering for consuming and vital jobs in the lab," she provides education and training programs for staff, volunteers, and area hospitals, according to Sandra Ellisor, her supervisor.

Michele Hunt

Although her schedule is always full, Ms. Hunt makes herself available to conduct tours of the new Red Cross headquarters, brings educational exhibits out to numerous community sites, and give media appearances and speeches on behalf of the Red Cross, most often on very short notice.

Michele Hunt lives in Woodlawn with her husband Robert and her one year old daughter Kristen.

VISTA needs volunteers

Governor William Donald Schaefer announced that the Governor's Alliance to Prevent Substance Abuse has received approval from ACTION, the federal domestic volunteer agency, to fund a one-year VISTA (volunteers in service to America) project.

In making the announcement, Governor Schaefer said, "We are very excited that ACTION is joining together with the alliance," adding, "this program demonstrates Maryland's commitment to fighting the drug war throughout the state and involving our best weapon — the people in the community."

Individuals interested in becoming a VISTA volunteer for the alliance should call Joann Levy in the Governor's Office at (301) 764-4336 to receive an application.

Dr. Robinson receives honor

Walker L. Robinson, M.D., assistant professor of surgery and pediatric neurosurgeon at the University of Maryland Medical System, has been made a member of the American Society for Pediatric Neurosurgery.

Dr. Robinson is nationally-known for his surgeries to help children with facial deformities and his work in treating children with brain tumors.

Dr. Robinson also has been named a Paul Harris Fellow by the Rotary Foundation of Rotary International and the Rotary Club of Baltimore for his "service above self" and his commitment to his patients.

Dr. Walker L. Robinson

Syphilis cases on the rise

Alarming statewide increases in the number of babies born with confirmed or suspected congenital syphilis are being reported to the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH).

Since January, 1989, eight cases have been confirmed with 21 suspected cases currently being investigated. In the period from 1980 to 1986, there were only two confirmed cases of congenital syphilis reported. There were seven confirmed cases reported for all of last year.

"Babies infected with syphilis before birth can suffer from brain damage, physical deformity, premature birth, or even death," said Dr. Diane Matuszak, Chief of the DHMM Center for Community Epidemiology. "This is why it is so vitally important that women who know or suspect they are pregnant see a doctor to protect their child."

Blood tests done by a doctor can show the presence of syphilis so that a pregnant woman can get medicine early and protect her baby. Of the eight mothers whose babies were born with congenital syphilis, only two had a blood test done before her baby was born.

If a woman cannot afford to pay a private physician, she may go to a local health department Maternity Clinic where the cost will be determined by the patient's ability to pay. "No one will be turned away at these clinics," said Dr. Russell Moy of the DHMH Division of Material Health and Family Planning.

As syphilis cases continue to climb in young people, so do the number of babies born with diagnosed congenital syphilis. While Baltimore City has reported at 48 percent decline in syphilis (42 cases for the first quarter of 1989 compared to 80 cases for the same period in 1988), other areas of the state are reporting an overall increase of 51 percent (121 cases for first quarter 1989 versus 80 cases for first quarter 1988).

Physicians are reminded that Maryland State Law requires a serologic (blood) test for syphilis (STS) be performed during the first and third trimesters of pregnancy.

Dr. Matusak recommends that a woman presenting to the hospital in labor, with no history of prenatal care, should have an STS performed at delivery.

In those high risk situations, hospitals should ensure that laboratories be equipped to do rapid plasma reagin (RPR) screening on an emergency basis so that reactive blood specimens are identified before mother and baby are discharged.

A conference regarding the care of mothers and babies diagnosed with syphilis has been scheduled for physicians and other healh professionals on July 18, 1989 at the Prince George's Publick Playhouse in Hyattsville.

Pvt. Albert A. Mack

Mack completes training

Army Reserve Private Albert A. Mack has completed basic training at Fort Dix, N.J.

During the training, students received instruction in drill and ceremonies, weapons, map reading, tactics, military courtesy, military justice, first aid, and Army history and traditions.

Mack is the son of Patricia B. and Albert M. Mack of 434 S. Gusryan St., Baltimore.

Did you know there were 3 black Popes?

There have been three African Popes in the history of the Roman Catholic Church.

The first, St. Victor, was appointed in 190 AD and served for some 12 years before he was martyred in 202 AD. Next in line came Pope St. Militades, who reigned during the time of the Greek Emperor Constantine. He died in 314 AD after a four-year reign.

This Week in Black America

RADIO PIONEER RETIRES

O.C. White, who started out in radio 34 years ago with a 5:30 a.m. talk show because "white folks didn't get up that early" retired on June 19 as one of Milwaukee, Wis. most influential citizens, The Milwaukee *COMMUNITY JOURNAL* reports.

White used his radio programs over the past three decades as a forum for civil rights causes from voter registration to neighborhood clean up campaigns. He was born in Greenwood, Miss in 1932.

FIGHTING SICKLE CELL

The California State Department of Health has instituted mandatory newborn screening for all infants born in the state to reduce the mortality rate of sickle cell diseased babies, the *PRECINCT REPORTER* said.

The *REPORTER* said that the National Institute of Health has found that an inexpensive penicillin pill can reduce the incidence of life-threatening infections by 84 percent in children diagnosed with sickle cell disease ranging in age from three to 36 months.

ATLANTA'S BLACK CRACKERS

The Atlanta Black Crackers, organized in 1919 were Atlanta's first and only African American major league baseball team, the *ATLANTA VOICE* reported in its series on "Negro Baseball Stars of Yesterday".

The *VOICE* said that it was not until 1930 that the Crackers entered the Negro American League which was organized in 1920 and played games from April to Labor Day.

Black press gets the word out

By Frederick I. Douglass
Special to the AFRO

Local and national journalists, media experts and representatives from more than 30 historically black colleges and universities (HBCU's) convened in Atlanta June 19-20 for a two-day seminar entitled "Working Effectively With the Media."

The media seminar, sponsored by Philip Morris Companies, Inc., marked the first time that a forum has been provided to aid HBCU's in developing stronger relationships with media and in reaching their key constituents more effectively.

Jody Powell, chairman of Oglivy & Mather Public Affairs and former press secretary to President Jimmy Carter, headlined the list of guest speakers. Other major speakers included Patricia Thomas, president, National Newspaper Publishers Association; Jack White, senior editor, **Time Magazine**, and Wanda Lloyd, managing editor, **USA Today**.

"Philip Morris views this as a pilot project for HBCU's" said Reese Stone, manager of corporate media relations, Philip Morris Companies, Inc., and coordinator of the conference. "We recognize that this is one of the many areas where we can offer support and information for these institutions to enhance their public perceptions."

Thomas who represents 185 out of the estimated 300-plus black owned and operated newspapers in America, said "there is a need for more aggressive marketing of stories.

The black press is critical to getting out the story of the nation's Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU's).

"The Black Press is interested in many things that the majority press may or may not publish, including alumni achievements, appointments of faculty and administrators, student achievements, sports, local achievement stories geared to particular papers or regions, new programs and stories of national black interest," Thomas added.

Ms. Thomas emphasized the need for HBCU's to support the Black press. "When advertising dollars become available at Black colleges and universities, we sincerely hope that administrators at these institutions recognize the need to include the Black press in their media budgets."

Reese J. Stone, manager, media relations, Philip Morris Companies, Inc., and coordinator of conference for media relations representatives of the nation's Black Colleges and Universities talks with Pat Thomas, President of the National Newspaper Publishers' Association and Frederick I. Douglass, director of public relations at Morgan State University during the seminar.