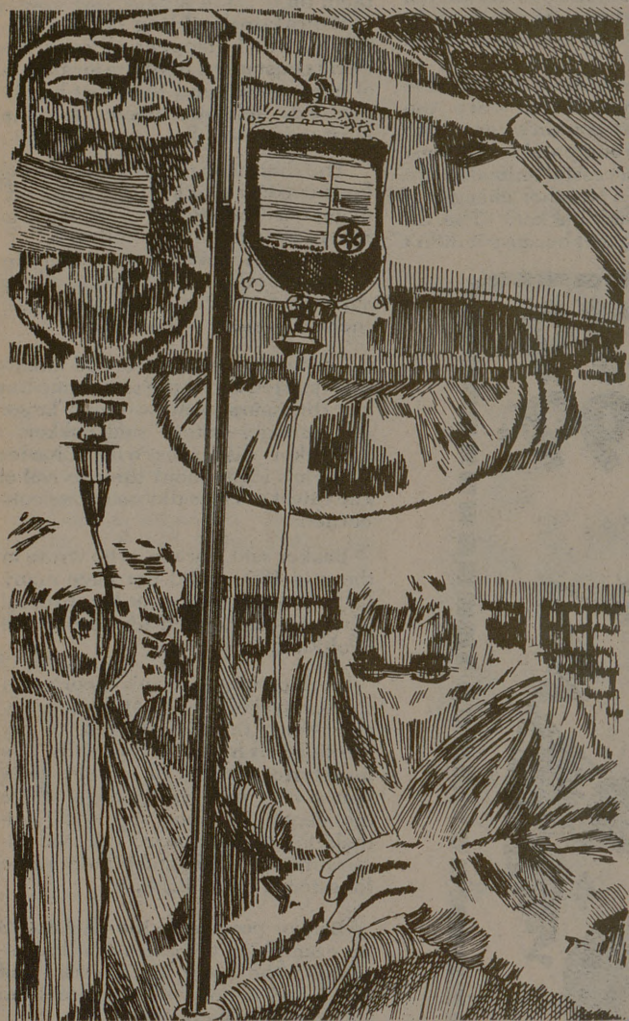


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Smuggling of consumer goods increases in Zaire

United Press International
MOKAMBO, Zambia — Shortages caused by the recent war in Zaire's Shaba province have led to a dramatic increase in the smuggling of consumer goods from neighboring Zambia, according to officials at the tiny frontier post.

The smugglers, using trucks, bicycles and wheelbarrows to negotiate the hundreds of tracks which criss-cross the unmarked border around here, are slipping furtively into Zaire with hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of Zambian corn meal, cooking oil and soap powder, the officials say.

Although the Zambian government has stepped up patrols along the border it admits to being powerless to stop the illegal traffic because of the nature of the terrain and traditionally close contacts between tribes on both sides of the border.

"It is getting worse now," conceded one official. "The Shaba war has left the province in a mess and people are coming here to shop."

During the war this spring, government forces, aided by Moroccan troops, crushed an invasion from Angola into copper-rich Shaba — formerly called Katanga — by several thousand exiled Katangese gendarmes.

The Zambians have no objection to Zaireans crossing at policed border posts, buying their goods and paying Zambian customs duty when they return to Zaire.

What they are concerned about is the huge trade that is developing in smuggled goods and the effect it is having on the Zambian economy.

The smugglers purchase their goods at stores in the large mining centers of Ndola and Kitwe, causing shortages which anger local residents.

"Why should we go short just to feed Zaire?" complained a housewife

in a supermarket in Ndola. "The smugglers are taking the food out of our mouths."

Those involved in the smuggling racket are both Zambian and Zairean and their motive appears to be one of pure profit.

A bag of corn meal bought in Zambia for \$10 sells in Zaire for \$30 and most other smuggled goods are also traded at two or three times their original price.

But it is not simply a one-way traffic. Zaire buys more than 20,000 tons of goods a month from South Africa and some of these find their way back into Zambia whose links with the south are much more tenuous.

In recent weeks South African apples and butter have been sold in the cities and towns on the Zambian copper belt at vastly inflated prices.

Other rackets have developed around the smuggling, according to border officials.

They say that because police are unable to patrol all the tiny tracks across the frontier, gangs of thugs are making substantial sums through tolls.

The gangs set themselves up at known frontier crossings and demand "duty" from the smugglers before they are allowed to proceed into Zaire.

Some of the gangs are armed and officials say that murders are not uncommon.

On the Zairean side of the border, similar practices are carried out on what is called the "pedicle" road, a 50-mile stretch of bitumen which links Zambia's copper belt with its northern and Luapula provinces.

Zairean police and army officials demand bribes before allowing travelers to proceed on the road and local chiefs frequently set up road-

blocks and demand toll money from Zambians using the road.

Carter to back federal labor law revisions

WASHINGTON — White House officials say President Carter will support the AFL-CIO's revision of federal labor law compromise bill does not repeal of right to work laws.

The promised Carter support was an important victory for labor. Called the AFL-CIO priority, the measure strengthens union organizing — particularly in the South.

White House officials said support will be announced later this week, ending negotiations between labor and administration. A compromise was scheduled to be introduced in Congress.

In order to win Carter's support, the AFL-CIO agreed to repeal of Section 4b of the Taft-Hartley Act that permits states to outlaw union shops.

A proposal to repeal that will be introduced separately out administration support. CIO officials said. Carter has asked to sign such legislation not lobby for it.

Even with Carter's endorsement the labor law revision is expected to encounter strong opposition in Congress.

Officials said the compromise speed up proceedings before the Labor Relations Board to increase the back wages employees must pay to employees who illegally join union activity, de-emphasize the law and enlarge the five-year National Labor Relations Board

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