

Classified Ads
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Uganda reports massacre, elusive Amin

United Press International
KAMPALA, Uganda — Officials of Uganda's new government said Saturday missing President Idi Amin's secret police massacred more than 100 prisoners with hand grenades shortly before the fall of Kampala to Tanzanian and Ugandan exile troops.

President Youssef Lule, sworn in Friday as Uganda's new leader, told a news conference Saturday that Amin had so far eluded all efforts to capture him. Diplomatic sources said the burly dictator, whose reign of terror killed an estimated 500,000 in eight years, had already fled the

country.

"Amin is very fast indeed," Lule said. "Every time we get near him, he shows us his heels."

In his news conference, Lule reiterated "the rule of law must prevail in Uganda" and directed the country's new chief justice to get the courts working again.

Lule also indicated the United States would shortly recognize his government, which was drawn up in a secret meeting of various Ugandan exiles in northern Tanzania while the fighting was still under way to overthrow Amin.

Although military spokesmen

have said Amin would hang if caught and tried, Lule was cautious in his comments on the fallen dictator.

"It has been alleged Amin has committed crimes against humanity," Lule said. "The evidence will have to be examined. I am not a judge."

Amin has not been seen or heard from in several days and there was growing evidence he may already have left the country. CIA Director Stansfield Turner said in Washington recently that Amin's immediate family was in exile in Iraq, but it was not known if he planned to join them there.

Diplomatic sources Amin's personal jet, given to him in happier times as a gift by Israel, had been refueled at the Soroti air base some 140 miles northeast of Kampala and he had probably left the country aboard it.

These sources also said the personal car of Amin's latest wife, the young and beautiful "Miss Sarah," also had been found in northern Uganda abandoned near the Zaire border.

In perhaps the most grisly discovery in the aftermath of the liberation of Kampala, officials found the torn

remains of an estimated 100 prisoners at the headquarters of the State Research Bureau, Amin's dreaded secret police.

Officials said that when it became clear Kampala would fall to invading Tanzanian and Ugandan exile troops last Wednesday, agents at the State Research Bureau lobbed grenades into interrogation rooms packed with defenseless prisoners.

In a visit to the headquarters Saturday, the brutality of Amin's regime was apparent everywhere.

Bodies still littered the capital from the final battle for Kampala, which finally fell to Tanzanian and Ugandan exile liberators at dawn Wednesday.

An employee of the city mortuary charged with collecting dead bodies from the streets reported he had picked up 200 on Saturday alone and expected the figure to more than double once all had been found.

Military officials said one body found near the capital's International Conference Center, was believed to be that of white, British-born Bob Astles, one of Amin's closest confidants and most notorious aides who was also wanted for questioning for many murders.

Government sources also reported that Lule's new administration had demanded \$1 billion from Libya for the lives of 40 Libyan military prisoners captured during the fighting.

The sources said Libyan strongman, Col. Moammar Khadafy, had countered with an offer of \$400 million and that negotiations were continuing.

Khadafy, virtually Amin's only remaining ally, sent some 2,000 Libyan troops to Uganda to help defend Amin. But, as the Tanzanians claimed victory after victory and Amin's army began to collapse, Khadafy hastily withdrew most of the Libyan forces to prevent them being captured or killed.

Amin's 'death house' hides bodies, luxury

(Editor's Note: Idi Amin's most dreaded instrument was his secret police, the State Research Bureau, reportedly responsible for tens of thousands, possibly hundreds of thousands of deaths. UPI Correspondent Charles P. Wallace visited the deserted secret police headquarters Saturday.)

vents, no sinks or toilets.

Down a tunnel there were six smaller cells, apparently used for solitary confinement. The cell doors were twisted by the force of grenade explosions.

Here are the most grisly sights of all: human bodies torn to pieces by close-impact grenades.

Arms, legs and heads are scattered about.

Government officials said at least 100 Ugandan prisoners were killed here by the secret police as the city fell.

However, a trooper who helped capture the headquarters said the Tanzanians also lobbed grenades into the cells to flush out State Research Bureau agents who were hiding there from the invaders.

Upstairs there were a series of ordinary offices. They held the secrets of the secret police — the killings, the spying and the high style enjoyed killers in a country where virtually everyone else had forgotten the taste of salt and sugar.

One room was filled with imported radio transmitters. Wire-tapping equipment lay scattered about. Invoices showed the secret police recently imported hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of West German BMW automobiles.

There were what appeared to be American-built memory banks for computers. Piles of pets, shells and handcuffs lay scattered around the floors.

And more bodies. One bloated corpse was draped over the stairs. Another lay alone in a room. They were apparently secret police killed by the Tanzanians.

By CHARLES P. WALLACE

United Press International
KAMPALA, Uganda — Idi Amin's house of death is a pleasant-looking, three-story pink stucco building tucked away in a quiet part of Kampala next to the French ambassador's luxurious home.

It looks innocent, but the stench of death gives it away.

Government officials say as many as 500,000 people perished at the hands of Amin's dreaded State Research Bureau agents, many of them in this headquarters bureau.

The stench was heavy in the humid tropical air Saturday, noticeable a hundred yards away.

Seven bloated bodies lay sprawled in the sun outside, covered with crawling insects.

The entrance way was pockmarked by hundreds of bullets, evidence of the battle for the headquarters when Tanzanian troops captured the city Wednesday.

A narrow, dirty staircase led below ground level to the interrogation cells. Weapons were scattered around in heaps.

There was more death down here.

In one 20-by-20-foot concrete cell seven bodies lay by the walls. One body was huddled, as if in sleep, at the foot of the stairs.

The cells had no windows, no air

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Woman gets Easter gift — freedom from bathtub

United Press International
CHARLESTON, W. Va. — Bertha Johnson prayed for one thing Easter Sunday — freedom from her bathtub — and she got it.

The 88-year-old woman, living alone and afflicted with Parkinson's disease and severe arthritis, decided to bathe last Wednesday. But she didn't have the strength to get out when she finished.

For four days, she stayed in the tub.

A small girl, en route to church early Sunday, heard the woman's feeble cries for help and told her grandmother. An ambulance squad rushed in and found Mrs. Johnson exhausted, thirsty and famished.

"I prayed someone would find me today," Mrs. Johnson said.

At Charleston General Hospital, nurses found her sore, tired and "very disoriented, very upset."

She slept peacefully, though, after a hot meal.

Mrs. Johnson became trapped in her old porcelain tub on another holiday — Christmas Eve in 1977. Neighbors heard cries for help and helped her. She spent 38 hours in the tub then.

After that experience, a plumber installed a handrail. But over the weekend, Mrs. Johnson lacked strength to pull herself out.

Now you know

United Press International
In 1927, silent movie heroine Norma Talmadge became the first star to leave her imprints outside Grauman's Chinese Theater when she accidentally fell into fresh cement, leaving publicity men to make it a Hollywood tradition.

Railroad, ICC to be asked about rising coal rates

United Press International
HOUSTON — Railroad officials and the Interstate Commerce Commission today will be asked by a panel of congressmen to explain why fees for hauling millions of tons of coal across the nation have risen as much as 60 percent since 1976.

Investigators, led by Rep. Bob Eckhardt, D-Texas, and the staff of his Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, want to know whether ambiguous language in new railroad regulations has confused the ICC and left it at the mercy of the rail industry for self-serving statistics used in rate-setting.

During hearings in Houston today and San Antonio Tuesday, the committee staff will offer evidence that operating 100-car unit trains on nonstop, 1,600-mile trips such as those that originate at Wyoming mines "is like child's play" and therefore undeserving of steady price boosts.

The outcome could affect the price of manufactured goods and utility costs from the Atlantic Coast to the Rockies and lead to another revision of railroad economic rules.

A committee economist said no one is alleging price gouging. Investigators, in fact, may lean more heavily on the ICC than the railroads because the commission has never stated its methods for evaluating rate increase requests since passage in 1976 of the Railroad Revitalization and Regulatory Reform Act.

The law provided 24 months for the ICC to develop standards to ensure the railroads were operating

under "honest, economic and efficient managements."

"It's now been 36 months and the ICC still does not have such procedures and standards," the economist said.

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