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**SIGNIFICANT POLITICAL-MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS  
IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA**

June 1985

Prepared by the Federal Research Division of  
the Library of Congress under an interagency agreement

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## PREFACE

This chronology is organized by region, country, and date of event. The date of event is sometimes difficult to determine because it varies from source to source. Some sources cite the actual date of the incident whereas others appear to use the official news release dateline. When possible, the actual date of the occurrence is listed.

Analysts contributing to this chronology are Nancy Drexler, Robert Handloff, Mary Louise Harmon, Kenneth Liberstein, Moses Pinkston, and Rachel Warner.

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East/Central Africa

Zaire

- 12/06/85 Former Prime Minister Nguza Karl I Bond, who has been living in exile in Belgium since his resignation in April 1981, issues a reconciliation statement to the Mobutu regime. He also resigns his functions as the president of the Congolese Front for the Restoration of Democracy, a Zairean opposition movement based in Brussels. Mobutu responds that Zaire's doors are open to all wayward sons.
- 14/06/85 Two members of a group of alleged terrorists arrested recently claim that more than 300 Zaireans have been trained in Libya to carry out acts of sabotage in Zaire. They claim also to have been given an intensive 11-month training course after having been recruited in Tanzania by Nathanael Mbumba, a former rebel leader from Shaba Province. The Zairean Socialist Party, an opposition party in exile, had claimed earlier that the two alleged terrorists, along with several others arrested by Zairean authorities, were falsely accused of participating in Shaba incidents.
- 17/06/85 Two Zairean army officers are killed when government troops repel a rebel attack in the southeastern town of Moba in Shaba Province. The Information Ministry reports that 12 boats carrying the rebels were sunk after 5 hours of fighting. The reported attack on Moba is the second in 8 months and the third invasion attempt in 7 years in Shaba Province.
- 22/06/85 Three ordinances are signed by President Mobutu creating a Military Intelligence and Action Agency, a Chief of Staff for the agency, and a Chief of the Head of State's Military Cabinet. These ordinances are part of Mobutu's campaign to tighten state security.
- 23/06/85 Seven former Zairean parliamentarians, who had been under house arrest since 1982 for attempting to form a second political party, are pardoned by President Mobutu. The 7 men were part of a group of 13 deputies who formed the Union for Democracy and Social Progress in 1982. The six others had been freed earlier.
- 25/06/85 The Supreme Defense Council, during a meeting chaired by Zairean President and Supreme Commander of the Zairean Armed Forces (FAZ) Mobutu Sese Seko, decides to increase the number of FAZ personnel from 70,000 to 100,000 between now

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and January 1986. The first step will be the recruitment of 20,000 men and women for the capital, Kinshasa, and 2,000 for each of the eight remaining regions of the country. According to reliable sources, 18,000 of the 20,000 recruits will comprise 6 brigades of 3,000 soldiers each, while the remaining 2,000 will go to strengthen the First Armored Brigade based in Mbanza Ngungu. In addition, after January 1986, 5,000 men and women will be recruited to strengthen the gendarmerie. The decision to increase FAZ personnel is the result of Mobutu's decision to guarantee better defense of Zaire and to ensure the security of persons and goods.

Horn of Africa

Ethiopia  
00/05/85

The Western Somali Liberation Front (WSLF) reports launching three hit-and-run attacks on Ethiopian Government troops in Gode region during May. These reports cannot be verified.

23/05/85

The Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF) reports on 23 May that its forces seized two Ethiopian military camps and the Asmara-Mandafar road in southern Eritrea.

31/05/85

The Workers' Party of Ethiopia (WPE) announces that college students and professors will be mobilized in June to take part in the government's resettlement program for drought victims. Although the WPE claims the program is voluntary, it is unlikely that the students and professors will have any choice about the matter.

03/06/85

The Eritrean Liberation Front (ELF) claims to have killed 300 Ethiopian troops in 2 days of fighting in western Eritrea.

Somalia

00/05/85

The Democratic Front for the Salvation of Somalia (DFSS) and the Somali National Movement (SNM) claim that more than 300 Somali Government troops defected to their side in a 3-week period from mid-May to early June as a result of mutinies in several battalions.

28/05/85

The DFSS claims to have attacked an army patrol on 28 May and to have successfully attacked government troops in Galguduud region on 8 and 19 June.

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Horn of Africa

Somalia

12/06/85 The DFSS alleges that Israel has sent \$30 million worth of military equipment to Somalia and that it has agreed to provide special forces training.

25/06/85 The SNM reports it launched two attacks against government forces in Bakool region on 25 June.

Sudan

07/06/85 Sudan's Transitional Military Government abolishes the Sudan National Oil Company, a joint partnership established last year between President Numeiri and Saudi businessman Adnan Khashoggi. The revocation of the allegedly corrupt petroleum company is another major step in the current reform process of internal Sudanese politics.

08/06/85 Sudanese Defense Minister Brigadier General Osman Abdallah Mohammad announces that Sudan will diversify its external arms suppliers. The declaration reflects Sudan's intent to adopt a policy of nonalignment and avoid the exclusive dependence on the United States characteristic of former President Numeiri's regime.

17/06/85 An Egyptian delegation led by President Hosni Mubarak arrives in Khartoum for bilateral talks with Sudanese leader General Siwar el-Dahab and other military officials. Negotiations focus on the joint Egyptian-Sudanese defense pact and the Nile Integration Committee. The visit, the first by the Egyptian President since the April military coup in Sudan, takes place against the background of Sudanese discontent with the inequitable balance in foreign relations between the two countries.

Sahel

Chad

18/06/85 Chadian President Hissein Habre arrives in Morocco for 3 days of bilateral discussions. In view of the Moroccan-Libyan union, he expects that Morocco's King Hassan will play a role in persuading Libyan President Qadhafi to lessen his support for Goukouni Oueddei's forces in northern Chad. Habre's visit is the first leg of a diplomatic journey that will include stops in Gabon and Zaire in an effort to gain African support for his position and leadership before the upcoming Organization of African Unity (OAU) summit.

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Sahel

**Mali**

13/06/86 The Soviet Defense of Peace Committee arrives in Bamako for talks with the Political Secretary of the Democratic Union of Malian People (UDPM). The Malian and Soviet peace delegations discuss the major guidelines of the UDPM's domestic and external policies. The visit reflects Mali's improving relations with the Soviet Union and the latter's continuing interest in the Sahel.

**Mauritania**

01/06/85 Mauritania and Libya normalize their previously frozen diplomatic relations. A Libyan ambassador is named to Mauritania for the first time since March 1984 following Libyan efforts to destabilize the former government. This move reflects President Taya's new foreign policy aimed at increasing Mauritania's neutrality in the region and improving ties with all countries. President Taya is pursuing a neutral foreign policy in order to concentrate on his mounting internal problems.

18/06/85 President Taya supports Libyan President Qadhafi's Arab Unity Charter and states publicly that Mauritania is responsive to Arab unity and efforts to confront imperialism and Zionism. The Mauritanian President's receptiveness reflects his policy of good neighborliness and gives impetus to Qadhafi's unity drive in the Sahara. Mutual efforts to resume relations between the two countries began after the overthrow last December of Mauritania's Haidalla government.

**Niger**

15/06/85 Niger's Foreign Minister meets with his Libyan counterpart to transfer a message from President Kountche to Libyan President Qadhafi confirming Niger's full support for the Palestinian cause. This visit lends credence to rumors that President Kountche is seeking to consolidate relations between Niger and the Jamahiriya. The Nigerian initiative is evidence of a major policy shift towards Libya that is taking place in several countries in the Sahel.

**Senegal**

01/06/85 Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid makes an official visit to Senegal for the first time. Until Senegalese President Diouf's recent visit to Algiers, relations between the two countries were almost nonexistent. The rapprochement between Algeria and Senegal is the result of a mutual commitment to ensure the success of the forthcoming

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Organization of African Unity (OAU) summit in July, and to resolve the Western Saharan conflict according to the OAU resolution.

Southern Africa

Angola

06/06/85 The Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA), led by Jonas Savimbi, joins an alliance with three non-African, anti-Soviet, insurgent movements under the auspices of the conservative Citizens for America led by Republican Lewis E. Lehrman. The new alliance, which includes insurgent groups in Nicaragua, Afghanistan, and Laos, is formally established in Jamba, Angola, and is called Democratic International.

Angola/Namibia

03/06/85 Cuban representatives in the United Nations Security Council threaten that Cuba will provide massive assistance to the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) to reignite the armed struggle in Namibia if the United States continues to insist on the withdrawal of an estimated 30,000 Cuban troops from Angola as part of a package deal leading to Namibia's independence.

Botswana/South  
Africa

14/06/85 At least 15 people die in Gaborone, the capital of Botswana, when South African soldiers launch a pre-dawn strike on 10 African National Congress (ANC) of South Africa targets, described as the nerve centers of the banned organization. Documents and weapons seized during the attack include an RPG rocket launcher and a silencer for an AK-47 rifle.

Mozambique

27/05/85 A Mozambican military source reveals that Mozambican troops stationed in northern Tete Province have been intensifying military operations against Mozambican National Resistance Movement (RENAMO) guerrillas operating in the region.

15/06/85 RENAMO guerrillas attack and destroy a bridge in the border region of Komatipoort, 3 kilometers from the South African border and 50 kilometers from Maputo. The attack interrupts railroad communications between Mozambique and South Africa.



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- 15/06/85 Local officials in northwestern Tete Province announce that they believe RENAMO guerrillas, who kidnapped 5 Portuguese nuns on 3 June from a secondary school 13 kilometers from the border with Malawi, have taken refuge in Malawi. The Mozambican Government believes that although Malawi has expressed its intention of withholding support for RENAMO guerrillas, some Malawian citizens continue to aid them.
- 26/06/85 Catholic Church sources in the capital, Maputo, confirm that RENAMO guerrillas kidnapped two Portuguese priests in the northwestern province of Tete. The 2 men were kidnapped less than 5 kilometers from the border with Malawi and about 15 kilometers from the place where 5 nuns were kidnapped earlier in the month.
- Mozambique/Angola**
- 04/06/85 Mozambican President Machel receives Angolan Planning Minister Lopo do Nascimento who is in Maputo for 2 days to take part in a meeting of the Angolan-Mozambican Joint Cooperation Commission. Progress is made in several fields of cooperation, including banking, finance, commerce, and transportation.
- Namibia**
- 17/06/85 Namibia's transitional government is sworn in and its eight-man cabinet elected at the first session of the National Assembly in Windhoek. South African President P.W. Botha signs the proclamation giving the 62-member Multi-Party Conference Government executive and legislative powers. South Africa still retains ultimate control of the territory.
- South Africa**
- 12/06/85 A group calling itself the Western Cape Suicide Squad claims responsibility for grenade attacks on the houses of two Labour Party members. One hand grenade explodes at the Mitchell's Plain home of Luewellyn Landers, injuring him, and a second attack takes place at the home of Labour Party National Secretary Fred Peters.
- 26/06/85 Explosions in Transkei, the first homeland to receive nominal independence, set a huge fuel depot ablaze, destroy a power station, and cut off the capital's water supply. The explosions in Umtata, the capital of Transkei, are blamed on the ANC.

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Southern Africa

South Africa

28/06/85 The ANC calls for a full-scale uprising against white rule in South Africa, urging black police and soldiers to turn their guns against their "masters." The ANC also charges that South African police, posing as guerrillas, set a trap responsible for the hand grenade and bomb explosions in townships east of Johannesburg on June 26.

Zambia/Angola

07/06/85 Zambian President Kaunda arrives in Angola at the invitation of Angolan President dos Santos. The goal of the meeting is to examine progress in cooperation discussed in previous meetings, and to take more adequate measures for deepening economic, defense, and security cooperation. The Angolan leadership has opened communications with Zambia recently in an attempt to gain Zambia's cooperation in disbanding Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) guerrilla camps in Zambia.

Zambia/Namibia

18/06/85 Zambian Minister of Foreign Affairs Lameck Goma announces that Zambia does not recognize the new interim government installed in Namibia by South Africa. Goma labels the interim government a puppet regime which does not meet the requirements of United Nations Security Council Resolution 435.

Zimbabwe

02/06/85 The Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace has linked some of the abductions of opposition party supporters during the first 4 months of this year to members of a secret unit under the control of Prime Minister Robert Mugabe. Eleven kidnapping victims were discovered in a government jail where they had been held secretly by agents of the Central Intelligence Organization (CIO), a quasi-military unit responsible for investigating security and intelligence matters. Lawyers for the Commission, a church-supported human rights group, are seeking the whereabouts of 13 others also believed to be held by the CIO. Diplomatic sources believe at least 75 to 100 persons have disappeared.

27/06/85 Former white Prime Minister Ian Smith is reelected to Parliament by an overwhelming majority in a whites-only election. Mr. Smith and his party, the Conservative Alliance of Zimbabwe, took 15 of 20 seats reserved for whites in the 100-member Parliament. The country's 2.9

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million blacks will go to the polls on July 1 and 2 to choose the other 80 legislators.

Southern  
Africa/East/Central  
Africa

Mozambique/Zimbabwe/  
Tanzania

12/06/85 Mozambican President Machel returns to Mozambique following an 8-hour visit to Harare, Zimbabwe, where he took part in a meeting with Tanzanian President Nyerere and Zimbabwean Prime Minister Mugabe. The three leaders discussed and exchanged views on the increase and strengthening of cooperation and mutual relations. Recently, Nyerere and Mugabe have repeatedly expressed their support for the Machel regime, which is threatened by the RENAMO insurgency. Zimbabwe has been supplying troops to reinforce military resistance to RENAMO attacks on road, rail, and oil pipeline targets.

Zambia/Zaire

09/06/85 Zambian Minister of Home Affairs Frederick Chomba announces that Zambia will soon open negotiations with Zaire over the release of a Zambian soldier abducted by Zairean troops near Mokambo in Mufulira on 18 May. The soldier is reportedly being held in Kipushi, Zaire.

West Africa

Benin

12/06/85 Following a nation-wide student protest, the People's Revolution Party of Benin (PRPB) dismisses Michael Alladaye, a member of the Political Bureau of the PRPB Central Committee and First Deputy Chairman of the Defense and Security Commission of the PRPB Central Committee, and Jean Didier Alavo, First Deputy Chairman of the External Relations Commission of the PRPB Central Committee, from all government and party functions. Also relieved of their civil service functions are the President and Vice-President of the National University of Benin. Students were protesting a recent government decision to end the policy of offering all university graduates a civil service position.

Burkina Faso

01/06/85 An explosion rips through an ammunition bunker at the Gounghin Military Barracks, killing three men and signaling an outbreak of political violence. While Head of State