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AFRICA / U.S. POLITICAL RELATIONS

CAMEROON'S AGRICULTURAL LABORATORY NAMED AFTER AMERICAN

USAID Director Jay Johnson honored

DOUALA, Cameroon — A biotechnology laboratory at the Ekona Research Centre in the South West Province of Cameroon was named after an American — Jay P. Johnson, mission director of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) in the country. The ceremony honoring Johnson was held April 1, shortly before his departure from Cameroon. The Johnson laboratory is part of the tropical root and tuber research project commonly known by its acronym ROTREP. Present at the dedication ceremony were some 100 guests, including the minister of higher education, computer services and scientific research of Cameroon, the governor of the South West Province, and the American consul in Douala.

ROTREP, which is jointly sponsored by the U.S. Agency for International Development and the Cameroonian ministry of higher education, computer services, and scientific research, began in August 1986. Three American universities are associated with the project: University of Maryland Eastern Shore, Alabama A & M University, and Florida A & M University. "Even before taking up his assignment in Cameroon in 1985, Mr. Johnson had been actively involved in efforts in Washington to make ROTREP a reality," a USAID representative in Cameroon said, adding that to date, USAID has contributed \$9.2 million to the project. "As originally conceived," the USAID representative explained, "the goal of the project was to help Cameroonian farmers by increasing their production of root and tuber food crops. From 1986 to 1991, the project was primarily devoted to pure research. Specifically, the project has sought to develop a variety of cocoyam resistant to root rot disease, to develop feasible seed stock multiplication systems for yam, cassava and cocoyam, and to reduce post-harvest losses of root and tuber food crops. Research accomplishments in these areas have accorded the biotechnology laboratory the reputation of being one of the best in all of Africa."

Speaking at the ceremony in his honor, Johnson noted that ROTREP also seeks to assist in the institutional development, both human and physical, of Cameroon's Institute of Agronomic Research. The project has sent three Cameroonians to the United States for training toward master's and doctoral degrees, he said, and added that three new candidates will depart this year.

ROTREP has also served as a training ground for students from Dschang University Centre and other agricultural training colleges in Cameroon, he said.

U.S. Consul Michele Sison remarked: "I cannot think of a more fitting tribute to a man who has devoted his professional career, and indeed his life, to economic development, than the dedication of a laboratory that will aid Cameroonian researchers in improving the lives of not only farmers in North West, West, South West and littoral provinces, but ultimately the well-being of all Cameroonians."

U.S. COMMENDS ECOWAS MOVE ON LIBERIA

Yamoussoukro IV Accords reaffirmed

WASHINGTON — The U.S. government has commended the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) "Committee of Five" for "its firm and clear reaffirmation" of the Yamoussoukro IV Accords, which seek to bring an end to conflict in Liberia.

State Department spokesman Margaret Tutwiler issued a statement April 8 praising the special committee for formulating a plan spelling out the means for a peaceful resolution of the Liberian conflict. "ECOWAS has once more demonstrated its resolve to bring about a peaceful solution in Liberia," she said. An ECOWAS communique describing the plan came at the end of informal consultations held by the committee in Geneva April 6-7.

Tutwiler noted that the final document calls for "effective implementation without any further delay of the primary objectives of Yamoussoukro IV," which includes: "encampment, disarmament and the conduct of democratic elections." The parties involved in the committee also clarified arrangements for the planned buffer zone along the border with Sierra Leone and directed that it be established without further delay, Tutwiler said.

The U.S. spokesman said the United States "fully supports the ECOWAS directive. We expect all Liberian parties to honor it scrupulously, and to respect fully the sense of urgency ECOWAS has attached to implementation."

The U.S. statement called on "all armed factions to disarm and encamp, and give ECOWAS their utmost cooperation." Tutwiler emphasized that the United States "will condemn any action which interferes with peaceful establishment of the buffer zone as an urgent priority."

BUSH PICKS HUME HORAN AS ENVOY TO COTE D'IVOIRE

Former ambassador to several African countries.

WASHINGTON — President Bush April 8 announced that he would nominate Hume Alexander Horan as American ambassador to Cote d'Ivoire. Once the U.S. Senate approves this nomination, Horan will succeed Ambassador Kenneth L. Brown.

Currently, Ambassador Horan, 57, serves as president of the American Foreign Service Association in Washington. Before that — 1989-1991 — he served as special assistant to the director general of the foreign service at the U.S. State Department. This is Hume Horan's fifth ambassadorial nomination. He has served as ambassador to Cameroon (1980-83), Equatorial Guinea (1980-82), Sudan (1983-86), and Saudi Arabia (1987-88).

Ambassador Horan was born August 13, 1934, in Washington. He graduated from Harvard University in 1958 with a bachelor of arts degree, and in 1963 received a master of arts degree, also from Harvard. From 1954 to 1956 he served in the U.S. Army.

He is married and has three children.

COHEN OUTLINES DEVELOPMENTS IN THE HORN OF AFRICA

Testimony for congressional panel

WASHINGTON — Herman Cohen, assistant secretary of state for African affairs, told members of Congress April 8 that although he remains hopeful about prospects for a democratic evolution in Ethiopia, U.S. assistance to that country will hinge on continued progress in human rights and democracy.

He was less hopeful about the situation in Somalia and Sudan, urging all combatants to stop the fighting and allow U.N. humanitarian assistance to reach those most at risk. Some 23 million people in the Horn are refugees, internally displaced persons, or drought and conflict victims, he said, citing United Nations estimates. Cohen was appearing before a joint hearing of the House Foreign Affairs subcommittees on Africa and on international operations to assess recent developments in the Horn of Africa.

Following is Cohen's statement, as prepared for delivery:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, for inviting me to speak with you about developments in the countries of the Horn of Africa.

The range of issues to be dealt with in the Horn runs the gamut from drought, famine, and civil war to political reform, development, and democracy. In Ethiopia, the focus on war has changed to nation building and development. Leaders there are taking steps to open the system to greater participation by the people; the first local elections are to be held soon. We for our part are looking for ways to begin our assistance to that country. It will, however, be dependent on continued progress in human rights and democracy.

As for Sudan, I wish I were the bearer of good news. Unfortunately, the regime in Khartoum appears bent on ignoring basic human rights and pursuing the military option in the south. One particularly egregious manifestation of the uncaring attitude of the government in Khartoum is its treatment of the hundreds of thousands of displaced. Sudanese authorities have been deaf to our entreaties to allow humanitarian relief to reach these people.

In Somalia the extent of the tragedy there grows daily. In Mogadishu more than 40,000 people have been killed or wounded. Despite the obstacles, we continue to look for ways to stop the bloodshed and bring desperately needed humanitarian relief to the people of Somalia. We have told the representatives of General Aideed and Ali Mahdi in blunt terms that they must stop the fighting and allow humanitarian relief to go forward. The United Nations continues its efforts to achieve a durable cease-fire and arrange for the secure delivery of food and medicine. The secretary-general has the support of the OAU, the Arab League and the Organization of the Islamic Conference. In late March a U.N. technical team traveled to Somalia to confer with all factions on arrangements for food distribution as well as a process leading to a durable cease-fire and an eventual political settlement.

Throughout the Horn, there continue to be refugees, internally displaced persons, drought and conflict victims — a total of 23 million by U.N. estimates — who need international humanitarian assistance. Even now, people are being

uprooted by multiple, often ethnic-based conflicts. Kenya, for example, is besieged by refugee flows from three of its neighbors — Somalia, Ethiopia, and Sudan. Let me address in turn the countries of the Horn in greater detail.

ETHIOPIA

The transitional government of Ethiopia in Addis Ababa is making headway confronting the challenge of constructing a new government from representatives of a number of wary political, ethnic, and regional groups. Based on the July 1991 charter, it is well into the process of restructuring a post-Marxist administration, taking initial steps to rebuild the shattered economy, and moving towards regional and national elections. Regional elections, currently planned for May, will be the first free elections in Ethiopia's history. In order to ensure the holding of free and fair elections, all parties in the government coalition agreed to encamp the armed militias during the run-up to the elections. Now, however, the coalition parties are having difficulty implementing the agreement. We are urging all parties to make the compromises necessary to implement the agreement, and have made clear that international support and assistance will dry up if fighting resumes. Voters — not guns — should decide who represents the people.

In the economic sphere, the Council of Representatives adopted an economic policy at the end of 1991 which goes a long way toward reducing the role of government and increasing the role of the private sector in the Ethiopian economy. The transitional government is now taking steps towards privatizing the transport sector and the 110 state-owned industries.

However, revitalizing an economy devastated by 17 years of war and a socialist dictatorship will require substantial financial and technical support from the international community. On March 31, the World Bank approved a \$630 million emergency recovery and reconstruction project for Ethiopia. Negotiations with the World Bank and IMF have begun for structural adjustment support. Other potential donors are waiting to see what assistance the U.S. provides.

Ethiopia is currently subject to Brooke amendment sanctions which prohibit us from providing bilateral development assistance. However, Ethiopia has agreed to pay its Brooke-sensitive arrears, and we expect this issue to be resolved in the near future. Once it is resolved, any development assistance we provide will be dependent on continued progress in human rights and democracy.

We are planning to direct our assistance to rebuilding infrastructure, restoring public services, reintegrating demobilized soldiers, and revitalizing the economy. The rapid restarting of economic activity, particularly agriculture, is essential to help the country move toward self-sufficiency, and engage its long-suffering and displaced population in productive enterprises. Funds from the Development Fund for Africa would also be directed to assist the establishment of solid processes of democracy and governance, both regionally and nationally.

American relief contributions for Ethiopia in food disaster assistance, and refugee aid totaled nearly \$183 million in fiscal year 1991. Although the rains this year were good in many parts of the country, we anticipate that humanitarian relief efforts will be needed for the next several years.

Southern Ethiopia is currently afflicted by a drought. Competition for increasingly scarce water resources, coupled

with ethnic conflict, is fueling a new refugee flow into Kenya. Insecurity throughout southern and eastern Ethiopia has made it nearly impossible for relief agencies to carry out their work. At least 15 relief workers have been killed in the line of duty — most recently a UNHCR staffer last week.

SUDAN

Sudan suffers famine, massive displacements of people, a devastated economy and serious human rights abuses. Many of these difficulties can be traced to the ongoing civil war, which seems no closer to solution than ever. Neither side appears serious about negotiating, at least until the current dry season fighting is over. Nevertheless, we continue to support the OAU's effort to bring both sides to the negotiating table and are open to suggestions if both sides want us to help. The situation has recently become more complicated due to the split within the SPLA, which is largely along tribal lines. It is complicating relief efforts, presenting Khartoum with a pretext for not negotiating, and has caused terrible bloodshed and uprooting of peoples in the south. Programs of the ICRC and U.N. Operation Lifeline Sudan have been put on hold by order of the warring parties. Tens of thousands of destitute people are moving toward Kenya, the Central African Republic, and Uganda.

Human rights abuses in Sudan are a major concern for us. Since the middle of last year, the Sudanese government has been forcibly relocating people who had settled in the Khartoum area after fleeing war and drought elsewhere in the country. They are being moved to inhospitable areas in the desert outside the city. To date, approximately 500,000 people have been forcibly relocated, sometimes at gun point. The government is now beginning a similar forced relocation out of the town of Kosti on the White Nile. Essential services at the new sites are minimal to non-existent. Furthermore, the distance of these new locations from Khartoum means that the displaced population is kept from the possibility of gainful employment. We and the rest of the international community have strongly protested these forced relocations and asked the Sudanese government to at least suspend these movements of people until sites can be better prepared.

SOMALIA

Somalia may be the most acute humanitarian tragedy in the world today. The fighting in Mogadishu — and deliberate targeting of ships trying to come into port — has thwarted efforts to deliver relief supplies to Somalia's capital. Hundreds of thousands of people have fled the fighting. Somali refugees continue to cross the Kenyan border every day. Thousands of Somalis have died of starvation. Estimates of numbers killed and wounded in the Mogadishu war now exceed 40,000. No one really knows the extent of the casualties; many of the most seriously wounded never reached hospitals. Some estimates are that 90 percent of casualties are non-combatants and that, of these, 75 percent are children. For the last couple of weeks there has been a lull in the fighting in Mogadishu, but no one knows if the factions are living up to their agreements with the U.N. or if they are temporarily exhausted, recuperating their strength and shopping for arms to renew the struggle. Whatever the intentions of the military commanders, the robbery and looting continue. In one incident recently, armed men shot and killed a driver working for the U.N. while flying the U.N. flag, apparently to steal his vehicle. Mogadishu's population

is at the mercy of young men — some not yet teen-agers — who take orders from no one and live by the gun. The international community, in trying to provide emergency relief, has not yet found a way to get around or neutralize these bandits.

The United Nations continues its efforts to achieve a cease-fire in Mogadishu and arrange secure means of delivering food, medicine, and medical care. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali is giving the Somalia situation a high priority and considerable personal energy and attention. He met in New York with delegations from the warring factions, and searched for mechanisms that will work in an unprecedented situation of conflict and humanitarian disaster. He has enlisted the support of the OAU, the Arab League, and the Organization of the Islamic Conference in an innovative joint effort for peace in Somalia. These are the regional organizations which ideally should be involved in settlement of conflicts such as Somalia's, but unfortunately they have often been missing. As called for in Security Council resolution 746, which we supported, the U.N. recently dispatched a technical team to Mogadishu to work out the mechanics of a cease-fire and provision of humanitarian relief. The team has now finished its report. We look forward with interest to their suggestions.

Throughout the crisis we have urged the factions to stop fighting and permit international relief operations to go forward. I made these points as bluntly as I could to the leaders of the factional delegations when they visited Washington after the February U.N. meetings. We continue to consult with U.N. Security Council members; influential countries such as Italy, Egypt and Saudi Arabia; the OAU; and others, about actions the international community can usefully take to promote peace and prevent famine.

In order for the U.N. to perform effectively, the parties to the conflict must create the proper conditions: namely, desist from active conflict. Needless to say, a U.N. cease-fire monitoring mechanism requires that an effective cease-fire must be in place. In addition to the existence of a cease-fire, all parties to the conflict must be willing to accept international supervision of the cease-fire and be willing to work for objectives that can lead to a political settlement. Absent these conditions, we would be placing the monitors in a dangerous situation where they could face hostilities.

If there are insurmountable obstacles, then we, the U.N., and others in the international community will have to find ways to go around them. To be specific, there is a growing consensus that the U.N. and other international efforts should not be held hostage to the political squabbling and fighting in Mogadishu, which has ceased to be a capital city. If the parties are unwilling to accept help from the international community in resolving their political disputes, then we will concentrate on humanitarian relief.

DJIBOUTI

For several months we have been following the insurgency in Djibouti with concern. This small country, seriously affected by years of war in Ethiopia and Somalia, and by refugees from those countries, has experienced enough suffering without a civil war of its own. We are hopeful that progress continues in the repeated efforts of my French counterpart, Mr. Paul Dijoud, to mediate the Djiboutian dispute. We hope that a cease-fire continues in effect despite the insurgents' unilateral declaration that it will not be ob-

served, and that by fulfilling pledges for greater democracy, the Djiboutian government will satisfy demands for a wider participation of all segments of society.

ELECTIONS U.S.A.

CLINTON SWEEPS NEW YORK, OTHER STATE PRIMARIES

Bush also scores primary gains

Stuart Gorlin, USIA Political Affairs Correspondent

WASHINGTON — The good news for Bill Clinton is that he swept the April 7 primaries, including the all-important one in New York, widening his lead in the race for the Democratic presidential nomination. The bad news for the Arkansas governor is that the relatively light voter turnout and strong showing by other candidates in New York reveal deep party dissatisfaction with his troubled candidacy.

President Bush meanwhile won about two-thirds of the Republican vote in the other primaries, which were held in Kansas, Minnesota and Wisconsin. He called the results "another endorsement of our proposals for fundamental reform." No Republican balloting was conducted in New York, where the president was the only candidate to qualify, so he automatically won all of the state's delegates to the party's national nominating convention.

Clinton went into the primaries with more than half of the 2,145 delegates needed to clinch the Democratic nomination, and he gained most of the 401 that were at stake April 7. But in New York, where Clinton won with 40 percent of the vote, former Massachusetts Senator Paul Tsongas, who did not campaign because he had earlier suspended his candidacy, still came in a strong second with 29 percent. The only other major active candidate, former California Governor Jerry Brown, finished third with 26 percent; the remaining votes went to other candidates. New York had been considered crucial for Clinton following his loss to Brown in Connecticut two weeks earlier, his statement that he had experimented with marijuana as a college student in Britain, and a report that he had been called for military service during the Vietnam War — a draft notice that Clinton had not previously acknowledged. Exit polls indicated that Clinton, a Southern candidate, won a majority of both black and Jewish voters in New York. But those polls also indicated that 66 percent of New York Democrats, including many who voted for Clinton, would still like to see someone else enter the presidential race.

Brown congratulated Clinton for his New York win but vowed to continue to carry the fight "all the way to the convention," and Tsongas said he would have to give some thought to the possibility of reviving his campaign.

In Kansas, where there were more than a dozen names on the Democratic ballot, Clinton had 51 percent, compared to 15 percent for Tsongas and 13 percent for Brown. And 14 percent of the voters said they were uncommitted to any candidate.

Clinton won Wisconsin with 38 percent compared to 35

percent for Brown and 22 percent for Tsongas.

Minnesota's Democratic primary was a non-binding popularity contest with no direct apportionment of convention delegates. Clinton and Brown were locked in a race too close to call, with the outcome apparently hanging on uncounted votes from precincts in the far north of the state. With 97 percent of the precincts reporting, fewer than 2,000 votes separated the two. Clinton had 33 percent; Brown, 32 percent; and Tsongas, 23 percent.

In the Republican primary in Minnesota, Bush had 68 percent, conservative challenger Pat Buchanan won 25 percent, and the balance was split between uncommitted and other candidates.

Bush had 77 percent in the Wisconsin primary, in which Buchanan only scored 17 percent. And in Kansas, where the Republican ballot listed more than a dozen names, Bush had 62 percent; there were 16 percent uncommitted, and Buchanan came in third with 15 percent.

Earlier in the week, voters in Puerto Rico — which sends delegates to the national conventions as a U.S. commonwealth but does not participate in the November general election — overwhelmingly selected Bush and Clinton for their respective parties. Each received more than 96 percent of the April 5 vote.

Democrats in Alaska caucused April 2, giving 36 percent to uncommitted delegates, 33 percent to Brown and 30 percent to Clinton.

On April 28, Pennsylvania will hold the next state primary election.

CLINTON NOMINATION STILL NOT TAKEN FOR GRANTED

But Tsongas decides not to play "spoiler"

Stuart Gorlin, USIA Political Affairs Writer

WASHINGTON — Paul Tsongas, who fared better in the New York and Connecticut primaries he did not actively contest than in some earlier ones he battled for mightily, kept political observers wondering for two days while he pondered whether to reactivate his suspended presidential bid. But in the end, the former Massachusetts senator announced April 9 that he will not re-enter the race because he doesn't want to play the role of "spoiler." Even though his name will remain on the ballot for future Democratic primaries, Tsongas called on his supporters to stop their efforts on his behalf. But he added that his recent strong finishes, including a surprising second place in New York April 7, was proof that his message of economic renewal was a powerful one.

The move — or rather the non-move — boosts the chances for Arkansas Governor Bill Clinton to capture the Democratic presidential nomination, even though nothing is taken for granted. Clinton's victory in the New York primary was tempered by exit polls that showed two-thirds of the voters, including many who voted for him, preferred that another candidate enter the race. Most Democratic Party leaders and political consultants, according to New York Times writer R.W. Apple, Jr., believe that this dissatisfaction, coupled with the size of the Tsongas support and an ex-

tremely low voter turnout, "seriously clouded" Clinton's win. Apple also says there are two camps developing in the party, one that wants Clinton's nomination wrapped up before the national convention in July and one that is mounting a "slow-Clinton" effort because of all of the negative publicity he is receiving.

The Arkansas governor has more than half of the delegates needed for nomination and could wrap it up if he continues to win the same percentages in the remaining state races. If a stop-Clinton drive is to materialize, it will require major participation by the so-called "super delegates" to the nominating convention. These are prominent party officials and office holders within a state, many of whom are now uncommitted, who automatically go to the convention by virtue of their position. Recent interviews with key super delegates have not shown any strong trend in either direction regarding Clinton. One Democratic strategist, Tom Donilon, says there is "obvious repair work to do, and that's what Clinton and the party need to get about doing." According to New York Governor Mario Cuomo, Clinton should sit down with his remaining rival for the nomination, former California Governor Jerry Brown, and with Democratic congressional leaders to negotiate an agreement to "cut the negatives." But with Brown running a campaign that is deeply critical of Clinton, such repairs could be difficult.

Brown, who is far behind in delegate support, says he could still win by capturing Pennsylvania in the next primary, and if Clinton stumbles "in some continuing way that would render him unsatisfactory to enough of the delegates." An open convention, with delegates shopping around for a compromise candidate, would be Brown's best hope. But it has been four decades since the last one, and political activist Terry Michael says that in his view there is only a "statistically insignificant" chance for a brokered convention. "The calendar and the geography of the calendar (the remaining states to hold primaries and caucuses) really militates in Clinton's favor," he says.

Clinton himself explains the voters' negative feelings as the product of a "highly combative and contentious and intensely-covered atmosphere" and says they will "go away" in time. He's not interested in whether or not voters "love me," he says, only that they "respect me."

For the Republicans, there is less pressure since the conservative challenge to the president mounted by Pat Buchanan has been fizzling, and the one by former Ku Klux Klan leader David Duke never got off the ground. Buchanan hasn't formally stopped campaigning, but party leaders hope for a convention scenario of Bush being renominated and Buchanan offering support in a show of party unity.

ECONOMY

U.S. CONTRIBUTES \$243 MILLION TO U.N. HORN FUND

U.S. gives 21 percent of total U.N. appeal

John Sedlins, USIA Staff Writer

WASHINGTON — The United States has responded to a U.N. special appeal for emergency aid for the Horn of Africa by contributing 21 percent of the total amount the United Nations asked for, according to the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).

The U.N. Special Emergency Program for the Horn of Africa (SEPHA) issued an appeal on February 1 to the international donor community for \$1,149 million.

SEPHA was born out of international concern over drought, social disruption, large population displacements, civil strife, and political change in Sudan, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Djibouti, Somalia and Kenya. With a total contribution of nearly \$243 million, the U.S. Agency for International Development, the State Department, and the Department of Agriculture made the U.S. response to the humanitarian crisis in the Horn, noted USAID in a news release.

The U.S. contribution will be distributed as follows: Ethiopia, \$91,907,929; Eritrea, \$31,141,000; Sudan, \$63,004,725; Somalia, \$33,952,948; and Kenya, \$667,914.

Separately, the State Department's Bureau of Refugee Programs has given grants to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the International Committee of the Red Cross, of which \$22,269,050 can be used for SEPHA programs.

SEVERE DROUGHT AFFECTS SOUTHERN AFRICAN COUNTRIES

Boucher explains U.S. humanitarian response

WASHINGTON — The countries of southern Africa are experiencing the worst drought ever recorded, with the situation in Zimbabwe especially critical at present, said State Department Deputy Spokesman Richard Boucher April 6.

The deputy spokesman said, "All the countries in the southern African region, including Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia, and Zimbabwe, are affected by what is considered to be one of the most severe droughts the region has ever experienced. "South Africa and Zimbabwe, both of which normally serve as granaries for the southern African region, are in the process of importing substantial amounts of food," he said. The corn crop in all the countries has experienced more than a 50 percent failure and losses are in the 70 to 90 percent range for Lesotho, Namibia, and Swaziland, he said.

Total import requirements are estimated to be at least 10 million metric tons of food, Boucher said. Imports of corn into the region last year were 1.9 million metric tons. "The severity of the drought has resulted in the need to import approximately 8.1 million metric tons this year," he said. "Of this

amount, we believe that approximately 3.4 million metric tons will be required to supplement commercial imports, and thus would be in the form of humanitarian food assistance."

The deputy spokesman said U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) missions and embassies throughout the southern African region have been working with governments, non-governmental organizations and other donors to coordinate the provision of assistance. Special USAID assessment teams have been in the region since late March. "They have been filing reports and have been able to identify specific problems and responses," Boucher said, adding: "USAID is speeding up existing food aid programs to get food into the region quickly. In addition, a senior interagency group has identified food aid resources of 366,000 metric tons that have been approved, and an additional 291,000 metric tons that are pending approval at this time. And additional amounts of grant and concessional food assistance are being considered."

Boucher was unable to say what assistance has actually arrived in the region. "I'm told that the situation in Zimbabwe especially is critical now and that in the other places, the acute point is expected to be reached about August or September," he added.

NEW USAID OPERATIONS CHIEF HAS BUSINESS KNOW-HOW

Spangler interviewed on new role

Jim Fisher-Thompson, USIA Staff Writer

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) has a new man to oversee all its assistance programs overseas. And for people who expect a bureaucrat with no imagination or management experience — watch out.

Scott Spangler, Harvard-trained businessman and engineer, who was named by President Bush to the newly created post of USAID associate administrator for operations, has definite ideas about his role as supervisor of U.S. assistance programs. He spoke about them recently in an interview. They include: setting a "graduation date" when U.S. assistance to aid recipients would stop once development projects became self-sustainable — a concept he first broached in 1991 as USAID Africa Bureau chief — and "devolving more power over programs" to USAID project officers in the field. Just as important as new ideas, Spangler also has the business experience and know-how to stretch assistance dollars as far as possible. This is critical at a time when many Americans are questioning the need to spend money abroad when budgets at home are tight. The first people abroad to hear his new ideas will be project officers and officials in Latin America, where Spangler said he plans to make his first tour as new operations chief sometime in May. USAID provides about \$1,300 million worth of economic assistance a year to the region.

Mel Melsheimer, an executive with a large U.S. food company, was chief financial officer for one of Spangler's old companies. In a recent interview, he said his former business associate's promotion is a plus for foreigners needing economic help, and for U.S. taxpayers as well. The government

"can't help but benefit from having business people like Scott Spangler in senior operating roles, especially if it wants to make certain public money is being spent effectively," Melsheimer said.

The job of USAID operations chief was created last year by the agency's top man — Administrator Ronald Roskens. Spangler said a primary reason was to alleviate the "impossible span of control" with which Roskens had to contend: 23 USAID officials reported directly to him. "Too many decisions that really didn't need his attention were coming to Roskens, making it difficult for him to sort out and focus on important issues," Spangler explained.

For Spangler, his new job means switching from Africa bureau chief, where he oversaw \$1,000 million worth of programs in 32 countries, to supervising assistance programs totaling \$7,500 million in 92 countries worldwide.

He will be in charge of all five of the geographic regions in which the agency operates as well as being responsible for the research and development, private enterprise, and humanitarian assistance bureaus of USAID.

Put in business terms, Spangler, who has a master's degree in business administration from Harvard University, said USAID's job is to deal with a number of "products" or tasks for customers like the administration and Congress "who have definite foreign policy goals" and want assistance to further those aims. At the same time, "since Americans have a very strong humanitarian instinct, when they see people starving in Africa or India they expect their government to do something about it." So USAID "is also the agency of the U.S. government that feeds foreign people suffering from famine, flood, or drought." The one product or task which Spangler said he took "the most satisfaction" in implementing was the economic development assistance aimed at directly "increasing the well-being of people in the developing world." The challenge of, "How do we make the life of the average person in Nigeria or India or Nicaragua improve by bringing their living standards up to the level the rest of the world enjoys?" is one that Spangler said makes his job as a government bureaucrat worthwhile.

According to United Nations official Maurice Strong, Spangler's appointment is one of the best moves USAID could have made. Strong, who is secretary-general of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, once worked with Spangler in the same international corporation. "He's a good manager, good leader, and, in addition to his very successful business experience, he has also acquired a lot of experience and grounding in the developing world," Strong pointed out. (Strong at one time headed the Canadian Development Agency, Canada's equivalent of USAID.) He said Spangler was "one of the ablest executives I've ever been associated with." After Spangler received his engineering degree from the University of Cincinnati he became a Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) fellow in the early 1960s and worked in Africa for two years. There, he served as assistant secretary of treasury for the government of Uganda, and as national investment bank officer for the government of Ghana. Strong said he believed Spangler's foreign experience and business sense "will inspire confidence in the effective management of the funds that flow through USAID — I can't think of a person who is more likely to do a good job of making sure that those funds are spent effectively." He added that this in turn "would help inspire the kind of confidence that people in Congress need

to vote development funds."

USAID and U.N. relations should also benefit by Spangler's appointment, Strong noted. "I've already talked to him and he is very interested in what we are doing at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro."

Recently, USAID bore the brunt of criticism from a presidential commission that charged the agency with being too inflexible, as well as having a flawed and cumbersome decision-making process. Saying there was some truth in the commission's report, Spangler said: "One of my goals is to devolve decision-making closer to the field. And when we do that we then want to have the staff here in Washington be more of a supportive technical resource to the people in the field. We can't afford to have engineers, health experts, or other specialists stationed in every country where we have programs, so we will have a staff here which is prepared to go out and work with a mission when they are needed," Spangler explained. As far as determining a "graduation date" for an eventual end to U.S. assistance to developing countries, Spangler emphasized that it would be a "cooperative effort" that would come about only after consultations with the recipient country. "This does not involve an edict coming down from Washington ordering an end to assistance," he added, but represents rather a joint recognition that at a certain point a nation can stand on its own feet without needing foreign donor assistance forever.

Dr. Salim Salim, director general of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), agreed that such a policy was feasible if it meant assessing "a given project or a given assistance in terms of its utility and effectiveness in promoting actual development in a given country — I would have no problem with that."

Salim added that he had "no problem with the concept that individual African countries must be responsible for their own development. In the final analysis the question of assistance is not an endless type of situation."

The OAU chief made his comments in answer to a question posed during a press conference he gave April 9 at the end of a working visit to Washington and New York. Asked about charges by some journalists that because USAID dealt with such large sums of money it was beset by corruption, Spangler said he felt quite strongly about such wrongdoing but also that the problem had been misrepresented. He said he had examined the cases cited by journalists of people convicted of defrauding the agency — by taking money or providing flawed goods or services — and most of them were contractors with USAID, "outsiders...not USAID employees." Another point he noted was the fact that these people "were caught by USAID personnel." He added that he was convinced that USAID employees "do not have a problem" with corruption.

Asked if Africa would still remain close to his heart, Spangler, who had a daughter born in Kampala when he worked there in the 1960s, said, "I initially came into this agency because of my interest in and fascination with Africa and with the economic development process there — that hasn't changed."

The official said he would continue "to keep a very close eye on progress in Africa."

U.S. DONATES COMMODITIES TO WORLD FOOD PROGRAM

Refugees, drought victims to benefit

WASHINGTON — The United States will donate \$80 million in agricultural commodities to the World Food Program, an agency of the United Nations. "This donation reaffirms the United States' commitment to relieve hunger and malnutrition in the world's poorest countries," Secretary of Agriculture Edward Madigan said April 7 in announcing the aid. He said that the donation, which amounts to about 190,000 metric tons of U.S. commodities, will help the World Food Program respond to increasing emergency food needs, especially for refugees in Africa and Asia and those affected by the drought in southern Africa. The U.S. aid will include 140,000 metric tons of maize, 40,000 tons of sorghum and 10,000 tons of butter oil, as well as transportation costs, storage and handling of the commodities.

In a separate statement April 7, the department announced a donation of 3,000 metric tons of U.S. wheat flour to the needy people of Kazakhstan, one of the newly independent states of the former Soviet Union. "This \$1.9 million wheat flour donation will be distributed through direct feeding programs in the city of Alma Ata," Madigan said. "Several Kazakhstan government agencies will use the flour in programs for schoolchildren, the needy and the infirm."

During the current fiscal year, the agriculture department has signed agreements with 10 private voluntary organizations to provide \$139.6 million in humanitarian assistance to the former Soviet states. These include:

- The American Diocese of the Armenian Church, \$15 million for use in Armenia.
- The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, \$9 million for use in Russia.
- Catholic Relief Services, \$41 million for Russia.
- World Vision Relief and Development, \$7.5 million for Armenia.
- Brother's Brother, \$16.8 million for Russia.
- Adventist Development Relief Agency International, \$11.5 million for Russia.
- The American National Red Cross, \$14.5 million for Turkmenistan.
- CARE, \$15.2 million for Russia.
- CitiHope International, \$4.5 million for Byelarus.
- Mercy Corps International, \$1.9 million for Kazakhstan.

DROUGHT IN SOUTHERN AFRICA BRINGS U.S. RESPONSE

Crop failure hits Zimbabwe, South Africa hard

John Sedlins, USIA Staff Writer

WASHINGTON — The two traditional regional granaries of southern Africa, Zimbabwe and South Africa, are "the most severely affected" areas by the regional drought which has affected the entire region, according to a U.S. humanitarian assistance official.

Lois Richards, acting assistant administrator for food and

humanitarian assistance with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), told a press briefing in Washington April 10, that "the U.S., at this point — I think it is safe to say — is well out ahead of the other donors," having allocated 636,000 metric tons of food aid in advance of an anticipated U.N. appeal for assistance. Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe are all affected to varying degrees. Corn, which is the staple food in the region, has experienced at least a 50 percent failure rate in all of the countries, with losses in the 70-90 percent range in Lesotho, Namibia, Swaziland and Zimbabwe, said John Hicks, acting USAID assistant administrator for Africa.

The overall shortfall is 10 million metric tons, of which South Africa's share is 4 million metric tons, "when normally they export sizeable quantities," explained Richards. She said the South Africans planned to cover their shortfall with commercial purchases of maize, primarily from the United States and Argentina. Richards elaborated: "The affected countries themselves have tried to marshal as much of their own foreign exchange resources and foreign exchange that they receive through programs of the World Bank and the IMF, so that they could start immediate commercial purchases of maize to try to deal with the crunch period that exists between now and August...when we think the severe hunger will become very much of a problem."

The drought, which only became evident in February of 1992 according to Richards, is a result of the "El Nino" weather pattern. "In January (of 1992), a number of the countries affected were predicting bumper harvests because they had good rains at the first critical stage in this crop," she explained. "But you have to have rain at the tassling stage for you to have any kind of a harvest. The rains expected in January and February (which did not come) combined with exceedingly hot weather are what has caused this crop failure." Hicks said, "This is essentially a drought that's...occasioned by a failure of crops that were up and on the ground — actually, literally wilting in the fields." Hicks explained that the drought and the establishment of free corridors for the passage of food would be on Assistant Secretary Herman Cohen's agenda during his current visit to southern Africa.

At least half of the hundred million people living in southern Africa "face considerable risk," said Hicks, including malnutrition and a range of health problems. "Given the far-reaching extent of the crop failure, there is no doubt that a good portion of the populations in these countries will be affected.... The countries are all taking this very seriously. They are trying to mobilize their own resources to respond to this crisis. Certainly their expectation is that this could have a devastating effect on their populations."

Richards added, "There's another problem here too. Apparently in some parts, Bulawayo for example in Zimbabwe, the water level and the water going through the water-sewage systems is down quite low. We've seen some reports of water pipes exploding. Beyond that, when you tend to have empty pipes like that, you...tend to suck in all kinds of pollution from the ground around it into the pipe system.... So we could see some serious problems with water-borne diseases as a result of this emergency," she explained.

Asked how the South African government was responding to this regional crisis and to its neighbors, Hicks said, "South Africa has indeed been a good neighbor. There has

been a good measure of coordination within the region on this problem because they all recognize the severity of the logistics and transport constraints. The countries are meeting as a group and individually with South Africa to work out these arrangements." (...) "I also understand," said Richards, "that South Africa, like Zimbabwe and some others, are looking very carefully at all their excess boxcar capacity and so forth, so that they can maximize the amount of food that can be moved by train. I would suspect you will see food going into the southern African region all the way from Dar es Salaam all the way around to Namibian and...Angolan ports."

HEALTH

EXPERT SEES AIDS EPIDEMIC STILL OUT OF CONTROL

Dr. Jonathan Mann speaks in Washington

John Sedlins, USIA Staff Writer

WASHINGTON — The global AIDS epidemic is out of control and no vaccine or cure is on the horizon for at least five years, asserted Dr. Jonathan Mann April 7.

Mann, who is director of the International AIDS Center and chairman of the Eighth International Conference on AIDS, to be held in Amsterdam this year, said that "we are witnessing a massive, collective, global failure to deal with this epidemic.... At the collective level, at the national level, at the international level, we are witnessing a failure...to confront the epidemic, (and) a failure to deal with the underlying issues that fuel the epidemic."

He spoke at the National Press Club in Washington. "No country in the world has made of AIDS the priority health problem that it deserves to be considered," Mann stated. He described it as "curious that so many governments will tremble" over policy questions such as an increase in the gasoline prices or interest rate changes, then asked, "Where is the government that has fallen as a result of dramatic increases in homelessness, or infant mortality, or policies on health-related issues such as AIDS?"

Mann said that while the epidemic is still increasing, "our vulnerability is increasing — our global vulnerability to the further spread of this virus."

He cited the examples of three countries — Zaire, the former Soviet Union, and the United States — to show how unforeseen or unforeseeable changes can allow the virus to spread.

Mann, who worked and did research in Zaire from 1984 to 1986, observed that just before the recent political troubles in that country, "Zaire had one of the best AIDS research projects in Africa. It had one of the best — the best condom distribution program in Africa. It had some of the best prevention efforts in Africa." With the recent political turmoil there, however, "all of that has stopped. The research program has ended, the condom distribution program has ended, the prevention has ended, clearly creating the conditions in which a new explosion of HIV infection will likely be occurring in that country during the next few years," he said.

In the former Soviet Union, he said, "it's perfectly clear to observers and to people — public health people in Eastern and Central Europe — that the massive political and social dislocations that are occurring, including unemployment, including migration, including increased prostitution, including increased drug use — all are conditions which fuel the further spread of the HIV epidemic..."

In the United States, said Mann, "the presidential campaign is having a generally dampening effect on public debate and discussion about issues related to AIDS because the candidates aren't talking about AIDS. Clearly, they've decided this is not an issue that they're going to win votes on but may lose votes on, and yet it's an issue of central importance to public health in the United States."

Worldwide vulnerability is also increasing, said Mann, "because in many cases programs and countries have just simply failed to apply what we know works.... We do know what works in terms of prevention. There is evidence from programs around the world that there are several ingredients that are necessary."

But the third reason for increased global vulnerability is "because we have actually failed...to deal...with the basic factors, the basic causes of the epidemic, which is to say what goes beyond the virus itself, having to do with our societies, the way they're run, and the way they're organized," said Mann. In this regard, the AIDS expert asserted, "the most pervasive form of discrimination in the world today remains discrimination against women. Now women cannot say no...to unwanted or unprotected sexual intercourse unless (they have) the political and economic and social power to say no and to mean no. It is as simple, on one level, as that. Now, we can talk as much as we want about brochures, about posters, about condoms, but until we get to that issue itself, we cannot expect women to be able to apply that education information to actually prevent infection of themselves, their children, and others."

Speaking specifically about Uganda, Dr. Mann said, "Increasingly, we find that the risk factor for some women for their infection with HIV...is being married and being monogamous. In other words, it is their inability...to control their husband's sexual behavior, both in terms of other sexual partners and condom use, that creates their personal vulnerability to becoming infected. "Therefore, it turns out that reform — or the efforts to reform Uganda's laws regarding property distribution after divorce become, in my view, just as important, if not more important, to fight AIDS than condom distribution or making another brochure explaining to women what they should or shouldn't do to protect themselves, because at that point a woman has a social and economic capacity to say no to a situation which is putting her in mortal danger.... I think it's fair to say that male-dominated societies are a threat to public health."

Asked about the potential for a vaccine against AIDS, Mann said, "We don't have a vaccine...but if we had a vaccine in the next five years, it would almost certainly be a vaccine that would not be available to the developing world." He noted that the Hepatitis B vaccine was "developed about 10 years ago and licensed, and...still is not available to the large populations in Asia and Africa who would most benefit from it, who would most need it."

Dr. Mann asserted, starkly: "There is no precedent in history for a new product that would have a strong marketability and a good — very good — market in the industrialized

world being made available rapidly and at low cost to the developing world." Nonetheless, he noted that "we're clearly, still years away from a vaccine that could be available to large populations, but it's encouraging at least to see that the preparations for field trials by a variety of groups are being made. That, at least, gives some sense of optimism that as soon as a product or products are available, that they'll be able to move more quickly, we hope, into the field testing."

Looking to the future when an AIDS vaccine is available, the former W.H.O. official said: "We should think of the world as a unit, because it is the unit for the HIV epidemic, and give (the vaccine) to the people who need it first — need it most first, and then expand its use. That's how we would use a vaccine if what we were doing is using a vaccine to control a worldwide epidemic. But that contains within it...the 'revolutionary idea' that a life in Zaire and a life in Brazil and a life in the United States are worth the same."

Commenting on the level of AIDS infection in Africa, Mann said: "There's no easy answer for the Africans.... It's clear...that they are going to live through and be living through a time of tremendous loss of the socially (and) economically productive, young, middle-aged adults in their society. There's no question that life expectancy will drop in African countries. There's no question that infant and child mortality is already increasing and will increase, and will counterbalance all of the beneficial effects of all the other public health programs that have been put into place, the so-called child survival programs, to improve the status of African...infants and children. There's no question about those effects and that that will be happening."

The AIDS expert noted that he came to the press conference just after completing a U.S. Information Agency-sponsored Worldnet dialogue with Francophone Africa. He said that "it's amazing how similar the questions are that are asked out of Africa and the questions that are asked in Massachusetts." Among them he included: "What's the best way to reach adolescents? What's the best way to get condoms used? Are condoms the answer? (The answer to that, of course, is no. They're only part of the picture.)...how to get community support and mobilization...how to prevent discrimination against people who are infected."

The Amsterdam Conference on AIDS, he said, will bring together about 10,000 "people who are engaged in this struggle in different countries around the world. They have a lot to learn from each other.... We're very excited that there's an 80 percent increase in the number of abstracts from developing countries, because that's important. Eighty-five percent of the epidemic is occurring in the developing world."

MEDIA

SELF-CENSORSHIP REMAINS PROBLEM, JOURNALISTS SAY

Mozambican, Nigerian discuss issue

Jim Fisher-Thompson, USIA Staff Writer

WASHINGTON — Some African governments have no need to censor their journalists — the journalists do it themselves, according to two African writers who are visiting the United States on a tour of American media operations. "We never had official censorship" in Mozambique after independence from Portugal, said Elias Cossa, a senior editor with Mozambique's News Agency, during an interview. But soon after self-rule began there in 1975, censorship by the colonial authorities was replaced by Mozambican writers and editors who steered away from stories they knew the government might object to — in effect censoring themselves, the journalist explained.

Justina Mordi, a foreign affairs reporter with the Vanguard newspaper in Nigeria, noted that self-censorship is also a problem for some of the 200 reporters that work for her paper — one of the largest in Nigeria. Foreign affairs reporters like herself, she noted, sometimes hold back what they could write on "sensitive" issues such as the religious crises that occasionally break out into violence in Nigeria, the nation's involvement in the crisis in Liberia, and Nigerian-Cameroonian border clashes. "We can write about those topics, but with restrictions," Mordi added. At the same time, editors will sometimes "call meetings and ask reporters to play down some stories." Both journalists were on a tour of media in the United States sponsored by the U.S. Information Agency. Along with 19 other African journalists, Cossa and Mordi will have spent six weeks seeing how American journalists at newspapers, television, and radio stations deal with many of the problems that face journalists all over the world.

Cossa said that in his Mozambique news agency, which is "more a public service" than an official government press agency, self-censorship is being "struggled against" by using "editorial councils." The journalist, who writes feature articles as well as occasional investigative stories on agricultural topics, said each newsroom has such a body, which is elected by the writers. The main function of the councils is to defend controversial stories and recommend that editors be disciplined if their interference amounts to censorship, he explained. Asked if his news service reported on the smoldering guerrilla war still tearing Mozambique apart, Cossa said his agency covered it, but he added that while his news service terms the rebels "elements of RENAMO (Mozambican National Resistance)," the government press calls them "bandits." The journalist emphasized, "We don't like to use that type of adjective." Cossa said he was especially interested in seeing how smaller regional newspapers are managed and operate in the United States. Such local media "is closer to our own reality in Mozambique than the New York Times or Washington Post" newspapers, he explained. He said his main professional goal as a journalist is to someday "set up a news network in Mozambique that can help consolidate democracy." But "just to be a professional journalist acts

to consolidate democracy," the Mozambican added.

Mordi, who has been a reporter for less than two years, said she wanted to learn more about the technology that individual reporters in America have access to. In Nigeria, she said, she writes all her stories in longhand before giving them to a secretary to type into a word processor.

Asked if Nigerian journalists had a preference for certain foreign media, she responded that "speaking from a strictly professional angle, most Nigerian journalists would prefer working with the U.S. press — it's much freer and you can express yourself." She also noted that, as in America, women play a large role in the press in Nigeria. Her paper, the Vanguard, has always had a lot of women reporters, she noted, adding that while the Vanguard did not pay as much as other national dailies in Nigeria, "there is more scope to use your own initiative on the paper." While Cossa and Mordi's group of African journalists were in Washington, they were briefed at the Center for Foreign Journalists, where they heard that the United States has more than 9,000 daily and weekly newspapers, 29,000 magazines and newsletters, 11,000 radio stations, and 1,480 television stations.

Other facts they learned about the U.S. press, according to a CFJ fact sheet, are that it is:

- a "highly profitable, non-subsidized business;"
- largely unregulated by the government and has no "mandated code of conduct;"
- non-ideological, because most of the mainstream press is "unaffiliated to or owned by (political) parties or movements"; and
- "community based," because the concept of a national press is relatively new. But this is also a reason for the "provincialism" of a lot of the U.S. media.

ARTS AND HUMANITIES

'TOPIC' PHOTOS GO TO MAJOR U.S. MUSEUM

Work of Richard Saunders goes to Schomburg Center

WASHINGTON — The award-winning work of Topic magazine photographer Richard Saunders is being turned over to New York's renowned Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture. "It is a major photographic legacy and I know Dick would be happy that future generations will be able to appreciate his work," said the magazine's photo editor, Rosalie Targonski, who is shipping to Schomburg, approximately 50 photo stories a month. She estimates it will take nine months to complete the transfer. Targonski edited much of Saunders's work. He was international editor of Topic and made more than 40 trips to Africa during his 19 years with the magazine, a quarterly that circulates in English and French in sub-Saharan Africa.

A Bermuda-born American, Saunders was the recipient of the Bermuda Arts Council's first annual lifetime achievement award. His work had become a mainstay of Topic and its quality was recognized throughout Africa. It was displayed at a special exhibit at the Organization of African Unity's 25th anniversary celebrations in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in 1988.

In supporting the transfer of Saunders's work from the United States Information Agency (Topic's publisher) to the Schomburg, Congressman Charles Rangel of New York called Saunders "a great black artist." It seems to me," Rangel said, "that his work should be placed where there would be an ability for the community to see and appreciate what he has done." He went on to call Saunders "a tremendous role model." Over the past seven decades, the Schomburg—located in the Harlem section of New York City—has grown from a small private collection into an important resource of the United States.

It was founded in 1925 with a 10,000-piece collection of books, manuscripts, and artwork assembled by pioneering black scholar Arthur A. Schomburg. The expanded facilities include the 360-seat Langston Hughes Auditorium (named for the African-American poet), an exhibition hall, study and storage spaces, spaces for film and audio recording holdings, and a refurbished American Negro Theatre, a small playhouse where such noted artists as Harry Belafonte and Sidney Poitier got their start.

The center also is a city library; from its very beginning it has been a special branch of the New York Public Library system. The main objectives of the center, reports its director, Howard Dodson, are "the preservation of the black experience in as many forms of communication as possible, including print and non-print materials, as well as artifacts, photographic, film, and video materials. We are making a concerted attempt to capture and preserve for posterity, documentation of the historical and cultural development of people of African descent." (...) "Dick Saunders," says Targonski, "would have been proud to have his work included in the Schomburg's vast collections."

Saunders emigrated to the United States from Bermuda and became a highly regarded freelance photojournalist in New York. His work appeared in such publications as the New York Times, Life, Time, Look, Fortune, the Ladies' Home Journal, Holiday, Ebony, and Playboy. In 1973, USIS prepared an exhibit of 59 of Saunders's best photographs to be displayed throughout Africa.

As the Bermuda Arts Centre has noted, "There are few, if any, photojournalists who have devoted two decades, as Saunders has, to reporting and recording the evolution of postcolonial Africa." Saunders saw it this way: "It has been a way of life for me that I wouldn't trade for anything. I never felt strange in Africa. It was always like going home." He retired in 1986 and died in 1987 at age 65.

world record in the Northern Telecom Cherry Blossom 10-mile race April 5.

The race, which has been run for the last 20 years, takes place during the annual Cherry Blossom Festival in Washington. Each year thousands of cherry trees, planted along the Potomac River and the adjacent Tidal Basin, blossom as springtime comes to the Nation's Capital.

Richard Chelimo, who last year ran the fastest 10,000-meter race in history, and William Koech, who is the 1991 African champion at 10,000 meters, ran together and had a clear lead over the rest of the international field of more than 3,000 runners after only 90 seconds.

Tanzania's Boah Akonay, who, according to the Washington Post, is competing in the United States "to make a name for himself so his country's Olympic committee will consider him for a 10,000-meter spot," finished third.

After five miles, the two Kenyans, running side by side, were 20 seconds under the world record pace set by American Greg Meyer in 1983 when he finished in 46 minutes and 13 seconds.

But then the wind and unseasonably cold temperature along the river put them off their stride, and they fell off the world-record pace.

The two Kenyans, who had never competed against each other, were together until the last quarter mile, when Chelimo's kick enabled him to beat his countryman, finishing in 47 minutes and 6 seconds, 9 seconds ahead of Koech.

The Washington Times quoted Chelimo as saying: "It was so windy. Both of us were planning to break the record, but the wind and cold slowed us down."

"We wanted to break the world record," Koech told the Washington Post. "We were planning to, but it was very windy. That was the problem."

American Peter Sherry finished fourth and Peter Tootell of Great Britain was fifth.

SPORTS

AFRICANS SWEEP CHERRY BLOSSOM'S FIRST THREE PLACES

Kenyans, Tanzanian win Washington race

John Sedlins, USIA Staff Writer

WASHINGTON — Only the wind off the Potomac River apparently stopped two Kenyan runners from breaking a