Cameroon

Opposition Leader Fru Ndi Ready for Dialogue

AB1002134093 Yaounde CRTV Radio Network in English 1800 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Text] The chairman of the Social Democratic Front [SDF], Nii John Fru Ndi, has said he still maintains good relationship with all Cameroonians without exception, but that all depends on the degree of honesty. Mr. Nii John Fru Ndi was speaking this evening in Yaounde at a press conference, his first public hearing since his release from house arrest, which comes in the wake of a tour of some Western countries. The SDF chairman answered questions on a wide range of issues, including his visit to the United States, his party's preparations for the next elections, and his appraisal of the present political situation in the country.

Talking about his visit to the United States, Nii John Fru Ndi made it clear that he was invited to Mr. Clinton's swearing-in ceremony by the inaugural committee, but that he seized the opportunity to meet with President William Jefferson Clinton and other members of the U.S. Senate. Mr. Fru Ndi said he is ready to dialogue but in the presence of a third party after the unfruitful past attempts, adding that there can be no peace and reconciliation without justice. The press conference was attended by representatives of some diplomatic missions in Cameroon, and a heavy crowd of militants and sympathizers.

Opposition Party Dismisses Founding Members

AB0902161193 Yaounde CRTV Radio Network in French 1900 GMT 7 Feb 93

[Text] The crisis shaking the Movement for Democracy and Progress [MDP] of Samuel Eboua is worsening. The disciplinary commission of the party's national committee, which met on 6 February under the chairmanship of Samuel Eboua, dismissed five founding members of the MDP. They are: Henri Eboua Soele, Mbarga Tade Mbialeu, Jean Bissin, Germain Ngumou, and Gregoire Tiani. These five members were accused of factionalism, making deceitful statements, attempting to corrupt the party's officials, and assaulting them. In November 1992 these officials, whose dismissal was announced today, had described the party chairman, Saniuel Eboua, as a henchman of the Cameroon People's Democratic Movement regime.

Central African Republic

Alliances Criticize Kolingba, Call for Early Elections

AB1002101093 Paris AFP in English 0454 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Text] Bangui, Feb 9 (AFP)—Two alliances of opposition parties published a joint statement here Tuesday [9]

February] criticising President Andre Kolingba for exceeding his term and demanding that elections be held "in a short time". "The President's mandate ended on November 28," said the statement by the tripartite Co-operation Council of Moderate Parties (CEM) and the Association of Democratic Forces (CFD). Instead of embarking on a transition process, the statement continued, Kolingba had remained in power with support of three presidential candidates, Ange-Felix Patasse, David Dacko and Enoch Derant Lakoue.

Presidential and legislative elections were held in Central African Republic on October 25, but the government cancelled them—with opposition support—a few hours after polling began because of widespread outbreaks of violence. Three days later the Supreme Court upheld the cancellation, citing numerous irregularities in voter registration and polling facilities.

The CEM-CFD statement said that Kolingba and the three candidates had "no authority to monopolise the political life of the nation". The statement demanded that the government restart the electoral process so that polling can take place "in a short time", and that all parties be granted equal access to the media.

Chad

Human Rights League Accuses Army of 'Genocide'

LD0902173693 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Text] There have been fresh accusations from the local Human Rights League in Chad. It says that since the end of January the Army has been indulging in genocide—that is the word it uses—in the south of the country. It says dozens of people have been massacred, and dozens of villages looted and then burned by the Republican Guard. This is all in the Gore region.

The Movement for Democracy and Development [MDD], an armed opposition army close to ex-Presidend Habre, says there was fighting last weekend in the Lake Chad region. The MDD says 215 government troops and 19 rebels were killed.

Rwanda

Habyarimana Calls on Rebels To End Violence

EA1002104793 Kigali Radiodiffusion Nationale de la Republique Rwandaise in Kinyarwanda 1700 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Speech by President Major General Juvenal Habyarimana; place and date not given—live or recorded]

[Excerpts] Rwandan men and women: You have heard that on the night of 7 January the rebels once again attacked Ruhengeri and Byumba, while the Rwandan Government was attending the peace talks which have been continuing in Arusha since July last year. This is very painful. You know well that we have done all we could since the war broke out on 1 October 1990 to ensure the end of the war through negotiations. You all remember that we called on friendly countries which helped us reach the N'sele Agreement in Zaire. [passage omitted]

As I have just said, on the night of 7 February, many rebels attacked Ruhengeri town through the Birunga mountains and mainly pounded military camps in Ruhengeri, such as those of Mubona and Muhoza, in the course of which they killed people and took others prisoner. They also attacked the (Ntaruka) central electricity power station, and the electricity distribution point at Gifurwe. In the Kirambo area, also in Ruhengeri Prefecture, they attacked the Rwandan Armed Forces' positions at Ruhanga and Ndago. In Byumba, they attacked Miyove, and proceeded to the communes of Cyunga and Tumba, as well as to the Base trading center, which they fired on throughout 8 February.

In the same Byumba Prefecture, they also attacked Rwandan Armed Forces positions at Nyabishambi and Karambi and at Kitazigurwe, from the night of 7 February and throughout 8 February. They also shelled Kibali hill at Byumba, and attacked the war-displaced at (Cyisaro). In Mutara, they attacked Rwehare, Rwensheke, and Nyagahita. They shelled Nyagatare with heavy artillery. The fighting continued on 9 February, mainly in Ruhengeri, where the Rwandan Armed forces are still fighting back the rebels, and trying to liberate areas the rebels are still occupying in Ruhengeri town.

For internal security to return to the country, I feel that we need to do the following: We must uphold the rule of law in our country until the laws are changed. The laws must be applied equally to everyone. Parties must stop interfering with the leadership institutions by using them to do whatever they want to achieve, contrary to the interests of the people. Although we are in a transitional period, the leadership organs, each according to its powers, must be respected until they are changed. Those in charge of them must be respected until they are replaced.

Regarding the leadership at the communal level, I asked for elections so that the people could choose their leaders. I was told this was not possible. Since there are communes which no longer have leaders or whose leaders are being criticized, thus jeopardizing the security of these communes, I requested the prime minister, in collaboration with the minister of interior, to bring me without delay a proposal on how he feels those leaders can be replaced and by whom they can be replaced, before the Council of Ministers discusses the matter.

It would not be appropriate for communes to operate without leaders at this time of insecurity. It would not be appropriate at this time for communes to continue to be without leaders or for leaders to be removed without being replaced immediately. We could not be assured

that security will be upheld. The government must empower the grassroots leadership, especially at the administrative unit level. It is easy to maintain security when the leadership is close to the people. The parties must desist from the current culture of setting the people against each other. [passage omitted]

Concerning security along the country's borders, particularly now that the rebels have resumed fighting, as I said earlier, the Government of Rwanda has resolved to continue talks with the RPF rebels, and even to share power, because that is what they have wanted all along, so that this war that is shedding the blood of Rwandans and displacing many can come to an end.

Although a Rwandan delegation was sent to Arusha, Tanzania to hold talks with the RPF [Rwandan Patriotic Front], this did not deter the latter from attacking. I once again declare that I fully support the negotiations, provided they are not conducted with hypocrisy or treason, that they do not give impossible conditions, and that they truly appear to be working for a peaceful solution for Rwanda. Thus, the method of war chosen by the rebels, and which they still apply, is not a good one. The RPF must stop fighting so that we can continue with the negotiations. The RPF must return to the positions they held when we signed the cease-fire agreement.

The military observer team charged with monitoring the cease-fire know the RPF positions and have them on their maps. I thus request all the citizens to continue supporting the Arusha talks so that they can effectively achieve peace in our country. [passage omitted]

Rwandan men and women: At this time of war, we cannot continue working the same way as in peace time, that is why I ask that political party rallies be temporarily stopped throughout the country and be replaced by prefects and mayors' meetings aimed at explaining security matters to the people. Security meetings at prefectural level must closely study the state of security and take appropriate steps in every area, be it instituting a curfew or patrols. I hope that if all of us Rwandans unite, and if the political parties make their contributions in conformity with the times we are living in, we will come out of these bad moments successfully. However, I request the friendly countries, organizations, the international community, and all our neighbors to understand our problems properly, and our wish to overcome them. [passage omitted]

We must all agree that leadership must not come by way of war or bloodshed, and that the good way of democracy we have adopted of accepting that leadership is given by the people must be the only one we can apply to avoid destroying our own country.

Rwandan men and women: We all hope that negotiations will continue and will enable us to reach actual peace. Friends will help us in this and God will not forget us. Let Rwandans believe in their Army and continue to assist it openly. Long live all of you.