

2007 but it is unclear how much would be affected by the bill, which also exempts humanitarian, healthcare and emergency food assistance.

The text also exempts counter-terrorism, peacekeeping operations and international military training from any funding restrictions, a reflection of Ethiopia's military and intelligence capabilities and its perceived role as a source of stability in the volatile Horn of Africa.

Samuel Assefa, Ethiopia's ambassador to the US, described the bill as "unconscionable and irresponsible". (*Financial Times*, London, 4/10) US bias? p. 17283

MOROCCO–SPAIN

Ambassador Recalled

A royal trip to the coastal enclaves has soured relations.

Spain moved to soothe diplomatic tensions with Morocco on November 5th as the Spanish king and queen began a visit to two territories on the coast of North Africa that Morocco claims as its own.

Cheering crowds waving the Spanish flag greeted King **Juan Carlos** and Queen **Sofia** in Ceuta, the first stop in a two-day visit to the enclaves of Ceuta and Melilla that in its planning stage prompted Morocco to recall its ambassador **Omar Azziman** on November 2nd.

Alfredo Perez Rubalcaba, Spain's Interior Minister, admitted "surprise" at Morocco's reaction to the visit. But he said he believed relations between the countries, which face each other across

the neck of the Mediterranean, "would continue to be as good as they have been in recent years".

Analysts said Morocco's reaction to the visit could strain relations with Spain, Morocco's biggest trading partner after France and home to about 500,000 Moroccan émigrés. They expressed concern that the dispute could reinforce the will of Islamist terrorists to attack the enclaves, already on high alert since **Al-Qaeda's** deputy leader, **Ayman al-Zawahiri**, cited them in December as occupied territories that must be reclaimed for Muslims.

Morocco equates its claim to the enclaves—remnants of Spain's former empire—to Spain's claim over the British territory of Gibraltar. Spain says it has controlled Ceuta and Melilla for centuries, since before Morocco was a sovereign state.

Morocco's claims to the territories have proved an emotional issue that some say Morocco uses to stir up nationalist sentiment. "This is an issue that inflames the patriotic spirit" in Morocco, said Haizam Amirah Fernandez, an expert in Mediterranean and Arab Affairs at the Royal Elcano Institute in Madrid.

"To use Spain as a target in order to distract from domestic problems is a dangerous game," he said.

The government of **Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero** has cultivated friendlier relations with Morocco, which hit a low point in 2002 when Moroccan troops briefly occupied a tiny island (Perejil) off the African coast to which both countries lay claim (*Vol. 39, p. 14984*). Spanish troops ejected the Moroccan soldiers, and the two countries temporarily cut diplomatic ties.

In 2006, Zapatero became the first Spanish prime minister to visit the enclaves in 26 years, a decision that Morocco said it disagreed with but which did not cause tension. (*International Herald Tribune* 6/11)

UGANDA

CHOGM

The organisation has a critical role to play in meeting current challenges.

The biennial Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting (CHOGM) took place in Kampala, from November 23rd to 25th. Her Majesty Queen **Elizabeth II** attended the meeting in her role as Head of the Commonwealth. This was Her Majesty The Queen's eighteenth CHOGM.

The meeting came at a critical moment: in the midst of the democratic crisis in

Pakistan; one week before the Bali climate change conference with only 10 to 15 years to turn the tide on global warming; half way to the Millennium Development Goals which the world is in danger of not meeting; with months left to agree a global trade deal; and with no room for complacency in the fight against extremism.

And as a unique partnership of rich and poor countries, the Commonwealth has a critical role to play in meeting these challenges.

Commonwealth leaders met in the aftermath of Pakistan President Musharraf's decision on November 3rd to declare a state of emergency. On November 12th the Commonwealth Ministers' Action Group (CMAG) set out five conditions for Pakistan to fulfil in order to avoid suspension from the Commonwealth: lifting the state of emergency; the President giving up his job as Chief of Staff of the Army; holding free and fair elections; releasing political detainees incarcerated during the emergency; and removing restrictions on the freedom of the press.

The meeting also agreed with the need to act collectively to:

- Redouble their efforts to deliver education for all, with a particular focus on enrolling the 30m primary school aged children out of school across the Commonwealth; eliminating gender disparity in education and strengthening education systems in countries affected by conflict. At Britain's initiative, Heads also undertook to put in place, by the end of 2008, at least 20 long-term education plans of the type endorsed by the Education for All Fast Track Initiative, and to focus on measuring and improving the quality of education;
- Achieve a successful conclusion to the WTO's negotiations, in the light of the fundamental contribution of international trade to global prosperity, sustainable development and the elimination of poverty;
- Establish a small group of Commonwealth Heads to campaign for reform of international institutions, in order to achieve an architecture which reflects today's global challenges and more effective and more representative;
- Meet the Millennium Development Goals, the responsibility of all countries rich and poor, and called for a UN meeting in 2008 to re-energise global efforts; and,
- Achieve a declaration on climate change, by calling for a long term global goal for emissions reduction to which all countries must contribute, a comprehensive post-2012 global agreement that strengthens, broadens and deepens current arrangements and leads to reduced emissions of global greenhouse gases.
- The need for all Commonwealth members to assess the implications of climate change for their societies was agreed, and new technical assistance through the Commonwealth would be offered to help achieve this. (*The Monitor, Kampala*, 27/11)

Heads of government acknowledged the threats posed by weapons of mass destruction and in this regard

Remnants of history

1497: Spanish take coastal enclave of Melilla

1580: They occupy enclave of Ceuta, which becomes a centre for African-European trade

1912: Treaty of Fez forces Sultan of Morocco to accept a French protectorate in the main part of the country and a Spanish protectorate in the north and extreme south

1956: Morocco gains independence but Spain keeps enclaves of Ceuta and Melilla

1986: Ceuta and Melilla considered Spanish cities and European territory, join EU as part of Spain

1995: Gain local autonomy, with their own governments returning deputies and senators to the Spanish Parliament in Madrid

2005: Spain and Morocco agree to deploy extra troops to secure borders against illegal immigrants

(*News Agencies; countrystudies.us*)

reaffirmed their commitments towards the attainment of general and complete disarmament, including nuclear disarmament. They also reaffirmed their commitment to the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. They reiterated that these objectives should be achieved in accordance with the United Nations Charter and international law.

Rwanda has applied to join CHOGM and President **Paul Kagame** delivered a keynote speech entitled “Critical steps towards a competitive East Africa”. Rwanda applied to join in 1995. It is already a member of the East African Community (EAC), whose original three members are all Commonwealth countries, and has made English its third national language after Kinyarwanda and French.

India's High Commissioner to the United Kingdom, Mr **Kamlesh Sharma**, has been selected the new Commonwealth Secretary-General slated to take over the reins of office on April 1st 2008. This was announced by the outgoing Secretary-General Rt. Hon. **Don McKinnon** in Kampala. He said the selection of Mr Sharma was a unanimous decision by Commonwealth leaders. (*Commonwealth.org*, November)

ZAMBIA–CHINA–TAIWAN

Sata Stirs Hornet's Nest

Beijing asks Lusaka to “act and tame” the opposition leader.

Zambia is trying to avoid a diplomatic row with Beijing after its main opposition party leader said he was on a mission to discredit China in favour of Taiwan.

Zambia does not recognise Taiwan as a sovereign state but as a province of mainland China. This stand has helped the good relationship between the two countries, leading to China committing US\$900m for a new multi-facility economic zone in Zambia's Copperbelt province.

However, controversial Patriotic Front (PF) president **Michael Sata**, who has attacked China's investment in Africa and in Zambia in particular, has urged that Taiwan should be given a permanent seat at the UN and has said that if he ran the government Zambia would recognise Taiwan.

Sata has apparently been receiving funding from Taiwan and his attacks on China became a big election issue in 2006 when he narrowly lost to the incumbent President **Levy Mwanawasa** (*Vol. 43, pp. 16750, 16785*).

Now a letter has been leaked to local media indicating that Sata is asking for additional funding from the Taiwanese ambassador in **Malawi**. Part of the letter reads, “When I met you in 2005, I undertook to do everything in my capacity to discredit The People's Republic of China so that they can concentrate on defending themselves against my attacks and leave your country in peace”.

The message has provoked the Chinese government and prompted its ambassador in Zambia to ask the Zambian government to “act and tame” the opposition leader.

The government responded instantly by warning Sata that he risked being arrested for soliciting money from a foreign government and causing confusion in a sovereign state. But there is a lack of legal backing for this alleged crime.

Sata's antagonism to China's investment in Zambia is shared by many ordinary people because of Chinese companies' poor labour conditions.

Zambians working for Chinese firms often complain of low wages, lack of safety measures and long working hours.

Sata also argues that China has been “offloading” its unskilled labourers on Zambia, which it says presents a security threat to Zambia, and he calls most of the investors “bogus”.

His point was buttressed recently when seven Chinese nationals were arrested by police for stealing about \$1m worth of copper concentrate from mining firms on the Copperbelt.

Zambia's immigration service gives favourable treatment to the Chinese and 80,000 Chinese nationals have become resident in the country within a space of five years.

Fearing to damage its relationship with China, which Mwanawasa believes is Zambia's only hope for economic development, the government is ignoring the serious reports of abuse of Zambian workers by Chinese companies. (*SouthScan 2/11*)

IN BRIEF

Nigeria: A significant paedophile network has been dismantled by the **Netherlands'** police. Thirteen were arrested in the Netherlands and six others in Anvers, Madrid, Dublin, London and the US. The young girls were sent from Nigeria to Amsterdam on false passports, under orders to demand asylum, which is never refused in Holland to unaccompanied minors. (*Liberation, Paris, 29/10*)

Ms **Robin Saunders** has been appointed UN ambassador to Nigeria. She succeeds **John Campbell**. She has served various diplomatic missions in Africa. (*PANA, Washington DC, 12/11*)

Rwanda–France: A French court approved on November 14th the handover to a UN court of a Rwandan genocide suspect accused of coordinating the massacre of up to 25,000 people in one incident.

Dominique Ntawukuriyayo, 65, had been living in France and was detained by French police in the southern town of Carcassonne in October.

Although a Paris appeals court approved his handover to the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda in Arusha, **Tanzania**, he will not be transferred immediately as his lawyers have decided to appeal against the decision. (*Reuters 14/11*)

Social and Cultural

ARCHAEOLOGY

Tutankhamun on Display Indefinitely

Scientists are acting to save the boy king's face, which the public can now see for the first time in 3,000 years.

King Tutankhamun went on display to the public on November 4th in his tomb in the Valley of the Kings, **Egypt**.

His mummified face, which has been seen only by about 50 people since the British archaeologist **Howard Carter** opened the tomb exactly 85 years ago, was revealed to the world in a climate-controlled glass display case in an antechamber of his own tomb in the valley near Luxor, where generations of Egyptian pharaohs were buried.

“Everyone is dreaming of what he looks like. The face of Tutankhamun is

different from any king in the Cairo museum. With his beautiful buck teeth, the tourists will see a little bit of the smile from the face of the golden boy,” said **Zahi Hawass**, Egypt's leading expert on the famous boy King and head of antiquities.

Dr Hawass expects a huge influx of tourists to see the mummy, to be displayed in the tomb indefinitely. Only the face can be seen, with the body wrapped in linen.

But the interest has taken its toll on the king's remains. “The humidity and heat caused by ... people entering the tomb