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Continental News

G7 calls for access to famine-hit Ethiopian region

The G7 group has called for unimpeded access for aid workers to Ethiopia's northern Tigray region, where the UN says some 350,000 people are living in famine conditions.

The world's seven largest so-called advanced economies also demanded an immediate ceasefire and the withdrawal of Eritrean troops.

The Eritreans are fighting alongside government forces against local rebels.

Ethiopia denies there is a famine and says the Eritreans have begun to leave.

Meeting in the UK, the G7 group, which includes the US, EU and UK, also said they would donate a billion Covid-19 vaccines to poorer countries by next year and raise \$100bn (£70bn) to help them cut carbon emissions. Hundreds of people travelled to Falmouth, near to where the G7 summit is being held, to protest about the situation in Tigray. The war, which broke



Some aid is getting through - but not enough

out in Ethiopia last November, has killed thousands of people and forced some 1.7 million from their homes.

"We are deeply concerned by the ongoing conflict... and reports of an unfolding major humanitarian tragedy, including potentially hundreds of thousands in famine conditions," said a statement issued after the G7

summit. Ethiopian and Eritrean forces have been accused of deliberately blocking aid supplies to Tigray - a charge Ethiopia denies, saying it is distributing assistance as it restores order to the region.

Aid workers report that some of the supplies which do get through are stolen.

Last week, some Tigray

residents described their situation to the BBC Tigrinya service. "We are civilians, our crops and cattle have been taken by armed men," one farmer in his 60s said.

"They took from me around 30 cows and oxen - there are some who lost 100-200... cattle." Another farmer in his 40s told the BBC: "We were eating small remains of crops that we managed to hide, but now we don't have anything." "Nobody has given us any aid. Almost everyone is on the verge of death - our eyes are affected by the hunger, the situation is perilous. According to the Tigray Humanitarian Atlas published by researchers at Belgium's University of Ghent, out of Tigray's six million

people:

Just one-third live in areas controlled by the Ethiopian government

Another third are in areas occupied by the Eritrean army, which experts say does not cooperate with humanitarian agencies. A further 1.5 million live in rural areas controlled by the Tigrayan rebels, where aid workers cannot go and mobile-phone coverage has been shut off.

A UN-backed study released on Thursday found that 353,000 people in the region were living in conditions similar to a famine, however a famine was not officially declared.

A further two million people were living in the next level down, described as "emergency" conditions. BBC

Covid spike delays return of Lumumba's remains

The return of the remains of Congolese independence hero Patrice Lumumba has been delayed by a new wave of Covid-19.

Tributes had been planned from 21 June, starting with the return of what are believed to be his only remains - a tooth - from Belgium. "We have to prioritise the health of our compatriots," President Félix

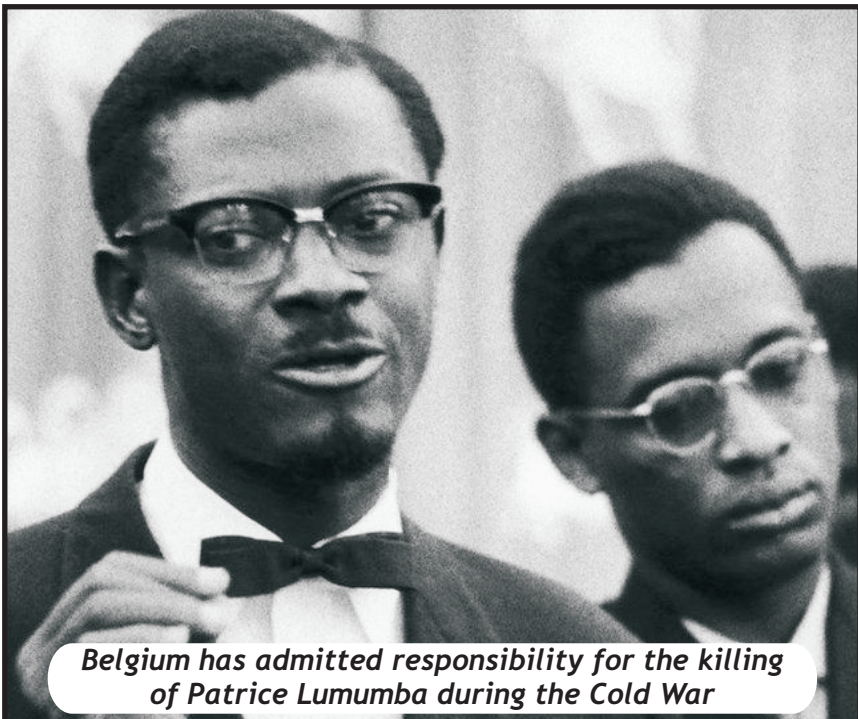
Tshisekedi said. He said the country's hospitals were full and both cases and deaths were rising "exponentially". He led Congo to independence from Belgium in June 1960 and became the country's first prime minister. However, he was overthrown and jailed before being killed by firing squad in January 1961. In 2002, Belgium admitted responsibility for its part in the killing, in which the CIA is widely believed to have

played a role amid the Cold War between the US and the Soviet Union. Western powers feared that Lumumba would side with the Soviet Union, potentially giving it access to Congo's supplies of uranium.

A Belgian policeman has admitted dissolving Lumumba's body in acid, but said he had kept a tooth.

Last year, a Belgian court ordered the tooth to be returned to the Democratic Republic of Congo even though no DNA tests had been carried out to confirm it was Lumumba's. An official said that such a test would have destroyed the tooth.

President Tshisekedi has said a mausoleum will be built to the independence hero and a series of ceremonies are planned around the vast country. These have now been postponed until January 2022 - the 61st anniversary of Lumumba's death. It is grappling with a third wave of Covid-19 infections, and Mr Tshisekedi said he would announce "draconian measures" to tackle it in the coming days.



Belgium has admitted responsibility for the killing of Patrice Lumumba during the Cold War

Nigerian president admits failure to end violence

Nigeria's President Muhammadu Buhari has admitted that he has failed to end insecurity in the country, a promise he made when he was elected in 2015. In a TV address, he said the fight against Islamist militants in the north had had the unintended consequence of spreading violence to other areas.

Mr Buhari extended his "heartfelt condolences" to families of victims.

The Boko Haram Islamist group, which began its insurgency in 2009, has stepped up attacks in recent months. After his election in 2015, President Buhari said the group had been "technically defeated" by an army offensive.

But there have been dozens of attacks in the north-east since the start of the year, and a number of military bases as well as towns have been overrun by the militants. Weapons, food and medicines have also been looted. In his address marking Democracy

Day on Saturday, President Buhari said the past two years had seen "challenges that would have destroyed other nations, especially relating to our collective security".

Referring to the attacks and kidnappings that have spread to north-west and central Nigeria, he said: "Unfortunately, like most conflict situations, some Nigerian criminals have taken advantage of a difficult situation". He expressed his condolences to "families and friends of our countrymen, women and children who have been the unfortunate victims of such senseless kidnappings and murders". The president said he would do "everything in [his] power to ensure security".

The speech came as some Nigerians gathered for nationwide protests over issues of insecurity.

In recent times, security forces have attacked protesters and many have accused the government of trying to prevent criticism. Key protest organisers have often been targeted and arrested. BBC

In the latest figures, 254 new Covid-19 infections were announced on Friday, mostly in the capital, Kinshasa, along with three deaths. Since the outbreak began, about 35,000 infections and 834 have officially been recorded in DR Congo, which has a population of at least 80 million.

However, experts say many more cases are likely to have gone unrecorded due to the poor state of the country's health system. DR Congo is carrying out a vaccination campaign using the AstraZeneca jab but President Tshisekedi said he wanted to speed it up by using different vaccines as well. BBC

EDITORIAL

Tampering with justice undermines peace

SOME OFFICIALS OF the judiciary, including the Liberia National Police that is under the Ministry of Justice last week confirmed the release of murder suspect Sampson F. Pennue on bail in Grand Gedeh County in a crime that is non-bailable under the laws of Liberia. But nobody accepts responsibility.

SUSPECT SAMPSON F. PENNUE, commander of the National Security Agency (NSA) in Grand Gedeh allegedly shot dead Deputy Police Commander Alexander B. Saye in the county on November 27, 2020, but how he was reportedly bailed out and by whom is the 62 million dollar question, particularly so after the Liberia National Police in Grand Gedeh County formally charged Suspect Pennue with Murder for the killing of late DCP Saye.

POLICE SAY THE charge is in keeping with Chapter 14 Sub-chapter A, Section 14.1 of the Revised Penal Code of the Republic of Liberia after the accused “criminally” and “intentionally” shot and caused bodily injury on the person of victim Alexander B. Saye with a 9mm pistol thus, resulting to his death.

COINCIDENTALLY, A BROTHER of the deceased, John B. Saye, alarmed over radio last week Thursday, 10 June 2020 in Monrovia that Suspect Sampson Pennue has been released. Unfortunately, the news came just as judicial officials converged last week for a three-day conference that highlighted excesses by courts and lawyers in dispensing justice.

ALTHOUGH EVERYBODY CLAIMS innocence, including Solicitor General Symah Cyrenius Cephas, Police Inspector General Patrick Sudue and Grand Gedeh County Attorney Cllr. J. Adolphus Karnue, but how could the 7th Judicial Circuit Court in the county where the case is assigned, release a murder suspect against the law?

THE ISSUE UNDER discussion is nothing but a clear attempt by some officials sitting somewhere to temper with the administration of justice for selfish interest. Are those involved saying the life of the late DCP Alexander B. Saye was less important than Suspect Sampson Pennue?

THE LATE ALEXANDER Saye was killed in active service, so it behooves the State to deliver justice not only to the Police that he worked for but to family and friends.

HOWEVER, NEWS THAT the suspect has been bailed out in a murder case is sufficient reason for concern. Justice is crying out in the wilderness. Someone should listen and correct the wrong immediately.

IF OUTCOME OF last week's judicial conference in Monrovia would have any significant impact on the workings of the justice system of Liberia, the murder case involving Suspect Sampson Pennue is a litmus-test for building public confidence in the judiciary.

WHOEVER LET OUT Pennue should return him immediately so that he may have his day in court to exonerate himself of murder, as charged by the Police and to walk out publicly a free man under the law rather than sneaking out under the cover of darkness, as we are hearing.

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+231-775407211 Managing Editor: Othello B. Garblah; Editor-In-Chief: Jonathan

COMMENTARY

By Ian Buruma

What Is the Point of the Olympics?

NEW YORK - Kaori Yamaguchi, an Olympic medalist in judo and an executive member of the Japanese Olympic Committee, made an astonishing statement - astonishing, that is, for an Olympic official. She said that Japan had been “cornered” into holding this year’s Games during a pandemic: “What will these Olympics be for, and for whom? The Games have already lost meaning and are being held just for the sake of them. I believe we have already missed the opportunity to cancel.”

She is not alone. A top Japanese medical expert warned that the Games could trigger fresh COVID-19 outbreaks, and that going ahead under present conditions would “not be normal.” Over 80% of the Japanese population want the Games to be either postponed or canceled. The Asahi Shimbun newspaper, an official sponsor of the Games, has urged the government to abandon the enterprise. If the Games do go ahead, which seems most likely, the events will take place in mostly empty stadiums built at huge expense.

Yamaguchi’s question is a valid one. For whom are the Olympics? The athletes already have ample opportunity to compete in all kinds of international championships. And the Japanese should not pay the price for entertaining television viewers. Perhaps the Games are for Japanese politicians who hoped the spectacle would burnish their prestige, or for the fat cats of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), those blazered worthies who believe their juggernaut’s interests should trump those of everyone else?

The question of what the Olympics are really for has haunted the Games ever since Baron Pierre de Coubertin “revived” them in Athens in 1896. The Baron, like other French conservatives at the time, was worried about national virility, especially after losing the war against Prussia in 1871. He thought competitive sports would be the answer to the shortcomings of French manhood.

Apart from restoring French masculinity, Coubertin also hoped that an international sporting event would promote peace by bringing the world’s peoples together. Like World Fairs and Boy Scout Jamborees, the Games would encourage international friendship as well as patriotism. After clean and fair competition, the healthiest specimens from many nations would march together to a better future.

Charles Maurras, the far-right ideologue who joined the ultra-nationalist Action française, ridiculed Coubertin’s idealism at first. He despised the idea of international friendship. But then he changed his mind. Competing on track and field would make people from different nations hate one another even more. And that, in his view, would be a very good thing.

In the end, neither Coubertin’s idealism nor Maurras’ cynicism prevailed. World peace did not come about, but wars were hardly the result of national partisanship in sports stadiums. The hollowness of Coubertin’s

pretensions became pathetically clear when his shaky voice extolled the virtues of friendship and fair play at the Berlin Olympics in 1936, as Hitler and Goering sat smirking in their luxury seats.

One cannot deny that the Games have had some positive purposes since the end of World War II. The Tokyo Olympics in 1964 were immensely important to the Japanese, symbolizing not only economic revival but also political respectability. Japan was no longer a militarist predator that had been responsible for millions of bloody deaths in Asia, but a thriving democracy, open to the world.

Something similar might be claimed for the 1988 Seoul Olympics. After decades of harsh imperial Japanese rule, the devastating Korean war, and more decades of military dictatorship, South Korea had emerged as a relatively open society with competitive elections, a rambunctiously free press, and a young population brimming with pride and optimism. The Koreans richly deserved the international limelight. The Seoul Games were a true celebration.

Apart from these rare occasions, however, the Olympics are hard to justify. The marching, flag-waving, uniformed jamborees are a nineteenth-century anachronism, still cherished in countries whose people have no right to elect their leaders but only the obligation to praise them. North Korea is the past-master at this kind of thing, but Vladimir Putin’s Winter Olympics in 2014, held in a subtropical resort filled with artificial snow, was clearly meant as an homage to his authoritarian rule. And the brand of Chinese nationalism on display at the Beijing Games in 2008 would have been closer to Maurras’ heart than to Coubertin’s.

Poorer countries, such as Greece in 2004, have been left with huge debts and deserted stadiums overgrown with weeds. And rich countries don’t really need the extravaganzas like those put on in Atlanta in 1996 or London in 2012, except perhaps as an excuse to invest in infrastructure that should have been built anyway.

Tokyo in 2021 surely doesn’t need the Olympics. And yet the Olympic army marches on, making enormous amounts of money even as some countries are almost bankrupted. The IOC made a tidy €985 million (\$1.2 billion) from the Athens Olympics. I remember watching the Olympic officials strutting around in Seoul. The poorer the country they represented, the bigger their platinum watches seemed to be.

The Games are a gigantic business for the IOC, for sponsors, for property developers, and sometimes for corrupt politicians. That is what they are for. Thousands of Olympic officials will be crowding the lobbies of expensive hotels in Tokyo this year. And after they leave for the next place, the big stadiums built for nothing will remain as largely abandoned sites of an event that should never have taken place.

OPINION

By Minxin Pei

The Party Is Not Forever

CLAREMONT, CALIFORNIA - Human beings approaching 100 normally think about death. But political parties celebrating their centennial, as the Communist Party of China (CPC) will on July 1, are obsessed with immortality. Such optimism seems odd for parties that rule dictatorships, because their longevity record does not inspire confidence. The fact that no other such party in modern times has survived for a century should give China's leaders cause for worry, not celebration.

One obvious reason for the relatively short lifespan of communist or authoritarian parties is that party-dominated modern dictatorships, unlike democracies, emerged only in the twentieth century. The Soviet Union, the first such dictatorship, was founded in 1922. The Kuomintang (KMT) in China, a quasi-Leninist party, gained nominal control of the country in 1927. The Nazis did not come to power in Germany until 1933. Nearly all of the world's communist regimes were established after World War II.

But there is a more fundamental explanation than historical coincidence. The political environment in which dictatorial parties operate implies an existence that is far more Hobbesian - "nasty, brutish, and short" - than that of their democratic counterparts.

One sure way for dictatorial parties to die is to wage a war and lose, a fate that befell the Nazis and Mussolini's Fascists in Italy. But most exit power in a far less dramatic (or traumatic) fashion.

In non-communist regimes, long-standing and forward-looking ruling parties, such as the KMT in Taiwan and Mexico's Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI), saw the writing on the wall and initiated democratizing reforms before they lost all legitimacy. Although these parties were eventually voted out of office, they remained politically viable and subsequently returned to power by winning competitive elections (in Taiwan in 2008 and Mexico in 2012).

In contrast, communist regimes trying to appease their populations through limited democratic reforms have all ended up collapsing. In the former Soviet bloc, liberalizing measures in the 1980s quickly triggered revolutions that swept the communists - and the Soviet Union itself - into the dustbin of history.

The CPC does not want to dwell on that history during its upcoming centennial festivities. Chinese President Xi Jinping and his colleagues obviously want to project an image of confidence and optimism. But political bravado is no substitute for a survival strategy, and once the CPC rules out reform as too dangerous, its available options are extremely limited.

Before Xi came to power in 2012, some Chinese leaders looked to Singapore's model. The People's Action Party (PAP), which has ruled the city-state without interruption since 1959, seems to have it all: a near-total monopoly of power, competent governance, superior economic performance, and dependable popular support. But the more the CPC looked - and it dispatched tens of thousands of officials to Singapore to study it - the less it wanted to become a giant version of the PAP. China's communists certainly wanted to have the PAP's hold on power, but they did not want to adopt the same methods and institutions that help maintain the PAP's supremacy.

Of all the institutional ingredients that have made the PAP's dominance special, the CPC least likes Singapore's legalized opposition parties, relatively clean elections, and rule of law. Chinese leaders understand that these institutions, vital to the PAP's success, would fatally weaken the CPC's political monopoly if introduced in China.

That is perhaps why the Singapore model has lost its luster in the Xi era, whereas the North Korean model - totalitarian political repression, a cult of the supreme leader, and *juche* (economic self-reliance) - has grown more appealing. True, China has not yet become a giant North Korea, but a number of trends over the last eight years have moved the country in that direction.

Politically, the rule of fear has returned, not only for ordinary people, but also for the CPC's elites, as Xi has reinstated purges under the guise of a perpetual anti-corruption campaign. Censorship is at its highest level in the post-Mao era, and Xi's regime has all but eliminated space for civil society, including NGOs. The authorities have even reined in China's freewheeling private entrepreneurs with regulatory crackdowns, criminal prosecution, and confiscation of wealth.

And Xi has assiduously nurtured a personality cult. These days, the front page of the People's Daily newspaper is filled with coverage of Xi's activities and personal edicts. The abridged history of the CPC, recently released to mark the party's centennial, devotes a quarter of its content to Xi's eight years in power, while giving only half as much space to Deng Xiaoping, the CPC's true savior.

Economically, China has yet to embrace *juche* fully. But the CPC's new Five-Year Plan projects a vision of technological self-sufficiency and economic security centered on domestic growth. Although the party has a reasonable excuse - America's strategy of economic and technological decoupling leaves it no

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OP-ED

By Kevin Rudd

The Virus Next Time

BRISBANE - As more developed countries begin to feel as though they have made it to the other side of the COVID-19 crisis, two striking realities are coming into view. First, one can clearly see just how vulnerable many developing countries still are to rapidly escalating outbreaks of the type we are witnessing in India. The results of failing to distribute the most effective vaccines equitably and strategically are being laid bare.

Second, with more dangerous and contagious variants continuing to emerge, we do not have the luxury of delaying work toward a new international system for pandemic preparedness and response. We must start that project immediately. And fortunately, the Independent Panel for Pandemic Preparedness and Response (IPPR), chaired by former New Zealand Prime Minister Helen Clark and former Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, has just published a blueprint for how to do it.

The question now is whether governments are ready not just to listen but to act. The answer will determine whether we can prevent future epidemics from becoming global catastrophes. I know from my own government's experience during the 2009 swine flu (H1N1) pandemic that it is crucial to confront these crises with immediate, far-reaching, and coordinated action. Thanks to eight months of work by the IPPR, policymakers now have a comprehensive set of recommendations for transforming how we manage pandemic risks.

Chief among the panel's proposals is a call for pandemic preparedness and response to be elevated to the highest level of political leadership through a new Global Health Threats Council, which should be based at the United Nations headquarters in New York. The panel has also proposed an International Financing Facility for Pandemic Preparedness and Response to help share the burden in future global health crises. Either through direct contributions or a kind of assessed contribution, this mechanism would fund both ongoing preparedness and rapid-response measures in low- and middle-income countries.

The IPPR has offered the kind of emphatic, dispassionate, and actionable guidance that governments need and - in this case - have demanded through the World Health Organization. Four years ago, the Independent Commission on Multilateralism (ICM, which I chaired) tried to raise the alarm about the growing threat of pandemics in its report *Global Pandemics and Global Public Health*. We were aghast at the poor state of the global health architecture at a time when cross-border health crises were becoming more frequent and posing unprecedented risks. Those risks have since materialized in the form of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In addition to issuing a clear warning, the commission's report made a series of bold recommendations to strengthen the multilateral system in the face of potential global health crises. Its proposals for clearer rules for verification and early-warning mechanisms have now been echoed in the IPPR's recommendations, as has its call for a more empowered independent WHO secretariat. We are still waiting for progress on all of these fronts.

We cannot afford to let the IPPR's report fall on the same deaf ears. And yet, that is exactly what seems to be happening. The 74th World Health Assembly just voted to spend six months studying the panel's report before even considering taking any action. Such delays are simply unacceptable.

The COVID-19 crisis has borne out an uncomfortable truth that is emphasized in the IPPR's report: namely, that many of the national and global institutions established to deal with global pandemics are not fit for purpose, or have not been properly activated. From the moment in late 2019 and early 2020 when the existing International Health Regulations failed, the COVID-19 outbreak became a global catastrophe. And since then, our national and global economic responses have been too slow, tepid, and uncoordinated - a failure that the post-2008 G20 architecture was supposed to prevent.

The current crisis could still become much worse before it gets any better. We are already witnessing a breakdown of global supply chains, which will lead to terrible economic, political, and public-health outcomes. We need to get back on track now so that we can fight not only future pandemics but also this one.

The IPPR's report could not be timelier. The G7 summit in Cornwall on June 11-13 is an opportunity to concentrate our efforts with backing from the highest political levels. COVID-19 has been costly for all of us. The ICM's 2017 report anticipated that we would be here one day and identified the solutions we would need to implement. Let us use the IPPR's findings to enact meaningful reforms and show real leadership, so that this pandemic will be the last one to catch us off guard.

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SPECIAL

ARTICLE

The Centennial Party and China's Great Changes

By Chinese Ambassador to Liberia
H.E. REN Yisheng

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the Communist Party of China (CPC). In 1921, the CPC was born under the background of the Chinese nation's internal and external troubles, unprecedented social crisis, and the Chinese people living in dire straits. This is an epoch-making event that breaks ground in China. Over the past 100 years, the CPC has continuously won major victories in revolution, construction, and reform, and led the Chinese people to achieve an unprecedented great leap from continuous decline to a fundamental change in fate and continuous progress towards prosperity and strength.

For more than 70 years as a ruling party, the CPC has created the "two miracles" that Chinese people are proud of, namely, the miracle of rapid economic development and the miracle of long-term social stability that are rare in the world. On the one hand, China has only spent decades in completing the industrialization process that Western developed countries have traversed for hundreds of years, especially in the short period of more than 40 years after the reform and opening up, China has got rid of poverty and become the world's second largest economy. In the past 40 years, the average annual contribution rate of China's economic growth to world economic growth has reached about 18%. Last year, China's GDP exceeded one hundred billion yuan, accounting for more than 16% of the world's total, and its contribution to global economic growth was as high as 35%. China is the world's largest manufacturing country, the largest trader in goods, the largest foreign exchange reserve country, and the second largest foreign direct investment destination and source country. It has become the number one engine of world economic growth.

On the other hand, unlike some countries in the world that frequently experience political turmoil, regime changes, economic fluctuations, social divisions, the spread of violence, continuous shootings, and the spread of epidemics, the overall situation of China's society has maintained long-term stability and has become one of the most secure countries in the world. From a global perspective, it is not uncommon for a country and society to develop rapidly and maintain social stability during a certain period of time, but it is rare for a country like China to develop rapidly and maintain social stability over a long period of time.

The creation of the "two miracles" stems from the strong leadership of the CPC. The CPC now has more than 91 million members and is the largest



political party in the world today. 2021 is the first year that China will implement the "14th Five-Year Plan" and start a new journey of building a modern socialist country in an all-round way. Standing at a new historical juncture and on a new level of economic aggregate, China's economy will continue to be stable and far-reaching. Under the leadership of the CPC, the people of all ethnic groups in China are making unremitting efforts to achieve new and higher goals.

The CPC has been full of vitality for a century since its establishment, the main reasons of which is in the following: persist in not forgetting the original intention and keep in mind its mission; uphold the people's supremacy and win the support of the people; insist on seeking truth and being pragmatic, never stop opening up and reforming; unite the party and the people by innovating thoughts and theories; attach great importance to the party's organization building, absorb and train party members and cadres; promote self-revolution, adhere to strict governance of the party, and maintain integrity; persist in taking into account both domestic and foreign interests, with both an independent consciousness and a global perspective.

The rapid rise of China has not only benefited the Chinese people and greatly changed China, but also made important contributions to the development and progress of human society. China's achievement of eliminating absolute poverty in 2020 means that the world's most populous country has achieved the poverty reduction goals of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development 10 years ahead of schedule. The United Nations Secretary-General Guterres spoke

highly of it, saying that China has made the greatest contribution to global poverty reduction in the past 10 years. The success of China's development has boosted the confidence of developing countries in achieving prosperity, and expanded the path for developing countries to realize modernization. It provides experience and reference for those countries and nations in the world that both want to accelerate their development and maintain their own independence to take a path that suits their own national conditions.

At the same time, China yearns for world unity and promotes the building of a more peaceful and beautiful world. General Secretary Xi Jinping put forward a series of important propositions, advocating the joint construction of the "Belt and Road", advocating the construction of a community with a shared future for mankind, calling for changes in the global governance system, and building a fair and just new international order, etc. These important ideas fully demonstrate the historical responsibility of the CPC as the world's largest party and China as a responsible major country. A research report released by the World Bank shows that the full implementation of the "Belt and Road" initiative can lift 32 million people out of moderate poverty, increase global trade by 6.2%, increase trade by economies along the route by 9.7%, and increase global income by 2.9%.

China-Africa relations have a long history, and the friendship between the two sides will last forever. The Chinese people will never forget that it was the African brothers who carried China into the United Nations, and we have always and selflessly supported and helped the development of African countries. A rapidly rising China will bring important development opportunities to Africa. China will continue to uphold the principle of sincerity, real results, amity and good faith and the principle of pursuing the greater good and shared interests under the framework of the "Belt and Road" initiative and the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation, support Liberia and other African countries to strengthen capacity building, give priority to solving the "three major development bottlenecks" of lagging infrastructure, shortage of talents, and shortage of funds, accelerate the process of industrialization and agricultural modernization, achieve win-win cooperation and common development, and make greater contributions to building a community with a shared future for mankind without poverty but common development.



MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Oxfam awards US\$25,000 to 3 local groups

By Winston W. Parley

As part of Oxfam - Liberia's effort to address the challenge of sustainability facing local organizations here, it has awarded US\$25,000 to three local groups aimed at supporting programs generated by each of these winning groups.

of Liberia.

"Today Oxfam is awarding about twenty five thousand U.S. dollars to three groups that have won the IDEAS Market Place," she said. IDEAS is the acronym for Innovate, Develop, Empower and Act for Sustainability.

The three IDEAS Market Place winning teams include I-impact Initiative represented by Hanson

who didn't have any background in development.

She noted that some members of these groups may be students, businesspeople, academics or different kinds of participants from different backgrounds to see what kind of idea that they can generate.

According to Lisa, one of the reasons why things are not sustained is there is always a challenge of local ownership.

According to her, Oxfam has invested a lot of money in gender justice programs and active citizenship programs and then often time they don't really know after they leave, how long will these programs will really last.

Madam Kindervater - Sieh explained that Oxfam was thinking about the question of sustainability and when the innovation process funded by Danidad through Oxfam and Denmark came about, adding that Oxfam really wanted to work with this challenge of sustainability and to put the challenge out there and see what the people will come up with.

"We didn't want to put our Oxfam stamp on it, say, you should do this kind of project or this kind of activity; we wanted it to be generated from the people themselves to be able to do what they thought they will be able to sustain into the future," Madam Kindervater - Sieh

► CONT'D ON PAGE 11



Announcing the award of the fund during an event at Oxfam's office in Monrovia over the weekend, Oxfam Liberia Deputy Program Director Madam Lisa Kindervater - Sieh said the challenge of sustainability and lasting impact are at the forefront now that Oxfam is in the process of phasing out

Blayon and Phebe Lela Dawah; Impact X represented by Abimail B. Arimi; and Action Against SGBV [Sexual Gender - based Violence].

Madam Kindervater - Sieh said the truth is some of these three winning groups may not be sustained, but it's about learning process and putting diverse people together, some of them

VP Taylor holds discussions with Malawi's investment body

Liberia's Vice President Jewel Howard-Taylor has held discussions with Press Trust of Malawi, a Public body responsible to attract investors to Malawi.

At the heart of the discussion was the need to collaborate with the Liberian Government in energy, telecommunications, manufacturing and agriculture.

Press Trust is Malawi's largest employer which mobilizes resources from the private sector to fund government projects in order to provide social services.

The Vice President emphasized President Weah's pronouncement that Liberia is opened for business while signing a non-binding Memorandum of Understanding which provides the framework for economic cooperation

between Liberia and Malawi.

In the exploration for more investment opportunities for Liberia, Madam Vice President held meeting with the National Smallholder Farmers' Association

of Malawi (NASFAM), on the possibilities of partnering in the area of agriculture.

NASFAM is involved in the

► CONT'D ON PAGE 11



(L-R) Malawi Pres. Lazarus Chakwera & VP Taylor

Rail road corridor provides window of opportunity

-Mines & Energy Minister Murray

By Lewis S Teh

Liberia's Mines and Energy Minister Gesler E. Murray, has described the rail corridor project with neighboring Guinea as a new window of opportunity for both sides.

"Before I begin, let me firstly apologize for the absence of two of our colleagues, the man who is leading the charge for this conference Foreign Minister Dee- Maxwell Kemayah, and Finance and Development Planning Minister Samuel D. Tweah; their absence is due to presidential profile, but we are here and we in high spirit", Minister Murray remarked at the close of an inter-ministerial conference between the two countries last week in Monrovia.

Minister Murray made those

the implementation agreement goes forth."

According to the Minister, under the agreement, a technical secretariat will prepare Terms of Reference and their functioning, and they will report to a monitoring committee, which will then report to the inter ministerial committee that will eventually report to the Presidents of Liberia and Guinea respectively.

Guinean Mines and Geology Minister Abdoulaye Magasouba said, "We want to thank the Government and people of Liberia, particularly President Weah for all the attention giving us throughout our stay here in Liberia. We are very convinced that with this strong link at the professional and political levels, we will succeed in this undertaking."



comments over the weekend at the closure of three days inter-ministerial conference held between Liberia and Guinea in Monrovia.

The conference held under a win-win expectation focused on a US\$20 billion rail road project that will allow ores from Guinea transported thru Liberia for exportation to bring economic benefits, including jobs, infrastructure and collaboration.

Making remarks during signing of a joint resolution with his Guinean counterparts, Minister Murray said the integrated rail road project will further segment strong ties with Guinea.

"This rail road system will witness a phenomenal growth in the sources of economics if

Minister Magasouba thanked members of the technical secretariat who he noted, did a great job in a short period of time, adding, "this I think demonstrate their commitment to this mandate that was giving to them by the monitoring committee."

He said the entire Guinean delegation to Liberia is excited for the warm welcome and treatment accorded them, disclosing that President Weah and his Guinean counterpart President Alpha Conde will meet in July for further discussion.

"I want to thank you Minister Gesler E. Murray for the perfect collaboration, and hospitality shown towards our delegation", the Guinean official said.

-Editing by Jonathan Browne

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

UK to donate 100 million coronavirus vaccine doses

The UK will donate 100 million surplus coronavirus vaccine doses to the world within the next year.

The UK will donate at least 100 million surplus coronavirus vaccine doses within the next year, including 5 million beginning in the coming weeks, the Prime Minister has announced Friday June 11, 2021.

Donation is in addition to UK work to support Oxford-AstraZeneca's contribution to fighting COVID and our financial backing to COVAX

G7 leaders are expected to agree to provide 1 billion doses via dose sharing and financing to end the pandemic in 2022

The UK will donate 100 million surplus coronavirus vaccine doses to the world within the next year, the Prime Minister has announced today (11 June 2021).

100m doses will go to COVAX and the remainder will be shared bilaterally with countries in need.

By sharing 5 million doses in the coming weeks the UK will meet an immediate demand for vaccines for the countries worst affected by coronavirus without delaying completion of our initial domestic vaccination programme.

By vaccinating more people around the world not only will we help bring an end to the global coronavirus pandemic, we will reduce the risk to people in the UK. This includes significantly reducing the threat posed by vaccine-resistant variants emerging in areas with large-scale outbreaks.

The UK helped to establish COVAX last year and is its fourth-biggest donor, pledging £548 million to the scheme. COVAX has so far provided 81 million doses to 129 of the world's poorest countries. 96% of these

As a result of the success of the UK's vaccine programme we are now in a position to share some of our surplus doses with those who need them. In doing so we will take a massive step towards beating this pandemic for good.

At the G7 Summit I hope my fellow leaders will make similar pledges so that, together, we can vaccinate the world by the end of next year and build back better from coronavirus.

At the G7 leaders will also discuss how to expand the supply of vaccines internationally, with the Prime Minister asking the group to encourage pharmaceutical companies to adopt the Oxford-AstraZeneca model of providing vaccines of cost for the duration of the pandemic. Pfizer, Moderna and Johnson & Johnson have already pledged to share 1.3 billion doses on a non-profit basis with developing countries.

Leaders are expected to discuss additional ways to support countries experiencing acute coronavirus emergencies and put in place mechanisms to prevent future pandemics. This follows on from commitments made at the virtual meeting of G7 leaders earlier this year.

The cost of donating the UK's surpluses will be classified as ODA. This will be in addition to the £10bn already committed in aid this year. The doses the UK has announced it will donate today will be drawn from the UK's expected excess supply. The 100 million figure has been calculated based on the total needed to vaccinate the UK population, factoring in the possibility of future vaccine-resistant strains being detected and potential disruptions to our supply.

Later this year the UK will also host the UN climate change conference, COP26. Today the UK is also announcing that in order to enable more representatives to attend safely we will work to provide vaccines to those accredited delegations who would be unable to get them otherwise. We are exploring with the UN and partners how we can work together to deliver this offer.

This will mean that those countries most affected by climate change are better able to participate fully in discussions about creating a greener future for the planet. **-Press release**

War crimes court will lead to lasting peace

- Justice Forum CEO

The Chief Executive Officer of Justice Forum Liberia (JFL) a local group, Mr. Maxson S. Kpakio says the establishment of war and economic crimes court for Liberia will not return the country to violence contrary to fears in some quarters.

Instead, he argued that if established, the court will bring justice, end impunity in Liberia and serve as deterrence for would-be warmongers.

Mr. Kpakio stresses the court is an important step for victims of the civil war, as it

torture, and use of child combatants.

He reiterates call to countries across the world to thoroughly check background of Liberians residing abroad and deport those who were involved in the 14 years bloody civil crises.

"We are calling on governments around the world to do background checks on all Liberians that are living in their countries. Many of them living there have killed and destroyed this country (Liberia) and today, they are seeking refuge in your country enjoying the benefit of your sweat and your taxpayers' money as well."

Maxson adds that actions of



JFL boss Maxson S. Kpakio

would ensure the 14 years violence that brought so much pain and loss to Liberia would not happen anymore.

The JFL CEO, who has just returned from a knowledge-sharing conference in Gambia, Guinea and Sierra Leone, recalls that during the arm conflicts which lasted from 1989-96 and 1999-2003 respectively, Liberians suffered violations of international human rights and humanitarian laws such as mass killings, rape and other forms of sexual violence, including summary executions, mutilation,

warmongers have left many Liberians in sorrow because of relatives and other loved ones.

"So, we want the USA, the countries in Europe to listen to our calls and accept our appeals and do the right thing. So those people can face justice for war and economic crimes committed during our civil war," he pleads.

Ordinary Liberians and civil society groups are mounting pressure on the government here to approve establishment of war crimes court for Liberia so that key actors would account of their roles in the crises, but the Weah government seems less enthusiastic. **-Editing by**



The pledge comes ahead of the G7 Summit, which begins in Cornwall today. Last week the Prime Minister asked fellow G7 leaders to help vaccinate the entire world by the end of next year.

At the Summit world leaders are expected to announce they will provide at least 1 billion coronavirus vaccine doses to the world through dose sharing and financing and set out a plan to expand vaccine manufacturing in order to achieve that goal.

The UK will donate 5 million doses by the end of September, beginning in the coming weeks, primarily for use in the world's poorest countries. The Prime Minister has also committed to donating a further 95 million doses within the next year, including 25 million more by the end of 2021. 80% of the

were the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine, the development of which was funded by the UK.

With the support of the UK Government, Oxford-AstraZeneca are distributing their vaccines on a not for profit basis the world. Thanks to this commitment, half a billion people have received a dose of the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine so far.

The Prime Minister said:

Since the start of this pandemic the UK has led the way in efforts to protect humanity against this deadly disease. Over a year ago we funded the development of the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine on the basis it would be distributed at cost to the world.

This unprecedented model, which puts people squarely above profit, means over half a billion doses have been administered in 160 countries so far.

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Français

Une justice optimale pour attirer les investissements

Le président George Manneh Weah a fait observer lors de la conférence judiciaire nationale à Monrovia que la croissance des investissements nationaux et privés dans le pays dépend des procédures judiciaires, de la durée nécessaires pour résoudre les différends juridiques et de la perception qu'on a de la justice, laquelle perception est le résultat des procédures judiciaires.

« Si les entreprises ne peuvent pas obtenir réparation judiciaire en temps opportun auprès des tribunaux, ou si les contrats ne peuvent pas être exécutés de manière efficace ou équitable, cela affecte le climat d'investissement », a déclaré jeudi le président Weah au complexe ministériel de Congo Town jeudi 10 juin.

Ayant pris la parole lors de la conférence, le président Weah a fait valoir que seul le pouvoir judiciaire détient la clé de la perception et du sens de la justice des

personnes et des institutions au Libéria. Selon lui, les pouvoirs qu'exercent le juge en chef, les juges associés et les conseillers et avocats dans la démocratie libérienne et sur les Libériens sont impressionnants.

« Je suis très impressionné que vous ayez choisi d'évaluer l'impact de ce pouvoir sur notre politique et notre économie nationales à travers cette

conférence judiciaire. Il est également louable qu'en ce quatrième jour de la conférence, vous ayez également choisi d'évaluer spécifiquement l'impact de ce pouvoir sur les entreprises, les sociétés et les investisseurs », a-t-il noté.

Selon le président Weah, la

► CONT'D ON PAGE 9



Côte d'Ivoire : trois soldats tués à la frontière avec le Burkina Faso

Un véhicule de l'armée a sauté sur un engin explosif improvisé ce samedi 12 juin. Trois soldats ont été tués, selon le chef d'état-major général des armées, le général Lassina Doumbia. Ça s'est passé à Téhini, dans la nuit de samedi à dimanche, dans la zone où un soldat ivoirien est déjà

décédé en début de semaine, après une attaque jihadiste. Le bilan fourni par l'état-major de Côte d'Ivoire indique trois morts et quatre blessés évacués et pris en charge. Pour le haut commandement ce qui est arrivé est une « attaque complexe ».

Selon la version de l'armée, ce samedi 12 juin vers 19h, une

patrouille de l'armée était en reconnaissance quand un des véhicules de transport de troupes a sauté en roulant sur un engin explosif improvisé dissimulé qui s'est déclenché au passage des véhicules. Lundi dernier un autre soldat est mort à Tougbo, toujours dans la même zone. En une semaine, ce sont donc quatre soldats ivoiriens qui ont trouvé la mort au nord-est du pays, à proximité de la frontière du Burkina Faso.

Il y a un peu plus de deux mois, le 29 mars précisément, deux attaques avaient déjà visé les forces de défense ivoiriennes toujours dans le nord,

Ce jeudi 10 juin, le Premier ministre ivoirien Patrick Achi inaugurait à Jacqueville l'académie internationale de lutte contre le terrorisme en présence du ministre français Jean-Yves Le Drian.

Les responsables sécuritaires ivoiriens sont préoccupés par ces attaques répétées. Ils devraient se réunir

« pour comprendre au moins ce qui s'est passé » nous a confié une source bien informée.



Éditorial

Ce que le Président Weah pense du tribunal des crimes de guerre pour le Libéria

La réponse du président George Manneh Weah à la préoccupation du représentant du comté de Lofa, Clarence Massaquo, concernant la nécessité d'établir un tribunal des crimes de guerre et crimes économiques pour le Libéria afin d'éradiquer l'impunité indique clairement qu'il n'a aucunement l'intention de poursuivre les personnes qui ont commis des crimes odieux pendant la guerre civile. En tout cas les victimes de la crise ne peuvent plus compter sur l'administration Weah pour que justice leur soit rendue.

Le représentant du comté de Lofa, Clarence Massaquo, s'exprimant ce week-end dans le district de Foya, dans le comté de Lofa, a rappelé au président Weah que les Libériens sont blessés parce qu'ils ont perdu des proches, y compris des parents, donc l'impunité ne devrait pas faire obstacle à la situation des responsabilités et à la justice. Le législateur de Lofa, comme de nombreux Libériens, souhaite que la recommandation de la Commission vérité et réconciliation concernant les poursuites judiciaires soit mise en œuvre.

« Je sais que ce n'est pas courant de dire ça. Mais Monsieur le Président nous avons le rapport de la CVR, quelles que soient les formes qu'elles prennent Monsieur le Président, ceux qui sont dans ces charniers ne sont pas ici aujourd'hui de leur propre gré. Nous demandons justice », a-t-il plaidé.

Mais le président, par la façon dont il a répondu au législateur, considère la question du tribunal des crimes de guerre comme une discussion farfelue sur l'agenda de son gouvernement. Il a ainsi demandé aux Libériens de plutôt continuer à vivre en toute impunité au nom de la paix.

Les Libériens, tant au pays qu'à l'étranger, aspirent à la justice et à juste titre, en particulier étant donné que les chefs de guerre et autres auteurs de crimes ne cessent de montrer publiquement qu'ils n'ont aucun remords au sujet des atrocités qu'ils ont commises pendant la crise qui a décimé des familles et brisé des rêves.

La plupart des acteurs clés de la guerre sont de retour au gouvernement, y compris l'Assemblée législative. Ils bénéficient d'une immunité totale en dépit des recommandations faites par la Commission vérité et réconciliation. Il s'agit par exemple du célèbre chef de guerre, le sénateur Prince Yormie Johnson, chef de l'INPFL, du représentant Dr. George S. Boley, chef du Liberia Peace Council, de Sekou Damate Conneh, chef LURD, et du professeur Alhaji G.V. Kromah, chef de l'ULIMO-K, entre autres.

En fait, le sénateur Johnson, un fidèle allié politique du président Weah, continue de se vanter qu'aucun tribunal des crimes de guerre ne viendra au Libéria et nie publiquement qu'il a commis des atrocités pendant la guerre, c'est aussi le cas pour le Représentant Boley et pour Sekou Damate Conneh.

Ainsi, lorsque le président Weah appelle les Libériens à s'asseoir autour d'une table ronde pour discuter de la façon de faire avancer le pays plutôt que d'appeler à un tribunal pour crimes de guerre qui pourrait renvoyer le Libéria aux jours sombres, vous pouvez comprendre que la justice va nous échapper continuellement, tant que cette administration est au pouvoir.

Cependant, la Sainte Bible dit que la voix du peuple est la voix de Dieu. Les Libériens ne devraient jamais abandonner le combat. Ils devraient continuer à faire pression pour la mise en place d'un tribunal pour les crimes de guerre et économiques malgré le manque apparent de volonté politique de ce gouvernement.

L'histoire a prouvé à maintes reprises que la volonté du peuple finit par l'emporter malgré les tentatives de réprimer leurs opinions et de piétiner leurs souhaits exprimés de justice, qui est le pivot sur lequel reposent la paix dont le président a parlé, le développement et toutes les autres entreprises humaines positives.

Français

Une justice optimale pour

volonté de son gouvernement de créer des emplois pour la population et de faire croître l'économie en augmentant le flux d'investissements nationaux et privés dépend de la structure du climat des affaires au Libéria. « Cette structure même dépend de l'ensemble des lois et des politiques que nous avons en place pour réglementer la libre circulation des investissements et du commerce, le processus et le temps qu'il faut pour résoudre les différends juridiques découlant de l'application de ces lois, et le sens ou la perception de justice qui découle de ce processus d'arbitrage », a-t-il déclaré. Selon lui, cette structure même du climat des affaires et des investissements est sa préoccupation depuis son entrée en fonction, notant qu'en octobre 2018, le gouvernement a créé un groupe de travail sur le climat des affaires pour examiner les moyens d'améliorer le climat des affaires au Libéria.

Il a indiqué que l'Exécutif est en partenariat avec le Pouvoir judiciaire pour tenter de remanier les procédures opérationnelles et de les simplifier.

En conséquence, il a annoncé qu'il nommerait prochainement un sous-comité ministériel de haut niveau sur le climat des investissements et des affaires qui sera présidé par le ministère des Finances et de la Planification du développement, et comprendrait le ministère du Commerce et de l'Industrie, l'Autorité fiscale du Libéria, la Commission nationale des investissements, le Registre des entreprises du Libéria, la Société d'électricité du Libéria et d'autres agences selon les besoins.

Le président Weah a précisé que ce sous-comité du cabinet serait chargé de présenter une feuille de route après la conférence judiciaire qui suivra les actions recommandées et les changements nécessaires pour l'amélioration.

Il a fait savoir que le comité serait tenu de présenter un rapport dans six mois pour montrer des progrès crédibles sur le climat des affaires dans un éventail de domaines.

“Monsieur le Juge en chef, vous conviendrez avec moi que si nous rendons difficile l'enregistrement des entreprises, l'obtention de l'électricité ou

le paiement des impôts, cela peut affecter l'économie », a indiqué le président Weah. Il a aussi attiré l'attention des conférenciers sur le fait que si les banques commerciales ne peuvent pas appliquer le jugement sur les garanties lorsque les gens sont en défaut de paiement de leurs dettes, ces banques pourraient ne pas être en mesure de prêter de l'argent aux opérateurs économiques. « Je vous exhorte donc à travailler ensemble avec nous en tant que gouvernement pour changer les choses au Libéria grâce à des réformes et des actions impressionnantes qui affecteront le climat des affaires. Je ne doute pas que cette conférence contribuera de manière significative à cette fin », a-t-il poursuivi.

« Si la loi est le problème, alors réformons la loi. Si les processus et les systèmes sont le problème, changeons ces processus. Si le manque de financement est un problème, trouvons des moyens de fournir plus de ressources », a-t-il ajouté.

Le président Weah a en outre insisté sur la nécessité d'expulser du système les personnes qui font obstacle à la transparence et la justice pour des motifs égoïstes, pour améliorer le climat des investissements et des affaires.

Il a remercié les partenaires internationaux qui continuent de se tenir aux côtés du Libéria pour transformer le pays, leur demandant un partenariat plus fort alors que son gouvernement vise à transformer le climat des affaires et des investissements.

Le président Weah a déclaré qu'une série d'ateliers et de réunions à travers le gouvernement et avec les partenaires au développement et d'autres parties prenantes ont identifié les principaux défis affectant le climat des affaires et les opportunités pour l'améliorer. Ces défis, a-t-il dit, sont en grande partie résumés par les indicateurs Doing Business de la Banque mondiale, qui incluent des indicateurs tels que : démarrer une entreprise, obtenir de l'électricité, obtenir un crédit, payer des impôts, faire respecter les contrats, enregistrer la propriété, protéger les investisseurs minoritaires, vendre au-delà des frontières, et la résolution de l'insolvabilité.

« Je suis informé de ce que le Libéria se classe 175 sur 190 pays, tandis que notre voisin la Sierra Leone se classe 163e et que la Côte d'Ivoire, notre autre voisin, se classe 118 », a-t-il déclaré. Le président Weah a indiqué que cela montre que son gouvernement et le pays ont un travail sérieux à faire.

COMMENTAIRE

Par Ian Buruma

À quoi bon les Jeux Olympiques de Tokyo ?

NEW YORK - Kaori Yamaguchi, ancienne médaillée olympique en judo et membre du conseil d'administration du Comité olympique japonais, a récemment fait une déclaration étonnante - étonnante, en tout cas, pour une responsable olympique. Elle a déclaré que le Japon s'est retrouvé « piégé » à organiser les Jeux pendant la pandémie de coronavirus. « À quoi serviront ces Jeux olympiques et à qui ? » questionne-t-elle. « Les Jeux ont déjà perdu leur sens et sont maintenus juste parce qu'il le faut. Je pense que nous avons déjà raté l'occasion de les annuler ».

Elle n'est pas seule à le penser. Le principal conseiller médical du gouvernement nippon a averti que les Jeux pourraient provoquer une flambée de nouveaux cas de Covid-19 et que la tenue des Jeux au milieu de la pandémie est « anormale ». Pus de 80 pour cent de la population japonaise souhaite que les Jeux soient reportés ou annulés. Le quotidien Asahi Shimbun, partenaire officiel des Jeux olympiques de Tokyo, a enjoint le gouvernement nippon d'annuler l'événement. Si les Jeux ont bien lieu, ce qui semble le plus probable, les épreuves se dérouleront dans des stades pratiquement vides, construits à grands frais.

La question de Yamaguchi mérite d'être posée : pour qui ces Jeux olympiques sont-ils organisés ? Les athlètes ont déjà amplement l'occasion de participer à toutes sortes de compétitions internationales. Et les Japonais ne devraient pas avoir à payer le prix de divertir les téléspectateurs. Les Jeux ont peut-être lieu pour des politiciens japonais espérant que l'événement redorerait leur blason, ou alors pour les pontes du Comité international olympique (CIO), ces nababs en blazer qui pensent que le rouleau compresseur de leurs intérêts corporatifs doit l'emporter sur toute autre considération ?

La raison d'être des Jeux olympiques est une question qui hante les Jeux modernes depuis leur rénovation par le baron français Pierre de Coubertin à Athènes en 1896. Le baron, comme d'autres conservateurs français de l'époque, s'inquiétait pour la virilité nationale, en particulier après la défaite de la France lors de la guerre franco-allemande de 1871. Il pensait que les sports de compétition seraient la réponse aux déficiences physiques de la gent masculine française.

En sus de restaurer la virilité des Français, Coubertin espérait qu'un événement sportif international contribuerait à promouvoir la paix en faisant se côtoyer les peuples du monde entier. À l'instar des Expositions universelles et des Jamborees Scouts mondiaux, les Jeux favoriseraient l'amitié internationale et le patriotisme. À l'issue d'épreuves fair-play, les spécimens les plus sains de nombreuses nations marcheraient ensemble vers un avenir meilleur.

Charles Maurras, l'idéologue d'extrême-droite et la figure de proue du mouvement ultranationaliste Action française, avait dans un premier temps jugé ridicule l'idéalisme de Coubertin et n'avait que mépris pour le concept d'amitié internationale. Il changea d'avis par la suite. Des compétitions d'athlétisme entre les ressortissants de différentes nations les feraient se haïr encore plus, ce qui, dans son optique, était un résultat tout à fait avantageux.

En fin de compte, ni l'idéalisme de Coubertin, ni le cynisme de Maurras n'ont prévalu. La paix mondiale est restée une utopie. D'un autre côté, les guerres ne sont en rien la conséquence de manifestations nationalistes dans les stades. La futilité des

prétentions de Coubertin devint pathétiquement manifeste lors de son discours de clôture radiodiffusé, prononcé d'une voix chevrotante, prêchant les vertus de l'amitié et du fair-play des Jeux Olympiques de Berlin en 1936, alors qu'Hitler et Goering souriaient d'un air suffisant dans la tribune d'honneur.

Certes, il est arrivé que les Jeux olympiques aient eu des fins positives depuis la fin de la Seconde guerre mondiale. Les Jeux de Tokyo de 1964 revêtirent une immense importance pour les Japonais, symbolisant non seulement la renaissance économique, mais également la nouvelle respectabilité politique de leur pays. Le Japon n'était plus ce prédateur militariste responsable de la mort violente de millions de personnes en Asie, mais une démocratie vibrante ouverte sur le monde.

Un même constat peut s'appliquer aux Jeux de Séoul de 1988. Après des décennies d'une occupation impitoyable par l'empire colonial du Japon, les dévastations de la guerre de Corée, et à nouveau des décennies de dictature militaire, la Corée du Sud avait émergé en tant que société relativement ouverte, avec des élections pluralistes, une presse libre dynamique et une jeunesse débordant de fierté et d'optimisme. Les Sud-Coréens méritaient pleinement d'avoir les projecteurs du monde entier braqués sur eux. Les Jeux de Séoul furent une véritable célébration.

À l'exception de ces rares occasions, les Jeux olympiques sont difficiles à justifier. Ces rassemblements de marcheurs en uniformes portant des drapeaux sont une aberration du XIXe siècle, que chérissent encore des pays dont les populations n'ont pas le droit d'élire leur dirigeant, seulement l'obligation de vanter ses mérites. La Corée du Nord est passée maître dans ce genre d'exercice. Et les Jeux olympiques d'hiver de 2014, organisés dans une station balnéaire avec un climat subtropical obligeant à recourir à la neige artificielle, n'avaient clairement aucun but autre que de rendre hommage au régime autoritaire de Vladimir Poutine. Quant à la variante nationaliste chinoise déployée lors des Jeux de Pékin en 2008, elle aurait davantage séduit Maurras que Coubertin.

Les pays plus pauvres, comme la Grèce en 2004, se sont retrouvés avec une dette colossale et des stades inutilisés envahis par les mauvaises herbes. De leur côté, les pays riches n'ont pas vraiment besoin des spectacles fastueux comme ceux organisés à Atlanta en 1996 et à Londres en 2012, sauf peut-être comme excuse pour investir dans des infrastructures qui auraient dû être construites de toute façon.

Il est certain que Tokyo n'a pas besoin des Jeux olympiques en 2021. Et pourtant le lobby olympique avance en rangs serrés, engrangeant des sommes phénoménales alors même que certains pays sont au bord de la faillite. Le CIO a gagné la coquette somme de 985 millions d'euros (1,2 milliard de dollars) grâce aux Jeux d'Athènes. Je me souviens avoir observé les responsables olympiques se pavaner à Séoul et plus pauvres étaient les pays dont ils étaient ressortissants, plus grandes leurs montres en platine semblaient être.

Les Jeux olympiques sont une industrie gigantesque pour le CIO, les sponsors, les promoteurs immobiliers et parfois pour des politiciens corrompus. C'est à cela que servent les Jeux. Des milliers de responsables olympiques se presseront dans les halls des hôtels de luxe de Tokyo cet été. Et après leur départ pour la prochaine destination, les grands stades construits pour rien deviendront les sites plus ou moins abandonnés d'un événement qui n'aurait jamais du avoir lieu.

ARTICLE

ARTICLE

REFLECTIONS: My Response to Representative George Boley and Senator Prince Johnson's Threats!

By John H.T. Stewart, former Commissioner Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Liberia (TRC).
Monrovia, June 4, 2021

Continue from last edition

It is also the fear of facing similar prospects to that of his counterpart, Charles Taylor currently serving a 50-year sentence in a British jail. But Representative George Boley is not alone in this regard. His legislative colleague Senator Prince Johnson also harbors such fears and I dare say they are deeply engrained fears. On several occasions during his church service, Prince Johnson has launched vitriolic attacks and made threatening statements against my person.

And his reason just like George Boley's is because I served on the TRC that indicted him and recommended his prosecution for crimes against humanity. I have often brushed off Senator Prince Johnson's as insane comments from a mentally challenged person; however, I am not unmindful of his killer instincts neither am I unmindful of George Boley's vindictive and evil character.

Remember his (Boley's) late brother-in-law, Charles Gbenyon who was killed at the Executive Mansion in the wake of the November 12, 1985, abortive invasion and how he did not lift a finger, according to family sources to help save his brother -in-law from execution? Journalist Charles Gbenyon, according to eyewitness accounts was beheaded by soldiers at the Mansion. Also, remember George Boley dressed in military fatigues flaunting an M-16 automatic rifle and virtually gloating over the lifeless body of failed coup leader, General Thomas Quiwonkpa?

Remember also, reports of George Boley leading soldiers to the Bentol home of assassinated Liberian President, William R. Tolbert on the day following the coup according to family members? Regarding that incident, Mr. George Boley was also accused by a Co-Member of the PRC, Captain KalongoLuo, who testified before the TRC in the US and attested to Boley's looting of the President's home and taking away his safe and other valuables.

When Boley appeared before the TRC, he denied being part of any warring group and insisted that the LPC group which he led was simply an advocacy group. But when I posed the question to him in which capacity did he sign the Abuja I Accords since it was only warring factions who were signatories to the Peace Agreement he fumbled for an answer. That question apparently infuriated him. And George Boley, lying through his teeth, responded emphatically declaring that, I John H. T Stewart led the LPC attack on Gbarnga on September 14, 1994. His lies that I led the attack on Gbarnga, made news headlines the very next day.

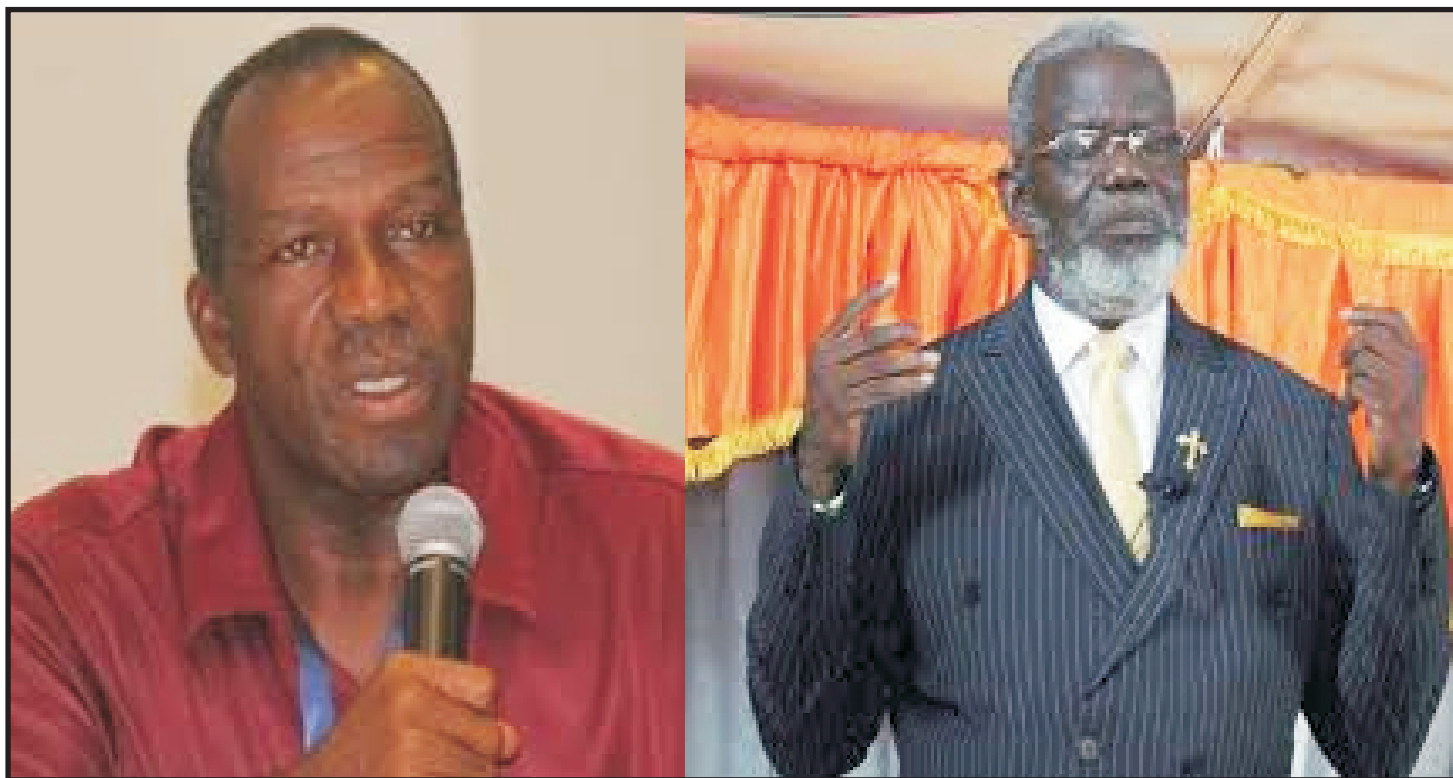
But I say all this with no malice towards him (George Boley) nor any of his kith and kin some of whom I know very well. However, for me this is a life and death matter over which such sentiments

of amity do not hold sway.

I take the threats of Parliamentarians George Boley and Prince Johnson seriously and I am now informing the world that owing to their threats against me, I am placing my life and safety in their hands. I cannot and can never underestimate their capacity to actualize their vile threats neither can I dismiss their intent to bring harm to my person, family, friends and or associates.

However, let me inform all and sundry that I am not afraid of evil men and women. God being my helper, I have, over 45 years in the struggle for rights and justice survived and overcome many trials and tribulations including imprisonment, torture and economic marginalization. Even if they succeed in killing me, they cannot kill the desire of the Liberian people for freedom justice and accountability.

George Boley, and Prince Johnson including their allies and friends may be rich and powerful, but their wealth stems from the spillage of innocent blood and their respective paths to power are smeared with innocent blood and littered with heaps of corpses. Compare the attitudes of these rich and powerful men, George Boley and Prince Johnson to that of Joshua Milton



Blahyiother wise known as Buck Naked. "Buck Naked" has since continued to display a spirit of humility.

Aside from acknowledging his role in the civil war and admitting to killing innocent people, he has welcomed the establishment of a war and economic crimes court for Liberia. He has shunned politics and has also expressed remorse for his actions but at the same time called for prosecution of warlords including himself to serve as deterrent to future would be and wannabe warlords.

Warlords Prince Johnson and George Boley on the other hand are boasting of their wicked wartime exploits and shamelessly parading themselves as heroes. They have and continue to rubbish the TRC Report. Their stance is quite unlike that of the once feared "Buck Naked" whose display of humility starkly contrasts that of the haughtiness of warlords George Boley and Prince Johnson, who have now become rich and powerful men occupying high political offices.

But to such rich and powerful men (Prince Johnson and George Boley) comes a warning from The Book of James Chapter 5 verses 1-3 in the Holy Bible. "Go now ye rich men, weep and howl for the miseries that shall come

upon you 2 Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are moth-eaten. Your gold and silver is cankered and the rust of them shall be a witness against you and shall eat your flesh as it were fire".

Slowly but surely, the Biblical prophecy is being revealed. These former warlords and their minions should know that Justice, no matter how long delayed, is sure to come. A reminder of this can also be found in the Holy Bible Chapter 3 Verse 25 of the Book of Colossians.

And it reads: "For the wrongdoer will be paid back for the wrong he has done, and there is no partiality."

Yesterday may have been killing time but, now it is time for accountability. There is a time and season to everything says the Bible. Right now, both men must be very troubled indeed. Senator, Reverend Prince Johnson is clinging on to what he says is an Act of Legislature passed on August 8, 2003, granting general amnesty to all who participated in the civil war from 1989 to 2003.

But notably, it was during that period, with rebel armies banging at the gates of Monrovia, laying siege to the city. By then the entire government had broken down with government offices including the courts all folded up.

This so-called Act of Legislature was simply a last-minute move by Charles Taylor to absolve himself and thus grant him immunity from prosecution for crimes committed against the Liberian people. In any case, no Act of the Legislature can ever absolve anyone of criminal liability for the commission of war and other egregious crimes.

To my mind, it is desperation that is driving Senator Reverend Prince Johnson to seek reliance on an August 8, 2003, Act of Legislature that was never printed into handbills to give it legal effect.

It was simply because government offices had by then ceased to function owing to the onslaught on Monrovia by rebel forces. But as song writer Jimmy Cliff says, "A drowning man would clutch even at a straw"

In conclusion, let me express my deep gratitude and appreciation to the people of Liberia for being unwavering in their desire for sustainable peace and unrelenting in their quest for justice.

Let me further express the hope that in all this talk about a war and economic crimes court, proper recognition and timely consideration will be given to victims in terms of having them repaired as a first step towards the eventual restoration and repair of broken relations and trust amongst local communities throughout the length and breadth of Liberia. The Reverend Senator Prince Johnson and his legislative counterpart Dr. George Boley ought to be reminded that the clock is ticking, slowly advancing towards that great day of reckoning when they will find themselves facing JUSTICE as indicted war and economic criminals.

To my mind, both individuals ought to be sitting in jail where they rightly belong. Now it is just a matter of time!

Audit them!

President George Manneh Weah has with immediate effect suspended Liberia Water and Sewer Corporation (LWSC) Managing Director Duannah A. Kamara and Sensee J. Morris, LWSC Deputy Managing Director, respectively.

An Executive Mansion release issued over the weekend said President Weah

and counter claims of alleged corruption have been centered on Duannah Kamara and his deputy at the corporation, and President Weah's decision to suspend them follows recent leaked audio which purported to reveal how Kamara allegedly misappropriated 99 gallons gasoline donated to LWSC by World Bank to aid the operation of Liberia's water plant.

During the interim

used checks to reissue them and cash out money, thereby duping the state of finances.

The corruption allegation hanging over Duannah Kamara at LWSC may not look strange to Liberians as the official has often had a story around the act when he is given the privilege to serve the public.

Meanwhile, President Weah has asked the General Auditing Commission (GAC) to



LWSC M.D, Kamara



LWSC Deputy M.D, Morris

suspended the pair on Thursday, June 10, 2021 following reports of disturbances and allegations of corruption at the LWSC. The Managing Director and his deputy shall remain suspended pending a full scale investigation, the release said.

Over the past time claims

administration of the late Chairman Charles Gyude Bryant, Mr. Duannah Kamara was publicly humiliated by anti-graft officials who got him handcuffed and paraded in Monrovia for alleged corruption.

His humiliation during Bryant's rule was said to have emanated from his alleged implication into manipulating

conduct an immediate investigative audit, mandating the GAC to report to him within 30 days.

Meanwhile, LWSC's Deputy Managing Director for Administration, will act as interim head of the entity in consultation with the Chairman of the Board.

LEC cuts off power at NEC

The Liberia Electricity Corporation (LEC), terminated the supply of electricity to the National Elections Commission, (NEC) on Friday 11 June 2021, the New Dawn has learned.

The NEC was disconnected from the LEC power grid at the 9th and 10th Streets Headquarters of the National Elections Commission.

The NEC-Liberia owns the Liberia Electricity Corporation US\$ 84, 082 and 53 cents.

NEC-Liberia in a statement has appealed to the Management of LEC to restore electricity in order to facilitate its work and planning processes for the 2023 General Elections, while the Commission engages with the authorities

to offset this liability.

With limited financial capacity, the NEC will be unable

to carry out its work without the restoration of LEC connection.



Ellen hails Biden's

Starts from back page

of the G7 summit to distribute vaccines to poorer countries, she said: "But that's not all. A lot of those are commitment, and that's good to have commitment, but how do you move from commitment to real action?"

"What time will it take for them to get those vaccines out there? What about the supply situation?"

Sirleaf asks: How do you move from commitment to real action?

She suggested that even with the promise to supply vaccines to everyone, there will be a problem with supply: "We know that the pharmaceuticals will not have enough to meet the requirements of the rich countries as much as they have committed to redistribute, so we have to do more."

She continued: "We have to

see voluntary licensing so that those countries in Africa that have the capacity can start a process of being able to vaccinate locally and get it to people faster and if that doesn't work, we also talk about the intellectual property waivers.

"No matter what we do, we also need national systems to be addressed. If you don't have a functioning national system that has its own delivery system, well organized to reach the places in countries that have infrastructure constraints, like in rural areas, then all the talk about vaccinating the entire world population by the end 2022 becomes talk."

She said the aim to vaccinate everyone by 2022 was an "a tall order" and a "very aggressive approach" because of the lack of infrastructure in some countries.

Oxfam awards US\$25,000

Cont'd from page 6

explained.

"So it was that sustainability challenge that brought the IDEAS Market Place," Madam Kindervater - Sieh stated.

Like many charities, Madam Kindervater - Sieh noted that the pandemic has hit "our finances hard," adding that Oxfam made a difficult decision to reduce the number of countries here it works.

"We are now phasing out 18 of our 66 country offices and changing how we work in others. Four of these country offices are in West Africa: Mauritania, Benin, Sierra Leone and Liberia," she said.

iCampus Liberia Chief Executive Officer Mr. Luther Jeke expressed excitement about the journey, applauding the effort of Danidad, Oxfam

in Liberia for selecting his organization to help facilitate the IDEAS Market Place initiative.

According to Mr. Jeke, the IDEAS Market Place initiative is an innovation challenge which iCampus was asked couple of months back to facilitate. He recalled that there were over 120 applicants for the program, out of which 60 participants were selected based on the scope of what they were trying to do.

Jeke explained that the whole idea behind the process was that Oxfam felt that there were many young Liberians who were so passionate about making positive change in Liberia and that they can work with people from different backgrounds and see if they can form a team immediately.

VP Taylor holds

Cont'd from page 6

production of rice, tobacco, groundnut and other crops for exportation. The Vice President intimated that the technological innovation of NASFAM can be of major significance to Liberia as the Government endeavors to use agriculture in alleviating poverty.

She stressed that the African Continental Free Trade Agreement can provide the framework and opportunity for Africans to begin trading amongst themselves.

Vice President Howard-

Taylor then concluded her engagement with a private visit to Her Excellency Joyce Banda, former President of Malawi.

The visit was held under friendly atmosphere as the Vice President listened to the wise counsel of the former President.

Former President Banda urged Vice President Howard-Taylor to carry the mantle of the champion of women empowerment in Africa, with the energy and tenacity required; and continues the legacies of former President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf. -Dispatch

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Ellen hails Biden's 500 million Covid vaccines global gesture -Says its right spirit but questions supply issue



President Sireaf

Former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf has hailed the promise by United States President Joe Biden to deliver 500 million Covid-19 vaccines doses around the world saying, "is the right spirit" but added there is a supply issue.

Mrs. Sirleaf explained that vaccine developers will struggle to supply enough

doses of the shot.

Biden made known his plan on Thursday to provide half a billion Pfizer doses to about 100 countries over the next two years. About 200 million will be distributed this year and the goal is to vaccinate the whole world by the end of 2022.

The US president announced his plan after he landed in the UK ahead of the G7 Summit in Cornwall.

"We think that it's a response that's very timely, very significant," ex-President Sirleaf told ITV News.

Mrs. Sirleaf: "I wish there had been some discussion about the distribution of it, but that can certainly be worked out. We hope that this will address particularly the lower and middle income countries that are far behind despite the fact that they have responded very well to the pandemic.

"But it is the right spirit of what he's done. I think there are a few others that have done the same thing to make sure that we get the vaccines to those countries that are in need.

"It's unacceptable that in Africa we have only 2% of the population that has been vaccinated."

Speaking about the Covax scheme and messages ahead

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Denmark's Christian Eriksen stable after collapsing in game

Fabrice Muamba says Christian Eriksen being alive is the best thing to come out of Euro 2020 after the Denmark midfielder suffered a cardiac arrest on the field against Finland on Saturday.

Former Bolton midfielder Muamba, whose heart stopped beating for 78 minutes in an FA Cup quarter-final at Tottenham nine years ago after suffering a cardiac arrest, said watching Eriksen collapse brought back

feelings he did not want to relive again. Eriksen is currently being treated at Rigshospitalet, one of Denmark's top hospitals, where he is in a stable condition after being given emergency CPR on the pitch.

"Him being alive is the best thing that can come out of Euro 2020," Muamba told Sky Sports News.

"Regardless of who wins the tournament, it's that Christian is okay, he is healthy, if he can remember people which is even better news. That's what this



Euros is about now, it's about making sure Christian can get home safe and help to build his recovery from there.

"You have to give credit to the medical staff, how quickly they got on to the pitch, how well they were able to cover him.

"This game was worldwide, everyone was watching it, it could be a lot of pressure for the medical people how to deal with this situation so for them to get it right and able to do the CPR and get Christian into position they deserve a lot of credit.

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