

Foreign Legion marks presence in Africa

by JONATHAN MANTHORPE
— Southern News

HARARE — As French Foreign Legionnaires guard the international airport against rebel attack in the Rwandan capital of Kigali it seems the sun has never set over Paris's African empire.

In April the Legion sped to the former French West African colony of Gabon when anti-government riots appeared to threaten the regime of president Omar Bongo.

The Legion arrived even though there were already 600 French troops in the country under a defence agreement.

In January the Legion was in action again, this time lurking on the coast of the Camoros islands, a one-time French outpost off Africa's east coast, where renegade mercenary Bob Denard seized control after the murder of president Ahmed Abdallah.

Denard decided sanctuary in South Africa was a better bet than

a showdown with the Legion.

In 1985 the Legion was sent to the rescue of the people of Chad, invaded by Libya in a border dispute. The Legionnaires are still there.

They are still in the Central African Republic too. In 1979 they were the sharp edge of a Paris-inspired coup to oust emperor Jean-Bedel Bokassa whose less savory habits included eating his subjects and beating to death several children who refused to wear school

uniforms manufactured in the emperor's own workshops.

In the 23 African countries that claim a French link — out of 49 south of the Sahara — it seems Legion paratroops are always on call.

French justification for their most recent interventions is that the Legion protects French citizens and that the soldiers have been invited by the government.

This is accurate to a point, but it is difficult to argue that French occupation of the airport at Kigali is not a powerful appearance of support for Rwanda's president Juvenal Habyarimana.

Commenting on the Legion's dash to Gabon in April to protect French citizens the Paris daily newspaper Le Monde said:

"Nevertheless, the political implications of the move are widely understood. France is giving a powerful helping hand to president Omar Bongo's troubled regime. It is thus providing a perfect example of the continuity of French policy in this area."

There has indeed been continuity in French policy. It has been that maintaining strong economic, cultural and political ties with its former colonies was usually more important than the petty despotisms of the new rulers.

Bokassa, it seems, had stepped

over a line that even Paris could not ignore.

But even as the Legionnaires man their foxholes around Kigali airport the situation is changing.

Paris no longer gets the paternal glow from the dutiful fidelity of its African offspring that it once did.

Part of the reason is events at home. Closer European unity in 1992 — now with a unified Germany — together with the opening up of eastern Europe demands France keep all its wits and concentration about it.

Another part is economics.

In the 1960s and '70s France's continuing domination of its former colonies of West Africa in particular was a profitable concern.

The 13 countries of the French African Community (CFA) sent about 40 per cent of their products to France which supplied about 70 per cent of their imports.

In addition there remains huge French commercial activity in its former possessions with about 500,000 French citizens in West Africa alone.

Most of these are businessmen, but many are bureaucrats who from the discreet shadows of the back rooms still guide the new hands at the tiller of government. For example, all international calls to and from former French colonies are still routed through Paris.

France underwrote this continuing relationship by tying the common currency of its former West African colonies, the CFA franc, to the French franc. Having their currency linked to a Western "hard" currency was an enormous boon to places like the Ivory Coast, Senegal, Benin, Togo, Cameroon and Upper Volta.

Without it many of them would have been bankrupt long before now. But the CFA franc is now grossly overvalued and this has had an inflationary effect. Meanwhile, French companies are looking enviously at lower labor and production costs in places like Nigeria and Ghana.

There has also been something of a sea-change of public opinion — thence government opinion — in France about the importance of human and political rights.

In 1987 at la francophonie summit in Quebec City, French president Francois Mitterrand carefully avoided a clear answer when asked about the primacy of human rights or political development.

Now France — the great cultivator of one-man rule in Africa — is talking about "democracy". It is even suggesting that its open handedness with aid may be tied to human rights development, although Mitterrand has rejected devaluation of the CFA franc.

There has been some scurrying to unlearn the habits of a lifetime among such people as Felix Houphouet-Boigny in the Ivory Coast, Mathieu Kerekou in Benin and Bongo in Gabon. Multi-partyism is in.

Unchallenged by these changes is the other great French community drawing card in Africa, la francophonie, of which Canada, Quebec and New Brunswick are members.

This "French Commonwealth" is, and will likely remain, the forum for expressing the link of French culture.

It is through this link as much as any that the Legion now patrols Kigali.

Rwanda was never a French colony, but it was Belgian, as were other la francophonie members Burundi and Zaïre.

The organization even includes Guinea-Bissau, a Portuguese colony. French is not even an official language of Guinea-Bissau, but as its neighbors were members it figured it might as well join the club.

Anyway, it can never be predicted when a company of the Foreign Legion at the airport might be useful.

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LEGALS

Province of British Columbia Ministry of Forests

NOTICE INVITING APPLICATIONS FOR TIMBER SALE LICENCE A36169

Pursuant to Section 16 (3) (a) of the Forest Act, sealed tender applications will be accepted by the District Manager, Vanderhoof, B.C. to be opened at 2:00 p.m. on the 19th day of October, 1990, for a Timber Sale Licence to authorize the harvesting of 12,531 cubic metres, more or less, of timber located in the vicinity of 57 km on the Bobtail Forest Service Road, near Vanderhoof in the Prince George Timber Supply Area.

Species: Lodgepole Pine 60%; Spruce 34%; Douglas Fir 3%; Balsam 3%.

Term: 9 months.

Bidding is restricted to persons registered in the Small Business Enterprise Program, Category (1). If there is not interest from Category (1) registrants on the auction date, then the sale may be readvertised for offer under both categories.

Particulars may be obtained from the District Manager at 1522 Highway 16 East, P.O. Box 190, Vanderhoof, B.C., V0J 2A0.

This is a blowdown salvage sale, with 100% blowdown.

LEGALS

Province of British Columbia Ministry of Forests

Sealed tenders for the following Engineering Contract will be received by the District Manager, Ministry of Forests, #1 Cicada Road, Bag 5000, Mackenzie, B.C. V0J 2C0 on the dates shown below:

Contract: E90G06 57. Location: Germanson Landing Access Road, Forest District: Mackenzie, for: Winter maintenance on approximately 130 km of road.

Deadline for receipt of tenders is 3:00 p.m., October 26, 1990, at which time all tenders will be opened.

All enquiries should be made to the Resource Officer, Engineering, Gary Zsombor, Ministry of Forests, Mackenzie District Office, 997-2200.

Contract particulars are available from the Mackenzie District Office indicated above.

Tenders must be completed subject to the conditions of tender and submitted on the forms and in the envelopes supplied.

No tender shall be considered which contains any qualifying clauses whatsoever and the lowest or any tender will not necessarily be accepted.

LEGALS

INVITATION TO TENDER

SNOW CLEARING AND HAULING

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Prince George, B.C. V2L 5K7

TENDER #90-91

Sealed tenders will be received until 2:00 p.m. October 15, 1990 for the supply of snow clearing and hauling services from all Downtown Parking Commission parking lots and parkades.

Tender documents can be obtained from the Downtown Parking Commission at the above noted address.

The lowest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

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Province of British Columbia Ministry of Forests

NOTICE OF SUBSTANTIAL COMPLETION

In the matter of juvenile spacing on the 4700 road (Spencer Pit Road) and the 5100 road (Harrington Road) in the Quesnel Forest District.

Owner: MINISTRY OF FORESTS

322 Johnston Avenue

Quesnel, B.C. V2J 3M5

Take notice that substantial completion of projects #ST90 C01-01 and #ST90 C01-02 has been given as of September 10th, 1990.

Contractor: Nazko Indian Band

d/b/a NAZKO LOGGING

Box 4355

Quesnel, B.C. V2J 3J3

D.G. Flintoft R.F.F.

District Manager

Quesnel Forest District

Province of British Columbia Ministry of Forests

TIMBER SALE LICENCE A26481

Take notice that, pursuant to Section 16 of the Forest Act, SEALED TENDERS will be accepted by the District Manager, Ministry of Forests, at 1 Cicada Road, Mackenzie, B.C., up to 2:30 p.m., October 18, 1990, for a Timber Sale Licence authorizing the harvest of timber located in the vicinity of Rainbow Creek (Phillip Operating Area), Mackenzie Timber Supply Area.

Volume: 17,506 cubic metres, more or less.

Species: Balsam (51%), Spruce (49%) more or less.

Term: Two (2) years.

Access: 92 km road access from Windy Point.

Billing Method: Cruise based.

Only tenders from Category One (1) Small Business Forest Enterprises will be accepted.

Tenders will be opened at 2:35 p.m., October 18, 1990, at the Mackenzie Forest District Office, 1 Cicada Road, Mackenzie, B.C.

Additional information may be obtained from the District Manager, Ministry of Forests, Bag 5000 (1 Cicada Road), Mackenzie, B.C., V0J 2C0, ph 997-2200.

FIRST AID TIP

WOUNDS AND BLEEDING

- Direct Pressure to stop blood flow
- Elevation to reduce blood flow
- Rest to slow the circulation. Apply direct pressure with the hand over a dressing if available. If the dressing becomes blood-soaked, do not remove it, add another and continue pressure. When bleeding is controlled, maintain pressure and secure dressings with bandages. Maintain elevation and immobilize the injured limb.

St. John Ambulance

Province of British Columbia Ministry of Forests

TIMBER SALE LICENCE A33869

Take notice that, pursuant to Section 16 of the Forest Act, SEALED TENDERS will be accepted by the District Manager, Ministry of Forests, at 1 Cicada Road, Mackenzie, B.C., up to 2:30 p.m., November 1, 1990, for a Timber Sale Licence authorizing the harvest of timber located in the vicinity of the Misinchinka River, Mackenzie Timber Supply Area.

Volume: 31,167 cubic metres, more or less.

Species: Spruce (65%), Balsam (30%), Deciduous (5%) more or less.

Term: One (1) year.

Access: 49 km road access from Mackenzie.

Billing Method: Scale based.

Only tenders from Category One (1) Small Business Forest Enterprises will be accepted.

Tenders will be opened at 2:35 p.m., November 1, 1990, at the Mackenzie Forest District office, 1 Cicada Road, Mackenzie, B.C.

Additional information may be obtained from the District Manager, Ministry of Forests, Bag 5000 (1 Cicada Road), Mackenzie, B.C., V0J 2C0, Ph 997-2200.

Province of British Columbia Ministry of Forests

Sealed tenders for the following spring tree planting contracts will be received by the Manager, Ministry of Forests, 5th Floor, 1011 Fourth Avenue, Prince George, B.C. on the dates shown below:

Contract: 91G04-007, Located: Malaput, Forest District: Vanderhoof, Number of Trees: 286.0k, Number of Ha: 172.0.

Viewing Date: October 29, 1990, leaving Co-Op Mail at 7:00 a.m.

Viewing of the planting site prior to submitting a tender for this contract is mandatory.

Deadline for receipt of tenders is 1:30 p.m., November 21, 1990 at which time all tenders will be opened.

Tenders must be submitted on the form and in the envelopes supplied which, with particulars, may be obtained from the District Manager(s) indicated, or from the Regional Office, Ministry of Forests, 5th Floor, 1011 Fourth Avenue, Prince George, B.C.

The lowest or any tender will not necessarily be accepted.

The work will be administered by the British Columbia Ministry of Forests.

Province of British Columbia Ministry of Forests

MINISTRY OF FORESTS SILVICULTURE SITE REHABILITATION CONTRACT

The Fort St. James District Ministry of Forests is inviting bids for Site Rehabilitation Contract SR90G05-004 at Bvovac-Sakeniche for shearing and piling on approximately 330 hectares.

Mandatory viewing date is October 23, 1990 at 1000 hours at the Leo Creek Field Office. Deadline for receipt of tender is 1530 hours on October 31, 1990.

Tender forms and contract particulars will be available at the District Office from October 15, 1990 until the viewing date. Interested viewers are to notify Karl Wagner at 996-7131 by 1200 hours on October 19, 1990. Only one vendor per company is acceptable.

The lowest or any tender will not necessarily be accepted and the Ministry reserves the right to limit the number of contracts held by any one contractor at one time.

Province of British Columbia Ministry of Forests

NOTICE INVITING APPLICATIONS FOR TIMBER SALE LICENCE A36170

Pursuant to Section 16 (3) (a) of the Forest Act, sealed tender applications will be accepted by the District Manager, Vanderhoof, B.C. to be opened at 3:00 p.m. on the 19th day of October, 1990, for a Timber Sale Licence to authorize the harvesting of 6,377 cubic metres, more or less, of timber located in the vicinity of the Bobtail 200 Forest Service Road, near Vanderhoof in the Prince George Timber Supply Area.

Species: Lodgepole Pine 59%, Spruce 16%, Douglas Fir 25%.

Term: 9 months.

Bidding is restricted to persons registered in the Small Business Enterprise Program, Category (1). If there is not interest from Category (1) registrants on the auction date, then the sale may be readvertised for offer under both categories.

Particulars may be obtained from the District Manager at 1522 Highway 16 East, P.O. Box 190, Vanderhoof, B.C. V0J 3A0.

This is a blowdown salvage sale, with 100% blowdown.

Province of British Columbia Ministry of Forests

Sealed tenders for the following spring tree planting contracts will be received by the Manager, Ministry of Forests, 5th Floor, 1011 Fourth Avenue, Prince George, B.C. on the dates shown below:

Contract: 91G04-004, Located: Bobtail, Forest District: Vanderhoof, Number of Trees: 390.0k, Number of Ha: 252.0.

Viewing Date: October 30, 1990, leaving Co-Op Mail at 8:00 a.m.

Viewing of the planting site prior to submitting a tender for this contract is mandatory.

Deadline for receipt of tenders is 9:00 a.m., November 21, 1990 at which time all tenders will be opened.

Contract: 91G04-005, Located: Corkscrew, Forest District: Vanderhoof, Number of Trees: 460.0k, Number of Ha: 284.0.

Viewing Date: October 29, 1990, leaving Co-Op Mail at 7:00 a.m.

Viewing of the planting site prior to submitting a tender for this contract is mandatory.

Deadline for receipt of tenders is 9:00 a.m., November 21, 1990 at which time all tenders will be opened.

Tenders must be submitted on the form and in the envelopes supplied which, with particulars, may be obtained from the District Manager(s) indicated, or from the Regional Office, Ministry of Forests, 5th Floor, 1011 Fourth Avenue, Prince George, B.C.

The lowest or any tender will not necessarily be accepted.

The work will be administered by the British Columbia Ministry of Forests.

Province of British Columbia Ministry of Environment

Waste Management File No. AE-9100 APPLICATION FOR A PERMIT UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE WASTE MANAGEMENT ACT (Effluent)

THIS APPLICATION is to be filed with the Regional Waste Manager at 1011 Fourth Ave., Prince George, B.C. British Columbia, V2L 3H9. Any person who may be adversely affected by this discharge or storage of the waste may within 30 days from the last date of posting under section 3 (a) or publication, service or display under section 4, write to the manager stating how he is affected.

PREAMBLE The purpose of this application is to obtain an effluent discharge permit for domestic sewage discharge from a logging camp.

1. I We Rustad Bros. & Co. Ltd. of 8555 Pacific St., Prince George, B.C., V2N 2K8 hereby apply for a permit to discharge effluent from a logging camp located at Lovell Cove located at Takla Lake, B.C. to TeeGee Creek and give notice of application to all persons affected.

2. The land upon which the treatment works will be located is Special Use Permit #14490.

3. The discharge will be located at a lagoon site located 300 m South of the Southwest Corner of R. #11 D.L. 4075 on a tract of land defined as Special Use Permit #14490.

4. The rate of discharge will be Maximum daily 190m³ during annual discharge period. Average daily (based on operating period) 150 m³ during annual discharge period. The operating period during which the effluent will be discharged is for 30 days during Spring freshet.

5. The characteristics of the effluent discharged shall be equivalent to or better than 5-day biochemical oxygen demand = 45 mg/l. Total suspended solids = 60 mg/l.

6. The type of treatment to be applied is discharge to two series connected one acre lagoon cells with an annual discharge to TeeGee Cree during Spring freshet.

7. Dated this 19th day of September, 1990 Rustad Bros. & Co. Ltd.

Telephone No. 561-2211

Contact person: Dan Alexander

A copy of this application was posted at the site in accordance with the Waste Management Regulations on October 1, 1990.

Auto parts makers need Mexican plants

TORONTO (CP) — Auto parts makers can save Canadian jobs by developing plants in Mexico ahead of U.S. competitors, a consultant who has helped develop such factories said.

Mark Petro, of International Business Consultants of Canada Inc. in Leamington, was in charge of establishing the first Canadian-owned auto parts plants in Mexico in 1984.

The operation for stitching leather steering wheel covers has grown from 150 jobs to 700, without one job being lost at the

original Waterloo plant, Custom Trim Ltd., he said.

"A lot of people are saying they (companies) are stealing jobs away to Mexico," Petro told a conference on the prospect of Mexico joining a Canada-U.S. free trade area.

"I can assure you that is not the case," he said.

Petro said his former employer increased sales and added 70 jobs in Canada after expanding in Mexico.

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