

TROUBLE ON THE IVORY COAST

--Rebel forces try to overthrow the government in the Cote d'Ivoire.--

BACKGROUND:

The early history of Cote d'Ivoire is virtually unknown, although it is thought that a Neolithic culture existed. France made its initial contact with Cote d'Ivoire in 1637, when missionaries landed at Assinee near the Gold Coast (now Ghana) border. Early contacts were limited to a few missionaries because of the inhospitable coastline and settlers' fear of the inhabitants.

In the 18th century, the country was invaded by two related Akan groups--the Agnes, who occupied the southeast, and the Bales, who settled in the central section. In 1843-44, Adm. Bouet-Williaumez signed treaties with the kings of the Grand Bassam and Assinie regions, placing their territories under a French protectorate. French explorers, missionaries, trading companies, and soldiers gradually extended the area under French control inland from the lagoon region. However, pacification was not accomplished until 1915.

Cote d'Ivoire officially became a French colony in 1893. Captain Binger, who had explored the Gold Coast frontier, was named the first governor. He negotiated boundary treaties with Liberia and the United Kingdom (for the Gold Coast) and later started the campaign against Almany Samory, a Malinke chief, who fought against the French until 1898.

From 1904 to 1958, Cote d'Ivoire was a constituent unit of the Federation of French West Africa. It was a colony and an overseas territory under the Third Republic. Until the period following World War II, governmental affairs in French West Africa were administered from Paris. France's policy in West Africa was reflected mainly in its philosophy of "association," meaning

that all Africans in Cote d'Ivoire were officially French "subjects" without rights to representation in Africa or France.

During World War II, the Vichy regime remained in control until 1943, when members of Gen. Charles De Gaulle's provisional government assumed control of all French West Africa. The Brazzaville conference in 1944, the first Constituent Assembly of the Fourth Republic in 1946, and France's gratitude for African loyalty during World War II led to far-reaching governmental reforms in 1946. French citizenship was granted to all African "subjects," the right to organize politically was recognized, and various forms of forced labor were abolished.

A turning point in relations with France was reached with the 1956 Overseas Reform Act (Loi Cadre), which transferred a number of powers from Paris to elected territorial governments in French West Africa and also removed remaining voting inequalities.

In December 1958, Cote d'Ivoire became an autonomous republic within the French community as a result of a referendum that brought community status to all members of the old Federation of French West Africa except Guinea, which had voted against association. Cote d'Ivoire became independent on August 7, 1960, and permitted its community membership to lapse.

Cote d'Ivoire's contemporary political history is closely associated with the career of Felix Houphouet-Boigny, President of the republic and leader of the *Parti Democratique de la Cote d'Ivoire* (PDCI) until his death on December 7, 1993. He was one of the founders of the Rassemblement Democratique Africain (RDA), the leading pre-independence inter-territorial political party in French West African territories (except Mauritania).

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Houphouet-Boigny first came to political prominence in 1944 as founder of the Syndicat Agricole Africain, an organization that won improved conditions for African farmers and formed a nucleus for the PDCI. After World War II, he was elected by a narrow margin to the first Constituent Assembly. Representing Cote d'Ivoire in the French National Assembly from 1946 to 1959, he devoted much of his effort to inter-territorial political organization and further amelioration of labor conditions. After his 13-year service in the French National Assembly, including almost 3 years as a minister in the French Government, he became Cote d'Ivoire's first Prime Minister in April 1959, and the following year was elected its first President.

In May 1959, Houphouet-Boigny reinforced his position as a dominant figure in West Africa by leading Cote d'Ivoire, Niger, Upper Volta (Burkina), and Dahomey (Benin) into the Council of the Entente, a regional organization promoting economic development. He maintained that the road to African solidarity was through step-by-step economic and political cooperation, recognizing the principle of nonintervention in the internal affairs of other African states.

STORY:

For more than two weeks Ivory Coast has been in turmoil after an army uprising led to the division of the country into government and rebel held areas. Fighting is continuing in the country's second largest city, Bouake, despite efforts by the West African regional community to arrange a ceasefire.

The immediate cause was the mutiny by about 750 troops on 19 September. They tried to seize barracks and other installations in Abidjan, Bouake and Korhogo but were overpowered in the commercial capital (Bouake), only succeeding in establishing themselves in the other two areas. The rebels said they had risen up as they were due to be demobilized and were unhappy about their treatment by the government.

Although hundreds of soldiers took part in the uprising, most of the troops and police in

Abidjan and the south of the country remained loyal to the government and rapidly put down the rebellion in the south.

In political terms, the country is split into those who support the president and are mainly Christian and from the south and west and those who support opposition leader Alassane Ouattara and are more likely to be Muslims from the north. Northern support for the opposition could be one of the reasons for the greater success of the rebels outside the southern districts.

France has supported the government - it has a garrison in the country and deployed extra troops to evacuate French, other European and North American nationals from Bouake, but has now sent a headquarters and logistical unit to support the Ivorian army. France is sending hundreds more troops to bolster its force monitoring a shaky cease-fire and offered the rebel group which holds the north of the country, the MPCI, a place at Paris peace talks provided it showed it was a political force.

Nigeria and Ghana have both sent small, largely symbolic military units to demonstrate support for the elected government. The West African regional economic community, Ecowas, has tried to play a mediatory role but this failed when the government refused to sign a ceasefire.

SIGNIFICANCE:

West African leaders were also stepping up the pace on Friday, planning a summit in Togo to chart a way out of the deepening war in which hundreds have died and hundreds of thousands of people have been forced from their homes.

U.N. agencies said on Friday they were preparing for a possible refugee crisis in the world's top cocoa grower.

Togolese President Gnassingbe Eyadema plans to hold a summit next week with some of West Africa's most powerful leaders, including Nigeria's Olusegun Obasanjo and Senegal's Abdoulaye Wade, Togolese presidency officials

said on Friday. Eyadema has been hosting peace talks in Togo's capital Lome since the end of October, but scant progress has been made.

The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) also plans to send a buffer force to Ivory Coast although Nigeria, which has led previous regional peacekeeping forces in Liberia and Sierra Leone, has said it will not send troops. But delays assembling the force have left French troops monitoring the cease-fire between the rebel MPCJ and the government.

The government has hired foreign mercenaries and thousands of youths have volunteered to go to the front after an appeal for 3,000 new recruits to help beat the rebels.

Growing divisions between northern Muslims and Christians from further south such as President Laurent Gbagbo have been at the heart of Ivory Coast's crisis since a military coup in 1999.

Apart from the early attacks on immigrants in Abidjan, the fighting has mainly been limited to the government and rebels chiefly around Bouake. But the government-run television station has openly accused the more than two million Burkinabes living in Ivory Coast of being responsible for Ivory Coast's problems. Escalation of the fighting could lead to reprisals by government supporters against those suspected of supporting the rebels.

On 8 October, President Gbagbo urged his countrymen to refrain from attacks on foreigners. The government has openly accused neighboring states, with the main suspicion falling on Burkina Faso, of backing the rebels.

West Africa has a recent history of conflicts within one state spilling over into neighboring countries (as with the wars in Liberia and Sierra Leone), so there is an added danger to the growing animosity between Ivory Coast and Burkina Faso, although the latter has denied backing the rebels or northern-based opposition groups in Ivory Coast.

Smallpox Vaccination?

--The US prepares for a possible outbreak of the smallpox virus. --

BACKGROUND:

Smallpox is an ancient disease caused by the variola virus. Early symptoms include high fever and fatigue. The virus then produces a characteristic rash, particularly on the face, arms and legs. The resulting spots become filled with clear fluid and later, pus, and then form a crust, which eventually dries up and falls off. Smallpox was fatal in up to 30% of cases.

Smallpox has existed for at least 3,000 years and was one of the world's most feared diseases until it was eradicated by a collaborative global vaccination program led by the World Health Organization. The last known natural case was in Somalia in 1977. Since then, the only known cases were caused by a laboratory accident in 1978 in Birmingham, England, which killed one person and caused a limited outbreak. Smallpox was officially declared eradicated in 1979.

Smallpox no longer occurs naturally since it was totally eradicated by a lengthy and painstaking process, which identified all cases and their contacts and ensured that they were all vaccinated. Until then, smallpox killed many millions of people. The virus which causes smallpox is contagious and spreads through person-to-person contact and saliva droplets in an infected person's breath. It has an incubation period of between 7 and 17 days after exposure and only becomes infectious once the fever develops. A distinctive rash appears two to three days later. The most infectious period is during the first week of illness, although a person with smallpox is still infectious until all scabs are gone.

There is a vaccine against smallpox and it was a key tool in the eradication of the disease. The vaccine does not contain the variola virus which causes smallpox, but a closely related virus

called vaccinia. When this vaccine is given to humans, it protects them against smallpox. However, it can have very serious side effects, which in extreme cases can be fatal. It has therefore not been recommended for the general public since smallpox was eradicated. It is used to protect researchers who work on the variola virus that causes smallpox and other viruses in the same virus family (known as orthopox viruses). It could also be used to protect anyone else judged to have a high risk of exposure to smallpox. The vaccine cannot be used in people whose immune systems are not functioning properly.

STORY:

Some governments believe there is a risk that the virus which causes smallpox exists in places other than the “protected laboratories” in the US and USSR, and could be deliberately released to cause harm. It is impossible to assess the risk that this might happen, but governments prepare for this possibility.

With that in mind, President Bush is expected to announce a plan which will gradually make the smallpox vaccine available to all Americans who want it.

That's according to administration sources who say the shots will be mandatory for about 500,000 military personnel and recommended for another half-million who work in hospital emergency rooms and on special smallpox response teams.

The general public will be offered the vaccine on a voluntary basis as soon as large stockpiles are licensed, probably early in 2004, though the government will not encourage people to get them.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The smallpox vaccine is the best protection you can get if you are exposed to the smallpox virus. Anyone directly exposed to smallpox, regardless of health status, would be offered the smallpox vaccine because the risks associated with smallpox disease are far greater than those posed by the vaccine.

There are side effects and risks associated with the smallpox vaccine. Most people experience normal, usually mild reactions that include a sore arm, fever, and body aches. However, other people experience reactions ranging from serious to life-threatening. People most likely to have serious side effects are: people who have had, even once, skin conditions (especially eczema or atopic dermatitis) and people with weakened immune systems, such as those who have received a transplant, are HIV positive, are receiving treatment for cancer, or are currently taking medications (like steroids) that suppress the immune system. In addition, pregnant women should not get the vaccine because of the risk it poses to the fetus. Women who are breastfeeding should not get the vaccine. Children younger than 12 months of age should not get the vaccine. Also, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) advises against non-emergency use of smallpox vaccine in children younger than 18 years of age. In addition, those allergic to the vaccine or any of its components should not receive the vaccine.

In the past, about 1,000 people for every 1 million people vaccinated for the first time experienced reactions that, while not life-threatening, were serious. These reactions included a toxic or allergic reaction at the site of the vaccination (erythema multiforme), spread of the vaccinia virus to other parts of the body and to other individuals (inadvertent inoculation), and spread of the vaccinia virus to other parts of the body through the blood (generalized vaccinia).

These types of reactions may require medical attention. In the past, between 14 and 52 people out of every 1 million people vaccinated for the first time experienced potentially life-threatening reactions to the vaccine. Based on past experience, it is estimated that 1 or 2 people in 1 million who receive the vaccine may die as a result. Careful screening of potential vaccine recipients is essential to ensure that those at increased risk do not receive the vaccine.

WHO YOU NEED TO KNOW:

U.S. Senator Trent Lott

U.S. Senator Trent Lott of Mississippi is the Senate's Republican Leader. From June 12, 1996, until June 5, 2001, he served as the Senate's 16th Majority Leader, the first Mississippian to hold that

leadership post.

Senator Lott began his political career in 1968 as Administrative Assistant to U.S. Representative William Colmer, D-Mississippi. He was elected to the House of Representatives in 1972 and served until 1988 when he was elected to the Senate. He was re-elected to a second term in 1994 and a third term in 2000.

The respect shown Senator Lott by his colleagues in both the House and Senate is reflected by the leadership positions to which he has been elected. In 1979, he was elected Chairman of the House Republican Research Committee, the fifth ranking Republican leadership position in the House. In 1980 he was elected Republican Whip, the second ranking Republican leadership position. The first Southerner to be elected to that position, he was re-elected to the post three times.

In the Senate, Senator Lott became Secretary of the Senate Republican Conference. In 1995, he was elected Senate Majority Whip. Senator Lott is the first person to be elected to the position of Whip in both the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate. In the Senate, Lott serves on the Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee, the Finance Committee, and the Rules Committee.

He was born October 9, 1941, in Grenada County, Mississippi, the son of a sharecropper farmer turned shipyard worker and a school teacher. He received his Bachelor of Science in Public Administration degree in 1963 and his Juris Doctorate in 1967 from the University of

Mississippi in Oxford. He is married to Patricia (Tricia) Thompson Lott, originally of Pascagoula, Mississippi. Senator and Mrs. Lott are the parents of son, Chet, and daughter, Tyler. They have three grandchildren: Trent, Shields Elizabeth, and Lucie Sims.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY:

December 16, 1773

The Boston Tea Party

In Boston Harbor, a group of Massachusetts colonists disguised as Mohawk Indians board three British tea ships and dump 342 chests of tea into the harbor. The midnight raid, popularly known as the "Boston Tea Party," was in protest of the British Parliament's Tea Act of 1773, a bill designed to save the faltering East India Company by greatly lowering its tea tax and granting it a virtual monopoly on the American tea trade. The low tax allowed the East India Co. to undercut even tea smuggled into America by Dutch traders, and many colonists viewed the act as another example of taxation tyranny.

When three tea ships, the *Dartmouth*, the *Eleanor*, and the *Beaver*, arrived in Boston Harbor, the colonists demanded that the tea be returned to England. After Massachusetts Governor Thomas Hutchinson refused, Patriot leader Samuel Adams organized the "tea party" with about 60 members of the Sons of Liberty, his underground resistance group. The British tea dumped in Boston Harbor on the night of December 16 was valued at some £18,000.

Parliament, outraged by the blatant destruction of British property, enacted the Coercive Acts, also known as the Intolerable Acts, in 1774. The Coercive Acts closed Boston to merchant shipping, established formal British military rule in Massachusetts, made British officials immune to criminal prosecution in America, and required colonists to quarter British troops. The colonists subsequently called the first Continental Congress to consider a united American resistance to the British.

SPORTS:

THE HEISMAN TROPHY

The Downtown Athletic Club of New York City, Inc presents the Heisman Memorial Trophy Award each year to the Outstanding College Football Player of the United States. This Club, more familiarly known as "The DAC", is one of the largest and best-known Athletic Clubs in the US.



In 1935, the DAC created an annual award to the Outstanding College Football Player in the United States. To create this trophy, a well-known sculptor and National Academy prize Winner, Frank Eliscu, was engaged. He set to work at once selecting Ed Smith, a leading player on the 1934 New York University football team, as his model. In due course, Eliscu prepared a rough clay model based on the sidestep, the forward drive and the strong arm thrust of the right arm. The result was a truly lifelike simulation of player action. It was then converted into a plaster cast, a step preliminary to ultimate production in bronze.

The award was named after John W. Heisman, the first Athletic Director of the Downtown Athletic Club. Sportswriters on radio and (later) television made up a nationwide panel of informed and competent judges to choose each year's winners.



This year Southern California's Chris Palmer takes home this most prestigious prize in one of the the closest races in Heisman history. He led the Trojans to a 10-2 record and a spot in the Orange Bowl.

ENTERTAINMENT:

On-Line TRAVEL

It may seem like a peculiar time to roll out new travel Web sites, with bombs exploding at resorts and missiles bearing down on civilian airliners. But that's exactly what some newspapers are doing.

Total domestic and international travel spending plunged 6% last year, according to the Travel Industry Association of America in Washington, with business treks expected to sink another 4.3% this year. But even with 9/11, leisure travel actually rose 3% in 2001 and another 2% for the first half of 2002, according to the association. And online travel advertising is hot, surging 39%, to 15.9 billion impressions, in the third quarter, according to Nielsen/NetRatings, which is co-owned by E&P's parent VNU.

While travel ads practically vanished after Sept. 11, 2001, they were back about eight weeks later. Travel advertising is now about 30% higher than pre-9/11 levels.

Las Vegas' ability to pack in visitors from the West contributes largely to various on-line bookings. Many sites provide cheap deals to the infamous Sin City.

You're more likely to read about Paris on The New York Times on the Web, which relaunched its global travel section in October to include booking capabilities through Trip.com. Travel accounts for about 12% to 15% of total advertising on The New York Times' Web site, said Jason Krebs, vice president of sales.

To boost the audience, the sites freed their travel articles from the paid archives, created destination pages on particular regions, and added content from Fodor's and photos from Lonely Planet. Some include objective reviews of travel spots to give web-surfers a better idea of their destination.

FEATURE:

Using Computers to Catch Corporate Fraud

Accounting software makers are trying to capitalize on a string of high profile scandals by developing computer programs that flag unusual bookkeeping and launch investigations with little human intervention.

For company officials, reviewing reams of corporate data can be a daunting -- and occasionally mind-numbing -- task. Where an accountant's eyes might glaze over with fatigue, computer software can conduct endless checks and analysis to identify sources of possible fraud. And companies have a powerful, new incentive to catch books that are cooked: new laws make executives personally liable if fraud is discovered.

To reduce their own risks, large companies are turning to software from Hyperion Solutions Corp, which has more than 6,000 customers. Hyperion's tools roll up general ledger entries into consolidated financial reports, and also allow complex budgeting, planning, and forecasting.

Hyperion executives said the company plans to develop tools that can combine basic analysis with so-called rule processing, allowing executives to drill down into the books and automatically launch investigations when unusual entries cannot be explained away by such factors as staff level changes. One example Hyperion gives is WorldCom Inc. The company's capital spending "was higher than anybody else's in the industry," said the company's Chief Development Officer Robert Gersten. An appropriate package of software could have flagged the anomaly to company executives and auditors.

Wall Street is keen on Hyperion's future. The company's stock is up 30 percent this year, a feat for a software company in a bear market. Mark Murphy, a software analyst at First Albany

Corp., said he expects Hyperion's revenue to increase in its current fiscal year.

Identifying patterns is a key strength of a computer. Software can easily spot patterns that show a company regularly relying on last-minute sales to meet Wall Street earnings estimates -- often a sign of desperation to satisfy investor demands. A software tool could also compare a company's provision for bad debt with competitors and the industry as a whole. Companies sometimes boost earnings just by low-balling their estimate of how many customers will not be able to pay for orders. Software can also dig into the practice of so-called multiple closings. Company accountants sometimes finalize quarterly results with a series of final tweaks, supposedly to iron out any wrinkles in the numbers. Adding a few cents a share during the process -- by modifying a number here and there -- can be spotted by software designed to investigate such a technique.

Nothing would stop a team of accountants with a pencil and a spreadsheet from completing such analysis. But a computer can scan vast amounts of historical data quickly, and can make graphs and charts that show patterns far more clearly than spreadsheets, Bishop said.

Software has also been used successfully by credit card and insurance companies to catch fraudulent transactions. But the software can only do so much, and ill-intentioned corporate officers can make even the most sophisticated technology moot.

But skeptics say no technology can catch a corrupt CFO, or identify sham deals in a firm that hasn't implemented basic safeguards. Moreover, these software tools are only useful for company insiders. Stock analysts and investors who bet against a company's stock would not find any value in software that needs access to a company's private books to be useful.

Even the software companies admit the limitations of technology.

Quote of the Week:

Men have died from time to time, and worms have eaten them, but not for love.

-William Shakespeare

Fact of the Week:

The average American takes 60 photographs a year.

Word of the Week:

Soma (so'ma) n. The body of a plant or animal exclusive of the germ cells.

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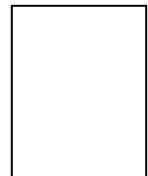
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