

ARTICLE APPEARED
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By John D. Lofton Jr.

WASHINGTON—In his confirmation hearing last week, President Carter's most recent nominee to head the CIA, Adm. Stansfield Turner, made a statement with which most people undoubtedly will be in agreement. When asked if he could think of a situation where he might approve the assassination of a foreign head of state, Adm. Turner replied tersely: "Not in peacetime."

But, I wonder. I wonder if the world wouldn't really be a better place if the CIA were to assassinate or assist in the assassination of Uganda's President Idi Amin.

Since he came to power in a coup six years ago, Amnesty International quotes a now in exile former inspector of the Ugandan secret police as saying that under the Amin regime

300,000 civilian human beings have been killed as well as 10,000 soldiers and 3,000 policemen. The International Commission of Jurists estimates that as many as 250,000 Ugandians may have been killed in reprisals for alleged plots against Amin and in purges of his opponents.

In just one 90-day period in 1971, Amin expelled 55,000 Asians from Uganda. In London, Maj. Ian Grahame, Amin's former commanding officer in African Rifles and a prominent apologist for him, tells the BBC that in Uganda, under Amin "it's the law of the jungle there." And the jungle is winning.

Amin's predecessor Milton Obote described him as "the greatest brute an African mother has ever brought to life." The president of Tanzania, Julius Nyerere, has called Amin "a murderer." Amin, early in his reign,

had his own chief justice dragged in his robes from his downtown chambers by troops and killed.

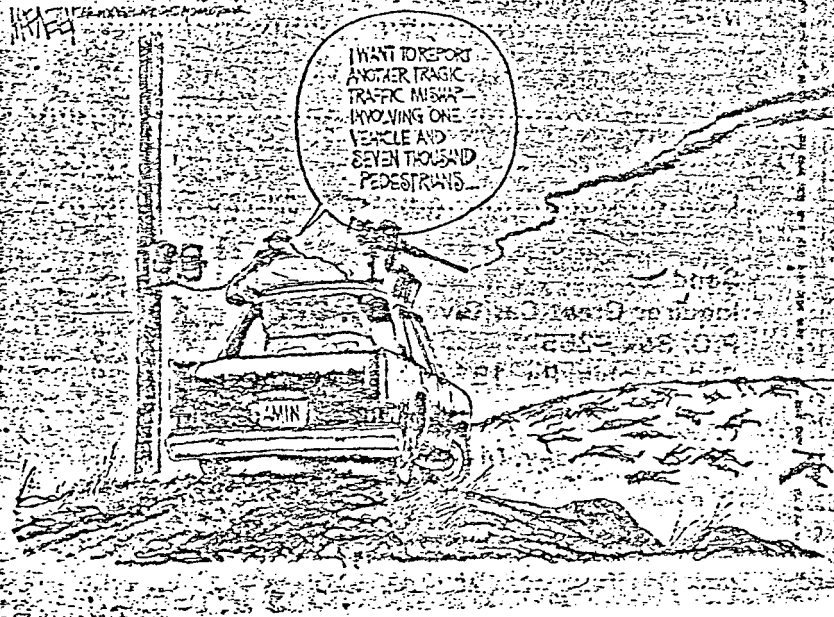
At one time the river Nile and Lake Victoria became so clogged with the bodies of Amin's victims that they were clearly visible from the giant Owen Falls power station and several Italian engineers working there quit in disgust in 1973. Amin has said that Hitler was "right" to burn six million Jews.

More recently, Idi Amin has once again been in the news as a result of a variety of horror stories, specifically his role in the deaths of the Anglican Archbishop of Uganda and two Ugandan cabinet ministers. Although Amin says these people died "accidentally" in an auto collision, sources characterized as reliable say otherwise. No "imperial president" he, isolated from affairs of state, the official Tanzanian government paper, the Daily News, reports that Amin personally shot to death the Anglican Archbishop, Janani Luwum.

In his confirmation hearing, Adm. Turner declared: "I believe with my deepest conviction that the greatest strength we have as a world power is our moral dedication to the rights of the individual."

Well, I agree wholeheartedly. And this is my point. What better way to demonstrate to the world the depth of our moral dedication to the rights of individuals than to have the CIA arrange one of those fatal "auto accidents" for Idi Amin. In fact, after this is accomplished the agency might even want to hold a press conference and claim credit for the operation.

As Canon Carr asks: "How much longer will the people of Uganda have to endure the tyranny of the Amin regime?"



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