

Uganda's Official Strangler Is Out Of Job For 20 Years

By DENNIS LEE ROYLE
KAMPALA, Uganda (AP)—He hasn't had a job to do for the last 40 years—yet he still carries around the tools of his trade.

He's called the nameless one because nobody really knows who he is or where he came from.

He's an insignificant reed of a man who looks as though a breath of wind would blow him over.

Yet, he has one of the strangest jobs in the world.

He's the official strangler to the Court of Buganda.

The strangler's official garb is a gaudy orange ankle-length smock. Sometimes, he wears a crumpled, double-breasted jacket to hide his identity. He is seldom seen outside the tall elephant grass stockade of the king's palace in Kampala.

His employer is the kabaka (or king) of Buganda, Sir Edward William Frederick David Walugembe Mutebi Lwanga Mutesa II, affectionately known as King Freddie.

PART OF REPUBLIC
King Freddie's is the most powerful of the four dynastic kingdoms which form the Central African Republic of Uganda.

The strangler seldom speaks to anyone—not that many people wish to converse with him—but he fingers with devotional care his strangling apparatus, a thin, circular bamboo reed and twined rope.

The strangler is a link with the mysteries and dark intrigues which have surrounded the Kabaka's palace for generations.

Behind the ornate white facade known as the "forbidden palace," a large compound houses hundreds of men, women and children. They are royal relatives of bygone Buganda kings, who thought nothing of having a score of wives.

History has it that King Freddie's ancestors were roasting white missionaries barely 80 years ago and many a clumsy wife ended up in the strangler's hands because she forgot to close a door or dropped a cooking utensil.

CHANGED CUSTOMS
Many things have changed, however, since King Freddie took over the Buganda throne. Educated at Cambridge University, he prefers Western-style clothes and a rolled

umbrella to the heavy, broad cassock-type cloak he wears for ceremonial occasions.

In 1963, Britain took over the governing of Buganda along with the other three kingdom provinces which make up present-day Uganda. In 1954, King Freddie decided he wanted independence for his territory.

He was promptly exiled to the United Kingdom and stripped of his royal title. He was later allowed to return, and became Uganda's first president when republican status was attained in 1963.

Today, King Freddie's power is waning in the face of the fiery Prime Minister Apollo Milton Obote, who feels that kings and kingdoms do not go well with his concept of African nationalism.

Meanwhile, the court strangler hovers unobtrusively in the background, occasionally taking a peek through the palace window at the outside television set—perhaps wishing he had a job or work to do.

NEW AIRPORTS PLANNED
Australia plans to spend £38,000,000 (\$130,000,000) on expanding three new airports, two of them for supersonic airliners.

EYES CARED FOR
The South African government says there now are more eye hospital facilities for its natives than for all the rest of Africa.

Trading Pace Was Brisk On N.Y. Market Last Week

NEW YORK (AP)—The stock market this week made faltering progress but the pace of trading continued brisk. Historic highs were posted by some of the market averages.

The closely watched Dow Jones industrial average made a net gain of 4.50 to end the week at a record closing high of 916.41.

Standard and Poor's 500-stock index closed at a record 88.88 but the Associated Press average of 60 stocks lost 5 at 338.8 after making a historic closing peak of 339.7 on Monday.

The trading week began auspiciously, but the market ran into some unsettling factors in the course of the trading week, with the result that over-all progress was slight.

Of 1,542 issues, 757 rose and 617 fell, a respectable margin. The week's volume was 29,677,510 compared with 25,195,630 for the four-day trading week previous, shortened by the Good Friday holiday.

While General Motors continued to make historic highs, there was uncertainty regarding other prominent issues.

On Tuesday, for instance, an advancing market seemed to turn downward as Chrysler reversed its uptrend. It closed that day with a loss of 2½ in heavy

trading as Wall Street expressed disappointment that its record quarterly earnings of \$1.44 a share were not larger—something on the order of \$1.50 to \$1.60.

SUIT IS DEPRESSING
The hullabaloo caused by the suit against Texas Gulf Sulphur brought by the Securities and Exchange Commission on the alleged grounds of insider stock transactions linked with its rich mineral discovery near Timmins, Ont., was another factor which gave pause to traders and investors.

Texas Gulf ended the week with a net loss of 2½ and in the last couple of trading days was cutting its loss energetically following the annual meeting in Houston where management said many reassuring things to shareholders.

The five most active issues this week on the New York Stock Exchange were: Texas Gulf Sulphur, off 2½ at 67½ on 660,300 shares; Chrysler, off 2½ at 54½; Colorado Fuel and Iron, up 1½ at 16½; Polaroid, up 6½ at 65½; and Standard Oil (New Jersey), up 3½ at 80½.

The five most active issues this week on the American Stock Exchange were: Canadian Homestead, up ¼ at 17-16 at 732,500 shares; Banff Oil, up

1½ at 8¼; Asamera, up ¼ at 4¼; Mead Johnson, up 2½ at 22¼; and Brazilian Traction, up 1½ at 7¼.

Aluminum Firm Earnings Higher
MONTREAL (CP)—Despite a continued drop in exports Reynolds Aluminum Co. of Canada Ltd. and its subsidiaries had consolidated operating profits of \$2,356,814 in 1964, says the company's annual report released Friday.

Earnings after taxes were \$823,000 compared with \$512,000 in 1963, an increase of 60 per cent, the report said.

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QUEEN LUCI

Luci Baines Johnson, daughter of President Lyndon B. Johnson, poses for her official portrait at Norfolk Va., on the eve of her crowning as queen of the annual Azalea Blossom Festival at Norfolk. (AP Wirephoto)

Nuclear Arms Use Possible By U.S. In North Viet Nam

WASHINGTON (AP)—The United States is retaining the option of using small nuclear weapons in Communist North Viet Nam if this becomes an eventual necessity—even though there is no prospect of their use under existing circumstances.

The U.S. government, it has been learned, is prepared to use whatever weapons are considered essential to achieve its objective of ending Communist aggression against South Viet Nam.

In this connection, it is understood also that:

—As the war stands, U.S. forces have far from exhausted the conventional, non-nuclear arms that can be brought to bear effectively.

—Basic U.S. strategy does not assume there are any sanctuaries for the Communist opponents: Either a physical sanctuary inside China's borders or another kind of sanctuary in the assurance that the United States would forswear using nuclear weapons.

—The government approaches the idea of using nuclear weapons with the realization that possible gains must be balanced against conceivable losses.

—There is a strong awareness of the high risks involved in bringing atomic arms into play—the chief risk being that of possible involvement of the Soviet Union and escalation to a nuclear exchange between the big powers.

On the gains vs losses scale, it is considered inconceivable under present circumstances that the use of nuclear weapons in Viet Nam would yield a net gain for the United States.

FALLOUT A PROBLEM
Among other things, if U.S. planes were to drop nuclear weapons on North Vietnamese targets, it was said, the resulting radioactive fallout would drift down into South Viet Nam, killing the innocent and friendly there. This would create a morale problem.

There is no chance that nuclear weapons, even those of a tactical battlefield nature, would be employed against the Red guerrillas infesting South Viet Nam.

Although officials refuse to discuss the circumstances under which nuclear decision would be confronted if the Communist Chinese came into the Vietnamese war directly, particularly with major ground forces.

The daily U.S. bombings in North Viet Nam are said to have sown confusion in the Red bloc over how to respond, and to have set up irritations between the feuding Russians and Chinese.

The United States, it is said, has detected indications of division in the North Vietnamese government as to how high a price it is willing to pay for supporting the South Viet Nam.

MUST MOVE AT NIGHT
As for the effect of the bombings, evidence is that it has forced the Communists to send more traffic along their roads and railway at night and has made it necessary to repair damage under cover of darkness. Some of the reconstruction will take months.

It isn't claimed that the bombings have reduced infiltration into South Viet Nam substantially—just that the infiltration of men and supplies has been slowed.

Meanwhile, the Communist Viet Cong have intensified their terrorism inside South Viet Nam, with attacks on the civilian population rising from about 150 to 300 a month.

The estimate of Viet Cong regulars—the hard core of the guerrilla force—has risen to about 40,000 from a January estimate of about 34,000. They, and about 100,000 Viet Cong irregulars, are reported to be equipped chiefly with good weapons from the north.

However, if North Viet Nam withdrew its support of the Viet Cong, it is believed within the government that the South Vietnamese could control the guerrillas.

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