

Mau Mau Shadow Still Hovers Through Kenya

By JACK ENSOLL
United Press International
Nairobi, Kenya—UP—The shadow of Mau Mau still hovers over this troubled land, so eager for independence and yet unable to find the way.

Vestiges of Mau Mau linger in the terrorist Land Freedom Army. Currently the army appears to have been contained, but few believe it can be effectively smashed. Veteran Kenyans believe it will continue to plague this British colony even after independence, as long as the territory's various tribes resist welding into one nation.

Mau Mau, which waged a terrifying campaign of death and intimidation in Kenya in the 1950's, was essentially a movement of the Kikuyu tribe. Its successor, the Land Freedom Army, is even more closely identified with the Kikuyu.

Interpreted Terrorism

Apologists for the Kikuyu during the Mau Mau emergency period interpreted their terrorism in terms of an agricultural rebellion. They saw the Mau Mau fighters as landless peasants, desperate to establish themselves in the fertile highlands which the British government had reserved for white settlers since the turn of the century.

Even then, however, it was clear that Mau Mau Kikuyu were fighting not only Europeans but also their fellow Africans, members of other tribes.

Nairobi police officials who have been acting against the Land Freedom Army say it is the strong arm of the Kikuyu tribe, aimed at achieving by any means its ambition of occupying the fertile lands of the Rift Valley province.

Revokes Its Policy

Britain, at the London Lancaster House Conference of 1960, decided to revoke its policy of keeping the highlands as a "white" reserve, and is now gradually buying up European farms for African settlement. But this does not satisfy the terrorists who don't want to see the lands go to any Africans but themselves.

Local observers predict that unless the authorities succeed in continually rounding up

terrorist leaders—and new ones emerge as old ones are arrested—the Land Freedom Army may attempt civil war after Kenya's independence.

The Land Freedom Army first came to notice during the Mau Mau emergency when it was the militant wing of Mau Mau in Nairobi. It was led by "General" Kariuki Chotara, at that time an 18-year-old terrorist and confessed murderer of 16 fellow Africans.

Arrested in 1954

Chotara was arrested in 1954 but escaped and, in the same year, took over command of the Land Freedom Army. He was again arrested in 1955, and condemned to death. Because of his youth, the sentence was commuted. He remains in detention.

With the arrest of Chotara and his principal lieutenants the Land Freedom Army, as it then existed, was believed smashed. But the movement sprang up again in 1960 in the Nairobi, Nyeri and Fort Hall areas.

In its new form, the Land Freedom Army, according to police evidence, definitely established itself as a Kikuyu organization, feared and loathed by other tribes.

Most Intelligent Tribe

The Kikuyu, Kena experts say, are the most intelligent tribe in the territory. They take most readily to civilization and have been quick to learn the skills of the European. Yet they are a tribe steeped in witchcraft, prone to forming secret societies, vile oath-taking and subversion. Elements of mystique are characteristic to forest dwellers, and most of Kikuyuland was once forest.

The Kikuyu also are a tribe of individualists. Unlike other East African peoples they have never produced a paramount chief or any other of over-all tribal government. The tribe was divided into clans and "ridges" and the affairs of each "ridge" were controlled by the "Athamaki," or local elders. The clan chiefs were masters of witchcraft and expert at secret methods of control by terror.

This addition to sorcery has stayed with the Kikuyu and formed the cornerstone on which the Mau Mau and its

successor, the Land Freedom Army, have built their membership.

As in the Mau Mau movement, fighters in the Land Freedom Army are bound by oaths usually administered during secret ceremonies which include some rites of unspeakable obscenity.

Anti-Terrorist Campaign

A new anti-terrorist campaign begun in 1960 has resulted in the detention of the army's main leaders and its virtual extinction in urban centers such as Nairobi, Nyeri and Fort Hall. But important elements of the Land Freedom Army apparently have remained undetected in the rift valley province. There, terrorists are said to have gained the allegiance of some 90 per cent of the 10,000 local Kikuyu, many of them squatters.

These squatters, who farm small areas of their white employers' land, have been attracted by the promise that after independence the farms and land on which they live will become their property.

In an independent Kenya this Kikuyu plan to take such lands would immediately clash with claims by the Kalenjin and Masai tribes in the same area.

Inter-Tribal Hostility

This inter-tribal hostility finds its parallel in Kenya's legitimate political life, and is the cause of so much of its frustration.

Tribally, the country's main political parties—the Kenya African National Union (KANU) and the Kenya African Democratic Union (KADU)—are on opposite sides.

KANU, under the leadership of former Mau Mau leader Jomo Kenyatta, now minister of state, is dominated by the Kikuyu. The KADU membership is made up of the minor tribes who are now said to be more fearful of Kikuyu domination than of the remaining vestiges of European colonialism.

Tribal Antagonism

The tribal antagonism is holding up Kenya's independence.

The Lancaster House conference resulted in both Kenyatta and KADU leader Ronald Ngala becoming ministers of state. It was hoped that this arrangement would result in speedy agreement on a constitution. There has been little progress.

While KANU insists on a strong, unitary government, KADU, fearful of Kikuyu ambitions, is pressing for a constitution which would allow the various regions a large degree of autonomy.

Independence Foreseen

At the 1960 conference, independence for Kenya was foreseen by 1963, but it is generally expected this target date will not be achieved. No date has been for another conference.

Those smaller tribes which stood aside during the Mau Mau rebellion are now faced with the argument that the Kikuyu fought for the fruits of victory and should therefore have the best posts and the best land after independence.

Longtime observers of the Kenyan scenes, surveying the territory's chances of peaceful national development, point out that the Kikuyu has always believed himself superior to other tribesmen. He believes that the Kikuyu has been chosen by "Gikuyu" and "Mumbi"—the god and goddess of the tribe—to rule Kenya.

Rules Kikuyus Thoughts

This, coupled with an insatiable appetite for land, has always ruled the thoughts, politics and aspirations of the Kikuyus, while an ever-increasing population—due to improved health conditions—has given further impetus to his age-old ambition.

Old Kenya hands say that the Land Freedom Army, a development of Mau Mau, may be crushed in its present form, but if it is other underground Kikuyu societies will spring up and Kenya will know no real peace until its most dynamic tribe learns how to merge with the rest of the population.

Building Permits Increase in Area

Building permits increased in both Medford and Grants Pass in October, 1962, compared to October, 1961, the University of Oregon bureau of business research has reported.

Last month in Medford the total was \$432,433, compared to \$367,515 in the same month last year. In Grants Pass last month's total of \$188,925 compared to \$136,325 a year ago.

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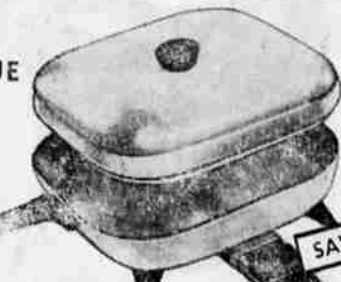
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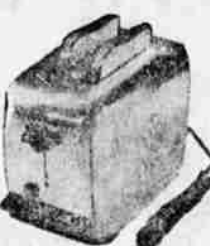
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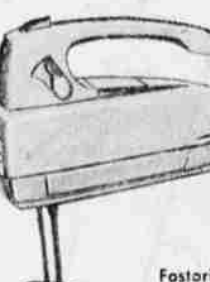
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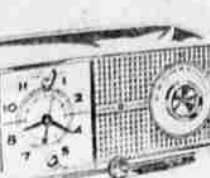
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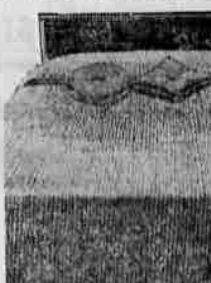
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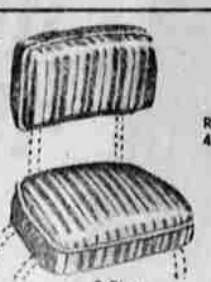
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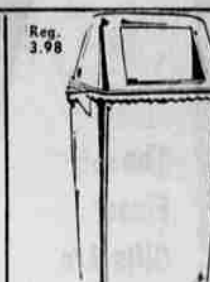
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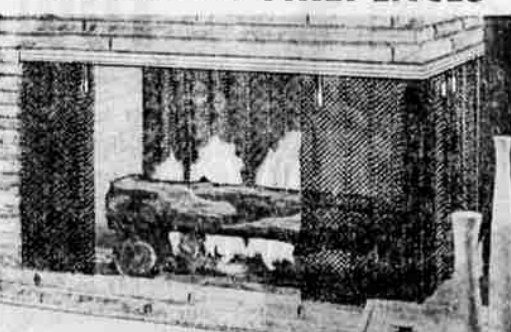
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