

ASSASSIN WOUNDS UGANDA'S LEADER

Milton Obote Shot in Head
—Armed Man Is Arrested

20 DEC 69

By The Associated Press

KAMPALA, Uganda, Dec. 19 — President Milton Obote of Uganda was shot and wounded tonight as he left the annual convention of his party, the Uganda People's Congress. An armed man was reported to have been arrested after the shooting.

The 44-year-old President, suffering from head injuries, was reported to have been conscious when he was admitted to Mulago Hospital shortly after the attack. A spokesman said President Obote's injuries were not serious.

Minutes before a shot rang out outside the Lugogo sports stadium, President Obote had closed the party convention.

The convention had approved a new strategic "move to the left" for Uganda and had called on Mr. Obote and his Government to take action to make Uganda a one-party state.

More than a thousand delegates in the stadium had cheered Mr. Obote as he closed the convention. The Uganda

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Assassin Wounds Uganda Chief, Milton Obote, After Party Rally

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Army Band, seated immediately outside the stadium, was playing the party's song, "Uganda Is Moving Forward," as the President and an escort of four or five men walked past the band.

3 Shots Were Fired

The crowd was streaming out of another door 15 yards away when a shot rang out. Two more shots were fired and President Obote, dressed in a red party shirt, was lying on the ground.

His escort lifted him to his car, parked several feet away, and he was quickly driven to the hospital.

An official statement issued later said: "The President was shot at this evening as he left the Lugogo conference hall. He has been admitted to Mulago Hospital and his condition is good. There is no cause for alarm. A man has been arrested with a weapon."

Attack Is Sign of Pressures

By R. W. APPLE Jr.

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Dec. 19—The attempt on President Obote's life is another sign of the pressures at work in the seemingly tranquil hilltop capital of Kampala.

Mr. Obote has been in power ever since the British granted independence to Uganda Oct. 9, 1962. First as Prime Minister and then as President, he has not hesitated to use the detention laws to suppress criticism and political opposition, despite his seeming popularity among most of the country's 7.5 million people.

The Democratic party, which has opposed Mr. Obote's regime, has found it harder and harder to operate freely during the last five years.

Mass meetings have been broken up, party officials have been harassed, and, on Sept. 6, the party's leader, Benedicto Kiwanuka, was arrested on charges of sedition and criminal libel. He has been released on bond.

Opposition Expressed Freely

Nevertheless, Uganda has not been run as a police state. The Democratic party flag is still permitted to fly from its headquarters in downtown Kampala, six of its members still sit in Parliament, and the opposition viewpoint is expressed freely in public.

The demand of the ruling People's Congress party this week that the opposition be banned is probably an indication that Mr. Obote planned to take such action soon. It is standard procedure in African politics for chiefs of state to



Camera Press-Pix

President Milton Obote

appear to "bow to the will of the party."

Uganda's two fellow members of the East African Economic Union, Kenya and Tanzania, are already one-party states. Kenya banned the opposition People's Union this fall.

The "move to the left" authorized by Mr. Obote's party today has been in the air for almost two years, but it has never been spelled out precisely by the President. It appears to be designed to counter charges from some Ugandans that the British and other Europeans retain too large a share in the country's economy — complaint heard throughout black Africa.

Opposition in BuBuganda

When Uganda — landlocked East African state about the size of Oregon — celebrated the seventh anniversary of its independence in October of this year, Mr. Obote issued with great fanfare a pamphlet called "The Common Man's Charter." But again, it failed to spell out precisely what he meant to do with the economy, how, and when. Since that time, there has been no change in the status quo.

In addition to the organized political opposition, resentment against Mr. Obote, who is from northern Uganda, has also persisted among the people of the old kingdom of Buganda.

Mr. Obote banished the Kabaka, or king, of Buganda in 1966 in the process of transforming the country from a confederation of kingdoms into a republic. The Kabaka died in Britain in exile this year, and many of his former subjects have not forgiven the President.

DO NOT FORGET THE NEEDIEST!