Welcome to Global Journalist on KBIA. This is the program that says mid-Missouri is, indeed many Americans are, interested in international news. I'm Stuart Loory of the Missouri School of Journalism. President Bush's five-nation tour of Africa is coming to an end. And it is now time to take a look at how effective it has been. But before we do we have to consider the purposes of the trip. Is he trying to score political points with black voters in the United States? Does he want to help heal HIV AIDS and other medical problems in Africa? Has he helped Africa gain any greater political stability? Does he want to get a better position for the United States on a continent rich in natural resources, particularly these days? oil? Is he trying to deflect attention from his problems, domestic and international? To discuss this today we have in Johannesburg, South Africa, Raymond Lowe, editor and publisher of the Southern Africa Report, in Kampala, Uganda, David Ouma Balikowa managing editor of Monitor Publications, in London, Winston Ojukutu Macauley a political analyst for West Africa magazine, in Brooklyn, New York, Dr.David E.Ahaneku, Director of campus ministries of the Brooklyn campus of Long Island University and a columnist for Nigeria world and in Washington, Jim Loeb, bureau chief of the Inter Press Service News Agency. Let's start with let me Raymond Lowe bring us up to date on the President's stop in Pretoria and now what is going on in Botswana?
Raymond Lowe 02:12
Well, there’s any little news coming out of what’s happening in Botswana except two copies of two wire
the services of two fulsome speeches, one from the president of Botswana, welcoming George Bush,
and one from George Bush saying how nice it is to be in Botswana. It’s much the same sort of tone as
he adopted when he was in Johannesburg yesterday. In Pretoria yesterday with President Thabo
Mbeki, we had been predictions here that there might be some frostiness at this meeting between the
two presidents in South Africa because of Mbeki’s opposition to the Iraq war, and he’s very strong
opposition to the Iraq war. But in fact, it appears that the meetings went off extremely well. There wasn’t
an economic, there were no disagreements according to the accounts of the reporters on the meetings,
and according to both Bush and Mbeki who afterwards joked and with each other, in fact, I had the
impression almost one of those, Dorothy Lamour /Bob Hope/Bing Crosby road shows the way that they
were prompting before the microphones, slapping each other on the back and cracking jokes. Generally
at the expense of journalists. But the talk seems to have gone off a well if, as you suggested that Mbeki
sorry and Bush came here to better his position in the position of the United States in in this continent. I
think he started off quite well.

Stuart Loory 03:46
Go ahead Raymond Lowe, I'm sorry.

Raymond Lowe 03:48
He started off quite well and and was extremely well received in Pretoria and among government
circles and in medical factory that he made a promise that he went to affordable. And there was also
some wind farmers in the Cape who's put out their special flag for him. But of course, there is also
protest that these persons here there was the anti-war coalition, which is possibly a majority Muslim
organization which was very powerful and strong in its protests, something like 1,500 people and the
the trade unions COSATU, that's the Congress of South African Trade Unions. And the South African
Communist Party all had demonstrations against him, mainly on macro — on capitalist policies. But I
would say that overall is he's had a good welcome here. And so, the Africans have enjoyed having him
here apart from the 15 hours that passengers on a Boeing sitting up from New York had to wait while
Bush's plane was cleared.

Stuart Loory 04:53
Yep. Ray, let me ask you one question about Nelson Mandela, the person the president apparently
went out of his way not to meet Nelson Mandela.

Raymond Lowe 05:09
No.

Stuart Loory 05:10
No what? he did not go out of his way or?

Raymond Lowe 05:14
He couldn’t meet him because Nelson Mandela is not here, he is in London.
Stuart Loory 05:17
He's in London. Well, yeah.

Raymond Lowe 05:19
But he was attending the Rhodes foundation Association in which his his organization, the Mandela Foundation has now been associated. And when he went there deliberately to avoid.

Stuart Loory 05:33
Exactly, was that not a politically motivated trip to get him out of the country?

Raymond Lowe 05:39
It could have been, because he's been very strong in his criticism, and I think somewhat over personally in his criticism of Bush, over the Iraqi war. But it may have been an engineer trip, but in anyway, Bush didn't make any references to Mandela in any of the speeches.

Stuart Loory 06:00
These are the days when Bush, I think has to be pretty concerned about HIV AIDS in South Africa, in Botswana and in Uganda, David Balikowa what is the expectation on what the President will be doing on this question?

David Ouma Balikowa 06:25
We expecting Bush and what we think he would have here is like a follow up of what President Museveni and Bush discussed, when Museveni was visiting the US last month and one of the highlights of that event was focused on the efforts that the Ugandan government is making in combating combating AIDS. So, we expected that in a corporate sense, we'll discuss details on that and Ugandan government certainly is expecting money from the Bush in this activity, he will be holding talks with the president Museveni, after which they will walk a little distance from where they will be meeting to Toso project, which is being funded by the by the American government. So, on the highlight, it will be focusing on AIDS. But Ugandans also are hoping that President Bush will be also talking about the issue of political stability within the region, and also the issue of democracy in Uganda. More specifically, on Uganda, people will be hoping that President Bush would be able to reiterate his message when he told President Museveni on the issue of democracy in a way that sounds like he's discouraging him from running for another term, which is against the constitution. So, many Ugandans are hoping that that will happen, but from what we know Bush is spending only four hours here. And that very short time, other than meeting with the government officials, he may not have the chance to meet people from the opposition, as President Clinton did a couple of years when he said here, so people from the opposition will be certainly very disappointed if they're not able to meet President Bush. And if the conversation, if the meeting is only intended between the co-officials, then many people think that President Bush would have not gone the distance, further in terms of ensuring that President Museveni gets back on the way of democracy and doesn't stand for another term as the constitution limits him. We also hoping that they will be talking about the regional stability, especially in the Great Lakes region, as you know, very well, this one region but very disturbed when we talk about the Congo Uganda and Rwanda center their armies in the Congo and for a very long time. We have been
occupying the horn of Eastern Congo and the US has already been very clear and asked Uganda, not to interfere in the neighboring affairs of Congo. So, we think is also the future in the discussion is that Bush will be holding with President Museveni.

Stuart Loory 09:15
Let's let's bring in some of our other guests also on this question of political stability. The US, as you say, is clear on trying to keep Uganda trying interfering in other countries, but there is some possibility now that United States involvement in promoting political stability throughout the continent may be on the verge of expanding. Would this be a good development or not so good development or whatever? Winston Ojukutu Macauley, do you want to go first on that?

Winston Ojukutu Macauley 09:56
Yes. Picking up the Liberia issue and President Bush making plans for the American government making plans to actually send American troops to Liberia. Now, I'm not too sure whether that has been agreed already. But what I can see for certain is that the government in West Africa will actually welcome involvement of the American government in bringing stability to Liberia. I mean, if you remember, Liberia has been a conflict area for some for some time now.

Stuart Loory 10:33
Ten years. Ten years, in fact, the conflict started in Liberia that actually spurred on to Sierra Leone and Liberia, and President Bush visit to Senegal. I mean, before President Bush, we had President Clinton, actually, I was in Senegal during the last general election, and what we are witnessing in that country, Senegal is a testament that democratic governance and respect for human rights are crucial to the goal of Integrating Africa into the global economy. So, the question of actually sending troops into Liberia, American troops would be goodly welcome by West African government because as you will know, the British troops are in Sierra Leone and that is how to actually create a semblance of some stability in Sierra Leone, but we should not forget that credit should also go to Nigeria, because it was the Nigerian government that actually started the ball rolling instability in Sierra Leone, before the British actually went into Sierra Leone. So, let Nigeria be played a very major role in actually creating stability in Liberia. Or anything you want to say about it?

David E.Ahaneku 11:46
Yeah, Nigeria has always taken the lead in stabilizing the West African sub region. Because you no long, at a time Samuel Doe was in power in Liberia, it was actually Charles Taylor who launched his guerrilla war and then into a full scale war and it was stopped by a Nigerian government especially led by Babangida at that time. So, Nigeria has always, you know, been a leader of trying to stabilize the region. And as I speak, the Nigerian government has sent a letter the president of the Nigerian government Olusegun Obasanjo has sent a letter to the Senate requesting to be allowed to deploy about 1500 troops into Liberia, as you know, as Nigeria spawn portion, because it is expected that about 5000 troops will be needed to stabelize the region. And it is a sector that America will be able to supply to 2000 of these troops and Nigeria has taken half of what is allotted to West Africa. So, Nigeria has always be a very part and Nigeria is excited to be playing this kind of a part, especially in partnership with America because it works out well in America is the tiebreaker and Liberia is going to be at scenario from what America is experiencing, say in Iraq or in Afghanistan. Liberia is a place that is
praying and longing for an American intervention, because it's going to help to settle the situation there. Working in cooperation with Nigeria and some of the powerful countries of the region, the place is going to become a success story. So, it is absolutely morally imperative for America to consider expeditious sending of the troops into that region.

**Stuart Loory** 13:29
Jim Loeb?

**Winston Ojukutu Macauley** 13:30
If I could just come in? I mean, this is Ojukutu Macauley from London, just a quick what I want to say is, America doesn't have to send a large troop to Liberia, what is needed is actually the supplying equipment, logistic, I mean, I'm pretty sure that Nigeria is prepared to provide a large troop if America and other Western countries are prepared to supply and logistics,

**Stuart Loory** 14:00
Okay, we have to take a break now. When we come back, I want to bring Jim Jim Loeb into the discussion. This is Global Journalists on KBIA, I'm Stuart Loory. Welcome back to Global Journalist, you may listen to this program again, ask questions or make comments by going to www.globaljournalists.org or here in mid Missouri by calling us at 573-882-9641. Before the break, we were hearing that the American presidents in Liberia was going to be welcomed, and that this was going to settle all the problems in Liberia. Jim lobe is that clear in Washington that this is really going to be that easy?

**Jim Loeb** 14:55
Well, I don't think the administration is even close to a decision yet on precisely what it will do. It seemed to be moving in the direction of intervening with as many as 2000 troops on the ground. And that would be the first time since the Somalia debacle in in 1993, that the US would have had combat troops. But in the last 24 hours, as a number of powerful congressmen and senators have indicated some reservations and that they wanted to be involved in the decision. Bush himself seems to have kind of retreated a little bit from, what the expectation appeared to be. So, that I think now it's probably more likely to provide logistical and other kinds of assistance, although I think the expectations are such that, indeed, there will have to be some kind of US military commitment that at this point without a real, really serious loss of face on the part of the administration. But yeah, I mean, I think everybody understands that in Liberia, unlike perhaps in in Iraq, people really are enthusiastic for the United States to get involved. But I think there's a lot of concern about that because as the US sends its troops hither and yon, in the views of many people in Congress, there's a sense that it's being overstretched. And that they are now looking at the magic word exit strategy has reappeared in the Washington discourse here. And so people want to really have an exit strategy before they send people into Liberia. And that could be very difficult to to explain because it depends a lot then on circumstances on the ground over which United States may not have a great deal of control.

**Stuart Loory** 16:43
Ray Lowe what about the question of American combat troops being introduced in Africa? Is that any kind of issue in in South Africa?
Raymond Lowe  16:58
I didn't see the last part of Jim Loeb, what he was saying earlier is absolutely right. Bush was saying here that they may consider overstretched and that they would give it a season long consideration before going into Liberia. But one of the features of his talks here was, in fact, on this very issue of peacekeeping in Africa. And it was agreed between him and Mbeki that African states should play a greater role in peacekeeping in Africa and what they would get from America in return would be training, resources, I presume resources means not any equipment but also money. And, that seems to be in some kind of a deal that was struck here that there will be a greater involvement of African states, South Africa in particular, I should imagine. And because South Africa is already in the in the Congo and in Burundi and the US supplying the supplying the money and the resources and during the training, the training being, of course, extremely important.

David E.Ahaneku  18:06
Can I share my word on that please ? David E Ahanaku, it is this kind of duplicitous nature that what is most Africans, Americans have about 150,000 troops in Iraq. They have about 10,000 troops in Afghanistan, scattered all over the place. But when it comes to Africa, they want to supply logistics, why 2000 soldiers wouldn't make a whole lot of difference. If they are overstretched, they are not going to be overstretched because of the truth descent into Africa. They are ordered to have a second and says in places like Iraq. So, when we regress back to handling logistics, we are creating the problems. We are compounding the problems in Africa. There are some problems that the local forces we have in the different countries in Africa cannot handle, they need Americans, America’s physical presence in those areas. But if we go back to what we have been doing before we train them within logistics. We are not making any headway.

Winston Ojukutu Macauley  19:05
If I can come  Winston Ojukutu Macauley from London? Hello,

Stuart Loory  19:11
Yes, go ahead.

Winston Ojukutu Macauley  19:12
They experience in Sierra Leone is that although yes, the Nigerian troops and Kenyan troops and also Kenyan troops actually played a very important role in bringing peace to that country. When the British troops arrived in Sierra Leone when I was there working for the BBC, the local people, Sierra Leone tend to respond well to the British troops, despite the fact that there have been a lot of, a lot of loss of life from from Nigerian troops. So, basically, the issue is, if we can have, if Liberia can have about 1000 or 2000 American troops on the ground, working with the troops from West Africa that will make a lot of difference.

Raymond Lowe  19:57
It is a very strong it’s been a very strong argument here in not only here, but all throughout Africa are finding African solutions, for African problems and African involvement in those solutions. And so one mustn’t discount that aspect of the of the problem. This argument, by the way,
Stuart Loory 20:17
Yes, David Balikowa go ahead and Ray, we'll come back to you in a second.

David Ouma Balikowa 20:23
I think, I would tend to agree with the with the view that Africa must be seen and must be supported, to solve its own problems. Because the number of conflicts the countries in Africa that are involved in the conflict, the turnover is very high. We're talking about Burundi, we're are talking about Congo, we are talking about Liberia. Now, I don't think that is critical for America to be able to become an assembly line to keep on supplying troops for all these conflicts. I don't think so. We need to be looking at countries in Africa that have good credentials in terms of democracy, countries like South Africa, countries like Nigeria, and the Ghana and supporting them to be able to solve problems in Africa. Otherwise, America will be flooding the whole continent because the turn over of conflict in Africa is so high to be able to expect to that America will be everywhere to solve the problem, I think, also we should be demanding from America, that it should be having a more clear strategy in Africa in terms of stripping conflict, because they seem to be having facilities whereby, for example, they relate to some countries in Africa, on the basis of being friendly regime, even when those countries don't have the democratic credentials. And in doing so, they encourage these countries to middle and create conflicts, Look at Uganda, and Rwanda, they are supported from the regions to the Americans. But these are the same countries that are meddling in neighboring Congo, and it doesn't even need the American's to send troops, all they have to do is to use their strong arm and say like if you don't withdraw stopped meddling in the Congo, we won't give you aid, they will get out of that. So, I think we need to be going towards a direction whereby we allow country like South Africa and empower them, for example, deploy in Congo, then thinking that America will be supplying their troops for every country that is having problems in Africa. There are simply so many conflicts in Africa here, expecting that American will be able to supply them with the troops.

Stuart Loory 22:28
Winston?

Winston Ojukutu Macauley 22:29
Yeah. I do agree that Africans should be able to solve their own problems. But again, my experience in Sierra Leone, is what I'm basing my argument, when the Nigerians were in Sierra Leone actually trying to reinstate Tijan Kabah after the 1997 admitted to coup the local people, the local people work on the Nigerian troops into Sierra Leone the moment Tijan Kabah was reinstated there were problems and again the rebels refuse to deal with the Nigerian troops. They got to a point where they will not even seat and talk with the Nigerian troops. So, the issue of Africans solving their own problems, needs education. We had to get our people to realize that America, Britain, France and this country's will not be that road to always be sending troops into our countries, that's what need to be done.

Stuart Loory 23:28
Okay, Africa has lots of problems and the question of political stability is certainly an important one and one of those problems, but there are other problems involving health and feeding people. One of them of course, is the HIV AIDS problem. What is Africa going to do about that? Ray Lowe in South Africa,
President Mbeki does not seem to take the problem very seriously. What can be done and what should the United States be doing?

Raymond Lowe 24:09
Well, United States as promised, although I believe that there may be some opposition to this in the Senate, 3 billion, sorry, 15 billion US dollars over a period of five years. It's like AIDS throughout the world, but a large chunk of that will be in Africa. And they was talks about that in in Pretoria yesterday, where Americans have asked the South Africans to produce a plan which would incorporate the use of entry, retroviral drugs, treatment and prevention to deal with AIDS and Thabo Mbeki has promised to produce such a plan. The difficulty for Thabo Mbeki is the fact that he's been against antiretrovirals for a while, ever since the AIDS controversy broke out. So, it looks almost as if he's changed his mind on that. Because of the amount of money that is involved, or because he's been persuaded that antiretrovirals do do the job. And oddly enough, President Bush's wife is at an AIDS clinic in Botswana this morning, which was run by the Baylor College of Medicine from its campus in Houston, Texas. And she was — and there were eight kids and she was talking to them and dealing with them. And apparently, the doctors, they say, antiretrovirals makes an enormous difference from people, children who are almost incapable of doing anything to lively, energetic kids running around and playing. But that program as Mbeki has assured President Bush is on the way and so there is some hope that the program problem is going to be tackled with a lot of more energy and Bush quoted president Museveni's wife whose dictom is abstention and condoms as being the rule that should be applied to AIDS combact.

Stuart Loory 26:08
Okey, we have I'm sorry to say only a minute left and we have one matter that involves political stability, health and other economic problems and that is Zimbabwe. The AIDS epidemic is very bad in Zimbabwe, people are starving in Zimbabwe. And there is a question of political leadership in Zimbabwe, David Ouma Balikowa what if anything, can be done by countries surrounding Zimbabwe about the situation there?

David Ouma Balikowa 26:45
There is a big problem because when a country is not democratic and when people are very polite, it becomes very difficult for that country to be able to confront..

Stuart Loory 26:58
David Okay, bye. Only a few seconds on this so quick?

David Ouma Balikowa 27:02
I think we need to tackle the problem of democracy and be able to allow independent to come and deal with the problem of AIDS and without democracy, dealing with AIDS becomes a more difficult, unless if you are able to make the country democratic.

Stuart Loory 27:16
I am really sorry to say that we are out of time our guests today have been Jim Lobe of the Inner Press Service news agency in Washington, David E.Ahaneku of Nigeria world in Brooklyn, New York,
Winston Ojukutu Macauley a junior of the West Africa magazine in London, David Ouma Balikowa managing editor of monitor publications in Kampala, and Raymond Lowe editor and publisher of Southern Africa report in Johannesburg, South Africa, our directors Pet Acres, and our producers, Yusuf Kalyango and Sarah Katan for all. I'm Stuart Laurie, Global Journalists will be back next week.