

BAOBAB NOTES



Volume 2 Number 3

February 1993

Ian Smith Offers Support to RENAMO

73-year-old Ian Smith, the former Prime Minister of the minority regime in what was then southern Rhodesia, has told a Portuguese newspaper that he is prepared to help RENAMO prepare its electoral strategy, if the rebel leader, Afonso Dhlakama, asks him for assistance.

In an interview published in the December 21 edition of the Lisbon daily *Diario de Noticias*, Smith claimed that he had never met personally with Dhlakama, but regarded him as "a man who is following the right path".

Smith said that his Republican Party, the direct descendant of the Rhodesian Front which waged war on the people of Zimbabwe and the Front Line States during the disastrous years of UDI, was prepared to do "everything possible" to support RENAMO.

Smith admitted that his regime had been behind the creation of RENAMO in the mid 1970's, and defended this decision. "I acted correctly," he said. "I am not repentant. I would do the same again today." (*Mozambique News Agency*, 1/27/93)

Bully or Buddy? Africa Tests US Role

A US state department official who has been in close touch with the Clinton transition team in recent weeks says Somalia, Angola and South Africa top the Africa list of the new president.

The state department source said the expectation in Washington was that policy-making under Clinton was likely to be cautious, even slow, in the initial stages, with bold adventurism avoided.

Secretary of state Warren Christopher and national security adviser Tony Lake share years of diplomatic experience, an aversion to megaphone politics and a conformist approach, he said. "Any activism they display will be imposed on them by the president himself."

The primary question for Clinton's Africa policy is this: will the US join other member states of the UN in helping resolve local, regional and even continental crises, or will it choose to act as a world police officer, irrespective of the feelings of friends and foes alike? (*The Weekly Mail*, 1/29/93 - 2/4/93)

Protests in Sweden as Mozambican Aid is Cut

Swedish Churches and religious organizations have launched a protest campaign in a bid to force the Swedish government to back down over planned foreign-aid cuts. Mozambique is one of the countries to receive less development aid from Sweden in the next budget year because of an economic crisis in the donor country. Swedish aid to Mozambique will be cut by 10 percent, or \$220 million, for the next five years.

The local protest in Sweden comes at a time when Denmark, the world's third-most-generous foreign-aid donor, is increasing aid funding. Norway, the world's leading donor, is maintaining its level of development assistance despite a prolonged recession.

Sweden has said it will in the future place greater emphasis on human rights, limited military spending and efficient use of aid, when identifying recipients. In its 1993-94 budget, the Swedish government earmarked \$32.43 million for victims of apartheid in Southern Africa, to be spent on education for democracy and health care. For the first time foreign aid officials have said some aid will be openly allocated to the African National Congress. (*SouthScan*, 1/15/93)

Graca Machel and Prexy Nesbitt will be speaking in Vasteras, Sweden at a special seminar aimed at addressing these pending cuts in aid to Mozambique.

You Can't Kill the Spirit

— Anonymous

You can't kill the spirit
She is like the mountains
Old and Strong
She'll go on and on and on
You can't kill the spirit

Let us sing tho' we're
here by bars confined
like Victor Jara
tho' they shot his body down
The can kill a person but not the song
When its sung the whole world round

(An anonymous poem, given to Jenny Schreiner by a fellow woman political prisoner. From *A Snake with Ice Water: Prison Writings by South African Women*, Barbara Schreiner, Ed. COSAW, 1992.)

Angola Appeals to United States

Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos has called on the United States to normalize relations with his war-torn country and asked that the United Nations brand the UNITA rebel movement a terrorist organization.

In a January letter intended for President Bill Clinton, dos Santos said he believed the failure of the Bush administration to grant full diplomatic recognition to his government following Angola's September election may have emboldened UNITA to restart the war.

"To maintain a position which does not recognize Angola means to favor UNITA," dos Santos said in a *Christian Science Monitor* interview on January 25. (*Washington Post*, 1/26/93)

UN Peace-keeping Force in Angola Cut

At the United Nations, the Security Council unanimously renewed the mandate of UN peacekeepers in Angola but permitted the UN to cut down its presence if security continues to deteriorate. The UN operation was extended until April 30. (*Los Angeles Times*, 1/30/93)

UNITA Generals Ready to Return to National Army

Six of the eleven UNITA generals who withdrew from the unified Angolan Armed Forces on October 5, 1992, alleging electoral fraud, stated on February 3, 1993 that they were ready to return and assume their responsibilities in the national army, since they felt that the reasons for their withdrawal had been outstripped by events. (Press Release, Angolan Embassy, London, 2/8/93)

One Million Face Malnutrition in Angola

At least 16,000 people have been killed during the latest UNITA attacks according to United Nations sources. Tens of thousands of people are in flight from towns taken over by UNITA. Reports of rapes and of systematic killings of whites and people of mixed race are revealed with each new group of refugees.

According to Philippe Borel, head of the World Food Programme of Angola, said, "more than one million people - one-tenth of the population - now face malnutrition." (*The Guardian*, 2/2/93)

Portuguese Diplomat Criticizes South African and Zairean Support of UNITA

A senior Portuguese foreign ministry official accused South Africa and Zaire of providing large-scale military support for UNITA, despite official denials from Pretoria and Kinshasa.

He said South Africa had recently delivered armored personnel carriers to UNITA and had provided "sufficient ammunition for it to keep fighting for nine months or a year."

The diplomat said South Africa's military commanders, who in the past have often acted independently of the country's civilian government, appeared bent on supporting Savimbi so that he could partition Angola, creating a separate UNITA-ruled state in southern Angola. (*Reuter*, 2/12/93)

UNITA Annexes Diamond Area

UNITA rebels are reported to have captured most of Angola's northern diamond area and also struck a blow against the country's vital lifeblood -- the oil industry. They claimed they had captured the oil town of Soyo, in the northwest, while the government admitted that it had lost contact with its forces there. (*New Nation*, 1/22/93 - 1/28/93)

region

Namibia is "Neutral" on Conflict in Angola

In an airport interview upon his arrival to the Ivory Coast on February 1, Namibian Prime Minister Geingob, when asked to comment on renewed conflict between the MPLA and UNITA guerrillas, said that Namibia backed neither side. "We are neutral," he said. Until Namibia's independence from South Africa in 1990 Geingob's SWAPO party fought a guerrilla war from neighboring Angola, with the backing of its MPLA government. (*Reuter*, 2/1/93)

Zimbabwe: One in Six have HIV

At least 1.5 million Zimbabweans, 15 percent of the country's population, have contracted the HIV virus that causes the disease AIDS, a survey commissioned by the Commercial Farmers' Union, said. Officially, Zimbabwe has 40,000 confirmed AIDS cases in a population of 10.2 million. [*Editorial note: the US Center for Disease Control estimates that 1 million people in the United States, 0.4 percent of the US population, are HIV positive*] (*SouthScan*, 1/22/93)

UN Delays in Mozambique May Push Back Elections

Six weeks after the Security Council approved it, the United Nations Operation in Mozambique has barely started its task of getting the war-ravaged nation ready for elections. Fewer than 100 of the 7,500 monitors involved had arrived by the end of January, and the \$332 million budget had yet to be approved.

It now seems unlikely that the Mozambican elections can be organized by October, as stipulated in the cease-fire agreement. Aldo Ajello, the UN special representative, says the elections could be delayed until May 1994. (*Christian Science Monitor*, 2/9/93)

British to Remove Mines

The Mozambican government and RENAMO have agreed to contract a British company to remove the mines planted throughout the country during the war of destabilization. The agreement puts an end to attempts by RENAMO to use a South African company, Minerva, to remove the mines. Minerva is reportedly operated by Garth Barrett, one of the former Rhodesian officers involved in the formation of RENAMO in the mid-1970's. (*Mozambique News Agency*, 1/27/93)

Poverty in the Cities

More than half of the three million residents of Mozambique's 12 largest towns are living in a state of "absolute poverty", according to the Secretary of State for Social Welfare, Filipe Mandlate. Mandlate established an income per capita "poverty line" of \$15 per month. The current minimum wage of about \$21 per month is barely sufficient to keep just 1.4 people above the poverty line. (*MozambiqueFile*, 1/93)

Malawi: Opposition Parties Unite

Saying they have learned from Kenyan opposition disunity, three exiled Malawian opposition groups have united, as the country prepares for a March 15 referendum on one-party rule. The Malawi Freedom Movement, the Malawi Democratic Movement, and the Socialist League of Malawi formally dissolved and founded the United Front for Multiparty Democracy (UFMD). They are to merge with the internally-based United Democratic Front to challenge the ruling Malawi Congress Party of President Hastings Kamuzu Banda in the referendum.

Harry Bwanausi, chair of the UFMD said Malawians did not want to be tricked into disunity as it happened in Kenya. "We want to unite under one... strong opposition party, speaking with one voice". (*SouthScan*, 1/15/93)

UN to Monitor Mozambique

Nine countries have so far agreed to provide troops for a major UN peace-keeping operation to monitor the cease-fire and elections in Mozambique. UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali named the potential troop donors as Argentina, Bangladesh, Brazil, Cape Verde, Egypt, Italy, Malaysia, Sweden and Uruguay. (*New Nation*, 1/22/93 - 1/28/93)

Portugal has also expressed interest in overseeing the cease-fire and elections as part of the UN peace-keeping force. In addition to this, Portugal has indicated it will be engaged in training the new unified naval and air forces. (*SouthScan*, 2/5/93)

Germans Lobby for Cabora Bassa

Representatives of the German foreign ministry met at the end of December with leaders of Mozambique's former rebel movement, RENAMO, and discussed notably the Cabora Bassa hydroelectric dam. According to information obtained by *The Indian Ocean Newsletter*, the German delegation demanded a written promise from RENAMO on the future of Cabora Bassa, including public support from the movement for the second phase of work on the hydroelectric project on the Zambezi River. In exchange, Germany is apparently prepared to put up financial backing for the RENAMO election campaign via different companies. The German lobby for Cabora Bassa was very strong in the 1970's before independence. (*Indian Ocean Newsletter*, 1/9/93)

Assembly Throws Out Casino Bill

The Mozambican government attempted twice to push through a bill legalizing gambling, and particularly the opening of casinos, during the Assembly of the Republic, but both times skeptical deputies remitted the bill. (*MozambiqueFile*, 1/93)

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Political Violence in South Africa: 1992 Death Count Second Highest

South Africa's Human Rights Commission has published its data on apartheid violence in 1992. More than 3,000 people were killed, making 1992 the second worst year of political violence to date. Since the outbreak of violence in September 1984 it is estimated by the SA Institute of Race Relations that over 15,000 people have died as a result of political violence. (Immobilize Apartheid Coalition mailing 2/4/93; *Financial Mail (SA)*, 12/18/92)

Prisoners on Hunger Strike

Numerous prisoners throughout the country are currently on hunger strike. The protest, called by the South African Prisoner's Organisation for Human Rights (SAPOHR), is intended to back up SAPOHR's demands for: a multiparty commission of inquiry to look into deaths and abuses in prisons and in police custody; the immediate and unconditional release of all political prisoners; and the formation of a national forum to investigate individual prisoners' sentences. SAPOHR claims that about 2,000 prisoners are involved in the strike, while the government's department of correctional services said only 151 prisoners were on hunger strike. Prison authorities have allegedly been harassing the hunger strikers. (*South Africa Political Update*, 2/12/93)

San Francisco Ex-policeman "Spied for South Africa"

San Francisco and federal authorities are investigating charges that a former city policeman sold classified intelligence files to South African and Israeli intelligence agents. Tom Gerard, a 50-year-old intelligence officer with the San Francisco Police Department allegedly sold intelligence files to a South African agent for \$20,000. (*SouthScan*, 1/22/93)

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Webster Inquest Fails to Identify Killer

The inquest into the 1989 assassination of David Webster failed in the Rand Supreme Court to establish the identity of the murderer, with the judge casting doubt on evidence from Civil Cooperation Bureau agents. Judge M. Stegmann said it was clear there was a conspiracy to murder Webster but there was no evidence to prove it had been a CCB project. He emphasized, however, that his finding was not final and the police docket would remain open. (*SouthScan*, 1/29/93)

London Trip "To Buy Arms for AWB"

Two South Africans posing as sponsors for a multi-million dollar development program in Mozambique left London suddenly in December after the British secret service discovered they actually were trying to buy arms for the far right-wing Afrikaner Weerstandsbeweging (AWB). They reportedly displayed interest in weapons ranging from automatic arms to anti-tank armaments. Such a purchase would lend a new seriousness to the AWB threat, long seen as merely posturing. (*SouthScan*, 1/8/93)

SACP Growth

Secretary general of the South African Communist Party Chris Hani noted December that the SACP's membership had doubled in one year, from 22,000 in October 1991 to an estimated 50,000 now. The membership had risen in all regions, but particularly sharply in the trade union movement, and among mineworkers. (*SouthScan*, 1/15/93)

Editors: Karin Candelaria and Prexy Nesbitt. Special Thanks to Maureen Lai-Ping Mark.



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