

Southern Africa Support Committee

VOL. 2

NEWS LETTER APRIL-1979



**WEEK OF SOLIDARITY WITH
SOUTHERN AFRICA
APRIL 4-11**

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History of the Southern Africa Support Committee

The Southern Africa Support Committee (SASC) is a multi-racial group engaged in activities relating directly to and supportive of the independence struggles of the peoples of Southern Africa.

In existence since 1975 SASC recognizes that the white minority governments of Zimbabwe (Rhodesia), Namibia (Southwest Africa) and Azania (South Africa) have forcibly imposed the inhuman system of apartheid on the black people of these countries. Further, we recognize that to black people in these countries, apartheid means rigid segregation, poverty, arbitrary imprisonment and one of the highest infant mortality rates in the world.

Because of the barbaric conditions under which Africans must live and die, SASC opposes all United States military, economic, cultural and political ties to the racist governments in Southern Africa. Beyond this, we acknowledge the various liberation movements in Azania, Namibia and Zimbabwe as the real representatives of the vast majority of the people. We explicitly view the white upholders of the apartheid system as illegitimate and immoral. In short, SASC stands with the African people who are struggling for majority rule, the abolition of apartheid and a system of full economic, political and social equality in the countries of Southern Africa.

At present, SASC has branches in Los Angeles, Pasadena, on the UCLA campus, Santa Monica and at Santa Monica City college. We are engaged in organizing in several areas. We are continuing to collect clothes to be sent to Zimbabwe refugees and freedom fighters who are opposed to the racist Ian Smith regime. SASC is also involved in numerous film showings, slide shows and educational programs.



WEEK OF SOLIDARITY WITH SOUTHERN AFRICA



April 4-11 is a week of solidarity with Southern Africa, endorsed by the African National Congress, the Pan African Congress, and the U.N. Unit on Apartheid. It is a call for people in the U.S. to support the just liberation struggles of the peoples of Zimbabwe, Namibia, and South Africa.

The Southern Africa Coalition (Southern California) is focusing on Zimbabwe because the situation there has intensified greatly as the liberation forces near victory. The imminent victory of the Zimbabwean people will provide a strategic base for other liberation movements in Southern Africa.

Resistance to the incredible oppression of the racist governments in Southern Africa is a natural response to a system which attempts to control the resources and labour of the black majority for the benefits of the white minority; a system which destroys families through its migrant labour system, which kills thousands through police terror.

RESISTANCE TO COLONIALISM -

The Patriotic Front

Ever since Britain invaded and settled in Zimbabwe (called Rhodesia by the settlers) in 1894, people have fought back to regain control of their country from colonialism. In 1966 the people of Zimbabwe launched an armed struggle for freedom, after years of peaceful protest had resulted in worse oppression. The armed struggle for freedom is called Chimurenga, after the heroic 1st war of Zimbabwean people 80 years ago. The Patriotic Front is an alliance between ZANU (Zimbabwe African National Union) and ZAPU (Zimbabwe African People's Union) formed in 1976. It is winning the war for an independent, democratic Zimbabwe.

The Patriotic Front is supported all over Zimbabwe; freedom fighters have free access to 85% of Zimbabwe. Right now, in the liberated areas of Zimbabwe, one-half of the rural population is governed not by Smith and his puppets, but by ZANU. People in liberated areas enjoy popularly controlled education, health care and political power. The Patriotic Front also cares for tens of thousands of refugees in Zambia and Mozambique - refugees from Smith's air raids, from "protected villages" (Concentration camps), and from Smith's counter-insurgency terror squads. There is growing international support for the Patriotic Front as the legitimate authority in Zimbabwe - and any "internal settlement" or international scheme that does not recognize their authority to govern Zimbabwe is a farce.

THE "INTERNAL SETTLEMENT"-

Phony Elections

However, last March Ian Smith, who leads the racist white minority government in Zimbabwe, tried to forestall a black majority rule by announcing his "internal settlement". Three Africans

joined in on Smith's attempt, but a few black faces can't hide the fact that 7 million blacks are dominated by 240,000 white settlers. This domination is total in that it controls all the Zimbabweans' land, mineral resources, and most importantly their labour power.

The written constitution of this "internal settlement" makes the continued domination by the white minority a legal fact. Freedom for the Zimbabweans will never be gained through legal channels according to the "internal settlement" since it clearly sets out a white veto power in the legislature and a continuing control of the courts and prisons. The Rhodesian Army, with its long history of murder and torture, will remain intact if this "internal settlement" is approved.

On April 20 Ian Smith's white minority government plans to hold elections. These elections have nothing to do with democracy. They are an attempt to make the "internal settlement" government legitimate. This will pave the way for the economic sanctions to be lifted. Then, Smith can get the financial and military aid he desperately needs.

These elections are publicized by Smith and his friend Jimmy Carter as a sincere attempt to establish democracy in Zimbabwe. But the elections will result in a government no more representative than the assembly which came out of the South African sponsored elections in Namibia last December. That election, like the upcoming Rhodesian one, was declared "null and void" by the United Nations Security Council. In both countries, ruling white minorities, backed by Western governments, are using "internal solutions" to prevent the liberation movements from coming to power.

In Namibia, SWAPO (South West African People's Organization) has boycotted the sham elections, knowing full well that the elections are not in their interests. They have consented to the United Nations supervised elections, but still continue the armed struggle for their independence that they have waged for 13 years. These farce elections should serve as a warning as to what could happen in Zimbabwe.

THE U.S. ROLE

The U.S. is supporting Smith because Rhodesia is crucial to U.S. political and military presence in Southern Africa. The U.S. will continue to guard its rip-off of the Zimbabwean's mineral resources, labour, and excellent ship routes.

Without U.S. support, Smith and white

minority rule would have been swept off the face of Africa. Right now the U.S. is funnelling a steady stream of military and financial aid to Rhodesia Through South Africa and Israel. It is also cooperating in recruitment of white mercenaries

to fight against the Patriotic Front.

But, all the weapons that the US gets to Smith under the table, all the mercenaries, are not enough. The liberation forces are winning- Smith's ground troops are more and more helpless. His only military tactic is to intensify the air war. Smith wants the sanctions lifted so he can get more weapons, in particular Huey helicopters. Used by the U.S. in Vietnam, they fire 500,000 rounds a minute and are only useful for a wholesale slaughter of people.

Besides giving military assistance, the U.S. has tried to legitimize the Smith government with a campaign of political support. Senator Hayakawa is one of the leaders in the U.S. government's support for Smith. Last October Sen. Hayakawa and Sen. Helms (D., N.C.) sponsored a tour of the U.S. by Ian Smith. The State Department cooperated by giving Smith a visa in defiance of international sanctions, so that he could drum up support for his government. While Smith's air force bombs refugee camps in Zimbabwe, Mozambique and Angola, Smith is portrayed as a reasonable man fighting the "terrorists" of the Patriotic Front. At the time of Smith's tour, 1500 people in L.A. demonstrated to support the Patriotic Front and denounce Smith's visit here.

Now, Hayakawa, Helms and Sen. McGovern have tried to organize a crew of observers to monitor the election in April to give the Rhodesian Government the U.S. SEAL of Approval and then bail out Smith militarily. Again, we are demonstrating, this time at Sen. Hayakawa's office at 523 W. 6th St. LA, at 11:30 AM on Friday, April 6.

The Patriotic Front is near a victory over Smith and his Western supporters. They have fought long and hard for freedom. We must support them for their struggle is at a critical time. Chimurenga, the people's war in Zimbabwe, is the only way the people of Zimbabwe will win their freedom. We call on the people of LA to reject the phony elections and the "internal settlement," to reject Smith, and to reject Sen. Hayakawa and all U.S. interference in Zimbabwe.

CONGRESSIONAL CONSERVATIVES IAN SMITH'S ALLIES



Ian Smith's friends in the U.S. Congress, including Calif's S.I. Hayakawa, are at it again in continuing their pressure for U.S. support for Smith and his "internal settlement." In spite of widespread world condemnation of the "internal settlement", members of the U.S. Congress have consistently pushed for means and justification to support Rhodesia's illegal government and to provide open economic support for the Rhodesian government.

The latest Congressional proposals focus on elections planned for April 20 in Rhodesia (Zimbabwe) to approve the internal settlement plan agreed to by Smith and his three black colleagues Muzarewa, Sit-hole and Chiraw. Under this proposal some black representation would finally be allowed in the Rhodesian government. However, a large enough number of parliamentary seats would be reserved for whites to assure a white veto power for at least 10 years. More significantly, the police, courts and most property would remain in the hands of whites.

This plan is not a peace plan to end Zimbabwe's civil war, for it excludes the Patriotic Front which has been actively fighting for majority rule and in fact controls large areas of Zimbabwe already.

For these reasons the internal settlement has been rejected by the Organization of African States, the United Nations and other international bodies.

Senators S.I. Hayakawa (R-Calif.) and George Mc Govern (D-S.D.) recently joined in proposing that the U.S. Congress send a "non-biased" team of observers to assure that the April 20 elections are "free and fair." The background for this proposal is largely revealed by past Congressional efforts to end an official economic embargo against trade with the Rhodesian government, which would effectively strengthen U.S. support for Smith and his cohorts.

Last summer Sen. Richard Helms proposed a lifting of these economic sanctions in spite of continuing white minority rule. His proposal failed the Senate by only 6 votes. A compromise bill sponsored by Case and Javits was passed in both houses, however. The Case-Javits bill requires President Carter to lift the sanctions under the conditions that the Rhodesian regime (1) shows its willingness to "Negotiate in good faith at an all-parties conference held under international auspices" and (2) organizes "free elections." This compromise bill lacks however in that it apparently leaves it up to Pres. Carter to determine whether these conditions have been met.

It is clear that Hayakawa and others hope that by sending observers to monitor the elections they will be able to create pressure to convince Carter and Congress that the conditions have been met.

Hayakawa's open support for Smith is unquestioned. He invited and hosted Smith's visit to the U.S. last October (1978) to raise support for the internal settlement.

In fact, the economic sanctions against Rhodesia's Smith regime have not been strictly adhered to. U.S. and British firms have for years been involved in supplying oil to Rhodesia through a complicated system of bookkeeping in which oil is shipped to Rhodesia through South Africa in clear violation of U.S. law. U.S. war materials including helicopters have secretly found their way to the hands of the Rhodesian government.

Now that the white minority government has been forced to make some concessions to black participation in the form of the proposed internal settlement, conservative forces will attempt to use the opportunity to end the official sanctions and more openly provide economic and material support to the so-called "moderate" forces.

But the American people should not be fooled by the superficial appearance of elections and an internal settlement. We know it is a far cry from true majority rule and does little towards restoring the land and human and political rights to the people of Zimbabwe.

When Hayakawa brought Ian Smith to southern California in October, some 1,000 demonstrators showed up to voice our opposition to minority rule in Zimbabwe. On Tuesday, April 10 we will join again to demonstrate at Hayakawa's office in downtown Los Angeles to oppose Hayakawa's support Smith and voice our solidarity with the people of Zimbabwe. Join us! Don't let Hayakawa speak for the people of Southern California on this issue!

Update on NAMIBIA NEGOTIATING STILL TOUGH

Article from Africa News 3/16/79

(AN) Later this month, a contingent from the United Nations peace-keeping operation in Lebanon (UNIFIL) may be flown into Namibia. Or it may not.

The temporary movement of personnel is planned as a quick means of establishing a symbolic UN presence in the territory, immediately after the two major parties in the negotiations accept the UN plan for conducting elections leading to independence. But no one can yet be sure that such agreement can be reached.

Last week, Secretary General Kurt Waldheim asked South Africa, which has ruled Namibia for 60 years, and SWAPO, the independence movement which has opposed South African control, to observe a cease-fire in the guerrilla war beginning at midnight on March 15. In a report to the Security Council, Waldheim proposed ways to resolve the remaining outstanding issues.

He said the peaceful return of exiled Namibians to the territory should be monitored and coordinated by the UN High Commission for Refugees. And the exiles should be "free to locate where they wish," he stated. "Such return should take place without arms or military equipment."

The UN plan adopted last September pro-

vides that following implementation of a cease-fire the South Africa Defense Forces and SWAPO armed forces are to be restricted to base.

Waldheim's recommendation in his report last week that SWAPO guerrillas inside the territory at the time of the cease-fire "be restricted to base at designated locations inside Namibia" outraged the South Africans, who do not want to see the liberation movement's forces encamped within the territory.

South Africa has insisted that all the guerrillas be confined to camps in neighboring states. But Waldheim did accept their demand that the UN Transition Assistance Group (UNTAG), the proposed peace-keeping force, establish offices in Angola, Botswana, and Zambia to oversee SWAPO camps located there. He has requested the permission of those governments to do so.

Finally, Waldheim stated that most of his recommendations regarding the status of UNTAG personnel had been accepted by South Africa. The UN has insisted that they have full diplomatic immunity, while Pretoria has wanted to limit the off-duty immunity of lower-level UNTAG members.

He also promised to submit to the Council a proposed list of countries which will contribute personnel to UNTAG--another issue on which South Africa and Swapo heatedly disagree. UN sources said Waldheim's list includes Ghana, Bangladesh, Rumania, Finland and Panama, with logistical support supplied by Australia, Denmark, West Germany, Sweden and Britain. But SWAPO found the preponderance of Western nations completely unacceptable, and the Secretary General is believed to have agreed to add an African country and one more nation, plus an additional African state for the back-up team.

In spite of this effort to find a compromise, the prospects for an early accord appear dim. During a visit last week to the Namibian capital, Windhoek, South African Prime Minister P.W. Botha indicated a complete unwillingness to see SWAPO installed in permanent Namibia bases.

But SWAPO asserts that its forces already have established five camps in the territory and has pledged to reveal their locations after implementation of a cease-fire. The movement has recently stepped up its military actions with an assault on a South African army facility in February and various other smaller actions.

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ZIMBABWE UPDATE

The struggle for the liberation of Zimbabwe has intensified to the point that 90% of the country has been placed under martial law. Early in February, ZANU (Zimbabwe African National Union) guerrillas attacked the main power plant in Salisbury, the capitol. Later in the month, ZAPU (Zimbabwe African People's Union) forces staged a midnight rocket attack on Salisbury International Airport. The most publicized guerrilla action occurred Feb. 12 when an Air Rhodesia plane on its way to Salisbury was shot down, killing all 59 passengers aboard. In response, the Rhodesian government has launched a series of bombing raids in Zambia and Mozambique directed at refugee camps and guerrilla military bases.

These raids were made possible, in part, by the flow of military hardware into Zimbabwe, despite a UN arms embargo. Eleven U.S. designed Bell 205A helicopters, 20 Cessna reconnaissance planes, some heavy duty ground transports and other equipment have been obtained by the Rhodesian military in recent months.

ELECTIONS

In other developments, some 85% of Rhodesia's primarily white electorate voted to accept the country's new constitution in a referendum held on January 30. The main purpose of the new constitution is to keep whites (who represent 4% of the population) in power after national elections are held on April 20th. These elections have already been postponed once due to lack of support for this so-called "internal settlement." These elections will choose the 100 members for the country's new parliament.

The constitution sets aside 28 seats for whites. Only whites can vote for white representatives, reinforcing the system of apartheid and giving white votes much more weight than blacks. Whites also have veto power over a wide range of important issues. The constitution gives them effective control over the judiciary, the civil service, the military, and provides them with more than 1/4 of the cabinet seats.

The constitution contains several other particularly vicious sections. One,

the Tribal Trust Bill, will make it legal to "move tribespeople away from an area to make way for a scheme of national importance." Another section reinforces the existence of all-black townships and of racial segregation in housing, along the model of South Africa's Bantustans.

The dilemma facing Ian Smith, the white Rhodesian leader, is that he must convince everyone they are getting what they want. He has to convince the whites that, although the new constitution is advertised as putting an end to racial segregation (which it does not do), they will not lose their control over the country. On the other hand, he is trying to convince the black majority (unsuccessfully) and the Western powers (who would want nothing more than to be convinced) that the elections are a true expression of the people's will, and signal an end to racial segregation. If he convinces the Western powers, they undoubtedly will lift the economic sanctions imposed on Rhodesia in 1965. Taken together, the stakes are quite high.

For their part, the Patriotic Front (ZAPU and ZANU) consider the whole election exercise to be so much hot air. They are part of a neo-colonial solution to the political crisis in Zimbabwe, and as such have nothing in common with the aspirations of the vast majority of the people. ZANU President Robert Mugabe put it this way, "The elections are irrelevant to the armed struggle being waged by the people of Zimbabwe."

**STRUGGLE
UNTIL
VICTORY**



Day and night ZANLA combatants are advancing into the interior w



wresting land inch by inch and consolidating People's Power

ZAIRE Part 2

The Western powers (France, West Germany, U.S., England) did not really have a choice in deciding whether they would attempt to financially bail out Zaire. If left alone, there is certain revolution. Zaire's President Mobutu, because of his strong anti-communist stand is one of the strongest allies that the West has in Africa. Zaire's strategic location and its economic potential left the West with limited options. The liberation struggles in Africa make Zaire an important ally for Western powers. Reports are that over 16 CIA bases operate out of Zaire.

Power in Zaire is essentially in the exclusive control of Mobutu. The West, through its International Monetary Fund's (IMF), financial support, hopes to create a middle class of Zairians. This class would give the illusion that Zaire's government is liberal, and not the brutal dictatorship that is. However, any fallacy perpetrated remains that, a fallacy. There is no chance in Zaire for the people to experience liberation without armed liberation struggle. Whenever there is an uprising, Western powers, notably France and Belgium will detach troops to aid in the continued oppression of the Africans and Mobutu's continued reign.

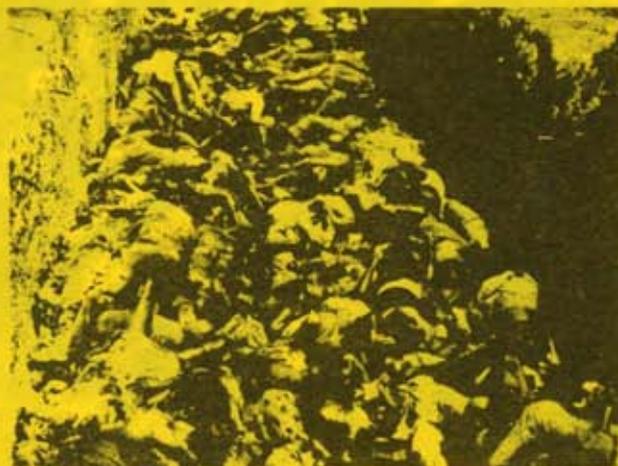
Mobutu's reign is characterized by staunch subjection of political rivalry and tribalism. If citizens are not of Mobutu's ruling tribe, the Gbande, they are brutally suppressed economically, politically and physically. Demonstrations by members of the Kimbanguist Church, left at least 850 dead.

To add to the seemingly neverending problems, there are three groups who still claim a military presence inside Zaire; the Parti Revolutionaire du Peuple (PRP), small groups of the Movement National Congolais-Lumumba (MNC-L), and the FNLC. The FNLC receives support from neighboring Angola, PRP from Mozambique, Tanzania, Libya and Algeria. Presently it is not clear where the MNC-L receives its support but they have been responsible for minor incursions from the Sudan particularly in June, 1978. The main problems with these various groups is their hostility towards each other and their conse-

quent lack of unity. However, through their association and training with progressive countries such as Angola and Mozambique, unity will be a forthcoming result.

In the IMF's attempts to stabilize Zaire's faltering economy, they have encountered problems with the state owned and dominant mining company, Gecamines. Gecamines controls up to 45% of Zaire's foreign exchange earnings without reference to Zaire's central bank (La Banque du Zaire). This means that a large portion of Zaire's foreign exchange comes outside the orbit of the Central Bank and Blumenthal's (the IMF's representative) control.

The importance of Gecamines lies in the fact that the company earns over half Zaire's foreign exchange. To combat this problem the World Bank and the IMF are cooperating behind the scenes to get Gecamines to surrender some of its foreign exchange privileges to the control of the IMF. Their leverage?? Gecamines needs a \$100 million loan to aid in its continued effort to increase production, and stabilization.



Casings

May 4, 6 4, a.m.

Drivers of trucks with food supplies are asleep, awaiting daybreak. Children are gathering in the sandy village on the brow of a hill for a morning meeting. But those children never had a chance to hold their meeting. Those truckdrivers never awakened. When the day did break it was hell.....

Casings were looted by the SAAF at Nam. By Jan over 790 SA paratroopers were dropped into the fluids ringing the town. Reinforcements were landed at the airstrip that had served the mine. 200 miles further south SA troops, backed by 60 tanks, crossed through Obalainza and Baidoa in a three-prong attack at Chetsewela, Queneth and Dombondila in Southern Angola. This was the day "SA hits Angola", or so said the press. But what did we hit?

100 Namibian refugees died in the southern Angola attack. At Casings over 700 Namibian refugees, mostly women and children, were massacred. 1500 were wounded.

continued from Pg.5 Namibia Update

In a statement released at the UN last week, SWAPO blamed South African intransigence for the current impasse.

NEWS BRIEFS



WHITES PRAISE ZANU (Guardian - 2/21/79)

Two Rhodesian whites recently released by ZANU guerrillas after spending several months in the liberated areas of Zimbabwe jolted the racist Ian Smith regime last week with accounts of their captivity.

"They have nothing against the skin of a man--they only want a Rhodesia that will offer equal opportunity for everyone, black and white," Johannes Maartens, a 56-year-old white farmer, told a news conference in the Salisbury capital.

Chagrined government officials suggested afterward that they may have erred in allowing the conference, according to a report in the New York Times.

Officials of the racist minority government have long sought to portray the black liberation fighters as ruthless, anti-white killers. But according to Maartens, ZANU leader Robert Mugabe twice visited the captives to check their condition.

Maartens described the guerrillas as highly disciplined and said they appeared to enjoy widespread popular support in the areas through which he traveled.

CAMPAINING FOR APRIL (International Bulletin-2/12/79)

Rhodesia last week invited Britain and the U.S. to send official observers to monitor the elections, scheduled for April 20, which have been denounced by the Patriotic Front guerrillas. For the first time in Rhodesia's 88 years of colonial rule, blacks over the age of 18 will be eligible to vote. But they will be denied the option of voting for genuine majority rule. Under the new constitution proposed by Prime Minister Ian Smith and approved by 85% of white voters in a January 30 referendum, the white-minority 4% of the population would have a guaranteed 78% of the cabinet posts for at least 5 years. Whites would have veto power in parliament for at least 10 years. White control of Rhodesia's choice farm land, armed forces, police civil service and judiciary would also be preserved.

Smith is hoping that the elections will give the appearance of majority rule and convince Washington and London to recognize the Rhodesian government and lift economic sanctions. Smith's two main black co-conspirators (partners), Bishop Muzorewa and the Rev. Sithole have already launched their campaigns to become Rhodesia's first black prime minister.

SPORTS AND SOLIDARITY (Young Worker Feb. 'Mar. 79)

Recently a second rate boxer by the name of Knoetze, fought in Miami in spite of widespread protests against his being allowed to appear in this country. The reasons for these protests were that this boxer was from apartheid South Africa.

A-PAR-THEID, a system where the white minority government of South Africa forces the 23 million Black South Africans to live on 13% of the land while the 3.5 million whites get to freely move throughout the country. Black South Africans must carry a pass card to allow them into "white" areas almost always for the sole purpose of work. Non-working members of Black families must stay in the isolated and distant 13% of the land allocated to them by the minority government, families are divided.

Any Black South African without such a pass card will be punished with a long prison sentence, Black South Africans who are allowed to work cannot hold any job higher than that of a white and receive one fourth to one twentieth of a white. White South Africans have the highest standard of living in the world, Black South Africans have one of the lowest, with most children suffering from malnutrition. We are fighting to isolate South Africa economically, diplomatically, culturally and in sports.

This is why there is wide spread protest against Knoetze fighting in this country in the first place. Knoetze was an apartheid cop a sworn upholder of the apartheid system. In 1977 Knoetze shot a 15 year old Black youth, Stanley Ndiovu, in both legs, crippling him for life. Ndiovu stated "when I asked for water I was told to drink my blood."

Stanley Ndiovu was found innocent of the six charges that Knoetze arrested and shot him for, while Knoetze went un-

punished

In spite of these facts and in spite of the protest against Knoetze's fighting in the U.S., or anywhere, the U.S. government granted him a work permit allowing him to fight here. And CBS-TV, defending its coverage of the fight by pretending to be only an objective recorder of events, helped promote the fight by paying \$100,000 in television rights.

This is not surprising when the U.S. government is the main supporter of apartheid South Africa, because U.S. monopolies make super profits from the super-exploitation, the super-low wages of Black South Africans and in staging this fight, it is their attempt to grant legitimacy to the white South African government, to make racism just that much more acceptable in this country.

DATELINE-APRIL 11, 1977

France provided military transports to fly 1500 Moroccan troops to Shaba province, where an uprising was underway against the oppressive regime of President Mobutu. Western powers often use politically backward Third World States to prop up collapsing puppet regimes.

RAILWAY TIES CONFIRMED: Africa News-3/16/79

Mozambican and South African Railways signed on February 26 a new cooperation agreement to replace the pre-independence 1970 accord previously regulating the relationship. The rail link from South Africa's Transvaal to the port of Maputo (formerly Lourenco Marques) has been vital to the economies of the two countries since the 1890s, and currently carries some 15,000 tons per day of South African cargo.

South African authorities are reported pleased at the good economic relationships with Mozambique, which also include supply of power from Mozambique's Cahora Bassa hydroelectric project and a continuing flow of migrant labor--some 30,000 Mozambicans still work in South African mines. In Mozambique the continued ties are regarded as a necessary concession to economic realism, which coexist with strong support for southern African liberation movements.

U.N. WANTS TO WIDEN EMBARGO:

Africa News-3/16/79

"We usually find the democratic process works for us," declared U.S. Ambassador Andrew Young as the UN Security Council adopted a resolution on Rhodesia March 8. The U.S., Britain and France abstained because of language urging states not to send observers to the April 20 elections and to discourage individuals and groups from going as well. The Carter administration, which opposes a Congressional proposal on observers, apparently abstained in a compromise with Britain, which reportedly preferred a veto. The resolution, passed 12-0, also condemned Rhodesia's recent raids into Zambia, Angola, and Mozambique and called for wider, more effective sanctions. The Council asked a committee to present new sanctions proposals within three weeks.

\$STOP BANKING ON APARTHEID Boycott Bank Of America

DEMANDS

End all Bank of America loans to South Africa.

End all United States Economic, Political and Military ties with South Africa and other regimes that oppresses its people.

Boycott Bank of America--Close all Accounts.

With All Deposits!

South Africa; The Fortress is Crumbling



THE HISTORICAL ROOTS OF APARTHEID

The first white people to arrive in South Africa were the Dutch, whose descendants (the Afrikaaners) make up the majority of whites in South Africa. The Dutch settlers penetrated the Cape of Africa with the aid of "the Bible and the gun", and subjected the people to a brutal system of exploitation, robbing them of their heritage, freedom, and lives. However, the struggle to colonize Africa cost the whites dearly for Africans fought courageously against the superior weaponry of the Europeans, and thousands of African and European lives were lost. The social structure which grew out of the struggle to colonize the Cape was based

on the white settlers self-proclaimed role as the "master race" in South Africa. Most Afrikaaner institutions reinforced their belief that they were a superior race. For instance, the Dutch Reformed Church (South Africa's "official" church) taught that white superiority/supremacy was "the will of God".

The "divine right" of Afrikaaners to run South Africa might have gone uncontested for many years, had it not been for the imperialist scramble for Africa that began during the latter part of the 19th century. South Africa's abundant natural resources attracted the attention of the British Empire, and a rivalry developed between the Afrikaaners and the British. When gold and diamonds were discovered in the Transvaal (Northern S.A.) this rivalry escalated into the Boer War of 1899. The Afrikaaners ("Boers") gained some sympathy at the time as the victims of imperialist aggression, but, when the war ended in 1902, South Africa became a British colony.

During British occupation some jobs and educational opportunities opened up to Black people, and living conditions of Africans were slightly bettered. However, Afrikaaner reaction to the somewhat more liberal British rule was almost always hostile-most Afrikaaners moved to the extreme right-wing. In 1918 the right consolidated itself with the formation of the Broederbond, a "secret" society made up of the elite members of "Afrikaanerdome". The Broederbond has white supremacy as its basic doctrine, and is the theoretical cornerstone of the Nationalist Party which has been in power in South Africa since 1948. Every Prime Minister of South Africa since 1948 has been a member of the Broederbond. Former Prime Minister B.J. Vorster was not only a member of the Broederbond, but was also a "general" in a militant pro-Nazi organization known as the Ox-Wagon Brigade. (Ossewa Brandwag) Vorster was interned during World War 2 because of his pro-fascist sentiments, and he has never made them a secret. In 1942 he made the following statement at a Nationalist Party convention:

"We stand for Christian Nationalism which is an ally of Nazism. You can call it the anti-democratic principle of dictatorship if you wish. In Italy it is called Fascism, in Germany it is called Nazism, and in South Africa it is called Christian Na-

tionalism."

It is this "Christian Nationalism" that runs South Africa today.

OPPRESSION IN ACTION: APARTHEID AND THE PEOPLE

Long years of oppressive "white settler" rule resulted in the present entrenched system of apartheid, which segregates the different peoples of South Africa along rigid lines. There are four race classifications (white, Asian, Colored, and Africans) and all contact (excepting worker-boss contact) between races is forbidden by law. Repressive laws, such as the Group Areas Act (a law confining black persons to their "tribal homelands" that encompass the poorest 13% of the land in South Africa) serve to regulate the flow of Africans in and out of "white areas". Another group of laws require that all Africans over 16 years of age carry identification books with work and travel permits allowing them to be in "white areas". There are a multitude of pass book infractions for which Black people can be arrested. (There are 3,000 Africans arrested everyday for pass law violations.)

Besides the major apartheid laws, there are hundreds of so-called "petty" apartheid laws that serve to "keep the African in his place". The truth is, the South African government views Black people as mere "labor units," to be used, or thrown away if they are not productive. Because of these factors, Black South Africans have one of the lowest standards of living in the world; yet they live in one of the world's richest nations. How can this be?

THE RACIST CONNECTION: SUPPORTERS OF SOUTH AFRICA

The United Nations has termed apartheid "a crime against humanity that is abhorrent to the conscience of mankind." Nearly every country in the world has condemned apartheid as a brutal and inhuman system. In spite of this, many powerful nations support apartheid directly; with arms and money. The United States, Great Britain, and Israel are three of these nations. At

the last count (1976), there were over 400 U.S. corporations operating in South Africa at one of the highest rates of profit in the world. Many British companies also invest in South Africa, but some of these are actually controlled (directly or indirectly) by U.S. corporations. Naturally, since these corporations have so many profitable investments in South Africa, they have a stake in "preserving the status quo". The question of the immorality of apartheid does not concern them in the least - their only interest is "How Much Money Can WE MAKE?"

It probably comes as no surprise that the United States has been one of South Africa's biggest arms suppliers; but if there is an "arms race" as to who can supply South Africa with the most weaponry, then Israel is surely the front runner. The Israelis have supplied the South Africans with millions of dollars worth of arms, have trained South African troops, and engaged in joint arms production as well. In return South Africa supports Israel diplomatically, and provides the Israelis with valuable raw materials. (For example, the processing and selling of South African diamonds is one of Israel's chief industries)

In light of the ruling Nationalist government's racist and pro-facist tendencies, Israel and South Africa might seem like strange political bedfellows. Yet, in view of Israel's own past and recent behavior, perhaps its alliance with South Africa is not so strange. Both nations have acted as aggressors against their neighbors, and, under the cover of self-protection, have sought to expand their territories, and have oppressed and exploited the peoples within each of their countries. Consequently, both nations have earned the anger and opposition of most of the progressive nations of the world.

TODAY: THE FORTRESS BEGINS TO CRACK

At the February 2nd meeting of Non-Aligned Nations a resolution was introduced condemning the nations which continue to supply arms to South Africa and Rhodesia. (The countries named were Israel, the U.S. Great Britain, France and West Germany). The conference also expressed total support for Southern African Liberation move-

ments, and called upon oil-exporting nations to refuse to supply oil to South Africa, Israel, and Rhodesia.

Within South Africa itself, unrest increases daily. The African National Congress' (ANC) guerilla wing, Unkonto We Sizwe (Spear of the Nation) has been stepping up resistance-in January and February there were many armed clashes between government troops and ANC guerillas. Prime Minister Botha's reaction has been an increase in militarization-he has ordered many troops and weapons into the Transvaal (where heavy fighting has occurred) and has threatened to make retaliatory raids into neighboring Botswana. (Similar raids against Angola, Zambia, and Mozambique have been made in the past, and the victims have usually been helpless refugees, children and old people.) Botha evidently hopes his threats will intimidate the resistance. Botha also plans to encourage white refugees from Rhodesia to move into the Transvaal (Northern Region) and form a "white blockade" against the liberation forces.

In its futile effort to save itself, the Nationalist government has also announced its intention to "reform" some of the apartheid laws. Prime Minister Botha has, for example, advanced a plan for the consolidation of the Bantustans (tribal homelands). The Bantustans are currently broken into hundreds of tiny land parcels, similar to Indian Reservations in America. However, the consolidation scheme is getting bogged down in the mire of apartheid laws and is not likely to be implemented in the near future. Another government official, "plural relations" Minister Piet Koornhof, has hinted at possible reforms in the hated pass system, but has, as yet, set no time table for these reforms.

So, while bloodshed and police-state tactics are on the increase, nationalist politicians offer Black South Africans crumbs from the table. But, the elitist cry "let them eat cake" is being met by a determined "No!", from the peoples of South Africa. Cosmetic surgery to alter the face of apartheid will not satisfy the peoples of the world. We call for the complete collapse of the apartheid system, and the total liberation of the peoples of Southern Africa.

S.A.S.C. Principles of Unity

The Southern Africa Support Committee has recently completed its Principles Of Unity. They are as follows:

- 1) We oppose apartheid in Southern Africa and racism in the United States and see them as a common enemy of the peoples of the United States and Southern Africa.
- 2) We oppose all United States economic, political and military ties or intervention, direct or indirect, in South Africa, Zimbabwe and Namibia which supports and strengthens the power of the white minority government.
- 3) We support the right of self-determination for the peoples of South Africa, Zimbabwe and Namibia and seek to build support for the genuine national liberation movements now fighting for the liberation of these countries.
- 4) We give critical support to the newly independent Peoples' Republic of Angola, Mozambique and Guinea-Bissau and oppose any external attack or intervention in their internal affairs.
- 5) We see building a mass movement in the United States against all forms of oppression and exploitation as the surest support for the liberation movements in Southern Africa and elsewhere. As one step in this process, we seek to promote labor support in the United States for the Black Trade Unions of the apartheid states.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

BOOKS AVAILABLE

The Southern Africa Support Committee now has books and posters for sale on the different liberation struggles in Southern Africa.

FUNDS NEEDED

In order to continue our educational work around the struggles in Africa, the Southern Africa Support Committee is in need of funds. This newsletter needs your support! We also need people to help type, layout, and write articles.

WANTED - CRITICISM OF NEWSLETTER

We are constantly striving to improve our newsletter. If you have any suggestions, criticisms, or general comments, call us at (213) 684-1892. We welcome any comments from our readers!!!

Due to, Postage and other expenses have gone up to the point that our old subscription price doesn't meet our expense. So we have to succumb to inflation and raise the subscription price to \$4.00. This barely covers printing and postage, so if you can afford a larger contribution to support S.A.S.C., we'd always appreciate it!

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