

Southern Africa Support Committee

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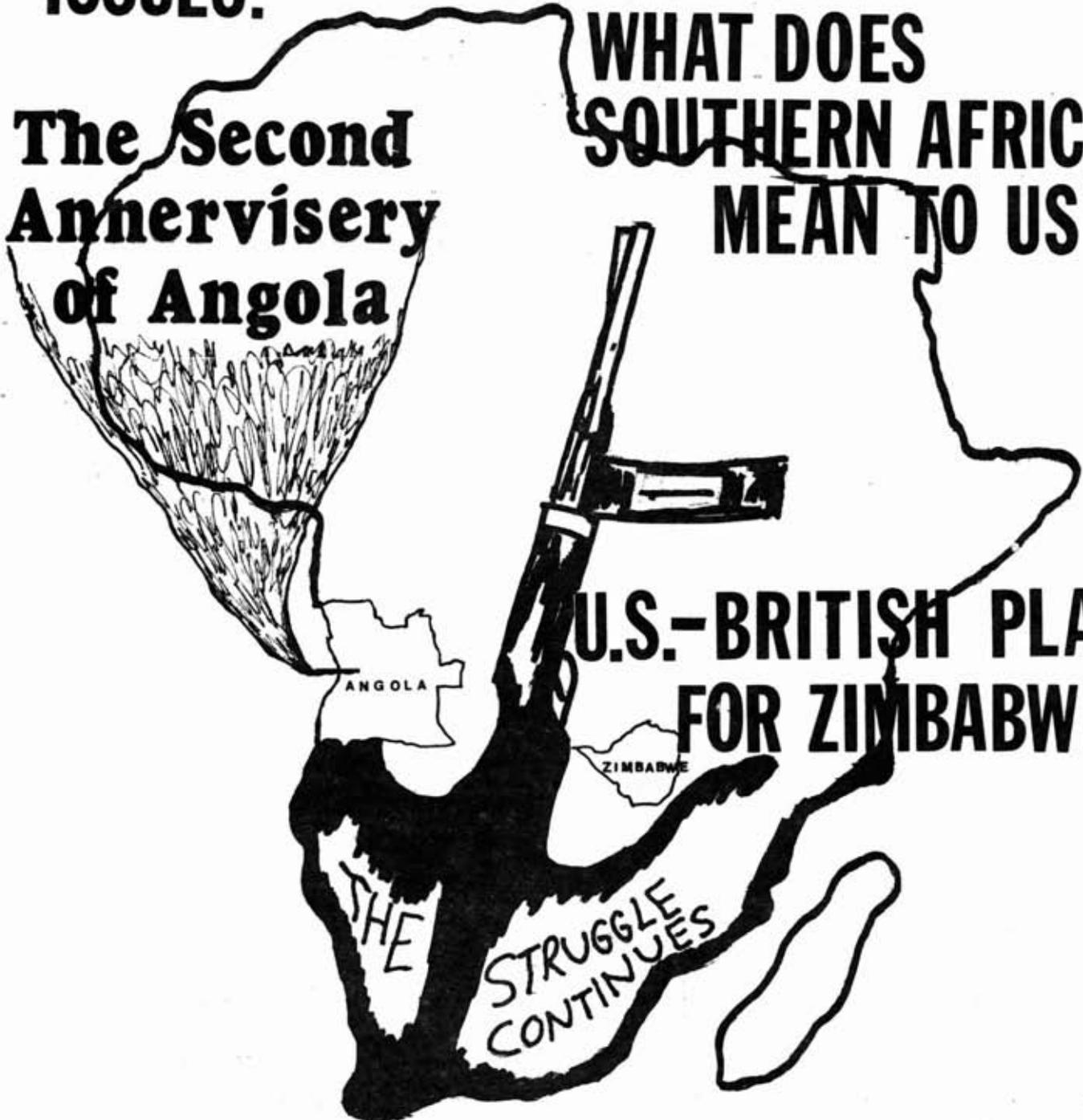
NEWS LETTER

NOV
DEC 1977

ISSUES:

**The Second
Anniversary
of Angola**

**WHAT DOES
SOUTHERN AFRICA
MEAN TO US?**



**U.S.-BRITISH PLAN
FOR ZIMBABWE**

25 Cents

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 for over a year and a half, SASC recognizes that the white minority governments of Zimbabwe (Rhodesia), Azania (South Africa) and Namibia (South-West Africa) have forcibly imposed the inhuman system of apartheid on the black citizens of these countries. Further, we recognize that to the black people of Southern Africa, 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 in, SASC opposes all United States' military, economic and political ties to the racist governments in Southern Africa. Beyond this, we acknowledge the various liberation organizations in the countries of Southern Africa as the real representatives of the black majority there. We explicitly view the white upholders of the apartheid system as illegitimate and immoral. In short, SASC stands with those who are struggling for majority rule, the abolition of apartheid and a system of full economic, political and social equality in Southern Africa.

At present, SASC is organizing in several areas. We plan film showings and educationals on Africa in the Pasadena-Los Angeles area. We are also collecting clothing for refugees who have fled the racist regimes in Southern Africa and who are desperately short of clothing. And most recently, we are engaged in a boycott of Del Monte Corporation, which is a major United States company supporting apartheid and raping the resources of Namibia (South-West Africa) in the direct violation of United Nations' sanctions, making Del Monte's profiteering illegal.

SASC holds meetings every Sunday at 816 N. Summit Ave., in Pasadena, at 3:00 PM. We cordially invite all interested people to attend. For more information, please call (213) 684-1892.



The Second Anniversary of Angola's Independence:



On November 11, 1975, the People's Republic of Angola won its' independence from Portugal after nearly 500 years of colonial domination. And November 11, 1977 has certainly been a time to celebrate the victories of the Angolan people. But November is also a month to remember the struggles of the Angolan people that are far from over.

Angola itself is located on the south-western coast of Africa. It is bordered by Zaire in the north, Zambia in the east and Namibia in the south. Because of its' strategic location and abundant natural resources, Angola is a prime target for exploitation by more powerful nations.

Arriving as they did 500 years ago, the Portuguese were the first to colonize Angola. The colonists from Portugal soon grew wealthy off the slave trade, farming and rare gems that were discovered in the Lunda district. Portuguese colonialism also opened the door to foreign investment by multinational corporations such as Gulf Oil Co. In 1966, oil was discovered off the coast of the Cabinda enclave, a region of Northern Angola which is cut off from the rest of the country by the Congo River. Gulf Oil Co. immediately set up an offshore drilling operation which was producing 150,000 barrels of oil per day by 1974.

Angola was extremely attrac-

tive to colonialists in agricultural areas as well. Crops such as coffee, cotton and tobacco were plentiful. But although Angola was tremendously rich in resources, the people lived in extreme poverty. The profits and resources were divided among the colonists and the multinational corporations. Portugal may have believed that this state of affairs could go on forever. They did not see the Angolan people as a threat to their rule. After all, 90% of the people could not read or write and were too busy with the every day job of just surviving under Portuguese rule to revolt. What the Portuguese failed to consider was the growth of organized resistance to colonial domination.

The Beginning Of The Armed Struggle

In 1961 fighting broke out in the city of Luanda, the capital of Angola. Led by the M.P.L.A. (Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola), which had formed secretly during the 50's, the battle in Luanda was the start of a long and difficult struggle which would continue for the next 15 years. Throughout the long fight, the MPLA was the only organization in Angola that legitimately represented the people, because it was receptive to their needs and not to the needs of Western capitalists.

The situation was complicated by the existence of two other political organizations both claiming to be "saviors of the people", but both eventually exposing themselves as puppets of foreign corporations and South African racism. The first and strongest was the F.N.L.A. (National Front for the Liberation of Angola). The leader of the FNLA was Holden Roberto, a businessman from Zaire who also happened to be the brother-in-law of Mobutu Sese-Seko, the dictator of Zaire. Mobutu himself had (and still has) close links with the CIA. In fact, as far back as 1961, the CIA named Mobutu as their most worthy man in Africa. Under U.S. financial domination, Zaire was underdeveloped and over-exploited. It was forced even to get some of its' food supply from northern Angola. It was no surprise then, that Mobutu wished to retain a hold on northern Angola and especially the oil-rich Cabinda province. Mobutu also feared that a free Angola would weaken his shaky position as ruler of Zaire.

Mobutu hoped that with the help of his brother-in-law, Roberto and the FNLA, he could keep northern

Angola as a buffer zone between the rest of Angola and Zaire. Perhaps he even dreamed of establishing Roberto as the ruler of Angola. But Mobutu's plans to keep things in the family were ruined by the strength of the MPLA.

The third and weakest political organization in Angola was UNITA (National Union for the Total Independence of Angola). Led by Jonas Savimbi, former right hand man of Roberto, UNITA managed, in spite of its' weakness, to serve the interests of the imperialists.

The Portuguese Pull Out--- An Intensification Of The Struggle

When the Portuguese were driven out of Angola in November of 1975, the war in Angola was clearly reduced to a struggle between pro-western factions (UNITA and FNLA) and the MPLA who stood for the power of the common people in Angola. When the United States (who had backed the Portuguese) realized that colonialism was dead in Angola, they moved quickly to attempt to set up a puppet regime that would be favorable to Gulf Oil and other companies. To make sure this would happen, the United States gave over \$60 million in under-the-table aid to both FNLA and UNITA. Meanwhile the CIA became active in the recruiting of mercenaries to go to fight against the MPLA.

One group which responded to the call for mercenaries was CORE (Congress Of Racial Equality). CORE attempted to recruit Vietnam Vets and unemployed youth in the Black community without really understanding the nature of the struggle in Angola.

But one of the most immediate threats to Angolan independence was South Africa. South Africa had many reasons to fear the MPLA, the foremost of which was Namibia. South Africa's illegal military occupation of Namibia would be threatened by an independent, progressive Angola to the north. The fact that an MPLA government would allow SWAPO (South West African People's Organization), the liberation group in Namibia, to use southern Angola as a base from which to launch attacks on the racist invaders in their country. South Africa also hoped to strike fear into the hearts of the African people living under apartheid there by an impressive show of force against the MPLA. The South African Army must have thought that their mere pre-

sence would be enough to defeat the MPLA. But the racists not only underestimated the strength of the MPLA, they also underestimated the solidarity of people throughout the world with MPLA.

Operation Carlota

When the Portuguese fled Angola in 1975, the MPLA was in the midst of a crisis. Their enemies, equipped with American-made arms, allied with the powerful South African army and receiving mercenaries daily to help fight, were pledged to fight MPLA with cruelty, massacres and total ruthlessness. On the other hand, the MPLA fighters lacked a great deal of the modern equipment that their opponents had. Furthermore, Mpla would never resort to the killing of innocent civilians in order to intimidate their enemies. They were fighting and building a new society at the same time.

It was at this time that Cuba pledged its' support of MPLA's struggle. They at once backed up their pledge by sending aid to MPLA. The plan to do this was called "Carlota" in honor of a woman slave who had led an uprising against Spanish colonialism in Cuba in 1843. Operation Carlota was an act of solidarity between Cuba and Angola, which sent not only well-trained Cuban troops to Angola, but medical doctors, technicians and teachers as well. With the support of the Cubans, the MPLA beat back the South African invaders, FNLA and UNITA. Mobutu withdrew his support of FNLA, saying that he had supported them for "sentimental reasons" and that was a mistake. After realizing that the puppet forces of FNLA and UNITA were crushed, then president Gerald Ford washed his hands of the matter. As to whether the CIA and the U.S. State Department are still scheming to undo MPLA, it would be a pretty safe bet to believe it!

On March 27, 1976, the last of the defeated troops--South African, Portuguese and Americans left Angola. And the entire revolution in Angola, like Guinea-Bissau and Mozambique, has showed other African people that the organized armed struggle against racist domination and Western imperialism can defeat them conclusively and pave the way for a society based on equality, popular power and economic justice.

Recent Developments

During the period of reconstruction in Angola, there has been a continuous development of specific internal and external problems. Last spring when the MPLA won its' complete independence, Popular Movement president Agostinho Neto signed an agreement with Mobutu of Zaire. In the agreement it was understood that each of these presidents would hold back elements that were hostile to each other's countries. In Angola, Neto agreed to hold back the F.N.L.C. (National Front for the Liberation of the Congo) which opposes Mobutu. In Zaire, Mobutu agreed to hold back the FNLA.

But in early February, 1977, Neto learned of the now infamous CIA plan "Cobra '77". This plan intended to carry out an invasion of Angola by Zaire with the assistance of the United States and other Western powers, notably France. Around the same time, Zaire-backed forces attacked a village in northern Angola, killing 43 unarmed Angolans.

Conflict In Zaire's Shaba Province

President Neto also stated that Angola is not in any way involved in the fighting that is going on between the FNLC and the Mobutu government in Shaba province in Zaire. It was March of this year that the fighting broke out in Zaire's richest province. The FNLC, the main liberation group that opposes Mobutu, has liberated 2/3 of the Shaba province. The majority of FNLC members had fled to Angola in 1966 when Mobutu came to power in Zaire. When fighting broke out, many FNLC members left Angola to go back to Zaire and fight against Mobutu's army. Because of this, Mobutu claimed that Zaire was being "invaded". Furthermore he stated that Angolans and Cubans were behind the whole thing.

This lie was an attempt to make it seem like the FNLC was backed by Cuba and the Soviet Union in order to get American support to crush the revolt. In this way, Mobutu tried to blame Angola for the fact that his own people were revolting against his corrupt government.

Attempted Coup In Angola

The Southern Africa Support Committee feels that there is still a lot of information to be gathered in order to give a complete account of the attempted coup that took place in Luanda on May 27, 1977. Still, this part of the

article will try to give a basic understanding about the coup attempt that the western press never even tried to uncover.

As was said, the revolt broke out in Luanda, the capital of Angola. The coup attempt was led by former Angola Interior Minister Nito Alves and former Army political commissar, Jose Van Dunem. The attempted coup consisted of the taking over of the Luanda radio station for one hour. The Yugoslavian news agency, Tanjug, said that fighting was occurring near the presidential palace. The agency also said that the rebels stormed the prison and freed Alves and Dunem who were convicted on the charges of factionalism. It is important to remember that Nito Alves was suspected of having collaborated with the South African-backed UNITA. Alves is not pro-Soviet Union whatsoever, regardless of what Western newspapers have said.

In order to succeed in the coup and get support from forces within MPLA, Alves attempted to spread the rumor that Neto was pulling away from the Soviets and planning to invite Western corporations into Angola. This rumor, if accepted as being true, would have made Alves seem moderate and created much confusion in Angola.

Further, Alves used the issue of racism and backward nationalism; he pointed out that Neto is a mulatto and has too many mulattos in the cabinet. In this way, Alves attempted to create divisions and factions playing on black nationalism to win support for the coup. Despite all this, the Angolan people quickly mobilized to completely smash the disunity that the "action committee of MPLA" (as Alves' group was called) displayed in Luanda on May 27. We feel that it is very important to stress that it was the Angolan masses who organized to support the MPLA and crush the coup.

Developments In Southern Africa

As has been widely publicized, there have been many reactionary activities being carried out by UNITA against the Angolan people in southern Angola near the Namibian border. When the civil war in Angola first broke out, UNITA was very small and they are becoming fewer and fewer. Nonetheless, they are causing some disruption. Meanwhile, in northern Angola, in the oil-rich Cabinda province, the FNLA have been causing some prob-

lems as well. These developments could mean a lot of trouble for the MPLA government as well as the SWAPO-led liberation forces in Namibia. UNITA, as we said, has very close ties to the South African government and is attempting to reverse all the progress made by MPLA as well as SWAPO. It is quite clear that UNITA stands firmly in the reactionary camp. The Secretary of Foreign Relations of UNITA, Jorge Sanguembo, declared that they will soon proclaim a republic known as the "Black and Socialist Republic of Angola". UNITA claims that they run hospitals, cooperatives and youth movements. They also claim an army of 12,000. This is, of course, nonsense. If all this was true, why is it that UNITA has no support among the people in southern Angola? The truth is that UNITA is a puppet of South Africa and they get guns and money from Pretoria.

As for South Africa, they desperately want a buffer state between Angola and Namibia. Such a state like "The Black and Socialist Republic of Angola" would eliminate the SWAPO bases in southern Angola and help South Africa continue their occupation of Namibia. The collaboration between South Africa and UNITA goes to the point of an agreement whereby UNITA would destroy SWAPO and South Africa would invade Angola.

Guinea-Bissau And Angola Strengthen Ties

President of Guinea-Bissau, Luis Cabral made a visit to Angola during the end of September. Cabral and SWAPO leader Sam Nujoma pledged support with MPLA leader Agostinho Neto for the liberation struggles in Southern Africa. In a joint statement, the leaders said; "we know that as long as the racists dominate Zimbabwe, Namibia and South Africa, we must struggle". Cabral and Nujoma also stated the importance of Angola's role in furthering liberation struggles in other Southern African countries. Cabral spent some of his Angolan visit in the southern part of the country where the reactionary UNITA forces are supposed to have strongholds. But as he travelled from town to town, Cabral was greeted by large numbers of Angolan people with no sign of UNITA.

What does Southern Africa mean to Us?



Recently, as members of the Southern Africa Support Committee were passing out information in a Los Angeles shopping center, a small incident happened that has since stuck in my mind. I handed a guy a leaflet about our clothing drive and the struggle of the Southern African people for liberation. As he was looking over the leaflet, I started into a brief explanation of the clothing drive. After a few seconds, he looked up and said; "but what does this have to do with me?" Although his question seemed like an easy way to avoid dealing with the information, it is still a very important question to be answered. Certainly there are many people who ask exactly the same question; "what do the events in Southern Africa, thousands of miles away, have to do with our lives here? Why should I care?" The answer I gave the guy in the shopping center dealt with the connections between those who hold power in the United States and the racist minority in power in the apartheid countries of Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe. Those connections and their effects on us here in the United States is the basis for this article.

The Southern Africa Support Committee strongly believes that the most important support for the racist regimes in Southern Africa comes from the United States. Regardless of what doubletalking politicians say about "human rights" and majority rule, the only way that the inhuman system of apartheid can continue to exist for any length of time is through the continued support of American and European corporations. The entire system of economics, government and culture in the apartheid nations is based on the complete exploitation of Black Africans and other non-white peoples. The apartheid laws, the oppression and brutality heaped on Africans is enforced by a highly-trained military and police apparatus. These are the people who killed Steve Biko. But behind them stands the real power in South Africa: the money-men.

WE SHALL WIN!

These corporate giants maintain a system within industry that virtually enslaves the black worker. Some of the companies are South African, some are English, some are French and many are American. It is their investments that keeps the South African economy from tumbling into a depression. And it is their investments that allow the racist government to spend so much money on police and military weapons that are killing black Africans every day. It is also the investments of these companies that may allow South Africa to develop a nuclear bomb!!

Africans Under Apartheid: 20th Century Slavery



To say that Black people are a majority in Southern Africa would be a tremendous understatement. They are a vast majority! In South Africa, blacks are nearly 75% of the population. In Zimbabwe, there are 6 million black people and only 200,000 whites. In Namibia, Africans are 80% of the population.

Still, Africans have no share in government, no control of their lives and almost no civil rights whatsoever. In South Africa, Blacks cannot vote or have licensed unions. Many city-dwellers have had their homes bulldozed down and are forced to live on bantustans (reservations similiar to those that American Indians are forced to live on). In Zimbabwe, a similiar situation is going down; thousands of Africans are forced to live in barbed-wire villages (much like the protected hamlets that the U.S. Army forced the Vietnamese farmers to live in during the war). It is common policy for the Rhodesian soldiers to shot Blacks who attempt to leave these hellholes.

Namibia is a country under out and out military occupation by the South African Army. There is not even the slightest shadow of defense for what South Africa is doing in Namibia. The racists consider themselves the rulers of that country and will execute or torture anyone who has the nerve to think that Namibia should be governed by Namibians. And as this military occupation goes on, one out of every four Namibian children die of malnutrition! The horrors of the apartheid system go on and on until it almost boggles the mind. But there is a concrete reason for all this racist brutality. To put it simply, that reason is money. The fewer rights that Black Africans have, the less control they have over their lives. If they cannot organize unions, then the corporations can pay lower wages and spend less money on workplace safety. Therefore, the larger the profits. The fact that blacks in South Africa cannot vote means that they, the overwhelming majority, can have no governmental power to even attempt to improve their lives slightly. The horrible conditions under which they work is best summed up in the fact that three black miners die every shift in South Africa's mines! All of this enables corporations in South Africa to make enormous profits off the labor and the very lives of Black people.

In short, the system of apartheid is designed for dollars. It is capitalism gone totally mad. When the racist Prime Minister John Vorster of South Africa calls many black women and children "superfluous appendages", he simply means that the corporations have no use for these people as workers at this time. So thousands of human beings are classified as being not worthy to exist. What we are seeing in

South Africa is a type of slavery directed at black people that enables the rich to get richer.

Our own history is full of lessons that make the situation in Southern Africa very meaningful to Americans. Slavery, as an institution in the United States, was not simply some group of fanatics claiming that black people were "inferior". It was fundamentally a way to fatten the pocketbooks of the Southern aristocrats. In order to make maximum profits, the slave-owner had to classify black people as objects to be bought, sold and worked unmercifully until death.

Although apartheid is not called slavery, it is about as close as you can come to it. And if we remember how we felt when we saw black children being forcibly removed from their families in Roots, we should also realize that the same thing is happening to Black families in Southern Africa at this very moment.

Bringing It All Back Home

If the question can still be asked; "what does this have to do with me?"--- let's look at the connections more closely. American corporations, ranging from General Motors to Firestone Rubber have over \$2 billion invested in South Africa at present. They employ close to 15,000 black workers at starvation wages. These American monopolies obey the racist apartheid laws completely. They pay black workers less, they do not recognize black unions and they have no regard for anything human. All that matters is the bucks. Essentially, American big business walks hand-in-hand with the racist rulers of Southern Africa. And why shouldn't they? American corporations that invest in South Africa make a 17.2% profit on their investments. This is the highest rate of profit for American companies anywhere in the world outside of the rip-off oil companies.

With this in mind, it is easy to see why American banks claim that they have no money to give to New York City for education or daycare, but then turn around and loan South Africa \$800 million.

And the thing goes deeper. The investments of monopoly corporations in South Africa have other important effects on Americans who are struggling to make a living to support themselves and their families. Every now and then, people hear the word imperialism. It might seem somehow abstract, but when it's broken down, it is very real with concrete and disastrous effects. We live in an age of imperialism and whet-

her we like it or not, the policy of the American government is a policy dictated by big business. Since the end of World War 2, the United States has fought two major wars, conducted dozens of CIA assassinations and set up many right-wing dictatorships in Third World countries. With the lives of our young men, our tax money and without even asking the people what we think about these things---they just went ahead and did them anyway. All of this in order to protect the profits of Standard Oil, General Motors, the Kennecott Copper Company and U.S. Steel (to name just a few). The phrase "rich man's war, poor man's fight" states a simple and cold truth. Vietnam was a war in which 50,000 Americans died to protect the interests of Gulf Oil in the South China Sea and Coca-Cola factories where Cambodian workers were paid 7¢ an hour.

Occasionally, the TV news will have a report on how small businesses and farmers are disappearing in this country. But they are not vanishing into thin air. They are being bought out, lock, stock and barrel by the huge monopolies. When they refuse to be bought out, they are hounded, undersold and crushed by the Rockefellers, the DuPonts and their buddies. And as the monopolies grow bigger and stronger, the government grows more and more corrupt. Money talks, and the politicians, the judges as well as the cops are bought, sold and paid for. Corporate tax shelters force poor and working people to pay outrageously high taxes.

Beyond this, we see a steady pace of American companies leaving this country. Labor is much cheaper in a country like South Africa where workers have few rights and the government is controlled by a gang of Nazis. In fact, if there was ever a perfect place for a corporation to set up shop, it is South Africa. And this is all imperialism, pure and simple. It attacks American workers as well as African Workers. When American workers go out on strike against a company like General Motors, the bosses can hold out much longer against the workers' demands because they can always fall back on their stockpiles of cars being made in South Africa. This strategy has been used time and time again during strikes in this country. It is a tactic that is crucial to the way imperialism does business. The American worker

suffers in a direct dollar¢s way because apartheid exists and is supported by United States' corporations.

To the black American, apartheid is a foreboding shadow. It reeks of the days of slavery. The fact that the United States' government, by supporting corporate investment, backs apartheid in South Africa, tells us something about the racist attitudes of U.S. politicians. As a matter of fact, big business and their puppets must surely admire the apartheid system. It is important to remember that the high unemployment rate among black people in the United States is directly related to the money being invested in the Southern African dictatorships. Why should the banks, the corporations and the government create jobs for the unemployed here when they can make profits in the millions with cheap labor in Southern Africa. When Firestone or Zenith can go to countries where they pay workers next-to-nothing, why should they stay here and hassle with unions, affirmative action and ecologists?? It must be clearly understood that this is exactly the way the corporate bosses run their show. Whenever they have an opportunity to exploit cheap labor, they will grab it. Meanwhile, we suffer lower wages, less voice in government, more unemployment and rotten air.

So this beast imperialism isn't so abstract after all. Monopoly companies running all over the world, grabbing other people's land, labor and resources. All for the Almighty Dollar. But to achieve maximum profit in Southern Africa, the American corporations must have governments in power that will guarantee cheap labor, weak unions and political stability. This is what Vorster's government has attempted to do for the Rockefellers, etc. In return, the foreign policy of the United States is one that consistently favors the racists in Rhodesia and South Africa. A perfect, although small example of this was the United Nations vote on economic sanctions against South Africa that took place just a few weeks ago. After all the hoopla coming from Carter and Young about how bad South Africa is, we saw the real policy of the American government exhibited by Andrew Young's vote against supporting economic sanctions. No surprise. The Carter administration will definitely not support anything that threatens the profits of American companies in South Africa. And if that means being tight with Vorster, then that's what the peanut man will do. Regardless of any phony rhetoric from the White House, Jimmy Carter

will do exactly what the monopolies allow him to do. He is no different in this than Ford, Nixon, Johnson or the other presidents who supported apartheid.



Still, despite all of these unholy alliances, the resistance of black Africans to apartheid is growing every day. The people of Angola, Guinea-Bissau and Mozambique won their independence by confronting imperialism on the battlefield. They cracked the armor of racism and exploitation in Southern Africa and their victories have had a tremendous effect on the people struggling in South Africa, Zimbabwe and Namibia. In Zimbabwe, the liberation forces have taken control of nearly 2/3 of the countryside and forced the imperialist nations to start talking about "a settlement". In South Africa, the uprising that started in Soweto in June of last year has intensified greatly with continued strikes, boycotts and the beginnings of urban guerrilla warfare by the African National Congress (ANC). In Namibia, the South-West Africa Peoples Organization (SWAPO) has fought over 100 skirmishes with the South African Army this year. And SWAPO's success is evident.

But although apartheid is under attack by Africans who are tired of being shot down in the streets, our role in the liberation process is essential as well. Without American investments, apartheid would begin a total collapse and the road to freedom would be that much easier for the

peoples of Southern Africa. In our own lives, we are confronted daily by the power and greed of big business. Our nation's worst problems of unemployment and inflation are caused by them. And if our problems are to be solved, we must strike at the root. The fact that these monopolies of the rich brutally exploit black Africans makes our task all the more justified. Finally, the events in Southern Africa are the concern of everyone who is faced with a system that denies them a job or makes good medical care much too expensive to afford. The events in Southern Africa have everything to do with us because the struggle to end American financial, military and political support for apartheid is the struggle for the freedom of Africans and the freedom of Americans as well.

Role of U.S. Corporation SOUTH AFRICA Pt.2



For most U.S. monopolies operating in South Africa, the stay has been a profitable one, and the rate of return (profits) on direct investments has been higher than in other parts of the world. For example, the U.S. Commerce Department estimates that for all U.S. investments in South Africa the rate of profits was 17.9% in 1974, and 18.6% in the previous year (See Figure B). If we compare the rate of profits on investments worldwide from all sectors we find that 21% (in 1974) was the highest return. This high return represented the oil investments of U.S. monopolies in third world countries. It should be pointed out that this was the period of the so-called "Oil Crisis".

This crisis was unusual and the rate of profit (21%) out of proportion to the usual rip-offs that go on. More normal returns in 1974 (in manufacturing) showed U.S. companies with a rate of profit of 13% in underdeveloped countries and 12.4% in developed.

Rate of Profit (In Manufacturing and other sectors)			
Developed Countries		Oil Excluded Undeveloped Countries	South Africa
1973	11.5%	12.15%	18.6%
1974	12.4%	13%	17.9%

It has been constantly pointed out in many of the newsletters that the amount of investments in South Africa by U.S. monopolies directly relates to the foreign policies of all administrations from 1960 to the present Carter group in securing South Africa's status-quo in both international and domestic arenas. It has also been pointed out that the U.S. government policies are

directly controlled by large U.S. monopolies.

Direct investments of U.S. monopolies into South Africa is estimated at 1.46 billion in 1974, an increase of nearly 18% over the 1973 figure, and in 1976, 2.0 billion, nearly 22% over the 1974 figure.

(See figure A). When investments and rate of profits are so very high and easily obtained as in South Africa, the U.S. monopolies will not support black majority rule unless they can control the economic and political forces in such a way as to retain high returns on their direct investments. (Kenya is the best example of neo-colonial manipulation.) But if they can not control the black majority government, then they

must fight it. (No other choice is left).

U.S. Companies in South Africa

U.S. companies are involved in virtually every sector of the South African economy. Nearly half- about 45%- of the total U.S. investments is in manufacturing, 25% in petroleum, and 15% in mining and smelting.

The names of U.S. monopolies involved in direct control of South Africa's economy reads like Fortune magazine:

<u>Auto</u>	<u>Electronics</u>
Ford	IBM
Chrysler	Control Data
General Motors	Burroughs
	National Cash Reister
<u>Rubber</u>	
Firestone	Xerox
General Tire	Sperry Rand
Goodyear	General Electric
	ITT
<u>Oil</u>	<u>Farm Equipment</u>
Standard Oil of Calif.	Caterpillar
Texaco	John Deere
Mobil	International Harvester
Exxon (Esso)	
Superior Oil	
<u>Drugs</u>	<u>Mining</u>
Pfizer	Philips Dodge
Eli Lilly	Newmont
Smith Kline	Union Carbide
Warner-Sambert	Kennecott Copper
<u>Consumer Goods</u>	
Gil	
Colgate-Palmolive	

Most home offices describe their South African branch companies as small. But nevertheless, the South African subsidiaries of many U.S. companies are large within the South African context. If General Motors and Ford, for example, were ranked with privately held South African firms, they would stand among the top 15 in terms of assets. Most of the 28 U.S. subsidiaries surveyed by certain studies indicated that U.S. firms in South Africa had more than 250 workers each, a labor force that one manager said, "...places these companies among the major employers in South Africa".

Despite a current recession in South Africa, the managing directors of many U.S. subsidiaries of U.S. companies has not given anything back to the stockholders. For example, Honeywell reported that its subsidiary has not sent back any profits to the U.S. since it began operations. G.E.'s subsidiary has paid no dividends in the last decade. If stock-

holders are not receiving all of the profits, who is?

The U.S. Commerce Department states that in 1974 and 1975, U.S. manufacturing subsidiaries in South Africa reinvested more than 2/3 of their earnings, and all U.S. monopolies in South Africa reinvested more than half their earnings.

Most of the monopolies subsidiaries are reinvesting into manufactured goods, making South Africa the largest supplier (and controller) in Africa. So in this case, U.S. monopolies are reinvesting in South Africa's economy at the rate of 50% and actually building the South African fascist regime. And, in addition, these rich companies of the U.S. are helping to expand the control of the South African racists over the rest of the populations of Africa (particularly in Namibia.)

Summing Up

In the past articles we have pointed out that: 1) U.S. direct investments in South Africa replaced British interests around the early 1960's; 2) the policies of the U.S. government reflect the monopolies' interests in South Africa; 3) U.S. monopolies entered South Africa after the Nationalist Party implemented apartheid and a police state; and 4) U.S. companies consider the racist regime as necessary for their business ventures.

Finally, we can point out, 5) that the rates of profit from South Africa for U.S. monopolies are the highest in the world; and 6) much of the profits of the U.S. monopolies are being put back into South Africa's economy which expands the racist regime control over the rest of Africa.

So when we hear the slogan "U.S. monopolies out of South Africa" by the Southern Africa Support Committee or by many of the hundreds of groups springing up all over the nation- it's not idle chatter. For in the longer run the yes or no of U.S. imperialism in South Africa is the difference between the liberation of the people or their slavery.



Figure A Direct Investments of U.S. Firms in South Africa

<u>Year</u>	<u>Direct Investments</u>	<u>% Increase</u>
1953	267 Million	1953 (start)
1956	288 "	
1960	362 "	
1963	482 "	
1965	562 "	
1968	692 "	150%
1970	852 "	
1973	1.20 Billion	250%
1974	1.46 Billion	350%
1976	2.00 Billion	450%

Figure B Rate of Profits (US Firms in South Africa)

<u>Year</u>	<u>Net Profit</u>	<u>Rate of Profit (%)</u>	<u>Net Profit*</u>
1958	35 Million	17.5%	325 Million
1960	50 "	13.8%	363 "
1966	124 "	20.6%	387 "
1970	166 "	19.5%	402 "
1973	223.2 "	18.6%	421 "
1974	261.3 "	17.9%	476 "
1976	344.3 "	17.2%	551 "

* (All Africa Except Mid East)

NEWS BRIEFS



600 Arrested In South African Police Crackdown

(Los Angeles Times, 11/10/77)
 South African Police arrested over 600 black dissidents including 100 children in sweeps through the black township near Pretoria. The police threw a cordon around the entire township and jailed most of those arrested on charges of not carrying their pass books. The racist pass laws require black Africans to carry bulky passes at all times. At the same time, in the sheep-farming village of Cardock, police opened fire on a group of 50 black youths who were protesting the police presence in their community.

Israel's Foreign Minister Gives Support To South Africa

(Los Angeles Times, 11/12/77)
 Israel's Foreign Minister, Moshe Dayan said that "South Africa has always been Israel's friend and we will not abandon South Africa because of Carter's proposals".

Indian Dentist Hung In South African Jail Cell

(London Times, 11/13/77)

A dentist from India, according to South Africa police, hanged himself in his cell on August 4, 1977. An investigation by the Nobel Peace Prize-winning organization, Amnesty International, showed that Dr. Hoosen Haffejee was subjected to physical violence just before his death. Amnesty International presented photographs showing lesions on the dentist's body that were made by police beatings. Dr. Hoosen was arrested under the Terrorism Act as was Steven Biko.

UNITA Threatens Refugee Planes

(Guardian, 11/9/77)

The neocolonialist leader of UNITA (the right-wing group that opposes the MPLA) announced that his organization was ready to shoot down Swedish planes carrying supplies to refugees from Zaire who have been seeking safety in Angola. Jonas Savimbi, the head of UNITA and right-hand man of the South African government, claimed that such refugee supply planes were showing support for the MPLA govern-

ment by their actions. The flights have been organized by the United Nations High Commission for Refugees as well as the International Red Cross.

South Africa's Only Black Newspaper Closed Down By Police
(Black Panther, 11/5/77)

South Africa's only black-owned and run newspaper, The World, was closed down by apartheid police during the second week of October. Editor of the World, Percy Qoboza was arrested as his newspaper was shut down. Police authorities claimed that the newspaper was a threat to the security of the Vorster government.

Foreign Firms In South Africa May Produce Weapons

(New York Times, 11/11/77)

South African Minister of Economic Affairs, Chris Heunis, stated that South Africa may put into effect the National Supplies Procurement Act of 1970 in order to get around United Nations sanctions on weapons sales to South Africa. The Act would force foreign corporate subsidiaries in South Africa to locally produce weapons for the racist government. Although the U.N. arms embargo was a blow to South Africa, it left open loopholes through which foreign corporations could produce weapons within South Africa itself. Dion Foure, a professor at the University of South Africa, said that "the embargo would appear to offer loopholes through which France, our largest supplier, could continue to sell planes and ships to our nation".

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.

S.A.S.C. Branch on UCLA Campus

A new branch of the Southern Africa Support Committee has been set up on the UCLA campus. Starting at the end of October, the group became a chartered campus organization. This SASC branch will deal with the Del Monte boycott, the clothing drive and with issues concerning University of California investments in South Africa. The UCLA SASC branch will work closely with the Santa Monica SASC branch on related issues.

So far the UCLA branch has put together a program which included a film showing and a speaker on Southern Africa. The program was held at Ackerman Union Hall on October 27. This first SASC program on UCLA campus had a very good turnout and an interesting discussion was held.



- 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.

communities, but they have spurred the anger of Indians, "Coloreds" and progressive Whites as well. This situation has left the Vorster regime and its' police totally isolated from every significant sector of the population.

Faced with the increasingly revolutionary climate among the Black people of South Africa, the Vorster regime has become more and more desperate. Large numbers of African workers as well as students have been moved to action by the fascist policies of the Vorster government. The response of the imperialist backers of the apartheid government, notably the United States, France and Great Britain, has been doubletalk and hedging. Meanwhile, the actions of Vorster and company during the month of October show clearly that the racist government is both running scared and lashing out in the most repressive ways.

Not very long after the murder of Black Consciousness leader Steven Biko, the Vorster regime attempted to totally silence all legal opposition to its' policies. On October 19, police all over South Africa began to arrest as many Black leaders as they could get their hands on. 17 major black organizations were totally outlawed. This included the South African Students Organization (SASO), the Black Peoples' Convention (BPC), the Soweto Students' Representative Council, the Black Women's Federation and all other groups that are involved with the Black Consciousness Movement and opposed to apartheid. South Africa's largest Black newspaper, "The World" was completely closed down as well. The editor of the World, Percy Qoboza, was arrested and imprisoned. Even the Christian Institute was outlawed and its' leader, Beyers Naude (a white man), was banned. Naude was heading an international drive to end all foreign investments in South Africa. Both Naude and Qoboza are prohibited from writing, speaking publicly, traveling or talking to more than one person at a time until 1982. Qoboza is being held in jail indefinitely.

Hundreds of other Black leaders were jailed. Using "security" laws, the police arrested and jailed Black People's Convention President Hlaku Kenneth Rachidi, Nthato Motlana, head of the Soweto Committee of Ten (the other 9 members were arrested as well) and the Reverend Smangaliso Mkhathshwa, the secretary general of

the Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference. Official government sources say that these Black leaders will be imprisoned until August, 1978--- without charges being brought against them.

This latest madness by the racist Vorster mob was a little too much for the United Nations to bear in silence. The 49 member Africa group in the U.N. demanded immediate economic sanctions be voted against South Africa. This demand was strongly backed by China, the Soviet Union, Panama, Libya, India, Romania, Venezuela and many others. A vote for total economic sanctions would be a strong blow to South African apartheid. But when the time came for the decision in the Security Council, the United States, France, Great Britain, West Germany and Canada voted against economic sanctions. In other words, these 5 countries stated flat out that they supported the brutality and horror that is apartheid in South Africa. It just so happens that these five countries are also large investors in South Africa and a vote for sanctions would be a vote against their corporations that make huge profits off the labor and the very lives of Black workers there. It should be remembered that corporations from the 5 nations that voted for apartheid abide by all apartheid laws that do not allow Black workers to have licensed unions or decent pay. So, in the light of this fact, it is no surprise that the United States voted against sanctions. The Firestone and General Motors factories that employ Black workers in South Africa are still operating under slave-like conditions and huge profits are being made by the fat cats. This is why Andrew Young voted against sanctions and this is why the United States supports Vorster no matter how many innocent Black people are killed or jailed merely for speaking their minds. After the veto of the economic sanctions, African National Congress (ANC) leader Mfanafuthi Makatini said that "the imperialists have been exposed." He spoke the truth. By vetoing the sanctions, the 5 countries and especially the United States, proved once again that profits come before human rights and dollars come before justice.

A few days later a vote in favor of an arms embargo was passed by the United Nations. But only with the understanding that loop-

holes were allowed so that France (South Africa's largest military supplier) could continue to ship military equipment to South Africa that would be used to murder more Black people. At any rate, the arms embargo is hardly harmful to South Africa which produces 75% of its' own military equipment: the rest, as was said, will be made up by the French.

So, in retrospect, the events of October show us several key things. The Vorster regime can use just about any Nazi-like measures that it wants without losing the support of its' most powerful backers; France, Great Britain and the United States. The monopoly corporations of these countries are making too much money off cheap Black labor in South Africa to oppose the apartheid regime. That is clear. But the other lesson of the events of October are equally important. After the police arrests of the leaders of the Black Movement in South Africa, over 250,000 students left their classrooms and started a strike so massive that the Vorster government with all its' police and instruments of terror, was unable to respond. This part of the lesson of October is that repression, no matter how brutal, breeds resistance. And the resistance of the African people is turning into a wave, a revolutionary storm that cannot and will not be stopped!!

The U.S.-British Plan for Zimbabwe

The shell game for a plan to bring a settlement to the fight for majority rule in Zimbabwe continues. Once again the game started with a flurry of American and British hands pushing plans, making promises and offering instant solutions. And once again when the motion stopped, the shell was turned over and the plan revealed---nothing. Nothing that is, for the majority of people in Zimbabwe.

This latest plan consists of British and American forces with a stamp of approval from the United Nations. The terms of the plan are:

- 1) Appointment of a resident commissioner by Britain.
- 2) Appointment of a special representative by the United Nations.
- 3) Negotiations with the two appointees and all interested parties

to organize a transitional constitution and government. This constitution would have to be approved by the British House of Commons and the United Nations Security Council.

- 4) Once agreement is reached on a transitional administration, the Ian Smith regime is to surrender power and a cease-fire is to be put into effect. A United Nations peace-keeping force consisting of some of the present Rhodesian Army and some of the liberation fighters would supervise the cease fire.
 - 5) The commissioner would prepare elections within 6 months of the ceasefire to choose a President and a single-chamber National Assembly.
 - 6) During the pre-election period, the armed forces would be organized to include elements of the liberation fighters.
 - 7) On completion of elections, power will be transferred to the gov't. of the Republic of Zimbabwe. Because of the involvement of so many "interested parties", it would be best to discuss the plan from the different perspectives of those involved. First the promoters of the plan, U.S. and England. Their main interest in Rhodesia is economic. They are quite willing to have a black government as long as their economic investments are not threatened. They want to keep Rhodesia's economic development dependant on aid from foreign governments and investments from Western corporations. They are fearful that a takeover by the militant guerrilla forces would have the same results as in Angola and Mozambique. In those countries, foreign investors fled or were kicked out. The economic systems in Angola and Mozambique are being rebuilt with an eye toward a total economic advancement of the entire society. This is instead of having all the profits leave through foreign companies while the majority of the people in the country suffer.
- In Rhodesia, the U.S. and England are promoting certain black "moderates" as their candidates for the proposed elections. The two main figures are Bishop Abel Muzorewa and Reverend Ndabaningi Sithole. Both of these men have denounced the Patriotic Front leadership of the guerrilla movement and the armed struggle. They have given support to the U.S.-British plan. Muzorewa has blamed the Patriotic Front for the atrocities and tried to divide the movement in his quest for power.

Steven Biko Murdered by the South African Government

Steven Biko, age 30, founder of the Black Consciousness Movement died on September 12 in a jail in Pretoria, South Africa. Immediately after Biko's death, the Security Police said that Steven was on a hunger strike and as a result had died of starvation. But now there have been new facts gathered that show that the guards on duty at the time of Biko's death had lied when questioned. The international outcry over Biko's death was so great that the autopsy carried out in October was made public. Three doctors examined Biko; two from the government and one chosen by Steven's family. The autopsy showed that Biko suffered three broken ribs and severe head injuries which were the primary reason for his death.

Just three days after Biko was murdered, South African police arrested 1,250 black students who gathered at the University of Hare in Alice, South Africa to protest Steven's death. Biko, who was a longtime activist and leader of the struggle against apartheid, founded the South African Students Organization (SASO) which was the first Black Consciousness group. He was also one of the founders of the Black Peoples Convention, which has raised the consciousness of many people through its' self-help programs. Biko had been arrested several times previous to his last arrest. In July, he was tried and acquitted on charges of obstructing justice and persuading others to commit perjury. The arrest that led to his death came on August 18. He was held under the Terrorism Act for publicly telling Blacks to unite and defend themselves against the racist police. Biko's family is suing the Security Police and Justice Minister James Kruger for his murder. American U.N. ambassador Andrew Young compared the death of Biko to the loss of the Kennedys and Martin Luther King. But the murder of Steven Biko will not be forgotten with a few words. The people of South Africa will remember!

JUSTICE FOR THE DEATH OF STEVEN BIKO!!

New Wave of Repression in South Africa



In the months of October and November, the attention of the entire world has been focused on South Africa. Since the uprising in Soweto in June, 1976, the apartheid government of Prime Minister John Vorster has been faced with the growing resistance of the people. During the year of 1976, over 1,000 Black, Indian and "Colored" (people of mixed parentage) people have been killed by Vorster's police and military forces. The vast majority of these people have been black and a significant number were young students. These massacres have not only increased resistance in the Black

Sithole, a former ZANU member, who has been denounced as a sellout by his ex-comrades, has had meetings with the South African secret police and is reported to have strong ties to English corporations.

Either of these men, if elected, would allow foreign economic investment to maintain its' role in Rhodesia. The United States press tries to drum up support for them by portraying the Patriotic Front as terrorists committing brutal murders. Meanwhile it shows Sithole and Muzorewa as leaders of a peaceful movement. In reality, it is common knowledge that Smith's Selous Scouts (a fascistic secret police) have murdered missionaries and plantation in an attempt to make the liberation forces look bad. The Patriotic Front, however, according to Bishop LeMont (a catholic missionary), controls from 2/3 to 3/4 of the countryside with the support of the people in those areas. This widespread support puts pressure on Britian and the U.S. to quickly get some kind of settlement made and therefore minimize economic losses.

In trying to hurriedly finalize an agreement for this plan, they out and out lied by saying that the Frontline African states supported it in hopes that the Patriotic Front would do likewise. The Frontline states-- Angola, Mozambique, Tanzania, Botswana and Zambia represent an influential force in the struggle in Zimbabwe. All those countries border Zimbabwe and support the fight for freedom there. They are using their combined influence to assure a settlement that is favorable to the majority of Zimbabweans. They simply stated a willingness to use the U.S.-British plan as a "basis for further negotiations" despite "a lot of basic negative points." (Quote from the Los Angeles Times, 9/25/77.) This is hardly the resounding approval that the U.S. made it out to be. The Frontline states along with the Patriotic Front maintain that the people of Zimbabwe should decide on any constitution and transfer of power and that it has nothing to do with the British.

The main obstacle to a peaceful transfer of power is the Ian Smith regime. His government will just not accept the fact that majority rule is inevitable. They stubbornly cling to their white supremacist notions while ignoring the world around them. On the part of

the plan concerned with incorporating liberation forces into the peace-keeping army, Smith said; " I don't think this is an area where it is possible to have a breakthrough, because I see no alternative to the status quo. I can't honesly credit that there are people who think otherwise." He also called the other main proposals of the plan "crazy" or "insane".

Smith staged elections at the end of August in order to get a mandate from the voters to make an internal



RHODESIAN PRIME MINISTER IAN SMITH

settlement without U.S. or English negotiations. The platform he ran on called for some expansion of Black political participation in government while continuing to keep Black rights limited. There would be no universal suffrage (voting rights), which he termed a "sellout". He won the election because, except for a tiny percentage, all the voters were white. Another feature of the plan Smith rejected is the surrender of power by his regime to British Commissioners for the interim before the elections. But Smith's stubbornness only increases the support for the freedom fighters.

As for the liberation movement's reaction to the plan, they reject it. Though the plan calls for the surrender of power by the Smith regime, it also puts British Commissioners in control of all branches of the government until the transition period is over before the end of 1978. The Patriotic Front maintains that the people of Zimbab-

we should be in charge during the transition period. They also oppose the United Nations as a peace-keeping force. They want the Zimbabwe People's Army (ZIPA) to assume that role. All Zimbabweans, Black or White, who support the Patriotic Front would be welcome to join the army. The Patriotic Front is fighting for majority rule immediately and there is no reason that they should have to even consider the continuing of Smith's racist rule for even a minute longer.

Many of the members of the Patriotic Front have struggled for their rights peacefully for many years. They have tried negotiations with the racist Rhodesian government, negotiations with the British government, boycotts, peaceful demonstrations and protests. But after decades of talking they have been forced to take up arms. Only since the military actions of ZIPA have begun have the nations of the world taken notice to the situation. The Patriotic Front will not lay down its' arms until a majority rule government whose interest is in developing Zimbabwe is a reality. That means a development of education, jobs and medical care and power for the vast majority of the people who now have no rights at all. Finally, it is time to smash the shells and stop playing the game. And that is what the Patriotic Front is doing.

Whites leaving Rhodesia

The white population of Rhodesia has, in the past few years, been leaving that country in ever increasing numbers. The activity of the liberation fighters, economic stability, the stepping up of the military draft and offers of aid in relocation in other countries has convinced many Rhodesians to leave.

In the first few months of this year, 5,530 whites left Rhodesia (26% more than the same period in 1976). In that same period, 1,952 whites moved into Rhodesia (down 44.3%). This meant an overall flow out of the country of 3,587 whites. Many of those who are leaving are skilled laborers and professionals. In 1976, 847 professionals left Rhodesia. Among these were 217 teachers, 100 accountants, 98 engineers

and 46 doctors.

The shortage of white labor has hurt the Rhodesian military. As of May 3, 1977, all Rhodesian white men under 38 years old must spend up to 190 days per year in the army. Older men must spend 70 days per year in the military. Even with the draft, all of the Rhodesian armed forces (including police and reserves) number only 50,000--some of whom are black. This means that only 25,000 soldiers of the Rhodesian army could be put into action at any one time.

This situation has forced Rhodesia to hire 1,200 mercenaries from the United States and England. To aid the departing Rhodesians, the United States, England, Holland and France have put up \$2 billion in cash to bring them to Latin America. The first phase of this plan involves the moving of 30,000 Rhodesian families to Boliva. These families must be of German or Dutch ancestry. Bolivian dictator, Hugo Banzer (a German) has said; "special programs are necessary to improve our race".

This kind of program of importing racism strengthens the position of the white minority in Boliva. It is important to keep in mind that the vast majority of Boliva's people are Indian and are totally subjugated and exploited by the Banzer government. In his own words, the dictator called for "the systematic limitation of the growth of the population of the indigenous people".

Still, Boliva is not the only country to which white Rhodesians are being attracted, as evidenced by the following ad placed in a Rhodesian newspaper by an Alabama Real Estate Agency; "Settle in an area where white people think like you and have the same Anglo-Saxon background".

ERITREA...a look inside.

Some of us here in Southern California probably have a hard time understanding the situation in Ethiopia. We have heard practically little or nothing about the small African country called Eritrea. If we have heard about it, we are most likely wondering,

who is fighting whom?, what are they fighting over?, who is winning, when did it start?, etc. We should not ignore this complicated struggle merely because our daily newspapers choose not to (truthfully) report it. We should, by all means, know everything we can about this situation because- like Zimbabwe (Rhodesia), Namibia (South-West Africa) and South Africa- this is another place where Black African people are fighting and dying for true freedom, control over their homeland and self-determination.

In order for us to understand, as best we can, the present-day circumstances in Ethiopia/Eritrea, it is necessary for us to look at the history of this region of Africa.

The region of Ethiopia/Eritrea is located in Northern Africa;



around the area called the Horn of Africa. Because Eritrea is situated north of Ethiopia, it was especially important during ancient times. The Horn of Africa is separated from the Middle East by only a few miles of water (which ancient travellers could navigate); Europe and Asia are connected to the Middle East by land. Eritrea, being bounded by the Red Sea, Sudan and Ethiopia, was one of the first stops going into Africa and one of the last stops leaving Africa.

Because of this location, several different peoples (first the

Hamites, then the Semites) moved into Eritrea (1000 B.C. to 400 B.C.) from other parts of Northern Africa and the Middle East to conquer the original Black African people (Nilo-tics) of Eritrea. They formed the Axumite Kingdom. This civilization is well known in history because it was highly developed for its time; it was kept strong by the fact that it controlled the sea lanes (Red Sea).

Opposing these proven facts is a legendary history of this region which states that Ethiopian peoples conquered Eritrea during this same period (970 B.C.), but there is no scientific proof of this. When this legendary history is put out there, especially by the ruling powers of Ethiopia today, it is an attempt to show how Ethiopia and Eritrea have always been one country. Similarly, the facts show no indication of an organized and centralized government in this area until the European colonizers made their move in 1885.

As history has taught us in the past, no conquered peoples can quietly live without power and working for little or no pay for long, and soon the conquered peoples under the Axumite Kingdom began to create problems for the government. These problems eventually weakened the whole society, and the Axumite Kingdom finally fell in the 7th century.

From then until the 16th century there were small wars, the expansion of Islam and Christianity, and the slave trade. These factors did not allow Eritrea, like most other African countries, to freely develop politically, culturally or economically. In fact, all of Africa was cruelly set back. By the 16th century there was a lot of internal confusion within Eritrea and it didn't take much force for the Ottoman Empire (Turks) to conquer it at this time. Again, the conquered peoples fought their enslavement and Egypt was eventually granted "internal autonomy" by the Turks. This meant that Egypt could almost do what it pleased. By 1867 Egypt controlled the valuable sea lanes of the Red Sea and all of the coast, including Eritrea. It ruled Eritrea until the historic Berlin Conference in 1885. In this conference, the Western European powers (Italy, France, Great Britain, Belgium, Portugal, etc.) decided that it was time to divide up Black Africa among themselves. These powers decided they would colonize Africa, in other words, they would, take to the Africans European religion and culture, make

the Africans work for them for nothing, steal the natural resources and control all trade and trade routes.

While the larger, stronger Western European powers fought each other over who would control what parts of Africa, Italy gradually brought over military forces and by 1880, Italy controlled all of Eritrea.

It is very important to note that at this time also, the ruling powers of Ethiopia were able to gain control over much of their Ethiopian homeland despite the presence of Italians. However, Eritrea could not gain such power and the boundary between Ethiopia and Eritrea also became a boundary of Italian colonialism, on one side (Eritrea) and feudalism on the other (Ethiopia). This is extremely important for us to understand because feudalism is a different stage of development than colonialism. Feudalism means working a plot of land (without new machines or tools) for the landlord or King for barely enough money to live on. This is due to the fact that the landlord and King are the only people who can own the land. Colonialism means an outside power (Italy) has taken over the entire country, possibly brought in new machines to the society (Eritrea) so that African people are then using these new machines to make or produce goods to be sold in Italy. The Africans didn't get paid much because the Italians had guns. The Italians would take all the resources back to Italy. Though both systems treat the people as if they were less than human, they are, for sure, quite different. Therefore, this gave Eritrea (under Italian colonialism) a separate political and geographic identity than Ethiopia (under feudalism).

By the end of World War II Italy had lost both the war and its colonies; including Eritrea. Britain suddenly became the colonizer at this point and set out to put an end to Eritrea as a country in and of itself.

Also, at this time within Eritrea, political parties began to form. The Eritrean people were beginning to realize that only through organization could they put an end to the domination they had felt from Italy and now Britain (more on the conditions the Eritreans had to undergo during the years of colonialism from Italy and

Britain in the next issue.)

In 1950, Eritrea was transferred to the United Nations. In the '50's the United States controlled almost all decisions that were made in the U.N. Most decisions favored the U.S., and therefore, were for the good of the U.S. and not the world as a whole. The U.S., in fact, by this time almost completely controlled (feudal) Ethiopia by controlling its trade, promising it arms, and controlling its government. Therefore, the U.N. decision was made to put Eritrea in a federation with Ethiopia (in other words, under the control of Ethiopia) it came as no surprise because then the U.S. could control both Ethiopia and Eritrea at the same time.

Ethiopia immediately banned the freedom of the press in Eritrea, along with making organizations illegal and suppressing language and culture in Eritrea.

The struggling Eritrean people decided to take it to the streets. In 1958 Eritrean workers called a mass 4 day general strike (supported by students and other patriots) and demonstration protesting colonial oppression and suppression by (feudal) Ethiopia. Ethiopian troops killed 88 Eritrean workers and wounded 453 others.

The Eritrean people only learned from this experience and decided that armed struggle would be the only way they could get their freedom and liberation. In September, 1961, the Eritrean Liberation Front (E.L.F.) launched the armed struggle against Ethiopia.

(The next issue will cover the progress of that struggle and the conditions of the Eritrean people down through history.)



Hundreds March Against Police Conference



As the capitalists throughout the world find their regimes crumbling in the midst of liberation struggles, we see them inventing organizations like the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACOP). With a membership of 7,000 police chiefs, corporate security guards and police bureaucrats, IACOP has members from all over the capitalist world. They have made it very clear that they will not end the repressive conditions in their respective nations without a fight.

It is precisely for this reason that Los Angeles Police Chief, Crazy Ed Davis called the entire membership of IACOP to attend a conference in Los Angeles this past October 6.

Davis himself has given sanction to LAPD officers in the killing of 34 people so far this year. He has called together policemen from every state in this country as well as from countries such as South Africa (where the main job of the police is to enforce the racist Apartheid Laws). Other police representatives came from nations that are either governed by military dictatorships or that have little concern over the rights of the people. Police representatives came from Chile, South Korea, Iran, Argentina and practically every other nation

that is suffering under a repressive regime.

A "highlight" of the conference was a display with over 400 U.S. and British corporations participating. The purpose of this display was to sell modern weaponry, like exploding bullets, new finger-printing equipment and armored cars.

Other items on the agenda at the conference were the plotting of new courses of action against undocumented workers, how to protect giant corporations against liberation movements and how to curb the use of the Freedom of Information Act. Hearing of this conference, the Southern Africa Support Committee immediately joined in with the Coalition Against Police Abuse (CAPA) to organize a mass demonstration against IACOP. We chose Chiefs' Host Night to hold the main demonstration because that night brought all of the regimes together to drink, laugh and to discuss new tactics of torture. The October 4 demonstration began with chants like; "End International Police Terrorism", "Stop Police Abuse" and "Down With Imperialism!". One of the Southern Africa Support Committee's slogans called for the support of the liberation struggles in Southern Africa.

Over all, 800 people participated in the demonstration. These included community groups, South African students, Iranian students as well as Filipino students. The main speech was given by Michael Zinzun of the Coalition Against Police Abuse and the Southern Africa Support Committee. His speech dealt directly with the issues of police abuse and imperialism.

A highlight of the protest was the trial of Crazy Ed Davis by the people. Davis and U.S. police forces were declared guilty of racism and oppression and a stuffed dummy of Davis was hung amidst applause and chants. World Imperialism was also found guilty and hung.

The demonstration showed clearly that the people can and will organize against oppressive regimes in the United States, South Africa, Iran and everywhere injustice exists. This was true at the IACOP protest even though 300 police stood by in riot gear attempting to intimidate us and waiting for the chance to break up the demonstration with force. This demonstration surely put them on notice that time is running—their time!!

All Power To The Oppressed Peoples!!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DEL MONTE BOYCOTT

The Del Monte Boycott Committee of the Southern Africa Support Committee has been leafletting supermarkets in the Los Angeles area. If you would like to get involved, or would like info on the boycott, call (213) 684-1892, (213) 731-2635

CLOTHING DRIVE

The Southern Africa Support Committee is continuing to collect clothes to be shipped to Africa. If you have any clothes to donate, or need any info, call 684-1892.

BOOKS AVAILABLE

The Southern Africa Support Committee now has books and posters for sale on the different liberation struggles in Southern Africa. Interested parties call (213) 684-1892.

FUNDS NEEDED

In order to continue our educational work around the struggles in Africa, the Southern Africa Support Committee is in need of funds. The newsletter depends on your support! We also need people to help type, lay-out and write articles. If you would like to contribute funds or labor, please call (213) 684-1892, or write to Southern Africa Support Committee, P.O. BOX 3453-Pasadena, Calif. 91103.

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