

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 2½ years, SASC recognizes that the white minority governments of Zimbabwe(Rhodesia), Namibia(South-West 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. SASC is also working on the boycott of the Del Monte corporation, which is exploiting both the people and resources of Namibia (South-West Africa).

For more information on SASC or if you wish to set up a film showing for your group, call 684-1892.



The Struggle for African Majority Rule and the Anglo-American Frame-Up which way Rhodesia II

The Anglo-American Peace Plan, like so many attempts by the West to initiate independence treaties or schemes for all the African nations, is not only faltering in buying time, but has failed in Zimbabwe. Past White involvement in Africa has caused mass suffering of the African peoples. From the export of slaves during slavery, through European colonialism to the present day Neo-colonialism, multi-national corporations and the military juntas now in control in many African states, have developed even more conflicts and war on the continent.

The Italo-Ethiopian war during the 1930's and Haile Selassie's failure to convince the League of Nations to resolve the war was only the beginning of the final attempts to partition Africa. American involvement during the 1960's Congo crisis, the Nigeria-Biafra War, and the assassination of Lumumba, Malcolm X and Martin Luther King Jr. had opened up a Pandora's box and put U.S. African foreign policy under attack. The struggle in present-day Rhodesia (Zimbabwe) reflects the plight of Black and African people's liberation for freedom and human rights.

As Zimbabwe historically and ecologically sits in Southeast Central Africa, the cultural and political ties, heritage and roots of the surrounding territories have reached their maturation point. Competition, East vs. West, has started for international interest in the mineral resources in Africa. Zaire's southern Shaba (Katanga) region, rich in uranium, south through Zaire's copper belt, has created a front line battlefield of Namibia, Botswana, Mozambique, and Zimbabwe in a not too distant future land war. Ever since April 25, 1975 when General Spinoza relinquished the Portuguese territories of Guinea-Bissau, oil-rich Angola, and strategically located Mozambique on the coast of the Indian ocean, some very inter-

esting circumstances and questions about the survival of apartheid in South Africa have developed. Vietnamization by U.S. interests has shown us that America's involvement in another land war among Third World and underdeveloped nations has been and will be costly.

British Foreign Secretary David Owen and America's United Nations Ambassador Andrew Young, with the Patriotic Front, attempt to negotiate a cease-fire between two armies, neither of whom has won or lost. A peace settlement should result, but this is very difficult in Rhodesia.

The Anglo-American Peace Plan at this point in time along with Zimbabwe majority rule looks more like a frame-up in terms of leadership in a civil war after independence. That is the plan theoretically with no practical use in terms of American Foreign Policy and the Africanization process is being carried out by Anglo-Europeans and whites around the world. Ambassador Andrew Young's real commitment as a negotiator is toward striving to do away with capital exploitation of African labor by whites, racism, and to develop majority rule. Young's strong assessment of the Rhodesian conflict with his stands against apartheid in South Africa are rocking the boat of the Ian Smith regime and his Unilateral Declaration of Independence of 1965.

The UDI of 1965 by the Smith regime was a split in the Rhodesia-Nyasaland Federation (Zambia and Malawi) of the British commonwealth colonies. The current efforts by Ian Smith for internal peace settlement with African moderates Rev. Ndabaningi Sithole and Bishop Abel Muzorewa fall far short of a total peace settlement for the revolutionary guerrillas on missions in the bush and on the front lines and inside Zimbabwe. The leaders of ZANU (Zimbabwe African National Union), Joshua Nkomo, state that the armed struggle for Zimbabwe will continue as they re-negotiate the Anglo-American plan.

President Carter's trip to Nigeria and Liberia to discuss economic aid, human rights in Southern Africa, and Soviet backed Cuban troops in Ethiopia, Angola and Mozambique could be tests of world power politics in Africa. Ford's and Carter's African Foreign policy could be the same according to National Security Study Memorandum, The Kissinger Study of Southern Africa: "U.S. aid could serve as an ultimatum to the Soviet Union and Cuba...". This trip by Carter to Africa could also reflect a sign of popular demand to American corporations operating in South Africa to increase timetables, efforts and influences to change and improve the quality of life for the South African Blacks.

Under apartheid as defined by Vorster, whites are superior to Blacks; White Christian Nationalism is their ideology. In the past, these forms of nationalism under Hitler were and still are fascist, racist and dangerous to world existence. As long as there is separation of the races and separate, inferior development in terms of food, jobs, housing and education for Blacks living in the towns and Bantustans, a war for liberation and not tokenism will be waged.

The added factor of the Cuban forces supporting and training Black Marxist Nationalist guerrillas in neighboring territories of Kenneth Kaunda's Zambia, Nyerere's Tanzania, and Machel's Mozambique with Soviet backing and aid, has set off the Anglo-American plans. Cy Vance, Secretary of U.S. State, has talked to guerilla leaders, white South African leaders, Rhodesia and Russia concerning future SALT talks, withdrawals of Cuban troops and peace in Southern Africa. For the African majority there was no end in sight. During the transition period the plan was to bring in U.N. and Nigerian troops to maintain peace and to police the merger of the Rhodesian Army with the guerilla forces. South Africa, quietly viewing the situation in Zimbabwe, with whites already in flight leaving the country because of the Soweto riots and African demands for participation in government and National Liberation, has reached its

paradox toward change for better or worse. For South Africa to send troops to defend the Smith regime against Cuban forces would and could inflame the whole continent. Africa is now struggling with a number of regional and border disputes. C.I.A. reports and newspaper articles show the urgent need for American foreign aid for food, health supplies, education and industrialization in the underdeveloped African nations. April 23, 1978, in the daily issue of the Los Angeles Times, Oswald Johnston states about Vance's trip that Mugabe's "guerrillas represent an irresistible force operating at will in the Rhodesian bush, much like the Vietcong once operated...Vance now conceives the end result must be the isolation of Mugabe (marxist) if any settlement is to be reached."

Afro-Americans and progressive supporters have definite roles in a united effort to protest and rechannel misappropriate U.S. investment resources in Southern Africa. The need for world support for re-distribution of resources and Mugabe's socialist interest to liberate the African population in South Africa (Azania), South West Africa (Namibia), and Rhodesia (Zimbabwe) are very important.

The cultural ties and roots of Blacks to Africa will forever be strong. South Africa should be put on a more stable economic foundation for the whole of the Southern African peoples to benefit from democracy in that part of the world. To exclude Afro-Americans in the diaspora from the development of trade relations, international politics, educational, rural projects and industrial development shows the lack of America's true interest in Southern Africa well being, and ability to grow independently from either East or West influence, to heal the wounds of slavery's past, and create a society free from race and class exploitation. As Johnston points out, divide and conquer can be utilized "in the hope that Mugabe can be forced by the process of negotiation to isolate himself. If this does not happen, it is now believed, he will emerge as the dominant figure who stood his ground and refused to compromise."

U.S. and SOUTH AFRICA'S RAID on ANGOLA

(While prime minister of South Africa John Voster, speaks of peaceful settlements for Namibia these types of deaths and Atrosities continue to be employed by Racist South Africa.)

On May 4th in Kassinga, Angola- (A city located in Southern Angola, about 155 miles from the Namibian boarder) at the Kassinga refugee camp, during the time of a meeting taking in the camps, a wave of French made Mirage Jet Fighters and South African operated attacked the camp all together killing over 600 and wounding over 300 Namibians in all the area's - Launching dozens of fragment atom bombs and planted Antivehicle and antipersonnel land mines, explosives in the ground and all over. Brought 60mm and 81mm Mortars, Rifle- Launched grenades, Round upon rounds of Amunition, and a score of other U.S. and Western made weapons.

Immediately after the bombing began, survivors told the Guardian Newspaper Reporter, (Who arrived shortly after raid began) four U.S. made C-130 Hercules transport plans began dropping South African Paratroopers at different points around the camp. Who included some Portuguese Mercenaries and whites of another nationality whose language the Namibians could not identify.

Outside of the Kassinga camp area, which that day, had 3068 people, (many whom had recently came to join S.W.A.P.O. in their fight for their Namibian homeland), was the Huila province area, deep inside Angola's borders and Southern Kunene province, where the Namibian liberation movement has a number of camps in a triangle between the Angolian vil-lages of Dombondola, Cuamato and Tchetequere. There is still no full report on the number of dead and wounded from the Kunene attack. But SWAPO figures were given as more than 100 dead and 100 wounded only 48 hours after the assault began.

As the Mirages delivered their deadly fragmentation bombs in Southern Kunene, (Killing in all incidents mostly children) a force of 40 panhard armed cars and South African infantry moved 15 miles into Angola in an effort to wipe out the SWAPO camps.

The fighting continued there-until the afternoon of May 6th as the racist troops met strong resistance from SWAPO, from Angola boarder guards and from the people's armed forces for the liberation of Angola (F.A.P.L.A.) Angola's armed forces. "We came up against tough Resistance, much stronger than we expected" South African Brigade General Hannes Botha acknowledged. "SWAPO continued fighting to the last breath."

We should also bear in mind that the U.S. has been providing weapons etc.. for South Africa. South Africa's minister of defense Pik Botha said that he personally saw pentagon aircraft actually delivering arms at bases in Angola held by South African Military Forces. Botha also named the minister of Economic Affairs of South Africa, Mr. Heunis, as being among witnesses who saw the unloading of arms by U.S. transport aircraft at one South Africa held base in Southern Angola.

How Many People Actually died, And What Was The Raid For?

First of all, as we should know by now South Africa is dying, crippled country, that is, under its present ruling government, and it is because of the nature of racist ruling government and imperialist countries like the U.S., Britain, France, West Germany, etc... that back the racism and apartheid, (which is the system they all use to exploit the working masses of South Africa) that is responsible for the exploitation and oppression of people in Southern Africa, the u.s. and everywhere else in the world.

So seeing that in Namibia the liberation struggle for the genuine liberation of Namibia is intensifying the South Africans and imperialist have to find a way to destroy the liberation movement in Namibia, so the target was the transit camp, where school-children, teenagers, and young women and men were being organized by the liberation movement before moving on to learn new skills.

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NEWS BRIEFS



700 Demonstrate at Columbia University (Guardian, 5/10/78)

At Columbia University in New York City, a May Day demonstration linking oppressive university policies at home with divestiture brought some 700 people onto the streets.

The protest began with a rally by a group of youngsters from a Free School threatened with eviction because of Columbia plans to build a dormitory on the site. It ended with an 8-hour sit-in by more than 275 students at the business school.

Organized by a broad coalition of groups, the demonstration emphasized Columbia's support of apartheid through its \$80 million of stocks and bonds in corporations doing business in South Africa. And it linked such support to the university's racist housing policies in neighboring Harlem and its employment discrimination against women, third world and gay people.

More Protests Against Apartheid (Guardian, 5/10/78)

-Some 100 students joined a picket-line and march through the dining hall at Swarthmore College in Pennsylvania. The protesters, organized by the Swarthmore Anti-Apartheid Committee, picketed the hall April 22 as members of the school's board of trustees met inside.

-Vice President Walter Mondale was interrupted four times in his 20-minute speech to the graduating class at the University of Michigan April 29 as sign-bearing students jeered him in protest against US imperialism in South Africa.

-At Philips Exeter Academy preparatory school in New Hampshire, 200 students staged a protest and demanded the school divest.

South Africa Banned From Davis Cup (Black Panther, 4/22/78)

Due to growing demands for the exclusion of South Africa from the Davis Cup tennis tournaments the International Tennis Federation (ITF) last week banned the apartheid regime from further Davis Cup competition.

The ITF also gave South Africa's tennis groups-one White, one Black and one multiracial-until Feb.1, 1979, to form a new, fully integrated organization. Failure to comply will result in a full investigation by the ITF.

The action by the ITF means that South African players can compete as individuals in international tournaments, but the team cannot play in this year's Davis Cup or the Women's Federation Cup scheduled for later this year.

The general meeting of the ITF, to be held in mid-July, must approve the Committee of Management ruling, but the president of the South African Tennis Union said he expects the ruling to be upheld.

Harvard Students Press Southern Africa Support (Guardian, 5/10/78)

Students and their supporters at Harvard University last week stepped up their demands that the school cut its holdings in corporations linked to racist South Africa.

In the policy statement, the Harvard trustees refused to meet the students' demands, saying: We oppose divestiture under normal circumstances ...because it is a relatively ineffectual means of pursuing ethical ends. " The statement ended with a list of recommended actions for all U.S. companies in South Africa, including the establishment of "a generally acceptable living wage."



Show Down in ERITREA



The following story is reprinted from the news magazine, Africa News. Our own series on Eritrea will continue in the next Newsletter with Part 4 of "A Look Inside Eritrea".

Having won a victory over Somali forces in the Ogaden, Ethiopia's military regime is turning its attention to other parts of the former Ethiopian empire in which government authority is being challenged. The most serious threat comes in Eritrea, a Red Sea coastal territory once colonized by Italy and Britian, federated to Ethiopia in 1952 then annexed by Emperor Haile Selassie in 1962. There a guerrilla independence movement has established popular support. American journalist Dan Connell has recently returned from an extended stay with Eritrean guerrillas and African News reached him for this interview.

AN: When did you first visit Eritrea?

DC: The first time was in 1976. I had been led into the area by what I had read about the Ethiopian revolution and I went as a freelance writer to dig around and see what was really happening in Ethiopia. I spent 4 months in the rural areas of Ethiopia in which I was convinced that very little was actually being carried out by the Ethiopian revolution.

I first went into Eritrea on a government supply convoy to the capital city of Asmara in March 1976. On the second day I was there the colonel who had led the convoy was assassinated by the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF), and the Ethiopian troops took out their revenge on the civilian population. I spent a lot of time asking individual Eritreans about the situation there. I learned that the people were fighting for independence against a corrupt regime that relaced Haile Selassie.

Then I went into the Sudan and made contact with the EPLF and the ELF (Eritrean Liberation Front) and spent 5 weeks in Eritrea split between the two fronts, in June and July of 1976. At that time it was effectively a guerrilla operation and we travelled from one area of the countryside to another to the guerrilla bases. When I went back again in August of 1977 and stayed for 6 months, the situation had developed quite a bit. In fact, the EPLF is not really a guerrilla army anymore. They are a national army which maintains their own supply lines and raises their own food on farms they set up. It is mechanized. They move from place to place on highways they've captured and even some they've built themselves.

They organize themselves in brigade strength now, concentrating on the political and social organization of the people while carrying on the armed struggle.

VILLIAGE DEMOCRACY

AN: Can you give us some sense of what it was like to be there?

DC: I spent a lot of time in the towns that the EPLF had taken last year.

I was able to sit in the city of Keren and have a cup of coffee at a cafe in the center of town. Watching the camels move by with local traders moving in and out of town and the children going to school. One can have the sense that one is sitting anywhere, in a normal city with all the business going on as usual.

AN: Are you saying that the EPLF control the towns to the extent that normal civilian life is possible?

DC: They do. But they haven't set up military bases in the towns. Their bases are still in the countryside. In these towns they have concentrated on organizing the women, youth, peasants, workers and middle class. These people in turn elect their own leaders. There is close coordination, but the civilian population effectively run their own organizations, and through them elect legislative assemblies which take over the administration.

AN: What is the structure of the EPLF itself?

DC: The EPLF is a front which is organized along fairly broad lines. It includes as many different classes and groups in the society as are willing to participate. It has a collective leadership, with a central committee and a 13 member political bureau at the top of it. All decisions are made collectively by this body, in coordination with a pyramidal structure manned with political and military people.

When you are actually with the Front, though, you can't really tell who is a leader and who isn't. At one point last year I sat down with the whole leadership without realizing it. They dress the same, they eat the same and they behave like ordinary fighters.

AN: What about the role of women in the organization?

DC: Women play an active role in the EPLF and the mass organizations. They didn't start getting involved in the Eritrean struggle until 1971-72 when the EPLF began to grow. Now, I have seen the women fighting in the front lines of Mas-

sawa as part of the batallions in the fighting units. I couldn't give you an exact figure, but I think close to 30% of the fighters are women. More important is the fact that by the work done among the civilian population, they are guaranteeing that women won't step back after the war is over. They've banned all arranged marriages, they've brought women into local associations and militias.

For a woman to carry a gun in her own town is a real shock to some of the people there. I talked with one girl in a small village who had joined the militia. When she came home with a gun on her back her parents wouldn't let her in the house. All the neighbors and her parents kept saying that a woman should carry a baby and not a gun. She had to sleep outside for four nights but she kept with it.

EFFORTS TOWARDS UNITY

AN: What is the relationship between the ELF and the EPLF?

DC: They made a very big step toward unity in October when they set out to formulate formal principles of unity, and they have been meeting since. The problem is that they have different approaches to unity. The EPLF is a much more highly politicized organization. The ELF is made up of many different elements. Many of these have as their main concern the postponement of the social revolution until the military struggle is over. The ELF wants a merger at the top level while the EPLF wants a united front at all levels.

At this stage the ELF is in a very weak position, having suffered military defeats at the hands of Ethiopia. There is a split inside with some favoring a closer relationship with the EPLF and some moving to the right to support a small third force, Osman Sabbe's ELF-PLF. I think the ELF is getting into a position to accept EPLF's terms. Otherwise it's apt to be destroyed by the Ethiopian army. I think the idea of two fronts being engaged with each other over a long period suggests to the ELF that they will be simply absorbed into the more disciplined and better organized EPLF. My own experience is that when I asked the ELF questions, I was always referred to the leaders. There was no trust in ordinary fighters to know what the ELF position was. When, in fact, I did talk to just

ordinary fighters, their opinions were often quite different from the leaders.

AN: What is the expected results from the Ethiopian offensive to be coming soo?

DC: There have been offenses against Eritrea for the past three years at this time of year. Each time the offensives have been beaten back. I think that the view inside Eritrea is that this offensive will also be beaten, but perhaps with a cost greater to Eritrea. The increase in weaponry, especially from the Soviet Union, but still some NATO weapons coming in through other sources to Ethipia, mainly has the effect of raising the level of destruction in civilian areas.

AN: What are the prospects of active Soviet and Cuban involvement in Eritrea?

DC: It appeared to me that the Cubans had held back through the fall from getting too involved, with the exception of sending occasional advisors to visit Eritrea. There were no permanent Cubans stationed except for a few medical personnel in Asmara. The main foreign force has been the South Yemeni. They've been in tanks and manning artillery since September. The Soviet Union has sent technicians into the area, in Asmara and Massawa. It appears they had come to train the Ethiopian soldiers in the use of the more sophisticated weapons, but the war has been proceeding at a much faster pace than they could keep up with and they have been forced to pull triggers. Now there have been fairly convincing reports of Cubans being flown into Asmara. If so, they will probably be drawn into the war.

AN: The Cubans used to support the Eritrean struggle. Has the EPLF tried to do anything internationally---diplomatically---to put pressure on Cuba?

DC: They have, but I think the EPLF is weakest in diplomatic areas. I know that when I first learned of the involvement of the South Yemenis they preferred not to make that public until they could first talk privat-

ely with the South Yemenis. They were very disappointed with the results. Of course, South Yemen had been one of the EPLF's major supporters.

A LACK OF ALLIES

AN: What are their international links?

DC: They don't have many. They have support from the guerrilla movement in Oman. They have links with the forces of the POLISARIO and with some of the Palestinian revolutionary movements. But because they are a left revolutionary movement, they are isolated from the West. With large-scale Soviet and Cuban involvement, they are also cut off from the East. They have had continuing offers of aid from various Arab countries which in the past they have refused because of the strings attached. Their concern now is to make contact with other liberation movements and with progressive nations, particularly in Africa. This is in order to overcome the pressure of being seen as an Arab-run and Arab backed movement. They are also concentrating on raising the issue at the OAU (Organization of African Unity) meeting at Khartoum in June.

AN: Do they now have to depend on some arms from countries like Saudi Arabia and Sudan?

DC: Sudan never gives any actual material aid. It alloes it to pass through. As for Saudi Arabia, it has given aid to the ELF-PLF, the right wing of the Eritrean movement and staying away from the EPLF.

AN: Where does the EPLF get its guns?

DC: They get them mainly from Ethiopia. They are captured arms. I saw this in the battle for Massawa. I've seen them capture tanks and artillery and turn them right around to use against the Ethiopian army. I've seen them capture mountains of ammunition, small arms and medical supplies. They also maintain underground bases throughout Eritrea where they work on these weapons and they can virtually make a small arms weapon from scratch.

PITTING RIFLES AGAINST TANKS

AN: What was the military situation when you left?

DC: The entire countryside is in the hands of the Eritreans. There are no roads or highways open to Ethiopia at this point. They still hold the remote port of Assab and the capital city of Asmara, a little corner of Massawa and two small garrison towns, Barentu, surrounded by the ELF and Adi Caieh, surrounded by the EPLF.

The last two months I spent in Eritrea I spent in the port and around the port of Massawa, where the heaviest fighting of the war has taken place. The main port for Ethiopia, Massawa was the site for a complex American naval base, which was used up until early 1977 and turned over to Ethiopia when the U.S. was evicted. It was also the main port of supplies into Ethiopia up until two years ago when all roads were cut. The Eritreans cut the road to Massawa in October. The Ethiopians tried unsuccessfully five times to reopen the road from Massawa to Asmara. In the fifth effort, on Dec. 8, they brought a convoy of some 300 heavily loaded trucks, troop carriers and buses, led by an armored column of 20 to 30 Soviet T-54 tanks, driven by South Yemenis.

I came down the night before the battle. The EPLF had prepared for December 10 to try to attack the main Ethiopian at Dogali. But the first shots of the battle were fired by the Ethiopians when they tried to move their convoy through. We were awakened at 6:45 a.m. with an artillery shell going off in our camp. The EPLF held off the convoy all through the morning and it was incredible because the Ethiopians had brought up their heaviest artillery, armor, rockets and tanks. They were being supported from the air by American-made F-5 jets and even by fire coming from ships off the coast. The Eritrean fighters were armed mainly with hand-held assault rifles, rocket propelled grenades and supported by machine guns and mortars. Still they pinned the Ethiopians down all through the morning and opened up their own attack at about 11:15 a.m. The Ethiopians retreated in about 15 minutes after the attack started.

AN: What gave the Eritreans the edge in that kind of situation?

DC: It was morale and the determination to fight. Another aspect of the EPLF has been the involvement of the civilian population. When I was in Massawa, hundreds of civilians volunteered and came down to take positions on the front lines.

AN: Is there any truth to the view that Ethiopians purged from the government, such as Teferi Benti or Atnafu Abate, were more open to accepting Eritrean demands?

DC: Atnafu Abate was in Eritrea for two months in September and October 1977, investigating the Eritrean situation. He went back to submit his report, saying that a military solution was impossible and a political settlement should be negotiated with Eritrea. He was asked three times to withdraw his report by Ethiopian leader Mengistu. After the third refusal, he was called in and executed. That information comes from a man named Mengesha Gessassa who was the assistant governor of Eritrea until he defected in January.

AN: Are the Eritreans prepared to accept anything less than full independence?

DC: No. There is no possibility of that. They might negotiate on questions of access to the ports by Ethiopia and over some kind of relationship with Ethiopia, but they are very firm that they won't raise any questions except on the basis of full national sovereignty.

AN: What do you think might have happened after Haile Selassie was overthrown had those who favored a negotiated settlement prevailed?

DC: I think the EPLF would not like to say it, but I think the feeling among the people and even among some elements in the front was such that they might have at that point. If a genuine peaceful solution had been offered, I think it might have been accepted. Instead, there were major offensives against the Eritreans, beginning in January of 1975.

More Shams and Lies By South Africa

South Africa is so corrupted and illegal and does so much wrong, that it has to lie. And this is exactly what South Africa has done in this situation.

They wanted to attack a highly equipped military base-Kassinga was not a highly equipped military base, Matongo (A Member Of SWAPO) said we do not put military camps right deep in Angola, 155 miles from the border. Our Military Camps are at the front that is where we have strong defenses. While we were in Kassinga, we heard of a film shown by the apartheid regime that allegedly was a report on the attack. The film shows the killing of armed and uniformed Namibians. "That film could have been taken at the front, but not here," commander Matonga said, "This was a transit camp for recently arrived Namibians."

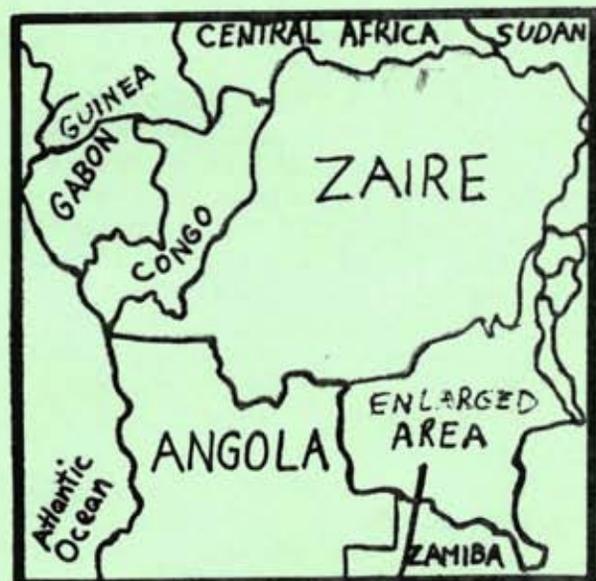
Many people here are convinced that the South African attacks are not over yet. As South African radio broadcast its message that "if SWAPO continues to fight, then we shall attack Angola again", the Angolan defense minister warned, "We think the South African forces have further actions of this kind already planned that could be part of a second invasion of our country."

Strike TWO on MOBUTU

In our Feb.- Jan edition of S.A.S.C.'s newsletter we told of a deal that Mobutu had with West Germany, which was the selling of a piece of land to set up a missile testing base. Well, by the looks of things, West Germany is not the only one who has something to lose. Last month the U.S. sent troops from the 82nd airborne to protect huge profit it had invested in a construction company called Morrison-Knudsen an American Firm. Beside them were Beligan, French, Moroccan and West German Nationals.

United State says its reason for send-

ing its army was to airlift about 100 American settlers and employees from the mining area called Kolwezi where the attack took place. But the real reason Western forces are there, is to save their puppet, Mobutu from the FNLC, who is opposed to the massive oppression and neglect of the mass population by Mobutu and his reactionary army. The (FNLC) CONGO NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT was able to strike quickly from the Zambia boarder which was 40 miles from Kolwezi, the center of the copper mining in Shaba, seizing its airport and taking control of the city putting Mobutu's disorganized forces on the run. FNLC who won support from local population, was also able to capture a number of boarder cities even the major railroad in Mutshatsha 70 miles from Kolwezi. The FNLC who number some-



where from 2,000 and 5,000 was active in fighting beside Angola's MPLA against Western supported FNLA, UNITA led by Mobutu's brother-in-law Kolden Roberts. This move by FNLC forces was not inspired by Soviet or Cuba forces, but infact by the local population who were still tired of being oppressed by Mobutu and his military.

According to the Guardian, The source for the first reports of massacre, rape and barbarity was not by FLNC, but were by the

French foreign legion and Mobutu's forces who reported the killings first. This undoubtedly was done to justification for the massive intervention by western forces on May 18th. The Carter Administration has been instrumental in sending military equipment to show its connection abroad.

The Shaba crisis of 1978 makes it quite clear that Mobutu cannot survive without the presence of foreign troops. Yet propping him up one more time will destroy any remaining pretence of Zairean independence and of a US "new look" Africa policy.

In the last year Mobutu has purged his army of capable officers from regions suspected of disloyalty and those deemed politically ambitious. In January, he had to send troops to put down rebellions in Bandoundou and again to crush a strike of palmtut cutters. In mid-February 91 persons, including 67 officers, were court-martialed for high treason and conspiracy. 15 were hanged publicly. For four or five months the teachers were on strike with support from sympathetic elements of the army.

Zaire's economy is in shambles. It is heavily dependent on earnings from copper exports, now depressed by low prices. The central administration is terribly corrupt. Balooning debts to western bankers haven't been solved, and development plans have ignored the pressing needs of the African population in favor of capital-intensive projects that benefit outside interests or a tiny African elite.

Meanwhile, the anti-Mobutu forces have been gathering massive support from the people in the countryside of Shaba.

ALL PEOPLES UNITE!



END RACIST APARTHEID RULE

US OUT OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

VICTORY TO THE LIBERATION FORCES OF
SOUTHERN AFRICA.

AN: What about the possibilities for the future?

DC: The Eritreans all the way up to their leadership feel a close fraternal relationship with the Ethiopian people. I think it is not possible under the leadership of Mengistu, but if one proceeds on the basis of national independence for Eritrea, I think there is no question that there would be close links for generations to come. The Eritreans consciously distinguish between the present military government and the Ethiopian people, saying that their natural allies are the Ethiopian masses.

Picket Line at Bank of America



On April 25, the Bank of America held its annual stockholders meeting at the Scottish Rite Auditorium on Wilshire Blvd. in Los Angeles. More than likely, the throngs of stockholders who came expected the typical scene: long-winded reports by Bank executives, discussions of the Bank's general finances and the standard chatter about present and future Bank investments. But the April, 1978 stockholders' meeting was going to turn out a little bit different.

First of all, the Bank of America has for many years been loaning money to the government of South Africa and the state-owned corporations in that country. The same type of loans are being made to the fascist military dictatorship in Chile. What this amounts to is simply that the Bank of America directly supports and maintains the apartheid system in South Africa and facism in Chile.

For years, very few people even thought about questioning the loan policy of the Bank of America. For years, the Bank's Board of Directors sat back and poured millions into the apartheid system. A system which denies Black Africans of even their most basic human rights. But the climate in the United States is changing. At the April 25th stockholders' meeting a proposal was made concerning the Bank's loans to South Africa and Chile.

A group called the Interfaith Committee on Corporate Responsibility offered the proposal speaking in behalf of various religious organizations who own 10,600 shares of Bank of America stock. Part of this proposal against the loans to South Africa follows.

"Whereas the repressive nature of the South African government continues to attract world-wide attention and concern;

"Whereas our bank made loans to that government and its state-owned corporations;

"Whereas such loans serve only to undergird the regime and facilitate the repression of the Black majority;

"Whereas one response has been the call for withdrawal of accounts by the National Council of Churches and the United Auto Workers Union;

"Therefore be it resolved..... that neither the corporation (the bank) or any of its affiliates make any new loans or renew any old loans to the government of South Africa...."

Reasons for Proposal; "In June of 1976, the world was shocked once again by the shooting of unarmed schoolchildren in the streets of Soweto. Events in South Africa since that time have demonstrated that the repression in Soweto is not an aberration, but rather consistent with the viciously enforced policy of apartheid.

The past two years have brought more arrests, bannings and deaths."

The proposal of the Interfaith Comm. speaks for itself. A similiar proposal was made concerning loans to Chile. But the proposal represents much more than a simple request to the Bank's stickholders. It reflects the fast-growing movement against apartheid in this country and throughout the world. And even more importantly against United States corporate support of apartheid. If it wasn't for this movement---the sit-ins, the demonstrations, the boycotts, such a proposal would never have happened. The work of the Interfaith Committee in bringing the anti-apartheid proposal right to the Bank stockholders was a very important action.

The proposal itself was hotly debated at the April 25th meeting. The fact that the Bank of America directly supports the cruelty of apartheid was exposed. That the Bank of America directly shares the responsibility for the shooting of unarmed black children was made clear.

Later, in the evening of the 25th, a representative of the Bank of America debated a representative of the Interfaith Committee on Channel 7 News. Needless to say, the Bank's mouthpiece didn't have a leg to stand on. He evaded the issue of apartheid and did his duty--he placed dollars and cents above human life.

Another element to this dramatic process was a picket line outside of the stockholders meeting. As the proposals on South Africa and Chile were being debated and voted down, 150 noisy and enthusiastic protesters let the Bank of America know that they can no longer cover up their loans to South Africa and Chile.

The organizers of the protest, including the Southern Africa Support Comm., directly supported the Interfaith Committee proposal. Groups backing majority rule in South Africa and democracy in Chile clearly pointed out the Bank of America's role in aiding the dictatorships in those countries. A large group of students from Occidental College made their presence felt by their enthusiasm. Speakers like Joel Glick from Non Intervention in Chile (NICH) and Vincent Perkins from SASC showed how the Bank of America is loaning millions of dollars to dictatorships while American cities are falling apart and unemployment is reaching epidemic levels. Near the end of the protest, a skit was

performed about conditions in South Africa and Chile. It drew many positive responses from people passing by.

All in all, April 25th marks one more solid step against United States corporate backing of South African racism. And that step is being taken by many, many legs.

\$TOP BANKING ON APARTHEID Boycott Bank Of America

For over 30 years the Bank of America has been exploiting the people of South Africa and Chile through its credit policies, which have financed the rape of their national resources, and continued the oppression of the people in other countries as well. The Bank of America has distinguished itself as a world leader in the field of high finance repression. Following the example of the people of South Africa and Chile, the American people are taking a stand and demanding an end to United States involvement in these crimes against humanity. Join us in a show of solidarity with the peoples of Chile and South Africa.

DEMANDS

End all Bank of America loans to South Africa.

End all United States economic, political and military ties with South Africa and other racist regimes.

Boycott Bank of America--Close all Accounts

Withdraw all Deposits!

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.
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

DEL MONTE BOYCOTT

The Southern Africa Support Committee has been leafletting supermarkets in the Los Angeles area. If you would like to get involved, or would like information on the Del Monte Boycott, call (213) 684-1892, or 380-3499

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 information, call (213) 684-1892.

BOOKS AVAILABLE

The Southern Africa Support Committee now has books and posters for sale on the different liberation struggles in Southern Africa. If you're interested, 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. This newsletter needs 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 the Southern Africa Support Committee, P.O. BOX 3453- Pasadena, Calif. 91103.

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!!!

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