

macsa



news

MADISON AREA COMMITTEE ON SOUTHERN AFRICA
731 State Street, Madison, Wisconsin 53703

NUMBERS 42,43,44
September, October, November,
1974

MACSA CALENDAR

- Sunday, Dec. 8 MACSA General Meeting
2:00 p. m., Pres House Basement, 731 State Street
- Sunday, Jan. 12 MACSA General Meeting
2:00 p. m., Pres House Basement
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READERS NOTE: The masthead for this issue shows extended black portions on the fist representing the independence of Guinea-Bissau and the independence settlement for Mozambique. Graphic evidence that progress is being made! Read inside of accounts of the Zimbabwean situation and news from the former Portuguese colonies. We in Macsa hope that in some small way we have been able to help in the ultimate goal of independence and majority rule in Africa. Last year we collected over \$1500 to aid the liberation movements. We want to collect more this year. As you can see, above, there is still plenty to be accomplished.

SOUTH AFRICA AND THE UNITED NATIONS: An Editorial

Over the years, the United Nations has considered a plethora of resolutions, proposed by Third World countries, condemning and seeking to change various aspects of South Africa's racist and genocidal policies. Apart from the regularly evaded arms ban, none have had any effect in changing that country's policies or in mitigating its oppression. In virtually all cases, Great Britain, France, and the United States have either vetoed the proposals outright or have used their influence to emasculate their effectiveness. Calling an end to this nonsense, the General Assembly, on November 12th, voted, over the protest of the United States, to oust South Africa from this session of the world body.

This action has been nearly unanimously ridiculed by the "opinion-makers" of this country. To hear them tell it, the Third World countries, like an undisciplined mob of school children with no respect for authority, much less manners, are subverting the noble ends of the United Nations' Founding Fathers and present trustees. The council of nations, where all can come and reason together to establish "peace for our time and our children's time" is being destroyed by the dogmatic posturing and selfish interests of the immature rabble. Such a portrayal of a legislative body has not been seen since D. W. Griffith's Birth of a Nation.

The truth of the matter, of course, is otherwise. Like the League of Nations before it, the United Nations was set up by and initially dominated by the big powers as a legitimising force for their political and economic exploitation of the Third World. In its name, the United States invaded Korea and the U.N. "peace-keeping" force waged war to protect European property in the Congo. Much-vaunted U.N. development efforts, rather than reparations for centuries of colonial plunder, have bound Third World countries tighter, as debtors, to their former colonial masters.

But the United Nations is changing. With the increasing dominance of the Third World on its councils and a growing awareness of the reality of its dependence-imposed poverty, the world organisation is emerging as a powerful new forum for the oppressed peoples to expose and fight against the powers that have enslaved them so long. While their people starve, others get fat. They have no time for the liberal rhetoric that calls war, peace; dissonance, harmony; and oppression, brotherhood.

One only reasons with the reasonable. South Africa, an international outlaw in contravention of the Genocide Treaty and the World Court, despite the profit-motivated cries of its accomplices, will not be talked into submission. The United Nations has taken the only course possible. By isolating South Africa, its legitimacy has been further eroded and a new weapon has been passed to the hands of the Azanian freedom fighters.

SANCTIONS BUSTING

"Specially imported from America--Beautiful Printed American Cotton Voile" says a sign in the window of a Salisbury department store. Other items advertized are fabrics from Switzerland and shows from Europe--more evidence of the failure of UN sanctions. "The Sting," "The Great Gatsby," and "The Three Musketeers" are playing in the movie houses. The British TV series, "Civilization" was carried on Rhodesian television. Salisbury bookshops carry Solzhenitsyn's book and other books printed in England. Japanese radios and phonographs are available. The three year waiting line for new cars is due not so much to their not being available as to the restrictions on foreign exchange imposed by the government on each importer. (New York Times, August 26, 1974)

ZIMBABWE SHALL BE FREE

by Marylee Wiley

Zimbabwe will be the name of the country now called Rhodesia when that nation achieves independence under majority rule. One often wonders how the 220,000 whites living in the country can maintain control over the lives of nearly six million Africans. A quick look at the history of Zimbabwe will explain this. One Zimbabwean described the take-over by the whites in this manner: "When you came, you had the Bible and we had the land; now we have the Bible and you have the land."

In many ways this is pathetically true. White settlers first came to Rhodesia around 1900. They were gold prospectors and missionaries—the company and the church—each depending on the other to control and "civilize" the native people. Little by little the land was taken away for use by white farmers and white mining concerns, until now the Africans, who form 95% of the population, have only half the land. The English church brought by the missionaries and institutionalized through the efforts of teachers, agricultural workers, evangelizers, and medical personnel provided the moral apologetics for this imperialism. Rhodes himself, the wealthy Englishman after whom Rhodesia takes its name, once remarked that missionaries were better than policemen, and cheaper! Ironically, many of the early protests of Africans against their poor living conditions were inspired by the expectations that the white minority should "practice what they preach." But these protests were met by the whites with the even firmer conviction that Rhodesia was their country and that they would do anything necessary to preserve the high standard of living that they enjoy.

The white minority clings so tenaciously to its privileges because many of its members emigrated to Rhodesia from countries where they occupied the lower social classes. Most of the white Rhodesian population has arrived in only the last twenty years, and for many of them, the "good life" -- a big house, servants, white schools and clubs, and holidays in nearby seaside resorts-- has at last been realized. The white minority has reserved for itself, under the Land Apportionment Act, almost all the areas which are rich in crops and minerals. White farmers grow large acreages of corn and tobacco and the mining of chrome, asbestos, gold, coal, iron ore, and copper has produced great wealth for those who own it.

Living conditions for most Africans are, by contrast, very poor. A white Rhodesian official estimates that 70% of all employed urban Africans (excluding the thousands who are unemployed) are being paid wages below the bread line. Malnutrition and infant mortality among Africans are widespread. Many are living in unproductive reserved rural areas lacking adequate water supply, electrical power, health services, or schools. The total number of Africans completing upper secondary school from 1928-1964 was 94. The chances of an African child entering the university are 1 in 6000; for white children the chances are 1 in 125. Non-Africans comprise 12.5% of the labor force but receive 58.7% of the earnings. The average annual per capita wage for Africans is \$41; for Europeans it is over \$1134, and the gap between white and black wages is growing every year.

Segregation by race is enforced by law in public places, residential areas, schools, and nearly all areas of social intercourse. Regulations restricting the rights of movement of African people are being increased in the 1970's. Pass laws, similar to the hated pass books used in South Africa under the apartheid system, are being proposed. All African nationalist political parties have been banned and the leaders have been imprisoned or restricted to rural areas. Most Africans cannot qualify for the voting franchise because they do not earn enough money, own enough property, or have a high enough education.

The present white Prime Minister, Ian Smith, has promised his white constituents that Rhodesia will remain a white-ruled country. White domination is enforced by strong military and police forces which maintain tight control over the urban populace. African urban areas are surrounded by fences, electrical and water supplies are controlled by outside access, roads entering the areas are policed and blocked-off during disturbances, and a network of informers is maintained, highly paid by the government authorities.

In 1965, the white government illegally declared its independence from Britain. This government has not been officially recognized by any other nation in the world, including friendly South Africa. Shortly after "independence," the United Nations passed a sanctions resolution against Rhodesia, prohibiting imports or exports of Rhodesian goods by member nations. South African and until recently Portugal have violated these sanctions by shipping out Rhodesian products, re-labeling them, and selling them on the world market. In 1971, the U.S. Congress passed the Byrd Amendment which allowed the importation of Rhodesian chrome into this country. This bill was in direct violation of the United Nations sanctions and was the first incidence of this country openly contravening a resolution which it had supported in the General Assembly. The Byrd Amendment has been reversed by the Senate during this session, and the House will consider it in the next session. A strong lobby, the Friends of Rhodesia, is working in this country to maintain the Byrd Amendment and to strengthen support for the white government in Salisbury.

In a determination to free their nation from minority rule, the African people of Zimbabwe have been engaged in open warfare for the past two years, concentrating their guerilla activities in the northeastern areas of the country. The movement has extensive support among the village people in the rural areas. The white government is consequently facing increasing difficulties. It has taken repressive action, including the slaughtering of cattle, burning of homes, and murdering of those who refuse to divulge information; all in an effort to force the people to cease their support for the guerillas. The liberation forces have modern weapons, including surface-to-air missiles, and now have effective control of over one fourth of the land. The newly independent Mozambique to the East will help immensely in the struggle to liberate Zimbabwe as another 900 miles of frontier will be open to penetration by the liberation forces. White Rhodesia had depended on Mozambique ports for import and export of goods made possible by the friendly support from the former Portuguese regime. Now, with coming independence, this illegal trade will be stopped. This will force Rhodesia to export all of her goods through South Africa to the South. South Africa is cooling its support for the white regime in Salisbury as it sees the futility of trying to maintain a white buffer state between herself and the black north.

Events will be moving very swiftly in Zimbabwe for the next few months. The African liberation movements have gained support and hope from the successes of the military struggles against Portuguese colonialism. The white Rhodesian regime is finding it more and more difficult to recruit for its army. Its foreign exchange coffers are very low. Many whites are leaving for South Africa or elsewhere. The "Settler Campaign," an effort to attract white settlers in 1974, is failing miserably. One could predict that this land-locked country, soon to be surrounded by black governments, will not survive to celebrate its tenth "birthday."

ZIMBABWE SHALL BE FREE!

THE PORTUGUESE COUP AND THE AFRICAN WARS: Part III
by John Hunter

The Leftist drift in Portugal has continued, and with it has come solid progress towards independence in the Portuguese colonies. As has been reported in past issues, the strains put on the Portuguese economy and social structure, which strains resulted in the April 26th coup, made some sort of independence settlement inevitable. What was in question, however, was the immediate, short-run form that the settlements would take. With the ever-increasing influence of the Portuguese Left within the Armed Forces Movement, the Provisional Government, and the society at large, it is becoming increasingly likely that the Portuguese are going to settle in terms favourable to the liberation movements.

Concrete evidence of this was presented when on August 26th PAIGC and Portugal signed an agreement ending Portuguese domination of Guinea-Bissau. The treaty officially took effect on September 10. All Portuguese troops were to be withdrawn by October 31st. In fact, they departed over two weeks earlier. Although the true Independence Day is September 24th (The day in 1973 when the Guineans declared their independence) this treaty had great significance. As Renee Blakken notes in the Guardian (Sept. 4, 1974), "One of the tiniest, poorest, and most underdeveloped countries in Africa had brought a European colonial power to its knees. A population of about 500,000 Africans had defeated a country of some 9 million inhabitants." The Cape Verde Islands were not included in the agreement, however. Kissinger is reported to have told the Portuguese Government that the U.S. did not object to independence for Guinea-Bissau, but couldn't agree to independence for the Cape Verdeans or federation with the mainland. Standing as they do in the sea lanes around Africa, the islands are considered vital for Western "security". The political posture of the future Portuguese Government will no doubt be crucial in deciding whether American wishes are acceded to. The Christian Science Monitor of Nov. 18, 1974 reported that "a provisional government will be formed shortly on the Portuguese Cape Verde Islands and will include members of the African Liberation Movement which recently won independence for Guinea-Bissau." They reported that top PAIGC negotiator, Maj. Pedro Pires, has been having talks on the island's future with Portuguese leaders. The PAIGC want the provisional government to consist only of Portuguese and PAIGC representatives, but the Portuguese side wants other political groups on the island opposed to the PAIGC included.

MOZAMBIQUE

Following on the heels of the Guineean accord was the signing on September 7th of a pact to transfer power in Mozambique to FRELIMO in two stages. Initially, Portugal and FRELIMO will share power in a transitional government. Then on June 25th of next year (The 13th anniversary of the founding of FRELIMO), full independence will come under a FRELIMO-led government. In the transitional stage, Portugal will retain responsibility for foreign affairs and external defense. Internally, a joint military command has been established. Of the remaining nine ministries, six plus the premiership are FRELIMO controlled, and three are under Lisbon's aegis.

Although the independence agreement was greeted with overwhelming approval by all racial groups in Mozambique, there have been some racial clashes. These were sparked by those intrasigent whites unwilling to accept a new order in which their former privi-

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THE PORTUGUESE COUP cont'd

leges and position of dominance would be ended. Many of these have now emigrated to South Africa or elsewhere.

FRELIMO has meanwhile been busy extending its influence in the southern part of the country and assuring non-African groups that they are welcome to stay so long as they are willing to help build, with Africans, a progressive state not based on racial privilege. The actual policies of the transitional government are not yet clear. For the time being, FRELIMO president Samora Machel is concentrating on political work, while Joaquim Chissano heads the new government.

ANGOLA

Decolonization has proven to be more of a stumbling-block in Angola than in the other two territories. Not only is this the richest of the colonies, with immense wealth in oil, iron, and diamonds, but it also has a relatively large white settler population. Further, it has been the only colony without a unified liberation force. The two main groups, FNLA under the leadership of Holden Roberto, and NPLA with Agostinho Neto as President have both agreed to cease-fires with the Portuguese and are actively campaigning within the country. Both groups are reported to have agreed to enter a coalition independence government. The Portuguese have been bargaining for separate white representation as well. Neither group is willing to accept this. As FNLA UN representative Mangali Tula says: "let them [the settlers] join the liberation movement of their choice." All the movements have white members and if the settlers want to be considered as Angolans, they should join with the liberation forces. Currently, many whites have joined various racist gangs with the aim of sabotaging any transition to independence.

One recent revelation has proven interesting. After the April coup, the PIDE (secret police) headquarters were searched and it was found that UNITA (the third liberation force) president Jonas Savimbi had been on the Portuguese army payroll at least since 1972.

The decolonization ball is in Portugal's court now. The liberation forces have vowed to pick up guns again, if necessary. The recent purge of some rightist elements in the Portuguese Provisional Government (most importantly, the resignation of interim president Spínola) and the increasing strength of the Left seems to reinforce the often-stated intentions of the junta to speedily decolonize. These events also make an eventual neo-colonial solution in Angola somewhat less likely.

Unlike the earlier decolonizations in Africa, these recent moves have been spurred by revolutionary forces committed to a socialist transformation of their own societies and to an end to the neo-colonial relations which characterize so much of the Third World. They are also committed to an end to the remaining white minority regimes in Africa. Independence in Mozambique and projected freedom for Angola will be a big boost for the liberation movements in the remaining territories to be freed. In a September 20th message, Machel stated that Mozambique will become "a revolutionary base against imperialism and capitalist colonialism in Africa."

Mozambique, bordering on both South Africa and Rhodesia can serve as a staging area for the liberation forces. In an interview with Wilfred Burchett of the Guardian, David Silicke of the Pan-Africanist Congress implied that Azanian freedom fighters would appreciate any help they could get, "But we understand the great

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difficulties that FRELIMO will have for the reconstruction of the country and that is why we stress that the liberation of our own country must be achieved from within. However, the psychological impact of the victory in Mozambique and Samora Machel's pledge to eliminate racism is a great morale booster for our freedom fighters and for all progressive people in South Africa."

South African and Rhodesian leaders know the significance of Mozambiquean liberation, as well. From the Liberation News Service comes the report that "The South African military leaders consider the independence of Angola and Mozambique a serious threat to continued white supremacy in Southern Africa." In response, they have placed the armed forces on permanent alert. The commander of the South African defense forces, Adm. Hugo J. Bierman, has been reported to have been in Washington recently to negotiate for more military supplies. As Sibeko says, "The enemy is not going to give up without a tough fight and we expect the most sinister forms of foreign intervention. Rhodesia and South Africa, however, are under no illusion but that the forces of liberation are closing in on them."

What sorts of foreign intervention that might be launched can only be guessed at. Newsweek has reported that mercenaries, notorious from the early '60s in the Congo, have been organizing for possible action in Mozambique or Angola. Further clues have been gained from recent newspaper reports of CIA activities. In Chile, the CIA, in league with U.S. based multinational corporations and the AFL-CIO, was instrumental in fomenting unrest and in promoting the opposition to the constitutionally elected government of Salvador Allende. The coup of September 1973, like the coups in Guatemala and Iran, to name only two of many, as well as the U.S. invasions of Lebanon and the Dominican Republic against equally constitutional governments, can be laid directly at the door of the policy-makers in Washington.

It is well-known that the U.S. bears a particular antipathy to nations attempting to free themselves from neo-colonial and imperialist dominance. It is common knowledge that the CIA is extremely active in Southern Africa, and that the U.S. considers this area vital to its "security". Added to this are the billions that Western corporations have invested and the high profits that they extract from virtual slave labour.

Gil Fernandez, the Guinea-Bissau representative to the United Nations, has expressed fears of CIA-multinational corporation intervention against the new Guinean Government. In an interview in the Guardian (October 16, 1974) he claimed that in August a boatload of mercenaries had attempted a landing in Guinea-Bissau and then almost simultaneously, "a fantastic amount of money appeared all of a sudden circulating in the capital." Although he had, as yet, no conclusive proof as to the source, the purpose was plainly "to create inflation and to finance an opposition." Those who followed the pre-coup events in Chile will recall a similar maneuver, attributed to the CIA, in connection with the crippling trucker's strike.

Political awareness and organizing on the part of people in the Western nations in continuing support for the liberation movements, as well as the action of the freedom fighters themselves, is necessary if these imperialist schemes are to be blunted and turned back. Financial support is also necessary. Aid may be channeled through MACSA, 731 State Street, Madison, Wisconsin 53703. In the words of the African revolutionists:

"A PEOPLE UNITED CAN NEVER BE DEFEATED!"

ACTION AND REACTION: THE GUERRILLA STRUGGLE

[Ed. note: older information on the Zimbabwean struggle is to be found on the last three pages of this issue]

Guerrilla activity in the northwest have been intensifying the last month. Two South Africans serving in Rhodesia have been killed and three members of the Rhodesian security forces have been injured. The Rhodesian government has made a formal protest to the Zambian Government about the guerrillas crossing over the western border. Rhodesia claims that armed Zambians have fired on South African police boats in Rhodesian waters of the Zambesi River. (Guardian, London, Oct. 7, & 8, 1974; Evening Standard, Oct. 7, 1974)

The coming rainy season will provide cover for a new offensive in the northeast, center of the hottest fighting. A white district officer and his African assistant were killed by a landmine which exploded in the Chiweshe reserve. Four enemy soldiers were killed by freedom fighters in the area in early October. Rhodesia claims 15 guerrillas were killed during the same period. ZANU reports increased activity in Mb. Darwin, Rusambo, Gwangwana, Bindura, Shanyu Mrewn, Centenary, Mazoe, Sipolilo and Umvukwesi districts where enemy troops, vehicles, aircraft, farm buildings, and command posts have been destroyed. (Star Johannesburg, Oct. 5, 1974, Daily Nation, Dar Es Salaam, Oct. 4, 1974; Africa News, Durham, Oct. 3, 1974, and Zimbabwe News, Lusaka, Sept. 1974).

The weaponry and training that went into FRELIMO's struggle for freedom will soon be at the disposal of ZANU. New anti-aircraft techniques and heat-seeking missiles will aid ZANU greatly in the battles against Rhodesian aircraft. One Portuguese major in Mozambique said "By next spring, ZANU will be able to lob bazooka shells into the High Street in Umtali from the safety of Mozambique if they want to....Rhodesia cannot afford hot pursuit against a country that carries so much of their trade to the sea. Even if they could afford it economically, are they really going to risk provoking FRELIMO?" (Guardian, London, Oct. 4, 1974)

Smith said it would be suicide for FRELIMO to close their ports to Rhodesian goods. South Africa provides 99 percent of the trade through Lourenço Marques, and Rhodesia provides 80 percent of the Beira trade. Smith said the color of the neighboring government was of no concern to Rhodesia. "We hope they're going to be sane and responsible, that's the crux of the matter." (Rand Daily Mail, Jo-burg, Aug. 3, 1974.)

The Zimbabwe National Union headquarters in Lusaka were destroyed by a blast on October 1. Three rooms of the Liberation Center, which houses the offices of all liberation movements in Lusaka, were wrecked. It may have been caused by a time bomb which was meant to go off when people were present. No one was injured by the blast or fire which followed.. ZANU records and office equipment were destroyed. Eight months ago a bomb exploded in the South African National Congress offices in the Center, killing John Dube. ZANU officials said the treacherous act was a result of the Smith government's offer to pay people to sabotage liberation movement efforts and eliminate nationalist leaders. (BBC broadcast "Focus", Oct. 5, 1974; Guardian, London, Oct. 2, 1974; Washington Post, Oct. 2, 1974; Star, Jo-burg, October 5, 1974).

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Three men, reported to be Rhodesian police, have kidnapped Edson Dube, an official of the Zimbabwe African People's Union, who was in an apartment in Francistown, Botswana. Dube is believed to have been recruiting fighters from among the Rhodesian refugees there. He was taken by force to a car, and driven to Rhodesia. On the same day, BBC radio reported the arrest in Rhodesia of twenty officials of the African National Council. All of these men were living in the area across from Francistown when Dube was kidnapped. Some sources say the Rhodesian government believed it had found a ZAPU ring and hoped to break it up. (Africa News, Durham, Oct. 21, 1974).

Other desperate moves by Smith's government add to the proof that the forces for liberation are on the offensive. The major African newspaper, Moto, was banned by the Rhodesian minister of justice who said the paper was too antagonistic against the government. The paper was published by the Catholic Church offices. It had a circulation of 25,000, in English and vernacular editions. (Guardian, London, Sept. 27, 28, 1974, Star, Jo-burg, Sept. 28, 1974).

The Smith government has begun jamming radio broadcasts from Zambia in an effort to stop communication between the liberation movement based in Lusaka and the people of Rhodesia. (Daily World, Oct. 23, 1974; Africa News, Durham, October 10, 1974).

Discontent is spreading within Rhodesia. Zimbabwe Review, the organ of ZAPU reports student unrest in schools, culminating in a demonstration at Goromonzi Secondary School in early July. Riot police were called to quell the disturbance. Zimbabwean students expelled from the university for demonstrating against racial discrimination have arrived in England to continue their studies. Voluntary agencies, Ministry of Overseas Development and the Commonwealth Secretariat sponsored their move. (Guardian, London, Oct. 4, 1974).

Mass removals of people in the northeast continue in an effort to create a highly regulated "no go" zone. Removals within Chiweshe Reserve were completed recently, and more removals within the Madziwa tribal trust area are under way. A security spokesman said if the people do not move voluntarily by the end of October, they will be moved forcibly. This is a futile Vietnam-type effort to keep the villagers from aiding the guerrillas. (Christian Science Monitor, Boston, Sept. 19, 1974.)

Rhodesia takes Hardline

With an income tax increase of 10 percent imposed only shortly after the "election" which Smith dominated, with severe drains on foreign exchange, and with recent statements by FRELIMO that they would honor UN sanctions against Rhodesian trade, white Rhodesians are no longer asking how long they can survive, but if they can survive. The rail link to South Africa does not promise to meet current needs, especially with the possibility of increased loads from the Botswana line if Botswana does indeed take-over control of that portion of the Rhodesian Railways in her land. A second rail link direct to South Africa is being discussed.

While South Africa is talking of pulling back support from Rhodesia, and urging a settlement, Smith has taken a hard line, saying that he will not give priority to a settlement if African leaders continue to boycott his constitutional conference. The ANC has refused to attend, and other black organizations which had

ROCKEFELLER HOLDINGS IN RHODESIA

The following news item comes from The Guardian (New York), October 16, 1974:

"The Rockefeller family is well known for its wealth, but few people realize they are the largest chicken farmers in Rhodesia. This intriguing fact was reported by the Rhodesian Sunday Mail recently, which called it 'one of the best-kept secrets for many years.'

Not surprisingly, the ownership is not direct, but is part of the maze of family holdings which reach into almost every industry and every country in the world. The company involved is the International Basic Economy Corporation (IBEC), founded by Nelson Rockefeller in 1947. Its stated purpose is to aid national growth in developing nations.

IBEC owns a giant supermarket chain and housing corporations which operate in several Latin American nations. In Africa, its activities are centered in poultry production--IBEC owns the largest chicken concern in the world.

The investment in Rhodesia was apparently made after that British colony's white government seized power to avoid sharing control with the black majority. But the purchase was made prior to the establishment of international sanctions against the Rhodesian regime in 1966.

An IBEC spokesperson in New York told Africa News that the Rhodesian subsidiary operates independently and that IBEC is not violating the UN sanctions. But the Sunday Mail account reads differently.

The general manager of Arbor Acres of Rhodesia--the IBEC-owned firm--is said to be director of IBEC investments throughout the region, including chicken farms in Angola, Mozambique and Zambia. Last month, he came to the U. S. where he held talks with IBEC president Rodman Rockefeller, who succeeded his father Nelson several years ago. The vice presidential nominee's wife and children own about half the shares of IBEC. (Africa News)

AMERICAN MERCENARIES BEING RECRUITED

Robert K. Brown, a mercenary recruiter just back from a visit with American mercenaries in Rhodesia is trying to recruit Americans for service in the Sultan of Oman's army. He envisages a resurgence in the mercenary trade for Americans in the coming years. In an interview reported in the Capital Times (Madison), November 5, 1974 he said:

"Opportunities for American mercs should be picking up dramatically within the next six months--and the most promising area is Africa.

He said American freelancers had been effectively excluded from the Congo and other small African wars in the past because of CIA influence.

"As far as our government was concerned, if there was any adventuring to be done, it would be done by the CIA alone," he said.

But he believes that recent congressional criticism now will cause the CIA to lie low, and the market for American mercenaries will improve. Besides Rhodesia, which already has some Americans, Brown is betting on Mozambique and Angola.

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[Ed. note: The following is the text of a speech given at the Independence Day Celebrations for Guinea-Bissau at U.W. Madison, Sept. 24, 1974 by a spokesman for the Eritreans for Liberation in North America, Wisc. chapter]

The history of the African people since the 16th century has been one of European colonialism, oppression, and plunder attended by the enslavement and degradation of the African. This historic injustice still persists, for everywhere in Africa today, the African continues to die a premature death inflicted by violence: the violence of napalm or that of the machine gun, the violence of untreated diseases or that of hunger -- in other words the violence of brute force or the violence of crude exploitation. We see, throughout the "third world" hundreds of thousands of innocent victims whose only crime is the pursuit of a life of liberty and freedom, being tortured behind prison bars, disposed of by firing squads, or bombed and napalmed en masse. Thus the choice of armed struggle or the choice of revolutionary violence is thrust into the colonized and neo-colonized peoples as the only imperative for collective survival, liberation and freedom.

It is within this context that we have to take the African liberation movements. To-day we find two kinds of national liberation movements in Africa. While the people in the politically independent nations are fighting for their economic and social liberation, the peoples in the colonies are combining two fights and are waging a struggle not only to liberate the land, but also the man, not only to throw away the colonizer and his system and save the man and the country, but also to create a new man and build a new society.

On this occasion, we would like to deal with the African peoples who have raised arms to dispel direct colonial rule. However this does not mean that we are less concerned with the liberation movements in the politically independent African countries who are persistently fighting against imperialism, new colonialism, and internal reaction.

Today in Africa, we find over 50 million people in Angola, Azania, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Eritrea, Namibia, Spanish Sahara, the Canaries, French colony of Afar and Issas and Comoros Islands, still living under the yoke of direct colonialism. The peoples in these areas have been waging armed struggle through their vanguards FRELIMO in Mozambique, ANC and PAC in Azania, SWAPO and SWANU in Namibia, ZANU and ZAPU in Zimbabwe, ELF-ELF in Eritrea, MPLA in Angola.

The imperialists, on the other hand, are trying every means to undermine and block the heroic struggle of the African peoples. They have used the colonial settler states of Israel, Portugal and the white racist regime of South Africa to perpetuate their colonial interest in Africa. Also, ironically, they have used black African governments to colonize other African countries. One that immediately comes to mind is Ethiopia, a neo-colony and semi-feudal country itself, colonizes the peoples of Eritrea.

Israel, a gendarme nation, is one of the countries used by U.S. imperialism for its bridgehead policies in Africa. This pro-imperialist Zionist settler-state, not only does it oppress and is the cause of untold miseries of our Palestinian brothers and sisters, but it actively participates in exploiting the African peoples. Perhaps Israel's most direct role in aiding the suppression of the African

liberation movements now engaged in armed struggle is the close military and economic co-operation that it has with the apartheid regime of South Africa. Also, this same Zionist settler-state, under the guise of "economic and military aid", trains the Ethiopian mercenary army and police in counter-guerrilla tactics, intelligence operations and in all the horrors of torture, in an attempt to crush the heroic struggle of the Eritrean peoples on the one hand, and in an attempt to undermine and suppress every progressive element within Ethiopia.

The main feature of African liberation movements today is a struggle not only to achieve political independence but at the same time to smash the old order of feudal and pre-capitalist structure and create a social order where no man is oppressed and exploited by any other man. This is clearly seen in the liberated areas of Mozambique, Angola and Guinea-Bissau, where colonial production destined for colonial economy is being replaced by production which provides nourishment for the people. Agricultural production has surpassed the levels of production of colonial times despite the war, bombing and defoliation. National schools, health services, peoples shops for commerce and agriculture are in full operation. These developments and the revolutionary democratic essence of the emerging social systems in these areas leave the colonialists and imperialists no illusion that they will ever manage to retain a neo-colonialist hold in Africa.

Friends! Today we celebrate the first anniversary of independence of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau, the heroic struggle and victory of Guinea-Bissau reaffirms once again the historic truth that "Political power grows out of the barrel of a gun." Following the example of Guinea-Bissau and persisting in armed struggle, the African people are bound to win.

VICTORY TO THE AFRICAN REVOLUTION!

VICTORY TO THE WORLD REVOLUTION!

ACTION AND REACTION IN ZIMBABWE (cont'd)

shown interest initially have now decided not to participate (Guardian, London, October 3, 1974, Times, London, Sept. 12, 21, 1974) In London, Zambia's Foreign Minister, Vernon Mwaanga called on Britain to convene a constitutional conference to work out a method of transferring power to an African majority government. (Daily Nation, Dar Es Salaam, Oct. 4, 1974.

Added to the transportation and defense problem, Rhodesia has an alarming rate of unemployment among Africans. Dr. John Hanks, of the University of Rhodesia, said that Rhodesia's annual rise in GNP is one of the lowest in the world. Zambia has an annual growth per head of 7.1 percent. Rhodesia's is 0.4 percent. Dr. Hanks addressed the Rhodesian Chambers of Commerce and predicted that Rhodesia would be "swamped by poverty and social discontent" if jobs were not found. The birth rate is far higher than increased job opportunities; while 42,000 jobs were created in 1973, the African population increased by 215,000. He said the Tribal Trust Lands are satisfied and cannot absorb any more subsistence dwellers. (Rhodesia Herald, May 9, 11, 1974 in X ray, London, October 1974.)

Bubonic plague has been reported in the northwest, near the Wankie National Park. Three are known dead, plus two Namibians employed in nearby migrant labor camps. (Africa News, Oct. 14, 1974.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH: Star Jo-burg editorial Oct. 16, 1974:

"Economically she (Rhodesia) is largely a burden & politically we have plenty of our own crosses to bear without that embarrassing bit of surplus baggage to the North" Is this window-dressing or for real?

GUERRILLAS STRENGTHEN POSITION

The Zimbabwe African National Union's liberation Army is strengthening its forces in the struggle against the white Rhodesian regime. The Rhodesian Front continues its removals of people in the Chiweshe Reserve, north of Salisbury, in the attempt to stop villagers aiding the guerrilla effort. (see Southern Africa) The war zone continues to be a hot spot for civilians and soldiers alike. A running battle of several hours was reported on August 16. Rhodesian helicopters dropped forces into the area and light strike planes were used to rout guerrillas. Surface to Air Missiles have been used by the liberation army, and four Rhodesian planes were downed in July. Several African-owned vehicles and a Rhodesian Railways truck were damaged by landmines, and two African teachers were killed when their vehicle struck a landmine. Two teenage white Rhodesian soldiers were killed by a landmine, and one African was killed when his jeep detonated another landmine. (Star, Johannesburg, July 18, August 17, & 24, 1974; Africa, September, 1974).

Five Africans were each sentenced to 25 years imprisonment for allegedly recruiting four men for guerrilla training. Permission to appeal was denied. (Guardian, London, August 15, 1974). The men were allegedly recruiting in the men's hostels in Salisbury; the first known case of overt guerrilla activity in this housing for men employed in the urban area.

The Rhodesian Front has increased its defense budget for 1974. Increased spending for salaries, wages, and allowances in defense-related ministries were reported by John Wrathall, minister of finance. The Star calculates the defense figure at about US \$180 million, or about 20 percent of total government spending. This figure includes hidden appropriations relating to security. Within the defense budget, the biggest increase outside wages and salaries, were made to the airforce. The protected village scheme has nearly \$3 million, and border security nearly \$8 million. (Guardian, London, Aug. 22, 1974; Star, Johannesburg, August 24, 1974).

Zimbabwe News, the official organ of the Zimbabwe African National Union, reports that more than 200 people have died of malaria in the Chiredzi concentration camp in the northeast. Thousands of Africans are being moved from their homes and land because they are allegedly harboring guerrillas. Forced labor is being used to clear the bush for roads and bridges for the Rhodesian Front forces. (Tanzania Daily Nation, Dar Es Salaam, August 21, 1974).

SETTLEMENT RUMORS

James Callaghan, British Foreign Secretary, believes that a new British initiative on Rhodesia could co-incide with Mozambique's independence (in June) which will create new economic problems for Rhodesia. FRELIMO has stated that it will, as the new government of Mozambique, apply UN sanctions against Rhodesia. This means the closing of the ports of Beira and Lorenzo Marques to Rhodesian goods, the lifelines Rhodesia has enjoyed since UDI in 1965. (Financial Times, London, August 12, 1974).

In the meantime, Rhodesia is eager to reach a settlement with Britain, according to Clifford Dupont, president of Rhodesia. He said his government will "renew their endeavours" for a settlement "with the same patience and forbearance which they have shown in the past". He warned that there would be no lowering of standards, nor
(cont'd on next page)

SETTLEMENT RUMORS, cont'd

departure from the principle of "responsible rule." Dupont commented on the supply routes problem and the new rail link to South Africa. This link has just been completed, nearly two years ahead of schedule. Ironically, it was opposed in the 1920s on the basis that it would create too much dependence of Rhodesia on South Africa. South Africa has warned, however, that she cannot assist Rhodesia with transport to the degree needed because her own harbor facilities and transportation system are already over-extended. (Guardian, London, August 28, 1974; Star, Johannesburg, August 24, Sept. 15, 1974; and New York Times, Sept. 15, 1974).

An organization called Southern African Civilization Association has been formed in Rhodesia, with support from the Afrikaans newspaper Die Rhodesier, advocating union of Rhodesia with South Africa. However, Smith is undergoing pressure from South Africa to reach a settlement with the Africans, and South African support for the Rhodesian cause is slipping away. Ian Smith warned that South Africa could not save herself by sacrificing Rhodesia to black forces from the north. He said, "You are next on the list." Smith said he would not make concessions or take up a policy of appeasement. The recent election, he said, showed that the voters support his stand. (Guardian, London, August 26, 1974; Africa, Sept. 1974).

Mr. A. Grobbelaar, general secretary of the Trades Union Council of South Africa, addressed the Rhodesian Trade unionists and underlined the growing change of opinion in South Africa. He said "The open question being asked in South Africa is whether a much stricter policy of neutrality, as distinct from a policy of identification, would not be more in South Africa's interests" [regarding Rhodesia] "I think it is realistic to realise that while your country has until now acted as a buffer zone in blunting terrorist incursions from Black Africa, your importance to South Africa for that purpose has now declined." (Guardian, London, Sept. 2, 1974).

ECONOMICS

Fifty tons of weedkiller destined for an importer in Rhodesia were locked out of a Danish freighter under charter to South African Lines. The action followed an investigation by the Rotterdam Economic Control Service. (Star, Johannesburg, Sept. 7, 1974)

Rhodesia's agricultural output is up 25 percent in value from last year; faster growth is expected in retail trading. Increases in public sector building and African housing will offset the downturn in European residential building. The sugar industry will earn millions in foreign currency because the London spot price of sugar has risen from about \$35 to \$850 per metric ton in seven years. Gross domestic product growth could top 15 percent this year, compared to ten percent last year. Given inflation, the real growth rate will exceed ten percent this year, compared to over six in 1973. (Standard Bank Review, August, 1974)

CHURCHMEN CHARGE BRUTALITY

Anglican, Roman Catholic, and British Methodist church leaders in Rhodesia have compiled a dossier of ten documented cases of alleged brutality against African civilians by Rhodesian security forces. The dossier includes cases of prolonged and brutal torture of innocent people. (see Southern Africa for detailed case). The ministry of law and order said that three of the cases were already
(cont'd on next page)

CHURCHMEN CHARGE BRUTALITY cont'd

investigated, and that the allegations could not be sustained. Lardner Burke, head of the ministry, said the churchmen were conspiring to "embarass the Government and the security forces....without having to prove any given situation beyond reasonable doubt." The church leaders may face prosecution. (Star, Jo-burg, Sept.7,1974)

The government said the churchmen should have made their case known privately, not through the press. In reply, the leaders said they had spoken with Smith himself, and after 18 months, learned that he accepted the decision of Lardner Burke that the evidence did not warrant judicial action. (Guardian, London, Aug. 31, 1974; Le Monde, Aug. 24, 1974; Times, London, Aug. 24, 1974; Times of Zambia, Lusaka, Aug. 23, 1974; Star, Jo-burg, Aug. 24, 1974.)

* * *

Further implications of Rhodesian troops in assaults on civilians is cntained in a sworn affidavit by a Rhodesian medical doctor, now in Britain, disclosing details of a massacre of 13 African women and children by Rhodesian Security Forces operating in Mozambique. His testimony will be sent to the Roman Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace. The doctor served as a medical officer with the Rhodesian light Infantry during his six-month call-up period of duty. The massacre of which he has first hand knowledge took place in Mozambique during a ten day military operation in August-September, 1971. Rhodesia denies any military operations in Mozambique, except for "hot pursuits." (Guardian, London, Aug. 31, 1974)

(M.W)

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AMERICAN MERCENARIES RECRUITED, cont.

"Thanks to the war in Vietnam, the largest number of unemployed, combat-trained soldiers in the world is in the United States today," Brown said. "That's where I foresee most of the new mercenaries coming from." (Newspaper Enterprise Association)

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