

# EPISCOPAL CHURCHMEN for SOUTH AFRICA

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**—For A Free Southern Africa—**

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## THE PLUNDER OF NAMIBIA'S NATURAL RESOURCES

The lawful authority over the International Territory of Namibia is the United Nations. The Council for Namibia is that UN body set up to govern the affairs of the Territory until it achieves independence. The UN administrative officer for the Territory is the Commissioner for Namibia, the incumbent is Martti Ahtisaari. However, South Africa continues its illegal and defiant occupation of Namibia. In 1974 when Sean MacBride was Commissioner for Namibia the Council for Namibia adopted and the UN General Assembly approved a lawful proclamation: Decree No. 1 - For the Protection of the Natural Resources of Namibia.

Namibia is enormously wealthy in natural resources - diamonds, uranium, base metals, semi-precious stones, karakul lamb furs, fish from its waters. The minerals are of particular value for the operations of the sophisticated technological societies of the West. Namibia is for South Africa not only a crucial part of its envisioned Southern Africa empire, but a source of huge profits. Multi-national corporations of the Western nations are heavily invested in and extract their own profits from the International Territory. Outstanding are firms based in the five Western powers - the USA, Britain, France, West Germany and Canada, who are at present engaged in 'delicate negotiations' with Pretoria and the Namibian independence movement, SWAPO, over the future of the country. Signal among the American companies are AMAX and Newmont Mining Corporation who together control Tsumeb Corporation, the Territory's largest producer of copper, zinc and lead. All these multi-national corporations - including those registered in South Africa - conduct their operations by permission of and license from the Pretoria regime or its illegal South West Africa administration. Decree No. 1 affirms that all such activity is unlawful. Mining, export and distribution of 'any natural resource, whether animal or mineral' of Namibia are unauthorized without 'the consent and permission' of the Council for Namibia. Vessels or vehicles found to be carrying such products are 'subject to seizure and forfeiture'.

The world's largest uranium mine is in Namibia. Rossing Uranium Ltd is operated by Rio Tinto Zinc Corporation Ltd, of London. South African and French companies have an interest in Rossing. Namibian uranium products - in the semi-refined form known as 'yellowcake' - are regularly flown from Namibia to Paris by the French airline UTA. The yellowcake is then transported to Holland where it is enriched, and then sent on to England to fulfil a 1970 contract with the British Atomic Energy Authority calling for 7,500 tons per annum.

The plunder of Namibia's natural resources goes on and on. When will it be stopped?

*RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE 27TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE WORLD FEDERATION OF UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATIONS, held in Barcelona 13 October 1979*

*THE TWENTY-SEVENTH PLENARY ASSEMBLY OF WFUNA*

- 1. IS GRAVELY CONCERNED at the lack of progress being made in providing for the liberation of Namibia.*
- 2. CALLS UPON the appropriate organs of the United Nations to resume the direct control of all negotiations about Namibia with South Africa;*
- 3. FURTHER CALLS UPON the United Nations to take all appropriate measures, and in particular to apply Decree No. 1 of the United Nations, to ensure that effect be given to the decisions of the United Nations in regard to Namibia, and to guarantee the territorial integrity of Namibia.*

## NUCLEAR NEWS: SOUTH AFRICA and that TWIN FLASH

On 22 September a US Vela satellite detected a distinctive twin flash - the signature of a nuclear explosion - somewhere in the South Atlantic-Indian Oceans area between the continents of Africa and Antarctica. This information was leaked in late October and world attention was once again focussed on South Africa as a member of the club of nuclear powers. The USA sent out planes to scoop the atmosphere and pled it could not confirm an explosion. New Zealand scientists at first noted an increase in fallout, then professed uncertainty. The South Africans blustered and laughed and pointed at the Russians. It is worth repeating what British research writer Barbara Rogers said in a 1975 study called NAMIBIA'S URANIUM: IMPLICATIONS FOR THE SOUTH AFRICAN OCCUPATION REGIME:

'In 1967 Martin Walker, a British journalist working for the well-connected Afrikaner publisher Otto Krause, discovered that Douglas Torr, a nuclear scientist straight from the British nuclear research establishment at Harwell, was working on a joint project of the South African Government's Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and the University of the Witwatersrand, ostensibly on meteorological research on the Southern African Anomaly. This is a point between South Africa, South Australia and Antarctica where the radiation belts surrounding the earth reach sea-level. It is avoided by all shipping because of its dangerous radiation. Douglas Torr, it appeared, was using three Hastings bombers of the South African Air Force for his "research". A check on what Torr had been doing at Harwell indicated that it had been highly confidential. The CSIR building is heavily guarded and has no windows; it is reputed to be for top-secret nuclear research. After starting to investigate, Walker was promptly ordered by Krause to stay away from that story.

'It appears likely that the research project was in fact testing nuclear explosives at the Southern African Anomaly. This is an ideal spot to evade detection, since it is completely deserted; no seismic impact would be detected from an explosion in the atmosphere; and most important, the radiation impact on the atmosphere would be obscured by the high levels already prevailing at that spot.'

### THE DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL SECURITY - and that NUCLEAR CONNECTION

Pieter Willem Botha is South Africa's Prime Minister. He is also Minister of Defence, and Minister of National Security. On 13 November Botha announced a new Number 2 man in DONS (formerly known as BOSS). The incoming Secretary for National Security is Lukas Daniel Barnard, 31-year-old professor of political science at the University of the Orange Free State, a veritable bastion of Afrikanerdom. SUNDAY TIMES journalist Ivor Wilkins (co-author of an authoritative book on the secret Afrikaner society, the Broederbond) examines Pretoria's new spymaster, based on his published writings. Barnard is an academic with passion, says Wilkins. 'Ardently anti-communist, he argues fervently that the Christian state must be militarily prepared and must not shy away from waging necessary and just wars... His writing is peppered with Biblical allusions to "the sword of God"; military power is usually referred to as swaardmag (literally, sword-power) and he strongly favours the use of swaardmagsanksie - the sword-power sanction.... In world politics fragmented by sin, the sword must always be applied justifiably for the punishment of evil. The attitude that the Christian state may never take up the sword and must suffer for justice, is dangerous cowardice (papbroekigheid).... The government receives the sword from the hand of God to guarantee interstate stability and provide justice in a crooked and twisted generation.'

Barnard, who was raised in the bush country of northern Namibia, advocates a 'strong and stable government serving a spiritually resistant nation' based on military force and 'the vigilance of its citizens'. He agrees with South Africa's generals 'that the real solution is not a military one' but he backs highly trained 'anti-terror units' and espouses Botha's 'total strategy' of 'a self-sustaining community of states in southern Africa', black and white governments to stand against communism.

The new security chief has authored an essay 'The Deterrent Strategy of Nuclear Weapons'. THE RAND DAILY MAIL reports that Barnard 'recently returned from the United States where he studied nuclear strategy.' THE SUNDAY TIMES writes questioningly of 'his recent trip to Washington which caused speculation that he had been on an official errand before his appointment became publicly known'.