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NOTES AND DOCUMENTS\*

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MERCENARIES: A THREAT TO INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

BY

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NOTE: This statement, published at the request of the Special Committee against Apartheid, was made by Dr. Schware at a meeting of the Special Committee on 11 February 1980. Dr. Robert Schware is the co-ordinator of the Committee of Concerned Citizens on Mercenary Activities in Colorado (USA). The views expressed are those of the author.

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The Committee of Concerned Citizens on Mercenary Activities was organized in May 1979 with the purpose of exposing the widespread murders, assassinations and other forms of brutality committed by United States mercenaries, and with the goal of ensuring that the United States Government stop turning a blind eye to these activities. It was of paramount importance that a statewide group of concerned citizens be organized in Colorado owing to the extensive mercenary activities carried out there particularly in and through Soldier of Fortune magazine and its associates, as well as businesses devoted to mercenary activities, such as Phoenix Associates and Omega Company. The guiding principle underlying the Committee's work has been the belief that mercenary activities present a grave threat to the independence, sovereignty, security and territorial integrity of foreign States, as well as a seriously jeopardy for future international race relations and Afro-American relations.

From its outset the Committee of Concerned Citizens on Mercenary Activities has had the support and participation of hundreds of persons throughout the State of Colorado, including members of the Denver City Council and the Colorado State Legislature, Colorado representatives from the United States Congress and representatives from such groups as the Catholic Archdiocese of Denver, the Boulder and Pikes Peak Commission of Justice and Peace, the National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People (NAACP), the United States Peace Council, the American Friends Service Committee, the International Committee against Racism and the International Commission of Inquiry into the Crimes of Racism and Apartheid in southern Africa.

Towards the end of the summer of 1979, the Committee of Concerned Citizens on Mercenary Activities circulated a petition throughout the State of Colorado which:

- (1) Appealed to all humanitarian groups in Colorado to oppose mercenaries and demanded they desist forthwith from all mercenary activities.
- (2) Requested the Attorney General of Colorado to determine whether Soldier of Fortune magazine and its associates are aiding and abetting illegal activities;
- (3) Called upon the United States Government to rigorously enforce United States laws concerning enlistment and recruitment of mercenaries and to take any necessary action to ensure that mercenary activities were terminated at once in Colorado.

This petition was later presented to the United Nations Special Committee against Apartheid, the United States Attorney General, and the Governor of Colorado. In Boulder, Colorado, headquarters of Soldier of Fortune magazine, numerous persons declined to sign the petition for fear of reprisals from mercenaries living in the surrounding area.

On 5 September 1979, Congresswoman Patricia Schroeder wrote the first of several letters to the United States Department of Justice, requesting whether it had ever investigated Soldier of Fortune magazine and its associates. The United States Department of Justice has not been exactly candid in its responses to Representative Schroeder and could even be said to be avoiding her questions.

It is noteworthy that Deputy Assistant Attorney General Robert L. Keuch testified at hearings before the Special Subcommittee on Investigations on the Committee on International Relations (House of Representatives, 94th Congress, second session, 9 August 1976) that "an ongoing criminal investigation" was being carried out and that "any investigation will be concluded when such activity ceased." Specifically, this means that mercenary activities will be allowed to continue into the far distant future within the United States.

Congressman Hamilton added in the above hearings "that the recruitment of mercenaries in this country to fight in Africa is inconsistent with American foreign policy, as enunciated by the secretary of State and the President of the United States." One is forced to conclude from these statements that the United States Government is caught in a very conflicting web of statements and that the presence of American mercenaries in southern Africa constitutes an officially unacknowledged part of the United States foreign policy.

The deaths of several American mercenaries recruited from advertisements placed or answered in Soldier of Fortune magazine to fight for the white racist régimes in southern Africa, or in support of dictatorships in Latin and South America (e.g. the death of Michael Eclinis, former body guard to Anastasio Somoza and Associate Editor of Soldier of Fortune magazine), have brought public attention to the fact that nationals of the United States are serving as hired killers and hit men throughout the world. The international news media have carried stories of these men serving in the Rhodesian Light Infantry (RLI), the Special Air Services, the Rhodesian African Rifles, the Rhodesian Police, and the infamous Selous Scouts. The Boulder Camera newspaper featured an interview with mercenary John Lloyd Stephens on 9 September 1979 who, after returning from Rhodesia, said "I like to collect primitive people." Although countless United States mercenaries have been publicly identified, none have been indicted or prosecuted by the United States Department of Justice.

The Committee of Concerned Citizens has been extremely interested in the recent Lancaster House agreement and its consequences for neighbouring countries. The agreement of 21 December 1979 called upon the United Kingdom to "ensure that no South African or other external forces, regular or mercenary, will remain in or enter Southern Rhodesia." These mercenaries will not be easy to corral together. Once in the corral (a somewhat uncertain assumption at present), where will they go? If recent issues of Soldier of Fortune magazine are any indication of imminent mercenary activities, it seems certain Namibia (through South Africa defence forces) will become the next arena for these barbarian adventures. Already articles are beginning to appear which attempt to assess South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) "logistics" and the need for "private protection forces" for white farmers and ranchers.

It is interesting to note that our Committee has found it practically impossible to purchase a copy of Soldier of Fortune magazine anywhere in the State of Colorado since the inception of our campaign. However, we have been notified by members of the national press that in other areas of the country this mercenary magazine is readily available. Most importantly, the largest circulation of this magazine is on military posts throughout the 146 different

countries where the United States has military bases.

As a result of the Committee's activities and relentless campaign, along with other groups throughout the country, including the South African Military Refugee Aid Fund (SAMRAF) and the Southern Africa Anti-Mercenary Coalition (SAAMCO), members of the Colorado State Legislature, black trade union leaders, and other high public officials have petitioned the United States Congress for a congressional investigation of Soldier of Fortune magazine and its associates. We find this especially significant in view of the fact that the United States Attorney General's office in Colorado informed the Committee of Concerned Citizens that the investigation and prosecution of United States mercenaries was at the very bottom of their priority list. This illustrates that the United States Government, unless pressured otherwise, is a direct participant in encouraging mercenary activities. To be sure, it would be naïve to think that Soldier of Fortune magazine, and all other possible conduits of mercenary activities, could function within the United States, travel abroad to fight in the employ of foreign Powers, without the knowledge, consent, encouragement and approval of the United States Government.

There is no question in our minds that the United States Government has chosen to ignore the enforcement of its own laws concerning the recruitment of mercenaries because this serves the interests of American foreign policy and the multinational corporations who profit from the continued existence of the racist minority régimes in southern Africa.

The Committee of Concerned Citizens on Mercenary Activities wishes to add in conclusion that we are willing and will hopefully be able to aid and to make a valuable contribution to any further international conferences on the question of combating the evils of mercenary activities.