



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

Number 64. May, 1977

macsa news

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MACSA NEEDS SOMEONE FOR RESEARCH

The MACSA pamphlet Is Southern Africa Wisconsin's Business?, first published in 1971, is now out of date. This publication details major Wisconsin companies doing business in South Africa, as well as other related subjects. We urgently need to update this information. **NEEDED:** At least one person who has the time to do the research for this project. If you are interested, please call any of the MACSA staff or Henry Bucher 238-6947.

NEXT MACSA MEETINGS

June 5 and 19

CONFERENCE ON

Transnational Corporations: Southern Africa
Ramifications for the United States

On April 15, 1977 at the American Friends Service Committee's Chicago Conference, Dr. Eqbal Ahmed (former co-defendant with Dan Berrigan and Fellow at the Washington, D.C. Institute for Policy Studies) gave a very lively analysis of American foreign policy in a global perspective and how it relates to Southern Africa.

Eqbal pointed out that the margins of human freedom are eroding. The violations in human rights are more widespread than at any time in history with the exception of European facism in the 30's and 40's. In the Soviet Union, Eastern Europe, Portugal and Spain, the margins of human freedom are enlarging from an extreme of narrowness. The concentration of our government is on areas enlarging human rights and on areas where we are not directly responsible. We are concentrating our attention in human rights on countries which have substantive freedoms--land reform, national health care, full **employment** policies, etc.--and where procedural freedoms--speech, association, etc.--are enlarging. In the police states of the Third World--Chile, Brazil, South Africa, Indonesia, and Iran, there are not even substantive freedoms. Torture is no longer used to obtain information or to prevent political action but is now used to prevent the political process itself and even to prevent persons meeting at all, in some cases, at the non-political level.

The situation of America is different than it was in the '50's and '60's. All of the following factors which used to define American power have diminished: 1)the U.S. has lost strategic weapons' superiority and leverage over the Soviet Union; 2) the U.S. has lost dominance over former colonial empires and colonialists because of the devaluation of the dollar three times since 1968; 3)the will and capacity of the U.S. to intervene successfully against social revolutions (as it did once every 14 mo. between 1948 and 1968)has declined since the failure in Vietnam; 4)the dominance of American corporations has declined from a primary to a secondary contradiction; 5)the anti-communist consensus of American foreign policy between 1945 and 1968 was broken by the war in Indo-China.

The new consensus uses the Third World countries mentioned above (South Africa among them) as regional marshal countries to do what America once did by direct intervention against social revolution. The same countries (including South Africa) are also the export platform countries as chosen by the multi-nationals. For these reasons, the U.S. is loathe to pursue a strong human rights policy in relation to these countries. The Kissinger doctrine still prevails:

- 1)National liberation cannot win and shouldn't be supported by the U.S.;
- 2)The U.S. should promote liberalization of the policy of these regimes;
- 3)We have no choice but to support these regimes.

CONGO--ZAIRE: A LONG HISTORY OF WESTERN INTERVENTION. FLASH-POINT FOR A NEW WAR

Part 2

In part I of this article we gave a brief sketch of Belgian colonialism in the Congo--ratified by the Conference of Berlin in 1885--and recognized by the United States.

In June, 1960, the Congo achieved its independence. Patrice Lumumba was the Prime Minister. A month later, Moise Tshombe, with Belgian assistance, succeeded the copper-rich Katanga (Shaba) province. Mobutu's men arrested Lumumba and in January, 1961, he was murdered. Mobutu then became head of state.

Mobutu continued his close ties with Western imperialism and the CIA. He got large sums from the United States. During the struggle for Angolan independence, Mobutu gave strong support to the anti-liberation movements.

The MPLA victory in Angola meant a tremendous stride forward for the liberation movements in all of Africa, but especially in Southern Africa. Recently there has been a popular uprising in Shaba (Katanga) province of Zaire led by the Front for the National Liberation of the Congo. The news media and the politicians have been raising the cry of "foreign intervention" blaming Angola for "interference."

President Carter has pretended to remain aloof from actual military intervention in Shaba, but in reality has armed Egypt and Morocco whose troops are now actively engaged in intervention in that province. In addition, President Numeiri of the Sudan offered military aid to Zaire only one day after the U.S. agreed to sell an undisclosed number of big C-130 "Hercules" military transport planes to Sudan.

Foreign intervention into the internal affairs of Zaire continued (not by Angola) but by France. French transport planes, flown by French Air Force pilots and crews have airlifted about 1,500 Moroccan troops into Shaba. In Brussels, Premier Leo Tindsmans of Belgium, admitted that there are "80 or so" regular Belgian Army officers in Katanga "on instruction mission." A 30-man U.S. Central Intelligence Agency "Special Forces" team is also in Zaire. The world is asked to believe that all these people are standing around with their hands in their pockets.

Israel has agreed to an "urgent" request from Zaire to take charge of the Zaire police and "reorganize" them, according to the Congo NLF. Mobutu got his paratroop training from the Israelis and Israel had a large military and police "advisor" mission in Zaire for many years. Israel got raw diamonds from Zaire.

The Congo National Liberation Front called what was happening in Shaba a "multi-national punitive expedition," and said that if it was successful "its masterminds intend to launch a military assault on the People's Republic of Angola."

In spite of the abundance of natural wealth in Zaire, economic decay and collapse have led to vast discontent among the people. The cost of living has gone completely out of sight and the government has defaulted on various loans. Africa News reports that "Zaire's debts to American creditors are large--\$410 million in outstanding Export-Import Bank loans and guarantees, \$500 million owed to other U.S. government agencies, and about \$350 million to private American banks." It has now become clear that U.S. "aid" and/or military intervention can only lead to further economic difficulties for all parties concerned, as well as intensifying the chaotic conditions within Zaire itself.

NATIONAL COALITION STAFF

HOW MUCH CAN MACSA CONTRIBUTE?

Macsa's present finances are almost entirely derived from subscriptions to the Macsa News. Whether or not we can help pay the subsistence salary for a national coalition staff person depends on you. The national coalition is made up of groups like MACSA from all over the country. The committee to appoint the new staff person has representatives from MACSA, SALC (East Lansing), SALC (Ann Arbor), CCAL, formerly CCLAMG (Chicago) and AFSC (observer status). The Wellington Avenue United Church of Christ in Chicago has provided free office space! The person will be chosen by June 1 and will be visiting Madison often in the near future. Please contribute what you can in money even if you do not have the time to be active in MACSA events...

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____ to help support the new Coalition Staff. When she/he comes to Madison, I suggest that the new staffperson:

_____ build up more student support for MACSA

_____ speak to campus groups, sandwich seminars, and MACSA membership about what is happening nationally, and how MACSA can do more.

_____ make a presentation in my class or seminar.

_____ speak at evening meetings of _____.

_____ find press and radio/TV time to talk about what is happening in Africa and what average Americans can do.

OTHER SUGGESTIONS _____

MACSA always needs funds for the continuation of our work. If you have not paid your annual subscription fee of \$5.00 for the Newsletter, we would appreciate it if you would do so.

A recent broadcast stating that MACSA (a charitable organization) had not filed a financial statement with the Wisconsin Department of Regulation and Licensing was in error. MACSA is in compliance with the State Statutes.

ADMIRALS AND AIRCRAFT FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA

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US cooperation with the minority white regimes in Southern Africa continues to expand in near lockstep with the burgeoning threat posed by the liberation movements.

This cozy reciprocity, never officially acknowledged by any of the parties involved, has been a fact for years, although US stated policy appears to be in compliance with UN resolutions isolating the Rhodesian and South African renegades.

An indication of Washington's true intentions with regard to the African sub-continent can be discerned from new revelations concerning breaches of the international arms embargo of South Africa.

In its February bulletin, the Washington-based Transnational Institute disclosed that certain well-known American firms are attempting to circumvent US law by selling military hardware to South Africa through the intermediary of an "Italian connection."

The South African Air Force, the Institute says, has acquired the following aircraft from Italy: 20 Aermacchi AL-60 light transports; 40 Aermacchi-Aeritalia AM.3C utility planes; and 20 Piaggio P.166S maritime patrol planes.

These planes are either manufactured under licence from Lockheed Corp., or

based on Lockheed designs, and all are powered by engines produced under licensing agreements with the Avco-Lycoming Division of the Avco Corp.

Reportedly, most or all of the SAAF's AL-60's have been turned over to the Rhodesian Air Force, which uses them to supply outlying anti-guerrilla army units.

Meanwhile, on the Zimbabwe front, a retired US military official has been popping in and out of that country with almost tedious regularity. General William Yarborough, former Commanding General of the US Army Special Forces, and of the Psychological Warfare Unit (later head of US Army Intelligence), completed his fourth visit last April, conferring with Ian Smith and Rhodesian Gen. Peter Walls.

The US military man then dispatched best-selling American author Robin Moore to tour Zimbabwe operational areas and conjure up pro-settler propaganda by means of a book and 45 rpm record, both to be released in June of this year.

This development is an eerie echo of the Vietnam War era, when the same Mr. Moore churned out the book *The Green Berets*, the release of which was heralded on the hit parade by the *Ballad of The Green Berets*, also a Moore creation.

The activities of Gen. Yarborough and his apologist-scribe are part of a pattern of trans-oceanic exchanges, always characterized as unofficial or as involving "private" visits by "retired" officials. Though it dates back several years, this phenomenon has been stepped up markedly since the Portuguese coup and the national liberation of Lisbon's African colonies.

Only last month, retired Admiral Elmo Zumwalt, US Chief of Naval Operations from 1970-74, arrived in Namibia for a 16-day visit that would also take him to South Africa.

The admiral, who, on stepping down, levelled a broadside at Washington's civilian rulers for allowing the Soviets "to deny us the world's sea lanes," used his stay in Windhoek to meet with delegates to the Turnhalle conference.

Later, he told reporters that Southern Africa, because of its wealth and location, is "strategically significant" and a "prize which the Soviet Union covets." Zumwalt went on to describe the Pretoria-instigated constitutional conference on Namibia as a "fascinating process," but admitted he had met no parties in opposition to the Turnhalle.

The admiral said he planned to promote the South African solution to the future of Namibia when he returned to the US. □

APRIL 1977/SOUTHERN AFRICA

Israel and Africa were linked in the most recent spate of disclosures regarding the Central Intelligence Agency's funding of strategic pro-Western heads of state. According to newspaper reports Africa has for years been the object of a rather complex, indirect funding operation designed to consolidate existing pro-Western alliances, and to create new ones where the agency deemed them necessary. One key to the CIA's African campaign was Israel.

"In the late 1960's, checks for several hundred thousand dollars each were frequently delivered by US government officials to the Israeli foreign ministry in Jerusalem," the *Wall Street Journal* noted. "The money was then to be channeled to the African recipients." The purpose of the operation was to secure alliances between African nations and the West. The funding was also "intended to bolster Israel's political standing on the African continent."

Among the recipients of the CIA money were Ugnada and the Central African Republic. The CAR--recently re-named the Central African Empire--has been one of the most willing partners in South Africa's 'detente' policy aimed at securing friendly relations in black Africa.

After the 1973 war, nearly all of the 27 nations in Africa with which Israel had developed relations broke their diplomatic ties with Tel Aviv.

(This is a re-print from SOUTHERN AFRICA, April, 1977)

ALL AFRICA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES AND WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES
SUPPORT LIBERATION STRUGGLE IN AFRICA

Kitwe, Zambia (EPS) - A strongly worded statement by the All Africa Council of Churches and the World Council of Churches called on the liberation movements in November, 1976, to close their ranks against "any imperialist manoeuvres" to sabotage their legitimate struggles. The statement also asked Christians to "recognize that the liberation struggle is a Christian struggle."

The position paper urged the church "to become totally involved with the poor, the oppressed, the exploited," but to do this the church "must be changed from an instrument of oppression to an instrument of liberation." The consultation was particularly addressing the situation in Zimbabwe/Rhodesia, Namibia, and South Africa.

The joint meeting of the WCC and the AACC listed priorities for their member churches as they assist the liberation struggle. Chief among these is research on the role of multinational corporations which operate both in independent Africa and in South Africa, Namibia, and Zimbabwe. The consultation urged that this study be supported also by National Christian Councils of Churches and other church bodies, universities and other institutions so that an appropriate strategy can be devised to counteract the influence and power of the multinational corporations and advance the African liberation struggle.

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