Who, in the multitude of thy Saints, hast compassed us about with so great a cloud of witnesses

EPISCOPAL CHURCHMEN
FOR SOUTH AFRICA
Toward a Free Southern Africa

ALL SAINTSTIDE 1975
BISHOP COLIN WINTER CONFIRMED BY SYNOD AS BISHOP OF DAMARALAND-in-EXILE

The fifth synod of the Anglican Church in Namibia overwhelmingly confirmed Colin O'Brien Winter as the Bishop of Damaraland - three and a half years after he was forced into exile by the South African usurper.

A resolution drawn up by some white Anglicans, which would have had synod request Bishop Winter to resign, was defeated, 40 to 14.

Bishop Richard Wood, expelled from Namibia by occupation officials in June of this year, was declared still to be the lawfully consecrated suffragan bishop and synod agreed to support the bishop until his future ministry is decided.

Synod began on 3 October with a celebration of the Holy Eucharist in the Cathedral Church of St. George in Windhoek, Namibia's capital city. The first session examined the Terrorism Act and how that South African law permits the police to hold a detainee incommunicado indefinitely without recourse to the courts. Synod passed this resolution:

"That it expresses its abhorrence of the Terrorism Act and remembers with love and compassion the people all over the world who are suffering for conscience sake and indeed people who are undergoing all forms of mental and physical and spiritual suffering."

Synod also sent a message of solidarity and support to four pastors of the Lutheran Church in Namibia who are now detained under the Terrorism Act.

Another resolution read: "That the Synod of Bishops (of the Anglican Church of South Africa) be requested to continue to give their approval and blessings" to Bishop Winter in exile. This was overwhelmingly approved.

Bishop Winter's message to synod was video-taped and played to the diocesan assembly on close-circuit color t.v. - a first time for Namibia. So overjoyed were most of the delegates and so great the welcoming commotion that the tape had to be started all over again.

Colin told his people thousands of miles away: "It is my wish and fervent prayer that the voice of truth will ring loud and clear at this synod. Your concerns must be for the well-being of all people in Namibia. The voice of the oppressed and the powerless must be clearly declared among you."

The Rev. Edward Morrow, vicar general of the Diocese of Damaraland, said the support for Bishop Winter is to be seen as an act of Christian witness, that the church makes an act of witness against the injustice of expulsions of its bishops and against the improper interference by the state in the affairs of the church. He said that the church is called to be a suffering church, that it cannot be secluded in purity and security. The church that refuses to dirty its hands for righteousness and on behalf of the poor cannot claim to be the church. He believed that the church must be able to hold up its hands and display the stigmata to the world.
Bishop Winter, confirmed in office, issues a challenge

THE Right Rev. Colin Winter was overwhelmingly confirmed as Bishop of Damaraland-in-exile by his Diocesan Synod at the weekend, and immediately issued a challenge to the Church of England to take him and the "Namibian struggle" seriously.

The Synod, meeting at Windhoek, Namibia (South-West Africa), had before it a resolution, said to have been drawn up by white people, urging the Synod to request Bishop Winter's resignation. The resolution was, however, defeated by forty votes to fourteen.

Bishop Winter—who had put his case to the Synod by means of a video-taped address—heard the news of his victory in dramatic fashion: a service at which he was preaching in Germany was just ending when a student burst in with the results of the Synod's voting.

"I was given a terrific ovation and a champagne party by the Germans," said Bishop Winter. And he added: "Naturally I am delighted and overwhelmed at the confidence which the people of Namibia have placed in me. This really is a ratification of the ten-point platform which I put to them."

"The struggle in Namibia is a struggle for freedom against oppression, and I think the Synod stands by those things and has given me a mandate to go on working in the way I am doing, following these principles."

Bishop Winter went on: "I hope that the Church in England will take my position seriously now, and that there can now be some dialogue at top level about what the Church of England can and will do about the persecuted Church in Namibia."

The Bishop added that he did not understand what the official Church of England attitude was on the Namibian issue, because it had never been expressed.

"But now it ought to be expressed," he declared. "There ought now to be some tangible support for the people of Namibia from the Church here."

In his recorded address to the Damaraland Synod Bishop Winter noted that the resolution calling for his resignation had been proposed by "white members of the Cathedral," and that among other things it spoke of the need for a bishop who would bring to Namibia the gifts of forgiveness, love and reconciliation.

But, he observed, white people—including white Churchpeople—had to make amends and ask for forgiveness before these gifts could be given. And, he claimed, the whites of Namibia were not yet showing any signs of doing this.

Bishop Winter denied that he was seeking the destruction of whites in calling for justice for blacks. And he pledged himself to continue speaking out against apartheid, working for the release of Namibian political detainees, pressing for South Africa's total withdrawal from Namibia, and challenging the "collusion" of the Western powers—who, he claimed, robbed the Namibians by making a profit out of their sufferings.

'Racist laws'

"And my family are Namibians," Bishop Winter declared. "With my staff we are convinced that in God's good time we will return to build up a free country which will remove the hundreds of racist laws which for too long have weighed down our people."

"I am determined to work, witness and suffer until our country is free to take its place with pride among the free peoples of the world."

We found our Church and others deeply enmeshed in the racist complexities of Southern Africa.

Only in Namibia through the leadership of Bishop in Exile Colin Winter and of Bishop Richard Wood, Assistant, did we find the moral will and courage to stand up and be counted and clearly to identify themselves with the black majority of Namibia..."
SOUTH AFRICA STARTS MASS REMOVAL OF NAMIBIANS

South Africa is clearing all civilians from a long stretch of northern Namibia bordering Angola. THE WINDHOEK ADVERTISER on 17 October broke the news: "the entire frontier of 250 km which the Kwanama tribal area has with Angola will be moved back a few kilometres to become a tight security zone to eliminate as far as possible the chances of a surprise assault as happened during the weekend"...a reference to a SWAPO attack near the border post of Oshikango.

Jannie de Wet, the occupation official who bears the title 'Commissioner for Indigenous Peoples', said "the Kwanama tribal authority has decided to move entire villages, kraals, businesses such as shops, cafes and other establishments. In fact, the removal has already started." He added that people would be compensated from tribal funds and allocated new land. De Wet declared the strip would be tightly controlled and populated by security forces.

In testimony before the UN Council of Namibia on 28 October, the Rev. Frederick L. Houghton, who in the 1970s was warden of St. Mary's Theological School at Odibo in the northern region, estimated that if the security sector were 5 km deep as many as 20,000 people would be affected. That region is the most fertile and favored with the heaviest rainfall in water-scarce Namibia; it is the most thickly populated. Relocation would cause mass dislocation and the splitting of families, and so narrow is the fertile belt that there is no land for resettlement except in semi-desert territory.

Odibo, the central Anglican mission station, is a scant two km from the Angolan border. Its ancillary missions spread out in many directions, a number of them along the border fence. St. Mary's high school, long a seat of resistance to Pretorian occupation and minority rule, is sure to be closed down, completing a retaliatory process involved in the South African regime's shutting of St. Mary's hospital last year.

Chief Minister Cornelius Ndjoba of the Ovambo bantustan, which includes the removals area, and Petrus Kalangula, a renegade Anglican deacon, have just returned to Namibia after touring overseas with the South African-sponsored puppet delegation emanating from the 'constitutional conference'.

TORTURE AND REPRESSION IN NAMIBIA: A PERSONAL ACCOUNT

The SWAPO mission in New York has released the text of a letter from Mr. Theophilus Kalimba, Odibo storeowner and member of St. Mary's, who escaped from Oshikango jail where he was held with Samuel Shivute, Reuben Hauwanga, Immanuel Hatutale and other SWAPO members. "I was arrested on August 26 at 5:30 pm and on August 28 at 9:30 pm I had a chance to escape...I was lucky because I was held near the border and was able to jump into Angola. Even then I was badly hurt from being tortured and beaten. With great difficulty I arranged to have a friend collect my wife....Half an hour after she had left the house, a truck full of armed soldiers and two carloads of South African police came to our house looking for me and my wife.....

"We are accused of being guilty of killing Filemon Elifas. Our legs and arms are tied, we are hung by the legs, sometimes by the arms from the roof and tortured. We are given only a cup of water. The South African Government is trying to destroy the Namibians physically and mentally. The people in jail are watched over by soldiers so that they do not get a chance to sleep....Vorster says that it is up to the people of the country to say that they want independence and when he says so he just means his puppets like Cornelius Ndjoba, Petrus Kalangula, Clemens Kapuuo and all the others."
Southern Africa is fraught with danger for America, for Africa, the world. Angola is the present center of the most urgent conflict and outside powers with stakes in that mineralily wealthy and strategically located country are backing up their investments with men, money and military hardware. There is considerable evidence that the United States government is engaged in this perilous meddling and in that chaotic scene all evidence is not yet in.

Zaire to the north and the South African regime, operating from occupied Namibia, are heavily at work trying to thwart Angolan independence and to assure an outcome to their liking. Inside Namibia, the usurper is hastily pursuing its 'constitutional conference' of puppets, detaining leaders of Namibian freedom, creating a cordon sanitaire in the north and building up an even more massive military structure. Tremors from the Angolan war are bound to affect Ian Smith's faltering grip on Zimbabwe and reach into South Africa itself, the very dynamo of Southern African reaction.

The Rev. Michael Scott, who should be signally honored by all Christendom and in whom all Anglicans can be proud, was in America recently - in the end of the third decade of his one-man crusade for African freedom. Father Scott spoke before the UN Council for Namibia on 28 October, warning of the abiding collusion of the United States and the United Kingdom with reactionary forces in Africa. Imperialism and colonialism die hard and old fears remain strong - only statesmanship will eradicate these old habits.

The world is being drawn into the growing war in Southern Africa. Angola is a cockpit, a Congo, a Vietnam, a Laos, a Spain - a proving ground for the big battle over South Africa - for wider regions.

SECRET PROJEKT "TURSCHWELLE"

Secret project "Threshold" is a military base the South African regime is hurriedly developing in the northern part of occupied Namibia. The joint army-air force installation is located at Grootfontein, some 240 km below the border with Angola.

For years the South West Africa Peoples Organization of Namibia has warned of increased South African militarization of the United Nations territory, recently of the build-up at Grootfontein. The German magazine DER SPIEGEL of 27 October 1975 carries a report together with some detail and a ground plan of "Turschwelle", or "Drumpel", the Afrikaans. South African Prime Minister Vorster has denied the story.

Airplane hangars, storage depots, air force headquarters and a transportation complex for the 16th Support Command have been erected. Under construction are living quarters, gasoline storage tanks, fire fighting station, a cinema, sports fields and kitchen facilities for white and black personnel and their dependants. There will be a communications system and a railway spur. Altogether the base will consist of 152 buildings as well as covered shelters for mobile weapons and other war materiel. Threshold is due to be completed in February 1976.

The project is a clear violation of UN authority in Namibia and shows South Africa's intent to keep its control there. Grootfontein was certainly the staging area for the combat group which has swept into Angola and up its coast and is now driving on Luanda. Press reports now prove the presence of South African troops well into Angola. A press report in THE NEW YORK TIMES says there is confirmation of a South African army base at 5a da Bandeira, 250 miles inside Angola. Do the USA, Britain and France still see no threat to international peace and security in South Africa's occupation of Namibia?
WASHINGTON Nov. 6—Two Administration officials told a Senate committee today that the Administration was covertly supplying arms to liberation groups in Angola, the Portuguese territory in southwestern Africa which is in the process of becoming independent.

The New York Times previously reported that such covert aid was being funnelled into Angola with the help of President Mobutu Sese Seko of Zaire. Asked to defend the current Administration request for aid to Zaire, Mr. Kissinger responded that ports in Zaire and Zambia depended on railway traffic through Angola.

**Large Increase Asked**

The Administration is asking Congress for a large increase in foreign military aid to Zaire, which would be $26 million this year compared with $3.8 million last year. In addition, the Administration is seeking $40 million in food aid credits and Export-Import Bank guarantees.

Military aid to Kenya and Ethiopia is down somewhat compared with last year, but new elements in this year's request. The $3 million request for Kenya includes $1 million to begin a military training program. This year Angola has already made cash purchases of military equipment, mainly aircraft, valued at more than $5 million as compared with total cash purchases of $1.4 million last year.

Mr. Kissinger told the Senate committee that the only American interest in Africa was in the independence of its leaders. He said that the United States did not want to defeat the Soviet-backed liberation movement but sought to make the other movement strong enough to negotiate a coalition government, the sources said.

**Not Optimistic**

Under questioning, the sources continued, Mr. Sisco and Mr. Colby acknowledged that they were not optimistic about the situation in Angola. Mr. Sisco said that the two senior officials argued that there were no signs of a political development in Angola and that the United States and China were in a better position today than before.

**CIA Aid In Angola Defended**

Director of Central Intelligence William E. Colby has defended covert military aid to the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola, the anti-Communist group in that country.

Colby's justification for covert operations in Angola drew criticism from some senators.

One senator said the specific objections pointed out in the March hearing would be relayed to President Ford—apparently the first time congressional opposition has been registered to a covert CIA operation since last December when notification to Congress of covert operations was required by law.

Since then, four or five covert operations have been disclosed to members of Congress, according to sources. Alan Cranston (D-Calif.), a critic of the present reporting system.

The Ford administration was seeking an $81 million package of grants, loans and credits for Zaire on the grounds that it was going bankrupt.

The deputy assistant secretary of state for African affairs, Edward Mulcahy, supported that position, saying Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger's statement in September to the Organization of African Unity that "We are most alarmed with the interference of extra-continental powers who do not wish Africa well and whose involvement is inconsistent with the promise of true independence."
Mercenaries head for Angola battle

from DAVID MARTIN in Luanda

ANGOLA is nervously awaiting the bloodiest and most decisive battle to date in its six-month-old civil war. Two motorised mercenary columns rapidly advance from the south.

No one is sure who the mercenaries are. But the Portuguese captain who talked with them at Angola's southern port of Mocamedes on Monday says the column is led by English-speaking officers who, he believes, are South Africans.

The captain was in command of a company of Portuguese paratroopers who were brought here from Mocamedes on Thursday. The port had been abandoned earlier by the main force of about 100 men of the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA).

The officers said that Mocamedes fell after two brief clashes, in which about 30 MPLA soldiers who had remained there were killed.

The mercenary column, numbering between 500 and 600 men, based 'impeccable tactics,' the officers said. They surrounded the town, attacked from different sides, and, headed by between 25 and 28 armoured cars, slowly advanced through the streets.

Portuguese military intelligence sources say that 65 per cent of the column were Africans. They included members of Daniel Chipenda's force which broke away from MPLA two years ago, the Zaire-based National Liberation Front of Angola (FNLA) and former Portuguese black regulars.

Most of the whites are former Portuguese officers and now members of the clandestine ultraright-wing "Portuguese Liberation Army" (ELP), which is sympathetic to former President Spinola, and is believed to have financed largely from Paris and Madrid by exiled Portuguese business men.

Portuguese military intelligence sources say the column swept across the Angolan frontier from South African-controlled Namibia last month and moved on to Etosha at dawn on 23 October.

The three movements have attacked each other. But Portuguese military sources say that, although they knew there are Cuban and Russian instructors with the MPLA in Angola, there is no proof that they have taken part in any fighting.

Mercenaries are a highly emotive issue in Africa, and the claim by Portuguese troops that South African mercenaries are fighting with the MPLA's rivals could considerably affect the response of the OAU call to member states to agree to recognize any of the three movements after independence.

Nevertheless, the situation is extremely serious for the MPLA. The mercenary column has advanced 440 miles from Namibia in only nine days, and the loss of Benguela and Lobito would be a serious blow to MPLA morale.

Coupled with this is the expectation of renewed full-scale fighting in the north, where there has been a partial lull for ten days. As the mercenary column entered Angola from Namibia, there was a simultaneous attack on the oil-rich Cabinda enclave and three other attacks by FNLA troops from their bases in Zaire.

Although there were repulsed at the time, two fresh offensives are expected in the next few days. Sources say one will be in the extreme north-east on the town of Porto Amboim,(histo by the MPLA and on the surrounding diamond area.

The other expected attack is even more serious. Since the MPLA ejected the FNLA from Luanda in the middle of the year and went on to score a series of major victories, there has been a stalemate 15 miles north of here near the now devastated town of Lobito.

The prospects for Angolan independence in 10 days are bleak. Few here believe that the present offensive can be stopped. An eleventh-hour agreement can be worked out between the three or even between the two. But "we are prepared to fight all out," said a frustrated and embittered senior Portuguese administrator who packed up and prepared to go home.

ANGOLA

ZAMBIA

NAMIBIA

BOTSWANA

HANIBA

SOUTH WEST AFRICA

UNITA CLAIMED TERRITORY

MPLA CLAIMED TERRITORY

UNITA CLAIMED TERRITORY

miles

400

ZANZIBAR

TANGANYIKA

CONGO

ZAIRE

AFRICA

OCEAN

ATLANTIC
U.S. Plans to Boost Arms Aid to Zaire

By David B. Ottaway

The Ford administration is about to propose to Congress a $19 million military assistance program for Zaire in addition to a $60 million emergency financial aid package already under consideration for the economically distressed central African nation, according to congressional sources.

State Department officials would neither confirm nor deny the report of what would amount to a more than fivefold increase in the present level of U.S. military aid to Zaire. One official said the program was the outgrowth of a longstanding Zairian request for more American military assistance.

The military aid request coincides with growing Zairian involvement in the civil war in neighboring Angola. Two of the three warring nationalist movements are known to be receiving arms and other war supplies from Zaire.

There have also been press reports that the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency has been funneling money through Zaire to these same anti-Communist groups, the National Front for the Liberation of Angola and the National Union for the Total Liberation of Angola (UNITA).

This raises the question whether all or part of the $19 million in military assistance for Zaire under administration consideration is earmarked for the two Angolan groups.

Among the items the United States is said to be prepared to provide to Zaire is the M-16 rifle, which is ideal for use by the needs of these two Angolan nationalist groups in their current battle against the Soviet-supplied Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola.

Thousands of tons of Eastern and Western arms are pouring into Angola for the three rival nationalist movements fighting to establish control over as much territory as possible before the Portuguese colony's scheduled independence on Nov. 11.

State Department sources said this week that four more ships loaded with about 10,000 tons of Soviet arms arrived at a small port south of the Angolan capital of Luanda in early October for the Popular Movement.

These sources said that between 200 and 400 Cubans were also aboard the ships but that it was not clear whether they had remained in Angola as military advisers to the Popular Movement.

The leftist Popular Movement has repeatedly charged that hundreds of Zairian army officers and soldiers as well as dozens of Portuguese mercenaries are fighting alongside the troops of the Zaire- and Chinese-backed National Front.

Zairian President Mobutu has long supported the National Front, whose president, Holden Roberto, is his brother-in-law and whose headquarters was for years in the Zairian capital of Kinshasa.

Recently, Mobutu has also started arming UNITA and is reported to have used his American-provided transport planes to send arms to Silva Porto in southern Angola where UNITA has its main base of support.

Meanwhile, a delegation of the Popular Movement visiting Washington, D.C., this week charged that the CIA is sending black American veterans of Vietnam to Angola to fight for the National Front.

The Movement delegation's leader, Saydi Mingas, said that National Front leader Holden Roberto also has several black Americans serving as members of his personal bodyguard. Mingas indicated that his own group is trying to capture one or more of these mercenaries to prove their charges of CIA involvement in Angola.

Mingas also attacked the $60 million economic assistance program proposed by the Ford administration for Zaire, saying that food purchased abroad under it would be used at least partly to feed Zaire-supported National Front troops and the population under their control in northern Angola.

The Popular Movement official, finance minister in the provisional government ruling Angola until independence, said relations between his group and the Gulf Oil Co. of Pittsburgh are "very good."

Gulf is the major oil producer and foreign exchange earner in Angola and has been accused of supporting secessionist movement in the enclave of Cabinda, site of its offshore oil operations.

Mingas said troops of the Popular Movement were stationed all around Gulf installations in Cabinda to protect them from any attack by soldiers of rival Angolan groups or from an "invasion from Zaire."

The government declined comment on intelligence reports said fighting is currently going on about 12 miles north of the capital. Shelling could be heard in Luanda.

In the reported invasion in the south launched from Namibia, the Popular Movement said the invaders were advancing on Sa Da Bandeira, the Huila provincial capital, about 155 miles from the border with Namibia, which South Africa controls as the territory of Southwest Africa.

The government called up all men between the ages of 18 and 35 to combat the invasion and ordered all foreign residents to report to the police within three days.

The South African government declined comment on the Angolan charges. Last month it admitted its forces crossed into Angola to protect an important hydroelectric project near completion that is scheduled to provide power to South Africa.

There have also been reports that South African forces have crossed into Angola recently to fight guerrillas seeking independence for Namibia.

Angola: S. Africans Invading

From News Dispatch

The Angolan provisional government, charging that troops from South Africa and Zaire have invaded Angola from their southern border with Namibia, ordered a general mobilization Friday night.

The government, controlled by the Soviet-backed Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola, in a year-long civil war in Luanda, the Angolan capital, that a "general foreign invasion in the pay of international imperialism" was under way to prevent the Portuguese colony from attaining independence as scheduled Nov. 11.

In Lisbon, the pro-Communist newspaper Diario de Lisboa said the force consisted of between 300 and 1,000 men, including mercenaries from the regular South African army soldiers under the command of Daniel Chipenda. Chipenda was formerly the military commander of the Popular Movement but switched allegiance last year to the rival Western-oriented National Front for the Liberation of Angola.

The Popular Movement, which controls Luanda, and the National Front have been engaged in a year-long civil war to gain the upper hand in the country before it gains independence.

National Front forces have been trying to drive the Popular Movement from the capital for the last week in a new offensive. Portuguese
"...I can tell you with certainty that the situation in Namibia is pregnant with danger and bloodshed as a result of the diabolical policies carried out there by South Africa. Contrary to what he promises the outside world, Vorster is doing everything by means of police and military terror in Namibia to perpetuate his illegal presence...there is now more than ever before a large scale police and military build up all over Namibia, particularly in the North and Northeast." - David H. Meroro, national chairman of SWAPO, before the UN Council for Namibia, 16 October 1975.

S.Africans over border
from STANLEY UYS
in Cape Town

SOUTH AFRICA has declared war on guerrillas of the South West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO) operating from southern Angola and has for the first time crossed over to foreign soil in pursuit of them.

Defence force units wiped out two SWAPO bases on Angolan territory and killed seven SWAPO guerrillas last week. They intend to continue the policy of "hot pursuit" if SWAPO's external wing makes any further strikes into South West Africa.

This dramatic change of policy follows the assassination in August by SWAPO guerrillas of the Ovamboland Chief Minister, Chief Filimoun Ellis, and the killing earlier last week of nine Ovambos - seven tribal policemen, a headman and his wife.

In statements yesterday the Prime Minister, Mr Vorster, and the Commissioner-General for South West Africa, Mr Jannie de Wet, gave warnings that guerrillas operating from southern Angola will be pursued and wiped out.


Its European representative, Mr Peter Katjivi, said at an international seminar in Brussels that UN intervention was urgently needed. A cable was sent to the UN Secretary-General warning of a "greater threat to peace in the area."
South Africa Aims Gold Coins at U.S.

Ray Howard

South Africa is sitting opposite a man who wants us all to own a piece of the block. Robin A. Plumbridge, who is vice president of the Chamber of Mines of South Africa, wants everyone to own a piece of a block made of gold. According to Plumbridge, if all the gold in the world were brought together in one place, it would form a cube about 20 yards square.

Because of dramatic increases in world inflation, Mr. Plumbridge thinks we should all invest in gold.

"But what if the inflation stops?" I ask.

Plumbridge looks sad. "As a westerner, I very much like to see disciplined financial markets and economic stability. But I am afraid that economics has become politics. The man at the bottom of the ladder has the vote. Governments will continue irresponsible monetary and fiscal policies for many years to come."

South Africa is investing heavily in new mines because she anticipates that a freest world will want to snap up ever increasing quantities of gold as a hedge against inflation. (Because it takes eight years to bring a gold mine into production, Plumbridge is betting that world economic uncertainty will last at least a decade—or longer.)

Americans haven’t had any interest in gold in years. When owning gold was legalized, nobody borrowed on his mortgage to sock a few gold bars into the attic. What makes Plumbridge think he can sell us?

Well, it seems that Intergold, the marketing arm of the Chamber of Mines, has retained American public relations firm and a whiz-bang advertising agency to sell gold to us. And instead of selling something dull and uninteresting like gold bars, Intergold is going to put gold in a shiny, appealing package called the Krugerrand.

The Krugerrand is a one-ounce gold coin that is legal tender. (Legal tender means you don’t pay sales tax. The Krugerrand is highly popular in Germany because its premium over the one-ounce price of gold is less than the sales tax that applies to gold bullion.)

Because the Krugerrand is exactly one Troy ounce of gold—and unlike other bullion coins—you can check the morning paper to find out how much your coin is worth. And because the coin is widely traded in coin shops and some banks, it is easy to sell if you need your money quickly.

Why not just own gold?

Plumbridge says it’s less expensive to buy and sell Krugerrands than it is to buy and sell gold bars. You pay a premium to buy gold and you must also pay an assay cost when you sell.

Starting next month, the folks in Philadelphia, Houston and Los Angeles will see a big media blitz selling the Krugerrand. The coin will be distributed through coin shops, brokerage houses and banks—although Plumbridge admits the mass marketing of gold is so new that no one is sure what the optimum distribution might be. If the three-market test is successful, the program will be expanded nationally.

Why does Plumbridge want us to own more gold?

Well, it seems that South Africa needs the bread. Gold exports are vital to the economy (they earned $3.8 billion last year). Yet gold production has been falling recently, as has the price of gold. Excited by gold prices, which reached $187 an ounce last year, South Africa has made some major, long-term investments. To pay for these investments, South Africa has to sell more gold.

Will Plumbridge be able to sell gold by selling Krugerrands as Kellogg sells corn flakes?

I don’t know.

The Krugerrand is a good coin. But is gold a good investment?

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For A Free Southern Africa