Tension continues to mount over the African settlement of Crossroads. The South African Police twice in September attacked the community of 20,000 men, women and children. Hundreds were charged with violations of South Africa’s harsh pass laws; many had to pay stiff fines, deep cuts into poor people's incomes. There was fear that Crossroads would again be assaulted on 20 November - the SAPs were readied and elements of the South African Defence Force alerted. That the big push did not occur last week does not mean that Pretoria has in any way relented. These 'illegal' black people have aroused the deepest hostility among most South African whites. The very existence of the squatter community of Crossroads is considered by Pretoria as defiance of apartheid.

The South African regime's cabinet member most directly concerned with Crossroads, Dr. Pieter Koornhof, visited the settlement on 21 November in one of his first acts as the new Minister of Plural Relations and Development. Koornhof is widely touted as Pretoria’s leading 'liberal'. He was accompanied by his holdover deputy minister, Dr Willem Vosloo, who rants of an organized campaign of agitation about Crossroads, who proclaims 'There is no inhumanity or lack of Christianity in what is being done'. Pretoria has planned two resettlement sites in the eastern Cape Province adjacent to two bantustans, Transkei and Ciskei. One of these desolate places, near Queenstown, is at the moment standing still; the other, Whittlesea, is understood to be still a-building.

South African overseas information people are speaking of a gentle solution for the people of Crossroads - relocation as opposed to eviction - and continue reiterating official accusations of the settlement being a sanitary hazard, of its infestation with criminals, and a new charge, that many of the residents are Mozambiqueans, Zambians, Angolans, all patently untrue.

Varying crises facing the South African regime will undoubtedly affect how it handles Crossroads - by steady erosive harassment or a Nazi-type midnight attack. Namibia and the promotion of a Pretoria-sponsored leadership there - in defiance of the United Nations; the parliamentary debate of the scandal involving Koornhof's predecessor, Cornelis Mulder, and reaching up to new Prime Minister Pieter W. Botha and his predecessor, State President Balthazar Johannes Vorster; and, the election over the weekend to leadership of the National Party's Transvaal delegation (representing half the ruling Nat members of Parliament) of the Rev. Andries P. Treurnicht, who now holds a sub-cabinet post as another deputy to Koornhof; he is sure to demand and get more command over policy making and can be relied upon to affect drastic action at Crossroads.

URGE PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER TO CONDEMN THE THREAT TO CROSSROADS

Protest to: Ambassador Donald Sole South African Embassy 3051 Massachusetts Avenue N.W. Washington, D.C. 20008 (202) 232-4400
28 November 1978

Crossroads

The South African Police Force is expected to receive an additional 30,000 new cars this year. Police and civilians use the vehicles for various tasks, including patrolling and transportation of prisoners. The police have been issued with new amphibious patrol boats to aid in their duties. This is a significant development in the fight against crime in South Africa.

CBS television will present a 12-minute essay on the Crossroads settlement outside Cape Town, South Africa, as part of 'December' Magazine — a program of contemporary news.

10:30 am Eastern time — Thursday, 7 December 1978

The Crossroads footage will concentrate on interviews with long-time residents of that community and other places in the Cape region, and with author Alan Paton and Bishop Desmond Tutu, the general-secretary of the South African Council of Churches.

Other parts of the program include: 'How Much is a Housewife Worth?'; 'Prodigy', about a 12-year-old boy in this year's New York performance of Nutcracker; and a visit to the New York children's toy center, F.A.O. Schwartz.

The Crossroads showing is excellent and up-to-date. Be sure to see it. Tell your friends and associates.

Under President Jimmy Carter, the United States and South Africa are friends.