

# Southern Africa Support Committee

## NEWS LETTER

1977



The Southern African Support Committee is a community-based organization dedicated to supporting the just struggle of African peoples; FOR their liberation and improvement of the wretched conditions and AGAINST white supremacy, apartheid, racism and the rip-off of the Africans' labor. The Southern African countries engaged in such liberation struggles are Zimbabwe (Rhodesia), Namibia (South West Africa) and Azania (South Africa).

The part of these struggles that most concerns us as people living in the U.S. is the fact that the U.S. directly supports and strengthens the power of the white minority government in these countries through selling them arms and acting as their allies in the United Nations. U.S. corporations such as Del Monte, I.B.M., Xerox and many others pay taxes directly to the racist regimes besides literally stealing the Africans' labor from them. These same corporations take our labor from us here in the U.S. by helping to maintain our ghettos and preventing us from reaching our highest potential.

We have begun our portion of the struggle by educating people here about U.S. ties and at the same time attempting to put pressure on the corporations (Del Monte pickets and boycotts, Xerox picket, Krugerrand action).

We meet weekly at the Jackie Robinson Center on Wednesday nights at 7:30 and invite all to participate.

For more information call----(213) 684-1892

## NAMIBIA:SWAPO SEEKS ARMS



**Revolutionary  
Greetings!**

The Southwest African People's Organization (S.W.A.P.O.) is pursuing a political and military path to give Namibia independence. At the United Nations, S.W.A.P.O. is introducing motions for U.N. supervised elections and for the complete and immediate withdrawal of South African military and police forces.

The U.N. Secretary-General, Kurt Waldheim, recently stated that South Africa should get out of Namibia and that its presence violates U.N. policies (U.N. Weekly Radio Summary, 9/16/76). Three U.N. nations--France, Britain and the U.S.--vetoed a S.W.A.P.O.-sponsored motion to impose sanctions against South Africa. These Sanctions would have prevented U.N. countries from selling arms to South Africa. S.W.A.P.O. is also seeking arms from many countries and from the Organization of African Unity (OAU). The OAU has given \$125,000 to S.W.A.P.O. to carry out the liberation struggle.

The armed struggle against racist, illegal South African occupation of Namibia continues. South Africa wants to divide Namibia into six nations and install its puppet governments after December, 1978. S.W.A.P.O. is fighting in Northern Namibia near the Cunene area, in Western Namibia near the Namib Desert and in the East near the Kalahari Desert. S.W.A.P.O. is also carrying out guerilla action against the 5,000 South African troops attempting to police the Angola-Namibia border.

## ZIMBABWE: TAKING POWER

Round two of international attempts to institute black majority rule in Zimbabwe (Rhodesia) has begun in Geneva. The first effort a month ago consisted of Henry Kissinger shuttling between the five frontline countries (so named because of their nearness to the struggle) and Ian Smith of Rhodesia. He totally refused to meet with any of the Zimbabwean liberation leaders or organizations while arrogantly planning the fate of their country.

The plan which came out of these negotiations called for the formation of a council state with an equal number of black and white members but with a white chairman. Total control of both the army and police would remain in the hands of the white ruling class regime which represents racist apartheid. All economic sanctions against Rhodesia would immediately be ended.

To add to this insulting offer, Kissinger expected the American taxpayers to present a two billion dollar gift for the use of white Rhodesians only. This thinly disguised attempt to keep the white minority in control was resoundingly rejected by the five presidents of the frontline countries: Tanzania, Zambia, Botswana, Angola and Mozambique. Fighters in the Zimbabwean liberation struggle vowed to fight Kissinger's proposals to the bitter end. Only Smith accepted this plan. And he accepted it only because it supports his interests and the interests of the white minority regime he represents.

Now in Geneva the British are sponsoring a conference on the transfer of power. The conference consists of representatives of the Zimbabwean liberation struggle, British, American and Rhodesian officials. The white Rhodesian Foreign Minister has said that Kissinger's plan is a "package of nothing" and so far in the talks the Rhodesians have stuck to this. Black leaders are calling for a complete takeover of power within a year.

There are four representatives of the national liberation struggles in Zimbabwe attending the Geneva conference: Robert Mugabe, Ndabiningi Sithole, Abel Muzorewa and Joshua Nkomo. Despite past disagreements, two of the leaders of the liberation struggle, Robert Mugabe and Joshua Nkomo, have united to present a strong front at the conference. Robert Mugabe is the spokesperson of ZANU (Zimbabwe African National Union) which calls for changing Zimbabwe into a socialist country. ZANU is considered the political representative of 16,000 guerillas based in Mozambique, though it is not certain if there is a corresponding political organization in Zimbabwe itself. Joshua Nkomo is the head of ZAPU (Zimbabwe African Peoples' Union) which is the leading political group with small guerilla forces.

Mugabe has said, "I myself am against a capitalist-type regime. But we don't have to adopt anybody else's blueprint. We will adopt a system best suited to the needs of Zimbabwe" (Interview in The Guardian, 11/3/76).

Mugabe and Nkomo issued a set of demands as preconditions for their attendance at the conference. The demands are: (1) release of all political prisoners of the Smith regime; (2) release of all prisoners on death row; (3) abolition of protected villages (strategic hamlets) in Zimbabwe; (4) an end to all restrictions on political activity; (5) and end to the state of emergency; (6) suspension of all political trials. Mugabe and Nkomo emphasized that the transfer of power to the majority of the people should be total and immediate and that the Smith regime could only be considered an extension of British colonial rule.

The Reverend Ndabiningi Sithole, the third representative, seems to be fading in importance as the conference progresses.

Abel Muzorewa, the fourth representative attending the conference, is the head of the African National Council. Though he has been isolated from the fighting forces, he is the most popular leader in Zimbabwe and has a fairly powerful political machine. He has stated, "The African National Council is not here in the spirit of give and take. We have come here only to take, to take our country. The armed struggle will continue until every inch of Zimbabwe soil is free."

On November 3, Ian Smith walked out of the conference saying he was "tired of twiddling his thumbs." The day before the Rhodesian army had invaded Mozambique in an attack on the Zimbabwean freedom fighters and their Mozambican allies. The Smith regime wants to stop the Zimbabwean freedom fighters at this point especially: they would have the advantage during the rainy season of the next two months. This would give the Smith regime a chance to see if President Carter's Secretary of State is going to make them the same deal that Kissinger did. Carter, in the meantime has said he will pursue an "aggressive policy for peace," but that "because of its strategic location and mineral resources, Southern Africa cannot be left to its own devices" (Interview with the Johannesburg Financial Mail reported in the L.A. Times, November 4, 1976).



## AZANIA : TRANSKEI "INDEPENDENCE"

In South Africa the situation has become more and more tense. Continued demonstrations, rebellions, strikes and riots have forced the so-called government to come to terms with demands for freedom and equality by the victims of apartheid, South Africa's vicious system of racial segregation and brutal oppression of Black, Colored and Asian people. In addition to the "Kissenger sham" of subtle diplomacy, the South African government had to figure out something that would deal specifically with South Africa to try to ease the tension because the white ruling class still wants to protect its interests.

The plan they cooked up was the TRANSKEI INDEPENDENCE ACT to make the Transkei an independent nation. The Transkei is a large bantustan--a reservation similar to a ghetto but much worse. This plan to make it independent would be like making Watts into a nation and calling it "independent". But the catch is that there are very few jobs or resources--and to top it all off, this act deprives the residents of citizenship in their own country (South Africa) and makes them citizens of this small, poor nation called the Transkei.

On October 26 of this year, an independence day celebration was held in Umtata, the largest city in the Transkei. Thousands of black, white and colored South Africans attended, along with hundreds of journalists, TV and radio crews. But the truth is, many black governments, like that of Mozambique, boycotted this sham "independence" celebration because they saw it for what it was. In fact, the only governments in the world who attended were the South African government and a South American general representing the military government of Uruguay. Most governments in the world boycotted this celebration because they knew that the South African government was only pretending to give the people "independence".

All of this has been put together by the South African government in their continuous effort to hold back the ever-growing movement for a true majority rule, a rule that would represent the masses of the people as a whole. This so-called independence Vorster and his South African government are talking about is not independence at all: no matter how independent the Transkei may be politically, it is still limited and confined economically.

The Transkei can provide jobs for only 25% of its residents. Every year there are about 26,000 Transkei people looking for employment, but the Transkei can only employ less than 2/3 of its population. So you see, this is really a further plan by Vorster to make it seem to the African people that they are becoming freer,

but in reality Vorster is just stalling for time to maintain control. We, along with most of the world, oppose this pretense, which is only a scheme to trick the people--who will remain just as poor and powerless as they are now.

South Africa itself has recently passed more repressive laws to stop the freedom of speech, freedom of assembly and other civil liberties in an effort to stop the resistance against apartheid and protect its very large corporations and investments against the people who want to control their own country and resources.

The South African government has passed the INTERNAL SECURITY ACT which has the following provisions (in an attempt to stop any liberation movements):



(1) IMPRISONMENT BY DECREE. This allows the Minister of Justice to order the imprisonment, without trial, for a year of anybody whom they feel is a threat to the security of the state. Also, any police officer can arrest (without warrant) any person concerned and keep them in custody for up to seven days. The one-year period can easily be extended by simply re-arresting the person at the end of the year's sentence.

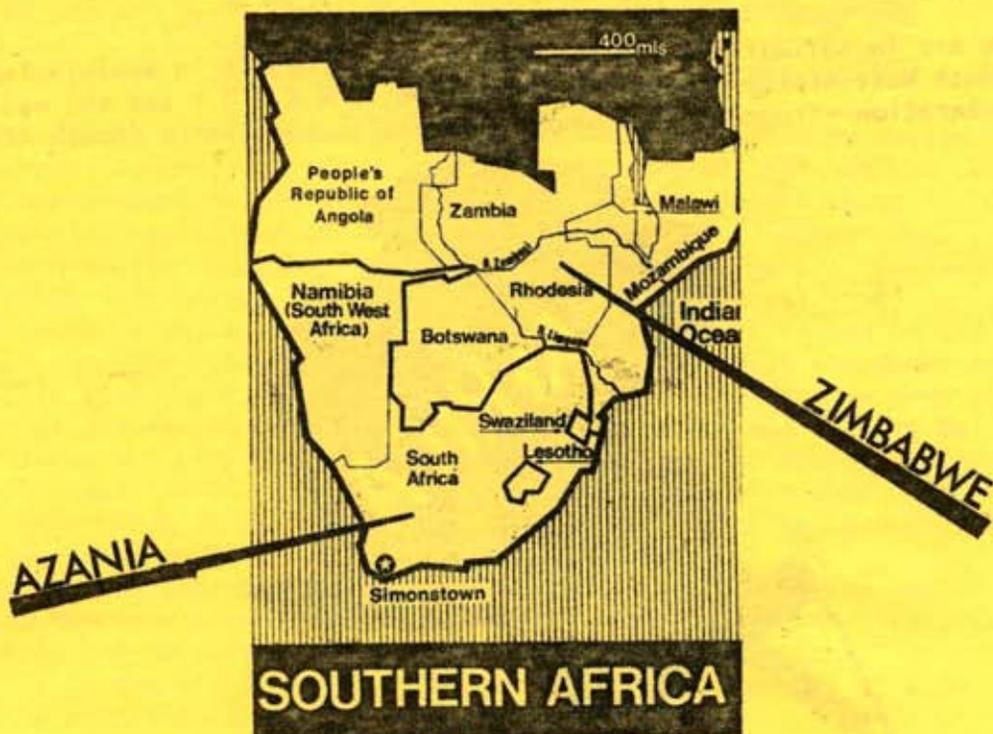
(2) DETENTION OF WITNESSES. The Minister is also able to order detention of witnesses in political trials if, in his view, there is any chance of the witness trying to escape or any danger of harassment of the witnesses, any person in such a situation can be held up to six months or until the end of the trial.

(3) THE REFUSAL OF BAIL. The Attorney General may, if he considers it necessary in the interest of the safety of the state and public order, issue an order for trial, although a plea could have been made where the accused has already been in custody for a long time, or acquitted of more serious charges. But now this plea is no longer available to accused persons.



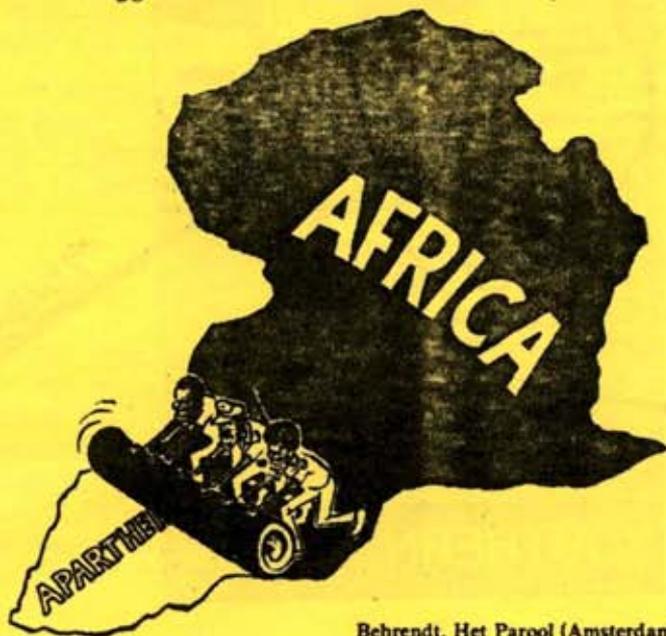
(4) THE SECURITY OF STATE ACT (originally the Suppression of Communism Act) has been expanded so that not only communists and revolutionaries can be arrested, but also Christian liberal sympathizers and others can also be arrested.

The situation is serious: SOUTH AFRICA'S ECONOMY IS IN DEEP TROUBLE because of the ongoing rebellions, uprisings, strikes and riots of people longing to be free. As a result, South Africa has passed all of this legislation and increased its military budget by 40% in an effort to keep the economy together. Gold is its largest export since South Africa is the world's largest producer of gold. But the price of gold has fallen on the international market from \$200 an ounce to about \$130 an ounce. So South Africa has to sell more gold to get more currency into its country and to buy the necessary things its economy needs. This is why the South African government is trying to sell gold coins called Krugerrands through advertisements in the U.S. media. They are asking the American people to buy these coins and thereby support their corrupt regime. This is only one of their tricks and we can expect a lot more to come as the people's liberation forces gain strength in their victories and the South African government gets more threatened.



## SOUTHERN AFRICA SUPPORT COMMITTEE PRINCIPLES OF UNITY

1. We oppose all U.S. economic, political, and military ties, direct and indirect, in Zimbabwe (Rhodesia), Azania (South Africa), and Namibia (South West Africa) which supports and strengthens power of the white minority governments.
2. We support the newly independent governments of all former Portuguese colonies: People's Republic of Angola, People's Republic of Mozambique, and the Republic of Guinea Bissau, Cape Verde, Sao Tome and Principe.
3. We support the right of all national liberation struggles to self-determination and to decide the course and objectives of their own struggle, which includes the right to be non-aligned and to accept aid from whomever they choose.
4. We oppose apartheid in Southern Africa and racism in the United States, and see them as a common enemy of the peoples of the U.S. and Southern Africa.
5. We are in solidarity with the liberation struggles in Namibia led by the South West Africa People's Organization (S.W.A.P.O.) and the national liberation struggles in Zimbabwe (Rhodesia) and Azania (South Africa).



Behrendt, Het Parool (Amsterdam)

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