ZAIRE CRUMBLES

Once again the government of the U.S. has picked a real winner. He is Mobutu Sese Soko, President of Zaire (formerly the Belgian Congo). Zaire was once self-sufficient in food; now it must import. "Malnutrition is endemic... At least 70% of the rural population does not have access to health services." (USAID, FY 77, pp 128-129) "A third of the population suffers from deficiencies in caloric intake" and most of the population gets insufficient protein as well. (1975 World Bank report.) Agricultural production has declined 1.4% every year from 1971 to 1976 (USAID, FY 77, p 218). Economic growth has occurred almost solely in the copper areas and in the two cities of Kinshasa and Kisangani. This limited economic growth has been mostly in highly mechanized areas--e.g., the mines--and thus has created few new jobs. Zaire has a foreign debt of over $2.5 billion. It was in technical default on its loans in 1975 and is still sliding deeper into debt.

In the midst of this economic disaster, President Mobutu is reported to be one of the richest men in the world (David Lamb, L.A. TIMES, 4/5/77). He and his cronies dine on imported delicacies and commute among his palatial residences in France, Belgium, Switzerland and in each of Zaire's eight provinces. Forty miles from the presidential palace is the 20 square mile "presidential domain," with two more residences and the largest swimming pool in Africa" (TIME, 10/24/74). (Continued to page 6)

WHY AMANDLA?

Amandla means "power." Amandla Africa--power to Africa--is a slogan often chanted by demonstrators in South Africa. We have chosen Amandla as the title of our newsletter because we want to focus attention on the issue of power in Africa. It is the power to secure life, liberty and happiness which all true African liberation movements seek. They want to build societies where all people eat thier fill, every day; where schools are built for all children, not just for some; where society is organized so that all will have honorable work, respect, and security in old age.

These movements are determined to move beyond a society where, as Benjamin Rush put it, "Both rich and poor alike are forbidden to sleep under bridges, to beg in the streets, and..." (Continued to page 9)

ZIMBABWE NOW

The situation in Zimbabwe (Rhodesia) remains basically unchanged from two months ago. The attempt by British Foreign Secretary David Owen to get negotiations going again between Smith and the nationalists has apparently failed. This is hardly surprising, given that the two major parties to the war have mutually exclusive aims. Mr. Smith, with British and American backing, seeks to maintain the current situation almost unchanged, protecting white and multinational investments in Rhodesia. The Patriotic Front, on the other hand, seeks to change the situa- (Continued to page 5)
AMANDLA

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The First National Bank of Chicago recently granted part of a $110 million loan to the government of South Africa. Continental Illinois Corporation continues to make loans to U.S. corporations investing in South Africa. Both banks sell the South African gold coin called the Krugerrand, a coin which is being distributed by South Africa to earn funds for its falling economy. At the same time, Chicago citizens who save their hard-earned money at First National and Continental find it difficult if not impossible to get financing for their homes and home improvements.

--CLOSE YOUR ACCOUNTS AT FIRST NATIONAL AND CONTINENTAL IN PROTEST ON JUNE 16!

--OPEN YOUR ACCOUNTS AT SOUTH SHORE BANK, AMALGAMATED BANK or some other bank which does not make loans to South Africa and does not sell the Krugerrand.

DEMONSTRATE JUNE 16

→ First National Bank 12noon
Dearborn & Madison Streets and march to

→ Continental Bank 1:00
231 S. LaSalle Street

For more information contact: Chicago Coalition on Southern Africa, Fifth Floor
22 E. Van Buren, Chicago, IL 60605 427-2533
AN EVENING OF SOLIDARITY FOR FREEDOM in Southern AFRICA

COMMEMORATE SOWETO -- JUNE 16

ON JUNE 16, 1976 THOUSANDS OF BLACK STUDENTS ROSE UP IN PROTEST AGAINST THE RACIST APARTHEID REGIME IN SOUTH AFRICA. SCORES OF STUDENTS WERE KILLED BY SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE, AND MANY OTHERS WERE ARRESTED AND TORTURED. HOWEVER, THE JUNE 16 REBELLION SET THE STAGE FOR A NEW WAVE IN THE STRUGGLE FOR AFRICAN LIBERATION. COMMEMORATE THE ANNIVERSARY OF THIS HISTORIC EVENT WITH US.

• NO U.S. MILITARY AND ECONOMIC AID TO RACIST REGIMES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA
• END LOANS FROM CONTINENTAL AND FIRST NATIONAL BANKS TO SOUTH AFRICA

• Speakers: THEO BEN GURIRAB -- REP. OF SWAPO IN NAMIBIA
          DUMI MARTZ -- SOUTH AFRICAN EXILE

• Film: THERE IS NO CRISIS (FIRST HAND ACCOUNT OF SOWETO PROTESTS)

• Entertainment

Thurs., June 16

ST. PAUL AND THE REDEEMER CHURCH at 7:30pm
4945 S. DORCHESTER, CHICAGO DONATION-$1.

SPONSORED BY: CHICAGO COALITION ON SOUTHERN AFRICA
               SOWETO COMMEMORATION COMMITTEE

ENDORSED BY: NEW WORLD RESOURCE CENTER, BLACK ARTS CELEBRATION
             DENNIS BRUTUS, STUDENT COALITION AGAINST RACISM, 8TH DAY
             CENTER, CABRAL COLLECTIVE, COMMITTEE FOR A DEMOCRATIC FOREIGN
             POLICY, LOU PALMER, NATIONAL LAWYERS GUILD

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL: 427-2533 or 427-4351
ZIMBABWE

(continued from page 1)

arion radically, by creating a socialist Zimbabwe, with economic as well as political independence.

The Kissinger plan failed precisely because it was designed to prevent radical change. Ian Smith originally led Rhodesian whites in unilaterally declaring independence from Britain in order to avoid British-palmed majority rule. Faced with a growing guerrilla war, Smith now seeks to create a 'moderate' black leadership to which he can hand over formal political power. Indications are that he is failing. Any agreement excluding the Patriotic Front would automatically mean a protracted guerrilla war, and few black politicians are prepared to face that eventuality.

As late as March 22, the U.S. government was still talking in congressional hearings about a $1.5 billion "stabilization" fund for Rhodesia, with $520 million of that from the U.S. The plan remains vague, however, and Congress is reportedly unenthusiastic, especially in the absence of any clear idea of what it would accomplish.

The Patriotic Front is composed of the Zimbabwe African People's Union (ZAPU) and the Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU), plus their once again unified military units. Despite political, personal and ethnic differences, ZANU and ZAPU are united in their commitment to socialism and in their distrust of Europeans bearing gifts. They know that in those African countries which negotiated peaceful political independence from Europe, the people today are little better off than they were under colonial rule. They are convinced that economic independence is as crucial as political independence. Since this analysis is backed by a growing guerrilla army, Washington and London can lecture, but they cannot impose a solution. Robert Mugabe of the Patriotic Front expects a "protracted, bitter and bloody" war.

News Note: Angola

Angola is in the midst of nationalizing production and has already instituted free medical care throughout the country. In a recent campaign, 1.5 million children were vaccinated against polio. The campaign is being conducted by MPLA, working closely with mass organizations, especially the Organization of Angolan Women (OMA).

On May 16, four Angolan soldiers were killed in an attack by Zaire-based guerrillas in the northern enclave of Cabinda. At the same time, a South African helicopter gunship attacked Cunene province in the south.

LATE NEWS: Rhodesian troops recently invaded Mozambique and claim to have destroyed two guerrilla camps. This could be a provocation of Mozambique in hopes that she will call in Cubans, giving Rhodesia an excuse to call in South Africa . . .
Several African liberation movement leaders met U.S. Ambassador Andrew Young at the recent U.N. Conference on Namibia and Zimbabwe, held in Manuto, Mozambique in mid-May. But their reaction was one of caution. SWAPO President Sam Nujoma feared the U.S. may intend to legitimize South Africa's plan for an 'Independent' Namibia, based on ethnic enclaves. He told Young and the conference that the SWAPO guerrilla campaign for total liberation will continue.

Young refused to support SWAPO's call for mandatory arms sanctions against South Africa. His endorsement of a "negotiated settlement" and his repeated reference to the civil rights movement in this country raised the ire of another liberation movement leader, Robert Mugabe of the Zimbabwe Patriotic Front. Mugabe said Africans have turned to armed struggle because years of passive resistance failed.

Later, Young told a group of businessmen in Johannesburg that they hold the key to social change in South Africa. "My argument," he said, "boils down to my conviction that the free market system can be the greatest force for constructive change now operating anywhere in the world."

(N.Y. Times, 5/22/77)

It will thus come as no surprise that the Johannesburg Star wrote that Young "confounded both his critics and his supporters. Whites in this country, led to believe that he was a compulsive talker and a fool, were being told to hate him. To blacks he was projected as some sort of revolutionary pin-up boy. But the truth is that the man who helped lead Southern Negroes from rags to riches came preaching old-fashioned capitalism with missionary zeal."

"He did something else: He expressed huge optimism in South Africa's future more optimism than bewildered businessmen or paralyzed government politicians have been able to muster all year."

Zaire

"Everyone knows that France has been interested in African countries that have rich resources.... This explains France's present interest in Zaire..." (Washington Post, 4/27/77). Elslande is only complainting, however, because he objects to French fingers in the Belgian pie. Finally, despite Zaire's de facto default and its having the lowest credit rating possible, the International Monetary Fund has lent Zaire an additional $75 million and First National City Bank of New York is going ahead with organizing $250 million more in loans.

Clearly there is something strange here. The people of Zaire are poor, diseased, uneducated, ill-housed and often starving. Yet European nations hicker among themselves for the privilege of helping Mobutu. Zaire is over its head in debt. Yet its resources are so rich that banks leap to throw good money after bad and newspapers editorialize that Zaire's resources are too vast for the West to risk their loss. This situation is called neo-colonialism. In future issues, Amadilla will discuss the operations of neo-colonialism in detail; for now, Americans should be ready to oppose escalation in U.S. aid to Mobutu.
Clerics describe Zaire revolt

By SARA RODRIGUES
Special to the Guardian
5/11/77
Luanda, Angola

Eyewitness accounts of the fighting in Zaire's Shaba province, depict an indigenous uprising welcomed and supported by people in the region and bloody opposed by the Mobuto government and its imperialist allies.

Detailed, first-hand descriptions of the situation in Shaba were provided by a group of 28 Protestant and Catholic missionaries and their five children who were evacuated last week with the aid of the Congolese National Liberation Front (FNLC).

The ministers, nuns and priests were from the Protestant Commonwealth Brethren Mission at Kasaji, the Catholic mission of St. Mary in Dilolo and from Mutshatsha. They said they were "forced to leave [Shaba] because of the advance of the mixed Mobuto forces and heavy bombing of the area by Macchi and Mirage fighters of the Zaire airforce."

FNLC WELCOMED

The missionaries interviewed during their stay here told of the "terror" experienced by the People of Shaba as they fled heavy bombing by Zaire forces for safety in Angola and Zambia. Earlier, the missionaries reported, while the FNLC had been present in the three Shaba towns, life had gone on as usual. Everyone was there. Everyone welcomed the front [FNLC].

The missionaries' stories present a composite picture of a determined uprising led by the FNLC—all of whom are Congolese—with few weapons and not a single vehicle until cars and trucks were requisitioned in the towns that had been liberated.

"They came on foot as a complete surprise," recounted a Belgian priest who lived in Dilolo. "I never saw more than 10 front fighters at any one time. The people welcomed them. They were from the area."

"From the start," the St. Mary missionaries explained, "the front said, 'We are not Katangese. We are Congolese who want to liberate the whole country. We want to overthrow Mobuto.'"

When the FNLC arrived in mid-March at Mutshatsha, recalled a nun from that area, the liberation forces found railway freight cars loaded with ammunition meant for Mobuto's army. "They gave out the coal, rice and beans a little for everybody," the nun said. "They didn't keep it all for themselves. They brought meat to the hospital and our hospital," the nun remembered. "They dropped many bombs. Some said not less than 50. They shot holes six and a half yards deep. They hit the railroad line and the station and the hospital."

"They went to the big supermarket owned by a relative of Mobuto," the nun continued, "and the front soldiers gave everyone everything. Everybody got something. Nobody paid."

"YOU ARE FREE!"

How did the FNLC explain their aims, the nun asked. They held public meetings, but you weren't obliged to go. They replied, "They said they came to liberate the country from Mobuto."

A nurse in Mutshatsha, the nun said, asked FNLC leaders if he could still go to church. "They said yes, everyone was free, they weren't here to do away with religion.

"Others," the nun added, "asked if they could wear bubus [traditional African dress] and ties [banned by Mobuto]. 'Yes,' was the front's reply, 'you are free.'"

The Mutshatsha missionaries said many young men from the area went to join the FNLC. "They said they wanted to go and receive military training with the front to fight to free the country from Mobuto."

'SPOKE OF SOCIALISM'

"On Monday the 14th, the front came into the mission," he continued. "They were very cooperative and friendly. They said they had come to liberate the country and were adamant they weren't Katangese but Congolese. They behaved well. They spoke of socialism and of everyone being equal and everyone participating."

Prior to the FNLC insurrection, the missionaries said, conditions in Shaba were chaotic and difficult.

"The peasants couldn't get a fair price for their produce," the missionaries reported. "They couldn't sell the stuff because the roads were so bad and they couldn't get the stuff to the railway. They had a good many reasons for dissatisfaction.

An Italian nun who was living in Mutshatsha explained that this town is of great strategic importance for Mobuto's government. A crossroads for the railway and the road system, Mutshatsha was subjected to heavy bombing by the Zaire airforce on Easter Sunday and during the next few days.

HOSPITAL BOMBED

"On Easter Monday at 3:30 pm we were in the hospital when they [the Mobuto forces] began bombing the station and our hospital," the nun remembered. "They dropped many bombs. Some said not less than 50. They left holes six and a half yards deep. They hit the railway line and the station and the hospital.

Other nuns from Mutshatsha said Mobuto forces were desiring and were afraid to fight the front. "At the battle of Malonga, many fled dropping their arms and many others were wounded," these nuns declared. "They called us to see an armored car with 10 wounded, but they weren't wounded at all. They were just frightened.

One nun who had treated several Zaire soldiers said these men had shot their own left hands in order not to fight.

The towns of Shaba are now being emptied of their inhabitants as heavy bombing continues, the missionaries said. The people of the region are fleeing to Zambia and Angola as the Zaire planes bomb their homes.

The Shaba inhabitants are also terrified by the advance of Moroccan troops. "We heard reports about the villages being set on fire and people being burned alive," the missionaries said.

None of the nuns, priests and ministers interviewed here reported seeing any foreigners fighting on the side of the FNLC. "It was very interesting being where things were happening and listening to the foreign radio reports from Washington and London and everywhere," the missionaries said. "There were a lot of rumors and things said that weren't true."
1. With Freedom in Their Eyes - beautiful 88-page photo essay on Angola, with brief text and poems about the struggle of the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola. $2.95

2. People's Power - a periodical published in London every two months with up-dates on recent developments in independent Angola, Mozambique, and Guinea-Bissau. For example:
   - Issue #3 includes an analysis of FRELIMO's educational policies
   - Issue #5 includes "We have chosen socialism," a speech by President Neto to the Angolan Workers' Congress.
   - Issue #6 includes proceedings of the Second Conference of the Organization of Mozambican Women (OMM). 50¢

3. Torment to Triumph in Southern Africa - a basic book, which gives a brief background on each country in Southern Africa, with statistics and information on the role of foreign investment and the role of churches. $2.75

4. Rhodesia: White Racism and Imperial Response (Martin Loney) - the history of Rhodesia as a colony and of the continuing African opposition to the invaders, the historical development of white rule and the consequent impoverishment of the African population. $2.95

5. The Kissinger Study of Southern Africa - the complete, unabridged text of the secret National Security Study Memorandum #39 designed by Kissinger for the Nixon administration, which spells out U.S. policy options on southern Africa. It details U.S. military and economic involvement in Africa and contains a memo on the role of the CIA in Angola and an analysis of U.S. policy, by Mohamed El-Khawas and Barry Cohen. $3.95


7. Southern Africa - a monthly magazine of news, analysis and interviews about southern Africa - a valuable source of information on the ongoing struggles in South Africa, Namibia and Zimbabwe as well as on developments in Mozambique, Angola, Guinea-Bissau and neighboring countries. The April issue includes a report on the FRELIMO Third Party Congress, the developing military alliance in the South Atlantic, and a feature on the war in Namibia. $1.00 per copy
   (Better yet: subscribe yourself to Southern Africa, 156 Fifth Avenue, Rm 707, New York, N.Y. 10001; $8.00/year; $1.00 for 3-month trial.)

"Information is ammunition for your struggle. A fighter without ammunition is not a fighter. And for you, a fighter without information cannot speak." President Samora Machel of Mozambique, sneaking to poele engaged in support work in the United States.
WHY?

(Continued from page 1)
to steal bread." They too have a
dream - a dream for which they are
prepared to fight.

It is our intention to set before
your arguments, their homestheir per
spectives. We will seek to provide
our readers with the whole truth on
current events. We do not claim
omniscience, but we have learned from
bitter experience that the American
people are seldom given all of even the
most readily available information on
Africa. Over the coming months, Amandla
will publish backgrounders on countries
in the news - such as Zaire, Zimbabwe,
South Africa - and on countries not so
much in the news - such as Kenya and
Tanzania.

We would like you to regard us as a
community resource. If you have questions
about a particular subject - write us.
If you have suggestions or criticisms -
write. All letters will be answered.
We will do articles - or help our readers
do articles - on any subject for which
there is general interest.

In addition to publishing Amandla
eye every two months, the Chicago Committee
for African Liberation (CCAL) works to:
--organize lecture tours by liberation
movement representatives and by those
who have recently visited Africa;
--publish pamphlets on topics of
interest; we are now doing one on
women in the Namibian liberation
movement;
--distribute films and slide shows
about African liberation movements
to groups and individuals;
--show films and arrange talks on
particular African countries;
--organize short classes and study
groups on request, such as our current
participation in a 10-week class on
the nature of imperialism;
--provide literature tables for Africa-
related events.
CCAL is a member organization of both
the Chicago Southern Africa Coalition and
the National Coalition for the Liberation
of Southern Africa. As such, we are working to:
--oppose bank loans to South Africa (p. 2)
buycott Del Monte products because
of Del Monte's role in supporting the
oppression of Namibia
--commemorate the June 16 Soweto
demonstrations against apartheid in
South Africa and the hundreds of students
who were killed by the South African
police. (p. 3)

If you share our concern for Africa,
or want to learn more, please call us
from 2-8 p.m., Tues.--Fri. or from
12-6 p.m. Sat. If you would like to
contribute a few hours of your time to
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