THE PLUNDER OF NAMIBIA'S NATURAL RESOURCES

The lawful authority over the International Territory of Namibia is the United Nations. The Council for Namibia is that UN body set up to govern the affairs of the Territory until it achieves independence. The UN's administrative officer for the Territory is the Commissioner for Namibia. The incumbent is Martti Ahtisaari. However, South Africa continues its illegal and defiant occupation of Namibia. In 1974, when Sean MacBride was Commissioner for Namibia, the Council for Namibia adopted and the UN General Assembly approved a lawful proclamation: Decree No. 1 - For The Protection Of The Natural Resources Of Namibia.

Namibia is enormously wealthy in natural resources - diamonds, uranium, base metals, semi-precious stones, karakul lamb furs, fish from its waters. This long-suffering colony has for decades been a poaching ground for South Africa and its friends as they exploit and pillage at the expense of the Namibian people. One grisly example is a current orgy of game hunting: South African officials and people in places of influence are slaughtering elephants, rhinos, gazelles, zebras, anything from the once vast herds of wild life. These butchers often receive assurance of perfect kills in their sport by the use of motor vehicles and helicopters of the occupying South African Defence Force.

The minerals of Namibia are of particular value for the operations of the sophisticated technological societies of the West. Namibia is for South Africa not only a crucial part of its envisioned Southern African empire, but a source of huge profits. Multi-national corporations of Western nations are heavily invested in and extract their own profits from the International Territory. Outstanding are firms based in the five Western powers - the USA, Britain, France, West Germany and Canada, who for almost three years have been engaged in 'delicate negotiations' with Pretoria and the Namibian independence movement, SWAPO, over the future of the country. Signal among the American companies are AMAX and Newmont Mining Corporation which together control Tsumeb Corporation, the Territory's largest producer of copper, zinc and lead.

All these multi-nationals, including those registered in South Africa, conduct their operations by license from the Pretoria regime or its illegal South West Africa administration. Decree No. 1 affirms that all such activity is unlawful. Mining, export and distribution of 'any natural resource, whether animal or mineral' of Namibia are unauthorized without 'the consent and permission' of the Council for Namibia. Vessels or vehicles found to be carrying such products and the products themselves are 'subject to seizure and forfeiture'.

The plunder of Namibia's natural resources goes on and on. When will this international brigandage be stopped?
THEFT OF URANIUM

A major feature in the plunder of Namibia's natural resources is the exploitation of its vast deposits of uranium. The full extent of the Territory's fields is not yet known, prospecting by corporations of many countries proceeds with frantic haste. The authoritative book THE NUCLEAR AXIS states that these reserves 'have been estimated by most outside sources as 100,000 metric tons of assured reserves exploitable at less than $15/1b'. The world's largest open face uranium mine is in Namibia, Rossing Uranium, Ltd, is run by Rio Tinto Zinc Corporation, Ltd, of London; there are South African, French, Canadian, and West German (they deny it) interests. Pretoria controls the entire Rossing enterprise through its parastatal Industrial Development Corporation which owns the largest block of voting stock, and by virtue of the South African Atomic Energy Act which gives ultimate power to the state and which specifically is written to include anything uranium/atomic in the International Territory.

The Paris newspaper LIBERATION last month ran an astonishing series on how Namibian uranium products are clandestinely shipped by air from Windhoek to France. The semi-refined form of the precious metal, uranium oxide, known as 'yellowcake', has been since November 1977 flown twice a week by DC8s of the French airline UTA and by South African Airways 707s. LIBERATION reproduces a custom's declaration showing the stuff is disguised as non-ferous metals and concentrates. The newspaper also did some photographic sleuthing: it prints shots of sealed drums being offloaded from a UTA cargo plane at Marseille-Marignane airport and transferred to trucks destined for the Comurhex plant near Narbonne for processing into hexafluoride.

Other shipments have gone either to Orly or Roissy, both outside Paris, and there loaded onto lorries for delivery - via the Calais-Dover ferry - to the British Nuclear Fuels plant near Preston. LIBERATION again maintained steady surveillance of this procedure, with photographs.

THE SUNDAY TIMES of London a few days later devoted detailed attention to this illicit trade. RTZ refuses to reveal to whom and on what terms the Namibian uranium is sold. Rossing's output is 'secretly being sold' to Japan, West Germany and to Iran, which is now trying to break the contract. Some of the yellowcake transported to Britain is converted into hexafluoride, then sent by rail across Europe to the Soviet Union to be enriched: this is then shipped by rail to West Germany. Other portions of the yellowcake is enriched either in England or by the joint British-Dutch-German facility at Almelo in Holland, Urenco. THE SUNDAY TIMES asserts 'Britain, flouting a United Nations resolution approved by the General Assembly, imports no less than 42% of her civilian uranium needs from Namibia's Rossing mine'. The Rossing-UK contract calls for delivery of 7,500 tons of oxide.

The London newspaper on 30 December relates the operations of Rossing's world sales office for oxide and hexafluoride tucked away in a small town in Switzerland. This is only a nominal headquarters; in reality RTZ Mineral Services operates out of London.

A couple more characters are added to this sorry tale. THE SUNDAY TIMES states: 'Japan's oxide is shipped from Namibia for processing to the United States where it is mixed with uranium from other sources.'
Conscious of its responsibility to protect the natural resources of the people of Namibia and of ensuring that these natural resources are not exploited to the detriment of Namibia, its people or environmental assets, the United Nations Council for Namibia enacts the following decree:

**DECREE**

The United Nations Council for Namibia,

Recognizing that, in the terms of General Assembly resolution 2145 (XXI) of 27 October 1966 the Territory of Namibia (formerly South West Africa) is the direct responsibility of the United Nations,

Accepting that this responsibility includes the obligation to support the right of the people of Namibia to achieve self-government and independence in accordance with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960,

Reaffirming that the Government of the Republic of South Africa is in illegal possession of the Territory of Namibia,

Furtering the decision of the General Assembly in resolution 1803 (XVII) of 14 December 1962 which declared the right of peoples and nations to permanent sovereignty over their natural wealth and resources,

Noting that the Government of the Republic of South Africa has usurped and interfered with these rights,

Desirous of securing for the people of Namibia adequate protection of the natural wealth and resources of the Territory which is rightfully theirs,

Recalling the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice of 21 June 1971,¹

Acting in terms of the powers conferred on it by General Assembly resolution 2248 (S-V) of 19 May 1967 and all other relevant resolutions and decisions regarding Namibia,

Decrees that

1. No person or entity, whether a body corporate or unincorporated, may search for, prospect for, explore for, take, extract, mine, process, refine, use, sell, export, or distribute any natural resource, whether animal or mineral, situated or found to be situated within the territorial limits of Namibia without the consent and permission of the United Nations Council for Namibia or any person authorized to act on its behalf for the purpose of giving such permission or such consent;

2. Any permission, concession or licence for all or any of the purposes specified in paragraph 1 above whenever granted by any person or entity, including any body purporting to act under the authority of the Government of the Republic of South Africa or the “Administration of South West Africa” or their predecessors, is null, void and of no force or effect;

3. No animal resource, mineral, or other natural resource produced in or emanating from the Territory of Namibia may be taken from the said Territory by any means whatsoever to any place whatsoever outside the territorial limits of Namibia by any person or body, whether corporate or unincorporated, without the consent and permission of the United Nations Council for Namibia or of any person authorized to act on behalf of the said Council;

4. Any animal, mineral or other natural resource produced in or emanating from the Territory of Namibia which shall be taken from the said Territory without the consent and written authority of the United Nations Council for Namibia or of any person authorized to act on behalf of the said Council may be seized and shall be forfeited to the benefit of the said Council and held in trust by them for the benefit of the people of Namibia;

5. Any vehicle, ship or container found to be carrying animal, mineral or other natural resources produced in or emanating from the Territory of Namibia shall also be subject to seizure and forfeiture by or on behalf of the United Nations Council for Namibia or of any person authorized to act on behalf of the said Council and shall be forfeited to the benefit of the said Council and held in trust by them for the benefit of the people of Namibia;

6. Any person, entity or corporation which contravenes the present decree in respect of Namibia may be held liable in damages by the future Government of an independent Namibia;

7. For the purposes of the preceding paragraphs 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 and in order to give effect to this decree, the United Nations Council for Namibia hereby authorizes the United Nations Commissioner for Namibia, in accordance with resolution 2248 (S-V), to take the necessary steps after consultations with the President.


For additional copies and information, please communicate with:

- United Nations Commissioner for Namibia, room 328, UNDC Building, United Nations, New York, N.Y. 10017; or,
'We can ascribe our degree of advancement today in large measure to the training and assistance so willingly provided by the United States of America during the early years of our nuclear programme when several of the Western world's nuclear nations co-operated in initiating our scientists and engineers into nuclear science.'

- Dr. A. J. A. Roux, president, South African Atomic Energy Board

'WE AS BLACK AMERICAN CITIZENS EMPLOYED AT ARGONNE NATIONAL LABORATORY PROTEST THE PARTICIPATION OF TWO WHITE SOUTH AFRICAN ENGINEERS IN THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY'S NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER PROGRAM CONDUCTED BY ARGONNE NATIONAL LABORATORY AT THE EXPENSE OF TAXPAYERS.

'THE FACT THAT OUR GOVERNMENT THROUGH ITS STATE DEPARTMENT IS HOST TO CITIZENS OF A NATION WHICH SYMBOLIZES THE NEGATION OF BLACK PEOPLE IN PARTICULAR AND HUMANITY IN GENERAL IS ABHORRENT. THE UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA'S ACTS OF MURDER ARE CONSIDERED A CRIME BY THE WORLD'S COURT OF PUBLIC OPINION. AS AMERICAN CITIZENS WE DEMAND THE IMMEDIATE EXPULSION OF THESE SOUTH AFRICAN NUCLEAR TRAINEES ESPECIALLY IN LIGHT OF THE ALLEGED RECENT SOUTH AFRICAN ATOMIC EXPLOSION.'

OUTRAGED U.S. CITIZENS EMPLOYED AT ARGONNE NATIONAL LABORATORIES

This telegram was sent on 10 November 1979 to United Nations Secretary General Kurt Waldheim, President Jimmy Carter, Senator Edward Kennedy and several US organizations by black staff members of the Department of Energy's nuclear laboratory at Argonne near Chicago. There has been no public outcry supporting these courageous citizens who acted in the finest spirit of responsibility.

The South Africans, who have now returned home, were trained in a 6-week course on nuclear reactor safety and other elements of reactor technology. This program was set up in 1976 by IAEA and persons from other countries have taken part. State Department officials say that South Africa is a bona fide member of IAEA and that two slots became available in the Argonne program so the two engineers were included. Earlier US programs known as 'Atoms for Peace', established a quarter century ago, have had South African participation. The US government is still trying to obtain South Africa's signature to the 1968 Nuclear Non Proliferation Treaty and makes much of holding up delivery of a supply of highly enriched uranium to Pretoria. An early December annual conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency - the agency sponsoring the Argonne program - voted to bar South Africa from its annual meeting, an act the State Department deplores as a 'political' move.

DEMAND THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT END ALL NUCLEAR COOPERATION WITH SOUTH AFRICA:

President Jimmy Carter
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Secretary of State Cyrus Vance
Department of State
Washington, DC 20520

'Experience from civilian utilizations of course facilitates the construction and operation of clandestine facilities for bomb production.'

- Sverre Lodgaard, International Peace Research Institute, Oslo

THE DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL SECURITY - and that NUCLEAR CONNECTION

South African Prime Minister Pieter Willem Botha is also Minister of Defence and the Minister of National Security. On 13 November, Botha announced a new number 2 man in the Department of National Security (formerly BOSS), political science professor Dr Lukas Daniel Barnard, who assumes office on 1 June 1980. He is described as 'ardently anti-communist' and a believer in the use of swaardmagsanksie (sword-power sanction). THE RAND DAILY MAIL reports that Barnard 'recently returned from the United States where he studied nuclear strategy'.

See a jan 80
On 22 September 1979 a US Vela satellite detected a distinctive twin flash - the signature of a nuclear explosion - somewhere in the South Atlantic-Indian Oceans area between the African and Antarctic continents. Someone leaked this information in late October only - and there ensued a flurry of consternation in the US government and around the world. Once again attention was focussed on South Africa as a member of the club of nuclear powers. The USA sent out planes to scoop the atmosphere and pled it could not confirm a nuclear event. New Zealand scientists at first noted an increase in fallout, then protested uncertainty. The South Africans laughed and blustered and pointed at the Russians. The WASHINGTON POST ran a story on New Year's day saying that a board of experts set up by the White House to determine whether an atomic explosion took place near South Africa on 22 September 'has ruled out almost every other explanation for the event'.

THE NUCLEAR AXIS, published in 1978 and scantly noticed, is even more must reading for Americans. In the context of the 22 September event it is worth repeating what Barbara Rogers, co-author of this important document wrote in a 1975 study called: NAMIBIA's URANIUM: Implications For The South African Occupation Regime:

In 1967 Martin Walker, a British journalist working for the well-connected Afrikaner publisher Otto Krause, discovered that Douglas Torr, a nuclear scientist straight from the British nuclear research establishment at Harwell, was working on a joint project of the South African Government's Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and the University of the Witwatersrand, ostensibly on meteorological research on the Southern African Anomaly. This is a point between South Africa, South Australia and Antarctica where the radiation belts surrounding the earth reach sea-level. It is avoided by all shipping because of its dangerous radiation. Douglas Torr, it appeared was using three Hastings bombers of the South African Air Force for his 'research'. A check on what Torr had been doing at Harwell indicated that it had been highly confidential. The CSIR building is heavily guarded and has no windows; it is reputed to be for top-secret nuclear research. After starting to investigate, Walker was promptly ordered by Krause to stay away from that story.

'It appears likely that the research project was in fact testing nuclear explosives at the Southern African Anomaly. This is an ideal spot to evade detection, since it is completely deserted, no seismic impact would be detected from an explosion in the atmosphere, and most important, the radiation impact on the atmosphere would be obscured by the high levels already prevailing at that spot.'

NUCLEAR ESPIONAGE TRIAL

South Africa is about to have its first nuclear spy trial. According to THE SUNDAY TIMES, a young South African scientist will be brought to trial in Pretoria Supreme Court charged 'among other things, with disclosing South African nuclear secrets to enemies of the country'. The enemies' turns out to be the African National Congress of South Africa. The accused, identified in London's FINANCIAL TIMES as Dr Renfrew Christie, is supposed to have mailed details of the Koelberg power station, now under construction near Cape Town, to ANC offices outside South Africa. South African Police 'also have copies of reports containing detailed information about South Africa's mineral, oil and labour resources'.

Dr Christie will likely be charged under the Atomic Energy Act, which carries a maximum penalty of a 10,000 Rand fine or 20 years imprisonment, or both. Additional charges may be entered under the Official Secrets and the Defence Acts; the accusation of treason is also a possibility. Christie studied at the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg and at the University of Cape Town. In 1972, at the age of 22, he was deputy president of the National Union of South African Students. He returned to South Africa last summer from England where he achieved his doctorate at Oxford. The security police kept him under surveillance for a time before arresting him on 23 October 1979.
This important book covers a far wider field than the subtitle indicates. It is the seminal document on South Africa's position as a major uranium producer and nuclear power. Perversely blessed with an estimated 20% of the world's uranium ore and with a sophisticated technology for the processing of that into finished products suitable for commercial peaceful uses and for weaponry, the apartheid state holds a commanding and unique role in effect binds other countries in a nuclear-political web. Not only West Germany but France, Israel, Britain, Japan and the United States are beholden to South Africa, or think they are, and Pretoria exacts every bit of fealty.

Cervenka, associate director of the Scandinavian Institute for African Studies at Uppsala, lays out the quest of West Germany just following World War II for both international respectability and Bonn's determination to go the nuclear road for energy and militarily. Forbidden to manufacture atomic (biological and chemical) weapons, West Germany collaborated with South Africa, notably by the transfer of its so-called 'jet-nozzle' uranium enrichment technology - a process that South Africa was to proclaim its very own development. British research author Barbara Rogers picks up on the South African scene. Pretoria was the major supplier of uranium for the Western powers in the wake of World War II. USA-RSA ties were well firmed up in the 40s and 50s. South Africans got skilled training here and we got uranium. France became more deeply involved and is today building the Koeberg nuclear power plant. Britain's longtime ties with South Africa were enhanced in the nuclear field. These countries find in South Africa and Namibia sources of uranium mined at low cost by poorly paid black labor.

The International Territory of Namibia, South Africa's treasure-laden colony, figures prominently in this dismal chronicle. Namibia is thought to have half as much uranium as South Africa, a fact which provides another impelling reason for Pretoria to hang on to the huge, wealthy Territory. British journalist Roger Murray contributes a section on Namibia, with special emphasis on the Rossming mine - the world's largest open face uranium diggings - and the scramble by multi-national mineral corporations, South African and of most of the above-mentioned powers, for prospecting concessions throughout the illegally occupied Territory. Barbara Rogers adds the ominous information that in the lonely stretches of the Namib Desert the South Africans have very likely conducted underground nuclear tests.

THE NUCLEAR AXIS examines with great thoroughness all aspects of South Africa's nuclear strength as it exists and its potential. Despite the veil of secrecy Pretoria imposes on its atomic-uranium store some facts are known and trends and capabilities are ascertainable. The economics of the Koeberg power station are financially ruinous for a country even as wealthy as South Africa; it is evident that this venture in 'peaceful uses' has another factor: military needs. Pretoria deals with the French because they are not as persnickety as the Americans. South Africa will not sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty: it has a great deal to hide. THE NUCLEAR AXIS draws together in one volume - copies of highly confidential cables and letters purloined from South Africa's embassy in Bonn; graphs of Soviet and US satellite overflights of the Kalahari test site, a cause celebre in 1977 (President Carter said that then Prime Minister Vorster promised South Africa would not explode the bomb; Vorster denied it) a photo scoop from inside the Pelindaba research facility. Pretoria as a leading member of the 'potential league of the desperate' - Israel, Brazil, the Shah's Iran. Taiwan, South Korea: the reasons for Pretoria's heavy investment in nuclear weaponry; attitudes within the US government toward relations with South Africa. This last is fraught with peril. For that reason alone all Americans must read THE NUCLEAR AXIS.
RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE 27TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE WORLD FEDERATION OF UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATIONS, HELD IN BARCELONA ON THE 13 OCTOBER 1979

THE TWENTY-SEVENTH PLENARY ASSEMBLY OF WFUNA

1. IS GRAVELY CONCERNED at the lack of progress being made in providing for the liberation of Namibia;

2. CALLS UPON the appropriate organs of the United Nations to resume the direct control of all negotiations about Namibia with South Africa;

3. FURTHER CALLS UPON the United Nations to take all appropriate measures, and in particular to apply Decree No. 1 of the United Nations, to ensure that effect be given to the decisions of the United Nations in regard to Namibia, and to guarantee the territorial integrity of Namibia.

(An amendment by the Federal Republic of Germany to add at the end of paragraph 2 the words 'at an appropriate time' received only 2 votes - those of the FRG and the USA; the resolution as proposed was discussed and unanimously adopted.)

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EPISCOPAL CHURCHMEN for SOUTH AFRICA
Room 1005, 853 Broadway
New York, N. Y. 10003

Address Correction Requested

—for a free southern Africa—