SOUTH AFRICA 'SANITIZES' NAMIBIA-ANGOLA BORDER

South Africa is clearing all civilians from a long stretch of northern Namibia bordering Angola. THE WINDHOEK ADVERTISER of 17 October reports "the entire frontier of 250 km which the Kwanyama 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".

Jannie de Wet, the occupation official who bears the title 'Commissioner for Indigenous Peoples', said "the Kwanyama 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 stated people would be compensated from tribal funds and allocated new land. De Wet added that the strip would be tightly controlled and populated by security forces. THE ADVERTISER says: "It is the first time in the modern history of South West Africa that a large-scale resettlement of civilians has taken place as a result of armed dread".

Chief Minister Cornelius Ndjoba of the Owambo bantustan, which includes the region affected by the removals, is touring overseas with the South African puppet delegation. From newspaper accounts, the SWAPO raided a week ago and the South African incursion into Angola after that took place near a border crossing at Oshikango. Odibo, the large central Anglican mission station is a scant 5-6 km from there, and the mission itself is only a couple of kilometres from the Angola border. South Africans will welcome this opportunity to wipe out St. Mary's mission and school which have long been a seat of resistance to Pretorian occupation and minority rule.

TORTURE AND REPRESsION IN NAMIBIA: A PERSONAL ACCOUNT

The SWAPO mission to the UN in New York has released the text of a letter from Theophilus Kalimba, Odibo storeowner and member of St. Mary's, who escaped from the Oshikango jail where he was held along with other SWAPO members Sam Shivute, Reuben Kauwanga, Immanuel Hatutale and others:

"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. I cannot really understand what will happen to someone who is forbidden to sleep even half a second day and night...

"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."
"SWAPO!" "SWAPO!" "SWAPO!" A band of demonstrators - half of them Namibians, half Americans - greeted the 34-person puppet delegation sent abroad by the South African regime as it entered a Manhattan building for a press conference on 15 October 1975.

Visibly subdued, the "travelling salesmen" - as UN Zambian ambassador Kamana termed them - were marched into the Carnegie International Building at 46th Street and First Avenue just across from the UN General Assembly. They were chaperoned-herded by members of the South African Mission to the UN and officials of the South African Department of Information. (It appears Dr. Hilgard Muller's Department of Foreign Affairs worked out the tour schedule and so stand to take the blame for the delegation's flop trip while Dr. Connie Mulders Information Department remains unscathed; the two cabinet ministers are known to operate independently and somewhat in contention, with eyes on the succession to South Africa's Prime Ministership).

A detective from the New York Police Department's intelligence division accompanied the group and seemed to be under the impression that the delegation had some official relation to the UN. He was swiftly advised correctly. It was also pointed out to him, for whatever good it did, that NYPD's BOSS (the Bureau of Special Services) had a name mate in South Africa - the Bureau of State Security.

The press conference was pretty much of a shambles, most reporters agreed. Most of the puppets were demonstrably that, having little to say; many of them spoke no English; translations labored through the two hours. Herero Chief Clemens Kapuuo, who seems to have the nod as the man South Africa would most like to see as president of an 'independent' South West Africa, did a lot of talking. This is Chief Kapuuo's fourth trip overseas this year. Indeed, lurking across the street from the demonstration but not inside at the press conference, was Kapuuo's overseas manager, London-based mystery man James Endicott. Mr. Endicott, a bright-eyed little man, is reliably reported to have a fund of 100,000 British pounds or more (coming from where?) to promote the chief. Chief Kapuuo was known to have met with New York attorney Stuart Schwartz - whom he brought out to Windhoek for the September sitting of the 'constitutional conference' - and to have sought American funds for setting up of a New York office of his political party, NUDO.

The puppet delegation had a South African reception thrown for them at the lush old Metropolitan Club on Fifth Avenue and met with UK and US officials. A middle-level officer at the US Mission informed them that the Windhoek conference does not represent all the Namibian people. The puppet contingent did visit the UN but only as tourists.

Perhaps the most unsettling experience for them was when the exited from the 15 October press conference. The demonstrators had been swelled by what must have been a Banquo's ghost for them: David Maroro was at the head of the line.

The Council for Namibia issued a statement across the street - cautioning UN member states that the puppets were promoting fragmentation of Namibia and the division of its people and calling on member states to safeguard the territorial integrity of Namibia and to respect its national unity. The UN body charged with administering Namibia until that territory's people select their own government stated that the members of the visiting group were not elected by the people of Namibia but were hand-picked by South African authorities. "Their visit was planned, organized and financed by the South African regime. South African agents follow and shepherd them everywhere they go."