

Southern Africa

Kissinger Blackmails Third World With Chaos

Below are excerpts of sections of Henry Kissinger's Philadelphia speech Aug. 31 on southern Africa.

As long as these conflicts fester, Africans of all races will be caught up in a widening and escalating cycle of violence. Until these wars are ended, Africa faces a future of danger, anguish and growing risks of foreign intervention.

This is why I will leave on Friday to continue discussions on the President's behalf with the Prime Minister of South Africa. This trip will be the next step in an intensive diplomatic effort ushered in by my visit to Africa in April. Undersecretary of State Rogers and Assistant Secretary Schaufele have just returned from a mission to Tanzania, Zambia, Mozambique and Zaire where they met with the Presidents of those African nations most affected by events in southern Africa — the third such mission in three months. In close collaboration with Great Britain, a serious effort by this country is now underway.

Nearly a third of the world's some 150 sovereign nations are on the continent of Africa. Africa's independence — now barely twenty years old — has transformed the character and scope of international affairs...conflict in Africa has political, security and economic implications that reach far beyond the continent itself.

The United States is the only country which can speak to all sides in southern Africa's current conflicts...Our ability to act effectively in Africa reflects in large measure our standing in the world....

Within recent months southern Africa has faced an imminent, seemingly inescapable prospect of widening violence, economic disarray and a virulent new form of colonialism. The Soviet Union and its Cuban surrogate took upon themselves the right of massive military intervention. Time has been running out fast for negotiated solutions...

The sudden collapse of the Portuguese colonial empire wrought fundamental changes in southern Africa. The remaining outposts of colonialism were now in a untenable position. But civil war within the liberation movement in Angola, Soviet-Cuban intervention, and the continuing massive Cuban military presence in Angola, raised the danger that foreign powers acting for their own ends would seek to impose solutions to all the problems of southern Africa.

New efforts to find negotiated solutions for the racial conflicts in Rhodesia and Namibia failed. The forces for moderation in black Africa risked irrelevance. The peoples of southern Africa were menaced by a mounting spiral of action and reprisal. A course of violence from which no nation was safe had been set in motion.

Worldwide recession and the sharp rise in oil prices had a drastic impact on the poorest nations, many of them African. Development plans were crippled by the fall of export earnings and by the surge of prices for fuel, fertilizer, and other key imports. New cycles of drought and famine halted economic progress and intensified the suffering of hundreds of thousands of people...

There is no guarantee that our current diplomatic effort will succeed. It would be naive to suggest that a peaceful solution to issues so surrounded by passions is inevitable...

Most urgent has been the mounting racial conflict of southern Africa — in Rhodesia, in Namibia, and in the Republic of South Africa itself.

The white minority regime in Rhodesia, representing only some four per cent of the population, is not recognized by a single government — not even by neighboring South Africa.

Early this year, negotiations between the illegal white minority regime and moderate black nationalist leaders broke down. Guerrilla action intensified; rapidly escalating violence threatened to engulf the region. While Rhodesia is the most immediately dangerous problem, Namibia is also of urgent concern...

Namibia, like Rhodesia, contains the seeds of greater conflict. There, too, time is running out. With thousands of foreign troops north of the Namibian border and with intensifying warfare in Rhodesia, a volatile situation is emerging.

And in South Africa itself, the recent outbreaks of racial violence have underscored the inevitable instability of a system that institutionalized human inequality in a way repugnant to the world's conscience.

The white populations of Rhodesia and Namibia must recognize that majority rule is inevitable. The only issue is what form it will take and how it will come about. Will it be through protracted and bloody conflict that will leave a heritage of bitterness and destruction for generations?

As for conditions within South Africa, itself, the world, and most black African leaders, recognize South Africa as an African country. Its white settlers have lived on African soil for centuries. No one, including the responsible leaders of black Africa, challenges their right to remain there. Unlike Rhodesia and Namibia, South Africa cannot be regarded as an illegitimate government, as an outside colonial intrusion....

African Independence: Precondition for Progress

Africa's development will be impossible if the independence and integrity of the continent are not maintained. Africa must not again become an arena in which outside powers contest for spheres of influence. This is why the United States agreed with the Presidents of Botswana, Mozambique, Tanzania, and Zambia that non-African nations should not deal directly with the liberation movement of southern Africa — to avoid the divisions and the competition which led to the tragedies of the Angolan civil war...

There is no better guarantee against foreign intervention than the determination of African nations to defend their own independence and unity. Let us, therefore, not minimize the importance of the security problems that some African nations face...nations which have to defend themselves against recognized dangers — especially when they perceive serious and imminent threats from nearby nations which have been heavily armed by the Soviet Union. We are determined to avoid unnecessary arms races. But when friendly and moderate nations like Kenya or Zaire make modest and responsible requests for assistance to protect themselves against belligerent neighbors possessing substantial quantities of modern Soviet weapons, we owe them our serious consideration....