

## South Africa Pleased With Carter Policy On Investment, Apartheid

The South African business weekly, *Financial Mail*, approvingly noted this week that Jimmy Carter will not only live comfortably with the racist regime but will support it financially: "On balance, the potential benefits to South Africa seem to outweigh the threats. Carter has repeatedly pledged himself to avoid economic sanctions against South Africa to gain American foreign policy goals or to force Pretoria to alter its race policies."

The *Mail* reported that Carter's transition team will replace the Chairman of the Export-Import Bank, which underwrites some American foreign investments, "to begin the gradual relaxing of American credit restrictions on financing loans for South African business ventures." In order to "contribute to peace and offer a positive internal force..." for changing apartheid, the *Mail* continued, "Carter's trade and economic aides will work to encourage U.S. businessmen to make investments in South Africa."

According to other press reports, Carter's embrace of South Africa will carry over to U.S. policy at the United Nations. The December issue of *Southern Africa* magazine, reported that UN representative-designate Andrew Young shares Carter's "view that businesses were a progressive force in desegregating the U.S. south, and might be a progressive force in southern Africa." As the magazine noted, these views are directly contrary to the Democratic Party platform, which calls for discouragement of investment in white-ruled southern Africa. "How these two policy approaches will merge," commented *Southern Africa*, "remains unclear."

Other support to South Africa came from French state-owned Banque de l'Indochine et de Suez this week, which organized a consortium to grant a 12-year 800-million Rand (over \$1 billion) export credit to the South African electricity company for a nuclear power project.

### 137 Dead in Riots

More than 5,000 persons reportedly fled from the Cape Town ghetto of Nyanga in South Africa, carrying all their belongings this week. The refugees are mostly from the Xhosa ethnic group, and press reports say they will be returned to their so-called tribal homeland, the Transkei. South Africa granted independence to Transkei this fall, but as yet South Africa is the only country to recognize this independent status.

The refugees are fleeing from clashes in Cape Town between Xhosa workers and militant youths which left 24 dead. Throughout the country 137 have been killed so far, in bloody clashes among different ethnic groups clashes that may spur a greater exodus from the cities.

South African Prime Minister John Vorster is

scheduled to make a state visit to the Transkei, to promote the "Homelands Development" policy of constructing low-wage, labor-intensive factories in or near the Transkei and other tribal homelands. It has not yet been announced whether American investment is expected to be a major part in the Homelands Development.

## Fear Expansion of Rhodesian War in South Africa

Rhodesian jet fighters attacked refugee camps in the Mozambican province of Chitanga on Christmas Day, strafing the camps and bombing them with napalm, according to the Cuban news agency, *Prensa Latina*, Dec. 29. On the same day Mozambique radio denounced the ongoing attacks by Rhodesian special commandos against Mozambican civilians living near the border and accused the Western press of launching a campaign to convince the general public that there is a large Cuban presence in Mozambique, a claim Mozambique has repeatedly denied.

The fact that the Rhodesian raids into Mozambique have become almost daily occurrences has prompted fears of a larger war in the area among high governmental circles in the five front line states that border on Rhodesia. These black African governments have been active diplomatically to contain the U.S.-Rhodesia threat of war and to prevent internationalization of the situation. According to informed sources, the black governments fear that a war could break out any day and they are preparing for that eventuality, discussing the extent to which they will be forced to call on the Soviet Union and other allies for defense assistance.

One source added that the British are playing a key role in trying to stabilize this situation and prevent a major escalation, despite Rhodesian Prime Minister Smith's attempts to exacerbate and thus internationalize the conflict. The British chairman of the Geneva Conference on Rhodesia, Ivor Richard (who also serves as Britain's ambassador to the United Nations) arrived in Lusaka, Zambia, with "new proposals" for a settlement. The British government is reported to be considering something more than an "honorary contingent" of officials and military officers for the area, a reflection of their estimation of the gravity of the Rhodesian aggressions.

## Mauritius Govt. Hit With Unexpected Electoral Defeats

The ruling Independence Party of Prime Minister Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam in the island nation of Mauritius in the Indian Ocean suffered an unexpected defeat in the Dec. 20 general election by the pro-French Militant Mauritius Movement (MMM).

Seewoosagur, this year's chairman of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) plays an important intermediary role between the OAU and the Nonaligned Movement. He is now forced to form a coalition government, which will compromise his ability to rule.

The MMM, which prior to the election had never held any seats in the Assembly, won 34 out of a total of 70 seats. Seewoosagur then had to ask the conservative Social Democratic Party, which won 8 seats, to join his Independence Party-Muslim Action Committee coalition in order to form a government. Seewoosagur's move has created dissension within the Independence Party, and some Ministers have come out in favor of an alliance with the MMM.

The program of the MMM is styled on that of the French Socialist Party, led by Atlanticist agent François Mitterrand. The MMM has a Maoist-style "anti-superpower" posture and is against the presence of both U.S. and Soviet military forces in the Indian Ocean. MMM leader Berenger announced after the election that the pro-Wall Street government of Giscard d'Estaing would be called upon to play an important role in foreign affairs if he could form a government.

## UNITA, Angolan Countergang, Is Kicked Out of Zambia

The National Union for the Total Independence of Angola, a CIA-controlled group formally allied with South Africa, this week was barred from conducting further operations from Zambia, according to the *Washington Post* Dec. 28. The action followed a visit to

Zambia by Pascal Luvalu, Angolan Ambassador-at-Large and a Central Committee member of the ruling MPLA Party in Angola. Luvalu discussed the improvement of relations between the two countries with Zambian government leaders.

UNITA officials announced that they have entered negotiations with the National Front (FNLA) and the Front for the Liberation of Cabinda (FLEC), two other Angolan groups with ties to the South Africans and to the U.S. CIA, for a united front against the MPLA government of Angola. Earlier this year, UNITA brought in the South African Army in an unsuccessful bid to defeat the MPLA.

In another announcement, the UNITA military commander said that his organization will concentrate on "eliminating" the United Nations-recognized Namibian liberation movement, SWAPO, which the South African Army has been trying for several years to liquidate.

"The only chance SWAPO has (to liberate South-African-controlled Namibia — ed.) is to send in Cubans," said the UNITA commander, "and the Boers will eat them like roast partridges."

## Press Primes Djibouti as Carter's First African Test

The first test for the Carter Administration in Africa will be in the soon-to-be-independent French territory of Djibouti at the mouth of the Red Sea, reported the Swedish daily *Svenska Dagbladet* and the *New York Times* this week. Control over the territory reportedly will be contested between its neighbors, Ethiopia and Somalia. According to the *Times*, the Soviet Union is believed to have an interest in controlling the territory, allegedly through Somalia, in order to have the strategic capability to block the Red Sea. The Soviets and the Somalis have excellent relations, but, as the warmongering *Times* neglected to mention, in recent months the Soviets have been developing good relations with Ethiopia.