

Rhodesian War Danger Rises

Rhodesian Prime Minister Ian Smith yesterday called the Geneva conference on the future of Rhodesia "a dead duck, according to the *New York Times*, and hoped that the Carter administration "would continue where the outgoing administration left off." If the Patriotic Front of Joshua Nkomo and Robert Mugabe — recently given exclusive support by Africa's five front line states — takes over in Rhodesia, Smith added, "...the Russians will take over in this country...and I can believe that that would be a disaster for the future of the free world." Smith also said that his government would seek to negotiate with the "moderate" faction led by Bishop Abel Muzorewa, which has effectively been dumped by the five front line states.

The Rhodesian government claimed on Jan. 13 that anti-aircraft gunners in Mozambique shot down a Rhodesian reconnaissance plane. Although the plane was claimed to be over Rhodesian air space when hit, it inexplicably crashed in Mozambique. The incident, which may be used as further justification for increased Rhodesian raids against Mozambique, also brought to light the fact that the Rhodesian army is now systematically violating Mozambican air space to scout targets for these same raids.

Smith's declaration followed a communiqué Jan. 9 by the five front line states — Angola, Botswana, Mozambique, Tanzania and Zambia — which gave "our entire support — political, material and diplomatic — to the Patriotic Front," the alliance between black Rhodesian leaders Joshua Nkomo and Robert Mugabe which speaks for the pro-socialist Zimbabwe People's Army (Zipa). The new policy, which is implicitly backed by the Soviet Union, is an attempt to preempt any Angola war-style faction fights between nationalist forces and the State Department and Institute for Policy Studies-linked factions headed by Muzorewa and the Rev. Mr. Ndabaningi Sithole, which would lead to a much more serious confrontation than in the Angola war.

Speaking to a session of the European Parliament Jan. 12, British Foreign Secretary Crosland said that a conflagration of the Rhodesia crisis will bring about an immediate East-West confrontation. His statement was an echo of remarks made by Ivor Richard, chairman of the Geneva conference on Rhodesia, who last week told the *Kenyan Daily Nation* that "the risk of disaster is enormous" if the Rhodesian crisis is not peacefully settled; "we would finish by finding ourselves in a situa-

tion as dangerous as the second World War." Richard's visit to Kenya coincided with a visit there by British Defense Secretary Frederick Mulley, and Richard later told reporters in Dar Es Salaam that he had "misestimated the force necessary" to solve the Rhodesian crisis," according to the Cuban press agency Prensa Latina Jan. 7.

While British statements on the seriousness of the Rhodesian crisis have expressly omitted allegations of Soviet designs on the region, and have instead foreshadowed decisive British action to settle the matter, American commentary has concentrated on the "Soviet menace."

"The apparent failure of the U.S. effort for peaceful transfer of political power...in Rhodesia is triggering direct Soviet intervention there," say columnists Evans and Novak on Jan. 13, a situation, they agree with Smith, which "goes to the heart of U.S. and Western security." "...the Rhodesian stage is being tragically set to replay Angola,..." they continue, "not because of Smith's obduracy, but because various (black) factions...could not agree among themselves." "The price will be high," they added, "if Congress ignores the Kremlin's move into Rhodesia in '77 as it did the Soviet Angola takeover."

Evidence mounted this week that the American CIA is already replaying Angola. American mercenaries have been recruited for the Rhodesian army, according to one who deserted last week quoted by Prensa Latina, through the same networks used by the CIA to recruit for the FNLA in Angola, principally "Soldier of Fortune" magazine. Another mercenary who was involved in Angola, David Bufkin of Kerman California, told the *New York Times* Jan. 11 that he was working for the CIA in Rhodesia in counterintelligence operations against a "Cuban spy ring" in Salisbury.

From the European side, former West German Defense Minister and leader of the right-wing Christian Social Union Franz-Josef Strauss this week travelled to the West African country of Togo. During the Angola war, Strauss was the primary advocate of NATO intervention, and advanced the proposal that the alliance extend its jurisdiction to the Southern Atlantic. This is the proposal that led to the launching of the South Atlantic Treaty Organization (SATO) idea, an alliance which would include Brazil, Argentina, South Africa and other countries, and which, according to reports in Brazilian newspapers this week, would extend aid to the

anti-communist National Front and National Union guerrillas in Angola.

Visiting Togo simultaneously with Strauss was Zairean strongman Mobutu Sese Seko, who is the primary sponsor of the FNLA, and whose country is a possible SATO member.

The prospect of Carter Administration support for Smith-Muzorewa negotiations was boosted this week by a *British Daily Telegraph* profile on Carter's U.N. Representative-designate Andrew Young. Young's primary emphasis, the *Telegraph* says, is to reverse Soviet influence in southern Africa. "Ian Smith and Dr. Vorster can wind up in cook pots," the article continues, "if that is what it takes to prevent Russian puppets from creating chaos and destroying what (Young) perceives to be a natural evolution of basically pro-American black

moderate governments in their places..."

If Smith negotiates with Muzorewa, however, the cook pots may be dispensed with. Both Muzorewa and Sithole have long standing close relations with the same liberal-Christian counterinsurgency organizations — particularly the American Committee on Africa (ACOA) and the National Council of Churches — where Young gained a good deal of his early political experience. The ACOA, in addition, literally founded the Angolan FNLA.

In regard to South Africa itself, Young told the *New York Times* last week that he would "have no problem" vetoing a move to throw South Africa out of the United Nations, adding that he thought that increased American investment in that country would be a better way to "foster change."

Nigeria Organizes an Industrial Revolution

EXCLUSIVE

A Nigerian government delegation arrived in Moscow Jan. 6 to continue discussion of the huge steel complex which the Soviets are now building in Ajaokuta, near Lagos. The complex has been described by Nigerian Commissioner for Industries Dr. R. A. Adeleye as "the most important single project in the whole of our Third National Development Plan." The project is part of an across-the-board industrial program undertaken by the 18-month old government of Nigerian President Gen. Olusegun Obasanjo. Nigeria, with a population of 80 million and invaluable natural resources, is considered the powerful nation in black Africa.

The mechanization of agriculture has been made a national priority under the plan. The government expects Nigeria will have three steel plants and three rolling mills by 1981. In oil and gas the government is expanding exploration, production, storage, refining, transport and marketing. The purchase of fission reactors to produce electricity is being negotiated. To facilitate this national transformation, the government has created two new banking institutions designed to serve the needs of national planning and development. A nationwide road and rail network is about to begin construction.

The government is concerned to insure that as this industrial revolution takes place, the Nigerian population develops the skills necessary to operate the new industrial plant. Universal, compulsory primary education began last September, and in December the government issued an expanded national plan for education for ages three through graduate study.

Nigeria's industrialization drive is relying chiefly on the import of capital goods from West and East Europe and is exemplary of the triangular cooperation now emerging among West European, OPEC and Comecon states to revitalize world production. Italian Foreign

Trade Minister Ossola, who government has led Western Europe in this cooperation, will include Nigeria in a tour this month ranging from Latin America to the Middle East, and ending in the Soviet Union sometime in February.

Oil exports are the basis for Nigeria's development. As the world's sixth largest oil producer, Nigeria is lifting 2.1 million barrels per day, and the figure is rising. Commissioner for Petroleum Resources Col. Muhammed Buhari is streamlining the operation of the nation's oil industry by consolidating the functions of the Nigerian National Oil Corp. and the Ministry for Petroleum Resources into a new National Petroleum Corporation, whose chairman will sit in the cabinet. The new corporation reportedly is being planned along the lines of Algeria's Sonatrach, and may have Algerian technical help in getting established.

Nigeria's only refinery, near Port Harcourt, has a capacity of only 60,000 barrels per day. Two new ones are planned. Contracts have been awarded to the Italian government oil firm's construction subsidiary, SNAM Progetti, for refineries at Warri and Kaduna which will handle 300,000 barrels per day of crude combined. The Warri plant will have a liquefied petroleum gas unit to produce 300 tons per day. Roads and jetties at the port are at an advanced stage of construction, and the refinery should be in production by April 1978. The Kaduna plant will also produce 250,000 tons of lubeoil a year, asphalt and bitumen. It is to be in production by late 1979 or early 1980:

A system of pipelines to carry refined products to main consumption centers is under construction with contracts totalling about \$320 million. The Japanese conglomerate Mitsui won the contract to supply the entire 1700 miles of pipe for \$32.2 million, while contracts for building the pipelines have been distributed among