

The greatest success of the Podgorny tour was in improving relations with formerly pro-Western Zambia, a development that makes Zambia less susceptible to U.S. and South African pressure to split the front-line alliance. Speaking to a London Times reporter March 31, Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda rejected the idea of any new shuttle diplomacy stalling tactics from the West, asserted his country's non-alignment, and told the West that if it wishes to regain favor in southern Africa: "Remove Smith from power. Remove apartheid. Remove Vorster from Namibia (see box)." Kaunda's remarks are an implicit rejection of UN Ambassador Andrew Young's "trust me" stalling ploys over South Africa in the Security Council.

#### *British Initiatives*

British Foreign Secretary Owen has indicated that he will take full advantage of this new situation in southern Africa during his trip there starting April 10. With typical understatement, Owen told reporters April 3 that he planned a "slightly more self-confident British foreign policy and a bit more boldness.... We have been perhaps too cautious, too conciliatory, and I think, myself, over Rhodesia, we ought at times to have been firmer...." Owen also remarked, "I do not think... that the only person who can deliver a solution in Rhodesia is Mr. Smith.... he is not the sole aspect of white Rhodesian opinion." Owen has invited anti-Smith white Rhodesians to meet with him while he is in Cape Town, South Africa; and Prime Minister Callaghan has already met in Britain with a key Smith opponent, former Prime Minister Roy Welensky. In addition to outflanking Smith through his own white opposition, Owen has not denied reports that he will convene a constitutional conference for Rhodesia. Some reports added that this may take place with or without Smith.

Implicitly backing the British and, indirectly, the Soviet-Cuban-front-line states initiative, West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt declared on April 3 that his government would not be a party to any Atlanticist attempt to get NATO involved — as a proxy for the U.S. — in any defense of the white-run south. "NATO has nothing to look for in Africa," said Schmidt, in a speech blacked out of the American press. "The sphere of activity of this alliance does not extend to Africa, especially not to the southern part of this continent." In addition, Schmidt's Minister of Development, Marie Schlei, has

just returned from a trip through Africa where she arranged indirect aid to the Patriotic Front through Zambia. The Italian government has already extended support to the Patriotic Front, in meetings between Joshua Nkomo and Italian Deputy Foreign Minister Ratti last month in Rome.

## Zambian President Explains 'Hero's Welcome' For Castro, Podgorny

*Speaking to London Times reporter Nicholas Ashford Mar. 31, soon after Soviet President Podgorny's departure from his country, Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda said that if the West was now concerned about the spread of communist influence in southern Africa, it had only itself to blame. The following are excerpts from Kaunda's interview:*

If it is a choice between peace in slavery and armed conflict then we will choose armed conflict until genuine peace is established...

If the West is afraid that the visits of President Podgorny and Dr. Castro are going to end up in southern Africa being communist-influenced, it is the West that is to blame... The West refused to help remove the "shackles of fascism and imperialism, and neo-colonialism and racism.

The West not only refused to support us, they even refused to remove the cause of the conflict...

So what are you doing now you people in the West? You are trying to remove the effect before removing the cause. To think of communism now is to think of the effect and not the cause. Why are President Podgorny and President Castro receiving such a hero's welcome? Because the masses of the people of southern Africa realize that the Western countries are exploiters who are only interested in wealth and natural resources. It is the people of the Eastern countries who are supporting them.