

Rhodesia enforces genocide

Southern Africa to be 'third front' in surrogate warfare

The Rhodesian bombing raid against Soviet-allied Angola Feb. 26 has placed the British client-state in the fore of a wave of warfare and destabilizations in southern Africa which bodes to make that region the Anglo-American "third front" in the British-led campaign of surrogate warfare against the Soviet Union and the nations of the European Monetary System. That campaign already includes the Chinese invasion of Vietnam and the drive for a "Middle East Treaty Organization" to shut off Soviet contacts in the Near East and submit Europe and Japan to oil blackmail.

Even more than in Asia or the Middle East, the British campaign in Africa underscores the genocidal character of the economic and political structure of the system the British are struggling to preserve. Cholera exists on a significant level in 15 African countries, and yellow fever in six. Famine has struck in eastern Zaire — in the center of British-sponsored military activity on the continent — along with a cholera epidemic and kawshkiokor.

Fueled by an influx of European mercenaries, the growing warfare in southern Africa threatens to destroy what industrial and social infrastructure does exist to serve the needs of the majority black population of the region, and to create political destabilizations which could paralyze both long- and short-term efforts to solve the area's problems of poverty and backwardness.

Marcher Lord

Rhodesia is London's marcher lord for the southern Africa chaos scenario.

Since the decision taken by British Foreign Secretary David Owen and U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance not to pressure Rhodesian Prime Minister Ian Smith to negotiate with the Patriotic Front, the liberation group leading the fight for Rhodesian independence, the Smith government has mobilized the entire population (up to age 60) for military service.

As well, significant numbers of mercenaries recruited in Europe are being used for three operations based in Rhodesia, according to the Feb. 21 issue of the French-language newsweekly, *Jeune Afrique*.

Some mercenaries serve directly in the Rhodesian army, while others form the officer corps for the private armies of two of the African participants in Smith's "internal solution" government, Bishop Abel Muzorewa and Rev. Ndabaningi Sithole. In addition, mercenaries are training anti-government dissidents from neighboring Mozambique who were welcomed to Rhodesia by Smith when Mozambique received independence from Portugal in 1975.

Rhodesia's continuing raids against Mozambique and Zambia, and the first against Angola (which shares no common border with Rhodesia), threaten to wreck the United Nations' plan for granting an internationally acceptable independence to Angola's neighbor Namibia. Besides exacerbating the situation within the region, blocking Namibian independence has significant international implications. The South Africans would be expected to build up their military presence in

Namibia and increase pressure on Soviet-allied Angola.

UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim is asking South Africa and SWAPO, the Namibian liberation organization, to agree to a ceasefire by March 15, as the first step toward implementing the UN plan, but there remain serious differences between the two respecting the interpretation of the ceasefire agreement.

Any flareup of South Africa-Angola warfare would guarantee that the critical Benguela railroad through Angola to Zaire and Zambia would remain closed, denying those two landlocked countries access to the sea. Another link threatened is the railway through Rhodesia to South African ports, over which copper (the main export of these two countries) is exported, and vital goods are imported. This route was the target of what Rhodesia called "guerrilla" sabotage last weekend.

Tanzania-Uganda conflict

Mercenaries are also reportedly involved in the conflict between Tanzania and Uganda, which also threatens supply routes into Central Africa. Ugandan President Amin has charged that mercenaries recruited by the CIA from anti-Castro Cuban networks, as well as 68 Israeli pilots, are involved in operations against him. On Feb. 15, according to the French daily *Le Figaro*, 48 mercenaries were arrested by Zaire authorities as they attempted to enter the country from Rwanda.

—Douglas DeGroot