

The British flag flies over southern Africa again

by Douglas de Groot

On Dec. 12 the clock was turned back in southern Africa as the British flag was raised again in Salisbury, Rhodesia. On to the tarmac stepped Her Majesty's Governor General Lord Christopher Soames, fittingly the son-in-law of Winston Churchill, to take command of what is now formally called the Crown Colony of Southern Rhodesia. With this step the British, with the aid of their loyal helpers in Washington, have placed themselves in command of the political future of southern Africa.

The return of Rhodesia to the status of a British colony is the first phase of Lord Carrington's London conference "solution" to the problem of the future of Rhodesia-Zimbabwe. The foreign secretary, having effectively brought together the parties to the conflict—the Muzorewa government, its white Ian Smith controllers, and the "liberation movement" of the Patriotic Front—can now move to dictate the pace of the events which follow.

The details, such as the ceasefire agreement of the Patriotic Front and the Muzorewa-Smith regime, remain to be worked out. The Patriotic Front may try to haggle, but its fate was sealed the moment its leaders walked into Lord Carrington's parlor in London and sat down to negotiate their future with Her Majesty's government. Should the Front balk at what now amounts to a British administered, and sanitized, version of the "internal solution," Lord Soames now has the formal command of the British "monitoring force" and the Rhodesian army of Lt.-General Peter Walls to enforce the peace.

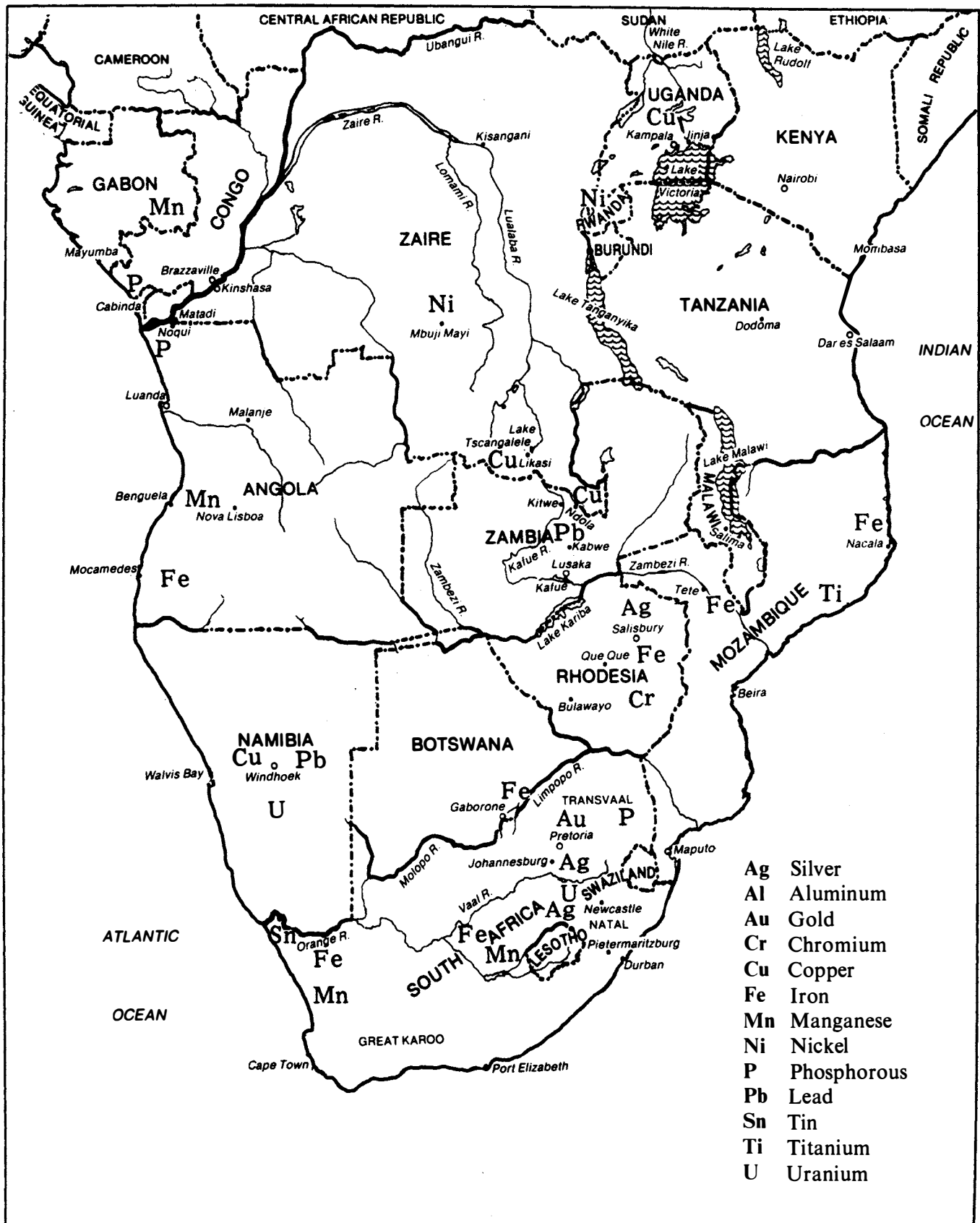
The British have not returned merely to frustrate what is obviously a pathetic liberation movement in

Rhodesia—the stakes are much bigger and much more important. The prize is the control of one of the greatest concentrations of mineral wealth in the world, located in the region of Africa stretching from the belt of Angola and Zaire in the north to South Africa in the south. Control of this region yields control of strategic minerals like cobalt, copper, and uranium along with a large portion of the world's supply of diamonds and gold. Iron ore and other alloys crucial to steelmaking and other industrial processes are also abundant.

Since the days of Cecil Rhodes and his South Africa Company (established in 1889) and the acquisition of the Congo as the personal colony of King Leopold II of Belgium in 1884, control of this strategic region has rested in the hands of the inner elite of the British oligarchy and its continental Belgian-Hapsburg allies. A vast network of mining companies—detailed in this report—including Rio Tinto-Zinc (on whose board sits Lord Carrington), Anglo American, Union Minière, Lonrho, and others continues this control to this day.

The British-Hapsburg objective is not simply to maintain control over the raw materials wealth of southern Africa. It is to keep that region, and the power which rests with the strategic wealth it possesses, out of reach of any other powers in the world. The principal enemy of British control is not the Soviet Union but the continental Western European powers of France and Germany.

Control over southern Africa yields tremendous power to the British and their allies against the Western Europeans who want their European Monetary System and Fund to eventually replace the British-controlled



International Monetary Fund. Not only can certain key raw materials be cut off, like oil from Iran, but the default of major developing sector borrowers in Africa like Zaire and Zambia rests on their mineral receipts.

This strategic dimension has been the most prominent since the fall of the Portuguese empire in 1974-1975 and the independence of Angola and Mozambique under pro-Soviet governments. Socialism, however, is not the real threat that sent South African troops, at Kissinger's urging, into Angola, but rather the creation of a nontribally-based state which was broadly committed to industrially oriented development of Angola. Angola's ties have not been merely to the Soviet Union, but include growing links to the West, particularly France and Italy.

The guiding European conception is the French policy of "Triologue," a triangular axis of Europe, Africa and the Middle East, combining Arab petrodollars and European technology to develop the vast untapped wealth of Africa.

Such an alliance is contrary to the oligarchic policy of maintaining African backwardness around their raw materials extraction interests, using the enforcement power of the "marcher lord" regime of South African Premier P.W. Botha. Tendencies within the South African Afrikaner circles to withdraw into a contained state, holding the line against the post-Portuguese dissolution, have been supplanted in Botha's regime with an aggressive policy which aims at a "constellation of states" in the region operating under South African hegemony. The British installation in Rhodesia is merely one phase of that policy.

The Anglo-Hapsburg axis has the advantage that accrues from a virtual lack of serious political leadership in Africa itself. Most post-colonial leaders have been the carefully nurtured products of the colonial powers themselves.

The oligarchs' own political intelligence arm, the Jesuit order of the Catholic Church and its Protestant World Council of Churches allies, have trained nearly every one of these "liberation leaders" (with the notable exception of Angola). Jesuit-trained Julius Nyerere of Tanzania urged the London conference into being last summer. Zambia's Kenneth Kaunda is a somewhat pathetic "Christian Socialist," who protested loudly as he watched his country's infrastructure being bombed out, leaving his only link to the outside world through South Africa; Jesuit-trained Robert Mugabe is the "radical" leader of the Patriotic Front; and of course the good Christians Bishop Muzorewa and Rev. Sithole, the partners of Ian Smith.

When Lord Carrington walked into the room in London he knew all too well how to achieve his aims, how to make the players move and where to move them.

From Kissinger to Carrington

Here is a brief chronology of the "step by step" road which brought Lord Soames to Salisbury, including the post 1974 efforts of the British, the Americans (particularly Henry Kissinger) and their South African allies.

1974

April. The Portuguese "revolution" opens the door to independence in the colonies of Mozambique, Angola, and Guinea-Bissau. The Frelimo front in Mozambique and the MPLA in Angola begin negotiations to this end.

Autumn. South African Prime Minister John Vorster, reacting to the loss of the Portuguese buffer states, calls for negotiated settlements in southern Africa's confrontation points, particularly Rhodesia.

December. Under South African pressure, Rhodesian Premier Ian Smith releases nationalist leaders Joshua Nkomo and Ndbanengi Sithole and their associates to attend a nationalist unity conference in Zambia.

1975

Spring Summer. Mozambique becomes independent; talks occur in Angola to reach settlement between various groups vying for power.

August. Under pressure again from Vorster, Smith agrees to a conference with black leaders at Victoria Falls, on the border between Zambia and Rhodesia. The talks convene Aug. 26, and collapse the same day. With assurances from Henry Kissinger and urging from then South African Defense Minister P. W. Botha, South African forces invade Angola to block a takeover by the MPLA. Cuban troops and Soviet arms flow in to support the MPLA.

1976

February. South African forces pull out of Angola after failing to oust the Cuban backed government; in Pretoria, Vorster and his allies grumble about being set up and deserted by Kissinger.

March. On March 4 Kissinger announces a new U.S. effort in southern Africa, declaring before the House Committee on International Relations: "We are in favor of majority rule in Rhodesia and we will use our influence in that direction." Kissinger also warns Cuba and the Soviet Union "to act with great circumspection" before getting involved in that conflict. U.S. response, Kissinger proclaims, "cannot be deduced from what we did in Angola."

April-May. Kissinger travels to Africa; in Zambia April 29, he declares U.S. support for majority rule in Rhodesia, offering the State Department's services as "honest brokers" between Rhodesia and South Africa, on one hand, and black Africa and Rhodesian nationalists, on the other. Kissinger meets with Nyerere and Kaunda.

Summer. Kissinger meets with Vorster in Austria. Kissinger follows with a trip to Pretoria where he meets with Smith and offers the first "Anglo-American plan" calling for majority rule within two years, a lifting of economic sanctions against Rhodesia, and a special fund to reimburse whites wanting to leave the country.

October. Under the chairmanship of British Foreign Secretary Anthony Crosland and U.N. Ambassador Ivor Richard, a conference begins in Geneva between the nationalists and the Smith regime. The conference ends in December with no agreement reached.

1977

January. Mugabe and Nkomo join in an alliance, the Patriotic Front, which receives the backing of the frontline states and the Organization of African Unity, rejecting Muzorewa and Sithole who negotiate unilaterally with Smith following this.

Spring. European leaders, including West German Chancellor Schmidt and French Foreign Minister Louis de Guiringaud visit southern Africa proposing economic cooperation and diplomatic support for ending minority rule in Rhodesia. Castro and then Soviet President Podgorny also visit during this period. The Carter administration replaces the Kissinger effort with that of U.N.

Ambassador Young, alongside British Foreign Secretary Owen to convince African leaders that Anglo-American pressure will bring a settlement.

1978

March. Smith signs an agreement for an internal settlement with Muzorewa and Sithole. The Rhodesian army steps up military raids on Zambia and Mozambique, hitting not only guerrilla camps but the economic infrastructure of those countries. General Walls, veteran of British counterinsurgency campaigns in Malaysia and Somalia, becomes the effective power in Rhodesia.

September. The Vorster regime is forced out in South Africa, in an "Infogate" scandal, and replaced by Kissinger ally, anglophile "moderate" P. W. Botha.

1979

April. Walls starts bombing every single road and rail link of Zambia to the sea with the exception of the route to Rhodesia, under conditions of severe economic collapse in Zambia.

May. Elections are held in Rhodesia, placing Muzorewa in office as prime minister of Rhodesia-Zimbabwe.

August. The Commonwealth conference in Lusaka brings agreement between Britain and the frontline states to hold a new conference on Rhodesia.

September. On September 11, the London conference opens with Smith, Muzorewa, and the Patriotic Front in attendance under direction of Lord Carrington.

November. On Nov. 15, the Front agrees to Carrington's demands for British authority during the transition period to majority rule.

December. Final agreement is reached on British transition, with details of a ceasefire to be worked out later. On Dec. 7, Lord Soames is named as Governor General and a U.S.-assisted airlift is prepared to bring 1,200 British troops and their equipment to Rhodesia. Speculation is for a February election. On Dec. 9 the Rhodesian air force raids Mozambique and Zambia bases of the guerrillas, applying final pressures for the ceasefire agreement.

Who controls southern Africa's mineral wealth?

The Anglo American Corporation—————

The Anglo American Corporation is the flagship holding concern for a vast group of companies, interlocking in ownership and directors, which dominates the mining of uranium, gold, diamonds, copper, coal and other minerals in southern Africa. The chairman of the group is Harry Frederick Oppenheimer. The subcompanies include De Beers Consolidated Mines, Charter Consolidated and Engelhard Minerals. Rio Tinto-Zinc, Lonrho and Union Minière are related to the Anglo American group through political alliances for shared policies. Ultimately, the same families control all the companies, with the names Cecil and Hapsburg most powerful.

The chairman of Anglo American's Diamond Services division is Julian Ogilvie Thompson, married to a daughter of the late Viscount Hampden; the chairman of the Gold and Uranium division is Dennis Etheredge, O.B.E., who worked for South African military intelligence during World War II under Jan Smuts, member of the British Round Table. The Executive Director of Anglo American after the death of founder Sir Ernest Oppenheimer, was William Marshall Clark, a Knight of the Military and Hospitaler Order of St. John of Jerusalem (Order of Malta). The first head of Anglo American's Diamond Security Organization—a private army—was Percy Sillitoe, former director of British Military intelligence—MI-5. Among other notables on the payroll of the Diamond Security Organization is Nathaniel Mbumba, leader of recent "Marxist" invasions of Shaba province in Zaire.

The Anglo American group is deeply implicated in international drug traffic. Its diamond (De Beers) and gold production plays a central role—through non-contractual sales—in laundering the "dirty money" from the dope trade. Accordingly, Oppenheimer has been a board member of the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, a key bank for drug-money laundering. Anglo American board member Sidney Spiro is now on the same bank's international advisory board. Another subcompany of Anglo American is South African Eagle, an offshoot of

Eagle Star Insurance of London, which owns and operates the drug-running empire associated with the Canadian Bronfman family.

Completing the circle, Oppenheimer's Anglo American group passed on executives to the Schlesinger Insurance group, a leading corporate front for the Permindex Organization, an international assassination bureau created under the supervision of Knight of St. John Mortimer Louis Bloomfield, attorney for the Bronfman family. Permindex murdered John Fitzgerald Kennedy. It attempted to murder Charles de Gaulle. Anglo American bought out Schlesinger Insurance in 1975.

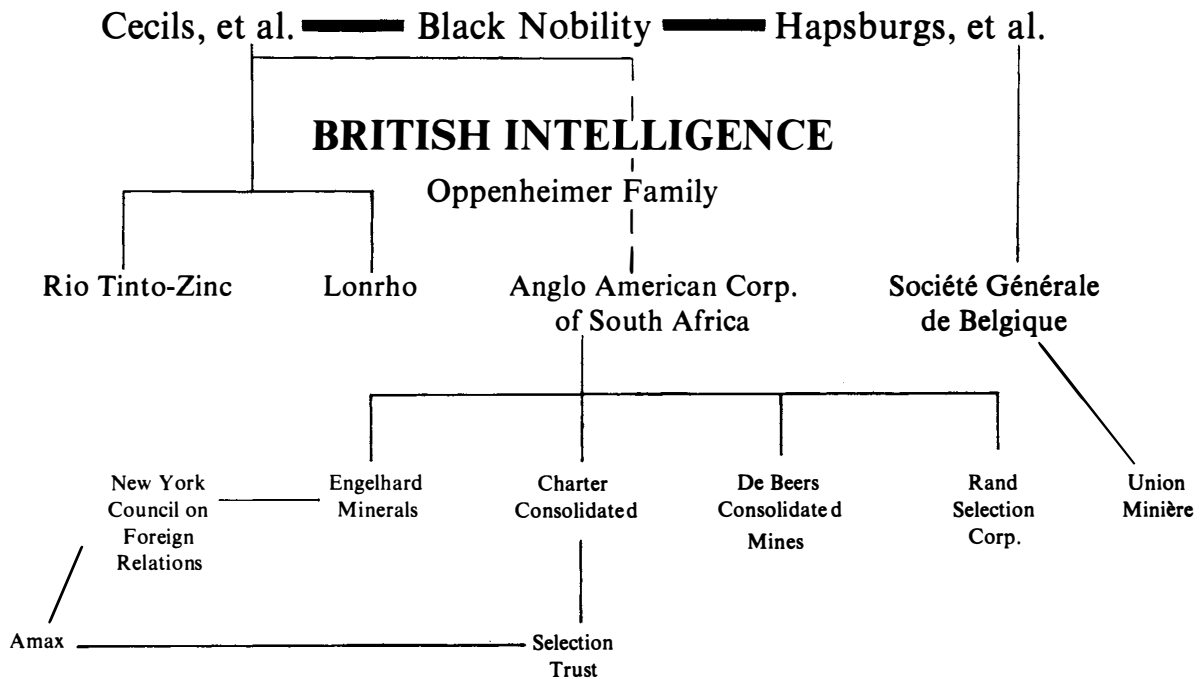
Rio Tinto-Zinc—————

Rio Tinto's major operations are in iron ore and copper with an important share of uranium. Among the board members is Lord Carrington, a protégé of the Cecil family who is now British Foreign Secretary. Rio Tinto's chairman is Sir Mark Turner, a member of the board (former deputy chairman) of the banking firm, Kleinwort, Benson, Lonsdale, Ltd., another of whose directors is Baron Rockley (Cecil). A colleague of Turner's in World War II British economic warfare and raw-materials control operations was the Marquess of Exeter (Cecil).

The Cecils are among the most powerful of Britain's families—with factional ties to the Hapsburgs and Jesuit intelligence operations dating from the 16th century. Titled the Marquesses of Salisbury, first sons of the family have held office as Prime Minister, leader of the House of Lords, Foreign Secretary, Colonial Secretary and Secretary for Commonwealth Relations in the past 100 years. The capital of Rhodesia, Salisbury, takes its name from the Cecils.

Lonrho, Ltd.—————

Lonrho, formerly the London and Rhodesia Mining and Land Company, represents both mining and manufacturing interests. The chairman since 1972 has been Duncan Duncan-Sandys (Baron Duncan-Sandys) who owes his fortune to the Cecil family. The baron is a



former son-in-law of Winston Churchill. A deputy chairman of Lonrho is former Bank of England governor Sir George Bolton. Also on the board is Edward du Cann, chairman of the Keyser Ullman merchant banking group.

Union Minière

The only non-British company with southern African mining interests comparable to Rio Tinto-Zinc and Lonrho is Union Minière which is tightly controlled by the finance company Société Générale de Belgique. Union Minière has extensive interests in copper, cobalt and zinc in the Shaba province of Zaire (called Katanga province in the former Belgian Congo), and some investment in Europe and North America. Société Générale/Union Minière organized the recent invasion of Shaba province by "Katangese rebels" in collaboration with the Diamond Security division of the Oppenheimer Anglo American Corporation—with the effect of stopping a French-arranged loan package to the Zairean government.

There is little public-domain evidence of who exerts control over Société Générale de Belgique. However, information received by *EIR* establishes that the control is Hapsburg. Count Otto von Hapsburg and several of his siblings inhabit the board of directors, under assumed names.

Engelhard and Amax

The New York Council on Foreign Relations has its share in the mining complex through Engelhard Minerals, a subcompany of the Anglo American group, and Amax, Inc. (American Metal Climax). The Council on Foreign Relations is the American branch of the Royal Institute for International Affairs in London (British intelligence executive offices at Chatham House). The board of Amax includes George Ball of Lehman Bros. Kuhn Loeb, Gabriel Hauge, chairman of Manufacturers Hanover Trust, as well as two vice presidents of Standard Oil of California. Felix Rohatyn of Lazard Freres, the American branch of Lazard Brothers of London, sits on the board of Engelhard Minerals.