

Can moderates stem the tide of holocaust in South Africa?

by Linda de Hoyos

The survival of all of southern Africa, including the Republic of South Africa itself, now hinges on whether Anglican Bishop Tutu and moderate forces around him can retain leadership in South Africa, as the country is polarized in an all-engulfing race war. If Bishop Tutu and his allies are swept aside, then the death of more than 500 people in South Africa in the past year, is but a foretaste of the holocaust that will descend on the region.

The refusal of South African Prime Minister Pik Botha to proceed with his promise to meet with Tutu, may already have sounded the death knell for a negotiated settlement to the South Africa crisis, in which violence has been increasing daily since the July 20 emergency. "Ours is a desperate situation," stated Bishop Tutu after Botha announced his refusal to see him, "which calls for statesmanship. . . . It is not as if we have all the time in the world to find a solution to the unrest."

A solution is not on the agenda for the forces controlling the current crisis. As with the destabilizations throughout the underdeveloped sector, South Africa has become the target of two forces: the Western Malthusian oligarchy, represented by Henry Kissinger and his former business partner, NATO Secretary General Lord Peter Carrington, whose family has vast holdings in Africa; and the Soviet Union, which are seeking to destroy South Africa as a strategic ally and strategic mineral supplier of the United States.

The crisis management agreements for the South African destabilization sought by this alliance have been worked out by the U.S. State Department, acting as a deployable asset of the British Foreign Office and the Soviet KGB. In June, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Africa Chester Crocker

and his Soviet counterpart Vesev met to achieve a "mutual understanding" of the crisis—just as Assistant Secretary of State for Middle Eastern Affairs Richard Murphy has worked out agreements with Yevgenii Primakov, head of the Soviet Oriental Institute, for the successive withdrawal of the United States from the Mideast and the destruction of America's allies there.

In southern Africa, as in the northern and central section of the continent, the Soviets and the Western oligarchy have combined to create social chaos through Islamic fundamentalism and tribalism, and to carry out financial blackmail through the International Monetary Fund and World Bank, to destroy the potentials of any independent nation-state in the region. South Africa, the industrial powerhouse of southern Africa, upon which the economies of the surrounding countries depend, is slated for the same treatment.

The collapse of the South African economy has already begun. On July 24, Morgan Guaranty and Citibank of New York announced a cut-off of investment for South Africa. On Aug. 1, Chase Manhattan's announcement that it had halted new loans to South Africa and had refused to roll over existing loans as they matured, sent the South African Rand tumbling by 10% in one day. The forces controlling these banks are, of course, the same forces that set up and have fostered the apartheid regime for decades.

Orchestrated denial of credit has been used systematically for purposes of political destabilization by the banks against the Ibero-American countries and the Philippines.

Nor will South Africa be able to obtain further credits from the International Monetary Fund. According to an IMF spokesman, the Fund will abide by a U.S. Congress resolu-

tion which forbids the Fund from granting any *new* credits to the apartheid regime.

On July 24, France recalled its ambassador from South Africa, announcing economic sanctions against the country. France also pushed through the resolution for sanctions in the United Nations Security Council. This decision has no relation to morality; the French have few investments in South Africa, and according to an African expert based in Bonn, the French government has not halted its arms sales to the apartheid regime.

European foreign ministers, meeting on July 31 in Helsinki, declared that economic sanctions are "inevitable" unless there are changes in Pretoria's attitude "as soon as possible."

Sanctions will hurt the black African nations surrounding South Africa far more than South Africa itself. Prime Minister Botha announced on July 29 that he will retaliate by expelling 1.5 million black workers from South Africa to their respective countries. This would condemn to death millions of black Africans, who are kept alive by the remittances of family members in South Africa. Several African governments depend on these remittances for payment of taxes. Zambia is 30% dependent on remittances from workers in South Africa, with Lesotho 50% dependent.

Botha also threatened an embargo on the use of South Africa's railways, airlines, and ports by its neighbors, which would result in a total collapse of these countries' exports and vital imports.

Within South Africa, the Russian-backed terrorist African National Congress has begun a campaign of economic destruction. In a broadcast from Ethiopia, the ANC leadership called upon its supporters to wreck factory machinery by "removing vital parts or introducing foreign and dangerous elements." The ANC has taken credit for burning the Sasol coal-conversion plant and explosions at the Koeberg nuclear reactor.

The economic war worsens the existing recession in South Africa, which has caused widespread unemployment. In Soweto township, where some 2 million blacks live, unemployment is estimated at 25%. In the Vaal area, 55% of the residents are designated as "not economically active." The number of blacks below the poverty line doubled between 1960 and 1980.

Through credit cut-off, sanctions, and the Botha regime's programmed genocidal response now, all of southern Africa is being turned into a death camp. The model is the *bantustans*—the so-called independent homelands for blacks, where there is no energy, no infrastructure, no seed—no means of existence. In some instances, these vast death camps are administered by South African ally Israel, and it is noteworthy that after announcing his blackmail plans on July 29, Botha met with G. Kraft, the head of the B'nai B'rith International, and with the head of the South African branch of the organization. In the Ciskei bantustan, Israeli business has begun to invest, using the population as slave labor. Ciskei

administration is as repressive, if not more so, as that in South Africa proper. The police are trained in Israel.

This is the future for millions of blacks, not only in South Africa, but in the entire region, if the forces arrayed around Bishop Tutu are destroyed.

The widening conflagration

On Aug. 1, a London *Times* editorial predicted a "disorganized rising of the black underground," and declared that there is limited time left for moderate leaders "like Tutu." Even before the emergency, the radicalization of the black population in Soweto began to threaten uncontrolled violence among the blacks themselves. On July 12, Bishop Tutu confronted an angry mob of blacks. Moving through the crowd which had already set fire to a car, the Bishop waved people away from a gasoline-doused black man about to be burned alive who was accused of being a police informant.

The Bishop warned on July 28: "I believe many whites do not appreciate the mood of our young people. They are convinced that armed struggle is the only way to change the system, and they are ready to die for the cause." He expressed his surprise that young blacks continue to accept his leadership. "But I am afraid that this is already being questioned. I believe the day when they will sweep us away is perhaps not far away."

In June, the Russian-backed leadership of the ANC called upon its forces to make the townships "ungovernable." Russian broadcasts in Zulu are fanning the unrest. Since May, a number of prominent black leaders have vanished. Pro-government vigilante squads, such as the Western Cape Suicide Squad, and black extremists are carrying out assassinations of moderates of both camps. On Aug. 1, Victoria Mxenge, attorney for Tutu's United Democratic Front charged with treason, was ambushed outside her home, and shot by four hooded gunmen. Her husband, also a civil rights lawyer, had been stabbed to death in 1981.

Bishop Tutu is also a target of assassination. Tutu, who endorsed the Schiller Institute's Declaration of the Inalienable Rights of Man on June 18 and has declared his opposition to the International Monetary Fund, is a target not only because of his determination to force a settlement, but also because he eschews the racial and tribal divisions, used by the British and the Russian masters of the African National Congress to control and destroy the black population. "It was only recently," Tutu said in an interview with *Newsweek*, "that we got this preposterous notion that South Africa is made up of several nations. It was a smart ploy to retain power in the hands of the whites by balkanizing South Africa and saying that blacks formed different nations, whereas whites coming from different ethnic backgrounds by some strange alchemy were able to exist here as one nation. We have to point out that at the present stage in the evolution of black thinking, there is no notion of partitioning South Africa. We want a unitary state in which it is not race that counts, but the fact that you are a human being."