

Southern Africa at year's end: Soviets push it to the abyss

Hardly a day has gone by in 1985 without the world's media carrying headlines of the conflict unfolding in South Africa's black townships and the rising death tolls. Despite the immense focus of international attention on apartheid and South Africa, we can accurately maintain that virtually nothing has appeared to bring to light the actual determinants governing the fate of southern Africa, the most vital economic region on the African continent.

The year 1985 brought southern Africa as a whole to the abyss of a Thirty Years' War scenario, where Soviet-backed Cuban imperial legions and guerrilla forces would be roaming in forays against a South African Defense Force that had given up on any chance for peaceful internal reform and was ready to fight to the last man. Whether this danger becomes reality will be determined in the first months of 1986, by how the world reacts to two, largely unreported factors in the region: the Soviet build-up in Angola, and Zulu leader Chief Mangosuthu G. Buthelezi.

The Soviet Union has no intention of permitting a peaceful end to apartheid in South Africa. The recent declarations of Chief Buthelezi that the African National Congress (ANC) Mission in Exile, dominated by the South African Communist Party, has ordered his assassination make this clear. There are no other significant potential dialogue partners within South Africa outside of Chief Buthelezi and reform elements in the Afrikaaner National Party. Bypassing them for other "third forces" is suicidal. Such third forces will evaporate as the Soviets push military escalation.

Since the Dec. 4 congress of Angola's ruling party, the MPLA, there has been a new round of rumors of Angolan President Eduardo dos Santos's desire for negotiation. Since the alleged January 1983 purges of pro-Soviet hardliners from leading positions in the MPLA, there has been no serious consideration of Angolan preparations for a heavy military clash with South Africa. Allegedly pushed into the background at this time was one Colonel Henrique Teles Iko Carreira. Sent to Moscow for training after the death of MPLA President Augustino Neto, Carreira returned in August 1982,

and has since emerged as the head of the most modern air force in Black Africa.

Throughout 1984 and 1985, the Soviet military command put the highest priority on attaining air superiority in southern Africa, via the Soviet- and Cuban-piloted Angolan Air Force. According to *Jane's Defense Weekly* and *EIR* sources, the Angolans now have 23 MiG-23s and 10 SU-22s, all delivered since 1983. Additionally there are 70 MiG-21s. In total, 178 aircraft and helicopters have been added since 1983, plus extensive radar and anti-aircraft equipment. If the current Soviet directed Angolan and Cuban offensive against Dr. Jonas Savimbi's pro-Western southeast Angolan town of Mavinga, then the Angolan radar, and their air-operations area, will cover all of UNITA's territory, as well as South African troop and air bases in northern Namibia.

Add to this the rapprochement of Zimbabwe's Robert Mugabe with Moscow, the report that Castro is soliciting the Soviets for a Cuban declaration of war against South Africa, and the reported deployment of MI-25 HIND combat helicopters to Mozambique. A situation has emerged in which the Soviets, as long as the situation escalates, can force the frontline states into military pacts, opening up new opportunities for redeploying the 30,000-35,000 Cuban troops in Angola and expanding direct military involvement.

At the June 1985 Lusaka, Zambia meeting of the African National Congress, decisions were made to pursue a scorched-earth policy within South Africa. Elected black officials and policeman were to be eliminated, white non-military targets were sanctioned, measures to expand guerrilla warfare were adopted, and a renewed call was issued for the "international community" to pull down the South African economy by disinvestment and sanctions. The August decision by Trilateral Commission member David Rockefeller's Chase Manhattan Bank as well as the Bank of Boston and others, to cut-off short-term credit lines to South Africa, and thus exacerbate ongoing economic troubles, was clearly designed to help force polarization. The Soviets intend to destroy all middle

ground, and drive the Afrikaners into a siege mentality.

Mangosuthu Buthelezi, chief minister of the "homeland" KwaZulu, and president of the 1-million strong Inkatha movement, is a long-time opponent of apartheid. Until the ANC was driven underground in the early 1960s, he had been a member of its youth wing. In 1961, the South African Communist Party convinced the ANC to set up an underground guerrilla-warfare wing, Umkhonto We Sizwe, Spear of the Nation.

We cite here selections from recent speeches of this leader of more than 5 million Zulus. Currently, Western foreign ministries and media are stepping over themselves to cultivate the ANC, and ignoring Chief Buthelezi.

New Jersey, Nov. 13, 1985: "The real struggle in South Africa is the struggle to get Afrikaners to share power. This is the struggle which the ANC Mission in Exile has abandoned. Only history will tell whether they have abandoned it because they are not man enough for the job which others will now have to do, or whether they are correct in saying that reform in South Africa is impossible and the National Party has to be destroyed with violence. I think they are tragically wrong and history will prove that they were just not man enough to do what others will succeed in doing.

"From the outset I led Inkatha with the ideal of it joining with every other Black organization to form a united front in a multi-strategy approach. Right through the seventies, I was in dialogue with the ANC Mission in Exile, attempting to make them see reason and to throw whatever weight they had behind the democratic struggle inside the country. But finally in 1979, when I led a very strong delegation to meet Mr. Oliver Tambo and his colleagues in London at his invitation to pursue the matter, it became clear that the Mission in Exile wanted no partnerships and only wanted subservience. They have since declared war on me, just as they are now weekly exhorting elements working with them in the United Democratic Front (UDF) to kill all blacks who they stigmatize as 'working within the system' simply because they pursue the politics of negotiation and are committed to non-violent means."

London, Oct. 23, 1985: "The media image represents blacks as uniting in democratic action and being prepared to die for democratic ideals, in being prepared to use violence to sustain the movement towards a future democratic South Africa. This is a media lie. It is more than a distortion. The ANC Mission in Exile is exhorting black South Africa in radio broadcast after radio broadcast to kill blacks who refuse to become party to the escalation of violence. Children are being exhorted to murder black town councillors and to murder any whom the Mission in Exile stigmatize as a collaborator—and they stigmatize all who are not working within their framework of violence as collaborators with the system."

Umlazi, South Africa, Sept. 28, 1985: "I am a black South African who is proud to be engaged in struggle for liberation, who is proud to be in the forefront of the struggle against apartheid, and I simply will not be dictated to by South African exiles who sit drinking whiskey in safe places in the capitals of the world where they plot how to get more black South African children to kill more black South African children, and where they plot how to get more blacks to kill more blacks, and how to save face because their endeavors to run an armed struggle have led to such a long string of dismal failures.

"The Mission in Exile (ANC) wants you to go further than killing your black brothers and sisters in the most brutal ways. They are also calling on you to destroy the country's economy. They are calling on you to destroy factories and they are calling on you to support their disinvestment campaign which they are running as a parallel campaign to the armed struggle. They know quite well that South Africa's 22 million blacks will starve if the economy is destroyed."

New York City, Nov. 12, 1985: "South Africa has reached the phase of economic development in which the skills and expertise which are required to run the economy, the civil service, the police force, and the country's utility undertakings, cannot be found in the minority of whites. There is now a total white dependency on blacks to man essential jobs. The days are gone in which whites did the skilled work and blacks did the menial labor. Industry now needs more artisans than white society can provide. It needs more supervisors than can be found amongst white skilled workers. . . . It is this dependence of whites on blacks, and the reciprocal dependence of blacks on whites, which is working in favor of the politics of negotiation."

New Jersey, Nov. 13, 1985: "Everytime I look at economic realities in South Africa, I become more convinced how urgently we should address the question of the relationship between South Africa's constitution and the laws which govern economics. Whether we like it or not, South Africa is irrevocably locked into a north/south global economic axis. Whether we like it or not, the future economic prosperity of South Africa almost entirely depends upon the continuing free flow of investments from the West which bring with them new technologies and new management expertise. . . . And also whether we like it or not, we have to accept that a Western industrial-type market economy relying on free enterprise, demands a whole way of life which is a democratic industrial Western way of life. We just now dare not repeat the National Party's failure and dream up another failing constitution. Life and death issues must now make us prudent, and South Africa must move toward adopting the kind of modern, industrial democratic constitution which could be found in the West."