

Making the deserts of Africa bloom

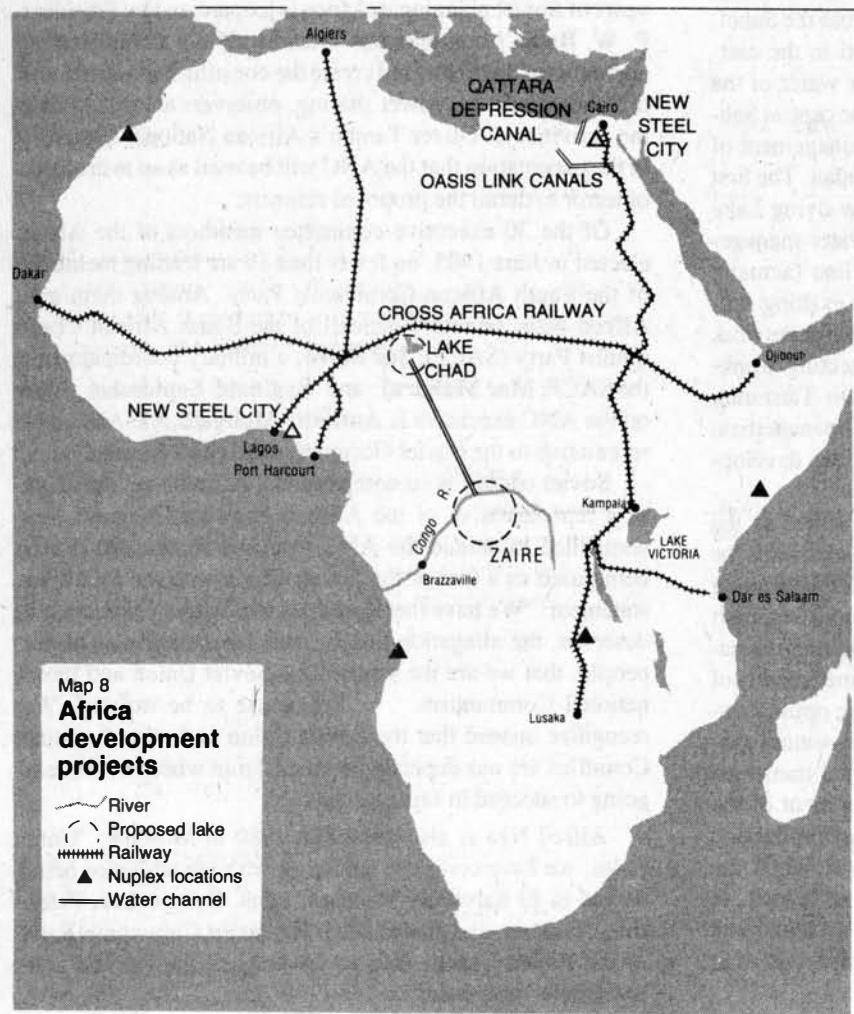
South Africa, with its industry, skilled workforce, and rich natural resources, is excellently positioned to facilitate the rapid industrialization of Africa as a whole. The following outline of a program for African development is excerpted from The Independent Democrats' 1984 Platform, the presidential campaign platform of Lyndon LaRouche, Jr. and Billy Davis.

Approximately 120 million persons in black Africa are presently faced with death from famine and epidemic. An estimated 60,000 black Africans are dying each day of causes

attributable to food shortages. Although the extremes of poverty among these new nations are a relic of European colonialism and the earlier direct and chain-reaction effects of two thousand years of the slave-trade, the present peril of black Africa is caused by the coincidence of the prevailing monetary and international-banking policies with the policies of influential Anglo-Saxon eugenicists and other Malthusians who welcome a solution to the alleged "over-population" of black Africa.

In fact, Africa is the world's most under-populated continent.

In the north of Africa, the present dictatorship of Libya is the chief instrument within the continent threatening the stability and continued existence of the nations of Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Egypt, Sudan, and many among the states of the Saharan and sub-Saharan region. The susceptibility of increasing portions of the populations of these nations, to insurrections mediated through the Libyan dictator, is fostered by the spread of despair, of cultural pessimism. This despair is nourished by persistence of conditions which have existed and generally worsened since the middle of the 1960s. Newly liberated former colonies, which once hoped to par-



Great Projects to develop the African continent: Vast sections of the desert can produce high food yields with only the addition of water and good seed stocks. The development and management of the Upper Nile watershed, and the development of the Congo, can transform Africa into the food production center of the globe. The basic requirement is a railroad line criss-crossing the continent.

ticipate in technological progress, are being driven into worsening conditions instead. This feeds despair, and the cultural pessimism of despair fosters susceptibility to the influence of dark forces of murderous irrationalism.

Needed emergency actions to halt the genocide, and medium-to-longer-term measures to develop the entirety of this continent, are complementary. Immediately, to stop the extinction of tens of millions of Africans by famine and famine-fostered epidemics, we must bring emergency food relief. The additional problem is, that rarely do we find the means to transport the food where it is desperately wanted. . . .

The objectives of food relief must be:

- To bring the food relief to the locales in which the needing population lives and works;
- To supplement food relief with measures which aid in restoring the affected villages and their inhabitants to dignified self-subsistence.

For the longer term, Africa's most fundamental needs are the most basic of economic infrastructure and increased production of food: water-management, transportation, energy, and agriculture.

The heart of the solution for the urgent needs of the continent as a whole is a rail-system cutting across the Sahel, preferably from Dakar in the west, to Djibouti in the east, and a redistribution of water, from the surplus water of the rain-forest region of north-central Africa into the central Sahel. The water-supplies must come from the management of the Zairean and Victoria region and southern Sudan. The first line distributes water to the region around now-dying Lake Chad; the second is a program of cooperative water-management of the Nile system. The east-west rail line (actually projected as early as the 1870s!) intersects the existing railway systems of Nigeria and Egypt-Sudan. The rail network must then be extended by north-south intersecting trunk-lines: north-south from Algeria, and south into Tanzania. Without these two sets of measures of water-management and railway development, the rational economic development of the continent as a whole is impossible.

The east-west rail line, across the Sahel, serves as the indispensable logistical base-line for deploying to reverse the present spread of the Saharan desert into the Sahel. By joining this with north-south links, this rail system plays a vital part in fostering initially modest but crucial trade among the nations of both Arab and black Africa. The combined effects of railway development and water-management are optimal exploitation of combined railways and navigable waterways, creating the beginnings of a functioning internal transport-system. This development, enriched by development of the beginnings of a continent-wide system of energy production and distribution, provides the logistical basis to begin the improvement of agriculture throughout much of Africa, in depth. Politically, it aids African nations, by strengthening the benefits each local sector of the population enjoys through aid of the government's central authority.

African National Congress

A Soviet tool in the Southern Cone

by Our Special Correspondent

The African National Congress, contrary to bleeding-heart liberals, does not genuinely represent Black aspirations in South Africa. Rather, it has become a Soviet-controlled organization, although it did not begin as such. Now, as 40 years of Soviet planning in Africa is jeopardized by President P. W. Botha's commitment to dismantle the administrative apparatus of apartheid and create the constitutional structures in South Africa for power sharing, observers are monitoring the activities of Oliver Tambo's African National Congress in the expectation that the ANC will be used as an instrument of terror to derail the proposed reforms. . . .

Of the 30 executive committee members of the ANC, elected in June 1985, no fewer than 19 are leading members of the South African Communist Party. Among them are: **Alfred Nzo**, secretary-general of the South African Communist Party (SACP); **Joe Slovo**, a military coordinator for the SACP; **Mac Maharaj**; and **Reginald September**. Also on the ANC executive is **Anthony Mongalo**, the ANC representative to the Soviet Occupied Zone (East Germany).

Soviet control is so complete that Alfred Nzo, speaking as a representative of the African National Congress, felt compelled to defend the ANC from the charge that it was being used as a tool of the Soviet Union with the following statement: "We have therefore rejected, with the contempt it deserves, the allegation that is made by the enemies of our people, that we are the tools of the Soviet Union and International Communism. . . . We refuse to be isolated. We recognize instead that the Soviet Union and other Socialist Countries are our dependable allies, from whom no force is going to succeed in separating us."

Alfred Nzo is also quoted in 1980 in Moscow: "Comrades, we have complete solidarity with the struggles being waged in El Salvador, Vietnam, Laos, Kampuchea, Palestine, Namibia, and Puerto Rico. Hail to the Communist Party of the Soviet Union! Hail to the units of the world's anti-imperialist movement."