

# South Africa's great task: a 'grand design' for all of Africa

by Uwe Friesecke

*The first and second parts of this series by Uwe Friesecke, who recently returned from South Africa, appeared in EIR's June 6 and 13 issues.*

The conflicts in South Africa are moving toward a critical climax. On May 27, the long-awaited Soviet-led Angolan offensive began against Dr. Jonas Savimbi's National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA), and, in South Africa, the political polarization among blacks and whites is looming larger. The neo-Nazi Afrikaner Resistance Union (AWB) is gathering more and more followers through its spectacular actions.

A domestic political solution for South Africa and a peaceful transition to Namibian independence are now dependent on whether those in political power can find the courage for the far-reaching initiatives necessary to overturn the former rules of the game, which have led the region more and more into chaos. Two things must be attempted that appear virtually impossible under the old rules: First, the creation of a new alliance between South Africa and the rest of the continent, and, second, the unification of a new South African state with which all its citizens can identify.

## The moment of truth

The illusion that the West would never allow South Africa to fall because of its strategic importance, has been shattered since last December, when Chase Manhattan suddenly canceled South Africa's credit, and forced its government onto an economic course that has led to a drastic devaluation of the rand, the national currency. Thus, South Africa has become the target of the international banking policy applied for years to the rest of Africa, the genocidal adjustment policies of the International Monetary Fund (IMF). In its scandalous behavior on the Namibia question, the diplomacy of Bonn, London, and Washington has also made it clear to South African political leaders that the liberal Anglo-American Establishment, which has financed the Soviet-Cuban intervention into Angola through the oil companies in Cabinda, is ready to barter off the entire southern African region to the Soviets.

The developments of the last six months have rudely awakened politically responsible leaders of both blacks and

whites in South Africa and Namibia about the Africa policy of the West. More and more, the realization is growing that Western boycott measures and the American disinvestment campaign have little to do with the abolition of apartheid, but are rather designed primarily to hit the South African economy, since these Anglo-American interests, acting out of ideological fanaticism and insane power politics, intend to prevent, at any price, the development of South Africa into the "Japan" of the African continent. It is rightly feared that the U.S. State Department is out to collapse the Botha regime, using the well-tested model of "Iranization."

Ironically, South Africa has now been thrown by its former banking friends into the same boat as Nigeria and other black African countries. The Western banking faction, which determines the policy of the IMF vis-à-vis the Third World, has written off the entire continent of Africa, and that is the real reason for the economic actions and boycotts. The flamboyant anti-apartheid rhetoric is merely a convenient means for manipulation of public opinion.

## The historical chance for South Africa

If the full significance of this destabilization policy is recognized, along with that of the Soviet scorched-earth policy, then a striking combination of economic and political factors emerges, which, if courageously manipulated, can lead to a breakthrough for a peaceful solution to the conflicts in South Africa.

Economic development and prosperity represent the foundation for that stable solution. That is emphasized by President P. W. Botha's reform group as well as Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi's Inkatha peace movement, because the radicalization and polarization in favor of violence is growing among blacks as well as whites, given the growing economic crisis and unemployment.

The economic future of South Africa, however, lies in the markets of the African continent. That defines a clear common interest between South Africa and its African neighbors, both near and far, for the economic development of the continent and against the IMF. The creation of a new just economic order for rapid development of infrastructure, agriculture, and industry is the sole chance for survival of the African continent. Therefore, the struggle for that develop-

ment is in the most elementary self-interest of South Africa as well as the other nations of the continent.

South Africa's chance lies in the formulation of a security pact with precisely those countries that, thanks to the corrupt and sanctimonious measures of the United Nations, are South Africa's deadliest enemies. The other nations of the continent should offer South Africa a security guarantee for its white population, if South Africa, for its part, first, solves its internal constitutional problem and, second, is willing to place its economic power and technical and scientific know-how at the service of the development of the continent.

On the basis of such a pact, South Africa could put a stop to the terrorist war raging on and within its own borders, and gain the economic stability that is urgently necessary to permit the white reform group to sit down at the negotiating table with black political leaders to work out the most practical form of power-sharing.

*The challenge to South Africa's nationalist elite is to strike a blow for a new international economic order against the IMF bankers' group.* The nations of the Non-Aligned Movement must realistically acknowledge that their efforts for a reform of the international economy during the past 10 years have been repeatedly nullified by the extortionist methods of the IMF. South Africa would be an alliance member that is not subject to extortion since, first, it produces sufficient food domestically that the food weapon frequently used by the IMF and the grain cartel would be useless, and, second, South Africa can use both its debt bomb and its strategic minerals as political weapons.

South Africa, allied with all of Africa in a struggle for a new world order, would turn the mendacious game of international diplomacy on its head overnight. That could provide the political and economic shock that forces the West into a constructive policy toward the Third World and, in particular, southern Africa.

### **Feasibility of the security pact**

The technical pre-conditions for the realization of a security pact between South Africa and the other African states are present. South Africa is the only nation on the African continent which has experienced industrial development worth mentioning and, therefore, has centers of technology, science, and research.

A classical example is veterinary medicine. The Institute of Veterinary Medicine of Onderstepoort in Pretoria has gained control over dangerous diseases such as rinderpest, and would be capable of delivering the vaccine and know-how for an effective campaign against that disease to the rest of Africa. Generally, the long-term agricultural experience under the climatic conditions of South African and Namibia could make an essential contribution to agriculture in many other parts of the continent. Another example is infrastructure, energy, and water supply. South African hydrological engineers have already worked out plans for the effective use of African water reserves.

There is no doubt concerning the willingness of the nationalist reform group to put these plans into action. The realization that South Africa's greatest problem is that the rest of Africa is a dying continent because of IMF policies, is also growing among others circles, especially military. Therefore, many strategically minded circles are discussing the necessity of a Botha Doctrine for the development of Africa.

The difficulty lies in implementing such a strategy, given the present international political framework.

For black liberation organizations which are conscious of their responsibility, such as Inkatha, a continental-wide strategy for the development of Africa presents the obvious framework within which the necessary constitutional and economic changes in South Africa could take place, as Chief Buthelezi, the president of Inkatha and chief minister of KwaZulu, emphasized in a recent interview with *EIR*. The process of establishing equal political rights in South Africa can only be realized with the simultaneous economic betterment of previously neglected population groups, and, for that, again, an economic framework is necessary that permits the recovery and expansion of the South African economy.

### **The necessary domestic transformation**

Chief Buthelezi is striving for a federal constitution for the nation-state of South Africa. There is great skepticism concerning the feasibility of this conception among the white reformers. Experiences in the rest of Africa are pointed to, as well as the cultural starting point, so different from that in Europe. But, certainly, this underestimates the political dynamic that would be set in motion by an appropriate new definition of South Africa's national purpose. In the balance today is the survival of the South African state and the continent. In light of this threat, the conflicts of the past become minimal. At this point in time, the opportunity is offered for resolute statesmanlike leadership: South Africa must be mobilized according to the classical republican tradition, to work for the improvement of the rest of the continent and the entire community of nations.

The formulation of a grand design for the African continent as the practical political task for South Africa will make it possible for its citizens to identify with a new South Africa, and thereupon, to take a stand for the defense of the nation. Given that, a political commonality for the conflicting interests in South Africa will be attainable, in which fruitful negotiations for the solution of existing conflicts become possible. Those political groups specifically created to destabilize the nation, such as the present African National Congress, will largely lose their freedom of action as well as their credibility.

The political leadership of South Africa finds itself on a dangerous course. The risk of plunging into chaos increases daily. Therefore, honest politicians in the West had better understand now that implementing the policies indicated here is the only alternative to chaos.