

with “*tu*,” naturally not as a friend, but because the respectful “*vous*” was reserved for whites?

We have seen how our country was plundered in the name of so-called laws which merely recognized the right of the stronger. We have endured an administration of justice which was never equal for whites and blacks; agreeable for the one, hideous and inhuman for the other. We have endured the horrible fate of exile for our political view and religious observances; as exiles in our own fatherland, we bore a fate worse than death itself.

We have seen in the cities, the villas of the whites and the impoverished huts of the blacks. The black man, who dared not enter any cinema or restaurant; or the “European” business, of the black man who traveled in the hull of the ship, at the foot of the white man in his luxury cabin. Who could finally forget the gunfire under which so many of our brothers fell, the prisons in which all those were brutally thrown who could no longer submit to this regime of injustice, oppression, and exploitation? . . .

Jointly, my brothers and sisters, we will begin a new struggle, a sublime struggle, which will lead our people to peace, to well-being and to greatness. Together we will reconstruct social justice and ensure that each person gets a just wage for his work.

We will show the world, what a black man can create if he works in freedom, and, starting from the Congo, all of Africa will shine forth.

We will be on guard so that the countries of our homeland really will take care of our children. . . .

Peace will prevail, not the peace of rifles and bayonets, but the peace of the heart and good will. And for all that, be assured, my brothers, we can not only count on our enormous strength and boundless resources, but also on the help of numerous other countries, whose help we will accept if it is true, and does not try to impose its own policy.

In this area, Belgium, which finally understood the direction of history, did not try to oppose our independence; we invited them to guarantee us their help and friendship, and we have signed a corresponding treaty between equal and independent countries. This cooperation, of which I am sure, will be to the advantage of both countries. On our side we will, with due vigilance, know how to respect free mutual obligations.

Thus, from inside and out, the new Congo, our republic, which my government will create, will become a rich, free, and prosperous country. But to reach this goal without delay, I ask you, lawgivers and citizens of the Congo, to help me with all your might.

I demand that everyone forget the tribal feuds which could consume us and discredit us internationally. I demand that the parliamentary minority stand by my government as a constructive opposition, and remain strictly in the realm of law and democracy. I demand of you all that you shun no sacrifice, in order to secure the success of our grand undertaking.

Powell's Dictates Not Welcomed in Africa

by L. Chamberlain

U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell's visit to Africa in late May spelled out Bush's Africa policy: The United States will continue to campaign for the removal of nationalist leaders who offer resistance to Anglo-American schemes to loot their countries. In Mali, Kenya, Uganda, and especially in South Africa, Powell made clear that his particular mission was to finish the job of “taking out” Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe.

Given his other message, that the Bush Administration will offer only token aid to the continent, Powell's was an “ugly American” tour of Africa, despite his being an African-American himself.

Refusing to visit Zimbabwe during his overall five-day African safari, Powell used his trip to South Africa to put heat on President Thabo Mbeki to stop being an obstacle to the Anglo-American consensus that Mugabe must go. Powell insisted that the South Africans could not escape the effects of the crisis looming over Zimbabwe, and that Pretoria had to act *now* to make the President of the neighboring country embrace democracy. This is the policy line that has consistently been rejected by the Mbeki Presidency, with Mbeki defending (but clearly not adopting) Zimbabwe's land policy, describing it in such terms as “a correction of colonial legacy” in the neighboring country.

Powell insisted that it was “Mr. Mugabe” who was plunging his country into its present crisis by clinging onto power. Mugabe must “submit to the rule of law,” Powell said, which is the code phrase for bowing down to the free-market “globalization” looting policies of the Anglo-Americans' land and commodity cartels. What was particularly awkward, noted Johannesburg's *Business Day* on May 30, was that directly before blasting the Zimbabwean President, Powell had first commended his host, President Mbeki, for his impressive leadership of southern Africa as a whole. “The peculiarities of the region's politics make the statements unfortunate. That they have rattled Powell's hosts in Pretoria is hardly surprising.” Adds the editorial: “What also renders Powell's tongue-lashing of Mugabe off key are some of the curious inclusions on his African safari. . . . He was happy to participate in photo calls with Uganda's Yoweri Museveni [who] remains a darling of donors in spite of fighting the unpopular war in the Democratic Republic of Congo,” and who has “effectively outlawed free party political activity in his country.”

Others More Blunt

While the Johannesburg paper expressed Pretoria's negative reaction to Powell politely, students attending his speech at the University of Witwatersrand were more direct. They booed Powell at length, and then blocked his car as he was leaving the campus. This recalled the heated response to Powell in Kenya days earlier, when Kenyan President Daniel Arap Moi said, "I think it is too much, always trying to undermine the intelligence of the African people. Those who will decide the destiny of Kenya, for instance, or other countries, will be the people themselves."

With respect to southern Africa, Mugabe, because of the anti-colonialist policy direction he is taking, is the first target of the British, and now of the Bush White House. But in the slightly longer term, President Mbeki and the nationalist aspirations of the ruling African National Congress (ANC) are also a problem for the resource grabbers. Mbeki understands the historical and current realities. Speaking about the case of South Africa in an interview with the London *Guardian* on June 1, he noted, "The white minority *political domination* has gone. The rest remains."

That Powell was giving orders was not lost. "Powell laid down in no uncertain terms the kind of stance the American government has taken; we must never underestimate Washington's capacity and ability to influence events on the global stage," noted Sanusha Naidu, researcher at South Africa Institute of International Affairs.

Powell's actions in Pretoria "were reminiscent of how then-Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, again from Pretoria, made Rhodesian leader, Ian Smith, step down," editorialized Prof. Masipula Sithole, political scientist at the University of Zimbabwe, in Zimbabwe's *Financial Gazette* on June 4. "With the assistance of John Vorster, the then-South African Prime Minister, Kissinger told a reluctant Smith what to do, and he did it! Now, 25 years later, another American Secretary of State in another Republican administration, Colin Powell, issued a major policy statement on Africa from South Africa calling on President Robert Mugabe to be willing to relinquish power."

Speaking about Powell and the Bush Administration, Sithole adds: "What is happening is a continuation of the previous foreign policy, though without the 'kiddy gloves' of the Clinton Administration. These are 'rough riders.'" His editorial concludes: "My sense is that the game is up."

Mugabe Also Playing 'Hard Ball'

During the week of Powell's safari, Mugabe, at the funeral of his Defense Minister on May 29, attacked the United States and Britain for continuing to condone genocide and looting of resources from the Democratic Republic of Congo by Uganda, Burundi, Rwanda, which "remain the favorites of the Americans and the British."

At the same funeral, he again stood by his land reform policy, noting that as of that date, Zimbabwe had resettled



Secretary of State Colin Powell's Africa trip was compared, among African leaders, to Henry Kissinger's manner of demanding compliance with London-Washington orders.

landless blacks on some 7.4 million acres of land in the past nine months, despite fierce opposition from Britain and the United States. Mugabe noted that for 20 years, his government had struggled to acquire land from the controllers of it. "The end of colonialism must come. Colonialism — albeit in a neo-colonial form, in an indirect form through the ownership of our resources — that has to stop. The fight goes on," Mugabe vowed, as he helped bury the Defense Minister, Moven Mahachi, who had died in a car accident.

In concert with statements issued by his long-time collaborator Malaysian Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir bin Mohamad, President Mugabe is now openly discussing plans for a new global financial architecture. In an interview, conducted during the Group of 15 meeting of developing nations in Jakarta, Indonesia, and published in the *Zimbabwe Herald* on June 4, Mugabe hammered at the actual role of the International Monetary Fund, behind the window-dressing. He noted not just his conclusions, but also those of others as they concluded the G-15 meeting: "We have come now to realize that an institution like the IMF is being manipulated to serve the interests of Western countries; it has now lost its perspective completely!" Mugabe added that the G-15 leaders had suggested that the group form its own multilateral financial institution, as an alternative to the IMF and the World Bank. The plan, he said, was that developing countries continue to fight for the reform of the Bretton Woods institutions, but in the meantime, it was important that they had institutions they could turn to.

Countering the extensive dreaming about information technology and the "digital divide" that distracted many of those attending the G-15 meeting from discussion of the more serious solutions necessary, Mugabe warned, "We have to guard ourselves against the destructive forces that are going to be unleashed in the field of communication, information, and propaganda in order to dominate our societies once again. . . . For, haven't we seen already, that those who command information technology are using that technology in order to influence our societies, quite often in a manner that favors them, and yet destroys certain fundamental values that we cherish? How do we protect ourselves?"