

AFRICA

Kissinger In Bid To Wreck Geneva Conference On Southern Africa

Oct. 30 (NSIPS) — U.S. Secretary of State Kissinger, backed by the New York Times, has been angling for another personal intervention into the Rhodesia (Zimbabwe) situation this week, in order to ensure that the Geneva conference on Zimbabwe's transition to majority rule breaks down. In the ensuing chaos, Kissinger intends — in a manner similar to his famous Middle East shuttle diplomacy — to destroy the pro-socialist elements in the Zimbabwe nationalist movement, split up the progressive Mozambique-Tanzania-Angola axis and thus project his fascist South African allies.

Kissinger's efforts have become particularly urgent due to Britain's accession, late in the week, to the demands of African leaders that the British take a leadership role in the transition, rather than their present 'neutral' role. Observers from other African countries have now been admitted to the Geneva conference, and British Prime Minister Callaghan has privately told Zimbabwean leaders that his government agrees "in principle" to run the country during the transitional period although he has not yet publically committed himself. These measures will force Rhodesian Prime Minister Ian Smith to stop hiding behind the supposed "agreement" negotiated with Kissinger, which leaves the army and police in Smith's hands, and which he made into the focus of the conference during the first few sessions to avoid any substantive discussion.

The New York Times campaign for a Kissinger intervention began a week ago before the conference started, with quotations from diplomatic sources on Oct. 24 that "...a fuller and more direct expression of American views..." might be necessary in Geneva, as well as further citations from "high State Department sources," that the Secretary "is not prepared to let the talks fail and will step up pressure on the participants if the conference appears doomed..."

Trying to keep Kissinger in the foreground, Prime Minister Smith has repeatedly stated that "It would be wonderful if

Kissinger would come to Geneva to sort out the problems threatening his plan..." and that he would "... set the record straight..." on the now irrelevant question of whether or not all parties accepted the same version of the Kissinger Package Deal. In any case, the State Department "set the record straight" in midweek by admitting that Kissinger's plan was deliberately ambivalent, and that his pressure to keep the conference from "failing" has consisted of armtwisting African leaders to "privately" condone the version of the plan agreed with Smith.

While the Kissinger-Smith operation diverts, stalls and generally confounds progress in Geneva, Henry's satraps and allies in southern Africa are increasing their war preparations.

In Zaire, bankrupt President Mobutu Sese Seko has flagrantly violated his agreement with neighboring Angola by reopening the military bases of the CIA-founded and -run National Front (FNLA), according to a statement issued by Angolan Prime Minister Lopo do Nascimento. Mobutu is rearming the thugs for guerrilla operations against Angola. Such action is against Zaire's national interests and is a reversal of Zaire's conciliatory policy toward Angola in effect previously. It was most likely ordered when Mobutu was summoned before French President Giscard d'Estaing a week ago.

At the same time, Smith has put the Rhodesian army on a war footing and is preparing major counterinsurgency operations near the Mozambican border which could easily result in another "daring daylight raid" against unarmed civilian refugees in Mozambique by Rhodesian troops.

In South Africa, outbreaks of provoked violence and provocateur terrorist incidents have been used as the excuse for the use of machine guns against rioters in the ghetto of Soweto, and for further mobilization of police and troops. Meanwhile First National City Bank has pulled together a \$125 million loan to fill South Africa's war chest.

Vorster Pushes Ahead With Concentration Camp Policy; Business Circles Panic

Oct. 30 (NSIPS) — South African Prime Minister John Vorster forged ahead with his regime's policy of cramming black Africans into self-governed barren concentration camps with the granting of superficial independence to one of these camps, the Transkei, on Oct. 26. The move is part of the Vorster policy of maintaining strict racial separation, apartheid, in South Africa under the guise of separate development for the races. Vorster intends to eventually declare independent nine such camps, called homelands or bantustans, located inside South Africa.

Reacting to this policy, and Vorster's continuing commitment to a confrontation against neighboring black African countries, South African business circles have become increasingly alarmed that the effects of these policies will be the complete

loss of their political control in southern Africa, and have panicked. Their long-simmering opposition to the government policy has broken out into open attacks against the Vorster regime. Business and industrial interests are calling for substantial concessions in South Africa's apartheid policy and wage policy as the only way to maintain control over their interests in the long term.

Independence to Transkei

The Transkei has been transformed into a self-governing concentration camp, to contain under abysmal conditions all those who cannot work in the mines and industry, or who are not needed for these jobs. Shunned by the rest of the world, the Transkei is the only homeland thus far to yield to South African pressure to accept this version of independence. Control in the

Transkei will be in the hands of the Xhosa tribal oligarchy, and consequently just prior to independence about 12,000 non-Xhosa refugees fled in terror. The nominal leader of Transkei is Chief Kaiser Mantanzima, who has his position thanks to fraudulent elections in which he imprisoned the leaders of opposition parties at the beginning of the campaign period. These opposition figures opposed the phony independence move and are still locked up.

The "independence" is fraudulent. The army and police are still to be ultimately controlled by South Africans. In addition, decisions by Transkei courts can be appealed to South African courts, making independence a complete sham. Economically, the eroded, barren Transkei will continue to depend almost entirely on South Africa. 75 per cent of its income is from South Africa, and the undeveloped territory must import about 75 per cent of its food supply from South Africa.

With the so-called independence move, all members of the Xhosa tribe living anywhere in South Africa have been stripped of South African citizenship, even if they have never lived in the Transkei. They are now considered citizens of the Transkei. One and a half million of these people work in South Africa and are now considered aliens who need passports. South African immigration officers immediately opened border control posts and are scrutinizing and stamping passports. The Vorster regime will use this fictional independence of Transkei as the legal basis for deporting any Transkei "citizen" considered undesirable back to the desolate Transkei.

Transkei has been under martial law since 1960, when a state of emergency was declared after a peasant uprising against intolerable conditions. Mantanzima has stated that the state of emergency will be maintained. In the face of widespread opposition to the phony independence, Mantanzima's brother George warned that anybody trying to disrupt the independence of Transkei would be dealt with "brutally and viciously." George Mantanzima is the Minister of Justice of Transkei.

Businessmen Panic

Business circles in South Africa think that the farce of granting independence to the homelands will become the basis for intensifying the racial confrontation, and will not succeed in sweeping apartheid under the rug of separate independent development, as Vorster maintains. On Oct. 18 this simmering disagreement broke out into a face-to-face clash between Vorster and business leaders attending as Assocom (Associated Chambers of Commerce) conference whose opening address was given by Vorster.

Vorster angrily told the businessmen present to keep out of politics and stick to business. He was referring to the widespread move among white businessmen to make concessions on such issues as equal pay for equal work done by blacks and whites, doing away with the dual wage standard in hopes that this will defuse the mounting political confrontation. Worried businessmen "have said they would like to see apartheid barriers swept aside in business," reported the conservative London Daily Telegraph of Oct. 20.

Delegates at the conference bitterly attacked Vorster's blunt remarks. Assocom president H. Wolffe replied to Vorster, calling for political and social changes, contradicting Vorster directly: "There is an inter-dependence between politics and

economics and we are worried at the implications for our economic performance. Apart from anything else, disruption has imposed heavy costs on the economy. Peaceful evolution in southern Africa is inextricably linked to sustained economic performance and business confidence." Wolffe explicitly associated his group with demands made previously by the Federated Chamber of Industries and the National Development and Management Foundation for urgent economic reform, emphasizing that: "Capitalism must truly embrace all races for the system knows no barriers."

Reporting on the conference, the influential South African financial weekly, Financial Mail, commented that "the policies this (Vorster) government seems stubbornly determined to pursue ... are fast alienating the blacks to the point where there is a real possibility that violence may become endemic."

The Financial Mail later notes that "Up and down the country businessmen have been urging government to make the changes they believe are necessary for survival, let alone a return to growth and prosperity. Those changes are, first and foremost, political changes." The Financial Mail called for: "a programme ... for the removal of all obstacles to advancement on merit, the strict application of equal pay for equal work, the equalisation of facilities, opportunities for company assisted training and study...."

In the week following the conference, Johannesburg Star political correspondent John Patten called on Vorster to launch extensive political reforms, castigating him for refusing to break with right-wing supporters: "In the climate of tension and crisis that has built up since the Soweto riots began in June, Mr. Vorster could successfully exchange his Afrikaner Nationalist power base for a broader more enlightened South African base.

"Instead he used his party's congresses last month to reinforce his commitment to the basic framework of separate development.

"This has left the urban blacks without meaningful political rights or any hope of getting any; it has left the homeland leaders with the continuing offer of an independence which most do not want...."

The Assocom conference took the initiative to create a united front among business leaders to press the government to speed ahead with sweeping racial reform, too fearful of social upheaval to let Vorster's blunt attack dissuade them. The delegates unanimously backed a motion demanding urgent action on the removal of race barriers. The Assocom executive will now seek talks with all other main business organizations — English and Afrikaans — to try to make the approach to the government a common front from the entire business world. The first organizations that they will approach to come up with a united policy will be the Federated Chamber of Industries and the Afrikaanse Handelsinstituut. They will propose moves to eliminate racial discrimination, calling for the recognition of the need for all races inside the urban areas, the relaxation of all racial restrictions on jobs in white-owned businesses, among other desegregation-oriented demands, hoping against hope that concessions such as these will calm the enraged African population, and at the same time give a lift to the ailing economy by making South Africa more attractive to foreign investors.