

Editorial

A cordon sanitaire for South Africa

The fact that the South African government has officially admitted responsibility for the May 23 bombing raid on the Mozambique capital compels action from every sovereign nation to isolate that regime. The following steps must be taken:

- A total international economic and trade embargo must be imposed against the Republic of South Africa, including a well-enforced arms embargo.

- In particular this must include a cut-off of all economic ties between the United States and the Republic of South Africa.

- The American administration should declare its readiness to completely terminate economic aid to any third country which continues to trade with South Africa in any way.

- South Africa must also be forced to pay compensation for damage caused in the attack.

- The United States should immediately call on the military forces available to the United Nations, offering its own forces to supplement such forces, to impose an air and naval blockade of the Republic of South Africa. A "cordon sanitaire" must be placed around the outlaw nation.

The moral responsibility for the attack is not in question. The South African attack conducted on May 23 against the Mozambique's capital, Maputo—killing 6 and wounding 24, according to the official Mozambique press agency—is only one instance of a policy of "body-count" racism. The attack, supposedly in retaliation for a terrorist attack a few days previously, is part of a prolonged and expanding series of such raids on South Africa's black-populated neighbor states.

South Africa claimed that the raid was launched in retaliation for the May 20 terrorist bombing in front of the headquarters of the South African Air Force in Pretoria, which killed 17 and injured about 200. This was the first time the car-bomb *modus operandi* so favored

by Israeli intelligence in Lebanon had been used in an anti-government action in South Africa.

South African military spokesmen openly stated after the raid on Maputo that it had been *planned on a contingency basis months before the Pretoria bombing*; that it had been ordered immediately after the bombing; and that it had been delayed only because of overcast weather conditions.

Some people in the United States doubtless consider that South Africa should not be held accountable for its actions, because South Africa is "America's ally against the communist threat." They fail to appreciate the ways in which South Africa's action benefits the Soviet Union. The military intervention is expected to draw the United States into new levels of direct or indirect support for the South African regime, against countries supported by the Soviet Union, and further propel the United States toward a superpower confrontation.

The United States must act with urgency. For reasons which Lyndon LaRouche's introduction to our *Special Report* this week makes abundantly clear, the men now in power in the Kremlin are just looking for opportunities to challenge the United States into a showdown which they, and the British grand strategists who are steering the South African regime, believe will lead the U.S. into a humiliating backdown. Southern Africa fits into Moscow's plans in this regard in the same way as the Middle East and Central America hotspots.

The Maputo raid took place on the eve of Soviet party secretary Andropov's upcoming trip to Angola. Andropov and Company hope that President Reagan will stumble into an embrace of the racist South African regime which will create the excuse for the Soviets or the Cubans to send more countervailing troops into Angola, heating up an already scalding situation.