

Anglo-American 'Peace' Initiative Custom-Tailored For War

The British Foreign Office issued a White Paper on Anglo-American proposals for a settlement in Rhodesia on Sept. 1 — after key aspects of the proposals had already been rejected by all parties concerned in Africa.

In comments before and after the formal proposals were released, both British Foreign Secretary Richard Owen and Jimmy Carter's UN Ambassador, Andrew Young, made clear their intention to ram this version of "a settlement" through installing a "moderate" black puppet government in Rhodesia and emasculating the Patriotic Front's black Rhodesian nationalist movement, which is exclusively recognized by the Organization of African Unity. Only such a "settlement" could keep Rhodesia under Anglo-American monetarist control.

The success of this policy would precipitate a bloody civil war between, on the one hand, the Patriotic Front, backed by the black-ruled front line states and the socialist countries, and whatever puppet government or force the Carter Administration and British Foreign Office can put together.

At this point the Carter Administration hopes to force South Africa into a military intervention, provoked by a perceived "communist threat" in southern Africa. A barrage of hypocritical vituperation from the Carter Administration against South Africa establishes a "breakaway ally" mode for South African intervention, based on a paranoid "last ditch" psychology in the country resulting from American "abandonment." However, the South African government will *not* intervene militarily in Rhodesia, in support of any conceivable version of an "internal solution," according to a highly reliable South African source. There is no way such an intervention could work to South Africa's advantage, he said. Smith is "finished," the source continued, and none of the Anglo-American puppets — Bishop Abel Muzorewa, the Rev. Ndabaningi Sithole or Chief Jeremiah Chirau — could control the situation; therefore, any "internal" solution would effectively depend on "outside," South African intervention.

"We could hold it for a while, but others would act..." he said, referring to the Soviet Union. Even if right-wing pressure for such a course by the government were greatly increased, he said, it would be nothing compared to the internal disaster brought on by a repeat of the Angola debacle — and closer to home.

This relative sanity on the part of the South Africans leaves open the door for an alternative European-sponsored approach to the problems of southern Africa, which would base the eradication of the vicious apartheid system on a regionwide program of economic develop-

ment in which South Africa would be the key contributing element. Such a program would, of necessity, pull the region out of the New York-dominated dollar empire, and the new trade and credit arrangements implied would strengthen the economic independence of Europe regarding the same monetarist interests.

Owen's Plan

In introducing the Anglo-American proposals to hold onto southern Africa, British secretary Owen announced his intention to ram through his "settlement" regardless of any objections from those concerned. "We are not in a drafting session," he said on Aug. 27. "These are definite proposals. Nothing in broad terms can be changed, no matter what the outcome of the talks." The proposals demand that the Patriotic Front abandon their bargaining strength — the Zimbabwe People's Army — and put their trust in experienced counterinsurgent Field Marshall Michael Lord Carver who is to be appointed British Resident Commissioner under the plan. Such a position is an invitation to civil war, an invitation clarified by the constant threat that the Anglo-American negotiating team will simply abandon collaboration with the Patriotic Front and openly turn to Muzorewa or Sithole.

Young and Owen met with both of these synthetic leaders during their visit to Rhodesia last week, and Sithole in particular is presently being inflated in the American press as an "independent black leader."

In an Aug. 29 "News Analysis" the *New York Times* proposed that the Patriotic Front could simply be ignored if Smith could demonstrate widespread black and white support for his internal solution, and the *Washington Post* ran a Sept. 8 article inflating Sithole's image as a unifier of the Rhodesian black factions on the basis of the Anglo-American plan.

The Anglo-American proposals were preceded by a stream of lies and deceptions, beginning with President Carter's talks with Tanzanian President Julius Nyerere at the beginning of August. Nyerere was given a completely false picture of the Anglo-American proposals — a version in which the liberation army would be preserved. On that basis, he indicated willingness to cooperate with the Anglo-American proposals. Afterwards, however, the version of the proposals involving dismantling Zipa was "leaked" by Young's staff.

As they did before their intervention into the Congo in 1961, Wall Street and City of London money-changers are now sending their politicians to the UN, the U.S. Congress and elsewhere to arrange auspices for the planned intervention. Andrew Young appeared before

the House International Relations Subcommittee on Africa on Sept. 7, and announced that "everybody agreed with just enough of the plan to keep it going..." He also announced that he plans to ask the United Nations Security Council to arrange for the appointment of a UN Administrator to start operating with Field Marshall Carver. This offensive will ultimately force the Patriotic Front and their backers to capitulate or fight.

But, provided Carter-Mondale strategists cannot drive South Africa into a paranoid frenzy, both the overt and

covert purposes of the Anglo-American initiatives are failures. This creates an opportunity to push forward the European approach, best elaborated by Dresdener Bank president Jürgen Ponto in an interview the day before his murder by Baader-Meinhof terrorists. Ponto located the dismantling of apartheid in the development of South Africa as a source of capital for the rest of the region in a European-African axis, and explicitly linked this policy to a new monetary system abandoning the dollar empire.

The Anglo-American Proposals

The Anglo-American proposals as elaborated in a British White Paper include:

* The Smith government will "surrender power" to a British Resident Commissioner who will "work with" a special representative appointed by the UN Secretary General. (The already-appointed Resident Commissioner is to be experienced counterinsurgent Field Marshall Lord Carver, commander of British forces during the "Mau Mau" emergency in Kenya in 1954-1955, and Commander of the UN Forces in Cyprus in 1964, as well as Chief of Defense Staff from 1973 until his retirement.) Not mentioned, but implicit, is the fact that the Patriotic Front will surrender to Lord Carver.

* The Patriotic Front will disband its guerilla army, Zipa, on the promise that Zipa members will be integrated into the Zimbabwe Army. Only certain units of the Rhodesian army will be disbanded, and the Rhodesian police will remain intact after swearing loyalty to the Queen. Under the direction of Lord Carver, the police will have first responsibility for policing the cease fire and the elections.

* Carver and the UN representative will also command a UN peacekeeping force charged with ultimate responsibility for policing the cease fire with liaison to the Rhodesian army and the liberation forces.

* Carver, who will be in full charge of administration and subject only to instructions from the British government, will also supervise districting and registration for the elections, and the holding of the elections themselves.

Reactions to The Proposals

* In a statement published on Sept. 2, the Patriotic Front rejected the Anglo-American proposals, charging that the purpose of the plan was to "secure the lucrative interests of the West...and liquidate the Patriotic Front, to replace them with pro-Western figureheads. We demand the unconditional surrender of the illegal Salisbury regime and the bringing to power of the Zimbabwe people."

* This official statement followed remarks by Patriotic Front co-chairman Joshua Nkomo, made at the Lagos conference against apartheid on Aug. 24. "There must be an interim arrangement with a political structure for administrative purposes," he said, "This structure must have a power base and that must be the armed forces. We say those armed forces must be the guerillas — they spilled their blood for Zimbabwe and brought us this far..."

* Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda announced Sept. 8 that he accepted aspects of the Anglo-American plan, but added that it is based on "the glaringly false premise of Smith's willingness to surrender. On this premise, it's a non-starter...The West should have shown Smith that if he does not comply with the White Paper by a certain deadline, the West will cut off the oil lines and freeze the blood of his rebellion."

* On the other side, Prime Minister Ian Smith's office announced on Sept. 2 that his Cabinet will discuss "this crazy, ill-conceived, insane, rushed, vindictive, disastrous, cunning and chaotic" proposal, and draft a "serious and considered reply." Prime Minister Smith's government has objected most strenuously to the partial demobilization of the Rhodesian military.