

# Smith 'Concedes' While Bombing Mozambique

Rhodesian Prime Minister Ian Smith's announced acceptance of the principle of one man-one vote is a deliberate action which will raise tensions and increase the possibility of conflict in the region. Smith announced Nov. 23 his intention to begin talks with a small group of Rhodesian tribal leaders and ministers with the goal of calling universal suffrage elections for the purpose of making one of them the nominal black leader of Rhodesia. Instead of cooperating with an internationally acceptable solution that the rest of Africa could accept, Smith is going with this "internal option," as he calls it, to preempt the Patriotic Front, a front of two national liberation groups headed jointly by Joshua Nkomo and Robert Mugabe; and divide the frontline states.

At the same time, confirming Smith's intentions the Rhodesian military launched raids deep into Mozambique against refugee camps which included members of ZANU, Mugabe's organization. Over 100 civilians including women and children were killed, including the families of the top leaders of ZANU who were in the Mozambique capital of Maputo for a meeting. The Smith regime boasted that they had killed 1,200 guerrilla fighters, a figure which would amount to 20 percent of Mugabe's forces.

The gameplan was described by a spokesman from the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) in Washington, a strategic think tank linked to Georgetown University. The CSIS intends to lend legitimacy to this operation by calling for international observers and guarantees while drumming up international support for this operation.

The primary figure being used to draw support for the operation is one of the figures with whom Smith will open talks, the Rev. Ndabaningi Sithole, presently being escorted around the U.S. by CSIS. However, Bishop Abel Muzorewa, another Rhodesian political figure with whom Smith has considered running the internal option in the past, is now reported by European diplomatic sources to be cooperating with forces opposed to this internal option, but who favor a unity government including the Patriotic Front, a development which makes it still more difficult for Smith to ram through this operation.

## CSIS: U.S. Should Support Rhodesia's Elections

*A spokesman from the Center for Strategic and International Studies put forward this think-tank's view of Prime Minister Ian Smith's call for elections in Rhodesia.*

The Anglo-American proposal for a solution to the

Rhodesia crisis was bound to fail right from the beginning. It tried to solve two conflicts at once — the conflict between blacks, and the conflict between blacks and whites — and therefore was too ambiguous. Everyone looked at it as points to be negotiated, as opposed to a framework to be followed.

Smith's internal option of calling for elections is designed to preempt the guerrillas, undercut them. By moving ahead with plans to create a black government with people willing to talk to him, Smith is creating a *fait accompli* for the guerrillas and the frontline states that puts them on the spot. The raids were carried out to show he means business, putting the Patriotic Front in deep trouble.

The U.S. should support the internal solution by calling for things like international observers to guarantee that the election is fair, and making sure that all parties are invited. If the U.S. supports this solution, or at least says nothing against it, it will have a good chance of working. Sithole, a credible nationalist, is playing an important role in this. He is on a tour of the U.S. trying to get an open-minded American attitude to an eventual Rhodesian government worked out through Smith-initiated talks with the non-Patriotic Front leaders.

## Zambia: Tug-Of-War

Tremendous pressure is being put on Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda to break ranks with the frontline states and capitulate to Smith's maneuver. The Zambian economy is in such a crisis that Kaunda said last week: "If we don't take action, we will perish — we will collapse as a nation." Kaunda faces growing internal opposition as a result of this crisis, and for this reason has been anxious for a settlement package for the Rhodesia crisis mediated through Rowland W. Rowland of Lonrho Corporation (who holds extensive business interests in Africa and the Middle East) and allied European political forces.

Kaunda is also being threatened with Rhodesian military raids. After the Mozambique raids, Rhodesian Defense Minister Hawkins claimed that Nkomo's ZAPU was training guerrillas in Zambia and threatened that Rhodesia will take whatever military steps necessary to defend itself. Forces pushing the internal option think that if Kaunda can be forced to capitulate, Nkomo, a close political ally of Kaunda, can be pulled into the internal solution, giving it credibility.

The Carter Administration has so far remained unequivocal with respect to Smith's internal option, still trying to resolve whether to oppose it or not. Their hesitation is understandable.

The danger of Smith's maneuver is that it could easily

lead to U.S.-Soviet confrontation. Rhodesian military operations have been largely confined to attacks on ZANU in Mozambique, which could force the Mozambicans to call in military assistance from Cuba or other socialist allies. Furthermore, U.S. commitment to the Anglo-American plan in southern Africa could be seen by Moscow as an abrogation of the superpowers' implicit agreement to mutual restraint in southern Africa.

### Britain Maneuvers Support for Sithole

British Foreign Secretary David Owen met with Sithole in London Dec. 4, giving credibility and support to Sithole's effort to form a blackface government with Smith in Rhodesia. Both Owen and Sithole stated that elections prior to independence were the key feature of the settlement effort, and Sithole said that the Anglo-American initiative was the basis for his negotiations with Smith.

In a speech the day before, Owen made the threat of war against the liberation front explicit, as he castigated those at a Labour Party and Anti-Apartheid conference who wanted to support the liberation front: "It is going to be a very long, bloody, and damaging struggle in which a whole host of people will be killed and the outcome is uncertain." Instead he called for the West to back a settlement along the lines of the Anglo-American proposals.

At about the same time Owen backhandedly endorsed the Rhodesian raids into Mozambique in a BBC interview, saying they may be advantageous in getting what he called "overall compromises" from the Patriotic Front that would help achieve an "overall settlement."

### Sithole Stumps in USA

The now discredited onetime political figure in the Rhodesian nationalist movement, Rev. Ndabaningi Sithole, for the past few weeks has been on an extended tour of the U.S. His trip is being sponsored by the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS). After speaking with Secretary of State Vance Nov. 18, Sithole gave a speech sponsored by the Center. He then went to California, speaking at the University of California at Santa Clara, and then returned to Washington for a discussion meeting at the American Enterprise Institute. On Dec. 1 he was in New York where he met with Andrew Young. In numerous interviews and television appearances, Sithole is claiming that "the guerrillas work for me," and not for the Patriotic Front.