

Southern Africa's destabilization

If the Reagan administration is drawn into an 'East-West' showdown in the region, stresses Douglas DeGroot, it will also face a crisis at home.

The same group of people who set up the conflagration in El Salvador—U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig, the Socialist International led by Willy Brandt, and the “class war” faction of the Soviet leadership around Central Committee member Boris Ponomarev—are now working to spark wars and destabilizations throughout southern Africa. Mozambique and Angola are intended to trigger the scenario.

Haig's role in the operation is to ensure the polarization of the region by allying the United States with South Africa in the escalating regional conflict, thus forcing Angola and Mozambique to ally themselves more closely with the Soviets and Cuba. In the words of one think tanker, “Reagan will contribute to the scenario by polarizing the situation.”

Reagan has already come out publicly in favor of the current South African government. In a March 3 interview, he said of South Africa: “Can we abandon a country that has stood beside us in every war we've ever fought, a country that strategically is essential to the free world? It has production of minerals we all must have.”

Ironically, this action by the United States will create warfare conditions that will cut off southern Africa's minerals shipments. At the same time, Reagan is setting himself up for destabilization at home by urban riots. In the words of the above-mentioned think tanker: “Americans won't stand idly by while the U.S. lines up with South Africa.”

The primary objective in fomenting regional warfare is to drastically reduce the population in potentially rich southern Africa. In the eyes of the U.S. State Department, war, with its resultant population dislocation, chaos and famine—as in El Salvador—is an efficient method for the depopulation demanded by the Carter administration's *Global 2000 Report*. Such wars would also threaten to cut off southern Africa's minerals from those European political forces intent on preventing a worldwide industrial collapse into the postindustrial society envisaged by the authors of *Global 2000*.

Mozambique: South African provocation

The destabilization operation between South Africa and Mozambique began Jan. 30 when the South African military launched an airborne commando attack near

Mozambique's capital of Maputo. The headquarters of the African National Congress was destroyed, and several of its members killed in the surprise attack.

Soviet policy in Africa has consistently been to back what the Soviets term “wars of liberation,” which has tended to put the Soviet Union's Africa policy in the hands of its “class war” faction. The ANC is a South African organization opposed to the apartheid system with connections to the Soviets and Cubans. Playing into this profile of the Soviets, Louis Wolfe, who has co-authored two books with *CounterSpy's* Philip Agee, and who is on the board of directors of *CounterSpy*, made a three-week tour of Mozambique and southern Africa following the South African raid. Wolfe, significantly, is also a co-editor of the *Covert Information Action Bulletin*, a publication which exposes CIA agents.

Therefore, it is not surprising that after Wolfe's tour, the Mozambique government in early March expelled four American diplomats on grounds that they were CIA spies complicit in the South African attack. In addition, shortly after the South African raid, Willy Brandt—who proudly admits his funding of the El Salvador leftist guerrillas—stepped in to loudly denounce South Africa for the raid. And the Soviet Union also responded by sending four ships into Maputo's harbor.

South African press editorials are already calling the Mozambique crisis a “Cuban missile crisis,” in the hope they will get more Western support if international tensions are escalated. Reagan's pro-South African statements coincided with the expulsion of the Americans from Mozambique, while two American civilians were also subsequently arrested in Mozambique on charges of spying. Meanwhile, tensions between Mozambique and South Africa are still quite high. On March 18, a few South African soldiers were killed by Mozambique soldiers in a border clash.

Haig is also maneuvering for a war in Angola. The State Department will soon recommend that the five-year ban on covert or overt U.S. assistance to the Socialist International-affiliated UNITA be repealed.

After Angola became independent in 1975, UNITA was a major pawn in a guerrilla war which Henry Kissinger used against the Angolan government of

President Agostinho Neto. During that war, UNITA was supported by South Africa, and Angola is still forced to rely upon Cuban and Soviet aid to counter South African military operations against the country.

According to Prof. Richard Falk of Princeton University, a Socialist International "left" destabilization expert who helped bring Khomeini to power in Iran, Angola is the next target on the State Department destabilization list. "If the destabilization and counter-insurgency operations work in El Salvador," he said, "Angola will be the next country they will try to destabilize."

UNITA, headed by "third-way" socialist Jonas Savimbi, has been almost entirely rooted out by the Angolan military. Savimbi is now only a front man for South African terrorist military operations into southern Angola. What Savimbi claims to be his military operations are made up of black South African soldiers led by South Africans and white mercenaries recruited the end of the war in Zimbabwe made them no longer useful there. The operations are basically helicopter-borne assaults on southern Angola villages which kill large numbers of civilians and terrorize the population, making the territory difficult for the Angolan government to administer.

Continuing this mode of attack while Haig looks on sympathetically, the South Africans on March 17 launched one of their deepest raids into Angola, striking at Lubango, 200 kilometers inside Angola.

Such South African attacks against its black neighbors will escalate an internal opposition and a predicted wave of terrorism within South Africa. South African Prime Minister P. W. Botha's explicit strategy to keep internal resistance to his apartheid regime in check is to preemptively strike at those black countries which oppose apartheid in order to forestall what Botha calls the "total Soviet onslaught against South Africa."

By allying himself with such a government, Reagan is opening himself to attack in the United States. Already demonstrations are being called to protest Reagan's policy of support for South Africa.

Resource warfare

Haig is getting the United States to support this regional war operation on the side of South Africa under the pretext that the U.S. must prevent the Soviets from winning the mineral-rich southern Africa component of what Haig calls "the era of the resources war."

This is doubly ironic since such regional warfare will ensure that the resources are cut off; and at the same time Haig is doing nothing to prevent foreign, especially British, interests from grabbing up all the raw materials companies in the U.S. itself.

The only sane approach for the United States in southern Africa, and which would ensure access to the region's minerals, is to aid in the process of building up

industrial republics in Africa. this would also bring the United States into opposition to the South African policy of apartheid, which is preventing the industrialization of South Africa by inhibiting the development of its skilled labor force.

Strategic materials and riot potential

The following is an excerpted March 18 interview with a U.S.-based metals specialist.

EIR: There must be a connection between the State Department's push for a strategic raw materials reserve, two Wall Street metal brokers' opening up sales of strategic metals, and the possibility that the U.S. might push for a military presence on the southern tip of Africa.

A: I shouldn't be talking about this for 9 and 10 days [but] your idea that there might be a military force in southern Africa is not wrong. The current situation is a backdrop for how that could happen. The talk about raw materials is great PR for this to happen.

Here's how it may happen. You have everybody talking about the importance of strategic metals. Suddenly on Wall Street everybody forgets about the electronics stocks, and the oils, and start going into strategic metals.

Then they turn around and say "Well, what are strategic materials, and where are they located?" As this atmosphere builds up, given the nationalistic mood building in this country, you will find an increased willingness for public opinion to accept a military activity in southern Africa.

From a March 17 interview with Jerry Herman of the American Friends Service Committee by EIR's Cynthia Parsons. The AFSC is involved in support for various African liberation movements.

We are organizing a conference in New York on Monday [March 23] on Namibia. We intend to put pressure on the U.S. to build the anti-apartheid movement here; and stop the American and British ships from going to Smithstown. One hundred groups came to this [organizing] meeting. We will be forming a steering committee on Wednesday called the Emergency Conference on Namibia. . . . We must get sanctions against the South Africans.

Our problem is in making contact so that we can respond if another Soweto occurs, then people in the U.S. will take to the streets. . . .

Ultimately, there will be a major confrontation—there will be urban strikes with selective boycotts, public demonstrations, urban sabotage, and urban guerrilla wars, because the blacks do come into the cities [to be] cheap labor. The U.S. will help keep the blacks down.



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