

Africa Report by Douglas DeGroot and Mary Brannan

Kissinger's safari

The former Secretary of State is encouraging South Africa to further attack neighboring black-ruled states.

When Henry Kissinger began a two-week safari in southern Africa early this month, it was recalled that since the days of the 1975 Angolan war for independence, the Pretoria regime has been carrying out his policies.

Kissinger plans to deploy the military forces of the P. W. Botha regime of South Africa as a marcher lord throughout the region to destroy what infrastructure and industry exist, and control the resource-rich area. In this particular case, South Africa functions as a de facto extension of NATO.

One problem confronting Kissinger and his backers in this project for dominating southern Africa, a problem that has been with them especially since the June NATO decision to deploy NATO forces into the Third World: how to use conventional military force to destroy and dominate the Third World, controlling its resources, without provoking a wider war with the Soviets.

Kissinger delivered the keynote address to a conference in South Africa on Sept. 6-7, after stopping in Zambia, Zimbabwe, and Namibia, which is occupied by some 30,000 South African troops.

The South African conference, entitled "Foreign Powers and Africa," was sponsored by the South African Institute of International Affairs. Cosponsors were South African mining and raw materials magnate Harry Oppenheimer and South African business tycoon Anton Rupert. In his speech on "The Superpowers' Role in Africa," Kissinger raised the spectre

of Soviet activity in southern Africa. Elsewhere during his trip, Kissinger raised the issue of the Soviets and their allies in the region by calling for the departure of Cubans from Angola before the issue of the independence of Namibia could be resolved. Namibia, now ruled illegally by South Africa, borders on Angola.

The Botha government had used the issue of the presence of Cubans in Angola as a justification for scuttling talks last month in New York, so Botha could accelerate his policy of destabilizing Angola.

The core of Botha's policy is to reduce all the other governments in the region to chaotic conditions. This accomplished, Botha hopes that the United States will see the Botha government—whose internal apartheid policy is inflicting increasingly large-scale murder among the black majority of the country's populace—as the only reliable ally in the region for the West.

Kissinger came to the aid of Botha in the latter's fight with his Afrikaner opponents, who oppose even superficial changes in the apartheid laws. Kissinger warned that the forces that want to back South Africa's geopolitical policies would not be able to do so "as long as the system of institutionalized racial discrimination persists." Kissinger added, however, that South Africa had the right to ask for patience because of the special complexities of their situation.

Because of the legacy of the enforced backwardness of the colonial

period, the black countries surrounding South Africa suffer a severe shortage of skilled labor, and this weakness is being targeted by South Africa. South African intervention into the Angolan war in 1975, on top of mercenary bands that were deployed directly by Kissinger, caused most skilled labor to flee Angola; the gap was subsequently made up by Cuban personnel. A precipitous departure of Cubans now would economically paralyze the country.

Destabilization activities by South Africa in Zimbabwe—three South African soldiers were recently killed on its territory—are similarly designed to terrorize whites who have elected to remain in the country. To counter these efforts, Prime Minister Mugabe has announced that the next election slate for his party will include white candidates.

In Mozambique, authorities say that repeated attacks by South African forces, or South African-sponsored rebels, are aimed at forcing out Portuguese technicians aiding the development effort.

My sources report that the rebel operation inside Mozambique is run by former Portuguese colonial banker Jorge Jardim, who is connected to the Portuguese oligarchic Milo family. Jardim now operates out of Lisbon, and works in southern Africa with the British company Lonrho, controlled by Angus Ogilvy, and the Oppenheims' DeBeers diamond monopoly.

Mozambique has reportedly begun cultivating ties with Portugal and France to weaken the pretext of Soviet ties used by South Africa for attacks on Mozambique. For the same reason, Angola keeps Cubans away from the southern part of the country to avoid any Cuban contact with the South African forces which are constantly making incursions.