

So. Africa strikes at ANC terrorists

by Mary Lalevéé

South African strike aircraft and commandos attacked bases and command centers of the Soviet-backed African National Congress (ANC) terrorist organization, in Zambia, Zimbabwe, and Botswana on May 19. The cross-border attacks seem to have been an attempt to preempt a planned escalation of violence and terrorism by the ANC.

The African National Congress is a pawn of larger Soviet plans to destabilize southern Africa, and win de facto control of the strategically vital region:

- Angolan head of state Dos Santos returned from a visit to Moscow in early May, where an agreement was signed for cooperation between the Angolan MPLA and the Soviet Communist Party, an agreement seen by some observers as a cover for further military cooperation.

- Cuban troops in Angola are preparing a major offensive against positions of the pro-Western UNITA guerrillas led by Dr. Jonas Savimbi. One French source described this as a campaign designed to lay a "trap" for South Africa. The offensive would be sufficiently massive to force South Africa to either intervene to help the beleaguered UNITA guerrillas, making Savimbi appear as "South Africa's man," or stand by and watch UNITA decimated and eliminated as a factor in the region. "In both cases, the Soviets are the winners," commented the source.

- Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachov has announced his intention to visit Angola and Mozambique in the near future, the first time that any general secretary of the Soviet Communist Party will have toured southern Africa.

- Soviet overtures to Zaire have also been noted, and that country's information minister has issued strenuous denials that Zaire is serving as a transit point for South African arms to UNITA. In light of the absence of significant U.S. aid to Savimbi, President Mobutu of Zaire obviously does not see any reason for him to be "more anti-communist than Western leaders," as one source remarked.

"President Mobutu is not the only one to notice that it is only now that the Pentagon is planning to end its contracts with the American oil company Chevron, because of its activities in Angola. . . . In other words, it is thanks to the royalties of an American company that the Angolans have paid for the Cuban troops in Angola over the last 10 years," the source continued.

Soviet strategy for South Africa is to build a massive international "anti-apartheid" campaign against the South African government, aimed at legitimizing terror tactics by the African National Congress, as well as the imposition of economic sanctions by Soviet fellow-travellers in the West—the Trilateral Commission types of Western banks and governments—which would destroy the country's economy. The tour of the area by the British Commonwealth's so-called Eminent Persons Group (EPG) in the second week of May, exemplified this strategy, treating the ANC as the sole legitimate representative of South Africa's blacks—whose moderate members the ANC has sought to systematically murder. The EPG left South Africa early in protest over the raids (and the end of their mission might have been one of Pretoria's aims in the raids).

A major U.N.-sponsored conference on sanctions against South Africa is to take place in Paris from June 16-20. In September, the leadership of the Non-Aligned Movement passes from India's Rajiv Gandhi to Zimbabwe's Prime Minister Robert Mugabe. The next non-aligned summit will be held in Harare, the capital of Zimbabwe. South Africa is expected to be a major issue, perhaps the only issue discussed there.

The South African military action on May 19 consisted of the bombing of an ANC operational center, 15 kilometers south of the Zambian capital, Lusaka, in which two people were killed; a commando attack on an ANC office in Harare; and another attack on a transit camp in Botswana, where one person was killed.

In South Africa, Zulu leader Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi said that while attacks on neighboring states should be condemned, it was also true that South Africa had warned of such retaliation for attacks launched on it.

The facts are that ANC guerrillas are trained in Libya, that massive arms shipments are finding their way into South Africa, and that the ANC is whipping up violence in the black townships, inciting youths and children to attack and kill moderate blacks in the most barbaric fashion. The South African army chief, Lieutenant-General Liebenberg, said after the raids: "It is obvious that Russian mines and weaponry can be brought into South Africa by one route only, namely, through our neighboring states."

In the week before the raids, a large cache of Soviet-made arms and explosives was discovered in the West Rand, and two men died in the Eastern Transvaal when a landmine they were planting in a farm road exploded.

The ANC's response to the raids was to threaten more violence. In a press conference in Lusaka, ANC President Oliver Tambo called for a "death-defying offensive," and he predicted a "bloodbath" if it failed. He said that the organization was starting a new onslaught against Pretoria. He called for a rent and tax strike, and said, "There will be maximum pressure, a determined offensive, a death-defying offensive."