

Can the British gameplan for South Africa be stopped?

by Linda de Hoyos

As of Feb. 11, talks between the African National Congress and the Freedom Alliance of Afrikaners and anti-ANC blacks on the South African Constitution are deadlocked, bringing South Africa closer to conditions of total civil war. Such a war would not only devastate South Africa, but by destroying South Africa's productive capacity, would set back the development potential for all southern Africa.

War is, however, the scenario that has been projected from London, in contrast to the optimistic cheering for ANC leader Nelson Mandela dominating the press in the United States. "Within days," wrote the *Financial Times* Feb. 2, "the odds are that conservative Zulus or Afrikaners, or both, will begin a campaign to resist the April election by force of arms. If there is no deal, the Freedom Alliance will almost certainly commit itself to fight. . . . Some South Africans mutter about Bosnian-style civil war."

The deadlock centers on the demands by Afrikaners for an autonomous white homeland, by the Zulus for retaining the Kwazulu state, and by the Twanas for retaining the state of Bophuthatswana. While granting some forms of autonomy, the ANC has refused to consider the idea of fiscal autonomy—that is, the central government will control expenditure. The ANC, according to Zulu sources, has also said it would agree to federalism in the interim constitution. However, the sources point out, once in power, the ANC could unilaterally abrogate the agreement in formulating the new permanent constitution. "There will never be a Volkstaat [white homeland] in this country," Mandela told the annual congress of the National Union of Mineworkers on Feb. 9.

Chaos reigns

The Freedom Alliance has ten days after the official announcement of the elections to state whether it will participate. South African President F. W. de Klerk, leader of the National Party, must officially set the election date by the end of February. According to reliable sources, it is the faction in the ANC grouped around South African Communist Party chief Joe Slovo who is blocking compromise. Slovo has gone on record stating that "there is no hope for the talks to succeed."

The negotiations are being carried out against a backdrop

of heightened violence. In the last month, 31 bombings have occurred, destroying five ANC offices and also destroying power pylons and other infrastructural installations. The bombings have taken place at night, with no lives lost. The campaign is believed to be carried out by the Afrikaner Resistance Movement led by Eugene Terre Blanche. The ARM is separate from the Afrikaner People's Front, the primary Afrikaner negotiating party in the Freedom Alliance.

Within Natal state and the black townships surrounding Johannesburg, terror reigns. "In the East Rand" east of Johannesburg, one source told *EIR*, "there is a literal ongoing siege against the Zulu-occupied hostels and surrounding areas, practically a war situation, where people cannot go to work, houses are burned down every day. The offensive has started in Natal province too."

The ANC itself admitted in early January that it would investigate fighting between armed groups of its own supporters around Johannesburg. Members of the ANC's "self-defense units" (SDUs) are "at war with the police, at war with the Inkatha [Zulu-based Freedom Party], and at war with themselves," said a Law and Order Ministry spokesman. News services such as Reuters daily file stories such as this: "Eight people were killed in a 'people's court' execution in Johannesburg during a 24-hour period in which 24 were killed, police said."

On Feb. 2, de Klerk and Mandela announced that troops would be deployed to Katlehong and Tokoza, twin townships east of Johannesburg, to replace the white Internal Stability Units. However, the status of the united army has made such a deployment impossible.

According to the *Sunday Times* of London on Feb. 6, prospects of deploying a joint national peacekeeping force, composed of members of the ANC military wing Umkhonto we Sizwe (MK) and the South African Defense Forces, are "grim." The soldiers are "a disparate force crippled by lack of discipline and demoralized by shortage of facilities and equipment." The paper reported that at the training camp in the Orange Free State, there was only one bathroom for every 200 men, and 200 soldiers had come down with serious diseases. Under these conditions there has been widespread collapse of discipline and desertion.

Distrust of the ANC

In the four years since the de Klerk government released Nelson Mandela from prison, ending 27 years of incarceration, more than 14,000 South Africans have been murdered, the vast majority of them black. Although much of this violence may be attributed to a "third force," the record of ANC "necklacings" and assassination of anti-ANC black leaders has propelled the non-ANC political entities on the scene into defensive and distrustful negotiating positions. Mandela himself has stated that "tanks will roll against Kwazulu" if Inkatha does not agree to the interim constitution and join the elections.

"Black people were forced into the Union of South Africa in 1910 with the blessing of Great Britain through the barrel of a gun," Inkatha leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi told British cabinet minister Lynda Chalker in December. "I pray that we should not see a repeat performance of that ugly scene in 1993." However, British intelligence penetration of all parties on the scene is broadly known but little publicized.

- The *Financial Times* Feb. 2 article predicting civil war claims that "sources confirm white right-wingers are training Zulu self-defense units in sabotage and terrorism." But, according to other sources, the British intelligence service MI-6 has moved in to penetrate the Inkatha, and "a number of advisers on Buthelezi's staff are British or American-oriented. He is getting conflicting advice."

- The South African press further reports that the British Army has been training 500 MK recruits in Zimbabwe to be officers for the new united army, the SADF.

- There were also British pawprints all over the April 10, 1993 murder of ANC leader Chris Hani, as documented in *EIR* May 14, 1993. The suspected killer of Hani, Janusz Walus, a member of the Afrikan Resistance Movement, was associated with two known MI-6 fronts, the South African Institute for Maritime Research and the Stallard Foundation.

- As for the ANC, its leadership, dominated by the South African Communist Party, has been safehoused in Britain, and many of its leaders travel on British passports. Relations between ANC leaders and British intelligence's Lonrho company are particularly tight, as *EIR* documented in its book *Tiny Rowland: The Ugly Face of Neocolonialism in Africa*.

Meanwhile, piles of money and election observers are pouring into South Africa, to ensure the ANC victory. In late 1993, Mandela was invited to the United States to raise a target of \$50 million for the ANC's election campaign, with the founding of the South African Free Election Fund. The fund's opening dinner was hosted by David Rockefeller and attended by 75 business and financial leaders. The fund's board includes Cyrus Vance, who helped oversee genocide in Croatia and Bosnia, and former World Bank President Robert McNamara.

The United Nations is sending 1,800 observers to South Africa for the elections. U.N. Secretary General Boutros

Boutros-Ghali said that a total of 2,840 observers would descend upon South Africa, including 50 from the Organization of African Unity, 322 from the European Union, 70 from the British Commonwealth, and 600 from individual countries. The European Union has also promised 43 million rand "to assist the election process."

Such deployments of money and observers are designed to give international credibility to a Mandela victory, but this will secure neither peace nor democracy for South Africa, if the constitutional issues remain unresolved. "Certain elements see negotiations as failing," one Zulu leader told *EIR*. "They want to take up the violent option. We need a mass action campaign to divert their anger into active protest, non-violent. People are starting to lose hope and this is what could really lead to civil war."

The British game

For the British, who instituted apartheid when they took over the country in 1910, the ANC's election victory will mark the mop-up phases of the war against the Boers. The British gameplan is to bring the ANC to power, using it as the black disciplinary force to impose genocidal austerity against the country, destroy the Afrikaner agro-industrial capacity, and permit the slave-labor looting of the country by the Anglo-American companies, such as Anglo-American, Lonrho, and DeBeers, which already control the majority of the country's economy and press.

In January, when the ANC released its economic program—which promised housing and health care to all—the *London Times*, speaking for the British elite's desires, editorialized that the document is "a populist package, irresponsibly delivered to the country's expectant black majority. . . . Nelson Mandela cannot please everyone and he should not try and do so. . . . But there is danger of economic instability if he gives them too much too soon, putting at risk the country's wealth-creating potential. It is Mr. Mandela's duty. . . . to strip away false illusions, scale down expectations, and avoid lavish promises. . . . The ANC must abandon this populist brew of Keynes and cant in favor of plain-speaking commitment to judicious fiscal and trade policies."

If the ANC and the other parties on the scene—which claim to desire peace and prosperity for South Africa—follow the prescriptions of the *Times*, civil war is virtually assured. The enraged and restive cannon fodder for such a war is there: millions of unemployed blacks, who will come under the direct rule of the International Monetary Fund as soon as the ANC "victory for democracy" is certified.

Conversely, the Mideast accords between the leaders of the PLO and Israel, who also had to deal with the mess left by British imperialism, could become a model for solving the South African crisis. A negotiated settlement for South Africa must pivot on economic development. If the agenda is shifted in this way, the British penetration across the board would be vulnerable to exposure.