

South Africa: Rocky's "Liberalization" Temporarily Runs Aground

Sept. 20 (IPS) — By declaring the Rockefeller-supported National Union of South African Students to be an "affected organization" — thereby blocking it from openly receiving foreign (including CIA) funds — the Afrikaner government has capped a brief period of success in slowing down Rockefeller's "liberalization" gameplan for South Africa. Until recently, the thick-skulled racist government in South Africa, led by Prime Minister Jon Vorster, apparently acquiesced in the Rockefeller-Oppenheimer "reform" movement: a "liberal" scheme to facilitate the efficient implementation of labor-intensive work projects based on "multiracial" slavery. In recent weeks, however, the Rockefeller scheme has been effectively sabotaged by stubborn Afrikaner resistance on three fronts.

The government has succeeded in crushing the counterinsurgent drive for African "unionization" developed since 1970 by labor leader Harriet Bolton and the Wages Commission wing of NUSAS. After four leading organizers were banned early this year, Barney Dladla, KwaZulu Homeland Councillor for Community Affairs, took a leading role in organizing and in negotiations with employers, to the applause of Oppenheimer and the CIA's International Confederation of Free Trade Unions. Then the government brought off Dladla's boss, KwaZulu Chief Buthelezi. Buthelezi fired Dladla and warned Zulus not to get involved in labor organizing with non-Zulus, while Buthelezi himself accepted a juicy invitation to join the board of directors of a homeland "development" scheme. With informers and police all over the movement's headquarters at

Bolton Hall, leader Harriet Bolton has decided to leave the country and one of her lieutenants has already left. African unionizing may well continue, but without Bolton's reputation to lend the CIA a left cover it will be more obvious to workers that this "unionization" drive is the work of the corporations.

The growing Rockefeller-oriented reform movement within the center United Party also is running into trouble. In the Platteland (Transvaal) election for party officers, the one solidly reformist candidate, Senator Henry du Toit, lost all contests. In the Pretoria party elections, reformist Dan Naser is likely to encounter previously unexpected opposition.

Censorship is being strengthened despite stiff resistance from the Oppenheimer "liberal" opposition. The bill now in the House of Assembly will make it an offense to "prejudice, influence or anticipate the proceedings or findings of the censorship appeal board," and will eliminate any appeal to courts of law.

Yet in the midst of all this, a representative of Oppenheimer's Anglo-American group, Michael O'Dowd, told a conference of demoralized Rockefeller cadre Aug. 31 not to despair. "South Africa will soon follow the example of countries *like England* and undergo radical but peaceful change leading to liberal democracy and ultimately to a Welfare State" [emphasis added — Ed.]. Rockefeller and Oppenheimer are thus signalling the coming application of higher-level counterinsurgent capabilities, probably involving raw materials and credit manipulations, to outflank the Afrikaner government's defenses.