

U.S. Vetoes Guyana's Arms Embargo Resolution At UN

Oct. 23 — Guyana's Ambassador to the United Nations, R.E. Jackson, this week presented a resolution to the U.N Security Council calling for a comprehensive embargo on arms shipments to South Africa until that country gives up its illegal hold on the territory of Namibia. The U.S. vetoed it.

The Guyanese move is designed to force the West, especially the United States, to make good on its pretensions to be seeking a peaceful solution to the southern African situation. The resolution — introduced by Jackson with a quotation from President Ford that a southern African settlement was crucial to "the interests of world peace" — was vetoed by the United States, Great Britain and France. The Algerian Press Service drew the obvious conclusion from the veto: "Now we know what Kissinger's peace plan in Southern Africa was all about."

Guyana's diplomatic initiative was accompanied by moves from southern Africa's "front-line states," Angola, Mozambique, Tanzania, Zambia and Botswana, who demanded after a summit meeting last weekend that Great Britain take over its "colonial responsibilities" in Zimbabwe (Rhodesia), by appointing a Governor-General and taking over the Defense and External Affairs Ministries from the Smith government. This demand is an almost-to-reasonable compromise to Smith's demand — illegitimately granted to him by Kissinger — that members of his white minority government control the Defense and Law and Order (police) portfolios. On the basis of these demands, Smith has attempted to wreck the upcoming Geneva conference, the failure of which would mean the resumption and intensification of the guerrilla war in Zimbabwe, with the blame placed on the "escalating demands" and "backtracking" of the African leaders. The African proposal, however, places the ball in Britain's court, leaving it up to Prime Minister Callaghan and Foreign Secretary Crosland to decide if they are going to take a leadership role and resolve the Kissinger-inspired deadlock or continue their passive 'neutral' chairmanship role and take full responsibility for the breakdown of the conference and the subsequent bloody war.

Tanzanian President Julius Nyerere escalated the diplomatic pressure on Britain this week, demanding that other African

countries be admitted to the Geneva conference as observers. Nyerere specified that the five front line states; this year's chair-nation of the Organization of African Unity, Mauritius; and Africa's richest and most populous country, Nigeria, should be invited, introducing the situation whereby the entire Non-Aligned movement is the force with which Britain must negotiate over Rhodesia's future. Crosland rejected this proposal, using the lame excuse that the conference hall was not "large enough" and inviting these countries to send representatives to confer with the participants outside the conference.

Southern Africa's leaders have made it clear that they, at least, are taking the conference very seriously — they demanded that a Cabinet level official chair the conference, replacing the hard-drinking U.N. Representative Ivor Richard. To this demand, Crosland has responded that he will take over the chairmanship only "in the event of a deadlock." If the cowardly attitude of the British government and the obstinacy of Ian Smith wreck the conference, the black leaders say they will then proceed to liberate Zimbabwe by the most appropriate strategy.

Vorster's pursuit of Kissinger's war strategy has begun to give him troubles at home. Speaking at a meeting of the South African Associated Chambers of Commerce, Prime Minister Vorster bluntly told South Africa's businessmen to stick to business and stay out of politics: "Giving in to unreasonable requests from business-organizations would be adulterating the whole political process in the Republic," said Vorster, citing such unreasonable demands as the right to give equal pay for equal work to black and white workers. It has been reported in the press however, that even high ranking members of Vorster's government are trying to pry the Prime Minister away from Kissinger.

Vorster's threats were met with a uniformly hostile response from business leaders, and the Chamber of Commerce President commented: "There is an interdependence between politics and economics and we are worried at the implications for our economic performance... Capitalism must embrace all races, for the system knows no barriers."