

Will U.S. Troops Soon Be Backing Smith In Africa?

The U.S. Ambassador to the UN Andrew Young told reporters March 8 that he would favor sending U.S. troops into Rhodesia as part of a UN "peacekeeping force" to "pick up the pieces" after an outbreak of war.

Young's announcement comes right at the point that new economic deals between Tanzania, Mozambique, Zambia, and Angola are successfully countering the recent destabilizations in East Africa, and at the point that all-African efforts have greatly stabilized the situation in Uganda. The arrival soon in Africa of Soviet President Nikolai Podgorny is expected to both increase Soviet economic aid to the front-line states and advance the peace effort.

The onus of any outbreak of war, therefore, would seem to fall upon the minority regimes of South Africa and Rhodesia with the not-so implicit backing of the Carter Administration.

In this regard, the Yugoslavian daily *Vjesnik* reported March 4 that the U.S. Defense Department may be considering opening a naval base in South Africa. The article cited the U.S. magazine *Military Review*. There is no obstacle to a military base on the Indian Ocean, the *Review* comments, to guard against "communist penetration from Angola to Mozambique." The *Review* suggests that the South African Bantustan republic of the Transkei is a prime location for such a base.

In his March 8 interview, Young also gave hearty endorsement of the new aggression into Angola by guerrilla movements operating from Zaire and South Africa's Namibia. Remarking that the Cuban presence in Angola would turn into Castro's "South Vietnam," Young continued: "It's a huge country. The Cubans don't have the forces to stabilize it."

Syndicated columnist Carl Rowan, Trilateral commission member, echoed Young's statements with a call for an aggressive U.S. intervention into Africa. "We dare not regard southern Africa as a potential new Vietnam from which the U.S. must stay aloof..." Rowan warned not only against "communist" intervention in Africa, but also against the possibility of that European-African trade deals might shut out the U.S. "It would be semi-insanity for U.S. officials to assume for a single day that the Russians, Cubans, Chinese — or West Europeans for that matter — have lost their appetite for intervention in Africa. The Soviets particularly have slavered for years over the prospect of establishing Communist beachheads in black Africa. Their achievements so far in Angola and Mozambique are not likely to satisfy them."

Rhodesian Foreign Minister Pieter van der Byl announced that his government intends to hold a "referendum among that country's black population to choose representatives for Prime Minister Ian Smith's universally rejected internal negotiations for majority rule. Van der Byl announced that a few international observers would legitimize the vote and indicated his foreknowledge of the results by rejecting out of hand, in an interview with the British *Daily Telegraph*, any possibility of negotiation with the Patriotic Front coalition of Rhodesian nationalists, generally recognized as the representatives of the Rhodesian nationalist organizations.

Smith this week also organized a War Council consisting of the newly appointed Defense Minister, and three newly created posts, the coordinator of military manpower, the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces and the Combined Operations Minister.