

Security Council Votes Material Support To Mozambique

The United Nations Security Council on June 30 passed a resolution requesting all countries to "give immediate and substantial material assistance to enable the government of the People's Republic of Mozambique to strengthen its defense capability in order to safeguard effectively its sovereignty and territorial integrity."

The resolution was passed in response to another resolution brought before the Security Council by Mozambique protesting the destruction of their territory by repeated invasions carried out by the outlaw regime of Rhodesian Prime Minister Ian Smith. Drawn up in consultation with the African frontline nations — Angola, Botswana, Zambia, and Tanzania, Mozambique's resolution called for military aid from all UN member nations to Mozambique against the Rhodesian attacks. Mozambique also put before the Council extensive documentation of the destruction wrought by Rhodesia against Mozambican population and property. The latest Rhodesia attack on Mozambique occurred June 28 the day the Security Council session opened.

In the face of increasing Rhodesian incursions into Zambian territory, Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda declared June 27: "We too reserve the right to pursue the enemy deep into his territory if he should dare to step onto Zambian soil."

At the same time, the countries of Nigeria, Somalia, Cuba, and the German Democratic Republic have offered military support to the frontline nations against Rhodesia.

Owen Outflanked

Mozambique's decisions to bring the Rhodesian aggression before the UN Security Council effectively represented a vote of no-confidence by the frontline states in the "Anglo-American Peace initiative." Particularly, the Mozambique move was a slap in the face to British Foreign Secretary David Owen who this week released his final peace proposals.

The package calls for one man-one vote as the only fair franchise for Rhodesia, a reversal of a previous Owen position for a 'qualified franchise'; a Commonwealth peacekeeping force for the region, which African forces say would primarily be aimed at enforcing Owen's settlement on the Zimbabwe Patriotic Front guerrillas; a revival of Henry Kissinger's discredited "development fund" for independent Zimbabwe (Rhodesia).

Owen's Africa assistant John Graham and U.S. Ambassador to Zambia Steven Low will start traveling the region to gather support for the peace package on July 3.

Owen had advised Mozambican Development Minister Marcelino dos Santos representing Mozambique at the Security Council, to tone down his condemnation of

Rhodesia, lest he damage Owen's peace package. Owen also solemnly warned last week that anyone who did not accept his proposals would bear a "grave responsibility" for damaging peace in southern Africa.

But at the Security Council, the Africans made clear that they have lost patience with stalling tactics designed to buy time and ensure that the pro-socialist Patriotic Front is excluded from the government, or at least forced into a "coalition" with State Department puppets in other "liberation movements."

"Africa has had an unfortunate experience with the intervention of foreign troops to maintain the peace..." said a spokesman for Rhodesia's Patriotic Front liberation movement June 28, referring to the U.S.-run United Nations peacekeeping operation in the Congo in 1961 that brought about the murder of Congolese Prime Minister Patrice Lumumba.

No More Stalling

At the same time, and over Owen's protestations, the guerrilla war in Rhodesia is being escalated, and a major offensive to finish off the militarily weakening Smith regime is expected in the near future. A source close to the Patriotic Front predicted that Smith could be brought down in a matter of months. The weakening of the Rhodesian regime was demonstrated when the illegal government reported a net emigration of 1,339 whites in May, 1977, more than any other month since the colony declared "independence" over a decade ago.

Zambian Foreign Minister Siteke Mwale told the Security Council on June 28: "We in Zambia have concluded that Smith is an illusion. Alone he is weak. His strength lies elsewhere. It lies in South Africa, certain Western governments and multinational corporations... They are therefore accomplices in his oppression and repression of the people of Zimbabwe and his acts of aggression against neighboring independent African countries."

Tanzanian Foreign Minister Benjamin Mkapa rejected the basic premise of Foreign Secretary Owen's proposal to negotiate with Smith: "If the Security Council seriously wants to remove the source of aggression, then it is necessary to bring down the illegal regime."

The frontline states were backed by Nigerian External Affairs Commissioner Joseph Garba, who told the Council that the people of Mozambique and the people of Africa had a right not only to wage open war against the rebel regime, in Salisbury, but also to call on their friends inside and outside Africa for military assistance.