

United Nations imposes bloodbath on southern Africa

by Jeffrey Steinberg

Up until March 1 of this year, South West Africa, also known as Namibia, was a nation enjoying relative peace and prosperity. It was a former colony of the Republic of South Africa in transition to full independence. Its progress in racial reform and economic integration left South Africa in the dust. The communist-backed SWAPO insurgency movement had been soundly defeated in its 20-year effort to render the country ungovernable. So long as the UNITA national liberation movement in neighboring Angola continued to progress in its effort to overthrow the Marxist regime in Luanda, with critical military support from Pretoria and Washington, the prospects for a successful transition to full independence looked very good.

Then, on March 1, 1989, the United Nations moved in and the situation in Namibia has since gone to hell. In six months, according to one well-placed official in Windhoek, the United Nations Transitional Assistance Group (UNTAG), a 6,000-man multinational armed force charged with overseeing the electoral process, has done more to make the country "ungovernable" than a Soviet armed insurgency movement could accomplish in two decades.

The story of what is now unfolding in South West Africa is critical for two reasons. First, the UNTAG performance has all of southern Africa now poised on the edge of a genocidal regional civil war. One local military official bluntly warned, "southern Africa is the next Beirut."

Second, it stands as an object lesson in how the United Nations Organization foments bloodshed and genocide wherever it goes. For those, like Sen. Sam Nunn (D-Ga.), who would have the United Nations step in to take charge of the war on drugs in Ibero-America, the lessons of Namibia must be brought home with relentless clarity.

A deadline approaches

On Nov. 1, the voters of Namibia, including some 24,000 refugees who have returned to the country from camps inside Angola since last April, will go to the polls to elect delegates who will draft a national constitution. A year later, voters will be asked to ratify or reject that constitution. Pending the results, full national elections will take place to choose a government.

Throughout this transitional period, UNTAG will retain responsibility for maintaining law and order inside Namibia, as well as for monitoring the withdrawal of all Cuban troops from Angola, as spelled out in the Brazzaville Accords signed last December by Angola, Cuba, and South Africa.

According to a number of sources interviewed by *EIR*, if fair elections occur, SWAPO will be soundly defeated at the polls, and some coalition of the nine other political parties registered for the elections, who have banded together to form a national front, will dominate the constitutional convention.

According to these sources, SWAPO's brutal guerilla offensive last spring, launched within days of the UNTAG takeover, has further eroded the movement's already inflated popular support. And the early September return from exile of SWAPO president Sam Nujoma did little to restore popular support for his Soviet-backed movement.

According to some regional sources, Nujoma's charismatic appeal faded rapidly after he cut a deal with British and South African robber barons Tiny Rowland and Sir Harry Oppenheimer to allow their respective multinationals, LonRho and Anglo-American, exclusive raw material looting rights in Namibia if SWAPO takes power.

Oppenheimer and Rowland have cut a wide path of looting and terrorism across the landscape of southern Africa in recent years as two of the leading perpetrators of British colonial domination. Rowland's LonRho (London Rhodesia Company) has moved into Mozambique as the principal economic beneficiary of the violent FRELIMO Marxist regime in Maputo, going so far as to import teams of British SAS mercenaries to train special "counterterror" teams to combat the anti-communist RENAMO resistance movement.

Sir Harry Oppenheimer, an intimate of Lord Victor Rothschild of Anglo-Soviet Trust notoriety, has his own long track record of sponsoring radical black nationalist movements through his Institute for Race Relations.

SWAPO POW camps

Among the Namibian refugees repatriated since the spring are over 150 prisoners of war who were kept in SWAPO prison camps across the border in Angola. The local press

in Namibia has featured dozens of accounts of hideous torture of these POWs by SWAPO. The international press, though well represented in the capital city of Windhoek to observe the elections, has blacked out these reports entirely.

The United Nations refugee commission has refused to take any actions against SWAPO for these documented human rights violations, and has in fact turned its back on over 1,000 individual complaints filed by Namibian citizens who claim that their children were kidnaped and brought to SWAPO camps in Angola during the course of the civil war of the early 1980s.

In fact, the entire history of the United Nations' involvement in Namibia, from the 1970s creation of the U.N. High Commission on Namibia, headed by Sean McBride and Arthur Ross, has been aimed at accomplishing one and only one objective: the installation of SWAPO in power.

According to sources in Windhoek, UNTAG troops from Kenya and other African states have been providing cover for SWAPO guerrillas. In May, South West African Police units engaged SWAPO terrorists in a series of skirmishes along the Angolan border.

In several instances, SWAPO guerrillas were caught wearing UNTAG uniforms and carrying United Nations ID badges.

Now, as the elections approach in less than one month, the only prospect of a SWAPO "victory" is through massive United Nations-run vote fraud. Officials of the South West African Provisional Police Force, the national police force that maintained the peace prior to the UNTAG arrival, warn that if the United Nations does carry out such a fraud, there will be a popular revolt—which the U.N. forces will be incapable of containing.

Though such a revolt will likely be brief, these sources project a massive bloodletting.

On the other hand, the recent resumption of SWAPO raids along the northern border—out of bases inside southern Angola—suggests that the SWAPO guerrillas are also preparing to try for a bloody coup if they lose on Nov. 1.

Savimbi hangs tough

Early in October, UNITA's Dr. Jonas Savimbi is visiting the United States. The decision by Savimbi to travel out of the country is a strong indication that UNITA was victorious in the dry season battles with the MPLA which ended in mid-September. This evaluation is bolstered by eyewitness accounts that UNITA defeated a major MPLA-SWAPO joint military offensive aimed at seizing control of the southernmost area of the country along the Namibian border.

This area had been formerly occupied by South African garrison forces who moved in years ago as part of the counter-insurgency campaign against SWAPO. Under the terms of the Brazzaville Accords, all South African troops were pulled out of southern Angola by February of this year.

Had the MPLA-SWAPO combined forces managed to

gain control over this vital border region, SWAPO would have won a crucial staging area for running a continuing guerrilla war against the regime in Windhoek. As of this writing, the rainy season has begun, and UNITA's ability to sustain guerrilla warfare actions pinning down the MPLA will likely maintain the military status quo through the spring of 1990. So far, according to eyewitnesses, the flow of American weapons, including Stinger anti-aircraft missiles, into Savimbi's forces continues unabated.

A chain reaction?

Officials in Windhoek are bracing for the election results. They express fear that if the UNTAG forces proceed ahead with the longstanding plans to impose a SWAPO government, this will send an unambiguous signal to the African National Congress and related circles in the Republic of South Africa that the major powers, including both the United States and the Soviet Union, are willing to impose radical black nationalist regimes throughout the region.

There is no telling what kinds of actions this might trigger against the newly installed De Klerk regime in Pretoria. The government response will undoubtedly be a bloody repression. In neighboring Mozambique, a 15 year civil war by RENAMO to overthrow another Marxist regime will likely flare up as well.

For many people in Namibia, the most enraging aspect of the UNTAG debacle is measured in economic terms. Initially, the United Nations allocated \$600 million to finance the presence of the UNTAG force and to supervise the transition to "democracy."

A United Nations advance team arrived in Windhoek in March and announced that the actual cost of the effort would be closer to \$1.5 billion. At the point that the first troops began arriving in Windhoek in March, the U.N. had only managed to line up \$300 million.

Now, with only the first phase of the two-year United Nations mandate near completion, UNTAG has already overspent its \$600 million. According to sources in Windhoek, over \$90 million in expenses have been incurred—but not yet paid. The UNTAG presence has become an economic drain on Namibia—as well as a source of unnecessary instability bordering on chaos.

One Windhoek official put it in the following terms: If the United Nations had taken the billion dollars now being spent to destabilize the country and put the money instead into economic development, the Gross National Product of Namibia would have increased by between 18-19% over the past year.

Instead, the funds have been put toward a process that now threatens to foment a bloody civil war, and that has economically weakened the country. UNTAG itself owes over \$90 million to local businesses in South West Africa for food, petroleum, housing, and other supplies that have been purchased in expectation of further funds being raised from the United Nations membership.