

Anglo-Americans Target South Africa's Mbeki

by Dean Andromidas

The Anglo-American establishment has levelled its sights on President Thabo Mbeki of South Africa, putting him on its list of targetted African leaders, a list that includes President Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe. On April 25, Steve Tshwete, South Africa's Minister for Safety and Security, announced the opening of an investigation into a plot to oust and possibly endanger the life of President Mbeki. The plotters included three of the top contenders for the leadership of the ruling African National Congress (ANC): Cyril Ramaphosa, Tokyo Sexwale, and Mathews Phosa.

The dramatic announcement brought an immediate national and international reaction, in which President Mbeki was denounced as a paranoid manipulator, and was accused of deploying the state security services to attack three potential rivals in his bid for reelection to the Presidency.

However, *EIR's* investigation has revealed that this plot has nothing to do with internal ANC political rivalries. Rather, it is an operation targetting Mbeki by the same group of powerful London and Wall Street mining companies and financial interests that have been responsible for a policy of war and destabilization throughout Africa, and whose bloody goal has been to gain unfettered control of the region's natural resources. This faction is represented in Africa by mining giants Anglo American Corp., De Beers, and by Standard Bank, Old Mutual Insurance (the corporate empire of the Rupert family), and a handful of other companies which, through interlocking shareholdings and directorships, continue to control South Africa's economy. Using South Africa as its base, this faction has dominated the African continent since the time of Cecil Rhodes. The claim that South Africa is an "economic powerhouse" is based on the profiteering of this corporate empire, which is premised on keeping the vast majority of the population of Africa in wretched impoverishment.

President Mbeki has tried to walk a fine line between the nationalist aspirations of the ANC, on the one side, and this powerful cabal, on the other, but he has stepped out of line more often than the latter forces deem permissible. This "stepping out of line" began with Mbeki's outspoken position on the AIDS crisis, in which he has declared that the principal cause of the AIDS epidemic that now threatens the very existence of black Africa, is poverty and lack of economic development, not the "loose sexual culture" of black Africans.

Mbeki's second sin has been his refusal to fully support the Anglo-American effort to overthrow the government of

President Mugabe of Zimbabwe. *EIR* has documented how Mugabe earned the hatred of these forces by daring to stop the military conquest of the Democratic Republic of the Congo by the Anglo-American marcher-lords, the Presidents Yoweri Museveni of Uganda and Paul Kagame of Rwanda. Like Mugabe, Mbeki is becoming an impediment to Anglo-American schemes.

Plotters or Front-Men

In describing the alleged plot against Mbeki, Safety and Security Minister Tshwete said that the state holds documents and statements from government informants, indicating that Ramaphosa, Sexwale, and Phosa were conspiring to launch an operation to discredit Mbeki in the eyes of the country and expose him to possible assassination. The three are accused of attempting to falsify evidence to link Mbeki to the murder of Chris Hani, who had been among the top four or five ANC leaders. Hani was killed by a white, ultra-right-wing assassin in 1993.

It is for the law enforcement institutions of South Africa to verify these charges. Nonetheless, *EIR's* investigation into the relationship of these three plotters to the corporate empire ravaging Africa offers more than circumstantial evidence of who stands behind this plot.

Various senior African intelligence sources have confirmed that this cabal is working to replace Mbeki, even before the end of his Presidential term (he is in the second year of his five-year term), with Ramaphosa or one of the others, who together are considered to be the "Anglo-American" faction in the ANC.

The three alleged conspirators share several common features. All three had led the negotiations for the ANC beginning in 1990, which culminated in the eventual dismantlement of the apartheid regime. At the same table were not only the representatives of the apartheid regime, but also the American and British governments, represented by former Assistant Secretary of State Dr. Chester Crocker and former British Ambassador to South Africa Lord Renwick of Clifton. The latter assured that the interests of the "international community," including their massive economic interests in South Africa, would be protected.

Many new personal relationships were established at that table between the leaders of the potentially politically powerful (yet impoverished) ANC, and their economically powerful counterparts. These three ANC leaders were seen as acceptable to both the ANC constituents and the international community led by the British and U.S. representatives.

More than a decade after these negotiations, one finds these same ANC negotiators and their British and American counterparts again sitting at the same tables, but this time in the boardrooms of Anglo American Corp. and the other corporate members of the cabal.

Crocker, after he retired as Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs under the Reagan and Bush Administrations,

joined the board of directors of Minorco SA, the Luxembourg-based holding company of Anglo American Corp. He is also a patron of the London-based Zimbabwe Democracy Trust, which is currently one of the principal centers for the operation to overthrow President Mugabe, where the cabal has vast interests.

Lord Renwick, after leaving his post as Ambassador to South Africa, became chairman of the elite British merchant bank, Robert Fleming. He is also an adviser to the Hakluyt Foundation, the British equivalent of Kissinger Associates. In South Africa, he is a patron of the Helen Suzman Foundation, which functions as the South African base of operations against President Mugabe. The Suzman Foundation's director, R.W. Johnson, has penned commentaries in both the London *Times* and *Daily Telegraph* calling for the recolonization of Africa. Lord Renwick also is a member of the board of Compagnie Financière Richemont, part of the corporate empire of the Rupert family.

Ramaphosa, who in the 1980s was the chief organizer of the National Union of Mineworkers, resigned as ANC Secretary General in 1996, after it became clear that Mbeki would become the successor to President Nelson Mandela. Ramaphosa decided to sit at the same table as his old adversary, Harry Oppenheimer, chairman and majority shareholder of Anglo American Corp., as a member of its board of directors.

Ramaphosa became a pioneer member of the black bourgeoisie, in the fraud that has become known as "black empowerment" in the South African economy. In reality, this process was fully controlled by Anglo American and the rest. Ramaphosa and others formed the National Empowerment Consortium, with the pension funds of black African trade unions and funds from Old Mutual Insurance and other companies in the cabal. With these funds, would-be members of the black capitalist class were able to buy into selected companies which the cabal had already planned to divest themselves of.

In this process, Ramaphosa took the pension funds of the National Union of Mineworkers and bought a 50% holding in Johnnic Holdings Ltd., one of the many non-mining companies Anglo American Corp. was selling off as part of its reorganization into becoming exclusively a mining firm with its global headquarters in London. The rest of Johnnic Holdings is held by Old Mutual Insurance and Standard Bank.

Ramaphosa also gained controlling interest in the Times Media Group, which became part-owners of the South African *Financial Mail*. Another part-owner is Pearsons, the British media conglomerate which owns the London *Financial Times*.

Ramaphosa's ANC comrade, Sexwale, also joined this exercise. In 1997, when it became clear that he, too, would not succeed President Mandela, Sexwale resigned as Premier of Gauteng Province and left politics for the world of business. This brought him onto the board of directors of JCI Gold, which was formerly part of Anglo American Corp.'s Johan-

nesburg Consolidated Investments. In 1996, JCI Gold took part in a mining concession in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, shortly after the overthrow of President Mobutu Sese Seko. Sexwale soon founded his own "black empowered" company, Mvelaphanda Holdings. Ramaphosa also joined the board as non-executive chairman.

Through cross-holdings in several mining companies, Sexwale became partners with the corporate empire of Rupert, the same empire which Lord Renwick joined. Thus, Sexwale sits as the only black South African on the board of directors of such Rupert-controlled companies as Gold Fields of South Africa and the Trans Hex Group diamond-mining company. Trans Hex has mining concessions in such war zones as Angola. Through a large shareholding in Northam Planium Ltd., Sexwale is also partners with Anglo American.

Don't Forget the Queen and Thatcher

The third plotter, Phosa, another former rising star in the ANC, had been Premier of Mpumalanga Province until he resigned in 1999 following several embarrassing financial scandals which hit his administration. Forming his own consultant company, Vuka Investment & Management, he entered into a "strategic alliance" with the KPMG Peat Marwick, one of the world's largest and oldest international chartered accounting and management consultant firms. KPMG is the official auditor of Anglo American Corp. and all the other major companies in South Africa. Members of the Peat family are still senior partners in the firm, and Sir Gerrard Peat is the Auditor to the Queen's Privy Purse. His son, Michael, is director of Finance and Property Services of Her Majesty's Household.

Phosa, meanwhile, has been cashing in on the contacts he made in Mozambique during the 1980s as an ANC exile. He has been busy setting up casinos in what is considered the poorest country in Africa. One of these projects is the Quatro Hotel Estate and casino. His partners in the project include Jean Mopotu, formerly of Zaire, and David Mhwanazi, who were both implicated in one of the financial scandals that led to Phosa's decision to resign as Premier of Mpumalanga.

This particular trail leads to the Kenyan-Indian businessman and arms dealer Ketan Somaia, whose company, the Dolphin Group, was directly involved in one of the scandals. In fact, Phosa, as Premier of Mpumalanga, wined and dined Somaia as a potential investor in a scheme to give Somaia exclusive rights to establish hotels, casinos, and other tourist activities in the province's game parks. The deal collapsed following allegations of fraud and corruption. Somaia was also cited in the documents presented by Safety and Security Minister Tshwete as being linked to the three plotters, and their plot, through arranging certain arms deals.

The chairman of the Dubai-based Dolphin Group of Companies is former British Conservative Party Chairman Cecil Parkinson. Parkinson was one of the closest confidants of former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.