

South Africa, the economic powerhouse of Africa. This demonstrates the strategic nature of the operation against Mbeki.

Mbeki enraged the British empire because of his policy of consistently attacking London's campaigns to reduce all of Africa to a collection of territories instead of sovereign nation-states. In addition to Zimbabwe, he has intervened in Sudan, Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ivory Coast, and Liberia.

In another example of his importance for Africa, Mbeki's intervention at the EU summit on Africa in Lisbon last December, prevented the continent-wide endorsement of the EU free-trade policy that EU Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson, a close associate of former British Prime Minister Tony Blair, had wanted to ram through.

The dumping of Mbeki comes in the midst of a global economic crisis, and the mass resignation was the last thing the anti-Mbeki crowd needed, just when they had to prove to the shareholders of the financial world that they could maintain stability in South Africa without Mbeki, and keep paying shareholders who hold stock in South Africa's largely extractive economy. The departure of Mbeki could be used by London-connected financial networks to aggravate the destabilization by undermining the economy. A similar thing had happened during the negotiations to end apartheid.

At a point during the negotiations, when the ANC was deemed to be pushing too strongly for greater control of the economy, the diamond firm De Beers, which had been based in South Africa since its founding in the 19th Century, suddenly moved its offices to Switzerland, as a warning not to seriously challenge the London financial cartel.

One of the ministers who has now resigned, Finance Minister Trevor Manuel, is credited with being the architect of South Africa's increasing commitment to shareholder value. Although he (along with some of the others who had resigned) has agreed to resume the post of finance minister under Kgalema Motlanthe, the ANC's choice to replace Mbeki until the election next year, the consternation that followed his resignation underlines how vulnerable South Africa will now be. Motlanthe has been a supporter of Zuma. While trying to keep attracting the foreign capital that flowed in under Manuel, the Motlanthe government will have to come up with quick fixes for poverty and unemployment, as Zuma's populist rhetoric promised would happen.

In this difficult economic situation, South Africa has a new President who has no experience operating at this level (Motlanthe was a minister without portfolio under Mbeki for only a few months). The Cabinet will also have several new members with very little

Judge Triggers Attack On President Mbeki

Judge Chris Nicholson set off the attack on President Mbeki by completely swallowing Jacob Zuma's complaint, that the fraud and other charges that were brought against Zuma by Mbeki and his administration were part of a political move to keep him out of office. Zuma has told this story to anyone who will listen to it, inside and outside of South Africa,

• Paragraph 209 of the ruling states: "The applicant [Zuma] states . . . that after all these [legal] proceedings he and those who wished him to occupy a leadership role in the ANC 'were concerned about the criminal charges being re-launched at all and moreover being launched at a critical time in the po-

litical process.' He goes further and suggests that this was a stratagem to cloak him in the guise of an accused at the critical moments in the political process and so hamper his election as ANC President." Nicholson continues: "There does seem to be merit in that contention. I am therefore not inclined to strike out these allegations."

• In paragraph 216: "I am therefore not convinced that the applicant [Zuma] was incorrect in averring political meddling in his prosecution."

• In Paragraph 220: "There is a distressing pattern in the behaviour which I have set out above indicative of political interference, pressure or influence."

• In Paragraph 238: "As appears from the above findings I am satisfied that political meddling cannot be excluded and I am of the judgment that it existed to a sufficiently egregious degree that it justified inclusion in the papers."