

Chirac Counters U.S. Intervention

In a speech given in Marseilles on Jan. 28, former French premier and current Gaullist candidate for Mayor of Paris Jacques Chirac outlined a new policy for France towards Africa. Chirac stressed that France must not wait for a future "unity" of the Common Market countries, but forcefully promote its own policy of long-range economic development towards the Third World, and resist foreign interference into Africa.

Chirac's remarks assume special importance since his current mayoral campaign leads a Gaullist drive to force the resignation of the President of France, Giscard, and assume full control of French policy. In tandem, there are numerous indications that British industrial interests are about to redouble their economic pressures on the South African regime to force acceptance of the British plan for a peaceful transfer to majority rule in Rhodesia. The combined French and British efforts are an explicit counter to the announced intentions of the Carter Administration to replace the British peace plan with U.S. intervention, particularly through the upcoming Africa trip of Carter's UN Ambassador Andrew Young.

In an unusually frank statement of the British split with the U.S. over Rhodesia, the London *Economist* this week placed a good part of the blame for the breakdown of Rhodesia talks on U.S. Secretary of State Kissinger: "Kissinger cut too many corners last September... and against British advice, assumed that Smith himself should play an active role in the transitional government, which Rhodesia's black nationalists were unlikely to accept." The *Economist* also criticized the British government's failure to take greater responsibility in the African situation.

The British are apparently giving behind-the-scenes support to initiatives on the part of black African governments to slap an oil boycott on both South Africa and Rhodesia. The boycott call was recently made by Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda and has now been buttressed by Nigeria's External Affairs Minister Joseph Garba. In reporting Garba's recent warning that "retaliation will have to be considered against transnationals who want to have their cake and eat it" (i.e., trade both with South Africa and the other African states) the *Washington Post* acknowledged that it was oil-producing Nigeria which reversed the U.S. State Dept.-ordered Gulf Oil policy of withholding oil royalties owed to the Angolan government during the civil war there.

The front-line states which border on Rhodesia and South Africa are putting pressure on Western Europe now to go further and faster in efforts to avert war. Kaunda gave notice Jan. 31 that "we are only a step away from a racial war in which the superpowers cannot

but be involved," adding that the liberation movements reserve the right to accept aid from any quarter. The Patriotic Front Alliance in Rhodesia, which has just received full endorsement from the Liberation Committee of the Organization of African Unity, has refused a final meeting with British envoy Ivor Richard as "futile" unless Britain is prepared to adopt a positive...and more determined stand to effect the transfer of power..."

Create A French Commonwealth

The following are excerpts from a speech given by former French prime minister and leading Gaullist Jacques Chirac in Marseilles, Jan. 28. Chirac's speech was reported at length in Le Monde and Le Figaro.

... Along the years, we knew how to develop the capital of friendship and confidence we earned when these countries (in Africa —ed.) gained independence. But today, this confidence is threatened... This threat might also originate in our own lack of clarity, authority, and coherence. One cannot pursue contradictory objectives simultaneously. One must choose the essential and subordinate the secondary aspects...

But the essential does not consist in momentary mercantile preoccupations. The essential is the future of France and Africa in the next 25 years. Everything compels us to form an alliance for liberty and development.

It is necessary to create a spirit of the French-speaking world, as there is a Commonwealth spirit. French-speaking heads of state in the world must deeply feel the ties that unite them and must express these ties clearly in a coherent and jointly devised policy... These exceptional ties between France and Africa are threatened today...

Similarly, in international bodies, France must not let its voice be drowned in the din of groups and factions. The North-South dialogue exhausted itself over a year ago, amid the confrontation of irreconcilable ideas. There is no common political will driving the industrialized countries, which are incapable of proposing the slightest compromise. The Nine (the European group of the EEC) claimed they could speak with one voice there. But when Europe divides itself in its conceptions and interests, as it does today, to want to speak with one voice in reality is to resign oneself to saying nothing.

Because it adopted this formula, France has lost all the benefits once reaped from having been the instigator of the conference.

In the final analysis, the only way to pull the North-

South dialogue from its dead-end is to conceive a new Marshall Plan, by accepting a regulation of raw materials prices, by collectively giving a new dimension and a new effectiveness to financial and technical assistance...

France must say that she can not remain indifferent to the foreign interventions that endanger its friends: France must make it known that she is ready for any cooperation reinforcing their security and their independence.

South Africa Opts For War

South African Prime Minister John Vorster announced Jan. 28 that he is reneging on his commitment to the British to pressure Rhodesia's Premier Ian Smith back to the Geneva Conference table. Vorster ostentatiously took a principled position against forcing on Rhodesia "a solution dictated to them from outside." Vorster based his reversal on the assumption that President Carter will live up to his pre-election promise of easing credit and increasing American investment in South Africa. The new line has been accompanied by recent threats that South Africa will intervene to defend the Rhodesians if necessary.

In addition, a highly influential member of the ruling Nationalist Party in South Africa, Dr. F.A. van Jaarsveld, this week told a Cape Town news conference that he is pushing for a "conventional" military offensive against neighboring African states, in order to pre-empt a protracted guerrilla war against South Africa. Jaarsveld statement was reported in the *Christian Science Monitor* Feb. 2

South Africa's pro-war position was accompanied by the introduction of wartime type legislation in the recently convened Parliament session. Proposed bills authorized a defense budget of more than \$2 billion and full-blown wartime domestic police measures in the case of further internal unrest.

In neighboring Rhodesia, the white minority government increased its military mobilization by abolishing draft exemptions and raising the draft age limit. The Smith regime launched at least two provocations against its western neighbor, Botswana: a reported raid against the major town of Francistown last week and a spurious accusation — to be used as justification for "hot pursuit" tactics — that Botswana is harboring guerrillas who recently kidnapped 400 (!) children from Rhodesia. The Botswana government replied that the 400 children fled Rhodesia on their own, as a result of the Rhodesian army's habit of killing civilians in the border areas to maintain their "kill ratios."