

AFRICA

Carter Primes Smith, Vorster For War With Black Africa

The Carter Administration threw its full diplomatic weight behind a war confrontation in southern Africa this week, under cover of a "peaceful transition to majority rule." While Carter and his backers maintain that they oppose both continued rule by the illegal Ian Smith regime in Rhodesia and the continuation of the South African system of *apartheid* — positions cynically reiterated two days ago by Carter's Secretary of State Vance — the U.S. has secretly given the green light to Smith and South African Prime Minister Vorster to break off negotiations with the Africans being conducted under British auspices, and prepare for a military showdown.

Under these circumstances, the Carter regime's commitment to "peaceful" change is meant to become the vehicle for overt U.S. backing for the racist regimes. Andrew Young, who represents the U.S. at the United Nations, clashed openly yesterday with the President of Angola, Agostinho Neto, when the two met in Nigeria. Young told Neto that the U.S. opposes — and presumably would oppose by force — any attempt to topple the Smith regime by force.

Smith and Vorster, meeting yesterday in the South African capital, formalized their commitment to refuse to negotiate with the Patriotic Front of Rhodesia, the liberation army backed by the front-line African states and Great Britain, and instead announced their joint intention to carry out phony talks with captive black puppet leaders in Rhodesia, led by Bishop Abel Muzorewa and a gaggle of tribal chieftains.

The Smith-Vorster declaration occurred as the *Washington Post* reported that Rhodesian army attacks on Mozambique have become an almost daily occurrence, and Mozambique has entered a phase of war mobilization. President Samora Machel issued an appeal to international forces, including the socialist countries, for military assistance against the Rhodesia and South African forces.

The massacre on Feb. 6 of seven Catholic missionaries, an action widely recognized to have been the work of agent provocateurs and denounced by the Patriotic Front, has nevertheless provided a thin cover for the on-going war buildup by South Africa and Rhodesia.

Young:

U.S. Won't Upset Smith Or Vorster

Speaking Feb. 7 in Nairobi, Kenya, on his way from Tanzania to Nigeria, Young demanded of the five front-line states most closely involved with the Rhodesian situation that they continue de facto recognition of the illegal Smith regime and that they readmit State Department agents Bishop Abel Muzorewa and the Rev. Ndabaningi Sithole to the negotiating team. "Any solution has to be worked out with the people in power," said Young, referring to Smith, "I do not see the U.S. role as upsetting anyone in power, be that Smith in Rhodesia or Vorster in South Africa ... (The Patriotic Front) has to be supported, too because they are the only ones who can stop the fighting ... Any realistic settlement has to involve them, but this does not necessarily need to mean that any future government be composed exclusively from this group."

Young's statement flies in the face of the front line states' position, supported by the Organization of African Unity's Liberation Committee, that the Patriotic Front receive exclusive support. This measure was taken to en-

sure that the liberation of Rhodesia is not followed by a replay of the Angola war of last year, a replay which would have far more serious consequences. He made the statement after meeting with Tanzanian President Julius Nyerere, who rejected Young's advances, telling him that the U.S. "should encourage the British and the nationalists to agree. Having agreed and finding that the stumbling block to majority rule is Smith, then the rest of the world should be helping to get this obstacle out of the way. The U.S. can't replace Britain; Britain is the colonial power."

Nyerere's position, representing that of the front-line states, is designed to avoid a U.S.-Soviet confrontation, by making the elimination of the Smith government by force if necessary, the responsibility of a pan-African or British Commonwealth military force, or a combination of the two.

Arriving in Nigeria, Young met not only with Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo, but with Angolan President Agostinho Neto. Neto reportedly told Young that if Smith continues his intransigence, the African states will liberate the country by armed struggle, accepting support from any quarter and expecting the U.S. not to interfere. Young emerged from the meeting to tell reporters that Neto was the first President with whom he "disagreed openly."

While in Nigeria, Young delivered the Trilateral Commission's terms for a settlement of the Rhodesian conflict: a multinational meeting including the U.S., Britain, Nigeria, Zaire, the five front-line states and the Rhodesian nationalists. At such a meeting, the U.S. would strongarm a "unified" nationalist front including "moderates" such as Bishop Muzorewa, recently denounced by Zambian President Kaunda as an "agent of the Smith regime."

Young backed up his plan with a threat of economic warfare warning the black countries to steer clear of accepting any Soviet or Cuban aid in liberating southern Africa: "In the event of such influence being tried again in Africa, we shall use economic strategy, nor military strategy, to forestall it... We have learned from the lessons of the Vietnam war and come to the conclusion that you cannot win a war by killing, but you can win an economic war."

Who Murdered The Missionaries?

In a radio broadcast from Maputo, Mozambique, the Patriotic Front of Rhodesia denounced the mass murder of seven Catholic missionaries this week as the work of the Rhodesian Army's Selous Scouts.

The Selous Scouts are a part of Rockefeller's private mercenary army which is presently attached to the Rhodesian government, but which could be deployed anywhere else in Africa. According to information from Rhodesian nationalist sources, the Scouts regiment has no connection to the Rhodesian Army chain of command

— its orders come directly from the top. The unit maintains its own prisons in abandoned mines for selected political prisoners not meant to reappear. It is officered largely by non-Rhodesians, including mercenaries from Australia, New Zealand and the United States, and the enlisted men include numbers of black former Portuguese colonial troops, particularly from the similar counterinsurgency unit called "Las Flechas."

The tactics of the unit are based on those developed during the so-called Mau Mau insurgency in Kenya and similar U.S. tricks in Vietnam, where native soldiers are dressed like the nationalist guerrillas, either to infiltrate and kill the nationalists, or to commit atrocities in their name — an attempt to "win the hearts and minds" of the population. The Scouts atrocities follow a pattern of committing such atrocities particularly in areas where the guerrillas are known to have popular support. The unit is also known to be responsible for numerous assassinations and kidnappings of leading nationalists, almost certainly including the recent murder of Jason Moyo, a leading nationalist largely responsible for keeping the Patriotic Front coalition together.

British Foreign Secretary Antony Crosland aired his suspicions of the claims by denouncing the massacre as "horrific ... *whatever its origins.*" (emphasis added). More frankly, the Italian daily *Il Messaggero di Roma* headlined their article on the incident "Seven missionaries killed: Provocation by the Racists?" (See reprint), and the East German radio station *Stimme der DDR* compared the atrocity to the Glewiz incident, Hitler's contrived Polish border incident by which World War II was started.