

Muzorewa question

Also on the agenda of the Lusaka conference is the question of the Muzorewa government in Rhodesia. The British hope to gain acceptance for a Rhodesian government that will not only not threaten the British IMF policy, but will actually serve, along with South Africa, to enforce that kind of policy on the rest of the continent. Mozambique and Zambia have been repeatedly attacked by Rhodesia, for example, while Angola has been repeatedly attacked by both South Africa and Rhodesia.

In his press interview Kaunda also hit Thatcher's fixation with "Soviet influence" in southern Africa. "I understand she is very frightened of Russian influence in this part of the world.

"It is very sad, because when people become frightened they lose their reason. I hope she hasn't reached that stage.

"In the end what we've always been trying to avoid, East-West confrontation, is taking shape. All because of certain stupid decisions by successive British Governments. ..."

Kaunda went on to add that it is "incredible" that he is now blamed by the British for going to the Soviets for arms for self-defense when it was these British policies which forced him to such a step.

The *Times of Zambia* added that Thatcher "demonstrated the blind and pusillanimous arrogance that has marked successive British governments' attitudes to Rhodesia." The *Zambia Daily Mail* pointedly said that the southern African problem is made worse "when a British Prime Minister openly supports rebels who have been condemned by every sensible person in the world."

The Nigerian nationalization

The Nigerian move against British Petroleum, of which 51 percent is owned by the British government, was not expected, and has already been denounced as "naked political blackmail" in the pro-British *New York Post*. The British were openly hoping that the Nigerians would choose simply to cut oil production as a way of protesting British policy, which would have fed into the overall energy-austerity scenario being pushed by British-influenced policy circles internationally.

As a result of the nationalization, Nigeria has acquired an immediate additional 250,000 barrels per day of output which it can market in direct state-to-state deals if it wants, thus circumventing the control over the marketing process of the oil formerly handled by BP.

—Doug DeGroot

Pretoria's apartheid

South Africa's historic Malthusian policy of apartheid received a sudden new impetus in legislation which came into force July 13. The change is murderous, a shift from limiting the growth rate of cities to depopulating them, banishing millions of blacks to "tribal homelands" where it has been arranged for them to die. This is a part of the larger British strategy of reducing world population to perhaps only one billion by the year 2000.

An important feature of the policy that is about to inflict such horror on the African population is a synthetic fuels program adopted a decade ago by South Africa's "Nationalist" government, and imported as a model for the U.S. Carter administration's energy policy.

The new South African apartheid law increases by five times the fine imposed on an employer who is caught employing Africans in an urban or white farm area if the Africans lack official permission for their departure from the tribal areas called bantustans. The law condemns perhaps two million of nine million Africans now in such areas to return to the bantustans, where primitive agriculture provides less than subsistence, malnutrition is the rule, and starvation is on the rise. Mass firings have occurred since passage of the law; Africans are calling this "a time of weeping."

Minister of Apartheid Piet Koornhof has made a show of magnanimity by giving large categories of illegal workers some months in which to have their status regularized. Few of them—except for live-in domestics—will succeed, because their sub-tenancies in overcrowded townships like Soweto are necessarily *sub rosa* and do not meet the criteria laid down by the new law for "available housing."

The new law is only the leading edge of a sweeping reorganization of labor policy which is being carried out by Prime Minister P.W. Botha and his circle of British Tory-oriented advisors and party associates. Most of the reorganization is embodied in reports, issued in early May, by two parliamentary commissions, the Wiehahn commission on trade union policy and the Riekert commission on control over the influx of Africans from the bantustans.

The combined recommendations represent a major new step in the devolution of the South African economy, underway since the 1974 oil price increases, away from industrialization and city-building in favor of mere raw materials export.

The thinking behind the Wiehahn report is that the policy of reserving skilled jobs for whites should be

changes mean genocide

relaxed in order to reduce the wage bill; black unions should be recognized in order to bring black workers under tighter control.

The Riekert commission, faced with huge and growing black unemployment and the first reappearance of white unemployment in years, recommended that the perhaps two million Africans now living and working in urban and white farm areas without government permission be deported to the bantustans, and that control over the influx of blacks into urban areas be intensified and also applied to rural whites.

Concurrent with these measures, extremely labor-intensive projects, such as coffee, tea and cotton plantations, are being put in place with all possible speed in the bantustans. Marijuana cropping is among the considerations in at least one known case. Quasi-military force is contemplated to make the projects work.

Incredibly enough, the whole program is being lauded by the international press as representing "greater and more hopeful racial change than we have had in the nearly 31 years the Nationalist Government has been in power," in the words of the Oppenheimer-dominated *Rand Daily Mail*. A *Washington Post* editorial of May 27 accepted that report as authoritative.

The centrist government of John Vorster was toppled with the help of those two newspapers, who accused him of spending millions secretly but ineffectively promoting sympathy for apartheid in newspapers and magazines abroad; his successor, Prime Minister P.W. Botha, is now lauded for an unprecedented intensification of apartheid itself. The international press conduits for British policy propaganda are only greasing the skids for South Africa's Minister of Apartheid, Piet Koornhof, who have been touring Europe and declaring "We are entering a new era. We must bridge the gap between the haves and the have-nots—apartheid is dead." If so, genocide has taken its place. Any journal, newspaper or reporter who says otherwise is complicit.

How apartheid works

Apartheid or "separate development" is the chief means by which South Africa has been prevented from becoming an industrial republic. That, in turn, has prevented the development of the entire African continent. The withholding of industrial culture from Africans was an essential part of British rule. The basic features of what is today called apartheid were pushed through the South African parliament by the British mining houses and became law as the 1913 Land Acts. The mining

houses were not motivated simply by a desire to ensure for themselves a supply of cheap labor. They were acting for the inner British policy circle to keep South Africa backward by denying it, as far as possible, an advancing quality of African skilled labor power and corresponding growth in purchasing power.

The ruling National Party, which claims to have broken with the British almost 20 years ago, has continued the Malthusian British policy with all the zeal of a convert to a cult suicide doctrine.

Today, after decades of increasing concentration, ten million Africans—one-third of the total population and one-half of the black population of the country—are crowded into primitive reserves where existence was recognized as below subsistence long before the population reached today's level. Until now, private investment in the bantustans has been forbidden by law, and state investment has been insignificant relative to the threshold necessary to generate a general rise in per

Bantustan health care: there is none ...

An interview last night with Dr. Alan Sorkin, Professor of Economics at the Johns Hopkins University School of International Health in Baltimore, was made available to the Executive Intelligence Review last month about health care among the black and white populations of South Africa.

EIR: *What are health expenditures and health conditions for blacks in South Africa?*

Sorkin: Government expenditure on the health of blacks is about one-eighth of that for whites, but the really neglected problem is that of the rural blacks, especially those in the so-called homelands. The homelands are somewhat like Indian reservations in this country, only the government won't let you leave unless you can get a job in the cities. [One-third of South Africa's population or one-half of the country's Africans—about 10 million people—live in the homelands—ed.] The bulk of the homelands have no health care at all—only a few missionaries, who have clinics. Otherwise, there are only the medicine men and witch doctors. Some observers are sympathetic to the use of these, but I am not. They know nothing about Western, scientific medicine; they are only good for psychological problems. ...

and

All South Africans eating less

Average annual per capita meat consumption, 1969-77		Drop in per capita food consumption, July 1977-June 1978, over previous 12 months	
1969-71	41.1 kg	Milk products & eggs	-6.0%
1972-74	41.0 kg	Meat	-4.2%
1975-77	40.7 kg	Vegetables & fruit	-3.3%
Source: South Africa Meat Board		Bread & grain products	-1.5%
		Sugar & jams	-15.0%

Source: Based on Rhodesian Financial Gazette, Jan. 26, 1979, and official South Africa consumer price indices.

The above figures show that per capita food consumption in South Africa is decreasing for the population as a whole, with accelerated decline beginning in the second half of 1977. The figures on the right represent an *absolute* decline in total South African consumption in every category except bread & grain products.

Figures for the African, Colored, and Indian populations alone would be far more dramatic. The 50 percent of the African population that lives in the bantustans are the worst sufferers.

capita consumption. Eighty percent of bantustan families have incomes (including cash remittances and the worth of their own produce) of only one-half to one-tenth of what the government itself claims as the minimum necessary budget on which an urban African family can survive. "These people are hungry," an agricultural training worker in KwaZulu reported to the South African weekly, *Financial Mail*, Feb. 16, "There are people here who by all normal standards should be dead."

Able-bodied Africans are permitted out of the bantustans on one-year contracts for work in mines, farms, factories and homes, in jobs that correspond to the low level of culture to which they have been confined. Almost no bantustan family can survive on the produce of its own petty farming, and hence requires support from the remittances of an absent family member working in the so-called "white area." Yet not all families receive remittances, and few receive them regularly.

Between 20 and 30 percent of all bantustan children born alive die before their first birthday, and at least half are dead before their fifth.

A series of studies published in the *South African Medical Journal* from 1965 to 1968 indicated that protein-calorie malnutrition, which produces kwashiorkor and marasmus, was "extremely prevalent" among the black population in general. Severe malnutrition in infancy produces gross, permanent mental retardation and physical stunting.

Genocide

During the 1970s, malnutrition has shot up. It must

have shot up again in 1977, when the demand for laborers from the bantustans collapsed under the continued pressure of recessionary conditions, but African unemployment was on the rise well before that. Real wages for Africans also declined from at least 1977. In fact, at least from the second half of 1977, per capita food consumption has been dropping for South Africa's population as a whole, with an *absolute decline in total food consumed* by the country's growing population in every category except bread and grain products!

Against this backdrop, three developments in the current year have intersected to make a full scale famine in the bantustans imminent, and clearly a matter of government policy. The worst drought in years has burned up crops throughout the southern cone of Africa. The maize crop (the staple of the African population) in South Africa and Rhodesia is expected to be a 100 percent loss for subsistence farmers, and even white-owned farms, where some irrigation is practiced, are expected to lose 30 percent of their maize. In a second blow, the South African government increased the price of gasoline and diesel fuel by 40 percent in June. The price hike will also have a crippling, perhaps lethal effect on African-owned bus and taxi services that criss-cross the bantustans, limiting the population to destinations accessible by foot.

Then, as of July 13, Koornhof's law to destroy unauthorized "white area" African employment, and so slash remittances to the bantustans, has hit with the force needed to precipitate outright famine, if famine is not already in progress. Black school children have recently been caught eating paper, instead of writing on it.

Synfuels and war production

The draconian measures recommended by the Wiehahn and Riekert commissions are not simply a response to world recessionary conditions. They flow principally from the disastrous economic course which the South African leadership has charted over the past decade. The decade has seen a major reorientation of the economy toward raw materials export on the one hand, and war production and expensive, inefficient synthetic fuels production on the other.

First came the big infrastructure projects designed to gear up copper and coal exports, without a corresponding expansion in the manufacturing base or cheapening of energy production. At the same time came the sequence of huge leaps in the defense budget, producing a five-fold increase in expenditure between 1971 and 1977. Then came the decisions to build Sasol 2 in 1974 and Sasol 3 recently for coal liquefaction.

The synthetic fuel plants, at a projected combined cost of \$6.7 billion, and defense spending over the last three budgets at \$1.8 billion annually, represent such huge investments that a major program for nuclear power is necessarily ruled out. Sasol 2, now nearly complete, is said to be the largest engineering project under construction anywhere in the world.

The consequences of this massive diversion of productive resources are not limited to harsh measures against the black population. The consequences start at the top. South Africa depends on a very small number of professional, semi-professional, and technical workers whose growth is critical to the country's industrial development. In 1975 this top layer numbered only 405,000 of a total workforce of 9.2 million. Commencing in the early 1970s, this not very affluent layer began to experience increasingly difficult conditions. While the black majority of the population contributes half of these professional and technical workers, the greatest concentration of them is found in the white population (one white worker in seven). White workers have experienced declining real wages since 1973, and white unemployment—nonexistent at the beginning of the decade—has reappeared.

Emigration figures are also telling, since the top layer is heavily represented among emigrants. The figures reflect the adverse conditions of the whole skilled layer, and not simply the loss involved in the departures, although that, too, has become significant. Starting in 1977, the number of emigrants has exceeded the number of immigrants. The cutting edge of advances in social productivity is being destroyed.

The synthetic

and the social upheavals they bring in their wake, are the beginning of the end for South Africa as a potentially industrial nation. When Oxford don R.W. Johnson published his book, *How Long Will South Africa Survive?* in 1977, he savored his conclusion that "South Africa's long attempt to escape from the colonial role of purveyor of raw materials ... will have failed ... by 1979-80."

The British wittingly sabotaged the South African economy by promoting the synthetic fuels hoax. The coal liquefaction idea was originally introduced into South Africa by the British/Zionist Anglo-Transvaal mining finance house, when it negotiated a license for the Argo process from Nazi Germany in 1935. Anglo-Transvaal is closely allied with the Oppenheimer interests. The financing of Sasol 2 was organized by New York's Dillon Read investment house, also allied with those interests.

Included in these circles is Felix Rohatyn, who sits with Oppenheimer's top lieutenants on the board of Engelhard Minerals; he is reportedly a candidate for heading President Carter's proposed synthetic fuels agency, the Energy Corporation of America, which is designed to bring the South African program to the U.S.A. Carter's National Transportation Policy Study Commission issued a report in June calling for a massive federally-financed synthetic fuels industry including coal liquefaction, oil shale, and tar sands. The chairman of the commission, Pennsylvania Congressman Bud Shuster (R) reports that his proposal is "modeled on the South African program. ... They produce oil at \$1.50 a barrel." When queried on the difference between South African and American wages, Shuster conceded, "then we'll have to go to world prices of about \$25-35 per barrel." He proposes that the government spend \$4-5 billion annually to subsidize production until the world price reaches that level. Carter adopted and announced the basics of the Shuster commission report in his July 15 energy address.

South Africa's synthetic fuels and war production programs are promoted by liberals such as Foreign Minister Roelof Botha and Defense Force chief Magnus Malan, who claim the country faces a "total onslaught" from the outside world. They advance a self-fulfilling prophecy. Their autarchic measures gut the economy's productive capacities, leading to brutal social policies which only do further damage to the economy. The end result must be—as in Hitler's case—a war of conquest to loot neighboring populations.

—David Cherry