

## Southern Africa faces superpowers' 'peace'

by Jeffrey Steinberg

On Dec. 13, in Brazzaville, Congo, representatives of South Africa, Cuba, and Angola signed the final draft of a treaty that would ostensibly see all Cuban troops withdrawn from Angola over the next 27 months in return for South Africa's permitting of United Nations-directed elections and independence for Namibia, after 73 years of South African rule. The Brazzaville Accords, formally signed with pomp and circumstance at United Nations ceremonies in New York City on Dec. 22, will be heralded as one of the dramatic examples of superpower collaboration in solving "regional matters" in a "year of trust" that saw Washington and Moscow ratify an intermediate range nuclear weapons pact and an agreement for Soviet troop withdrawals from Afghanistan.

Reality on the ground, however, betrays the massive fraud of this superpower-rigged outbreak of "peace." One element of the fraud was reported to *EIR* by a senior official of the Southwest African (Namibian) provisional government in Windhoek. In late October, a United Nations team concluded a study preparatory to the U.N.-overseen Namibian elections, scheduled for Nov. 1, 1989. That study, among other things, estimated that the costs of administering those elections and overseeing the transition to independence over a seven-month period would be over \$1 billion. The announcement caused an immediate furor inside Namibia, where that same billion dollars could be far more usefully spent building up the infrastructure and agricultural productivity of the country. As the official put it, an infusion of \$1 billion in development credits would bring genuine peace and prosperity to the country.

The official went on to complain bitterly that the whole of southern Africa has been devastated by locusts and drought which has gutted agricultural productivity, by the AIDS pandemic which has particularly spread through the refugee camps dotting the war-ravaged region, and by the effects of unending civil wars in Angola and Mozambique in particular. These underlying economic and ecological disasters define the actual plight of southern Africa, and it is these underlying issues that Washington and Moscow, for the time being, have agreed to ignore.

One U.S. administration official deeply involved in the southern African superpower negotiations bluntly conceded that Moscow and Washington have jointly "written off Africa" for the next 20 years. "Black Africa is dying of AIDS," the official told *EIR*, and the two superpowers are therefore

negotiating a mutual pullout.

Among the "unresolved" issues set aside in the U.S. and Soviet sponsored Geneva talks was the fate of UNITA, the Dr. Jonas Savimbi-led anti-Soviet resistance movement inside Angola that has fought a decade-long war against the MPLA government in Luanda, its onetime ally in the struggle to win independence from Portugal. According to Dr. Savimbi, who was never brought in on the South Africa-Cuba-Angola negotiations, the terms of the treaty spell a death sentence for him and his movement, which controls over one-third of the country and has stood off combined Angolan-Cuban military assaults with the aid of the United States and South Africa. The 27-month timetable for full Cuban troop withdrawal is intended to provide the "decent interval" in which UNITA, if cut off from American and South African backing, can be slaughtered.

### Lonrho and the Russians

On the eastern coast of southern Africa, a similar civil war is raging in Mozambique, where the anti-communist RENAMO movement is also in control of at least one-third of the country. As in Angola, the Soviet-backed FRELIMO government in Maputo is holding onto power on the basis of foreign military support, including over 15,000 troops from neighboring Zimbabwe and smaller contingents from Tanzania and now Malawi. In addition to the usual array of Soviet bloc "advisers," the FRELIMO regime is for all practical purposes a front for one of Great Britain's largest multinational companies, Lonrho, which controls the major rail and energy infrastructure. In April, an assassination squad from a Lonrho subsidiary, Defense Systems Ltd., reportedly carried out the assassination in Lisbon of the foreign affairs chief of RENAMO, Ivo Fernandez. As part of the regional agreements, South Africa has officially cut off all aid to RENAMO and has, as of December, begun providing non-lethal military aid to FRELIMO.

Within South Africa itself, Lonrho and Oppenheimer family Anglo-American Corporation interests, represented principally through Foreign Minister Pik Botha, have accepted the superpower framework. Botha, Oppenheimer, and Lonrho have reportedly been engaged in secret back channel talks with Moscow, pursuing the prospects of a Soviet-South African cartel that would control the world supply of gold and several other militarily vital precious metals. Tragically, these would-be Trust allies of Moscow have apparently missed the bigger picture in which the obituary for southern Africa—black and white—is already written.

President-elect Bush inherits a foreign policy toward the region steered by Chester Crocker, the State Department's senior Africa official and the author of the U.S.-Soviet administered deal. A reversal of the Reagan era policy—shifting focus instead to the life and death issues of food, AIDS and infrastructure—may very well be Africa's only alternative to a U.N.-presided funeral.