

Is a 'third force' pushing a bloodbath in South Africa?

by Jeffrey Steinberg

On the eve of the first White House visit by a President of the Republic of South Africa on Sept. 24, the Johannesburg area has been hit with a rash of incidents of blind terrorism. The incidents have prompted South African political leaders from all sides of the political spectrum to denounce the attacks as the work of an unidentified "third force" seeking to engulf the entire southern African region in a bloodbath.

In the most savage incident, on Sept. 13, a gang of unidentified blacks boarded a commuter train running between the Jeppe station in Johannesburg and the black townships, and began indiscriminately murdering passengers with spears, machetes, and knives. When the train arrived at the next station, a second armed group was waiting on the platform to continue the massacre of fleeing passengers. Both teams of attackers then vanished into the crowd.

The incident bore the imprint of a professional killer squad. Supporters of the two major rival black political movements, the African National Congress (ANC) and Inkatha, were killed in the massacre, which was followed by a string of blind terror incidents. For a week prior to the Jeppe attack, leaders of the ANC Walter Sisulu and Nelson Mandela, and its supporters like Archbishop Desmond Tutu, had been charging that a "third force in the country was fomenting chaos, possibly with a view to creating a climate for a coup against Mr. De Klerk's government." Despite an intense power struggle with Inkatha, the ANC leaders acknowledged that the source of these blind terror attacks was not Inkatha.

The big question is whether the terrorist attacks are aimed at triggering an uncontrolled outbreak of political, tribal, and racial conflict along the lines of the Thirty Years War that engulfed Europe during the 17th century.

As the events in the Persian Gulf have demonstrated, a powerful faction, centered out of London, is advocating North-versus-South warfare and the decimation of the darker-skinned populations of the Southern Hemisphere. British royal household spokesmen such as Peregrine Worsthorne have been filling the pages of the British press with warnings of a demographic invasion of Europe from the South, unless radical population reduction measures are taken. The same British-centered circles advocate a revival of classic 19th-century imperialism, including the grabbing up of raw materials from the devastated future zones of conflict.

If, as many in South Africa now fear, a full-scale push for such manipulated civil war is under way, one prime suspect in the effort is Lonrho chairman Tiny Rowland. As *EIR* documented in its last issue, Rowland and Lonrho played a pivotal role in instigating the Persian Gulf crisis by running critical features of the economic destabilization of Iraq's Saddam Hussein.

Within southern Africa, Rowland is notorious as the chief architect of British colonial policy. A Lonrho subsidiary, Defense Systems Ltd., made up of "ex"-British SAS commandos, has been implicated in the assassination of a top leader of the Mozambique resistance organization Renamo and the attempted takeover of the group, while simultaneously training "counterterror" teams for the Frelimo regime in Maputo, the capital of Mozambique. When a recent coup attempt in Nigeria failed, the plotters were reportedly airlifted out of the country on a Lonrho corporate jet.

According to a recently published exposé by former Mossad agent Victor Ostrovsky, the Israeli intelligence service was hired beginning in 1984 to train certain South African security units. Segments of the Mossad have been implicated recently in the training of assassination squads deployed by the Medellín cocaine cartel in Colombia, which have been implicated in blind terrorism aimed at plunging the country into chaos.

Power struggles and economic devastation

The apparent effort to uncork uncontrolled violence in the Republic of South Africa is superimposed on a political situation already complicated by intense political and paramilitary struggles between rival black movements, and a worsening economic situation.

According to officials of the South Africa Foundation in Washington, D.C., when President Willem De Klerk meets with President Bush on Sept. 24, he will probably ask Bush to help lift the five-year ban on international credits to South Africa. That ban has virtually shut down all non-essential imports, and has caused absolute zero growth in the crucial manufacturing sector for half a decade. The constriction of industrial growth has hit hardest at the black population which predominates in the industrial work force. Rising unemployment has triggered a cycle of poverty within the black

townships which fuels the potential for outside manipulation of violence.

In mid-July, Inkatha leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi, the chief of the Kwazulu tribe, announced that his political movement, traditionally based in the Natal province, was launching a nationwide organizing drive in all the concentrated areas of black population, regardless of tribal concentrations. The announcement was widely read as an effort by Buthelezi to challenge the ANC and its recently freed leader Nelson Mandela's claim of hegemony over the black majority in South Africa.

The organizing drive by Inkatha into the Transvaal region almost immediately triggered black-versus-black fighting, especially in the townships surrounding Johannesburg. Over the past few months, an estimated 800 people have been killed in that struggle. During the previous year, several thousand people were killed in the Natal province, largely as the result of ANC assaults against Inkatha residential and work areas.

It is almost universally acknowledged that some elements within the South African security forces have thrown their support behind the Inkatha organizing drive in the Transvaal, at times providing support to Inkatha members when they got into battles with ANC cadre. It is likewise acknowledged that the ANC has increased the flow of weapons into the country from caches located outside the country. Reports from the region also indicate that some of the funds raised during Mandela's recent trip to the United States have gone to replenishing the arms caches.

However, these ANC-Inkatha struggles appear to be a different matter than the recent isolated incidents of professional-style killings. President De Klerk has announced Operation Iron Shield, a police crackdown on all the violence inside the townships. Although Mandela denounced the De Klerk move as a "license to kill," just days after he met with the President and criticized him for inaction in the face of the bloodshed, there are signs that the black population is relieved that some measure of order and security is being restored.

Some political analysts in the South African capital Pretoria have recently expressed optimism that if left to its own devices, the Republic of South Africa could indeed steer a course of political reform leading to a multi-racial political structure by the time the next national elections occur. They cite the emergence of a range of black political movements and leaders and the emerging support among moderate blacks for the Nationalist Party, as evidence that some form of cooperative political effort could be forged—provided the economic crisis can be addressed through new investments and a revival of industry.

Unfortunately, if the recent blind terror incidents are any indication of the rumblings of a "third force," it will take more than a spirit of cooperation to defeat the plans for genocide throughout the region.

Gaviria joins Bush's 'Three Stooges'

by Valerie Rush

Colombian President César Gaviria Trujillo has aligned his nation with the Bush administration's policies vis-à-vis the Middle East, while mouthing the same diatribes against national sovereignty one is accustomed to hearing from Henry Kissinger. At the same time, the Colombian head of state has obscenely embraced the British-inspired "free trade" ideology issuing from Washington, an ideology from which he has never distanced himself despite his pre-inauguration talk about the need for an Ibero-American "third way" free of U.S. control.

Gaviria's entrance into the Bush league was unveiled during a four-day trip to Mexico Sept. 16-19, his first post-inauguration trip abroad as President. Gaviria now joins Carlos Andrés Pérez of Venezuela and Carlos Salinas de Gortari of Mexico, as one of George Bush's "Three Stooges" in Ibero-America.

In a Sept. 17 interview with the Mexican daily *Excelsior*, Gaviria declared that the concept of national sovereignty was outmoded and had to adjust to a "new reality": "Countries must accept that they must advance through integration, and move toward the politics of large blocs, which is where the world is moving. And this implies renouncing part of sovereignty." He said this while endorsing Bush's "Enterprise for the Americas" plan, which seeks to turn Ibero-America into a free trade looting ground for Anglo-American financial interests.

Gaviria also discussed the Group of Three's commitment to create an Ibero-American "Energy Basin," which would feed Bush's war drive. Mexico, Venezuela, and Colombia are the three largest energy exporters of the region, noted Gaviria, and the U.S. requires more oil in light of the Mideast crisis. Mexico, however, is limited as to how much more oil it can export by how much replacement energy it can generate for domestic use. Therefore, "Mexico's plan to expand electric energy generation includes a series of thermoelectric projects which . . . will surely utilize thermal coal as fuel. At the same time, Colombia possesses immense reserves of easily exploited and exported thermal coal, which would prove ideal to feed those new energy-generating plants at low-cost." Mexico could then sell her oil to the United States.

In parallel with these new-found "priorities," Gaviria dropped his earlier proposal for a "Latin American Forum"—excluding the United States and Canada—to replace the U.S.-dominated Organization of American States as a politi-