

Republic of South Africa's Vorster Preempts British Destabilization

by David Cherry

Oct. 22 (NSIPS) — In a comprehensive sweep on the morning of Oct. 19, the South African police banned nearly every organization considered part of the country's "black consciousness" movement, detaining more than 50 of its leaders. The official statement released to motivate the government's surprise action made clear that the move was a preemptive strike against a planned destabilization of the South African government by Britain and its allies in Wall Street and Washington, modeled on the 1976 riots in Soweto, the black district outside Johannesburg, which rocked the Vorster government and left hundreds dead.

The government statement charged: "The riots which broke out in the country last year did not occur spontaneously...New processes are being devised almost from day to day to insure that the unrest prevails, and in an attempt to cause the desired confrontation between black and white."

The critical question now is whether Prime Minister Vorster, a centrist leader who is expected to win next month's national elections, will move from his merely defensive measures against British intervention to advance a positive policy of negotiations for **regionwide** development along the lines initiated by the murdered West German banker Jürgen Ponto right before he died in July.

The Solution

In a statement released from Wiesbaden, West Germany today, U.S. Labor Party Chairman Lyndon LaRouche emphasized that this is the crucial issue at stake:

"Granted, the MI-6 agents running about southern Africa as putative 'black consciousness' leaders feed upon

genuine issues of oppression. A more instructive picture of the situation is obtained if one considers the policies which they propose as 'solutions' to black oppression. What they propose are the genocidal policies (against blacks) of the London investment banks and Robert MacNamara's World Bank. Their objective is not to aid oppressed blacks, but to dupe blacks into aiding in the imposition of World Bank policies which mean, directly, genocidal hunger and slave-labor for the black population.

"The Republic of South Africa is, in fact, properly perceived as the mediator of high-technology-oriented economic development throughout the region. This requires, of course, that that nation's internal and external policies be brought into agreement with equitable economic development treaties with its predominantly black neighbors.

"Contrary to what the Washington Post and London Times would have one believe, the industrialist factions in the government of the Republic of South Africa have repeatedly attempted to move in that direction. To our direct knowledge, at several points, just as the Republic of South Africa was about to enter into serious discussions (under some form or another with representatives of 'frontline' states, the London crowd and its Institute for Policy Studies allies have activated some destabilization in southern Africa for the purpose of disrupting such negotiations."

"A solution to the problem means that the Republic of South Africa must negotiate through (most probably) Mozambique, and must establish both détente and economic cooperation with Mozambique and Angola. In that case,

a treaty-negotiating commission initiated with participation of the Republic of South Africa, Mozambique, and Angola will lead toward rapid and substantial improvements in all matters throughout southern Africa — provided that continental Europe and the United States support this effort."

Target Anglo-American Operation

The Vorster government preceded its move on internal MI-6 agents with public attacks on the joint Anglo-American operation directed by British Foreign Minister David Owen and Vice President Walter Mondale to foment race war in the region and strangulate South Africa economically. Just days before the sweep, Foreign Minister Roelof Botha told an election rally that the government was informed of Carter Administration plans for an oil boycott against South Africa, and that America was at present a greater enemy than the Soviet Union. "The hurricane is coming not in years, but in months," he said.

The U.S. State Department called the sweep "a very serious step backwards. Our relations will hardly be improved by what has happened," in a statement prepared while it was still receiving its first information from the U.S. embassy in Pretoria.

However, since then U.S. official response has been carefully restrained. Secretary of State Vance's recall of U.S. Ambassador William Bowdler yesterday for a few days of "consultations on recent events in South Africa" was not accompanied by rhetorical flourishes, and State Department spokesman Hodding Carter described South Africa's role in achieving a peaceful transition to black rule in Rhodesia and Namibia as constructive. In an exchange with reporters in



South African Prime Minister John Vorster has short-circuited British race-related targeting of his government.

Detroit yesterday, President Carter bypassed substantive comment.

The expressions of outrage have been reserved for the London-allied press like the Washington Post and the New York Times, and such slave-labor advocates as Congressional Black Caucus Chairman Parren Mitchell (D-Md.) This week Mitchell enunciated his rage at the coolness of Carter and Secretary of State Vance toward the Caucus's demands for the economic strangulation and political isolation of South Africa. The Carter Administration "isn't doing anything" but "game-playing to justify support of this racist regime," Mitchell railed yesterday.

Botha also credited British Foreign Secretary Owen's arrival on the southern Africa scene as a major source of regional tension.

South African Justice Minister Jimmy Kruger yesterday charged that Carter's campaign around "human rights" had encouraged black militant groups to believe that "the Americans are backing them to the hilt, whether we do it peacefully or by violence."