

South Africa is Main Base of Imperialism.

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In my opinion, the problems of Southern Rhodesia cannot be separated from those of Southern Africa in general, as they are aspects of the same situation: the same enemy, imperialism, is being faced everywhere. The case of Namibia also illustrates that point; a small country with a population of a few thousand has become a great international problem because it is linked to South Africa. The reason for the failure of the United Nations in southern Africa is said to be South Africa's refusal to co-operate in solving the problem which compels the United Kingdom which compels the United Nations to seek concessions from Southern Rhodesia; but in fact the United Kingdom, far from begging Rhodesia, is the master mind behind the whole situation.

That can be clearly inferred from the origin of the origin of the Rhodesian problem. When the United Kingdom was unable to maintain its rule by force, it adopted a technique of granting independence to its territories while taking care to retain the benefits of its imperialist domination. The idea was to start a new era in which control over the people would be placed in the hands of local leaders while the economy continued to be tied to the colonial Powers - Portuguese, France and the United Kingdom.

As part of imperialism's plan for commercial and military penetration an imaginary line was drawn across Africa, from Angola to the Zambezi River and from there to the ^{northern} border of Mozambique, and it was decided that all

countries north of that line would be granted independence.

However the plan came too late and ^{was} unsuccessful; for historical reasons it was impossible to achieve stability. South Africa is the main base of imperialism and its neighbours to the north act as a kind of protective barrier. So long as South Africa continues to be the stronghold of colonialism in southern Africa, the independent states will be weakened and there will be border incidents to intimidate those countries which are helping the freedom-fighters. Portugal is trying to keep its colonies but and to defend them as best it can, but as it is too poor to do so effectively, the United States supplies it with dollars for the purpose. As to the United Kingdom, the talks being held in Rhodesia do not concern the liberation of the Territory but the strengthening of the bonds between London and southern Africa.

I and my organisation believe that the United Kingdom is seeking a face-saving way out of the situation in which it finds itself. Southern Rhodesia is a British colony, but the United Kingdom tolerates the presence of South African forces in the Territory. When the United Kingdom officially hands over power to Smith, he will be able to ask South Africa for military advisers to defend his unpopular regime. In that way the defence of the investments made by South Africa and by the Western Powers in southern Africa will also be assured.

Any review of the question of Southern Rhodesia must include a review of South Africa, as is shown by two recent developments, namely the talks in Southern Rhodesia and the dialogue in South Africa, which ^{are} interrelated and pose a threat to Africa as a whole. The idea of a dialogue between the Herrenvolk and the Africans did not originate in South Africa; it is a European idea imposed by the imperialists on their South African allies.

In its trade relations with the United Kingdom, South Africa enjoyed a more favoured status than even the Commonwealth nations, but it will be unable to compete with European industries when the United Kingdom enters the European Common Market. The prospect of that has caused a crisis in South Africa, and the only solution is to turn towards the

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African countries for the exports which are necessary for South Africa's survival.

The South African economy is flourishing, but is not self-sufficient, as certain raw materials are lacking. Furthermore, the gold mines, which provide South Africa with its foreign currency earnings, are dependent on the black manpower from neighbouring countries (75 percent of the miners come from adjacent countries), and without that foreign manpower the entire economy will suffer.

Apartheid existed before Boers.

Apartheid was not invented by the Boers but existed before they came to power, under the name of "segregation" or "separate development of the black population", and it sprang from economic motives.

South Africa is a police State, even from the legal point of view. Its laws can be divided into three categories: the first makes prisoners and deprives them of any political influence; the second deprives the blacks of their right to work and prevents them from forming trade unions going on strike or taking employment with whomever pays them most, thus turning them into beasts of burden; and the third - laws such as the Group Areas Act - has the sinister purpose of reserving the whole of South Africa for the white population, with the exception of a few enclaves which amount to less than 13 per cent of the total land area and are generally hilly, arid and unsuited to agriculture. The enclaves to which the black population is confined are labour reservations. In fact the whole system of Bantustans is only a means of solving the man-power problems of the South African economy. The law prohibits blacks from remaining at the place of their birth and forces them to carry a pass allowing them to live in a place, to travel and to work. South Africa thus seeks to keep a mobile labour force which can eventually replace the 75 per cent of workers who now come from neighbouring countries. The South African economy can best be weakened by depriving it from the black workers from other countries.

South Africa has decided to dispense with democratic institutions and has entrusted all power to the police. New laws make the courts totally irrelevant and allow the use of torture. This is a reflection of the regime's desperate position which will also compel it to increase its control over Southern Rhodesia and remain in Namibia despite United Nations resolutions.

South Africa knows, however, that it will be defended by the great Powers because its system produces profits. The United Kingdom, the United States, the Federal Republic of Germany and France sell arms to South Africa. The pretext that they are arms for external defence is ridiculous, since they are used to bolster oppression.

I have come to the United Nations to ask for help from the countries of the third world and from the socialist countries which do not seek to dominate other peoples. For the oppressed Africans, such help can mean the difference between slavery and liberation.

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