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SUMMARY OF COMMENTARY IN PRAVDA ON SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA
(March 30 - April 30, 1980)

May 1980

Prepared by the Federal Research Division of
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Summary of Commentary in Pravda on Sub-Saharan Africa
(30 March-30 April 80)

Africa General

Conference of Nine Southern African Nations

(Summary) A conference was held in Lusaka, Zambia, attended by Angola, Botswana, Zambia, Mozambique, Tanzania, Lesotho, Swaziland, Malawi, and Zimbabwe. Discussions centered around the problems of expanding economic cooperation between the countries of the region. The product of these talks was a declaration entitled, "Southern Africa: Towards Economic Emancipation." The people of southern Africa cannot reconcile themselves with the present economic and political pressures which render support to the racist government of the Republic of South Africa.

The Republic of South Africa took every measure it could to subvert the conference in Lusaka. It came up with a plan which would have created a "constellation" of the southern African nations under their aegis. But under the cover of this ringing title, the ultimate aim of the Republic of South Africa was to increase these nations' dependency on Pretoria.

The conference participants, fully aware of the South African Republic's growing defense budget and continued aggression against its neighbors, including Namibia, will hold to the course that promises economic and political independence. (5 Apr 80, p. 5)

Conferences Promoting Economic Development in Africa

(Summary) The tasks involved in developing economic cooperation in Africa were emphasized at a session of the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) which opened yesterday in Lagos, the capital of Nigeria. The ministers worked on recommendations that would foster economic progress on the continent such as strengthening the economic independence of all the African countries, considering various aspects for developing industry and energy, and dealing with the problem of unemployment.

This meeting in Lagos is just one of a series of conferences that have devoted serious attention to the problems of economic development. One of the other conferences, held in Lusaka, Zambia, worked on ways that nations located in southern Africa could liberate their economies, especially from the Republic of South Africa. (See summary above for full coverage of this conference.) Another conference, held in Dakar, Senegal, and which completed its work just yesterday, investigated the questions surrounding the economic integration of the countries of West Africa. The participants made recommendations for future cooperation in the economic field, among them the establishment of a central bank, unification of insurance companies, and the planning for an automobile route between the capitals of Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, and Chad.

All this work, and more, is needed to shorten the time that it takes to eliminate the heavy inheritance of colonialism--economic backwardness. (22 Apr 80, p. 5)

East Africa

East African Regional Talks

(Summary) Pravda reported on the discussions taking place in Mombasa, Kenya concerning the problems of regional cooperation. The participants were the presidents of Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, and Sudan. (16 Apr 80, p. 1)

Indian Ocean

The Security of the Indian Ocean

(Summary) Georges Marchais, General Secretary of the French Communist Party, during a visit to Madagascar, at the invitation of that nation's Leader, President Ratsiraka, discussed the actions of world imperialism that were undermining the security of the Indian Ocean. The United States, he declared, which has violated the safety of this region with its military presence, intends to establish new military bases on the coasts of Africa and Arabia and reinforce its military springboard for aggressive activity located on Diego Garcia. France was also guilty of disrupting the peace of this region, according to Marchais, because of its establishment of military posts on islands in the Mozambique Channel which legally belong to Madagascar.

The Indian Ocean, Marchais declared, should be made into a "Zone of Peace." This could be accomplished by removing the Americans from Diego Garcia, returning the Chagos Archipelago to Mauritius, returning all French soldiers to their homeland and prohibiting the positioning of nuclear weapons in the area.

He also supported the demand of Madagascar, and other developing countries, for a new economic order and emphasized that their allies in this struggle were the Socialist states. (3 Apr 80, p. 5)

French Communist Support for Madagascar

(Summary) G. Marchais ended his visit to Madagascar with a press conference where he stated that the workers of France and the French Communist Party fully supported the efforts of the Malagasy people in building an island of Socialism. (5 Apr 80, p. 5)

Lusophone Africa

Heads of State Conference of Portuguese-Speaking Africa

(Text) A conference attended by the heads of state of Angola, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Sao Tome and Principe, and the Cape Verde Islands opened yesterday in Maputo, Mozambique. The agenda of the conference included items concerning interstate cooperation and a whole series of international problems. (30 Mar 80, p. 4)

(Summary) The conference of the five African, Portuguese-speaking heads of State ended with the signing of an agreement for economic cooperation. The presidents also noted the significant successes of the national liberation

movements on the continent in their struggle against imperialism, colonialism, racism, and apartheid, as well as their dedication to the cause of freedom, peace, and social progress. (1 Apr 80, p. 4)

South-West African People's Organization (SWAPO)

The Republic of South Africa's Intransigence on Talks

(Summary) A. Mushimba, SWAPO representative in Angola, told a Pravda correspondent that the racist authorities of the Republic of South Africa has refused to hold direct talks with his organization's leadership on the question of granting independence to Namibia. The South African Administrator General in Namibia, it was reported, stated that there is allegedly no need for it. This proves, the SWAPO representative concluded, that South Africa intends to continue its occupation of Namibia and to plunder Namibia's natural resources. All of this is done despite the frequent demands from the UN, the Organization of African Unity, and the entire world community for UN-supervised elections in Namibia.

South Africa hopes to buy time by using the power of the puppet figures they have bought and installed in Namibia, continued the SWAPO spokesman. But SWAPO's only response, he added, was an increase in the armed struggle. (14 Apr 80, p. 1)

Soviet Congratulations to SWAPO

(Text) To the National Executive Committee of the South-West African People's Organization--SWAPO (Namibia).

Dear Comrades!

The Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union cordially congratulates you on a noteworthy event--the 20th anniversary of SWAPO's foundation.

Throughout its history, your party has waged a resolute struggle against South African occupation and for an independent, democratic, and united Namibia. Under its leadership the national liberation movement in the country has achieved great successes. SWAPO is rightly acknowledged as the sole legitimate representative of the Namibian people.

In the year of the 110th anniversary of the great Lenin's birth, Communists and all Soviet people reassert their unchanging solidarity with Namibian patriots. We are confident that SWAPO's just cause will triumph.

The people of Namibia will be free!

(Signed) The Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union.
(19 Apr 80, p. 1)

SWAPO Attacks in Namibia

(Summary) P. Nanyemba, a SWAPO Secretary for discussing questions of defense, declared at a press conference in Luanda, Angola, that his organization had recently made a number of raids against South African military bases and camps in the illegally-occupied country of Namibia. The attacks had put out of service more than 200 officers and enlisted men of the South African Army and had destroyed 18 trucks. He displayed fragments of a helicopter which he declared had been shot down by SWAPO fire. He also showed the correspondents weapons, ammunition, and bombs which he claimed were manufactured in countries that are members of NATO.

The SWAPO representative also made an appeal to the world community for a campaign of solidarity with the Namibian people against the terror and repression practiced by the South African authorities in Namibia. Anyone who is sympathetic with SWAPO is imprisoned and severely treated. He continued that powerful narcotic substances, like the type perfected by the CIA, were used against Namibian patriots in prison. The International Red Cross, he said, should investigate these atrocities. (26 Apr 80, p. 5)

US Interests in Africa

US Activity in the Horn Creates a Hotbed of Tension

(Summary) The Pentagon has succeeded in getting a contingent of troops to Somalia where they will form part of the "Rapid Deployment Force" which is to be used only in "extreme situations" in the region of the Red Sea and the Indian Ocean. In addition, the President of Somalia, Siyad Barre, has also granted the US rights to naval and air facilities despite his earlier statements to the contrary.

The Ethiopian news agency, ENA, considered these activities as being just the newest American provocations that threaten peace and stability in the area. ENA went on to say that all these moves on the part of the US were part of a global strategy of imperialism designed to damage the progressive nations.

In a recent letter sent to the General Secretary of the UN from the permanent Ethiopian representative to that body it was reemphasized that Somalia must drop all claims to land belonging to neighboring nations and to respect the inviolability of borders. Support for this position comes from Kenya's foreign minister who condemned interference in the internal affairs of other countries and disrespect for borders.

Recently concluded negotiations between Ethiopia and Kenya (held in Nairobi) condemned Somalia's detrimental activities and called for an end to military arms deliveries to the Horn of Africa. (1 Apr 80, p. 5)

Angola

Preparations for Elections

(Summary) Work continues in Angola in establishing organs of people's power. All over the country, meetings and seminars have been held explaining the rights

and obligations of the future elected representatives of the people. As President dos Santos explained to the populace of Malanshe Province, the people will elect representatives to a National Assembly who will embody the practical principles of democratic revolution. This National Assembly will protect the rights of millions of people and expose the cruel exploitation that took place during the colonial period. President dos Santos also said that other countries' experiences in forming organs of people's power must be examined, especially the experience of the Socialist states. (8 Apr 80, p. 1)

Recruitment of Youth by MPLA

(Summary) The Second Secretary of the MPLA Youth Organization, A. Bragansa, told a Pravda correspondent that a special recruitment of young people was underway in conjunction with the celebration of Angolan Youth Day on 14 April. The Youth Organization presently has a membership of about 5,000. The current recruitment is being dedicated to the memory of the founder by the MPLA, the Angolan state, one of Africa's most prominent statesman, and representatives of the international revolutionary movement, A. Neto, and also to the 110th anniversary of Lenin's birth which is being widely celebrated in Angola. (15 Apr 80, p. 1)

Angolan Interest in Soviet Publications

(Summary) In the windows of bookstores in Luanda and in cities all over Angola, and in advertisements appearing in the newspaper Jornal do Angola, came the announcement of the opening of a sales exhibit of Soviet books. The interest in Marxist literature, especially works by Lenin, is constantly growing in Angola, declared the head of a firm responsible for the distribution of MPLA literature. He said that party activists had a great interest in becoming familiar with the works of Lenin, Marx, and Engels. There were also many demands for the works of Brezhnev. A mutually beneficial arrangement has been established between Angola and the Soviet "International Book" organization which should satisfy the continued demands for this type of literature. In addition, Angola has just recently begun to receive Soviet periodical literature published in Portuguese. (21 Apr 80, p. 4)

MPLA Ideological Schools

[A Pravda correspondent wrote a long and somewhat impressionistic article on the schools run by the MPLA in Angola. He interviewed an MPLA official in charge of ideological education and a number of teachers at an MPLA school named in honor of A. Neto. Despite its sketchy handling of content and rambling, laudatory tone, the central fact emerges that the MPLA is intent on having trained party cadre capable of maintaining Angola's revolutionary orientation.] (24 Apr 80, p. 5)

Soviet Delegation in Angola

(Summary) A delegation of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU) headed by the First Secretary of the Tomskii Obkom, Ye. K. Ligachev, ended its visit to the People's Republic of Angola. They had been invited by the MPLA to participate in the commemoration of Lenin's 110th birthday. The Soviet guests

took part in the opening of an art exhibit entitled "The Image of Lenin in Figurative Art." They also met with the leading people of the capital's production enterprises and with the leaders of Luanda's MPLA organization. This visit is further evidence of the strong friendship and cooperation which exists between the CPSU and the MPLA and the people of both countries. (29 Apr 80, p. 4)

Chad

Reports on Internal Strife

[Six items appeared in Pravda during this period which were exclusively news accounts of the civil war being waged in this country. Interestingly, there was no analysis, however elemental, of the political factions involved. Instead, reportage was restricted to relating the chaos and fierce fighting, as well as the diplomatic efforts on the part of other African nations to bring it to a halt.] (31 Mar 80, p. 5; 1 Apr 80, p. 5; 6 Apr 80, p. 5; 14 Apr 80, p. 4; 26 Apr 80, p. 5; 29 Apr 80, p. 5)

Ethiopia

Ethiopian Interest in Marxist Literature

(Text) The demand in Ethiopia for Marxist literature--books on the experience of Socialist nations in the creation of a new life--is growing. A significant portion of this demand is satisfied by books from the Soviet Union. In cooperation with the Soviet trade organization called "International Books" more than 2 million books have been imported from the USSR during the past 5 years. Included among these have been Leninist works in the Amharic language, works by Marx and Engels, monographs on political economy, and Marxist-Leninist philosophy. In bookstores in Addis Ababa it is possible to find books in all fields of knowledge that have been published in Moscow. (2 Apr 80, p. 1)

Ethiopia

Brezhnev, Kosygin Send Greetings to the Ethiopian Leader

[L. Brezhnev, President of the USSR and Chairman of the Soviet Communist Party, and A. Kosygin, Prime Minister of the USSR, sent a warm message to Mengistu Haile Mariam, Chairman of the Provisional Military Administrative Council and Council of Ministers of Ethiopia, on the occasion of Victory Day in Ethiopia.] (6 Apr 80, p. 1) [On page 4 of the same issue of Pravda is a photograph of the Victory Day Parade in Addis Ababa which commemorates the Ethiopian defeat of the Italian Fascists on 6 Apr 1941 when Addis Ababa was liberated.]

Somalia Regular Armed Forces Routed by Ethiopians

(Summary) A Pravda correspondent quoted an Ethiopian press account which claimed that last month Ethiopian Army units on the eastern and southern fronts had routed groups of Somali regular armed forces which had invaded Ethiopian territory. The reporter also claimed that these Somali forces had penetrated 50-80 km into Ethiopian territory.

During combat operations in Harare and Balle provinces, Ethiopian units captured a large quantity of weapons and ammunition supplied to Somalia by China, NATO countries, Egypt, and other reactionary Arab circles.

The Pravda report concluded with the observation that Somalia's growing aggressiveness toward neighboring African states coincides in time with statements by Somalia's President Siyad Barre, and by American officials on plans for the extensive use of Somali territory as a US military bridgehead in the Indian Ocean and Red Sea region. (12 Apr 80, p. 5)

Gabon

Agreement Signed with USSR

(Text) An agreement with the USSR on cultural and scientific cooperation was initialed by Gabon with the USSR in Libreville. (12 Apr 80, p. 1)

Gambia

Gambian's Views on Soviet Treatment of Moslems

(Summary) In an interview with a TASS correspondent, Mohammed Massanneh Ceesay, Secretary General of the Gambian Labor Congress, was reported as having said that the USSR has been and remains the reliable friend and supporter of the developing countries, including those where Islam is widely professed. The USSR does this, he said, by giving technical and economic assistance to independent states and resolutely supports the Arab peoples' just struggle against the Western powers' aggression and Israel's expansionist policy.

Regarding Islam and the USSR, M. Ceesay noted that the freedom of religion enshrined in Soviet legislation is strictly implemented in practice. He said that this was his own personal experience as he has repeatedly visited the USSR and prayed together with other Moslems in mosques in Moscow and Azerbaijan. All the talk about religious repression in the USSR, he stated, was an attempt by the West to tarnish the Soviet Union's image. (9 Apr 80, p. 1)

Guinea

Diplomatic Credentials Presented

(Text) On 15 April the Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Guinean Ambassador, Lui Olye, presented his diplomatic credentials to Vice-Chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR at the Kremlin. After the credentials had been given and speeches were made by the two officials, there followed a warm and friendly meeting. (16 Apr 80, p. 4)

Liberia

Reports on Coup

[Pravda during this period carried five stories dealing with the recent coup in Liberia. Each one was limited to reporting the events during the coup and its subsequent trials and tribulations without attempting to analyze its underlying

causes. Like the on-going situation in Chad, Soviet political commentary will not be forth coming until the dust settles.] (13 Apr 80, p. 5; 14 Apr 80, p. 5; 18 Apr, p. 5; 26 Apr 80, p. 5; 27 Apr 80, p. 5)

Madagascar

Visits by Georges Marchais

[See summarized articles under Indian Ocean heading.]

Mauritius

(Text) All the proceeds earned by Soviet entertainers, who have just completed a tour of the islands of Mauritius, are to be donated to a fund to aid victims of natural disasters. (26 Apr 80, p. 1)

Mozambique

Decision by Leadership of FRELIMO

(Summary) The Standing Political Committee on the Mozambique Liberation Front [FRELIMO] Central Committee announced a series of changes in the Mozambique Government and the creation of new ministries. A communique issued in Maputo today stressed that these measures were taken in order to increase the party's leading role in the state and to intensify the struggle against backwardness and for the building of a Socialist society in Mozambique.

One of the newly created ministries was the Ministry of Security. (5 Apr 80, p. 5)

Visits of French Communist Party Leader

(Text) Georges Marchais, the leader of French Communist Party held talks with the Chairman of FRELIMO and the President of Mozambique, S. Machel. In an atmosphere of mutual understanding both sides discussed questions concerning ties between their parties, the political situation in southern Africa, and other questions relating to the international arena. They also touched upon the topic of relations between industrialized nations and developing countries. (6 Apr 80, p. 4)

G. Marchais' Mozambique Press Conference

(Summary) At a press conference at the conclusion of his visit to Mozambique, G. Marchais, head of the French Communist Party, told reporters that the major objective of his visit was achieved in the strengthening of the political solidarity between the people of France and Mozambique and between the French Communist Party and FRELIMO. He also resolutely condemned the French government's political, military, nuclear, and other connections with the Republic of South Africa. Marchais' condemnations also included French military intervention in Chad, Zaire, and the Central African Republic. (7 Apr 80, p. 4)

Namibia

Status of Territory and Patriots

[A Pravda correspondent gives an overview of the legal status of Namibia since 1920 and highlights the efforts, mostly peaceful, of SWAPO in attempting to gain Namibia's sovereignty from South Africa. The racist and aggressive motives of South Africa, with the strong urgings of other greedy imperialist countries, in holding and strangling Namibia are repeatedly emphasized in the article.] (19 Apr 80, p. 4)

Nigeria

Talks Held in Moscow with Industrial Official

(Text) On 22 April talks were held in Moscow between the Vice-Chairman of the Council of Ministers, I.V. Archipov, and the Nigerian Minister for the Development of the Steel Industries, P. Unonga. (23 Apr 80, p. 4)

(Text) On 28 April a meeting was held in the Kremlin between A. Kosygin, Chairman of the Council of Ministers, and P. Unonga, Minister of the Steel Industries, who was in the Soviet Union on an official visit.

On behalf of the Nigerian President, A. Shagari, the Steel Minister, gave a message for L. Brezhnev, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Soviet Communist Party and President of the Soviet Union.

In the course of the talks, which were held in a friendly atmosphere, questions regarding Soviet-Nigerian relations were broached, as were other topics such as international problems and other items in which the two nations have mutual interests. Both sides noted the growing significance, in the contemporary situation, of the efforts of different countries on behalf of peace and detente.

Attention was also devoted to the successful Soviet-Nigerian cooperation efforts which were given a wider framework in which to develop by the concluding of an understanding last July for the building of a metal factory in Ajokuta.

Also present at the talks were the Chairman of the State Committee of the Council of Ministers for Foreign Economic Agreements, S. Skachkov, the Nigerian Ambassador to the Soviet Union, G. Olaitan, and other officials. (29 Apr 80, p. 1)

Rwanda

Diplomatic Credentials Presented

(Text) On 4 April the Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of the Republic of Rwanda, S. Kananura, presented his credentials to the Vice-Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, I. Kebin. Afterwards, both men made speeches and held friendly talks with the Secretary of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, M. Georgadzhe, and the Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of the USSR, N. Ryzhov. (5 Apr 80, p. 4)

Sao Tome and Principe

Soviet Communist Party Delegation Visit

(Summary) During a tour of Angola, the Soviet delegation, including members of the Central Committee of the Soviet Communist Party and led by the First Secretary of the Tomskii Obkom, E. K. Ligachev, visited Sao Tome and Principe for a day before returning to Angola. During this short visit, the Soviets discussed establishing ties between the Soviet Communist Party and the Movement for the Liberation of Sao Tome and Principe. (22 Apr 80, p. 4)

Senegal

Exchange of Telegrams Between Leaders

(Text) L. I. Brezhnev has sent President Leopold Senghor of the Republic of Senegal a telegram conveying to the president and the friendly Senegalese people sincere congratulations and wishes for happiness and prosperity on the country's national holiday--the 20th anniversary of the proclamation of independence.

In his reply telegram, Senegal's president expressed sincere gratitude for the congratulations and in his turn conveyed best wishes to L. I. Brezhnev and wishes for prosperity to the Soviet people. (15 Apr 80, p. 3)

South Africa

Apartheid's Reliance on Prisons

(Summary) A Pravda correspondent reported that a special commission empowered to investigate the enemies of the apartheid regime in the Republic of South Africa found evidence that the army and police in that country had executed more than a thousand people without the benefit of any investigations or trials in the past year. And over 133 people during the past year have been jailed as part of South Africa's "struggle with terrorism." As it stands, there are over 200,000 people in South Africa's jails, many of whom have been incarcerated for political offenses, 247 of whom have been given life sentences. Throughout the past few years, more than half a million have passed through South Africa's torture chambers. (31 Mar 80, p. 5)

Declaration Against South Africa

(Summary) A conference was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, of international labor unions and organizations for the purpose of creating solidarity with the workers in southern Africa. The participants also drafted a declaration giving unconditional support to the liberation struggle in that part of the African continent against the racist and exploitative imperialist powers. The conference also exposed the hoax of liberalizing tendencies in the Republic of South Africa removing the racial oppression. The conferees called upon workers in every country and every workers union to render moral and material support to the National Union of Workers of Namibia and the South African Congress of Workers' Unions, demand that their governments end all financial investments in South Africa, and isolate it from all international organizations. (18 Apr 80, p. 5)

Western Violations of UN Embargo

[In a column devoted to commentary on international problems, a Pravda correspondent claimed that oil companies (mostly American) have systematically violated the UN embargoes against the Republic of South Africa over the years.] (22 Apr 80, p. 5)

Rhodesian Soldiers Recruited by South African Army

(Summary) Pravda reported that the military authorities in Pretoria, South Africa, officially admitted that they recruited for military service former Rhodesian Army personnel who fled to South Africa after the victory of the Patriotic Front. The story went on to state that these "Rhodesian cut-throats" would be used in punitive operations against patriots in the South African Republic and Namibia, as well as in aggressive sallies into neighboring countries.

A spokesman for the Ministry of Defense of South Africa, the report continued, declared that they had to resort to recruiting these "professionals" because of the record number of desertions--five thousand--last year. (23 Apr 80, p. 5)

Tanzania

Tanzanian Defense Minister in Moscow

(Text) The Vice-Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, I. V. Archipov, met with the Tanzanian Minister of Defense, R. Kavavi. Participants in the discussions also included the Tanzanian Ambassador to the Soviet Union, D. K. Ndobu.

Zambia

Zambian President Condemns South African Aggression

(Text) The President of the Republic of Zambia, K. Kaunda, declared that the racist Republic of South Africa continues to perpetrate acts of aggression against his country.

In an interview with the newspaper Times of Zambia he stated that South African military forces had, during the course of the last few months, occupied sections of Zambia where they killed peaceful inhabitants.

In connection with this flagrant aggression, Kaunda spoke with the ambassadors of the US, UK, France, and the Federal Republic of Germany and demanded that they provide an explanation for the hypocritical policies of their countries. It was his opinion that these nations made so much noise about Afghanistan solely to cover up their silence regarding South Africa's aggression against Zambia. (5 Apr 80, p. 5)

Zimbabwe

Soviet Delegation Visits Salisbury

(Summary) A Soviet Government delegation headed by a member of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR and a Candidate Member of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the Soviet Communist Party, S. R. Rashidov, arrived in Salisbury on the 15th of April. They had come to participate in the celebrations taking place in Zimbabwe celebrating its independence. The Soviet guests met with the Vice-Premier for Foreign Affairs, S. Mzenda and other officials. Mzenda, in a warm and friendly meeting, gave a high estimate of the Soviet contribution to the liberation of Zimbabwe. We know, he said, that the assistance of all the progressive powers of the world, above all the Soviet Union, helped the people of Zimbabwe achieve independence. He went on to say that Zimbabwe wished to cooperate with the USSR and other peaceloving countries.

The head of the Soviet delegation later, in a statement to the press, hoped that the USSR and Zimbabwe would develop relations of friendship and cooperation that would benefit the people of both countries and would further the interests of general peace. (16 Apr 80, p. 4)

Zimbabwe's Fight for Independence

[In a long article, a Pravda correspondent surveys the history of Zimbabwe/Rhodesia going back as far as the 14th century. He stresses the recent period, with particular attention being devoted to the elections, highlighting the vital assistance and support provided by the USSR to the patriots at all times.] (16 Apr 80, p. 4)

Zimbabwe's Independence Augurs Change in Southern Africa

(Summary) Zimbabwe's attainment of political independence is an important milestone along the path of the national liberation movement in Africa. It is a question of the elimination of a major colonial and racist stronghold in the south of the continent, which has been used by the enemies of freedom in Africa to destabilize and thwart the efforts of young states at resolving the problems of economic and social liberation. With the birth of independent Zimbabwe, the conditions have become established for a radical restructuring of the economic structure in southern Africa. The prospect of liberation from South African imperialism looms ahead of the young states of the region.

But judging from Pretoria's reaction to the Zimbabwe people's victory, the racists are unwilling to reckon with reality. They have feverishly strengthened their war machine, are intent on maintaining their domination over Namibia, have stepped up their subversive operations against the frontline states, whose ranks Zimbabwe has now joined. (19 Apr 80, p. 5)

Soviet Delegation in Zimbabwe Returns Home

(Summary) The Soviet government delegation headed by S. R. Rashidov left Zimbabwe on 20 April for their return home. The Prime Minister, R. Mugabe, told Rashidov before his departure to convey to Brezhnev his heartfelt regards and best wishes. He also hoped that solidarity would grow between Zimbabwe and the USSR.

Rashidov's flight was met at the airport in Moscow by M. S. Solomentsev, Candidate Member of the Politburo and Chairman of the RSFSR Council of Ministers, and by other officials. (21 Apr 80, p. 4)