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SUMMARY OF COMMENTARY IN PRAVDA ON SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA
(September 22 - October 21, 1983)

November 1983

Prepared by the Federal Research Division of
the Library of Congress under an interagency agreement

Analyst: Rachel Warner

PREFACE

This monthly survey compiles articles on sub-Saharan Africa which appear in Pravda. It has been prepared since April 1980. Pravda is the official newspaper of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. Items published are presumably authoritative. Articles dealing with Soviet political, military, or economic interests in Africa are entirely translated or extensively excerpted or summarized. News accounts which heavily rely on news services of other countries are simply noted. All entries have been arranged chronologically under general African or country headings. FBIS translations are summarized or annotated for reader reference; duplication is avoided.

Summary of Commentary In Pravda on Sub-Saharan Africa (U)
22 September - 21 October 1983)

Africa General

International Tension and African Countries

(Excerpt) The policy of the NATO countries' ruling circles, and the US administration above all, of global confrontation with the forces of socialism and national social progress and of fanning militarist psychosis in international relations has never encountered such a resolute and mass rebuff from peaceloving forces as nowadays. The battle to preserve peace and to prevent nuclear war--a battle which is decisive for mankind's future--has embraced all continents, including Africa. The African peoples have recently witnessed a real surge of military activity by imperialist states on the continent. The events in Chad and around Libya, the military maneuvers conducted by the American Rapid Deployment Force on the territory of Egypt, Sudan, Somalia, and also Oman, the appearance of French paratroops now in one, now in another country is far from a full list of the facts. Here Western propaganda does its utmost to promote the idea that the problem of liquidating the threat of war both in the world as a whole and in Africa concerns only the "great powers," and that the developing countries cannot play an effective role in resolving it. The thesis of the imaginary "Soviet threat" is being pushed hard. In exaggerating this myth, the imperialist forces are trying to divert attention from the real expansion of their own military presence on the continent and the drawing of African states into the channel of the West's militarist policy. The United States, for example, is actively seeking "fulcrums" there, using the methods of blackmail and financial and economic pressure for the purpose. And those countries in the region which are caught in the nets of Washington's policy are turned into potential bridgeheads for the American military. Washington has proclaimed the northeast part of the African continent a "sphere of US interests" and included it in the operating zone of the Rapid Deployment Force. The zone to which Centcom lays claim embraces 19 countries from Egypt to Pakistan. Within the framework of ensuring Rapid Deployment Force actions, the United States is persistently trying to secure the necessary guarantees for the use of military bases and installations on the territory of states in the region. In return Washington offers military aid, which is used as a lever for implementing US policy aimed at tethering other countries on the continent to Washington's course. The first places on the list of its recipients in Africa are held by Sudan, Kenya, Somalia, and Zaire. The volume of US budget appropriations to African states (excluding Egypt) for military purposes increased from \$120 million in 1981 to \$474 million in 1983, and now amounts to 40 percent of the total amount of American aid. France, too, is quite active in this sphere, chiefly making use of the traditional ties with its former colonies. French troops are stationed on a permanent basis in a number of countries on the continent. (27 Sep 83, p. 4, and translated in toto by FBIS Soviet Union Daily Report, #191, 30 Sep 83, pp. J1-3)

American Weapons Also Targeted For Africa

(Excerpt) The Pentagon and NATO are proposing to place American medium-range nuclear missiles in Europe for use against the Soviet Union and other

Socialist countries, but these missiles are also targeted for northern and central Africa and the Middle East, writes the Ethiopian Herald. (30 Sep 83, p. 4)

Conference Held in France

(Excerpt) In the French city of Vittel, the tenth conference of the heads of government and states of Francophone Africa and France was held. Political and economic problems were discussed. However, the most attention was given to the situation in Chad. Military intervention by Paris and Washington in the internal affairs of this country has had serious repercussions on French-African relations. (8 Oct 83, p. 5)

ECOWAS Conference Centers on Food Production

(Excerpt) In Conakry, Guinea's capital, a conference of the heads of states and governments belonging to the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) is being held. Of major importance is the question of food self-sufficiency. Among the 29 countries of the world classified by the UN as lacking sufficient food, 23 are found in Africa. One of the major causes is a breach in the rate of growth of agricultural production. (16 Oct 83, p. 4)

New General Bank to be Created

(Text) During a meeting of experts from the countries of East and South Africa held in Lusaka, Zambia, a resolution was passed creating a general bank for trade and development which will serve 13 countries, including Ethiopia, Kenya, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. (19 Oct 83, p. 5)

Southern Africa

Meeting Opens

(Text) An expanded meeting of the Secretariat of the International Committee Against Apartheid, Racism, and Colonialism in Southern Africa opened in Helsinki. Representatives from 18 countries, including the Soviet Union, are participating. (2 Oct 83, p. 5)

South Africa Continues the Attack in Southern Africa

(Excerpt) The South African racists have launched a new offensive. As a result of three bomb explosions in the center of Mozambique's capital, people were injured and much damage was done. This act of terror is shocking. Countless provocations and acts have been made against the frontline states by South Africa. Angola, Mozambique, Lesotho, and other young independent states of Southern Africa are the targets. (20 Oct 83, p. 5)

Organization of African Unity

Committee Meeting Begins

(Excerpt) A committee of the OAU met in Ethiopia's capital to work on a resolution on the Western Sahara. The committee was formed during the 19th OAU Assembly by Ethiopia, Guinea, Mali, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Sudan, and Tanzania. The heads of states from the countries, or their representatives, have come to Addis Ababa to take part in this committee. (22 Sep 83, p. 5)

Angola

UNITA Attack

(Excerpt) It became known in Luanda that a new attack by UNITA bandits has taken place in Malanga Province. Several people were killed and 30 injured in the attack on a group of trucks. A group of about 360 men attacked the passengers as the trucks crossed a bridge. (29 Sep 83, p. 5)

USSR-Angolan Party Meeting

(Excerpt) On 3 October a meeting took place between Soviet CPSU Central Committee Secretary B. N. Ponomarev and MPLA-Workers' Party Central Committee Secretary Robert di Almeida. During the meeting, CPSU and MPLA-Workers' Party links were discussed. (4 Oct 83, p. 4)

Military Operations

(Excerpt) According to reports from the Angolan Defense Ministry, armed clashes between the country's armed forces and UNITA guerrillas had taken place in the provinces of Bie, Benguela, Cuando-Cubango, and Jambo. Forty kilometers from Cuito, reported the Jornal di Angola, a UNITA weapons' dump was destroyed. In this same province, Angolan troops liberated a group of peaceful inhabitants who had fallen into guerrilla hands. In Jambo province in the last few days, several guerrilla units were defeated. (11 Oct 83, p. 5)

Exhibition Opens

(Excerpt) "The image of Lenin in Soviet fine and applied arts" is the name of an exposition which opened in Luanda's central exhibition hall. It was organized by the State Secretariat for Culture and is celebrating Soviet Union Day, the 66th anniversary of the Soviet revolution, and the eighth anniversary of Angolan independence. (14 Oct 83, p. 5)

New Offensive Planned

(Excerpt) Units of Angola's armed forces will conduct an operation to eliminate UNITA bands active in the southern and central regions of the country. As reported by ANGOP, military operations conducted in the first half of October in Jambo and Benguela Provinces resulted in hundreds of UNITA guerrillas killed and wounded as well as the confiscation of a large collection of weapons and ammunition. (15 Oct 83, p. 4)

Benin Criticizes French Intervention in Chad

(Excerpt) France is implementing a massive military intervention in Chad, said Benin's President M. Kerekou in Cotonou. Paris, he noted, supports the illegal Habre regime in the war against the Transitional Government of National Unity formed under an agreement between all the country's political groups. The problem of Chad, emphasized the president, must be resolved by the Chadians themselves without outside interference. (3 Oct 83, p. 5)

Independence Day Celebration



(Text) This small African country has already had more than 20 years of self-sufficient development. Independence day is the most important holiday. (10 Oct 83, p. 6)

Refugees Flee to the CAR

(Text) In the regions of Chad under the control of the N'djamena regime, conditions of repression and instability reign, reports France Presse from the Central African Republic (CAR). According to another press agency, Habre's troops, concentrated in populated areas and roads in southern Chad, are finding it all the more difficult to gain control over rural regions where the local population supports the Transitional Government of National Unity (GUNT). In response, the N'djamena authorities are engaging in the cruel persecution of peaceful inhabitants. A thousand people, the agency claims, were forced to flee from southern Chad and seek refuge in the neighboring CAR. At present, approximately 4,200 refugees are in a CAR area 40 miles from Chad's border. (28 Sep 83, p. 5)

Habre Travels to Paris

(Excerpt) In the most recent escalation of imperialist intervention in Chad, Habre has traveled to France to speak to the French leadership. According to the press, participants in the talks are discussing an increase in the presence of invasion forces in Chad and the organization of future wide-scale provocations in this region of Africa. (30 Sep 83, p. 5)

Habre Refuses to Talk

(Text) In Paris, the leader of the N'djamena regime called upon France for a still larger intervention in Chad. He categorically refused to participate in any kind of meeting of Chadian internal political groups about a peaceful settlement. Habre rejected his own idea of the restoration of peace in Chad by way of conversations between all parties involved. (3 Oct 83, p. 5)

Foreign Intervention

(Excerpt) The Chadian problem has arisen as the result of gross interference by the United States and France in the internal affairs of our country, it is stated in a widely distributed memorandum from the Transitional Government of National Unity in Chad. After the defeat by Habre's forces, Chad was subject to American, French, and Zairean intervention. (5 Oct 83, p. 5)

Revolt Growing Against Habre

(Excerpt) Popular resistance in Chad to the Habre regime is growing. According to France Presse, the popular uprising is continually gaining in scope, enveloping five departmentalized areas in the south. At present, the regime's forces, which are actively supported by French and Zairean troops, control only the major cities of this part of Chad. (18 Oct 83, p. 5)

Congo

International School to be Established

(Text) Representatives from the Congo, Zaire, the Central African Republic, and Rwanda signed an agreement in Brazzaville to establish an international higher school in the Congolese capital for training in management and telecommunications. (30 Sep 83, p. 4)

Ethiopia

Campaign for Literacy

(Excerpt) Preparations for the tenth stage in the campaign to wipe out illiteracy have begun in Ethiopia. During the all-national march for culture which began in 1979, literacy in the country had been mastered by 13 million people. Since the campaign began, more than 26 million people have become literate, studying in the 15 languages of the country. (3 Oct 83, p. 6)

Agricultural Cooperatives

(Text) A meeting took place in the city of Soddo during which questions of the work of local cooperatives in Sidamo Province were discussed. The cooperative movement among farmers is acquiring even larger support in Ethiopia. For the past 4 years, when farmers began to actively integrate their homes and work, more than 1,000 producing cooperatives were formed. In each province, courses are given in which the farmers learn about methods of collective farming. In Eritrea, the "Red Star" campaign included the organization of a "school of agricultural science" which now has more than 800 students. (19 Oct 83, p. 5)

Ethiopia/Congo

New Air Route to the Congo

(Excerpt) The national air company of Ethiopia, EAL, is opening a new route from Addis Ababa to Brazzaville. For the Congo, this will be the first air route connected to East Africa. (21 Oct 83, p. 5)

Kenya

New Cabinet Formed

(Excerpt) The president of Kenya formed a new cabinet of ministers after the general elections held on 26 September. The government staff was reduced to 23 people. (3 Oct 83, p. 5)

Mozambique

Andropov Greets Machel

(Text) On 29 September, Mozambique celebrated the 50th jubilee of Samora Moises Machel, President of FRELIMO and Mozambique. Yuriy Vladimirovich Andropov, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and Chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, sent a message to Samora Machel cordially congratulating him on the important jubilee. The message notes that the Soviet Union knows Samora Machel as a prominent figure in independent Africa who has made a great contribution to the cause of the national liberation struggle as the acknowledged leader of FRELIMO that leads the people of Mozambique along the path of the construction of the foundation of Socialist society. Yuriy Vladimirovich Andropov wished Samora Machel great success in his activity for the good of the Mozambique people, in the interest of further strengthening Soviet-Mozambique friendship and cooperation in the name of peace, security, and social progress. (1 Oct 83, p. 3, translated in toto by FBIS Soviet Union Daily Report, #195, 6 Oct 83, p. J1)

Blast in Maputo

(Excerpt) Tonight in Maputo, an explosion took place in the building where the representation and library of the African National Congress (ANC) of South Africa are located. Five people were injured in the blast. (18 Oct 83, p. 5)

Namibia/Republic of South Africa

"Equal Opportunities" in Education

(Excerpt) The occupying South African regime is talking profusely about "equal opportunities" which have allegedly been created in Namibia in the field of education. In actuality, this is all propaganda. For example, the pedagogical college is in Windhoek, the administrative center of the country. This institution opened in 1979 for the training of national teaching cadres; the doors are only opened to whites. The education of 95 percent of the Africans takes place in the national school; almost 70 percent of the country's working population are unable to read and write. (26 Sep 83, p. 6)

Namibia/South West Africa People's Organization

Mujoma Criticizes US and South Africa

(Excerpt) SWAPO President Sam Nujoma categorically rejected American and South African policies linking Namibia's independence with the withdrawal of Cuban interventionist forces from Angola. During a press conference in Belgrade, Nujoma noted that the people of Namibia and their military avant-garde consider these policies as part of the imperialist plot of Western powers, led by the United States, aimed at delaying decolonization of the country. (28 Sep 83, p. 5)

SWAPO Leader on "Armed Resistance" in Namibia

(Excerpt) Sam Nujoma, President of the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO), said, during a visit to the Soviet Union, that a critical situation has formed in Namibia right now. Our motherland's illegal occupation by the racist regime of the Republic of South Africa is continuing. There are now tens of thousands of South African soldiers there and also gangs of mercenaries from Western countries and Israel. Repressions against the indigenous population are becoming harsher, primarily against those suspected of sympathizing with SWAPO. Mass arrests, torture, insults, and the destruction of villages is the daily reality Namibians are encountering. The maintenance of this situation is possible only thanks to the all-round aid given to Pretoria by the United States, Britain, West Germany, France, Canada, and Israel. It is they who maintain close political, economic, and military relations with South Africa. As a result, the Western multinational corporations in conjunction with the South African racists are rapaciously plundering Namibia's natural resources, exploiting the labor of its indigenous inhabitants, labor that is cheap under apartheid conditions. The monopolies would like to make permanent use of Namibian uranium, diamonds, and copper. They give the apartheid regime enormous sums of money for the war against SWAPO. The conflict in Namibia is a conflict between the forces of imperialism and colonialism and the people fighting for freedom and political self-determination.

The armed resistance to the colonialists began in 1966 and is continuing to this day. The SWAPO fighters are conducting guerrilla operations on the territory occupied by the racists. They are attacking South African army subunits and putting military and economic installations out of action. The invaders are

paying an increasingly high price for their presence in Namibia. The struggle for freedom is proceeding on all fronts, including the diplomatic one. As is well known, the United Nations is directly responsible for Namibia's fate. There are many UN Security Council and General Assembly, OAU, and nonaligned movement resolutions on granting independence to our country. However, talk of a peace settlement is deadlocked. Under these conditions the only way out is to seek independence by force of arms. Under SWAPO's leadership the puppets are galvanizing their military operations. The Namibian people are struggling for independence, for their inalienable right to be masters of their own country. In this struggle we are supported by the frontline states, all independent Africa, the Socialist community countries headed by the Soviet Union, and all progressive forces. Of course, there are still many sacrifices ahead. But we believe that, despite all the difficulties, victory will come. Namibia will be free! (10 Oct 83, p. 5, and translated in toto by FBIS Soviet Union Daily Report, #198, 12 Oct 83, pp. J1-2)

SWAPO Delegation Meets With Officials

(Excerpt) On 10 October a meeting took place in the Soviet Union between CPSU Central Committee Secretary B. N. Ponomarev and a SWAPO delegation headed by Sam Nujoma who talked about the Namibian struggle for independence. The SWAPO delegation was informed that the CPSU Central Committee had passed a resolution during the 26th Party Congress supporting the struggle. (11 Oct 83, p. 4)

Niger

Coup Attempt Crushed

(Text) During the night, from 5 to 6 October, a coup was attempted, announced Niger's Prime Minister Oumarou Mamane. A group of armed men, he reported in an address to the nation, tried to take advantage of the absence of President Seyni Kountche, who was in France, and seize power. However this attempt was suppressed. (7 Oct 83, p. 5)

Republic of South Africa

CPSU Message on Death of Dadoo

(Text) To the African National Congress of South Africa National Executive Committee

Dear comrades!

The CPSU Central Committee conveys to you deep condolences in connection with the death of Yusuf Dadoo, eminent figure of the African and international Communist, workers', and national liberation movement and national chairman of the South African Communist Party. Yusuf Dadoo was a selfless fighter against imperialism, colonialism, and apartheid, for the national and social liberation of the South African people, and for peace all over the world. He consistently defended the principles of Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism and the cause of the unity of revolutionary forces. Yusuf Dadoo made a great contribution to the development of friendship and cooperation between the South

African and the Soviet peoples. We ask you to convey our sincere condolences to the family of the deceased. Yusuf Dadoo's bright memory will live forever in our hearts. (22 Sep 83, p. 1, and translated in toto by FBIS Soviet Union Daily Report, #189, 28 Sep 83, p. J1)

In Memory of Dadoo

(Excerpt) On 19 September, after a long and difficult illness, South African Communist Party chairman Yusuf Dadoo died at the age of 75. He was born in 1909 into a family of Indian immigrants, and during his youth he attempted on his own to fight the discriminatory racist laws. He left the country to obtain his bachelor's degree, and upon his return to the country in 1936, he became an active participant in the activities of progressive political organizations in South Africa. In 1939, he joined the Communist Party. In 1953, he was elected a member of the Party's Central Committee, and in 1972, he became its national chairman. (22 Sep 83, p. 4)

US-South African Relations

(Text) The government of the United States, challenging peace-loving Africa, sanctioned the CIA to open close operative cooperation with all levels of its South African "colleagues."



We will work under one "roof."

(14 Oct 83, p. 5)

Award for South African CP Leader

(Summary) The CPSU Central Committee sent Moses Mabidha, General Secretary of the South African Communist Party, congratulations on his 60th birthday, writing that Soviet Communists and working people of the Soviet Union know him as a committed Marxist-Leninist, an internationalist, and a staunch fighter for peace and against imperialism, colonialism, and racism. (14 Oct 83, p. 1, translated in toto by FBIS Soviet Union Daily Report, #204, 20 Oct 83, pp. J2-3)

Seychelles

Attempted Coup Trial Ends

(Text) Reuters reports from the capital of the Seychelles, Victoria, that the trial of participants in the August 1982 attempted military coup has concluded. The revolt was stirred up by a group in the military who seized the army barracks, the radio station, and other objectives. Thirty-two defendants pleaded guilty and were sentenced to varying terms of imprisonment. (25 Sep 83, p. 5)

Tanzania

Tanzanian Party Delegation Completes USSR Tour

(Text) In accordance with the plan for party links between the CPSU and the Revolutionary Party of Tanzania, a delegation of party workers headed by S. Kh. Khammad, member of the Politburo and Secretary of the Revolutionary Party of Tanzania Central Committee, was in the Soviet Union from 23 September to 1 October. The Tanzanian guests familiarized themselves with the CPSU's experience in the sphere of party organization and leadership of the economy. They had talks at the CPSU Central Committee's organizational and party work, international, and economic sections, the USSR State Committee for Prices, the Kirghiz Communist Party Central Committee, and the Kirghiz SSR Supreme Presidium. They visited agricultural and industrial enterprises in Moscow Oblast and the city of Frunze. The members of the delegation expressed profound satisfaction with the results of their stay in the USSR and spoke highly of the Soviet people's achievements and their peace-loving policy. (2 Oct 83, p. 4, and translated in toto by FBIS Soviet Union Daily Report, #196, 7 Oct 83, p. J2)

Uganda

New Rail Ferry

(Text) For the first time in Uganda, a railroad ferry has been put into use. This self-propelled vessel, capable of carrying more than 20 freight cars, will take 16 hours to carry rolling stock from the Ugandan port of Jinja to the port of Mwanza on the Tanzanian side of Lake Victoria. (10 Oct 83, p. 4)

Uganda/Chad

Foreign Intervention Threatens World Peace

(Excerpt) The Ugandan newspaper, the Uganda Pilot, writes that American and French intervention in Chad's conflict is threatening to become a new and serious

breeding ground for international tension. The N'djamena regime already has received more than 400,000 tons of French weapons and ammunition. (3 Oct 83, p. 5)

Upper Volta

Tasks of the Revolution

(Excerpt) One of the major goals of the Upper Volta revolution is to ensure conditions for the establishment in the country of a truly national power, announced the national general secretary of the committee for the defense of the revolution of Upper Volta, Pierre Ouzdraoro, during a meeting in the city of Ziniara. (28 Sep 83, p. 4)

Upper Volta's Sankara on Country's Tasks

(Text) As has been already reported, a change of power took place on 4 August this year in the West African state of Upper Volta. A National Revolution Council took over the leadership of the country, headed by Captain Thomas Sankara. He said in a conversation with Soviet journalists:

A process of transformation has begun in Upper Volta which, we believe, will have a great effect on the country's future. These transformations are called upon radically to change the whole structure of Upper Voltan society in the interests of the broad popular masses. It is a matter of a liberation from all forms of domination and repression foisted upon us by international imperialism and internal reaction. Progressively inclined military, along with representatives of other strata of society, are acting as the guiding force of the people's democratic revolution, which began in Upper Volta on 4 August. The main task at the current stage is the organization of our revolutionary movement. We will strive for the unification of all patriotic forces within the framework of a broad popular democratic front. Our people are talented and industrious, and we have sufficient resources at our disposal. Speaking of plans for an economic upswing, the head of state said that the plans being worked out must correspond to the country's possibilities. The new government believes it essential to devote particular attention to the development of agriculture in order to feed the population. It intends to encourage the peasants by establishing just purchase prices and by refusing to import goods that we can do without. A no less important task is the defense of the revolution. Imperialism and its lackeys are our enemies. The external danger is serious, since international reaction fears the spreading of revolutionary processes in Africa. Upper Volta, like other developing countries, needs peace to resolve the tasks of national construction, T. Sankara said. We have great interest in life in the Socialist countries. We cannot help being attracted by their attainments in the reconstruction of society on the basis of social justice, their high level of organization, and their successes in various spheres of human activity. (6 Oct 83, p. 5, and translated in toto by FBIS Soviet Union Daily Report, #197, 11 Oct 83, p. J1)

Zaire

Currency Devaluation

(Text) According to reports from Kinshasa, Zaire's national currency has been devalued by 450 percent against the American dollar. At the present time, one American dollar is worth 29.9 zaires. This decision, made by the government of the republic under an International Monetary Fund directive in which the United States plays a large role, will lead to an even larger increase of Western monopolies in the Zairean economy. (27 Sep 83, p. 5)

Zambia

Zambian Party Delegation Visits USSR

(Text) In accordance with the plan for ties between the CPSU and Zambia's United National Independence Party (UNIP), a UNIP delegation visited the Soviet Union 13 through 25 September. The delegation was received in the CPSU Central Committee Agriculture and Food Industry Section, held a discussion at the USSR Ministry of Agriculture, and was familiarized with the experience of CPSU work in leading agricultural production in the Kirghiz Republic and Moscow Oblast party organizations. The Zambian guests gave a high assessment of the Soviet peoples achievements in the sphere of economic and social development and of the CPSU's peace-loving foreign policy line. (27 Sep 83, p. 4, and translated in toto by FBIS Soviet Union Daily Report, #191, 30 Sep 83, p. J4)