

REPORT DOCUMENTATION PAGE

Form Approved
OMB No. 0704-0188

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 1 hour per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to Washington Headquarters Services, Directorate for Information Operations and Reports, 1215 Jefferson Davis Highway, Suite 1204, Arlington, VA 22202-4302, and to the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (0704-0188), Washington, DC 20503.

1. AGENCY USE ONLY (Leave Blank)	2. REPORT DATE <p style="text-align: center;">May 1983</p>	3. REPORT TYPE AND DATES COVERED <p style="text-align: center;">Final</p>	
4. TITLE AND SUBTITLE <p style="text-align: center;">Summary of Commentary in Pravda on Sub-Saharan Africa</p>		5. FUNDING NUMBERS	
6. AUTHOR(S) <p style="text-align: center;">Gerald Cady Rachel Warner John Stepanchuk</p>		8. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION REPORT NUMBER	
7. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES) <p style="text-align: center;">Federal Research Division Library of Congress Washington, DC 20540-4840</p>		10. SPONSORING/MONITORING AGENCY REPORT NUMBER	
9. SPONSORING/MONITORING AGENCY NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES) <p style="text-align: center;">N/A</p>		10. SPONSORING/MONITORING AGENCY REPORT NUMBER	
11. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES <p style="text-align: center;">Prepared under an Interagency Agreement</p>		19960827 043	
12a. DISTRIBUTION/AVAILABILITY STATEMENT <p style="text-align: center;">Approved for public release; distribution unlimited.</p>		12b. DISTRIBUTION CODE	
13. ABSTRACT (Maximum 200 words) <p style="text-align: center;">This monthly survey compiles translations of political, and economic articles on sub-Saharan Africa that appear in <u>Pravda</u>.</p> <p style="text-align: right; font-weight: bold; margin-top: 20px;">DTIC QUALITY INSPECTED 4</p>			
14. SUBJECT TERMS <p style="text-align: center;">Africa, Sub-Sahara Government National security Politics Economy</p>		15. NUMBER OF PAGES <p style="text-align: center;">Various lengths</p>	16. PRICE CODE
17. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF REPORT <p style="text-align: center;">UNCLASSIFIED</p>	18. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF THIS PAGE <p style="text-align: center;">UNCLASSIFIED</p>	19. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF ABSTRACT <p style="text-align: center;">UNCLASSIFIED</p>	20. LIMITATION OF ABSTRACT <p style="text-align: center;">SAR</p>

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

May 1983

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

Analyst: Rachel Warner

PREFACE

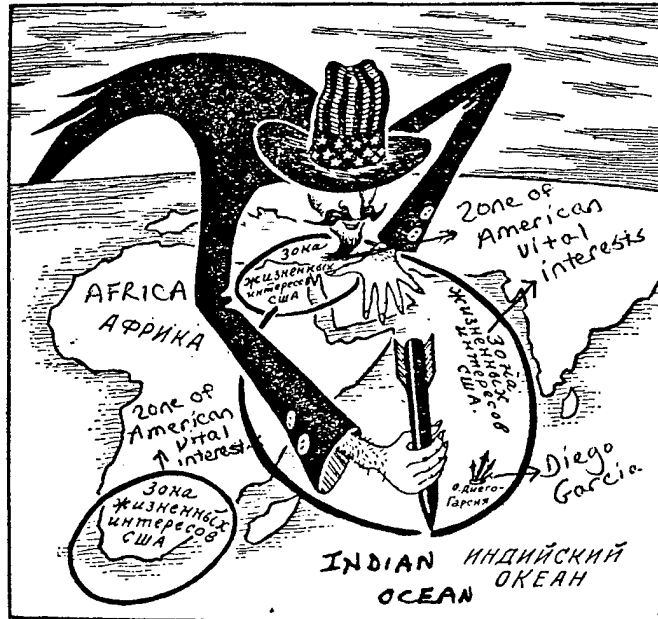
This monthly survey compiles articles on sub-Saharan Africa which appear in Pravda. It has been prepared since April 1980. Pravda is the official newspaper of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. Items published are presumably authoritative. Articles dealing with Soviet political, 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.

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Summary of Commentary In Pravda on Sub-Saharan Africa
(22 March 1983 - 21 April 1983)

Africa General

US Involvement in Africa



Плетет паутину. **SPINNING A WEB** Рис. Г. Богданова.

(20 Apr 83, p. 1)

Southern Africa

USSR Greet Conference

(Text) We cordially greet the participants in the international conference of solidarity with the frontline states and for national liberation and peace in southern Africa. Your conference's noble tasks are dear to Soviet people and meet with their understanding. The Soviet Union, true to its Leninist foreign policy course, invariably comes out in support of the struggle of Africa's peoples against imperialism and neocolonialism, and for the complete elimination of the vestiges of colonialism, racism, and apartheid on the African continent. The policy of racism, terror, and aggression pursued by the South African regime is a serious threat to the free and independent development of African countries, to international peace, and to the peoples' security. This policy forms part of American imperialism's crusade aimed at suppressing progressive democratic forces and national liberation movements, at further whipping up international tension and the danger of war, and at stepping up the arms race. The Soviet Union resolutely condemns the perfidious aggressive actions of the racist South African regime against the frontline states and advocates the immediate, unconditional withdrawal of racist troops from Angolan territory. Soviet people reaffirm their full support for the South-West African People's Organization as the

sole, true representative of the Namibian people; demand the immediate granting of independence to Namibia on the basis of the well-known UN decisions; and express solidarity with the struggle of South Africa's African National Congress for the total elimination of the ignominious apartheid system. We wish the conference participants success in their work. The USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium. (26 Mar 83, p. 1, and translated in toto by FBIS Soviet Union Daily Report, #062, 30 Mar 83, pp. J2-3)

Indian Ocean

Commentary on Diego Garcia

(Summary) The name of this island, the largest in the Chagos Archipelago located in the center of the Indian Ocean, is often spoken these days in many Asian and African countries. The increasing agitation in the international community over the problem of Diego Garcia, immediately affecting the vital interests and national security of many of these countries, has resulted in a call for a zone of peace in the Indian Ocean. The American military base on Diego Garcia continues to expand and is equipped with nuclear weapons. Intensified attention to the problem has furthered the decisiveness of the position of the leaders of Mauritius who demand the return of the island from Britain. The demilitarization of the island was a subject for discussion during the Conference of Nonaligned States in Delhi. (16 Apr 83, p. 5)

Angola

Meeting of Party Workers

(Text) The first all-Angolan meeting of workers of the ideological front took place in a party school in the municipality of Viana in Luanda Province. The Secretary of the MPLA Central Committee-Workers' Party talked about the Central Committee's decision on significant broadening of the network of party studies. (13 Apr 83, p. 5)

Angola/Republic of South Africa

Zenovich Commentary

(Excerpt) The South African regime once again took subversive action against Angola. Recently, reconnaissance flights of South African Air Force fighter planes over Angolan territory took place, intensifying bombardments of populated areas and civil objectives. They executed a number of landing operations in which about 100 fighter aircraft were involved.

In the occupied territory of southern Angola, it is reported that the Angolan Defense Minister noticed a concentration of new units "on a special assignment" trained by the South African secret police and the CIA. In addition to winning fame for its "Buffalo" battalion, the South African command has placed in the occupied territory seven more battalions. In sum, the racist, imperialistic forces are leading up to the next dangerous aggravation of the situation in southern Africa. Backed by American support, South African authorities continue to provoke Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Lesotho, and the other independent nations in the region. (11 Apr 83, p. 5)

Benin

Students Learn Russian

(Text) Russian language courses at the Soviet Cultural Center in Cotonou are very popular in Benin. Here, workers and professionals, students and lycee school children learn together. There is also a library of Soviet and Russian literature. (18 Apr 83, p. 5)

Burundi



Tom-toms are played each national holiday.

(28 Mar 83, p. 6)

Chad

French Emissaries in Chad

(Excerpt) The Adviser to the French President on African and Malagasy Affairs, Guy Penne, and his deputy, Jean-Christophe Mitterrand, visited the capital of Chad, reported the FRANCE PRESSE Agency from N'Djamena. The emissaries met with leaders of this central African country and delivered a message from French President Mitterrand to Chadian President Habre. FRANCE PRESSE notes that Penne refused to report to representatives of the press any information about the nature of the visit's goals. However, African observers assess the visit as evidence of increasing interest which France displays in its former colonies. According to the French newspaper, LE MONDE, France's position in Chad remains one of the biggest problems in French diplomacy. (16 Apr 83, p. 5)

Gabon

New Economic Measures

(Text) The Government of Gabon has undertaken tough, new economic measures which include cutting down state investments in product development, reducing subsidies for food production, and decreasing the number of Gabonese diplomats abroad. The necessity for these measures comes from the reductions in returns from oil sales. (4 Apr 83, p. 5)

Ghana

Ghana's Gold

(Excerpt) The Gold Coast, called Ghana since independence in 1957, received its name because of its gold resources. From 1900 to 1903, the largest shares in gold mining belonged to the English company, Ashanti Goldfields. Then interest in the region declined because of richer gold resources in South Africa. Until independence, with the exception of the presence of Ashanti Goldfields, only five barely profitable mines remained in operation which were placed under Nkrumah's control. Thus, side by side with the English company, the Ghanaian State Gold Mining Corporation (SGMC) was formed. Two years ago, the newspapers reported that Ashanti Goldfields was discussing the purchase of SDMC from the Ghanaian Government; the coming to power in 1982 of a military regime interfered with this transaction.

The goldmining center, the city of Tarkwa, is located in a depression between steep hills, miles from the ocean. Tarkwa has a population of about 50,000 and it is obvious that prosperous times have past. The president of SDMC told the Pravda correspondent that there is much gold in Ghana, but it is necessary to open ten mines as soon as possible.

Recently, SDMC published a speech entitled "Gold in the Reconstruction and Development of Ghana" in which it was claimed that a reasonable production level would be the extraction of 1.2 million ounces of the rare metal per year. To achieve this, the workers must be reorganized, cadres must be trained, and corporation leadership must be improved.

Ghana is paying special attention to the problems involved in restoring goldmining operations which may ensure the influx so necessary to the country's hard currency. (10 Apr 83, p. 4)

Ethiopia

Visit Continues

(Text) The visit to Ethiopia of the CPSU delegation headed by A. V. Vlasov, member of the CPSU Central Committee and first secretary of Chechen-Ingush CPSU Obkom, continues. The delegation is visiting Ethiopia in accordance with the plan for links between the CPSU and the Commission for Organizing the Party of the Working People of Ethiopia (COPWE). During a tour of the country, the delegation visited the polytechnical institute in Baherdar, which was built and presented to the Ethiopian people by the Soviet Union in 1963. Addressing the delegation's members, institute director Shibabau Belayn stressed that in the period which had elapsed, this higher educational establishment, where a large collective of Soviet teachers work, has trained more than 2,000 highly skilled specialists for various spheres of the national economy. He expressed profound gratitude to the CPSU, the Soviet Government, and people for their selfless assistance and support for the Ethiopian revolution in developing the national economy and creating firm foundations for a Socialist society in the country. The head of the CPSU Delegation highly appraised the efforts of the revolutionary government and COPWE in effecting vital socioeconomic transformations, and

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voiced confidence that the relations of friendship and cooperation between the CPSU and COPWE and between the Soviet and Ethiopian peoples will continue to develop successfully in the interests of peace and progress. (24 Mar 83, p. 4, and translated in toto by FBIS Soviet Union Daily Report #062, 30 Mar 83, pp. J4-5)

Important Role

(Text) The CPSU's wealth of experience in party and state building is of enormous significance for the revolution in Ethiopia where the formation of a vanguard party of the working people is in progress, Berhanu Baye, member of the Executive Committee COPWE told a TASS correspondent. He headed a delegation of leading officials of the COPWE Central Committee which has returned here from the Soviet Union. (24 Mar 83, p. 4, and translated in toto by FBIS Soviet Union Daily Report, #062, 30 Mar 83, p. J6)

Exchange of Opinions

(Text) In accordance with the plan for ties between the CPSU and COPWE, a CPSU delegation headed by A. V. Vlasov, member of the CPSU Central Committee and first secretary of Chechen-Ingush CPSU Obkom, was on a visit here 16-25 March. During the visit, the delegation had meetings and exchanged opinions on party work questions with responsible workers from the COPWE Central Committee and toured Gojam Province, where it saw the activity of a number of industrial enterprises, agricultural cooperatives, educational establishments, and COPWE local committees. The delegation was received by Legesse Asfau, member of the Standing Committee of the Provisional Military Administrative Council and of the COPWE Executive Committee. During the talk, which took place in a warm, friendly atmosphere, they discussed questions pertaining to the further strengthening and expansion of cooperation between the CPSU and COPWE, as well as the forms and methods of party organizational and ideo-political work carried out by the CPSU Central Committee and by local party organizations. (26 Mar 83, p. 4, and translated in toto by FBIS Soviet Union Daily Report, #062, 30 Mar 83, p. J5)

Return Home

(Text) The CPSU delegation headed by A. V. Vlasov, member of the CPSU Central Committee and first secretary of the Chechen-Ingush Obkom, which has been in Ethiopia in accordance with a plan of ties between the CPSU and COPWE, has returned to Moscow. (27 Mar 83, p. 4, and translated in toto by FBIS Soviet Union Daily Report, #062, 30 Mar 83, p. J6)

Pedagogical Schools To Be Built

(Excerpt) Ethiopia's Ministry of Education has worked out a plan for the establishment of two pedagogical schools to be constructed in Gemu-Gofa and Illubabor Provinces. Each of them will have special instructors for 350 people. This will help in solving the problem of a shortage of pedagogical cadres. (27 Mar 83, p. 5)

COPWE Plenum Held

(Excerpt) The sixth session of the plenum of the COPWE Central Committee took place in Addis Ababa. A resolution was adopted on the aims of COPWE's political work towards the formation of an avant-garde party. In a speech to the plenum, Ethiopian President Mengistu noted that the foundations for the success of the revolutionary transformation were laid at the second COPWE Congress at the beginning of the year. (27 Mar 83, p. 4)

New Nationalities' Institute

(Excerpt) The Ethiopian Provisional Military Administrative Council (PMAC) has created an institute of Ethiopian nationalities. In the document written by PMAC, it appears that the program of the national democratic resolution, decided on earlier, endowed each nationality of the country with the right to self-determination and guaranteed the right of all nationalities to claim their own history, culture, customs, and religion. To put these rights into practice, it is necessary to study the conditions and forms of life of the numerous nationalities in the country, and the economic and cultural aspects of their existence. The institute will address these issues in its activities before the COPWE Central Committee. (30 Mar 83, p. 5)

Soviet Food Aid

(Text) The Soviet embassy in Ethiopia gave food aid for the population in northern Ethiopia suffering from drought. The gift was from the Soviet Red Cross and Red Crescent Society and was presented to the Ethiopian Red Cross. In accepting the gift, the president of the Ethiopian Red Cross said that the Soviet people have once again shown their humanitarianism toward the Ethiopian people. (1 Apr 83, p. 4)

Struggle Against Illiteracy

(Excerpt) The struggle for literacy has not been discontinued. In April, the ninth stage of the campaign to wipe out the illiteracy which afflicts 1.5 million people has begun in rural areas of Ethiopia and will last 4 months. More than 24,000 teachers have left the capital for the outlying provinces to teach grammar, as well as economics, to the peasants. (3 Apr 83, p. 1)

System of Population Control

(Excerpt) A meeting of the committee of population control took place in Addis Ababa at which state institutions and enterprises were set up. The chairman of COPWE's Addis Ababa branch noted an important task of the committee for the development of the country through steps with a Socialist orientation is the establishment of new social relationships. The state system of population control calls for vigilance. In Addis Ababa, for example, apart from central organizations, more than 100 base committees of population control are active. (5 Apr 83, p. 4)

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Economic Achievements

(Excerpt) Arsi is one of the central provinces of Ethiopia located in the highlands and offers good conditions for the development of a rural economy. The revolution opened the door for exploitation of its possibilities. For the past 4 years, the state economy, created by revolutionary authorities, has expanded seven times. In Arsi, 138 peasant production cooperatives have sprung up and there are now schools, medical facilities, cooperative stores, and mills. (11 Apr 83, p. 1)

Medical Services Expanded

(Excerpt) In order to include a large number of the population in medical services and to teach them good hygienic and scientific basics, the state is organizing courses to train medical workers and to provide new knowledge to those who, by tradition, practice healing and midwifery. The number of medical professionals in Harerge Province since the revolution began has increased by 40 percent. (19 Apr 83, p. 1)

USSR Declares Support of Ethiopia

(Excerpt) The Soviet Union is resolutely on the side of the Ethiopian people fighting against the aggressive and subversive forces of international imperialism interfering in the country's internal affairs. This subject was brought up on the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Ethiopia and the Soviet Union. (20 Apr 83, p. 4)

Kenya

Progress in Economic Cooperation

(Text) Progress in economic cooperation between Kenya and the Soviet Union will contribute to improved multilateral relations between the two countries for the good of our people, announced Kenyan President Daniel Arap Moi. (24 Mar 83, p. 5)

Lesotho

New South African Aggression

(Excerpt) The Government of Lesotho reported new encroachments by the apartheid regime on the sovereignty of this small African kingdom surrounded on all sides by South Africa. Over the past few days, according to Lesotho radio, units of South African soldiers and secret service agents in the guise of the so-called Liberation Army of Lesotho staged several exercises not far from Maseru, the capital of Lesotho. (4 Apr 83, p. 5)

Lesotho/Republic of South Africa

Soviet Public Condemns South African Aggression in Lesotho

(Excerpt) The Soviet public learned with indignation about the new act of armed aggression committed by South Africa against the sovereign state of

Lesotho, it was stated at a meeting of the Soviet Committee for the Solidarity of the countries of Asia and Africa. It happened only four months after the bloody attack by numerous South African soldiers in the capital of the country, Maseru, and now there is evidence of a new attempt to apply pressure on Lesotho and to force the government of this country to withdraw support from the struggle of the people of South Africa. (2 Apr 83, p. 4)

Mauritius

Exhibition of Soviet Books

(Text) An exhibition and sale of Soviet books to celebrate the 15th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Mauritius and the Soviet Union opened in Port Louis. (1 Apr 83, p. 5)

Mozambique

Military Advances



The popular liberation forces conducted a successful military operation to clear Gaza Province of bandits. Among the captured weapons was ammunition produced in NATO countries. (24 Mar 83, p. 4)

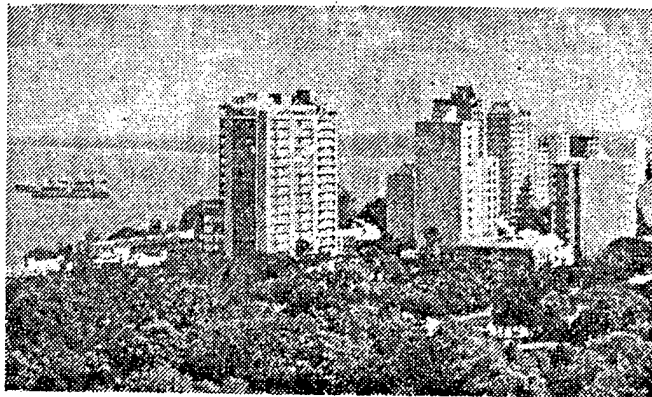
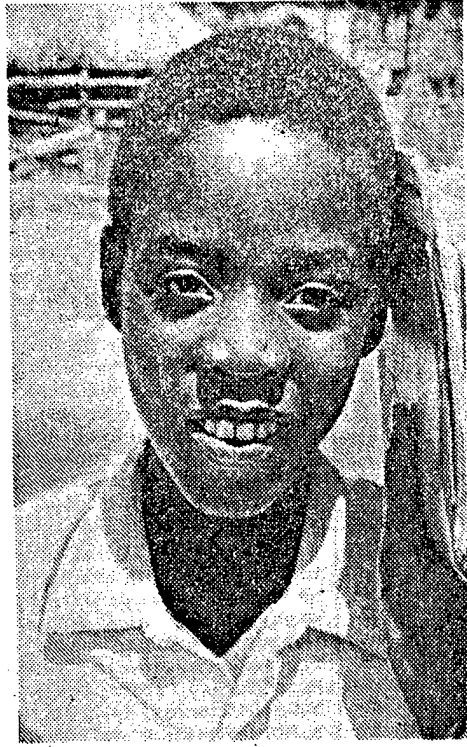
Meeting of Ministry Leaders

(Excerpt) According to the Mozambican news agency, a meeting of the leaders of the country's ministries took place in Maputo in which steps taken to implement the 1982 state plan were reviewed and those for 1983 were defined. Planning Minister Mario Machungo said at the meeting that next year's goal is to reach a definite economic stability and to continue building of basic rural objectives. (1 Apr 83, p. 1)

Development Plans

(Text) For more than seven years following independence, Mozambique has been known for important changes in the way of life. FRELIMO pays a great deal of attention to enlarging the state sector in economics, the formation of cooperatives in the rural sector, and development of health services and education. Of special importance are the relations between Mozambique and the Soviet Union.

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Photos: Millions of southern Mozambican citizens, such as this schoolboy, have received under local authority, access to an education; the capital, Maputo; in one of the shops of a metallurgical factory. (4 Apr 83, p. 6)

Soviet Gift

(Excerpt) A gift to the Central Committee of FRELIMO of technical equipment, political literature, and other goods, arrived in Maputo on the Soviet ship, "Pavlograd." Accepting the gift, Central Committee member and Maputo Governor Moane noted that it is new evidence of the strong friendship and solidarity between the Soviet Union and Mozambique and their two ruling parties. (19 Apr 83, p. 4)

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Preparations for Party Congress

(Excerpt) The work of the next plenum of the FRELIMO Central Committee began in Maputo. The newspaper, NOTICIAS, reports that the basic issue on the agenda is preparation for the Fourth Congress of the Party which will be held at the end of April. (21 Apr 83, p. 4)

Namibia

UN Mission on Namibia in Soviet Union

(Excerpt) From 10 to 14 April, a UN mission on Namibia was in the Soviet Union which included representatives from SWAPO, Bangladesh, Zambia, and the Soviet Union. During talks, an exchange of views on the question of Namibia's independence took place. All the participants declared their support for the struggle of Namibia under the leadership of SWAPO and the frontline states in repelling South African aggression. (15 Apr 83, p. 4)

Namibia/Republic of South Africa

PLAN Soldiers Stage Offensives

(Excerpt) Military operations against the racist occupiers undertaken by forces of the People's Liberation Army of Namibia (PLAN) built up this year according to a SWAPO publication in Luanda. The publication points out the patriots' offensives are inflicting appreciable losses in lives and equipment. In the beginning of March, seven South African soldiers were taken out of action as the result of ambushes staged by PLAN soldiers on the road between Oshakati and Ruacana. During this operation, two enemy armoured carriers were also destroyed. PLAN soldiers aimed mortar and weapons fire at South African military bases in Omafo and Oshikango and destroyed a building in Oshakati which had housed some of the staff of the South African Army in Namibia. (5 Apr 83, p. 5)

Press Conference Held

(Excerpt) A press conference was held in New York by the General-Secretary of the American Communist Party, Gus Hall, and the General Secretary of the African National Congress (ANC) of South Africa, Moses Mabida, who is visiting the United States. The continuation of South Africa's apartheid regime is the result of its unconditional support from Washington, said the leaders of the parties. Without American investments, Hall said, the South African Government would not find itself in the position to carry out domestic policies aimed at the cruel oppression of the coloured population of the country. Mabida concluded that in their struggle against apartheid, South African patriots are supported by Socialist countries, primarily the Soviet Union. (25 Mar 83, p. 5)

Crocker's View of South Africa

(Excerpt) Has anyone heard whether human rights violations have interfered with or even prevented the democratic process? It is just such a "phenomenon" which is observed in South Africa. American Assistant Secretary of State for

African Affairs Chester Crocker observed it. Up until recently, he argued that within South Africa, a number of positive changes have occurred; for example, recently Pretoria adjusted apartheid policies: new draconian laws according to which thousands of African's will be flung into homelands, or into prisons to perish.

However, it seems that all these facts hardly disturb the Assistant Secretary. We do not consider, he said, that the implementation of these changes is incompatible with harsh measures taken in security areas. (4 Apr 83, p. 5)

Commentary on Constitutional Reforms

(Excerpt) South African Prime Minister Botha spoke in Parliament of the creation in the country in the near future of a referendum on the question of the so-called constitutional reforms. The result of the referendum, according to Botha, will be the approval of the South African population for the outlined changes in the constitutional system of the apartheid state. It is not by chance that many reviewers and political figures perceive in the reforms a plot in South Africa's ruling circles which strive to stir up hostility between the various non-white groups. (20 Apr 83, p. 5)

Tanzania

The Hard Road Forward

(Excerpt) Tanzania is the country of Kilimanjaro, the highest mountain in Africa with its snowy cap; the torrid shores of the Indian Ocean, wide and steaming in the strong sun; the glassy great lakes of Victoria and Tanganyika; and dense tropical forests. But one is not allowed to forget, on arriving in Tanzania, that this land was colonized by two imperial powers--Germany and Britain. The people of this country never reconciled themselves with their foreign invaders and fought against colonialism.

The history of Tanzanian independence began 21 years ago when the former British possession of Tanganyika, and then Zanzibar, become free. These two countries united into a single state which called itself Tanzania. In Dar-es-Salaam, people still remember their colonial past. Wandering around the city, one suddenly comes across a house from the time of the German occupation resembling a fortress, or a round plaza in the center of which stands the bronze figure of an "ascar," an African soldier from the period of World War I.

But the main "memories" which were left by Tanzania's colonizers are the backward rural economy, weak industrial development, living standards which are counted as among the lowest in Africa, and ties with the Western world.

In 1967, during a congress of the Party of the Tanganyika African National Union (TANU)--which later became the ruling party--a definite political line was developed which declared the building of socialism. This theory envisaged the gaining of a social force which is the basis for the increase in the country of nationalization of banks, large-scale industry, trading firms, etc. Collective farms have sprung up in the countryside, and a planned economy took shape.

However, at the end of 7 years, the economic position of the country worsened. Decreased exports aggravated the problem of trade deficits, a situation which began to make itself felt in a shortage of grain and fuel, and slowing factory production. Unemployment of young people increased from 30 to 50 per cent.

In the second 7-year period, the country introduced a program of economic survival aimed at production in the countryside. At the end of 1981, the Revolutionary Party of Tanzania (CCM) reviewed an important program labeled "Basic Aims of the CCM"; in January 1982, the program was adopted.

For Tanzania, the issue of foreign credits remains crucial. The International Monetary Fund and the International Reconstruction and Development Bank have tried to impose conditions on Tanzania for receipt of credits. These attempts met with no success, but Tanzania has not cut off contract with them. (28 Mar 83, p. 6)

Borders Closed

(Text) Tanzania's President Nyerere declared the closing of the country's borders. Speaking at a large meeting, he explained that this measure was taken because of wide-scale speculation and sabotage. Actions of anti-social elements, engaged in all kinds of financial maneuvers, are damaging the economy of the country, and undermining the strength of the nation which is striving to build a new society. (10 Apr 83, p. 5)

Togo

Schooling in National Language

(Text) Since independence in 1960, authorities in the small West African country of Togo are paying a lot of attention to the educational system. In the current year, educational needs have cost \$70 million, 13 percent over the cost in the previous year. The population, which is approximately 2.6 million people, uses 2,300 primary schools in which more than half a million children are educated. In many schools, special programs exist for children in the national language which is especially important in this country where, by tradition, everything is in French. The general secretary of the Education Ministry has stated that the Soviet Union has been of great assistance in preparing national cadres. Since 1975, 300 young Togolese have studied in various Soviet cities. (4 Apr 83, p. 1)

Zimbabwe

New Library Opens

(Text) A library of classical Marxist-Leninist works and Soviet social, political, and scholarly literature was opened by the mayor of Harare. These books, he announced, had been in the municipal library. (9 Apr 83, p. 5)