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SUMMARY OF COMMENTARY IN PRAVDA ON SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA
(November 22 - December 21, 1982)

January 1983

Prepared by the Federal Research Division of
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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
(22 November-21 December 1982)

Africa General

World Council Secretary Praises USSR

(Summary) The Secretary of the World Council, Mira Mamadu Saka, declared in an interview with TASS that the emerging African nations undergo problems very similar to those encountered by the Soviet Union in its formative years. The USSR is seen as an example of successful political union of many nationalities and upgrading the standard of living of all in equal fashion. The example is important to Africa in its attempt to reach continental cooperation among varied groups. Saka expressed gratitude to the Soviet Union for its contribution of cadre education for assistance in African economic development. (27 Nov 82, p. 4)

OUA Meets in Tripoli

(Summary) Representatives to the regular meeting of the Organization of African Unity in Tripoli were unable to convene a quorum due to failure to agree on the Chad question. Muammar Qadhafi, in a speech before the Organization, placed complete blame on imperialist meddling whose aim is to fragment the African nations. He stated that a number of political and economic questions could nevertheless be solved during the Tripoli meeting. A joint statement by 30 heads of state present decried the divisive position of the minority, pledging to continue their effort for complete African unity and forming a special "contact committee" for this purpose. They also demanded a speedy withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanon and condemned their presence in that country, reaffirmed the Palestinian right of self-determination, and condemned South African racial policies. (29 Nov 82, p. 5)

Academy of Sciences Discusses African Studies

(Summary) On 9 December the African Institute of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR (Institut Afriki Akademii nauk SSSR) held a meeting with correspondents to discuss the topic of African studies in the USSR. (10 Dec 82, p. 4)

Southern Africa

Serbin Comments on Namibian Question

(Text) The African journey of U.S. Vice President G. Bush, which, Washington declared, was undertaken primarily with the aim of finding a solution to the Namibian problem, has ended. In all the countries that the White House emissary visited he tried to foist on people the American-South African viewpoint, which is that the acquisition of independence by the Namibian people depends directly on the withdrawal of the Cuban military personnel in Angola.

The very scheme of equating the long illegal occupation of Namibia by the South African racists and the presence of Cuban troops on Angolan soil, onto which they were invited by Angola's legitimate government to defend the country's independence from the encroachments of the selfsame racists and their stooges and also in full accordance with the UN Charter, is so ridiculous that Washington might have realized this before the Vice President's trip. Nonetheless, he was instructed to present this idea as a U.S. attempt to settle the Namibia question and as U.S. "concern" for Africa.

It was not possible to deceive the Africans. The leaders of Nigeria, Zimbabwe and Zambia rejected G. Bush's attempts to advertise a Namibian settlement plan that is to the advantage only of the Pretoria ringleaders and the United States itself. The plan did not meet with support from current OAU chairman and President of Kenya Daniel Arap Moi either. However, it is striking that after he had received the corresponding answer in Kenya, the American Vice President again proclaimed that the United States abides by its stance and will continue to defend the ideas it has put forward. What is that, if not an open challenge to Africa!

Summing up the results of the American Vice President's trip, the African press condemns the U.S. stance on the Namibian question and points to the danger with which the expanding cooperation between the United States and the South African racists is fraught. It is recalled that the South African racist regime, which is continuing its military provocations against neighboring countries, was recently granted a loan of over \$1 billion at the U.S. command.

The Ethiopian Herald points out that G. Bush's journey is aimed at fueling tension in the southern African region on the eve of the OAU session. Many other African press organs have described as unacceptable the U.S. attempts to foist on Africa its own solution of the Namibian question.

The African countries are continuing the struggle to strengthen their independence and for complete political and economic liberation. They reject the U.S. attempts to foist on Africans imperialist and racist prescriptions for a solution of southern Africa's problems. (26 Nov 82, p. 5, and translated in toto by FBIS Soviet Union Daily Report, No. 228, 26 Nov 82, p. J1)

South African Attack

(Summary) Another armed incursion into Mozambique has been carried out by South African forces. On 6 December South Africans entered the Mapulangene region for a distance of nine kilometers. Mozambican border forces repelled the aggressors, and there were some civilian casualties. (9 Dec 82, p. 5)

Solidarity with OAU on Namibia Expressed

(Summary) The People's Republic of Angola has rejected the American concept of

linkage between stabilization of the Namibian question and withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola at the regular plenary session of the Central Committee of the Angolan People's Labor Party on 30 November. The statement referred back to a joint Angolan-Cuban statement of 4 February 1982 in which it was declared that Cuban troops in Angola are the result of an agreement between two sovereign states, with no connection to any outside issue. The meeting also expressed solidarity with the Organization of African Unity position which condemns American policy in Africa. The statement called for closer unity in that body in fighting for the peoples of South Africa, Namibia and Palestine and against all foreign intervention. (10 Dec 82, p. 4)

Lesotho Calls for Emergency Meeting of UN Security Council

(Summary) The government of Lesotho has called for an emergency meeting of the United Nations Security Council to discuss South African armed intervention in Lesotho. In a special announcement, United Nations Secretary General Perez de Cuellar called the attack a violation of the United Nations Charter and the territorial integrity of a sovereign nation. The cause of these actions was the 9 December invasion of Lesotho by South Africa and the bombing of the city of Maseru. The attack included dropping commandos by air with helicopter support, resulting in substantial civilian casualties. According to Reuters, forty were killed and many wounded. The South African commander, K. Vildjoin, asserted that the attacks were aimed at destroying terrorist enclaves. (11 Dec 82, p. 5)

South African Raid in Lesotho

(Summary) There are continuing reports from Maseru of South African armed attacks on civilians in the capital of Lesotho on 9 and 10 December. Forty people were reported killed, many of them women and children, and hundreds wounded. The government of Lesotho has categorically denied South African assertions that the raids were to destroy bases of the African National Congress of South Africa. Two captured South African saboteurs admitted in Zimbabwe that their task was to destroy fuel supplies in the Whitebridge area, and that sabotage groups were being trained in South Africa for the purpose of destroying Zimbabwe army encampments. (12 Dec 82, p. 5)

Moscow Condemns South African Attacks

(Summary) On 14 December, a meeting of representatives of Soviet public organizations in Moscow condemned the repeated armed attacks by South Africa on Mozambique and Lesotho. (15 Dec 82, p. 4)

UN Condemns South Africa

(Summary) A recently concluded meeting of the United Nations Security Council resolved to condemn South Africa for an attack on Lesotho. However, action by the United States prevented authorization of sanctions against Pretoria. South Africa remains under the protection of the United States, which has recently discarded all pretense of neutrality in treatment of the apartheid issue by substantially expanding economic ties with that country to a yearly level of five million dollars. American banks have loaned two million dollars recently, and political and military contacts have increased and been formalized. Washington has now approved sale of electronic and technical equipment to the South African military and police. While Washington says that cooperation will soften apartheid policy in South Africa, incidents of internal racial oppression and external aggression have actually increased in recent months. (18 Dec 82, p. 5)

South Africa Bombs Angola

(Summary) According to the news agency ANGOP, South African Mirage fighter planes bombarded civilian targets and communications lines in the Angolan province of Namiba. (20 Dec 82, p. 5)

Horn of Africa

US Presence Criticized

(Summary) Armed maneuvers of American land, sea and air forces in Somalia constitute a danger to the sovereignty of Ethiopia and a menace to the peace and stability of the entire region, according to a recent statement by the Ethiopian foreign ministry. The maneuvers, a continuation of the earlier Bright Star Campaign, are seen as an attempt to create war hysteria, and the United States should be held fully responsible for the results of its actions. The American rapid deployment force is seen as an intrusion into Somalia's internal affairs, aimed at propping up a failed regime, and Ethiopia remains totally opposed to any such presence in the Horn of Africa. (5 Dec 82, p. 5)

Angola

Commentary by Zenovich

(Summary) Pravda correspondent M. Zenovich filed a report from Northern Kwanza Province in Angola. He describes an ancient Portuguese fort overlooking the Kwanza River as a symbol of colonialism which was used in the last war for independence by the MPLA. This was the point from which the early revolutionary movement spread out into the rest of Angola, and plans are under way to establish a museum on the site as a reminder of the goals of the

movement for Socialist independence. Zenovich describes the gradual growth of the MPLA from its inception in 1956 through its struggle after independence in 1975 to put Angola on a Socialist, anti-imperialist path. In 1977 it was reorganized into an official political party based on the theories of scientific Socialism. Since then Angola has consistently been attacked by racist South Africa, with damages totaling ten billion dollars so far from terrorism and sabotage of civilian targets. Shortly a new campaign will begin to "pump new blood" into the party, to introduce more active and ideological membership. (10 Dec 82, p. 5)

USSR Congratulates MPLA

(Summary) The Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR sent a telegram of congratulations to the Angolan People's Labor Party on the fifth anniversary of its formation. The party was cited as an important step in establishing the independence of Angola and in its struggle against the old imperialist regime and continued interference from South Africa. Mention was made of the substantial international support of the Angolan government in its struggle, and continued solidarity with the entire Socialist world was promised. (10 Dec 82, p. 1)

National Defense Seminars

(Summary) The participants in seminars conducted in several regions of Angola by national defense organizations are discussing the task of educating the "defenders of the revolution." (20 Dec 82, p. 4)

Benin

Exposition in Cotonou

(Summary) The People's Republic of Benin celebrated the sixtieth anniversary of the formation of the Soviet Union with an exposition put on by actors from Kuybyshev describing the history of the Soviet theatre. The exposition took place at the palace of art and culture in Cotonou. (10 Dec 82, p. 1)

Cape Verde

Ukrainian Delegation Visit

(Summary) I.G. Grintsov, first secretary of the Sumy Provincial Committee of the Ukrainian Communist Party, headed a delegation of Communist Party workers to Cape Verde to establish relations with the African Party for Independence of the Cape Verde Islands (PAICV). (3 Dec 82, p. 4)

Ethiopia

Trade Association Established

(Summary) The Association for Craft and Small Item Production Affairs was established in Ethiopia after the revolution for economic development in those areas. To foster cooperation among tradesmen, 800 marketing and supply cooperatives and sixty trade associations have been established. The Association, whose acronym is HASIDA, provides tools and organizes classes. Foreign marketing of goods is being encouraged. (22 Nov 82, p. 6)

Fourth Anniversary of Ethiopian-Soviet Friendship Treaty

(Summary) On the occasion of the fourth anniversary of the Ethiopian-Soviet treaty of friendship and cooperation, the newspaper Ethiopian Herald declared that the relationship between the two nations will continue and be strengthened in future years, based on that agreement. (23 Nov 82, p. 4)

Ethiopia Supports Soviet Peace Policy

(Summary) According to a recent article in the Ethiopian newspaper Addis Zemen, the rational foreign policy of the Soviet Union, directed toward limiting the arms race, shows its genuine concern for world peace. The Soviet policy was contrasted with the aggressively militaristic policies of the United States, particularly in the determination not to be the first to employ nuclear weapons. Ethiopia thus declared itself fully behind the Soviet peace policy, the only one that will permit countries such as Ethiopia to continue social and economic development in peace. (23 Nov 82, p. 4)

Agricultural Improvement

(Summary) During the last 4 years the acreage of coffee plantations in Ethiopia has increased by 1,800 hectares, including 2,500 hectares of newly planted coffee trees. Peasants have individually added 2,000 hectares of new plantings to the government acreage total. In the southern and southwestern sections of Ethiopia, 170 kilometers of new road have been built and sixteen warehouses added to house produce from agricultural cooperatives. Plans call for addition of 17,000 more hectares of coffee acreage during the next 4 years. (27 Nov 82, p. 5)

New Workers' Committee Forms

(Summary) In Addis Ababa, a National Control Committee of Workers has come into existence in cooperation with COPWE and the Provisional Military Administrative

Council. The committee's purpose is to monitor use of public and state funds, prevent wasted resources and generally protect the interests of the national economy. (28 Nov 82, p. 1)

Agricultural Development in Awash River Area

(Summary) Prior to the revolution in Ethiopia, 30 private cotton farms were located along the central branch of the Awash River. After the revolutionary agrarian reforms, a large state agricultural enterprise was formed there. Since then, the land under cultivation has doubled to nearly 10,000 hectares; the high-quality cotton grown there is in international demand. The enterprise has provided 25 to 30 million birrs of hard currency yearly, and plans call for expansion in the near future. In the nearby upper Awash area, a fruit and vegetable processing plant is being built by the Merti-Jeju State Farm. This will better utilize agricultural products and promote employment in the area. Plans call for development of 20,000 hectares of land in the upper Awash for fruit and vegetable production. (29 Nov 82, p. 5)

Mengistu Speaks at Conference

(Summary) Mengistu Haile Mariam, President of the Provisional Military Administrative Council and the Commission for Organizing the Party of the Working People of Ethiopia (COPWE), declared in a speech that the most important goals of this time are achieving peace, security and world stability and developing cooperation among peoples. Speaking at the African Conference of the Association of the International Gold Mercury Prize, Mengistu accused imperialist powers of encouraging discord in Africa and attempting control of African natural resources by Western monopolies. The solution for Africa was seen as cutting economic dependence on the West, and development of interdependence and economic cooperation among the developing African nations. (1 Dec 82, p. 4)

Trade Fair Opens

(Summary) In Addis Ababa the first post-revolutionary trade fair has been opened to display agricultural, industrial and craft products; the purpose is to demonstrate the economic health of the country since the revolution and the potential for international trade relations with Ethiopia. (2 Dec 82, p. 5)

Soviet Film Festival Opens

(Summary) A Soviet film festival has opened at the central movie theatre in Addis Ababa with a showing of the film "Lenin in Paris." The festival is to honor the sixtieth anniversary of formation of the USSR. (5 Dec 82, p. 4)

Improvements in Eritrea

(Summary) Great progress is reported in the Ethiopian campaign (named "Red Star") to restore living conditions in Eritrea following the struggle against separatist forces. Roads and airstrips have been built and repaired, and new hospitals, industries and warehouses have been built. Since the beginning of 1982, about four million dollars have been invested in this project. The port of Mitsiwa has done a record volume of business (221 ships served in 1982) since its inclusion in the restoration program. (8 Dec 82, p. 5)

Literacy Campaign Underway

(Summary) In the central Ethiopian province of Arsi, a large literacy campaign has been in progress among the adult population. Funds for this purpose have been raised among the local population to match those invested by the central government. (17 Dec 82, p. 4)

Kenya

Moi Criticizes US Role in Namibian Question

(Text) Kenyan President Daniel Arap Moi, who is Chairman of the OAU, has categorically rejected the U.S. thesis on the need to link the question of granting independence to Namibia to the withdrawal of the Cuban troops located on Angolan territory.

Receiving U.S. Vice President G. Bush, who is touring African countries, the KENYA NEWS AGENCY reports, D. Arap Moi again stressed that there can be no connection between the presence of Cuban military subunits in Angola and the Namibian people's legitimate struggle for liberation. No state in the world which respects democracy and national sovereignty, the President said, could link these two questions. Such a position, he stressed, indicates the intention of delaying the resolution of the question of granting Namibia independence.

Noting that Cuba and Angola are sovereign states and have a legitimate right to conclude bilateral agreements as the need arises, D. Arap Moi expressed surprise at the U.S. administration's stance on this issue. At the same time he stressed that the aid which enables the Pretoria regime to pursue a policy of oppression is given to racist South Africa precisely by Western countries. I do not understand how a regime which flouts the opinion of all mankind can meet with friendly understanding from the United States, which plays the role of a "defender of democracy," D. Arap Moi said. Official Washington must use its influence on the leadership of the white minority in Pretoria with a view to ending the apartheid regime's inhuman crimes and acts. (23 Nov 82, p. 5, and translated in toto by FBIS Soviet Union Daily Report, No. 228, 26 Nov 82, pp. J1-2)

Fire Destroys Homes

(Text) About 10,000 people were left homeless by a fire in a suburb of Nairobi. Some injuries were reported. (24 Nov 82, p. 5)

Madagascar

Technicians Being Trained

(Summary) The polytechnical faculty of the University of Madagascar has begun regular preparation of technicians in a variety of fields such as communications, electronics, chemistry and hydrology. Over 160 students have graduated from the programs in which several Soviet teachers are involved. (22 Nov 82, p. 6)

USSR Congratulates Ratsiraka

(Summary) The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR sent congratulations to Didier Ratsiraka on his reelection to the presidency of Madagascar. The President sent his thanks to the Presidium for its good wishes, with assurances of continued close relations between the two nations. (11 Dec 82, p. 2)

Madagascar Celebrates Soviet Anniversary

(Summary) The Republic of Madagascar began celebration of Soviet Union Day in recognition of the sixtieth anniversary of the formation of the Soviet Union. (12 Dec 82, p. 1)

Mozambique

Consumer Seminar Ends

(Summary) A national seminar for leaders of consumers' cooperatives concluded recently in the Mozambican city of Namaashe. Participants discussed cooperative planning, while studying the examples of the most successful cooperatives. Much time was devoted to preparation for participation of the cooperatives in the fourth FRELIMO Party Congress to be held in April 1983. (23 Nov 82, p. 5)

Concert Celebrates Soviet Anniversary

(Summary) A concert was held in Luanda to celebrate the sixtieth anniversary of the formation of the Soviet Union. Participating were several Soviet technicians working in Mozambique. (30 Nov 82, p. 1)

Soviet Ambassador Appointed

(Text) The USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium has appointed Comrade Yuriy Faddeyevich Sepelev USSR Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the People's Republic of Mozambique.

The USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium has relieved Comrade Valentin Petrovich Vdovin of his duties as USSR Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the People's Republic of Mozambique in connection with his reassignment. (30 Nov 82, p. 6, and translated in toto by FBIS Soviet Union Daily Report, No. 235, 7 Dec 82, p. J2)

FRELIMO Activists Graduate

(Summary) The central party school of the FRELIMO Party has completed the school year in a suburb of the Mozambican capital. The newly trained activists will be sent to local FRELIMO political organizations. (18 Dec 82, p. 1)

Republic of South Africa

Drought Strikes

(Summary) A severe drought has struck large areas of South Africa with great damage to agriculture. Stockmen were forced to drive flocks over large distances to find water and feed. This resulted in a 30 percent drop in large livestock breeds in the northwestern regions of Cape Province. Blacks suffered particular hardship in the barren Bantustan areas of Ciskei, Venda and Bophuthatswana, to which the white government has driven them. No government assistance was given these nominally independent homeland areas in the crisis. (24 Nov 82, p. 5)

Bush Fails to Obtain African Support for Linkage

(Summary) According to the Tanzanian Government news agency Shihata, one of the main purposes of Vice President George Bush's visit to Africa was to gain the support of independent African nations for the concept of linkage between Namibian independence and the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola. According to the report, African leaders unanimously rejected the concept because the Cuban presence is an internal concern of the Angolan Government and has a legitimate role in preserving the security of that country; the fate of Namibia must be decided in accordance with UN resolution 435. Bush was forced to report this failure to President Reagan on his return to the United States. Meanwhile, South Africa expressed its satisfaction in recent talks between

Foreign Minister Botha and Secretary of State Shultz, finding fundamentally identical views on the Namibia question and the Cuban linkage idea which is seen as originating in Pretoria. (4 Dec 82, p. 5)

Sierra Leone

Soviet Students Celebrate Association

(Summary) A recent celebration in Freetown marked the third anniversary of the founding in Sierra Leone of an association of graduates from Soviet higher educational institutions. About 800 former students from schools in Kiev, Moscow, Leningrad and Minsk formed the group. (9 Dec 82, p. 1)

Industrial and Agricultural Decentralization

(Summary) The government of Sierra Leone is in the process of decentralizing its administration of industrial and agricultural building projects. Its purpose is to involve the local population more closely in building the economy and combatting strong religious and tribal loyalties. Many projects will now be undertaken solely under local authority. (18 Dec 82, p. 4)

Zimbabwe

New Census Published

(Summary) The recently published results of the first post-independence Zimbabwe census show that there were 7.5 million inhabitants in August of 1982. (27 Nov 82, p. 1)

Three-year Economic Program to Begin

(Summary) Zimbabwe has announced that a 3-year economic program will begin in the middle of 1983 to carry out the economic policies announced by the government last year. According to the plan, about six billion Zimbabwe dollars will be invested in the national economy of which sixty percent will come into the public sector. Particular targets will be energy development, agriculture, industrial development and roads. (7 Dec 82, p. 1)

Official Age Legalized

(Summary) Zimbabwe has established eighteen as the official age of majority in a new law that also establishes the equality of women in economic and social spheres. (16 Dec 82, p. 5)