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SUMMARY OF COMMENTARY IN PRAVDA ON SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA
(February 22 - March 21, 1984)

April 1984

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

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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 February - 21 March 1984)

Africa General

Conference on the Drought

(Excerpt) The work of a conference, in which specialists from 23 African countries and several international organizations participated, concluded in Addis Ababa. They discussed struggles with the drought and how to surmount its effects on the African continent. The conference was organized through a proposal of the African states to the UN Economic Commission for Africa.

The participants approved a plan of action aimed at improved meteorological and hydrological services, the study of climate and natural conditions on the continent, an increase in measures for preserving the land, the construction of reservoirs, and support of the ecological balance. (27 Feb 84, p. 4)

OAU Meeting Opens

(Excerpt) The 40th session of the Council of Ministers of the OAU began in Addis Ababa. The participants are discussing current political problems, progress of social and economic development on the continent, and budgetary and administrative problems. (29 Feb 84, p. 4)

OAU Identifies Africa's Real Enemy

(Summary) At the 40th session of the Council of Ministers of the OAU in Addis Ababa, the focus of attention was the political and economic situation on the continent. Imperialism, stated OAU members, is the major enemy of independent Africa. Imperialist powers, in the hope of appropriating natural and human resources on the continent, are taking steps aimed at its political and economic destabilization. In their arsenal are included help to reactionary regimes, blackmail, open threats to sovereign, progressive states of Africa, and attempts to sow dissension among ethnic, religious and national groups. The members also discussed South African apartheid and the Namibian situation. (10 Mar 84, p. 5)

Southern Africa

SWAPO President Claims South African Duplicity

(Text) Like the so-called "troop withdrawal" in southern Angola, the widely broadcast announcement by the government in Pretoria is a fake, said SWAPO President Sam Nujona. SWAPO, he said during an interview with the Diario di Mozambique, has information that South Africa is keeping its troops in southern Angola. The goal of this trick, said Nujoma, is to drag out Namibia's gaining of independence. (1 Mar 84, p. 5)

US Maneuvers in Southern Africa

(Excerpt) The attention of the world has recently been drawn to the heightened diplomatic activity in southern Africa where the South African military are sowing death and destruction and shedding the blood of thousands of civilians. Here, as in other trouble spots in the world, America's aggressive imperialist policy, unsuccessfully masked behind a love of peace and concern for security and stability, is so clearly visible. Washington's envoys, carrying out a kind of "shuttle" diplomacy whose proclaimed aims are "peacemaking in southern Africa" and the creation there of a "regional security system," have become familiar figures in South Africa as well as in such African capitals as Luanda, Maputo, Lusaka, and Dar-es-Salaam. It seems very much as though the United States, having suffered a succession of foreign policy failures, is trying to make up for this by the semblance of diplomatic successes in southern Africa. It is legitimate to ask about the true aims and targets of US policy in southern Africa. A policy statement on US strategy in Africa was recently put forward by Secretary of State G. Shultz. His line was as clear and frank as could be. Shultz stated that the United States has, above all, a "significant geopolitical interest" in African affairs, that Africa is an important supplier of raw materials vital to the world (here read US) economy, and finally, that Africa is important to the United States politically since African states make up nearly one third of the total number of members of the United Nations where these states usually function as a cohesive bloc. Having said all this, Shultz dwelt in particular on US policy in southern Africa and attempted to present it as impartial and dictated by a desire for peace.

An objective analysis of this policy, however, indicates quite the reverse. Let us take the question of the US attitude to South Africa's racist regime. There is no trace of impartiality here. It is the purest deception. Everyone is familiar with the statement by the US President who called South Africa a "historical ally" of the United States and everyone is also familiar with Washington's policy of "constructive cooperation" with Pretoria. It is also clear to any unbiased observer that were it not for direct US political, economic, and military support, South Africa could not have thrown down an open challenge to the world community for so long, ignored UN Security Council resolutions on the granting of independence to Namibia, resolutions binding on all, or committed acts of unconcealed aggression against the independent African states.

Washington's cooperation with Pretoria against the interests of independent Africa is visible on the question of the Namibian settlement which, as is well known, has been on the agenda of the United Nations and other authoritative international forums for almost 20 years. Despite the many UN resolutions demanding an end to the South African racists' illegal occupation of Namibia, the apartheid regime has stubbornly blocked the practical resolution of this question. As a result of recent efforts by African and other countries, all the obstacles placed by South Africa in the path of Namibian independence have essentially been removed and the Pretoria regime has found itself in unprecedented isolation. It was then that Washington devised the notorious "linkage" of the Namibian settlement with the question of the Cuban internationalists' presence in Angola. Pretoria jumped at this and the Namibian settlement was deadlocked.

It is thus a matter of Washington's gambling on giving support to South Africa while ignoring the racist sociopolitical and economic structure existing in that country which is hated by the people--and not just the African peoples. The essence of the matter is not changed by "soothing" statements by US politicians to the effect that the apartheid system can be transformed by means of limited reforms carried out from above. Under these conditions, US diplomatic efforts at playing the part of a mediator or "honest broker" amount to attempts to call on the frontline African states to come to terms "temporarily" with the system of racist terror and oppression existing in South Africa for the sake of "peace and stability." Visitors of various kinds from the United States have been bending over backward in an attempt to convince the Africans that the latter's thesis that no country's independence can be considered full and guaranteed until colonialism and racism in southern Africa are at an end is incorrect. If the United States is interested in promoting peace and progress in Africa not just in words but in deeds, it must first end its support for the despicable apartheid system in South Africa and strive for Pretoria's renunciation of the policy of armed aggression and subversive actions against neighboring states and for the swift and truly just solution of the Namibian question in accordance with certain UN resolutions. (5 Mar 84, p. 5, and translated in toto by FBIS Soviet Union Daily Report, #049, 12 Mar 84, pp. J1-3)

Regimes Critical of South Africa

(Excerpt) Zambia fully supports the positions of Angola and SWAPO in regard to the settlement in Namibia, said the Zambian President in a statement. Zambia, he notes in the document, resolutely rejects efforts to sit down for talks with representatives of Angola and SWAPO and the puppets from UNITA.

The Tanzanian government newspaper, Daily News, writes that the South African proposal on the establishment of a so-called "regional conference" is an effort to solve the Namibian problem without UN participation. Pretoria's statement on the necessity of such a meeting with UNITA members and the puppet "insiders" of Namibia's party, notes the newspaper, is aimed at deceiving peaceloving society and perpetuating racist practices. (16 Mar 84, p. 5)

Southern Africa/Angola

Peace Talks on Angola

(Excerpt) Angola is striving for peace in southern Africa, said Angolan Minister of the Interior M.A. Rodrigues at a press conference in Luanda on the results of talks with South African and US representatives in Lusaka. He continued, saying that during the meeting, Angola demanded from Pretoria an end to aggression against Angola, the withdrawal of South African troops from Angolan territory, restoration of Angola's legal border, the implementation of UN Resolution 435 on Namibia, and the withdrawal of South African support to UNITA rebels. He emphasized solidarity of Angola with SWAPO. As a result of the talks, he said, an agreement has been reached on a South African troop withdrawal from Angola.

The Zambian and Tanzanian Presidents expressed skepticism about South African sincerity on the issue of troop withdrawal, and Zimbabwean news sources expressed cynicism over South African intentions. (23 Feb 84, p. 5)

Angola

Defense of the Motherland

(Text) The Angolan people are building a new life in spite of incessant South African aggression. Angolans are prepared to defend the legitimacy of their revolution. (27 Feb 84, p. 5)

FAPLA Victory

(Text) Units of FAPLA defeated several bands of UNITA in the provinces of Moxico and South Cuanza. The Angolan news agency ANGOP reported that as a result of these activities, FAPLA put about 300 ruffians out of action and seized a significant amount of weapons, military equipment and ammunition. (3 Mar 84, p. 4)

FLEC Leader in Washington

(Excerpt) The United States is preparing its next large-scale subversive action against Angola. The leader of the counterrevolutionary Front for the Liberation of the Enclave of Cabinda (FLEC), F. Lubota, visited the American capital. Actively supported by the Western imperialist powers, FLEC is striving to tear away from Angola the rich oil province of Cabinda. Local observers consider Lubota's trip the opportunity to examine plans developed by US governing circles for the seizure by FLEC of the oil deposits and their transfer to Western monopolies. During an interview with Washington Times, Lubota put emphasis on these separatist plans and called for an increase of cooperation with Americans "on an anti-Communist basis." (14 Mar 84, p. 5)

UNITA Activities

(Excerpt) "Look at what these bandits are doing. When they have exhausted their supplies, they come out from the forest and rob the peasants. They abduct young men at gunpoint and force them to take part in terrorist activities." These words were spoken by a resident of Luanda, responding to a question asked by a reporter from the British newspaper, Morning Star, about UNITA. In the southern and eastern regions of Angola, traces of the band are visible--destruction or burning of hospitals, schools, and homes.

UNITA's leader, Jonas Savimbi, is considered by Pretoria and the CIA to be his "own man" in Angola. For the last few years, Washington has unofficially spent \$100 million supporting UNITA. (20 Mar 84, p. 5)

Angolan Delegation in Cuba

(Excerpt) The friendly working visit to Cuba of a delegation from Angola headed by MPLA-Workers' Party Chairman Jose dos Santos has concluded. Dos Santos and Cuban Communist Party Central Committee First Secretary Castro held

an important meeting and talks, the result of which was a declaration. In the declaration, the Angolan and Cuban heads said that the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola will depend on a number of conditions, including the unilateral withdrawal of South African troops from Angola and the full implementation of UN Resolution number 435. (21 Mar 84, p. 5)

GUNT Advances

(Text) GUNT forces continue to attack troops of the N'Djamena regime. France Presse reports, with references to GUNT radio broadcasts, that beginning on 10 February, the intensity of the war grew during several days in the region of Am-Dam, 150 kilometers to the south of Abeche. As a result, GUNT killed 80 enemy soldiers and seized a large amount of weapons and ammunition. (27 Feb 84, p. 5)

Chad

Counteroffensive Planned

(Excerpt) According to reports from Chad, the war between GUNT forces and those of Habre's regime is continuing, the latter receiving support from interventionist troops from France and Zaire. For the last few days, during clashes south of Abeche, reports France Presse, units from N'Djamena suffered significant losses in personnel and equipment.

The magazine Jeune Afrique reports that Habre is planning a counteroffensive in the north, counting on French strength. However, such an action, continues the magazine, depends, for Paris, on large human and material resources. (28 Feb 84, p. 5)

GUNT Willing to Negotiate

(Excerpt) GUNT is prepared to participate in talks for a national reconciliation in Chad under the aegis of OAU, said a GUNT representative in France. In an interview with France Presse, he said that Habre's regime promoted the diplomatic approach with the goal of keeping the OAU away from the resolution of Chad's problems. However, GUNT refuses any kind of contact with N'Djamena other than within the auspices of the OAU. The provisional government, he continued, considers the military forces in the north headed by Habre only one of the home policy groupings in Chad. (3 Mar 84, p. 5)

Ethiopia

Agreement Signed

(Excerpt) Socialist Ethiopia and Algeria have concluded an agreement on economic, technical and cultural cooperation. This 5-year agreement was signed in Addis Ababa by the foreign ministers of both countries. (26 Feb 84, p. 5)

Coffee Plantation Becomes a Reality

(Excerpt) Since 1980, a state coffee plantation called Bebeka has been brought into reality in the province of Kefa. This project includes the unification of separate coffee plantations which belonged to former Ethiopian and foreign owners. Today the size of the plantation has already reached 7,000 hectares of which more than 5,000 contain new plantings. (1 Mar 84, p. 5)

Minister Denies Soviet Expulsion

(Excerpt) Ethiopian Minister of Foreign Affairs Goshu Wolde categorically refuted fabrications by Western propaganda about the supposed expulsion from the country of two Soviet diplomats. Speaking at a press conference in Addis Ababa, he described these reports as "malicious and absolutely groundless lies." (14 Mar 84, p. 5)

Everyday Life in Eritrea

(Excerpt) On the plane flying from Addis Ababa to Asmera, I looked through some clippings on Eritrea which I had taken from recent newspapers. They said that industry in this northern province of Ethiopia fulfilled the 1982-83 plan (the economic year begins in July here) by 99 percent and yielded output worth 288 million Ethiopian dollars; 56 kindergartens have recently been built in the province; 5 people from the separatists' camp went over to the side of the revolutionary power; and so forth. The lines of the newspaper reports are meager, but reading between them you can perceive the province's life today. The Ethiopian revolution is undergoing special trials here and receiving special tempering. This is associated with the difficult destiny which fell to Eritrea's lot. In 1975-78, its capital, Asmera, and the entire province went through difficult times because of the armed actions of separatist groupings. The "Eritrea question" confronted the revolution as a legacy of the feudal-monarchist regime which the revolution ousted. Nor is it difficult to perceive the connection between the emergence of separatism and the prolonged isolation of this Ethiopian territory from the main part of the country.

January 1982 saw the beginning of a wide, multifaceted campaign to develop Eritrea, a campaign called "Red Star," covering all political, economic, and social aspects of life. The national conference in Asmera, in which leaders of the Commission for Organizing the Party of the Working People of Ethiopia (COPWE), the Provisional Military Administrative Council, and government institutions and representatives of mass organizations from all the country's provinces participated, defined the goals and means of pursuing this campaign. It envisaged restoring and reconstructing Eritrea's economy, creating the foundations for the total normalization of the situation, and putting an end to the separatists' destructive actions. The manifesto adopted at the conference again appealed to the separatists to think again and take advantage of the amnesty declared by the central authorities. People in the West misrepresented the campaign and presented it as purely a military operation. In fact, operation "Red Star" marked a new stage in Eritrea's socioeconomic development. More than 275 million Ethiopian dollars have already been invested in its various programs for economic reconstruction and for improving

living conditions in the province, not counting the 27 million granted to the population by the National Commission for Aid and Restoration. The economic results of the Eritrea campaign are marked and tangible. As life in Eritrea falls into its normal course and revolutionary transformations become increasingly extensive, the foundations of separatism are eroded and the crisis in its ranks deepens. The vestiges of the separatist forces are now entrenched in mountain regions in the north of the province. Groups belonging to the movement are fighting among themselves. Not for nothing has the exodus from the separatists' ranks increased sharply.

The "Eritrea problem" has not yet been fully resolved. A curfew is in force in Asmera at night. In the course of the "Red Star" campaign, workers and peasants are taught to use arms to defend themselves against separatist gangs. But Eritrea is gradually settling into the general rhythm of the life of a country engaged in building a new society. (19 Mar 84, p. 6, and translated in part by FBIS Soviet Union Daily Report, #058, 23 Mar 84, pp. J1-2)

Ghana

Factory Workers Gain Control

(Excerpt) Not long ago in Ghana there appeared on sale an unusual painted cloth. On it were portraits of the first president of Ghana, K. Nkrumah, of the present leader J. Rawlings, and the words "power to the people!" and "GTP-anniversary of workers' control." The vividness of the linen material brought back memories of the violent events which took place more than a year ago in the clothes factory, "Ghana Textiles Printing (GTP)" in the industrial city of Tema.

The uprising of the GTP workers in October to November 1982 was an unusual event in Africa. The factory was established right after Ghana gained independence. Already foreign capital was being furnished on the continent under the name of the trading production firm, "United African Company," which wanted to participate in the new enterprise. The government did not go along with this.

But in 1966, GTP fell into private hands like the majority of other state enterprises. Forty-five percent of its shares were held by United African Company which practically owned it.

The world economic crisis and the general economic confusion in Ghana, followed by the overthrow of Nkrumah, brought GTP, like all of the country's industry, into hard times. The factory found itself in this condition on the eve of the military regime in 1982. This event stirred up the hopes of the workers, causing alarm in foreign business circles. The idea of "power to the people" sprang forth from the newly created committees for the defense of the revolution. The directors of GTP did not prevent the creation of a defense committee in the factory, but provided it with leadership made up of their own people. The union of industrial workers tried to protest to the leaders of the new regime. But GTP announced that 540 people, almost half of the workers, were to be dismissed. On 15 October a spontaneous factory-wide

meeting was held which concluded with the formation of a new workers' committee for the defense of the revolution. A demonstration took place in which several thousand people participated, including workers from Accra. The police came in with weapons. . . .

The demonstration was broken up, but general opinion remained on the side of the workers. On 19 November the government supported the decision of the workers to take over the running of the factory. (28 Feb 84, p. 5)

New Ambassador to Ghana

(Text) The USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium has appointed Comrade Vyacheslav Mikhaylovich Semenov USSR Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Ghana. The USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium has relieved Comrade Anatoliy Ivanovich Ivantsov of his duties as USSR Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Ghana in connection with his transfer to other work. (15 Mar 84, p. 4, and translated in toto by FBIS Soviet Union Daily Report, #057, 22 Mar 84, p. J6)

New System Discussed

(Excerpt) Jerry Rawlings, Chairman of the Provisional National Defense Council (PNDC), announced that the government was examining the question of a new form of state system in the country. (21 Mar 84, p. 5)

Mozambique

Aid to Storm Victims

(Excerpt) A day of aid to the population victimized by tropical storm Domoina took place in the capital of Mozambique. The residents of Maputo and its suburbs passed out items of necessity. (27 Feb 84, p. 4)

Nigeria

Religious Violence in Yola

(Excerpt) Units of the Nigerian army put down an armed uprising by religious fanatics of the Maitatsine sect in Yola, the capital of Gongola State, said Head of State M. Buhari. The authorities are sending in forces to normalize the situation in the state, providing the population with goods and medicine. The airport at Yola has been opened, the banks have their doors open, and the government is functioning. Residents are returning to their homes.

About 1,000 people were killed during the violence, reported France Presse. (7 Mar 84, p. 8)

Republic of South Africa

Blacks Thrown Out of Magopa

(Excerpt) The last families left Magopa under police guard. The name of this South African village, 150 kilometers to the west of Johannesburg, hit the newspapers when its Black inhabitants refused to carry out the orders of the authorities and vacate their homeland. This region was declared white and, in accordance with apartheid laws, all Africans are obligated to leave. The occupants of Magopa were sent to the independent homeland of Bophuthatswana.

The homelands constitute 13.7 percent of the country's territory. In them, there are no suitable ways to live off the land. Thus, the Africans, making up almost three quarters of the South African population, are doomed to die of starvation. (27 Feb 84, p. 5)

Government Threatens to Control Council of Churches

(Excerpt) The Pretoria regime is trying, not for the first time, to force the South African Council of Churches, which is taking a stand against apartheid, to refrain from criticism of racism which is embedded in South African State policies. South African Minister of Law and Order Louis Le Grange, speaking in Parliament, announced the intention of the government to take control of the Council's activities and finances. (8 Mar 84, p. 5)

South African Military Base Planned

(Text) A disturbing piece of news came across the African press. The South African racist regime is planning, together with the United States, to construct a naval military base at the strategic setting of Cozi-Bay. African information organs report that the construction of the base, which will be aimed at independent Africa, is the logical result of Washington's long term support of the South African racists. (15 Mar 84, p. 5)

Sudan

Bombing Attack

(Excerpt) The information agency reported from Khartoum that on 16 March bombers attacked one of the capital's quarters. This incident was immediately used by the Reagan administration as an excuse for strengthening its military presence in Sudan.

The US Defense Department reported that two American AWACs planes have arrived in Egypt. (20 Mar 84, p. 5)

Party Ties

(Text) In accordance with the plan of interparty links between the CPSU and the United National Independence Party (UNIP) of Zambia, a CPSU delegation headed by CPSU Central Committee member and Second Secretary of the Kazakh Communist Party Central Committee O.S. Miroshkhin flew to Lusaka on 4 March. (5 Mar 84, p. 4)

CPSU Delegation Meets with Mundia

(Excerpt) Zambian Prime Minister Mundia received the CPSU delegation in Lusaka. Mundia appraised highly aid given by the Soviet Union to Zambia and other African countries pursuing independence. He emphasized the large investment the Soviet Union has made in the struggle of the Namibian people for freedom and in the removal of apartheid in South Africa. Zambia, said the Prime Minister, is advancing the development of cooperation with the Soviet Union and other Socialist countries. (7 Mar 84, p. 8)

CPSU Delegation Meets with Kaunda

(Text) The visit to Zambia by the CPSU delegation headed by O.S. Miroshkhin has come to an end. The delegation was received by President Kaunda. He assessed highly the relations between the USSR and Zambia and expressed satisfaction at the successful development of bilateral cooperation. Kaunda emphasized the importance of the struggle for peace. The Soviet Union, which suffered enormous casualties during World War II, is sincerely seeking peace, he said. The President expressed himself in favor of maintaining relations of peace between the Warsaw Pact states and NATO. The delegation was received by H. Mulemba, UNIP Secretary General. There was a discussion of questions of cooperation between the CPSU and UNIP and of the prospects of expanding interparty ties. (14 Mar 84, p. 4, and translated in toto by FBIS Soviet Union Daily Report, #053, 16 Mar 84, p. J2)