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SUMMARY OF COMMENTARY IN PRAVDA ON SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA
(December 22, 1982 - January 21, 1983)

February 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 December 1982 - 21 January 1983)

Africa General

African Officials Speak on Anniversary of USSR Formation

(Summary) In honor of the 60th anniversary of the formation of the Soviet Union, high officials in a number of African countries gave speeches in their countries. They included speeches by Prime Minister Mundia of Zambia; Central Committee of the People's Revolutionary Party of Benin member Degla; Secretary of the National Committee of the African Party for Independence of the Cape Verde Islands Dos Resha; Chairman of the National Popular Committee of the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe do Espirito Santo; Prime Minister Jugnauth of Mauritius; Council of Ministers of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau member Cabral; President Mosoto of the Communist Party of Lesotho; Politburo member Luvuala of the Central Committee of the MPLA (Angola); Zimbabwean Minister of Information Shamuyarira; Minister Diakite of Housing, State Lands and Urban Affairs in Guinea; African National Congress of South Africa General Secretary Nzo; Minister Belmont of Labor and Social Services in the Seychelles; Commission of Organizing the Party of the Working People of Ethiopia member Desta; Minister Carrilho of Public Works and Housing in Mozambique; South West African People's Organization (Namibia) President Nuomi; General Secretary of the Party for Independence and Workers of Senegal Sissoko; President Andrianarachindzaka of the National Popular Organization of the Democratic Republic of Madagascar; Secretary of Internal Affairs of Ghana Hansen; Minister Nze of Foreign Affairs of the Congo; Secretary of the Revolutionary Party of Tanzania Jamad; and Minister Diallo of Public Works and Transport in Mali. (24 Dec 82, pp. 4, 5 and 6; 25 Dec 82, p. 5; 26 Dec 82, pp. 3, 5 and 6; 27 Dec 82, pp. 3, 4, 5 and 6)

Grim Economic Picture

(Excerpt) Last year, industrial production in Africa did not increase much in comparison with the previous year, although its imports continued to increase. On the whole, economic activity, which is linked to climate, fell. The decrease in demand and weakening of prices for African export products, including minerals and oil, affected African imports, essential to development goals. (3 Jan 83, p. 5)

Africa's Disappearing Forests

(Excerpt) From early morning until evening, a bittersweet smell of smoke hangs over Addis Ababa. This resinous aroma signifies that in the small houses in the surrounding countryside, firewood is being burned in fireplaces or coal is being burned in braziers. Everywhere in Ethiopia and, in particular, in many families in its capital, food is prepared with firewood or charcoal. Ethiopia has good natural resources. It has dozens of different kinds of trees growing locally, several of which grow up to 30 to 50 meters tall and dozens of meters in width. At the beginning of the century they covered almost 40 percent of the country. But now, according to Ethiopia's statistics, they only cover 3.5 percent. The problem of conservation of forests exists today in all of Africa. During a UN conference on new and renewable sources of energy held last year in Nairobi, it was shown that in the developing countries, 12 million hectares of forest goes up in smoke annually. (9 Jan 83, p. 4)

New Map of Africa

(Excerpt) The African Economic Commission of the United Nations has produced a map of the African continent with characteristics including oil and gas deposits, as well as training by Soviet organizations. This is the third and last map of the series. (17 Jan 83, p. 5)

Southern Africa

Funeral Services for Slain ANC Members

(Excerpt) A funeral service, dedicated to the memory of the South African patriots killed on December 9 by South African terrorists in Maseru, Lesotho, took place in Dar-es-Salaam during a meeting of the African National Congress (ANC) of South Africa. (25 Dec 82, p. 8)

Policy of Procrastination

(Text) This year's first session of the UN Council on Namibia has been held at UN Headquarters. Its participants voiced concern at the absence of any practical results in resolving this painful problem.

The implementation of the plan to grant independence to Namibia on the basis of Security Council Resolution 435 is coming up against the stubborn resistance of the Republic of South Africa. General Viljoen, Commander in chief of the South African Armed Forces, recently declared that Pretoria does not intend to withdraw its troops from Namibia in 1983. His revelations confirmed that the apartheid regime is endeavoring to prevent a just settlement. Numerous facts attest to this.

The talks being held through the mediation of the "contact group" of five capitalist powers have reached an impasse. Pretoria blocked them by advancing a farfetched demand for the withdrawal of the Cuban contingent from Angola as a prerequisite for reaching agreement on Namibia. The recent direct meeting between South African and Angolan representatives also ended fruitlessly for the same reason. The apartheid regime sabotages any constructive initiatives from independent Africa and the South West African People's Organization.

The Republic of South Africa does not conceal its intention to implement a "decolonization" of Namibia under which its positions there will remain totally inviolate and power will pass into the hands of South African henchmen. The latter, it is true, have proved plainly "not up to" the task entrusted to them. They have not only completely discredited themselves in the eyes of the population but, on top of that, have quarreled among themselves. Realizing that such a "crew," even with one-sided advantages, is not capable of gaining the upper hand in elections under international control, Pretoria is procrastinating so that its henchmen can strengthen their positions.

The most reactionary circles in South Africa totally reject granting any form of independence to Namibia. Extremist sentiments have recently intensified. The ultraright parties are using this to pressure P. Botha's government, urging it to "having done" with the Namibian settlement and wreck it once again.

But Pretoria could not act so provocatively were it not for the assistance of its transatlantic patrons. The maintenance of the status quo in Namibia fully suits certain circles in the West, primarily the multinational corporations

which have established control over that country's very rich natural resources. It is precisely the support of the forces of imperialism, chiefly American imperialism, that enables the racists to continue the occupation of Namibia, ignoring the will of the international community. (9 Jan 83, p. 5, and translated in toto by FBIS Soviet Union Daily Report, #010, 14 Jan 83, p. J2)

New Invasion Foreseen

(Excerpt) South Africa is getting ready for a new widespread invasion into Angola, according to reports by national Angolan radio. The Pretoria regime, the radio reports, is deceitfully blaming Angola as if the recent attack by Namibian partisans which killed seven South African soldiers was its fault. The aim of the South African racists, continues the report, is to enlarge the occupied zone of southern regions of Angola up to the administrative center of Huila province. (11 Jan 83, p. 5)

Mugabe Criticizes US

(Excerpt) The United States has the main responsibility for the delay in the acquisition of independence by Namibia, announced Zimbabwean Prime Minister Mugabe yesterday in Harare. He described American diplomatic attempts to link Cuban troop withdrawal from Angola with a resolution of the Namibian question as persistent blackmail. (12 Jan 83, p. 5)

Angolan Newspaper Links South African and Israeli Aggression with US

(Excerpt) The newspaper Jornal de Angola published a reactionary commentary in connection with press reports about South African military bases in Namibia in which Israeli instructors have appeared to teach the South African military the methods they used during their military invasion in Lebanon. The next time, the South African command will threaten to spread punitive operations to other Angolan provinces, the newspaper continues, as well as to take more subversive action against Mozambique, Zimbabwe, and other frontline states. Official circles in Angola, the paper says, do not consider it coincidental that military pressure by Pretoria in neighboring African countries coincides with the barbarous invasion by Israel into Lebanon. For a long time already on American orders, Israel and South Africa play the role of regional policemen, implementing for their master the dirty work of oppressing liberated powers. (16 Jan 83, p. 5)

Angola

Exchange of Telegrams

(Summary) The CPSU sent a telegram to Angolan President dos Santos on his fortieth birthday, praising his achievements in crucial party and state affairs. Dos Santos responded, thanking the CPSU for its support and friendship. (22 Dec 82, p. 3)

Trade Between Angola and the USSR

(Text) The volume of trade between Angola and the Soviet Union in 1982 grew significantly. As reported by the agency ANGOP, supplies from the Soviet Union to the young African republic were mostly of machines and equipment, but included

rural economic and building materials, as well as medical equipment. Angola sent traditional export products, such as coffee, to the Soviet Union. (7 Jan 83, p. 4)

New Agriculture Repair Station Opens

(Text) The new station for maintenance and repair of agricultural equipment went into operation at the Angolan state society for the production of cotton in the province of Malanje. It was built with the aid of Soviet specialists. The establishment in Angola of technical repair bases is an important part of Soviet-Angolan cooperation. With the help of the Soviet Union, 27 repair stations for automobiles and agricultural machines have been built. (11 Jan 83, p. 1)

Angola and PRC Establish Diplomatic Relations

(Excerpt) Angola and the People's Republic of China decided to establish diplomatic relations on the embassy level on 12 January. (13 Jan 83, p. 5)

National Conference in Progress

(Text) In Luanda, the national conference on the question of Socialist competition is taking place. Its participants are assessing the results of the work of the National Union of Angolan Workers (UNTA). The present conference will open with a series of UNTA legislative enactments aimed at the participation of Angolan unions in implementing directives of the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) - Labor Party. (18 Jan 83, p. 4)

Conference Ends in Luanda

(Excerpt) The conference on the question of Socialist competition, conducted by Angolan unions, ended today in Luanda. A document was released by the participants, envisaging the expansion of a form of competition with regard to new directives of the MPLA-Central Committee. (21 Jan 83, p. 5)

Cape Verde Islands

Dedication for Cabral

(Excerpt) 20 January marks 10 years since the assassination of Amilcar Cabral, the founder of the African Independence Party of Guinea and the Cape Verde Islands, by an agent of the Portuguese colonialists. In the capital of Cape Verde Islands, Praia, the solemn opening of the dedication in the memory of Cabral which has international symbolism was organized by the leader of the African Party of Independence of the Cape Verde Islands. (20 Jan 83, p. 4)

Congo

President's Remarks

(Excerpt) The Congo is fully committed to the struggle for peace, friendship and cooperation between nations and against the threat of nuclear war, declared President Sassou-Nguesso. In a publication in Brazzaville on the occasion of the 13th anniversary of the Workers' Party of the Congo, the President emphasized solidarity of workers with all nations fighting for freedom and independence and against imperialism, colonialism, zionism, racism, and apartheid. (4 Jan 83, p. 4)

Progress in Development Plan Noted

(Excerpt) In the past year, the Congo has achieved notable successes in developing the national economy, President Sassou-Nguesso noted today on radio and television broadcasts. He continued that during the first year of the 5-year economic development plan, construction has begun on a high voltage electric line from Loudima to Pointe-Noire, on the southwest radio relay line, the airport in the city of Makoua, a refrigerator factory in Pointe-Noire, an oil refinery complex and a factory for the production of synthetic fabrics. He also announced that during the second year of the plan, roads linking Sibiti to Loudima, and Brazzaville to Maya Maya and Kindamba, the construction of a factory for the production of concrete in Loubomo, and an airport in Sibiti were planned. (5 Jan 83, p. 1)

Universal Peace Society President Interviewed

(Excerpt) 1983 will be a decisive year for affairs concerning universal peace, noted the president of the Universal Peace Society, Romesh Chandra, in an interview with a Congolese newspaper. He continued by saying that nuclear war is not inevitable and must be prevented. (7 Jan 83, p. 5)

Ethiopia

COPWE Congress Preparations

(Excerpt) The Commission for Organizing the Party of the Working People of Ethiopia (COPWE) is preparing for its second congress. (28 Dec 82, p. 1)

Cooperative Village Opens

(Text) In the province of Shoa, a ceremony took place to celebrate the opening of the cooperative village, Ergo Dubal. Forty modern homes have been constructed here, with a dining area, a recreation area, and a place for a kindergarten and school. Many state organizations took part in the construction of the village. In their turn, the peasants will build roads in rural areas, erect bridges, and organize medical centers. (30 Dec 83, p. 5)

Correspondent Writes About COPWE

(Text) The Second Congress of the Commission for Organizing the Party of the Working People of Ethiopia (COPWE) begins on 3 January. It will be an important political event in the life of the country, where great creative activity to renew all life has been launched since the 1974 revolution. The preparations for the Congress have taken place on the basis of COPWE's organizational structure, which is already widely ramified, in an atmosphere of production activeness among the country's working people.

A peculiarity of the revolutionary breakthrough in Ethiopia which marked the boundary between the past and present history of that country was that the people stormed the obdurate feudal-bourgeois regime without an organized revolutionary vanguard armed with leading social theory. At the time its role was assumed by progressive army circles with the support of the working people's masses and democratic strata of society. With the revolution's further development, the need to rally all revolutionary forces and elaborate their ideological platform was clearly defined. In the specific conditions of the situation in the country,

Ethiopia's revolutionary leadership adopted the decision to form a vanguard party through a single center and build it on the basis of the principles of scientific socialism.

This stage of the Ethiopian revolution was opened up with the creation of COPWE, which is carrying out great work in laying the organizational foundations for the future party of working people. COPWE has established fraternal relations with the Communist and workers parties of the Socialist countries, Marxist-Leninist parties in other countries and strengthened its ties with national liberation movements and progressive organizations of the world.

The process of creating a party is the core of Ethiopia's sociopolitical life. In the broad sense this process involves strengthening and increasing the role of mass organizations engendered by the revolution--associations of peasants and city dwellers, trade unions and women's and youth organizations.

Last year COPWE's activity took place under the sign of development of organizational work. In this respect great significance was attached to the fourth plenum of the Commission's Central Committee, held in June 1982. By that time, apart from COPWE committees in the provinces, committees had been formed in many (Auradzhi) (regions), the formation of political organs in the Armed Forces had been organized and plans had been drawn up for creating committees in (Uoredy) (districts). Successes in the formation of primary COPWE organizations were of fundamental importance. By the middle of 1982 there were more than 400 of them, nearly all created at industrial enterprises belonging to the state and on state farms.

Attempts to undermine COPWE's revolutionary ranks are counterposed by the strengthening of mass organizations, which now embrace almost the entire population of the country. Revolutionary ideology and the teaching of Marxism-Leninism are disseminated through such organizations. COPWE monitors their activity and channels them toward fulfilling revolutionary tasks. A structural reorganization of certain organizations has recently taken place under the Commission's leadership. According to the new formula, elections of leadership organs of the associations of city dwellers (kebeles) were held on a broad democratic basis.

The year 1982 saw a restructuring of the All-Ethiopian Trade Union and the All-Ethiopian Peasants' Association. They held national congresses. In the course of building the new trade union structure, which has now begun to reflect the working people's interests more accurately, nearly 1,500 trade union cells were created at industrial enterprises and on state farms.

The experience of the Socialist countries' trade unions was taken into account in reorganizing the Ethiopian trade unions. The decisions of the All-Ethiopian Trade Union congress expressed the determination of the Ethiopian working class to consolidate the achievements of the revolution and continue work on building the foundations of socialism in the country.

The congress of Ethiopian peasants, who form the main bulk of the country's population and are society's main productive force, reflected the new level of political development in the countryside. The decisions of the All-Ethiopian Peasants' Association confirmed the need to continue to follow the path of cooperativization in the countryside. There are more than 1,000 production cooperatives in Ethiopia now. It is characteristic that the country's national economic development plans already take account of the production potential of more than 350 rural cooperatives.

One more success in COPWE's organizational work last year was the creation of the people's control system. The network of working people's control committees opens up opportunities for the rational, economical use of the country's resources and forces for the benefit of society as a whole.

COPWE's organizational work is only part of its multifaceted activity. The commission leads society's public and political life, determines the paths of economic development and gives direction to the entire revolutionary process. (2 Jan 83, p. 4, and translated in toto by FBIS Soviet Union Daily Report, #005, 7 Jan 83, pp. J1-2)

Plenum Approves COPWE Congress Agenda

(Excerpt) A plenum of the Central Committee of COPWE was held in Addis Ababa in which the participants approved the agenda of the second COPWE Congress which opens 4 January. The plenum was addressed by Mengistu Haile Mariam, Chairman of the Provisional Military Administrative Council and the COPWE. (3 Jan 83, p. 4, and translated in part by FBIS Soviet Union Daily Report, #004, 6 Jan 83, p. J1)

CPSU Greets Congress

(Summary) The CPSU Central Committee sent greetings to the second congress of COPWE, expressing its confidence in COPWE's efforts to strengthen Ethiopia's national independence and economic self-dependence. (3 Jan 83, p. 1, and translated in toto by FBIS Soviet Union Daily Report, #004, 6 Jan 83, p. J1)

COPWE Congress Begins

(Excerpt) The second congress of COPWE began today in Addis Ababa. More than 1,500 delegates attended. In the first session, the order of work and the agenda of the day were affirmed for the congress. (4 Jan 83, p. 4)

Mengistu Speaks at COPWE Congress

(Summary) President Mengistu delivered a report at the COPWE Congress on developmental progress in the country which depends to a large extent on aid from the USSR and other Socialist states to create major industrial and power industry products. On the international situation, the report declared that socialism guarantees peace, security, and prosperity of the peoples, and expressed support for the efforts of the USSR to eliminate the threat of nuclear war. The report also emphasized the development of COPWE's relations with the Communist parties and progressive and revolutionary parties of Africa and other continents, and finally defined COPWE's organizational and political tasks to create a working people's party based on the principles of Marxism-Leninism. (5 Jan 83, p. 4, and translated in toto by FBIS Soviet Union Daily Report, # 007, 11 Jan 83, p. J1)

COPWE Congress Continues

(Excerpt) The second congress of COPWE continues in Addis Ababa. Its participants listened to speeches by the leaders of the provincial chapters of COPWE who outlined political and organizational work on local levels. (6 Jan 83, p. 4)

COPWE Congress Ends

(Excerpt) The second congress of COPWE ended yesterday after reaffirming the Ethiopian revolutionaries' loyalty to Marxism-Leninism, their determination to bring to a successful conclusion work on creating a vanguard party of working people, and to continue the cause of transforming the country on Socialist principles. The concluding session adopted a statement and a lengthy resolution defining COPWE's activity in the future. (8 Jan 83, p. 4, and translated in toto by FBIS Soviet Union Daily Report, #008, 12 Jan 83, p. J1)

New Program for Distribution of Goods

(Excerpt) The Ethiopian Government is implementing a wide program for the construction of an effective system for distribution of essential goods based on Socialist principles. (19 Jan 83, p. 1)

Attack on Illiteracy

(Summary) In Ethiopia, a large attempt is underway to irradicate illiteracy. More than 11 million people have learned to read and write in the last 3 years. (19 Jan 83, p. 5)

Gabon

French President in Gabon

(Text) French President Mitterrand visited Gabon during his trip to several African countries. (20 Jan 83, p. 4)

Kenya

Death Sentence Handed Down

(Text) The leader of Kenya's armed forces was sentenced to death for his part in the attempted coup d'etat of last August. To date, about 900 military personnel have been sentenced. (6 Jan 83, p. 4)

Mali

UDPM Congress Begins

(Excerpt) In Bamako, the capital of Mali, the second extraordinary session of the National Congress of the ruling party, the Democratic Union of the Malian People (UDPM), began. Over 3 days, the members of the National Union, the highest party organ, will examine Mali's economic problems and the progress of the current 5-year plan of economic and social development. (13 Jan 83, p. 4)

Mozambique

Machel Praises Soviet Socialism

(Excerpt) The multinational state of a new type, first formed by the Soviet Union, has been adopted by many other nations. The working masses, inspired by Socialist ideas, turned the former monarchy in Russia into a progressive state with high levels of science and culture and social progress, noted President Machel in Maputo, speaking on the 60th anniversary of the formation of the Soviet Union. (29 Dec 82, p. 4)

Soviet Trade with Mozambique

(Text) Two Soviet ships have finished unloading in Maputo port. They delivered automobiles, tractors and other agricultural equipment to Mozambique. The local press writes that trade with the Soviet Union and other Socialist countries is strengthening economic development in Mozambique. On the whole, in comparison with 1980, trade between the two countries has increased almost three fold. (11 Jan 83, p. 1)

FRELIMO Congress Preparations

(Excerpts) In Mozambique, preparations are underway for the fourth congress of FRELIMO. The highest party forum will take place under the slogans of defense of the revolutionary achievements, abolishment of backwardness and growth of a Socialist society. (17 Jan 83, p. 4)

Namibia

SWAPO Strikes Back at South Africa

(Excerpt) The racist regime of South Africa is paying for its illegal occupation of Namibia, as shown by a SWAPO publication in Luanda on the number of military operations in 1982. During that period, soldiers of the People's Liberation Army of Namibia (PLAN) staged more than 800 military operations against the South African occupying army. (15 Jan 83, p. 5)

Nigeria

Pirates Plague Territorial Waters

(Text) A Swedish trading vessel was attacked by pirates near the capital of Nigeria. The assistant to the captain received serious bullet wounds. During the past 9 months, victims of pirates in Nigeria's territorial waters have brought 14 cases to court. (2 Jan 83, p. 1)

Republic of South Africa

South African Communist Party Secretary Speaks on USSR Anniversary

(Excerpt) The progressive states of Africa salute the anniversary of the Soviet Union. The formation of the USSR was interpreted as a signal for the African nations to unite in the struggle against colonialism, noted the Secretary of the South African Communist party. (22 Dec 82, p. 8)

ANC Anniversary

(Text) Participants in a ceremonial meeting held in London on the 71st anniversary of the establishment of the African National Congress of South Africa vowed to continue the struggle for freedom and independence of African nations and to abolish apartheid. (10 Jan 83, p. 1)

South African Military Production

(Excerpt) The South African racists are attempting to enlarge their supremacy through any means. To accomplish this goal, South Africa long ago became a

military police state. Aggression arose from this, and armed attacks were launched in Angola, Mozambique and other independent states on the southern African continent. The incursion into Lesotho last December augmented the list of invasions by the South African racists. The main component of the military machine in Pretoria has been the South African Corporation for Armaments Production (ARMSCOR) which employs thousands of workers. Through Western licensing, jet fighters, tanks, armored cars, guns, and more than 140 types of ammunition of various calibres are produced. Last year, ARMSCOR proceeded with the production of its own standard military equipment. Recently the military department announced the introduction of a new tank, the "Oliphant", as well as a 155 millimeter howitzer. (19 Jan 83, p. 5)

Seychelles

Creole Dictionary Published

(Excerpt) For the first time, a Creole language dictionary has been published in the Seychelles. It contains 10,000 words, and translates them into French. Creole, which is spoken in the Seychelles and other Indian Ocean states, originated from an old French dialect spoken among slaves and spread to the islands during colonialization around 200 years ago. More than 95 percent of the population of the Seychelles speaks it. The Government decided that Creole would be the teaching language in primary schools. (14 Jan 83, p. 5)

Somalia/Djibouti

Border Closure Announced

(Excerpt) According to FRANCE PRESSE, Somali authorities announced that it had closed its border with Djibouti in the region of Louadi, 25 kilometers southeast of Djibouti. This decision was made in connection with the disorder taking place in northern Somalia. (12 Jan 83, p. 5)

Tanzania

Nyerere Calls for Strengthening of Economy

(Text) President Nyerere called upon Tanzanian society to strengthen unity and follow a course of growth. The main problem in 1983, he emphasized in a New Year's speech to the nation, will be in the struggle to overcome hardships in the national economy. The focus of attention will be to increase production volume. (3 Jan 1983, p. 1)

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