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A proposal for: Research for a regional southern African development strategy

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An abstract of a proposal for
RESEARCH FOR A REGIONAL SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

Southern Africa possesses great potential for peaceful
development capable of providing full employment and rising
living standards for all the region's inhabitants. Yet today
international attention focuses on southern Africa as a center of
violence, a threat to world peace. An intransigent minority's
repressive rule in South Africa and its deliberate
destabilization of its neighbors appear as the immediate source
of the conflict. But the end of minority rule will not
automatically bring prosperity to the region. It will remain
divided into mini-economies, no one of which possesses the
resources, capital or markets to build modern industries on the
scale required to realize the region's potential.

This research aims to examine the institutional matrix that
functions to leave the separate independent southern African
states underdeveloped and subject to South African domination.
In particular, it will focus on the way national institutions in
three problem areas function to reinforce national divisions: 1)
the national planning agencies' focus on national plans that
preclude building pole-of-growth industries based on national
resources to spread productive employment and rising living
standards throughout the region; 2) the national foreign trade
and payments mechanisms carve out national markets that block
creation of the regional markets required to make such industries
viable; and 3) the national tax, financial and investment
policies that hinder efforts to direct capital flows to finance
regionally-oriented projects.

, Using a problem-solving methodology, the research will:

*examine the available evidence as to how the national
institutions function in each of these problem areas;

*propose institutional changes designed to overcome the causes
of their negative consequences;

*investigate the difficulties of institutional innovations in
other regions that seek to resolve similar problems;

*recommend ways to implement the proposed changes in southern
Africa.

In this process, the research seeks to contribute to deepening
the theory of regional integration, and, simultaneously, to help
find ways to overcome the practical difficulties hindering
southern Africa's realization of its rich regional potential.