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Talk to United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America, 41st International Convention

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Talk to U.E., 41st International Convention
Cleveland, September 15, 1976

Mr. Chairman, Officer of the U.E., Brothers and Sisters of the U.E.,
Friends, Companeros from District Council _____

I am honored to address you this morning.

On August 25 this year Rowland, Evans, and Robert Novak wrote
in the following in a WashPost article called "Last Hope for Rhodesia":

" It may be too much to hope that any sensible plan
still has time to win political backing, given the
racial passions in Southern Africa today. But without
it, the outcome is racial war which could send its
sparks far beyond Rhodesia. That is why cool-headed
officials in Washington are willing to study anything
(emphasis
mine) with even a slim chance of averting the catastrophe"

In the Boston-based Xion Science Monitor a day later
(August 26, 1976) appeared an article entitled "Black Power: Can
South Africa Control It?" It said that what was happening today in
South Africa was black power (pure and simple) black political
power for a reversal of the present order with "black power across the
length and breadth of the land." I want to stand before you and say
unequivocally that these newspapers and many other media today are
guilty of blatant and utter distortion. What is happening in Africa
today-regardless of what David Chancellor, Brinkley-Huntley or any
other overnight Africa experts might say - is not a race war.

It is not a fight of black versus white. It is instead the drive of a people to capture their own destinies, to own and control their own resources regardless of how sought after they are by whatever number of insatiable , multinational corporations or predator nations. And, on one critical level the present drama in Southern Africa reflects a struggle between labor and multinational corporate capital. What is happening in Africa today at this moment in the Kissinger shuffle is not a desire to "avert a catastrophic clash of the races." It is instead a desire to prevent from coming topower in three remaining key regions, Rhodesia, (Zimbabwe), Southwest Africa (Namibia), and South Africa, African governments which will be dedicated to preserving Africa and her resources for the benefit of the masses of the African people and not giving new flags, anthems and Mercedes Benzes to benefit the General Electric Companies, the Westinghouses, the Dart Industries, the Motorolas and the Honeywells, and a few of the indigenous elite.

Some points being presented to us are utter and abominable fabrication. For example, the armed struggle in Rhodesia. "The Lone Ranger" is not going there to keep a war from breaking out. War has been a reality in Rhodesia since 1967 and the attacks in Wanki_ Valley by members of Zapu. Our government is not misinformed, it knows that (relate story of Columbia University class with "game

parcs rangers" freshly back speaking about the Wanki_ invasion).

Kissinger is performing his dance routine in Africa now as part of an effort to keep the transfer of power from taking place. "Superboy" is there not out of concern for world peace, or for the future of white "Rhodesians,* "The Kiss" dances today in Africa to put in power a government which will keep the door open for U.S. investment and trade. Then speak Let us be clear and fair ad hoc on future of Black African Leadership, e.g., Jesse Jackson

But let us back up a little and look at some hard facts and speaking to the O I C's August 31, 1976 Kissinger said

...We are the worlds' strongest and technologically most advanced military establishment. Today we are at peace for the first time in over a decade. No American is in combat anywhere in the world¹:. In Africa we can, if we will participate in a new birth of independence and racial peace;²we can, if we will, help shape a new international dedication to Africa's economic development .."

*Talk on the significance of a \$2 billion dollar plan to support white Rhodesian racism, cash guarantees to those who would stay and to those who would go for them to move to South Africa or Australia!!!

- 1. 4 covert operations/month over last 10 years
- 2. racial peace = growing #s of Klu Klux Klans, Amer. Nazi Parties, especially within urban police departments

gain some strength from some cold history....

Africa has some 33 countries, all of which were (except Ethiopia and Liberia) until the late 1950's, European colonies. Southern Africa is a particular sub area. It is made up of S.Afr., Namibia, Rhodesia, Mozambique, Angola, Malawi, Lesotho, Swaziland and Botswana. I would include also Zaire and Tanzania as a part of this

It is best thought of as all being the labor reserve, the labor transit comp, for the Witwaters_____ Industrial complex, also known as the West's "Industrial Workshop". For almost all of those countries economics and political and social relations are based around sending people, usually men, but not limited to men, to work in the mines, factories and farms of the Republic of South Africa or its younger sibling in crime - Rhodesia. Mozambique - struggling to lessen its inherited dependency - sends over 200, 000 annually. Malawi, until recently sent nearly 60% of its male labor force. Indeed a whole wing of South Africa's industrial structure was the WENELA. And WENELA viewed the whole of Africa as its potential cheap labor reservoir - its storefront day labor center.

This region (known as Southern Africa (distinguishable from South) is very rich in national resources. From diamonds, coal and gold to titanium, platinum and uranium to agricultural products like cotton, coffee and sisal

Quote Thompson, Butler book 353-354

Let us look briefly at South Africa, the workshop - Sketch Briefly

- Read Vorster Quote on Blacks control, control, control,

is the vicious game for the black worker in South Africa - then

read Opt___ 2 ___ Nat Sec Memo 39

US companies involved as pillars of apartheid
GE the locomotives and the banks (record figures on the bank loans)

US Foreign Policy in Africa in two lights

US Foreign Policy in context of successfull nat lib struggles
situation today

finish with quote from _____ to 6th Pan African Congress

the clarity the Africa lib movements give to all of us
struggling today

urge specific actions, give context of _____ of labor
movement to perform its international duty

It is not a question of whether or not we - the USA and American
people - want to get involved in this fascist state, South Africa

We are involved. Militarily, politically, economically, on the
cultural level, the USA is one of the pillars along with France, West
Germany, Britain and Japan supporting the South African apartheid
system. Our Pentagon is subtly weaving S.Africa into the so-called free
worlds' defense network against so-called Soviet aggression in the
Indian Ocean. Our Pentagon is presently pressing for the construction
the Transkei - one of several fraudulent schemes called Bantustans
which pose as South Africa having created them as independent states.
Our Pentagon is proposing construction of a naval base in the Transkei.

There are some 500+ U.S. companies directly involved in the economy of South Africa through subsidiaries, branches, etc.etc.

American Cy _____, Ampex, Amco, ARCO, AVCO, Boeing, Westinghouse Burlington, Chrysler, DuPont, Ford, GM, Firestone, Esso, GE, Honeywell, ITT, IBM, Litten Industries, Polaroid, Union Carbide, Dart and Xerox, Kennecott, Cartex, Mobil and Shell and others are some of the principals who invested in 1973 an estimated \$1.24 billion in the

or
approx
\$462
mil,
1/3 of
the
orig
invest

racist economy which earned at a 17% profit rate, More expansion is planned, Carter alone is now doing a \$134 million expansion of facilities. The _____ are assisted by the US Dept of the

Treasury which gives them total deduction from their US taxes for any taxes they pay to the South African gov't.

Our presence is also reflected in bank loans which in the last 2 years total over 500 million dollars. Banks like Citicorp,

Manufacturers Hanover Trust Chase _____

ignore UN passed sanction against regimes like South Africa and instead are bankrolling the system of modern day slavery which exists there. Thus,

Uncle Sam the Pusher Man in the Vietnam War becomes Massa Sam the slaveholder in the context of South Africa. And a similar pattern exists in Rhodesia. In essence, then South Africa and Rhodesia are prime examples of the cheap labor paradises which are talked about in y_____

Convention's resolution on "the menace of the multinational" where it points out that over 1 million American jobs have been lost in the



last 5 years as the multinationals relocate in parts of the world

where they can get cheap wage-slave labor 13A on GE

GE in South Africa a Corporate Int
joint ventures, subsidiaries, sales

5 divisions

600 million
in overseas sales

S A for G E
manufacturers household appliances
annual sales 20 million minimum

55 millions in turnovers

huge plant near Jo'burg

1,500 employees

March 71 463 salaried white managers
min 30.5¢ /hour Africans 750 = African
43.9¢/-46.5 /hour remainder= colored and Asian
colored range to 59¢
1.46¢/hr unskilled whites
1.60-1.80/hr artisans

Talk to U.E. Cleveland Sept 15, 76

On US Foreign Policy

US Foreign Policy in Africa today must be viewed in two different lights. One is a subtle tinted, well-shaded set of verbal deceptions, approximations and untruths. - This is what is said; it is what the daily papers present to the American working people. The other is the naked, glaring, white light of what is actually being done. It is likeable to the fact that the US state dep't or the chief executive can on the one hand piously and wordily denounce "the loss of human rights in Chile" (because of the very regime which it brought into the world) And on the other hand in practice it can give 2 billion \$ to support and maintain the same fascist military regime. On the one hand from time to time the US spokesmen decry - through its renown humanitarian spokesmen like Robert Macnamara, President of the World Bank, - statistics like 1 out of every 300 men, women, and children having been assassinated in Chile since the coup. On the other hand in the same 3 years since the coup the US has let 400 refugees and their families settle (while in a shorter period we settle 120,000 Vietnamese, [parallel to our policy of accepting white South Africans and difficulty for South African refugees])

other context = era of nat lib struggles -
 successful ones

There is however another way in which US Foreign Policy, governmental US corporate involvement, should be viewed. That is that this is the era of the successful national liberation struggle.

Vietnam, Cambodia, in Africa-Mozambique, Guine Bissau, and Angola mark areas where a peoples's national force have struggled for independence from colonial shackles and for ending exploitation and mastery over their own resources and destinies. It is in this way that the gov't keeps getting us into situations where it, (rather we,'cause its our sons, brothers, grandsons, doing the marching through booby-trapped unfamiliar and hostile lands) is on the wrong side and ends up playing a hopeless and costly game of catch-up.

Never be mistaken - we were nto so involved in the Angola situation because of the Communist (Soviet or Cuban) bogeymen. We began being involved there in 1960-61 when under the Kennedy Admin., then head of the C.I.A. Dulles selected Holden Roberts (FNLA head)

him. It was not a civil to be our man in Angola and began bankrolling ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ war. We were ~~UNITAxFNLA~~ involved through the US mercenaries, our bankrolling the

vicious forces of UNITA, FNLA, our jointly managed airlifts with the South Africans, we were involved as those who would stop the thrust of genuine African liberation. a thrust we too know for all of us want

to not live in misery but to control our own creative capabilities, our own lives and nto have them run by some MNC. Just as in 1964 when we put together airlifting Belgian troops and mercenaries into the

Congo after Belgium had failed to contain the liberation forces headed by Patrice Lumumba who we killed so, too, when Portugal and or the puppet armies of FNLA, UNITA failed to contain the MPLA we stepped in with our co-mobsters the South African Government and an international set of mercenaries. But the effort failed. So today with the failure of our allies South Africa, the Lone Ranger with his silver bullet has begun his precarious, overt intervention into Southern Africa. It is not just a foolish dance step, this gov't has taken a step which, as professor Immanuel Wallerstein called it is "a magnum step towards our sending troops into Southern Africa"

The situation today is simple and clear. In uranium-rich SWA or Namibia the people led by the SWAPD are conducting a successful war for their freedom and genuine independence. In Rhodesia or Zimbabwe too, the Rhodesian African people-and some whites and indians Zimbabweans all - there the struggle is further along and the white

Note
white
evacu-
ation
rate

supremacist government is in desperate trouble - clearly losing the protracted struggle. And in South Africa itself a most historical

(not a color war)
thing has happened - forces have been let loose which are aiming at changing the whole thing the 150,000 people, regular working people, like you and me out in a three day general strike most significant thing especially in South Africa's condition



incredible lesson to the rest of us struggling for the right to not live in misery or live alcoholized or live doped into a stupor. They are providing lessons, too, on how to reconstruct social relations in a society so as to end the oppressive _____ in which most women live; but above all, they are providing lessons on how to create, a new mode of production in which our lives are based on our running our own creative capabilities, our own destinies not some multinationals time clock, some array of trapped computer run bureaucrats, a tiny elite of the super-rich, being the be-all, end-all to our right to be able not only to work and not be in the unemployment line but to work productively and creatively.

Story of S _____ Machel's

"I relate to you not because you are black, but because you are oppressed."

Story of Amil _____ Cabral's comrade

I am a guest at this convention. I am pleased and honored to be such for the UE is known throughout the world as a fighting union. For this reason I wish to make some concrete suggestions. And because the US labor movement has largely been silent - and must counter forces

see article like the manipulated AFL CIA's, oops! AFL CIO's African American the "AFLCIA Gov on Labor Center (dominated by Irving Brown) And because the labor Safari in Africa" in mag movement must meet its historic responsibility, I suggest that the UE Counter-Spy

to

1. First to define/its membership and to the general public a position on southern Africa that is oriented to a democratic, pro-national independence policy. This position would clearly define itself _____ in opposition to Kissinger, rather than being a set of pressure tactics operating within the framework that he has posed.

2. Push for recognition of the Peoples Republic of Angola through the US delegation to the UN and for normalize economic and political relationships with Mozambique.

3. Urge repeal the ~~Byrd~~ Amendment that sanctions the importation of chrome from Rhodesia. Fully support the UN sanction boycott of Rhodesia.

4. Recognize the Zimbabwe liberation movements as the legitimate political expression of the black majority.

5. Urge immediate independence to Namibia in accordance with the UN's policy. Recognition of SWAPO as the legitimate political expression of the black majority

6. Work for immediate full political rights to all in South Africa. Support to all groups in South Africa that work for this demand. Demand the civil liberties of political prisoners and persecutees, grant them political asylum in the United States.

7. Work to minimize U.S. economic and diplomatic intervention in southern and central Africa so as to keep the U.S. from trying to dominate the nations of this area. Specifically, cut military and related foreign aid to Kenya and Zaire.

8. Press for a set of domestic demands for America that would also be in opposition to southern African involvement, e.g. demand of major international banks that they not invest in South Africa, but use the funds for investment in redlined areas in American cities.

9. Financially support the underground SACTU recalling that trade unionism is illegal for blacks in South Africa. (letter from SACTU and this in line with resolution in getting contacts with working people)

Again, I am grateful to have been a part of this convention. I hope that I have said some things that are worthwhile and which help us all to move forward.