

Terrorism: Pretoria Takes up Washington's "War Cry"

(c) Moscow in Portuguese for Africa 2030 GMT also in English for Africa 1700 GMT 5 February 1981

Excerpt from commentary by Yelena Olgina, with introduction

Last Friday [30th January] a group of South African commandos attacked a camp of South African refugees located near Maputo. This act of aggression resulted in three [sic] people being killed and many being wounded. The Mozambique armed forces repelled the racists' attack and are now fully in control of the situation in the area. Yelena Olgina [phonetic] comments:

This is only one of the long list of such acts perpetrated in the last few months. Once again its targets were refugees from South Africa and the frontline states supporting the southern African freedom fighters. Still fresh in the memory are the attacks on a SWAPO camp in Angola and against Botswana and Zambia. The South African racists continue systematically to wipe out the resistance of their political opponents and continue to terrorize those States providing aid to the refugees. How else can we describe such acts of murder, armed incursion and spreading terror to demoralize the people? It is sheer terrorism, brazen terrorism which is convinced of its impunity. It is not by chance that the words terrorism and terror have the same root. By condemning the racist regime with words alone, the Western countries not only actively support it but in fact encourage it to carry out fresh acts of aggression against neighbouring countries. Those States, whose policy is to develop independently and support the southern African national liberation movements, incur the displeasure of imperialist countries.

By deliberately encouraging South Africa, the West is not only exacerbating tension in southern Africa but is also backing up the government of a country where terrorism has been raised to the level of foreign policy. This position is fraught with the gravest of consequences. It is being widely and vigorously condemned. Soviet opinion on this question is well-known [...]

[Note: Both Moscow in English for Africa (1700 GMT 6 February 1981) and "Radio Peace and Progress" in English for Africa (1630 GMT 6 February 1981) as well as Tass in English (1610 GMT 5 February 1981) reported Sean MacBride's press conference in Moscow. The President of the International Peace Bureau was in the USSR at the invitation of the Soviet Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee following his participation in the work of the International Commission investigating South Africa's crimes against Angola. MacBride said that there was a "systematic silent war being waged against the people of Angola, Mozambique and Zambia, which consists of terrorist attacks being carried out nearly daily by the South African forces." Evidence had shown, MacBride declared, that South Africa intended to destabilize the Angolan Government; he added that the equipment used in the war was supplied mainly by France and America, including some napalm bombs.]