

Nazism in Africa

Today, Red-baiting has begun to curse South, Southern and Continental Africa, and capitulation to this cunning blackmail is the main danger in the present political situation. This is quite true, but Red-baiting is only an usher on the threshold for the emergence of Nazism on a large scale, to fulfil Hitler's uncompleted task of building a Nazi empire in Africa...

In his book, *Their Paths Crossed Mine*, H.J. Van Rensburg, one-time Commandant-General of the *Ossewa Brandwag*, Hitler's fifth column organisation in South Africa during World War II, describes how the joint conquest of Africa, which had been planned to follow victory over the Soviet Union in World War II, had been discussed in detail as far back as 1936, and how he, along with many others who now control South Africa, had worked actively in co-ordination with the Nazi Africa Corps for the conquest of Africa by the Nazis. He proudly reports that many white troops who would otherwise have fought against Hitler were retained in South Africa in preparation for the civil war that was to be organised by his group. Apparently, the Nazis have always regarded South Africa as an important base for the infiltration and later conquest of the more northerly African countries.

To this end, those in power in the Republic of South Africa and in the Federal Republic of West Germany have combined their economic strength, diplomatic double-dealing and military force to carry out the old plans for conquest with new methods. In addition, they are jointly producing and testing important military raw materials, atomic weapons, rockets and poison gases.

The old ambitions of setting up a « Greater White South Africa » have again come to the fore. When South Africa and Rhodesia signed their 1965 Trade Agreement, the West German *Handelsblatt* commented :

« Dr. Verwoerd has for many years proclaimed the idea of an economic community of Southern Africa, and membership not only for its white, but also for its black neighbours. The first step towards a South African Community has been taken. It is even to be expected that other applications for membership will follow. Zambia needs the Republic of South Africa as an economic partner. Malawi is an economic abortion (...) The neighbouring Mozambique also depends to a great extent upon South African transit traffic and tourism ».

And so the network is spread through « advisers », « instructors », etc. The Algerian weekly magazine, *Révolution Africaine* of March 13, 1967, commented :

« Is Rhodesia becoming a German colony ? There are over ten West German officers on the General Staff of the Rhodesian Armed Forces. About fifty West German officers are working as advisers to infantry units or as instructors in Ian Smith's Air Force ».

The *Ghanaian Times* of July 30, 1964, said :

« West German military advisers, instructors and so on, are not only active under camouflage in South Africa, but also in the neighbouring Portuguese colonies, particularly in Angola ».

In addition, said the London *Daily Mail* of June 5, 1964 : « The West German Federal Republic has already concluded agreements with seven different African States, at all strategic points on the African Continent, for the supply of military advisers, instructors and other military aid ».

Africa seems to be voluntarily putting a noose around her own neck, and handing over the other end of the rope to the Nazis, no matter how brazenly the Nazis hoodwink and plot her downfall.

The *Handelsblatt* of December 22, 1966, described the first West German and South African alliance with African States as a *cordon sanitaire* to be set up round militant black Africa. It expressly referred to Anton Rupert's activities as « adviser » in Lesotho, and to others of his kind in Malawi, Botswana and Swaziland. « If this is successful, South Africa will suddenly have in the OAU, and in the UN, the votes of four African States », the paper concluded. For years a big South African mobile exhibition has been touring West German cities. Here, a glowing picture is painted of the splendid life provided under white rule for the master race in South Africa. The final exhibit is a huge map : « The Future South African Commonwealth ». This map includes the whole of Southern Africa up to the Congo, and in leaflets that are distributed free, the territory to be taken over reaches as far as Kenya, whose favourable high plateau is recommended to Europeans.



Let us look at some facts that illustrate the dangers to which the people of Africa, whose territories fall within the huge map, are exposed.

When South African Defense Minister Botha visited Schroder in Bonn in April, 1967, the main subject of negotiations was the adjustment of the secret military agreement of 1961 between South Africa and West Germany to the barely concealed military alliance between South Africa, Rhodesia and Portugal. The necessary preliminary talks with Portugal had already been conducted by Botha, who came to Bonn direct from Lisbon.

But there was a second, no less important, subject of discussion in Bonn : the secret weapon. Botha had for months been dropping mysterious hints about such a secret weapon which « South African scientists (among others) have been developing, and we shall be prepared to work with them » (*Rand Daily Mail*, December 17, 1966).

As Defence Minister Fouche and Professor le Roux (Vice-President of the National C.S.I.R.) let fall as far back as 1963,

experts in the South African Defence Research Council are working on a combination of long-range rockets and Tabun, Soman and Sarin which are particularly virulent poison-gases, colourless, odourless and tasteless (Reuters, November II, 1963 ; *New York Herald Tribune*, November 9, 1963 ; *The Times*, October 28, 1963 ; etc.).

These most poisonous of all poison-gases, invented by IG-Farben Trust experts towards the end of the Second World War, were not ready in time to be used as Hitler's « miracle weapon ». The creator of these chemical means of warfare, a certain Dr. Schrader, was taken over after 1945 by one of the successor firms of IG-Farben, the Ludwig Bayer AG (Leverkusen, West Germany), together with his closest co-workers Dr. Walter Lorenz, Dr. Gross, Dr. Hecht and Dr. Kuckenthal. The group was able to continue research and developed still further the nerve-gas, based on organic esters of phosphoric acid, into the still more poisonous « Gas V ».

Contact with the *Bunderswehr* was made by the same Professor Wolfgang Wirth who had inspected this research work in his capacity as head chemist and General Staff Medical Officer of the Nazi *Wehrmacht* under Hitler. The camouflage name used for this research was also retained. As under Hitler, it was called « Research in the Field of Production of Plant Protection Means and Insecticides ».

« Cyclon B » was one such insecticide ; it was a byproduct of Schrader's research work. The Nazis murdered millions of people in concentration camp gas-chambers with Cyclon B.

Further development of Cyclon B was left to the U.S.A. : it has been used by the Americans in their war of aggression against Vietnam, disguised as a plant protection substance and insecticide.

Former Cyclon B experts have gone underground in South Africa with the help of the West German Hoechst Dye Works. For the most part, they are in the chemical factories of Sasolburg.

The nerve-gas researchers remained at first with the Bayer firm. In 1961, Dr. Verwoerd sent his personal scientific adviser, Dr. Moning, to the latter. Moning suggested an exchange. Bayer & Co. should transfer their nerve-gas research and production experiments to South Africa and give the South African Government a share, and the South African Government would see that Bayer received control of the rich resources of chromium ore near Rustenburg (which can be mined cheaply) and thus be able to build up their international monopoly in

chromium. Bayer accepted the offer. The firm became co-owner of the South African chemical firm « Norichem », and in 1962 began building a factory « for plant protection substances and insecticides » within the framework of « FBA Pharmaceuticals, Johannesburg », which belongs to Bayer.

The factory has been completed and is now in production. Experts estimate that production could be switched over to Gas V in a matter of hours.

« These poisons », said Professor le Roux at a scientific conference in Pretoria in 1963, « could be sprayed from the air from planes or rockets, like insect powder. They would have an effect similar to an atom bomb of 20 megatons but would be considerably cheaper » (Reuters, November 7, 1963 ; *New York Herald Tribune*, November 8, 1963).

Such gases would not only be cheaper, but more humane, wrote one of the Springer papers which made fun of the « general outcry » when the US aggressors tried out means of warfare of this kind in Vietnam :

« With weapons which kill and destroy, one also destroys one's future property and sows the seeds of revenge. This endangers one's own future security (...) The transition to chemical arms would at least (...) offer a better alternative (...) » (Die Welt, Hamburg — West Berlin, March 31, 1965).

Possibilities of this kind, of a cheap and radical destruction of mankind without much destruction of property or « endangering one's own property », have certainly contributed to making these poisons attractive to men like Verwoerd, Vorster and Botha. Their factories can today produce several tons of Gas V daily. A gramme of Tabun is enough to kill 400 people. Serin and Soman are considerably more poisonous. All three are very much less powerful than Gas V and the further development of it (*Révolution Africaine*, No. 186, 1966).

The South African factories which produce these « humane » substances were regularly inspected by Professor Wolfgang Wirth, who has since been pensioned off. His superior, Defence Minister Dr. Schroder, was therefore fully informed when Botha came to Bonn in 1967 to negotiate further developments and the date on which revelations about the joint « secret weapon » would be most effective.

Atomic research, rocket development, poison-gas production, and with it a huge machinery for suppressing the vast majority of the population, implies that any State which is to manage all this must have a tightly organised industry. There is a suitable model for this, too : the Nazi *Wehrwirtschaft*.

The demand put forward by C.J. Pitts, Chairman of the Johannesburg Chamber of Commerce, that a Defence Council be set up to deal with the economic aspects of defence policy, and that trade and industry be represented on it, shows how correct this analysis was (*Southern Africa News Features*, London, September 26, 1966).

This, in fact, means that the Nazi *Wehrwirtschaft* with its War Economy Council and *Wehrwirtschaftsführer* is to be imitated. The new head of the South African army, Commandant-General Hiemstra, showed himself fully in agreement with this idea when he said : « Every industrial concern in the country is potentially a member of the Defence Force and every worker a soldier in civilian clothes » (*Star*, Johannesburg, February 12, 1966).

It is perfectly clear where this idea comes from. In the archives of the biggest IG-Farben factory, the former AFFA, a Dr. J. Schmelzer made a sensational discovery among the papers of its director, Gajewski, who held a top post in IG-Farben under Hitler. He found a copy of the Economic Study Commission of the *Reichsgruppe Industrie* which visited South Africa in 1938 on behalf of the Hitler Government.

The Commission had the task, « with the help of good old business friends, to gain an insight into matters which have hitherto not been clearly visible from Germany ; to detect and remove obstacles, but especially to found bases for our trade, build these up and, through personal contacts with government and economic circles, to provide assistance to our official representatives ».

Included in the negotiations were Prime Minister Hertzog, who refused a year later to fight against Hitler, Defence Minister Pirow and J.H. Van Rensburg, Commandant-General of the *Ossewa Brandwag*. The report of the Commission was a regular stock-taking of the South African economy. It is striking with what consistency the South African racists have adhered to the plans worked out with the representatives of German monopoly capitalism in 1938, since they returned to power in 1948, after the interval caused by the Second World War.

This is true not only in the case of the build-up of State-owned industry, but equally so in the solution of the racial question. The expert for racial and « Native » problems was Gattineau, who wrote : « There are often considerable difficulties on the farms now. Flogging has been forbidden. A big fuss is made about it now. Whereas the Africans used to be modest and willing, they are now often rebellious ».

The main report itself states that in 1938 there was no clear and consistent policy on the Natives, but such policy would have to be worked out if the supremacy of the white race was to be maintained. The report repeatedly stated that the racial problem was primarily a matter of keeping « cheap black labour » cheap and willing.

The Nazi Party Office for Racial Policy made enquiries to determine « the future legal position of the Natives and preparing later measures » both for the big colonial empire which the Nazis intended to establish, and for their partners and political allies in South Africa. Dr. Gustav Strohmann, head of the Colonial Office of the Nazi Foreign Office, described what he considered to be a clear policy on Africans in a letter from Addis Ababa which was under the Italian Fascists in 1940. He said : « Here, under the blessing of a European administration, the Natives have become so disreputable, fat, lazy and unwilling that one might feel quite desperate, if it were not for the comforting thought that a hundred years hence, fewer blacks will play around here than there are Indians chasing buffaloes in the streets of Chicago today. This is, in fact, a comforting certainty ».

Herr Strohmann later became a the Federal Republic's Ambassador to South Africa, where he met old friends again — the leading theorists who had co-operated in working out Fascist racial laws. The most important of these were Dr. Eiselen, Secretary for Native Affairs, and Dr. Vervoerd, Minister for Native Affairs and later Prime Minister.

Eiselen, son of a German missionary, had studied ethnology in Germany and had introduced the basic principles of racial segregation in South Africa. Vervoerd also studied in Germany, where he qualified for co-operating in the work of drafting Fascist racial laws. There is a striking resemblance, even in detail, between Nazi plans and South African laws. Suggestions made « on labour questions of the Natives in the African colonies » included the introduction of special identity passes, restrictions on residence, employment only in lower grade work,

« recruitment » of forced labour and separate living quarters — all the main apartheid features operating in South Africa today.

Another transaction which was effected during Strohm's term of office, with the help of the Anton Rupert Trust, was the transfer of a great part of SS ill-gotten property to South Africa, as well as that of many SS men from Argentina. In 1965, there was much discussion in the South African press about how big the secret SS population actually was, and how many of them were living under false names and even occupying important Government posts. It is a fact that in all German clubs, newspapers and other institutions in South Africa, former SS men call the tune.

In 1964, Vorster, the present Prime Minister, called upon South African historians « to investigate the role played by the Germans in forming the country, for there were so far too few works on the German immigrants who have added their characteristic thoroughness and discipline to the South African way of life ». The first results of those investigations are available. This piece of official propaganda states that the white South Africans are, in fact, half-German. More Germans came with the legendary founder of the Cape Colony, Jan van Riebeeck, than one had hitherto supposed... The report concludes with a long list of prominent people in the government, the economy, science and culture who studied in Germany (many of them during the Nazi period) and whose sons are now studying in West Germany.

If attention is concentrated on the key posts, it becomes very clear how consistently and successfully the West German monopolies have followed the advice of Erhard, former Economics Minister and later Federal Chancellor, to join in « exploiting the enormous labour power potential in South Africa, which is more attractive than almost any other country to enterprising German initiative » !

A decisive factor in the build-up of power of the West German monopolies in South Africa and for their penetration into dominant positions was, and remains, their political influence on State power, especially on the Government. Since Vorster's accession, tried agents of West German monopoly capital are moving more quickly than before into key positions.



The two countries mainly concerned do not hesitate to involve big international consortiums in their efforts to build up a « Greater White South Africa » ; on the contrary, they are eager for participation of this kind, since it makes it easier to carry out their far-reaching plans and does not endanger their aims so long as political and military control remains firmly in their hands.

A model example of these tactics was the setting up, early in 1967, of the IMEX company in Johannesburg, with an initial capital of 1.5 thousand million marks, and big international participation. It aims at getting the entire economic development of Southern Africa into its hands, somewhat along the lines of the colonial trading companies of the 17th. and 18th. centuries, a parallel which the foundation reports expressly point out.

One of the first agreements made by the new trading company was with Malawi. IMEX is taking over the entire foreign trade of this young African State and is building for it a new capital called Lilongwe — an undertaking which will put Malawi in debt to IMEX to the tune of 120 million marks.

Economic advisers are another special feature of IMEX. Four such South African « experts » are already acting as advisers in Lesotho, Botswana, Swaziland and Malawi. One of these advisers is Dr. Anton Rupert, head of the Rembrandt-Reemtsma-Rothmans concern. He is advising Lesotho (the former British protectorate of Basutoland) quite openly to develop voluntarily into a « Bantustan », as the South African racists have christened their African reserves. Rupert is here more « progressive » than Verwoerd was, for his idea is not only to plunder the African « reserves » through their « border » industries, but to plunder the African « reserves » themselves through setting up industries in them ; here, he is in agreement with Vorster.

For this purpose Rupert had adopted a new philosophy, which he advertises as energetically as he does his cigarettes : the philosophy of « partnership ». Like the money for it, his philosophy derives from Hitler's SS principle which was placed, for example, above the entrance to the notorious Buchenwald Concentration Camp — the dominance of the white race. While « predominance » should definitely be defended, it should now be called « partnership » with the developing countries.

The *Dusseldorf Handelsblatt* reported on November 28, 1966, that Rupert had built his entire global multi-national concern on these lines, and he appealed for support for this idea in a

speech he delivered in Rotterdam in which he referred to his successes in Malawi, Lesotho and Kenya.

Vorster is now beginning to speak more frequently of this while Rupert has developed it into a sort of Christian neighbourly love for the much-too-independent States of Africa, who would do far better to become « partners of South Africa ». Those who consent are assisted to power by all possible means. Those who are not prepared to join in the new form of plundering of their own people are kept out of action by means of defamation, house-arrest, imprisonment, banning and terrorism, until the « partnership » regime has gained a firm footing. And the network is spreading. The propaganda for a « Greater South Africa » under white rule is being systematically carried out in the entire monopoly press of West Germany. The *Frankfurter Allgemeine* wrote that South Africa was sometimes in a similar position to West Germany : « Its neighbours are not willing, but this is probably only a matter of time. A sort of common market is developing between South Africa, Angola, Mozambique and the new States of Lesotho, Botswana, Malawi and Rhodesia. Time heals many wounds. The Congo and Zambia will join one day... and a well-known South African industrialist is even building in Kenya ».

Vorster himself explained his « new policy » in a long speech to white Afrikaner students of Bloemfontein University. He told them that African States need leadership. « We are not settlers, we are part of Africa, and we are the most developed State in Africa. We therefore have a duty to Africa, and we have to share the fruits of our experience with them. You students are here to develop leadership and gain knowledge ». He called for a setting up of a « South African Peace Corps » on the U.S. model.

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Thirty years ago, the world was plunged into war against Nazism which threatened to engulf it. Those plans of engulfment are being vigorously and enthusiastically revived. The centre of activity has been moved from Europe to Africa. The Union Building in Pretoria has taken the place of the Reichstag Building in Berlin.

The world which went to war in 1939 is completely aware of this Nazi build-up but the political situation has drastically changed since the end of that war, and much of Africa has

declared its independence from colonialism. Africa, not Europe, is the immediate target of the Nazis. This is a matter for serious thought for progressive Africa, poor non-aligned and positively neutral Africa. Non-progressive Africa is actively and practically aligned : one section of it with the old colonial masters, and another with the rising Nazis. But the old colonial masters are collaborating with the Nazis. The West German M.P., Hans Merten, revealed to the *Neue Rheinzeitung* how African States were being hoodwinked. He said : « These countries wish to have nothing more to do with the former colonial powers, because they fear they will thereby become dependent. For this reason some of them come to us (..) We always act in agreement with the relevant former colonial power, and with the United States of America... »

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