

Grim news from Africa

I have just learned from reliable intelligence sources in Washington that Ethiopian troops soon may be sent to Mozambique. If true, this is extremely disturbing news for the western alliance and all those Africans — black and white — who are opposed to the spread of Soviet imperialism.

Starving, war-torn Mozambique has been much in the news of late. Its popular but quite ineffectual leader, Samora Machel, was killed on Oct. 19 when the Russian pilot of his Soviet aircraft crashed on the South African border. The media were quick to blame South Africa, even though there was not a shred of evidence suggesting anything but typically sloppy Russian flying.

No one asked why the president of a supposedly independent African nation had to rely on the Russians for air transport.

Machel's successor, politburo member Joaquim Chissano, will now have to deal with Mozambique's most pressing problem, the growing insurgency of the anti-communist MNR movement. Today, almost half of Mozambique is under MNR control; the capital, Maputo, is virtually isolated from the rest of the country. More important, MNR has cut the vitally important rail line that carries mineral exports from Mozambique's landlocked neighbors, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

MNR, about which I have already written, is backed to a limited degree by South Africa and the black African state of Malawi. It also receives support from a conservative group including Saudi Arabia, Morocco, Egypt and from some Brazilians. Such support is of minor importance: MNR is a genuine, popular revolt against starvation and terror caused by the Marxist policies of Mozambique's government.

The Maputo regime and its Soviet advisers have been unable to stop MNR guerrillas. Zimbabwe, a

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self-proclaimed Marxist state and a major recipient of Canadian aid, has sent 25,000 troops into Mozambique to fight the MNR. Now, if reports are correct, Marxist Ethiopia may soon send substantial numbers of troops to aid in the fight against the MNR.

The three Marxist states, Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Ethiopia, get more Canadian aid than any other nations in Africa. Mozambique and Ethiopia are protectorates of the Soviet Union; Zimbabwe is headed in that direction. Worse, Ethiopia's Stalinist regime is the bloodiest, most cruel, most vile government in Africa. It has just murdered one million of its own people and forced another million — with generous Canadian aid — into labor camps.

Each year, Canada helps replenish the coffers of these three Marxist police states. Canadian food and aid dollars help keep their decaying Marxist economies from total collapse — and prevent popular uprisings that would overthrow the communist regimes. Meanwhile, with the money saved, Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Ethiopia can pursue the war against their own people. Canadian aid allows them to buy arms from the USSR and to employ East German secret police advisers.

Let's not forget that there are 35,000 Cuban troops in Angola, Russia's own African Foreign Legion. Add new troops from Ethiopia to Mozambique and you have a large and quite invincible Marxist army poised to attack South Africa, Namibia, Botswana and Malawi — the West's prime sources of strategic minerals. This is a danger that cannot be underestimated.

Except, as usual, in Ottawa. Canada, it seems, will not be content until all of southern Africa and its vast mineral resources are firmly under Soviet control. Is this some devious plot to eliminate competition to Canadian minerals, or just the result of the persistent naivete and left-wing bias that so color our governments? I don't know.

But I do know that I am angry that my earnings are being taxed away and dished out without scruple to aid murderous Marxist despots while their benefactor, Ottawa, denounces South Africa and the Contras.

It is even worse watching passively while the Soviet Union and its satraps relentlessly occupy southern Africa. It is tragic to watch South Africa — for all its many faults still a bright island of civilization in a rising sea of darkness — brought ever closer to ruin and slaughter by obtuse western policy.

But most galling and most intolerable of all is to watch the little men who make foreign policy in Ottawa gleefully filling up the bottomless tin cups of the Marxist thugs and beggars who would happily slit our western throats.

Punch



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