

VORSTER, CALLAGHAN and how they are stealing the wealth of Namibia



South Africa keeps 50,000 troops in Namibia, the territory it has occupied illegally for years in defiance of the UN and world opinion. It does so, partly at least, in order to plunder the territory's rich mineral reserves - especially its uranium which is in short world supply. This is the wealth that Vorster is stealing from the people of Namibia. And through a seven-year-old contract Britain is due to receive first deliveries of some of this uranium this year, 1977. The Anti-Apartheid Movement calls on the Government to cancel this contract immediately. And we appeal to you to join this campaign. Please read on.

Campaign Against the Namibian Uranium Contract



Cancel the RTZ Contract

Since 1970 the British Government, through British Nuclear Fuels, has had a contract with Rio Tinto-Zinc, the international mining corporation, for £120 million worth of uranium between the mid-1970's and the early 1980s. This uranium is due to be delivered from this year, 1977, and will come from Namibia, (South West Africa).

Namibia is under South African military occupation. Vorster has enforced the brutal apartheid system upon the Namibian people. They have been used as a source of cheap labour and their mineral resources have been plundered. World opinion, through the United Nations and the International Court of Justice, has demanded South Africa's withdrawal from its illegal occupation and an end to all support.

The 1974 UN Decree on Namibian Natural Resources specifically forbade the exploitation of Namibian resources under South African occupation, and gave the UN Council for Namibia the power to confiscate, on behalf of the Namibian people, any natural resources exported from Namibia without UN consent.

And the Namibian people have themselves made clear their opposition both to the occupation in general and to this uranium extraction in particular. SWAPO, the South West Africa Peoples Organisation of Namibia, recognised by the UN as the authentic voice of the Namibian people, have described it as 'criminal exploitation of irreplaceable natural resources which rightfully belong to the people of Namibia'. They have repeatedly requested the British Government to cancel the contract, and underlined their condemnation yet again in a meeting with the Foreign Office in March. Yet despite widespread opposition the Government has so far refused to cancel the contract.

Many British-based multinationals and other firms operate in South Africa and Namibia. Some of these are government-controlled. Yet rarely has the British Government become so closely and directly involved in any of their projects as it is in this case. Further, its

involvement flies in the face of UN resolutions and the 1971 Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice, which confirmed the illegality of South Africa's presence in Namibia and called on UN member states to refrain from any dealings with South Africa with regard to Namibia. Although in other cases Britain has urged adherence to ICJ rulings, nevertheless it abstained from voting on UN Security Council Resolution 301, which endorsed the Opinion, and has refused to accept the validity of the Security Council's directive against economic dealings with South Africa over Namibia.

Britain was amongst those countries which recently criticised South African attempts to instal a puppet government and promote sham independence for Namibia.

At the United Nations Britain supports resolutions calling for South Africa's withdrawal from Namibia. And yet, through the RTZ project, Britain is prepared to profit from South Africa's illegal occupation.

The Government defends this on the grounds of national interest. What 'national interest' can justify Britain stealing the wealth of Namibia, putting its profits before the people of Namibia?

Opposition to the contract is widespread. Only last year the Labour Party Conference overwhelmingly condemned it. We plan to turn this opposition into a campaign to reverse the Government's policy and to prevent Britain from illegally exploiting Namibia's natural resources.

We call for the immediate termination of the contract and support the 1976 Labour Party Conference condemnation of this deal. We do not believe that any 'national interest' Britain may have in the uranium is adequate to justify this connivance in the oppression of the people of Namibia. We hope that you will join the campaign to cancel this contract.

Pressure needs to be mounted now to reverse the Government's policy and to prevent Britain's illegal exploitation of Namibia's natural resources.

What you can do

- Organise activity against any RTZ presence in your area
- Protest to the Energy Secretary, Tony Benn
- Write to your MP seeking his support
- Pass resolutions through your trade union, political party or other group
- Invite an expert on the contract and its implications to speak at any organisation you are involved in. Further details about the contract and the campaign from:

Campaign Against the Namibian Uranium Contract
Anti-Apartheid Movement
89 Charlotte Street
London W1P 2DQ Tel 01-580 5311

The Anti-Apartheid Movement campaigns for freedom for all the peoples of Southern Africa from white minority domination and supports the African liberation struggle. We campaign for an end to all British and international links with the white minority regimes and to this end work in all political parties, trade unions, religious groups, universities, colleges and schools and with the wider public. We receive the support of many bodies and individuals and have over 40 local groups throughout the country.

We would be glad to hear from you if you are interested in actively supporting the CANUC Campaign or any of our other activities and hope that you will join the Movement.

If you are concerned about the situation in Namibia in particular, you can also contact Namibia Support Committee, 21/25 Tabernacle St, London EC2. For further information on campaigns against companies operating in Southern Africa, also contact the Haslemere Group, 467 Caledonian Rd, London N7.