

Alleged Anti-Malawi Plot: RSA's Attempt to Hide Responsibility for Machel's Death

(a) Tass in Russian for abroad 0704 (and in English 0800) gmt 8 Nov 86

Excerpts from commentary by political news analyst Sergey Kulik:

The leaders of the racist RSA have evolved - and the Western right-wing bourgeois press has readily started churning up - an implausible story that Mozambique and Zimbabwe are plotting to overthrow the government in the neighbouring republic of Malawi.

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SU/8416/A5/3

14 Nov 86

Maputo and Harare are portrayed by them as "centres of terrorism". Under the scenario which has already been used by the USA against Libya and is now being elaborated with regard to Syria, threats are being issued one after another against Mozambique, Zimbabwe and other "frontline states" from Pretoria. The racials are threatening them with armed reprisals and economic and other sanctions which can only be described as terrorist.

All this is being done with dubious ends. First, the racials are at pains to divert the attention of the world public from the criminal role played by Pretoria in the death of Samora Machel. . . Second, they are out to intimidate the peoples of Mozambique and Zimbabwe who in these sorrowful days for all progressive forces in southern Africa have declared their determination to end the outrages of the terrorist gangs of the Mozambican National Resistance (MNR) which are on the payroll of US and South African secret services.

When it concluded the so-called Nkomati accord with the People's Republic of Mozambique several years ago, the Pretoria regime pledged to withdraw support from the anti-Mozambican terrorists. In actual fact, however, the racials played a trick on Mozambique. They turned the territory of Malawi into a support base to aid the MNR terrorists. . .

The bandits' ringleaders have recently stated their intention to "shift military operations" onto the territory of Zimbabwe. In Harare they do not exclude the possibility that the apartheid regime is hatching plans to assassinate Robert Mugabe, Prime Minister of Zimbabwe and leader of the Non-Aligned Movement. So it is now Maputo and Harare that are plotting against Malawi. The racials are using the territory of Malawi to wage an undeclared war against the Mozambican and Zimbabwean peoples.

This unlawful course pursued by Pretoria meets with full understanding and support from those people in Washington who are fond of kindling "regional" conflicts. The MNR terrorists, along with the UNITA anti-Angolan gangs, the Afghan counter-revolutionaries and the Nicaraguan Contras have long since enjoyed the favour of certain US circles. . .

(b) Moscow "World Service" in English 1400 gmt 10 Nov 86

Text of commentary:

Now, a few remarks by our commentator in connection with the South African claim that a conspiracy is being plotted against Malawi:

Pretoria is loudly sounding alarm, allegedly in defence of Malawi. If we are to believe racist propaganda, Mozambique and Zimbabwe have conspired to overthrow its government. To substantiate its allegations Pretoria refers to certain documents said to have been found by South African soldiers on the scene of the plane crash in which the Mozambican President Samora Machel was killed. The circumstances of that tragedy are still holding the attention of the public and the press. Various sources have directly accused the South African authorities of having organised the crime, and it is not accidental that South Africa has still not handed to an international commission the so-called black boxes from the plane wreckage which contain objective information about the flight. It is also known that the South African patrol troops who had arrived on the scene of the crash had ransacked the President's luggage and left, taking with them the diplomatic mail and money, without giving any help to the injured and bleeding passengers.

Now, to distract world public attention from its role in the death of Samora Machel, Pretoria is floating lies about Mozambique and Zimbabwe allegedly conspiring against the Malawi government, and threatening the two countries with sanctions and reprisals. What can one call this propaganda noise, cynical hypocrisy? There is nothing the racist rulers will not stoop to just to be able to conduct a policy of terrorism against independent countries and to fan up tension in the south of the continent.