

Catholic Church is opposing him. This was strongly expressed in a recent pastoral letter by Catholic Archbishop Kabanga in Lumbumbashi which criticized the exploitation of the people by those in power. Mobutu called in the Catholic bishops and demanded that they repudiate the letter, but they refused.

The murder of Congolese Cardinal Biayenda on March 22 is being said by observers to be a result of his links to the Catholic resistance to Mobutu in neighboring Zaire.

However, Cardinal Biayenda was a close political ally of Congo President Marien Ngouabi, himself assassinated on March 19 in Brazzaville. According to highly placed sources in Washington, the assassination of Ngouabi is a pre-planned part of the overall Vance operation to plunge central Africa into chaos, laying the

basis for a show of force by the Carter Administration against the Soviets. The assassination of Ngouabi, according to the sources, was carried out under private contract by David Stirling, former head of the British Special Air Services (SAS) who now operates his own private intelligence operation separate and counter to the British government's.

Cardinal Biayenda was the last person to meet with Ngouabi just 30 minutes before his death. The elimination of Ngouabi and the abortive associated attempt to topple his pro-Soviet government appear to have been intended to clear the way for an escalation of attack on the enclave of Cabinda, surrounded by the Congo on two sides.

## Castro In Africa: Economic Progress Defines Your Political Struggles

In a March 24 speech of welcome to visiting Soviet President Podgorny, Tanzanian President Julius Nyerere told him that the socialist countries are not assuming the leadership they must in the movement for a new world economic order, according to the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung. American newsmen crowed over Nyerere's remarks in their reports, thereby demonstrating their failure to understand their import.

Nyerere's speech reflects the vigorous organizing tour through Africa undertaken in the last few weeks by Cuban President Fidel Castro. While the U.S. news media tries in every imaginable way to portray Castro as a stalking horse for the Soviets, Castro is touring the continent to organize the leaders of non-aligned Africans to apply the kind of pressure on the Soviets to lead which Nyerere applied to Podgorny. In this context, Castro is dealing with the region's political and military problems as properly subsumed aspects of the question of economic development: the liberation of southern Africa; the politico-military defense of the front line states facing Rhodesia and South Africa; the eradication of destabilizing tensions on the Horn of Africa and so forth.

Speaking March 21 at a press conference in Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania, Castro told reporters that socialism — economic development — is a question of "life or death" for the underdeveloped countries, adding "the peoples (of the underdeveloped sector) are not going to resign themselves to die, they will struggle for progress, and for their lives." These comments were consistent with the tone he set at the beginning of his tour in Libya, where he and Libyan Premier Muammar al-Qaddafi issued a Mar. 10 joint communique calling for the implementation of the resolutions of Last September's Conference of Non-Aligned Nations in Colombo, Sri Lanka. That Conference defined the new world economic order, specifying declaration of debt moratoria by the Third World and creation of a new monetary system to finance vastly accelerated high-technology development in the Third World.

A statement March 23 by Cuban Foreign Minister Isodoro Malmierca demonstrated that Castro's remarks were not *pro forma* diplomatic comments. "The econo-

mic crisis affecting the developed capitalist world...has not diminished," said Malmierca, "and one can affirm that it is being aggravated. This crisis has been accompanied by a growing financial and monetary disorder, while the monetary system imposed on the postwar world destroys itself and absorbs the scarce financial resources of the developing world..." Malmierca commented that despite the good intentions of the developed world to negotiate a new world economic order and a Charter of the Rights and Duties of Nations issued by former Mexican President Luis Echeverria.

The same theme was reaffirmed in a joint communique of Mozambique and Cuba issued today. It called for the independence of the five former Portuguese colonies in Africa — all of which are pro-socialist — as a bloc "reinforcing the fight for peace, progress, democracy and the new world economic order."

After emphasizing economic development as the foundation of liberation, Castro elaborated a strategy transition to majority rule in Rhodesia which will not internationalize the conflict. "It is not Cuba's intention to send soldiers to free any part of southern Africa," he said in his March 20 news conference, dismissing contrary implications in the American press. "Independence is never delivered from abroad; the people concerned must fight for their independence." He added, however, that the Cuban military would be at the disposal of the front line states to defend their own territory against any Rhodesian or South African aggression.

This strategy coincides with the ideas expressed by now-British Foreign Secretary David Owen in a 1972 book. Owen wrote that a socialist country's military presence in black Africa would serve as a deterrent to any South African military adventures designed to stop the liberation of Rhodesia or Namibia.

Castro's offer to the front line states, in which he specifically said that Cuban initiatives would follow policy set by them, helps to free those states from fear of attack by armies vastly superior to any they can field, enabling them to take a determined politico-military offensive against the Ian Smith regime in Rhodesia.

Castro's attitude stands in stark contrast to that of

“brother” Andrew Young, the Carter Administration’s UN Ambassador, who recently misquoted and distorted statements of Tanzanian President Julius Nyerere to imply that Nyerere was pushing for an *apolitical* race war. Young’s comments directed at South African ambassador Roelof Botha according to the New York Post, quoted Nyerere as saying that South African whites — in general — were “the enemy” and had to “be destroyed.” Such remarks are calculated to feed the paranoia of South Africans, and can only bolster the right wing militarist faction there.

The Cuban initiatives, which may very well move the Soviets off dead center on the related issues of the Transfer ruble and the new world economic order, will also strengthen the hand of Great Britain’s Callaghan govern-

ment, freed last week by a parliamentary vote of confidence to continue its initiatives toward a peaceful transition to Rhodesian majority rule.

Foreign Secretary Owen is scheduled to go to southern Africa on Easter for an extended round of diplomacy. In addition to the mandate given him by the vote of confidence for Callaghan, Owen’s trip received a mandate from a faction of the Conservative Party, which this week issued a policy paper on Rhodesia. That document ruled out any U.S. veto over British initiatives on Rhodesia in consultation with the front line states, and to include British troops if necessary to keep the peace and escort the Smith government out of office. The conservative position paper also called for “persuading South Africa to close off its borders with Rhodesia.”

## Castro Press Conference In Tanzania

*The following is excerpted from a Prensa Latina dispatch covering the new conference given by Cuban President Fidel Castro just before leaving Tanzania for Mozambique.*

DAR ES SALAAM, March 22 (PL) — The President of the Council of State and of Ministers of Cuba, Fidel Castro, categorically rejected Zairean accusations on the presence of Cubans in the south of that country....

Castro affirmed that there is not a single Cuban involved in the recent confrontations in Zaire, confrontations which constitute an internal problem.

The Cuban President said that to his knowledge, neither did the government of Angola have anything to do with this situation, and emphasized the efforts of the Angolan authorities to improve relations with Zaire and create a climate of peace in the region, despite (Zairean) aggression against Angola.

He emphasized the solidarity and assistance of the Cuban Revolution to the liberation movements of Africa....

The leader of the Cuban Revolution said, nevertheless, that the independence struggle is the task of the people themselves.

He said that independence does not come from outside, it is won from within, with the assistance of progressive countries, citing as an example the People’s Republic of Angola.

The President of the Council of Ministers said that the direct, external aid (to Angola) was sent when there was external aggression against this country, specifying that the Angolans had already gained their independence. In regard to southern Africa, Fidel Castro asserted that the principal role of solidarity concerns the

countries of the so-called front line, and said that his government will offer its collaboration to the extent of its ability.

Fidel Castro referred to the situation of the underdeveloped countries, and emphasized that socialism is a question of life or death for these countries.

He asserted that “these peoples will not resign themselves to die, they will fight for progress, and fight for their lives.”

During the press conference, the Cuban President also covered the problems over possible re-establishment of relations between Cuba and the United States.

He affirmed that while the United States is said to be disposed toward bettering relations with Cuba, sometimes they have conditions, as for example, the cessation of Cuban solidarity with the African revolutionary movement.

Fidel Castro emphasized that such questions were not subject to negotiation.

He cited the numerous aggressions perpetrated against his country coming from the United States, the blockade imposed on Cuba, the existence by force of a North American naval base on Cuban territory.

“We,” he said, “have no blockade against the United States, nor any base, neither do we organize subversion or mercenary invasions. It is they who must cease this type of activity.”

The President said that Cuba would not make any concession of principle for the betterment of relations with the United States.

Fidel Castro made reference to the usefulness for both peoples of the cessation of this state of hostility, “We,” he said, “will not tell them to renounce capitalism, but at the same time, we will not accede to any concession of socialist and revolutionary principals.”