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THIS IS BARBARITY
(Solidarity's Lesson to Third World Peoples)

By

Nancy Nolan

Poland's in turmoil
Solidarity's muzzled
The West is indignant
Manifestly puzzled.

Shortages of 'basic human necessities,'
Butter, sugar and meat -
So deigns the 'free' press -
Jaruzelski can't replete.

Western intelligentsia and commoners alike
Cajole vociferously in the rues
Make 'my great-great-grandfather's-cousin-was-Polish' statements
In front of live t.v. crews.

And UNESCO findings -
*'Every two seconds a child dies of starvation or malnutrition
in the Third World' -*

Nonchalantly go unheeded
Relegated to oblivion by the chic-ness of
'Butter, sugar and meat for the Pollacks are needed!'

Solidarity has shown us with clarity
The disparity in the regularity
Of the rarity of Western charity
Toward Third World peoples - This is barbarity!

EDITORIAL NOTES

The failed invasion of the Republic of the Seychelles by reactionary forces on November 26, 1981, is another in a long series of such attacks. Progressive Africa has again been subjected to terrorist aggression from reactionary white racists spearheaded by the settler regime of South Africa. Over the years the "pre-emptive strikes" against Angola, Mozambique, and Zimbabwe have been painted by the West as necessary, at least understandable on the part of South Africa in order to preserve its borders. These excuses became feeble to the point of non-existence with the attempted invasion of the Socialist Republic of the Seychelles. The Western imperialists shown forth as the racists they are when speaking on behalf of South Africa.

Responsibility for the Seychelles invasion is placed squarely on South Africa and her Western backers by the following facts:

1) The Seychelles Islands lie more than 1,000 miles north-east of South Africa.

2) The islands are considered strategically located by Western imperialists bent on the militarization of the Indian Ocean.

3) The Seychelles Republic, under its democratically-elected President Rene, has been progressive since 1977, having several times repelled attempted coups by former playboy president, Mancham, who is now safely ensconced in London.

4) The mercenary commandos were composed of active members of the South African Armed Forces who had been given special leave, a small number were ex-members of an elite corps of the now defunct Rhodesian forces, and others--like Mike Hoare--have known connections with the British Military Secret Service.

5) The mercenaries travelled to the Seychelles in a Royal Swazi airliner pretending to be members of the Springbok Rugby team on tour.

6) When the invaders were repelled, they hijacked an Air India 707 and forced it back to South Africa.

7) Once in South Africa these terrorists were given walking papers to freedom.

* * *

African literature, and criticism thereof, are the subject

of the articles in this issue of Ufahamu. Many writers have attempted to divorce art from politics; however, African poetry and prose are often perceived as possessing a revolutionary role, as having a primary objective of awakening the writers' compatriots, "to help them become aware of their unenviable plight as a colonized people" (first page of "The 'Contract' in Agostinho Neto's Poetry"). These writers are approaching literature with a Marxist perspective, both from the author's and the critic's point of view, thus the economic, political, and social issues are integrated into the literary fabric.

It is also informative to note that art and literature have a revolutionary "contract" in Third World struggles outside the African continent. In the Nicaraguan and El Salvadorean struggles, revolutionary art played, and plays, a definitive role and is now being displayed in exhibits in various cities throughout the U.S.

* * *

The next issue of Ufahamu will publish the presentations given during the May 1981 African Activist Association Conference entitled: "From Apartheid and Imperialism to the Total Liberation of Africa." In addition to the conference papers, a few other submissions will be included; however, the entire issue will be devoted to looking at the situation in southern Africa and in looking at some of the common denominators linking that struggle with all the other Third World struggles for liberation

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