

STATEMENTWE SHOULD IMPEDE THE COLONIZATION OF BOLIVIA

The regime of Hugo Banzer has taken decisive steps toward the installation in Bolivia of 150 thousand "white" immigrants from the southern part of Africa. They are ex-colonists who have chosen to migrate rather than live on an equal basis with the other inhabitants of Southern Africa.

Negotiations were carried out by the government of Bolivia and West Germany and are on public record. The accelerated pace with which these negotiations have proceeded indicates that the agreements will be put into practice. With this in mind the government has taken certain legal steps that will facilitate this migration. In 1976 a decree called "The Immigration Law" was enacted and regarded by the authorities as *an instrument in the new political demography that will arise in the country.* The under-secretary of migration Guido Strauss Ivanovio, in an official statement declared that in 1977, *it is proposed, in the first place, that the immigration of strong and important contingents of immigrants, of German and Dutch origin, coming particularly from Namibia, Rhodesia and South Africa.*

The argument set forth to justify this indefensible policy consists of, *taking advantage of the transfer of technologies, experiences and capital that will come with the immigrants.* It should be noted that the government headed by Banzer was the only one in Latin America to accept the West German proposal. For this, it will receive \$50 million and other forms of economic help from various international organizations.

Those of us who denounce this act are Bolivians who are willing to assume a patriotic duty. We want the world to know of this sinister plot that compromises the future both of Bolivia and Latin America. Our actions do not reflect a sentiment of xenophobic or racial prejudice. Our objections have a higher and more fundamental reason.

The new colonists would arrive only to repeat the tragic sequence of their predecessors in Africa. With plunder from Africa and the help of international money markets, they would not waste time in raising an economic empire that would convert the already poor people into a low-waged working class. In a short time, in Bolivia, we would have a version of 'apartheid' installed on the other side of the ocean, with the people submitted to racist oppressions.

THE DESTINY OF BOLIVIA IS IN PLAY. THE THIRD WORLD MUST ACT NOW

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