

AFRICA AND WORLD PEACE

By NELSON MANDELA

EVENTS now taking place in Africa constitute the most serious threat to peace, and the freedom of the people of this Continent. Here in Africa the world may well face a major eruption of the worst type. For years now, the Capitalist countries have lived on raw materials and cheap labour from Asia and Africa. The rise of the national liberation movements in Asia and the Pacific Regions and the loss of those vast countries as war bases and centres for investment have forced the imperial powers to turn their eyes to Africa. It is here that we have rich deposits of gold, diamonds and uranium. A few figures taken from the United Nations "Review of Economic Conditions in Africa 1949-1950" reveal the following position in regard to Africa's share in world production of the undermentioned minerals:

Columbite	...	...	99%
Diamonds	...	...	98%
Cobalt	...	...	80%
Gold	...	...	59%

Our continent produces sisal, palm oil, cocoa, coffee and other products. It is in Africa that we have vast supplies of land and cheap labour. The population of Africa is roughly 198,000,000, 97 per cent. of which comprises the indigenous people. Being without any strong trade union movement, the people of Africa are exposed to the most vicious and cruel forms of colonial exploitation. **It is this situation that makes the danger of war in Africa very real and close.**

Here the imperial powers of Britain, Belgium, France, Holland, Portugal and Spain have either their chief or their only colonial dependencies. The internal contradictions and conflicts within this imperial camp are broadening daily. In their drive for ever greater profits, these imperial nations vie fiercely with one another for monopoly control of raw materials and markets. The intensification of the armaments drive and war preparations, and more and more interference by the United States of America in the affairs of its satellites, now arouse the dissatisfaction of the ruling circles of those countries. Under the guise of defence against Communism, the United States is in fact eliminating British influence from vast areas of the Pacific. The struggle between the United States and Britain is sharpening daily. The countries of the aggressive Atlantic bloc are in danger of losing their national independence as a result of American interference in their domestic affairs. In their mad lust for markets and profits, these imperial powers will not hesitate to cut one another's throats, to break the peace, to drench millions of innocent people in blood and to bring misery and untold suffering to humanity. In other words,

the rivalries amongst these colonial powers contain the seeds of an extremely dangerous situation to peace and security in Africa.

Africa as a War Base

To protect their markets and investments, to crush the national liberation movements and forestall the rise of revolutionary democracy in Africa, America and her satellites have established military bases all over the Continent. America has land, sea and air bases in Morocco, Libya and Saudi Arabia. There are British military bases in Egypt, East Africa, Somaliland and the Sudan. Field Marshal Wilson, the Supreme Allied Commander in the Mediterranean in 1944, writing in "Optima" of June 1953, put the matter very clearly:

the spread of Communism to China and the uncertain political situation in other countries in the Far East are bound to have the effect of contracting the sources of supply of certain raw materials necessary for the manufacture of armaments, which will result in the intensification of prospecting and development in Africa."

According to him the role of the two Rhodesias and Kenya should be to protect and develop sea communications; to be ready to send forces overseas; to develop its industries to maximum capacity for war needs. To do this, he says, it would be necessary for the three colonies to come under one central command. In 1946, the London "Daily Mail" made the position equally clear:

"The British decision to quit Palestine, Burma's secession from the Commonwealth, the weakening of the ties with India and the uncertainty of Britain's tenure in Egypt have hastened the adoption of plans for a new Commonwealth defence system . . . Kenya is the new centre of Commonwealth defence and South Africa its arsenal." Almost simultaneously, the "Daily Express" wrote:

"East Africa is expected to become a main atomic-age training ground of the British Army and a main support base in the Empire defence system."

It is, therefore, clear that Africa has now become a war base for the imperial powers in their war preparations and schemes for war and world domination.

This is the true explanation of the callous determination by, and the indecent haste of the British Government to ram down the Federation Scheme in Central Africa in spite of the united opposition of the African population of those territories. This is the true explanation of the bitter conflict now raging in Kenya between imperial Britain, whose aim is to rob those people of their land and the people of Kenya who are fighting to save their country from being transformed into a military base. Here in Kenya we have a real war waging and, since this sordid affair has provoked the profound indignation of all patriots in Africa, there is a danger of the conflict spreading

to all parts of the continent. This explains why Dr. Malan, the "republican," is forced to visit Britain for the Coronation and to hobnob with the British Queens. This explains why the British Government banishes Seretse from his country at the instance of the South African Government. This is the true explanation of the barbarous and cruel manner in which the liberation movements all over Africa are being suppressed: happenings which have shocked the right-thinking people all over the world and aroused their deepest indignation. **The people of Africa will be the first victim of a future war. Their industries will produce armaments, their raw materials will be used, not to develop their own economies but to destroy those of others.** The war danger in Africa is very close indeed.

The South African Peace Congress which met in Johannesburg recently was convened at a time when people in all countries have realised how urgent it is for them to redouble their efforts to prevent another war and to safeguard peace. People throughout the world are coming to understand how closely the struggle for peace and against the menace of war is linked with the preservation of the right of the nation and the individual to a peaceful existence. This Conference shows that more and more people in South Africa have come to understand the most serious threat to the peace, security and freedom of the people that exists at the present time and the urgent necessity of rallying to remove this threat by joint effort.

This mad lust for profits and markets in Africa, the war preparations of the United States and its satellite countries puts the national independence of the people of the continent, and their very right to live, in serious jeopardy. The threat to the national liberation movements in Africa resulting from the presence of foreign armies arouses the deepest indignation of all patriots. The people of Africa are being forced to realise that peace is their most immediate concern. They demand the withdrawal from the Continent of Africa of all foreign troops and the end of colonial oppression and exploitation.

THE GLORY OF MAN

By **JOSEPH GILLMAN***

IT is a great privilege for me to be asked to speak to this Peace Congress. Peace turns the back of mankind (and I hope this time for evermore) on brutality, suffering, death, destruction, famine and pestilence, the very negation of all those human aspirations nurtured tenderly through the centuries of suffering as man groped from dark-

* Text of a speech delivered by Professor Gillman at the South African Peace Congress, August 23, 1953.