

# **DANGER TO AFRICA**

**THE WEST GERMAN Federal Republic and the racist Verwoerd regime in the Republic of South Africa are co-operating closely in making South Africa a military centre capable of bringing pressure to bear upon, and militarily threatening, large and decisive areas of Africa with the help of modern highly mobile fighting units and modern weapons.**

**The West German Federal Republic and the Republic of South Africa are co-operating to prepare the production in South Africa of atomic bombs, chemical weapons, and guided missiles, so that both states may have the unlimited and unsupervised use of these weapons. The pilot plant for the experimental production of fissionable uranium and nuclear fuel is already working. The first atom reactor will soon be ready. Preparations have been made for large-scale production, camouflaged as a nuclear-power programme.**

**The leading members of the Government of the Republic of South Africa are old collaborators with the German imperialists and colonialists; they were trusted followers of Hitler. The West German Government has resumed the old links which German imperialism had with South Africa, and is carefully extending them.**

**Modern military organizational forms, nuclear weapons, chemical weapons and missiles in the hands of the West German revenge-seekers and South African racialists are a grave danger to world peace; to the independence of the peoples and their right of self-determination, particularly in Africa; and to the national liberation movement in those countries in Africa still under colonial oppression.**

## **I. MILITARY CO-OPERATION**

**The treaty basis for military co-operation between the West German Federal Republic and the Republic of South Africa was provided by**

a secret agreement concluded in Bonn in July 1961. At this time the Verwoerd regime in South Africa was in a difficult internal and foreign situation owing to international horror at the Sharpeville Massacre, United Nations decisions on Apartheid, and South Africa's departure from the British Commonwealth. It sought help and support, and found it in the West German Federal Republic; members of the Verwoerd regime had had close political, ideological, economic and also military relations with leading persons in West Germany for years, sometimes for decades.

From July 11th to July 14th, 1961, J. J. Fouché, Defence Minister of the Republic of South Africa; Mr. de Villiers, his Secretary of State; and Commandant-General P. H. Grobbelaar, commander-in-chief of the South African army, negotiated in Bonn with Volkmar Hopf, State Secretary in the West German Ministry of Defence, and the closest associate of Franz-Josef Strauss, at that time Minister of Defence. There were parallel talks at NATO H.Q. in Paris. Hopf is particularly known because of his part in arms contract scandals in West Germany and his close relations with Franco Spain, and Salazar's Portugal.

In his final talks with Heinrich von Brentano, West German Foreign Minister, it was decided to keep the agreement secret in order to prevent dangerous reactions both in the independent African states and also in Britain, France and the U.S.A. For the same reason the planned visit of Prime Minister Verwoerd, demonstratively scheduled to follow South Africa's leaving the Commonwealth, was cancelled. When the *S.P.D. Pressedienst* reported that there were 'persistent rumours' about the Fouché negotiations in Bonn, the West German Defence Ministry issued a *démenti* stating it had heard nothing of such rumours.

(*Associated Press*, July 7th; *Die Welt*, July 12th and 15th; *Neue Zürcher Zeitung*, July 21st; *Afrika-Post*, No. 5, August 1961).

The task of implementing the secret agreement in South Africa was entrusted by the West German Defence Ministry to *Major-General Friedrich Wilhelm von Mellenthin*, a military expert on Africa and former member of the General Staff of Hitler's Wehrmacht. He was already living in Johannesburg in South Africa, and had done important preliminary work.

## **MELLENTHIN**

Mellenthin, who was born on August 30th, 1904, in Breslau, comes from an old Prussian officer's family. He served as a Captain on the

General Staff, and member of the War Academy. His colleague, Major Friedrich Foertsch, later a general, was sentenced to twenty-five years imprisonment in the Soviet Union for war crimes. After his return to West Germany Foertsch was appointed Inspector-General, that is to say Commander in Chief of the Bundeswehr, the West German Army. Foertsch's successor, General Trettner, was also a colleague of Mellenthin on the General Staff, and stands accused of committing war crimes in Italy.

Mellenthin is an internationally known military theoretician. His book *Panzer Battles* has been published in a number of languages and is used as a training manual for experts. Mellenthin's attitude today toward his activities on Hitler's General Staff is shown by the fact that the English edition of the book publishes a picture showing him in confidential talks with Hitler.

During the second world war Mellenthin won experience as a general staff officer in various field of war. During the entire North African campaign he served as general staff officer of the Afrika Korps responsible for intelligence and counter-espionage.

**His close contacts with the present rulers of South Africa, who were then working for Nazi intelligence, date from this period. The files of the Nazi Foreign Office (Auswärtiges Amt, Büro des Staatssekretärs, Akten betr. 'Afrika', Vol. 1, London P.R.O., Washington D.C., Bonn Ser. Nr. 540, S. 240 539 ff.) contain a top secret report dated August 6th, 1940, stating that the 'Ossewa Brandwag' organization had reported via Lourenco Marques (Mocambique) that it was ready to rise against the Smuts Government, which was at war with Nazi Germany, with its 160,000 members and 15,000 soldiers. Ossewa Brandwag was a para-military organization similar to the Nazi Storm Troops. Many of Verwoerd's present ministers were members. The Ossewa Brandwag requested active German support, particularly supplies of weapons, and gave details of its plans for a rising. The leadership of the Ossewa Brandwag reported that it awaited 'the further dispositions of the German military leadership', and gave detailed espionage information about the strength, stationing and armament of the South African army.**

Many of the officers who worked with Mellenthin on the General Staff were executed later in the war for their part in the officers' putsch against Hitler on July 20th, 1944. Mellenthin, however, was promoted to Major General in autumn 1944 for his services to the Nazi regime.

After the war the old Nazi agents of the National Party came to power in South Africa and in 1950 Mellenthin was sent there on a special mission. Using a traditional method of the German General Staff to conceal his intelligence activities, he founded an air transport

company, 'Trek Airways', which became the biggest private air company in the country. (*Industriekurier*, Dusseldorf, May 25th, 1961, special South Africa supplement).

For helpers Mellenthin could draw on the reservoir of over 2,000 Wehrmacht officers and S.S. officers who, fearing punishment for their war crimes had sought refuge in South Africa after 1945, and made new careers there, mostly under false names. In the years 1949-52 many of these men became officers and instructors in the South African army, and others were placed in key positions in the state and the economy.

With Mellenthin's help, such officers founded the South-African-German Flying Club, and Mellenthin himself was elected Honorary President. In a public speech Mellenthin addressed himself to the 'airmen of German descent' who were ready to defend South Africa, their new homeland. (*Afrika-Post*, No. 2, May 1958.)

In 1959-60 leading military figures in NATO, acting in collaboration with South African military circles, demanded that South Africa should be more closely linked with NATO, and that NATO should be supplemented by a closely-connected SATO (South Atlantic Treaty Organisation). (See the theoretical NATO organ *Revue Militaire Générale*, Paris, No. 9, 1959, p. 457.) Mellenthin, nominally a private citizen, entered the public discussion with well-informed technical arguments and detailed suggestions. In September 1960 Mellenthin published an article entitled 'The military-political position of the countries and territories in the South African area' in *Afrika Post*, organ of German settlers in South Africa; editor of this paper is H. G. Thormeyer, Nazi journalist who formerly worked in Goebbels' Propaganda Ministry. In this article Mellenthin stressed that SATO was necessary mainly because of the 'unreliability' of the newly formed independent African states and their leaders. He stated:

'It is not hard to imagine a situation in which the dictator of such a native state should get into such a difficult position in internal policy that he would, as a safety valve, attack a neighbouring state in the South African area. A moral reason is not hard to find: the liberation of the black brother allegedly groaning under the domination of the whites . . .

'The first conclusion which the South African countries should draw from the unreliability of the young African states in the military field, is the formation of a SATO consisting of the Portuguese territories of Mocambique and Angola, Rhodesia and the Union of South Africa . . .

'This SATO area is geographically a favourable defence unit, with the two flank points Mocambique and Angola . . .

'There must be a united leadership provided by a commander-in-chief with a mixed staff, similar to NATO. In addition, it must dispose over already existing mobilized mechanized units consisting of a few brigades; a professional army consisting only of cadres, which only mobilises its forces in an emergency, comes too late. These units must be fully trained and very flexible in close co-operation with available air transport.

'The political leadership of SATO must ensure that the budgets can meet the unavoidable extra costs connected with raising a "permanent striking power in existence", and that a generous immigration policy increases the reservoir of soldiers for the SATO forces . . .

'The formation of new independent states in Africa has changed the military situation not only for the South African area, but for the whole world. The West must realise that the military vacuum which has now been created, particularly in Central Africa, and the factor of uncertainty presented by the new native states, means that the South African states and territories are the only reliable allies upon whom the West can reckon in a crisis.'

Mellenthin concluded his military and political survey with the demand that South Africa should be given 'full moral and material support . . . as long as there is still peace'.

The successes of the national liberation movement and the formation of an increasing number of independent states in Africa have produced a situation in which the plans for SATO are no longer discussed publicly. But Mellenthin's military-theoretical conception of a 'permanent-striking power in existence' adapted to Africa formed the basis for the secret military agreement concluded in July 1961 between the West German Federal Republic and the Republic of South Africa.

### **THE 'DIRECTOR'**

A few weeks before the conclusion of the secret agreement Mellenthin was summoned back to West Germany. In spring 1961 he sold his Trek Airways, and took for the time being a post as director of Lufthansa, the West German airline, in Cologne. This is conveniently near to Bonn. Lufthansa is jointly controlled by the Federal Government and by the Deutsche Bank, the biggest bank of West German monopoly capital. As an expert Mellenthin helped in the preparation of the secret agreement and in the negotiations. After the conclusion of the secret agreement Mellenthin returned to Johannesburg on November 1st, 1961, as 'General Director of Lufthansa for the African Continent'. (*Afrika-Post*, No. 1, April 1962.) He could now pursue on a far greater scale his 'hobby' of military-political research in the whole of Africa. At the same time he worked as confidential but influential military

adviser to the South African Government, and his work in this field has been very fruitful since the 1961 secret negotiations. The White Book of the Government of the Republic of South Africa, published in June 1964, and the reports of the Special UN Commission of Apartheid (S. 5621, March 25th, 1964, p. 83 et seq.) show that the officially announced military budget of the Republic of South Africa has quadrupled between 1961 and 1964, and that in some important branches, such as ammunition, armoured vehicles, and particularly long-range planes and supersonic fighters, it has increased more than ten times. In September 1963, Defence Minister J. J. Fouché announced that South Africa had become practically self-sufficient in the arms and ammunition fields, and could answer an arms embargo by increasing home arms production. He claimed that South Africa no longer had the problem of requesting arms-makers in other countries to make arms in South Africa; now the problem was which offers to build arms factories should be accepted. (*South African Digest*, Pretoria, September 19th, 1963.)

South Africa obtained the necessary licences for this enormous increase in arms production in all large western industrial countries, including West Germany. West German arms firms such as Henschel, Siemens, and others have built branch factories in South Africa. More important is the fact that the South African arms industry is almost entirely controlled by the increasingly powerful Boer and state-monopoly trusts, which are closely linked with West German banks and monopolies. This entire development has aroused great interest, and the Special Apartheid Commission of the United Nations has repeatedly pointed out in its reports that the steadily growing military power of South Africa must one day have serious international consequences.

### **THE 'PERMANENT STRIKING FORCE'**

Another fact has not hitherto been so closely observed: the fact that in accordance with one of Mellenthin's theories a very modern military organisation has been developed inside the South African army. Decisive key positions in this organisation are occupied by the friends of Mellenthin and his bosses, people whose co-operation with the West German imperialists dates back to the days of Ossewa Brandwag and the second world war.

Mellenthin demanded that the 'military vacuum' in Africa should be filled by the creation of a 'permanent striking power in existence', led by a commander-in-chief with a mixed staff, and consisting of a few mechanised brigades composed of fully-trained professional soldiers with the necessary air transport. This 'permanent striking

power in existence' should be based in South Africa, and be ready for action at any time anywhere in Africa.

Just such an aggressive and flexible striking force, directed against the security of the independent states of Africa and the national liberation movements, has already been in existence for some time in the framework of the South Africa army, in accordance with Mellenthin's proposals. Units of the 'Commandos' were adapted to a new purpose. The 1963 Yearbook of the Republic of South Africa, in the course of a long statement on the modernization of the South African army reports that in this connection the number of immediately available professional soldiers has been considerably increased, an effective command structure has been created, that four independent fighting groups and a joint supreme command with the necessary liaison and chain of command installations have been established: in short that all the recommendations made by Mellenthin in 1960 have been put into effect.

The Memorandum of the African National Congress of South Africa addressed to the Second Summit Conference for African Unity on July 17th, 1964, gives details of this military co-operation between the Verwoerd regime and the oppressive forces in South Rhodesia, Angola and Mocambique.

The first attempt to use such 'Commandos' in Central Africa was the legion of mercenaries organized in Johannesburg to support Tshombe in the Congo. However, the reaction of the African states made the organizers cautious and the unit was camouflaged, like the Nazi Condor Legion in Spain. Self-organizing international foreign legionaries appeared in the foreground, and a smoke-screen of misleading declarations was laid by South African generals.

### **THE NETWORK THROUGH AFRICA**

The real importance of such troops advised by a Nazi general and led by fanatical racialists and pupils of Hitler, only becomes clear when one studies the full military conception of West German - South African co-operation. West German military advisers, instructors, etc., are not only active under camouflage in South Africa, but also in the neighbouring Portuguese colonies, particularly in Angola. (*Ghanaian Times*, July 30th, 1964.)

In addition the West German Federal Republic has already concluded agreements with seven different African states, at all strategic points on the African continent, for the supply of military advisers, instructors, and other military aid. (*Daily Mail*, London, June 5th, 1964, and other sources.)

More than a year ago the West German M.P., Hans Merten, member of the Bundestag Committee for Advice on Military Aid, revealed in an interview with the *Neue Rheinzeitung* how the young African national states were being fooled. He said:

'These countries wish to have nothing more to do with the former colonial powers, and nothing to do with the world powers, because they fear they will thereby become dependent. For this reason some of them come to us. We always act in agreement with the relevant former colonial power and with the U.S.A.' (*Neue Rheinzeitung*, June 15th, 1963.)

This openly conceded and cynical swindle rounds off the picture of the dangerous neo-colonial plan which is the basis for the secret West German - South African military agreement: The creation of a network of military liaison points, centred on the reorganized South African Commandos, with the help of which pressure can be exerted at any time on the young national states. This plan is intended not only to make permanent the domination of the Verwoerd regime in South Africa and the Salazar regime in Angola and Mocambique; at the same time the neo-colonialist forces in Africa shall be supported with the help of the West German imperialists and colonialists, who do not have such an obviously colonialist reputation.

But this is not all. Under some circumstances it may be possible to fill the 'military vacuum' in Central Africa, of which Mellenthin speaks in typical Nazi style, with the aid of commando troops using conventional weapons and air transport. However, the growing strength and consolidation of the African states, and their unity, make the success of such an action difficult. Mellenthin's anti-African army of mercenaries will not suffice in every case against the national independence of the African states and the national armies of liberation. This makes for an even more intensive unity of interests between the South African Verwoerd clique and the West German militarists and revenge-seekers, who use similar arguments of a 'military vacuum' to oppose an atom-free zone in Central Europe, and who are pressing for unlimited West German control of nuclear weapons. At present they are attempting to obtain such weapons through the NATO multilateral nuclear fleet, and through General de Gaulle's 'force de frappe'.

**At the same time they have been working systematically for years on preparations for the production in South Africa of ABC weapons (atomic, bacteriological, chemical) and for carrier missiles for such weapons.**

## **2. ATOM BOMBS, POISON GASES, MISSILES**

In autumn 1963 the most influential man in the West German Federal Republic, the banker Hermann Josef Abs, visited the Republic of

South Africa. The public reason for his visit was an invitation from Harry Oppenheimer, head of the gold and diamond trust, with whom, for the sake of form, Abs negotiated on the problem of gold prices.

But a busy man like Abs did not need to visit South Africa for several weeks just for this. The real reason for his visit was '*conversations with various government branches*' on '*certain plans in South Africa*', as Abs declared when he left Johannesburg. He refused to give details of these plans. (*Südafrika von Woche zu Woche*, official information bulletin of the South African Embassy, Cologne, No. 97, October 1st, 1963.)

The strikingly long conversations with various government branches held by Abs were mainly with Dr. N. Diederichs, Minister for Economic Affairs and Mines; J. F. W. Haak, at that time his deputy; and with Michiel H. de Kock. At that time Mr. de Kock was Governor of the South African Reserve Bank and President of the National Finance Corporation; since then he has become a member of the Board of Directors of the Oppenheimer Trust, in the course of the growing integration of the new state monopolies with the Anglo-American trusts.

Abs negotiated with these gentlemen as the biggest West German banker, as a leading member of the Atomic Commission of the West German Federal Republic, and as Chairman of the Board of Degussa, the leading West German nuclear firm. (*Taschenheft der Spitzen-gremien des öffentlichen Lebens*, Festland Verlag, Bonn, 1960, p. 10.) Diederichs took part in his capacity as the man bearing chief responsibility for the Atomic Energy Board of the Republic of South Africa, and as trusted representative of the Boer and state-monopoly capital of South Africa. De Kock took part in the talks as expert on the big financial problems involved.

**The subject of the talks was the measures necessary to commence the large-scale production of fissionable material for nuclear bombs, following the successful completion of tests on the production of 'nuclear grade uranium metal' and reactor material in the pilot plant at Pelindaba near Johannesburg.**

Other subjects discussed were:

Camouflaging the production of fissionable material by launching a widely publicized programme for nuclear power-plants to be run by Escom, the state electric trust.

Development work on the modern poison gases such as Tabun, Soman and Sarin, developed by IG Farben in the closing stages of the second world war, too late for them to be used by the Nazis. Further development work should be done in the South African plant near Sasolburg.

The development and testing of all types of missiles, particularly long-range missiles for nuclear warheads and for modern poison gases.

The two main partners in the discussion, Abs and Diederichs are the authorized representatives of the circles in their respective countries interested in these themes.

### **ABS THE WAR CRIMINAL**

Hermann Abs is Chairman of the Board of the Deutsche Bank AG, which has been for decades the largest and most influential bank of German monopoly capital. He was one of Hitler's most important financiers, and one of the main beneficiaries of Hitler's wars for loot. In 1942 Abs held posts on the boards of forty important companies, including the IG Farben chemical trust, the Metallgesellschaft AG Frankfurt, the Deutsche Waffen- und Munitionsfabriken AG Berlin, and many more.

In 1945 the Department of Justice of the U.S.A. published a statement saying:

'Abs is one of the eight financial and industrial bosses who exercised the greatest influence on the direction of Hitler's policies.' (Retranslated from German, ed.).

Because of the war crimes which he had committed, Abs was placed on the list of economic war criminals prepared by the U.S. authorities. Because of the war crimes which he committed in Yugoslavia alone, he was sentenced *in absentia* to fifteen years hard labour in Zagreb.

Today Abs is back in a leading position in more than fifty West German, foreign and international companies and organizations. The share capital of the firms controlled by Abs has a nominal value of about 4,000 million marks, and a market value of between 20,000 and 25,000 million marks. These companies include the largest and economically dominant West German firms. In addition his position at the head of by far the largest West German bank means that he has representatives in practically all important firms, institutions and organizations in West Germany. He has a decisive voice in the Atomic Commission, the most important of all.

Abs, the biggest war profiteer of Hitler's war, is more powerful than ever in the West German Federal Republic today. He has a decisive word to say on all important economic and political measures of the Erhard Government. Abs is also Chairman of the Board of Lufthansa, and thus Mellenthin's boss.

### **DR. DIEDERICHS**

Dr. N. Diederichs is one of the oldest and most reliable South African liaison men of German monopoly capital and of German fascism.

He studied at the Universities of Munich, Cologne and Berlin. Diederichs is one of the leaders of the 'Afrikaner Broederbond'.

During the second world war Prime Minister Smuts ordered a thorough police investigation of the activities of the Broederbond, which at that time was working closely with the Nazis, and which today controls the composition of the South African Government and its basic policy. Prime Minister Verwoerd admitted at a public session of the South African House of Assembly in Cape Town on January 29th, 1964, that he had been a member for more than twenty-five years of this secret fascist league, a sort of South African Ku Klux Klan.

In the secret report of the South African police to General Smuts, dated March 29th, 1944, of which we have a photostatic copy, Diederichs is the most frequently named Nazi agent. The report states, for instance:

'In the meantime the AB (Afrikaner Broederbond) ever since the arrival—*circa* 1933—of the first Nazi agents camouflaged as scientists, educationists, etc., **had become immensely interested in the Nazi system.** Broers Dr. N. Diederichs and Dr. van Rensburg both visited Germany to study the Nazi system at first hand and became ardent admirers and adherents of National Socialism . . . Both of them qualified as quislings in the Nazis' Anti-Komintern training school' (pp. 7-8).

Diederichs' main activities were in the economic field. The secret report of 1944 states:

The Economic Sphere:

The *Reddingsdaadbond*, under present leadership of Broer Dr. N. Diederichs, was originally started by the late Dr. Kestell with the noble object of regenerating the Poor Whites. On his return from Germany, Dr. Diederichs was quick to see the possibilities of the Reddingsdaadbond . . . Henceforth, it became the South African equivalent of the 'Winterhilfe' organization of the Nazi system. Like the Winterhilfe, it professes to assist the poor, where it is in actual fact a purely capitalistic and highly lucrative concern which unscrupulously exploits the needy and the gullible for the benefit of a select and powerful few. Some of these men figure on every single board of directors of the most powerful of the innumerable economic concerns which are wholly or completely controlled by the AB. Among the concerns completely controlled by the Broederbond are Volkskas, Unie-Winkels; Ekonomiese Instituut, Sasbank and Asokor . . . ' (p. 9).

This economic activity brought Diederichs into contact with Abs at an early date. After the second world war he was actually one of Abs' employees, as director of 'Labour Construction Ltd.' which was largely financed by the Deutsche Bank. (*The South African Financial*

*Year Book*, 1958, p. XXIII.) His main activity in the leadership of the AB was however the systematic expansion of the Boer grip on the economy, and after the AB had taken over the government, the expansion of the state concerns. Since 1958 Diederichs has been Minister for Economic Affairs and Mines, and under his direction this group of industrial interests, well organized by the Broederbond, has become the decisive economic factor in South Africa, and has now penetrated the Anglo-American Oppenheimer trust. (*Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, July 2nd, 1964.)

All this time Diederichs remained in close contact with his fascist friends in West Germany, and he continued to visit them after he had become a minister. (See interview with Diederichs in the *Deutsche Soldaten-Zeitung*, No. 21, November 1960.)

His latest visit to West Germany, when he discussed with Abs the present state of affairs was in April 1964. (*Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, April 8th, 1964.)

### **THE SOUTH AFRICAN ATOMIC POWER AUTHORITY**

From 1958 to 1964 Diederichs bore top responsibility for the Atomic Energy Board of the Republic of South Africa. In South African law this body had the exclusive control over all the uranium, thorium and other radio-active materials produced in the country, described as "prescribed materials" in the Atomic Energy Act of 1948 last amended by Act No. 44 of 1961. The Atomic Energy Board was given exclusive rights to conduct atomic research. The activities of the Atomic Energy Board and all South African uranium works are strictly secret; the law stipulates that passing on 'certain information' may be punished with a fine of up to 10,000 rands (5,000 pounds sterling) and twenty years imprisonment. (*Year Book of the Republic of South Africa*, Chapter 36, pages 185-88: *Year Book and Guide to Southern Africa*, 1963, p. 185.)

The theoretician of the Atomic Energy Board and direct liaison man with Abs on this body is the German nuclear physicist Dr. Heinz Verleger, who has been a professor of the University of Pretoria since 1955. In the Nazi era Verleger was employed in the rank of government counsellor in the Physical-Technical Reich Institute in Berlin, and then, until 1945, was professor at Tübingen University. In 1945 he fled to South Africa, where he served as research officer of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research from 1946-50. Later he took up his professorship at Pretoria, and is today, as a leading member of the Atomic Energy Board, the right hand of Diederichs in all atomic questions. (*Wer ist Wer*, 1963, Arani-Verlag, West Berlin, p. 1,621).

Other confidential agents of West German finance capital occupy

key positions on the Atomic Energy Board. They include Dr. Theo Schumann, deputy chairman of the Board, a South-West African and son of a German missionary, who is also a specialist for 'meteorological' rockets; and Dr. A. J. A. Roux, director of the Atomic Energy Research Development Programme of South Africa, who maintains contact with Degussa, the West German atom concern controlled by Abs.

These links began in 1958 in direct connection with Diederich's assumption of the leadership of the Atomic Energy Board. At that time Roux was the head of the South African delegation to the International Atomic Conference in Geneva. On September 29th, 1958, he visited the chiefs of Degussa and offered to supply uranium concentrate. Roux stated frankly that the Atomic Energy Board was having difficulty with the main customers for South African uranium, the Anglo-American firm Combined Development Agency. Degussa, which had long been looking for a 'free' source of raw materials for its own atomic experiments (when U.S. firms supply uranium to West German firms they impose certain restrictions and insist that the plutonium produced shall be returned) immediately took up the offer. After lengthy negotiations agreement was reached for the supply of 100 tons of uranium oxide ( $U_3O_8$ ) over a period of ten years. The price was fixed at \$10.25 for the first five years and \$8.20 for the second five years per pound avoirdupois of  $U_3O_8$ .

In the course of the negotiations Roux repeatedly declared that for political and ideological reasons he and his friends would prefer to co-operate with West Germany rather than any other country in the fields of atomic research and atomic technology. He made proposals for close co-operation. On the instructions of the Atomic Commission of the West German Federal Republic negotiations on these questions were conducted by Ministerial Director Karl Kaissling, head of Department III (Nuclear Research) in the West German Atomic Ministry. He placed at the disposal of the South Africans the uranium expert Hans Paul, and the licence to use a method of refining uranium ore developed in the pilot plant at Ellweiler, Birkenfeld district.

Hans Paul is the director of the mining firm Gewerkschaft Brunhilde, which is prospecting for uranium in the Federal Republic with the financial backing of the West German Government. (*Handbuch des deutschen Bergbaues*, 1963, p. 366.)

In 1958-59 the Gewerkschaft Brunhilde constructed the Ellweiler pilot plant on the instructions of and with finances provided by the Federal Ministry for Nuclear Energy. The construction firms, both of them controlled by Abs, were Lurgi, Frankfurt, and Phillip Holzmann, Frankfurt. (*Bulletin des Presse- und Informationsamtes der Bundesregierung*, Bonn, October 24th, 1959.)

## **PILOT PLANT, FIRST REACTOR, EXPERTS**

In the meantime the Ellweiler process has been developed so that nuclear-clean solutions and fissionable end-products can be produced. For security reasons the large scale tests in the pilot plant were transferred to Johannesburg, South Africa, where they were successfully completed in 1963. The presence in South Africa of Hans Paul, the West German expert from Ellweiler, was camouflaged by the grant of an oil prospecting concession by Diederichs. (See *Die Welt*, September 25th, 1962.)

In 1963 the first atomic reactor in South Africa, near Pretoria, which was being built by the American firm Allis-Chalmers, was nearing completion. (*Yearbook of the Republic of South Africa*, 1963, pp. 185-86.)

On January 12th, 1962, an unnamed South African scientist declared in the *Rand Daily Mail*: 'It is within the bounds of our resources to make an atom bomb'.

This statement is correct. At present South Africa produces about 20 per cent of the uranium mined in the capitalist world, and has the greatest proved reserves of uranium ores. Other minerals important for atomic research, such as lithium, are mined in South Africa. The steel industry, engineering and the chemical industry in South Africa are growing quickly and are very productive. (See *An Expanding Economy*, September 1962; and *South Africa in Fact*, June 1964, publicity pamphlets published by the South African Embassy in London.)

The Zurich magazine *Südafrika*, published in No. 1 of 1964 an article entitled: 'South Africa is in a position to exploit atomic energy'. The article stated:

"Dr. T. E. W. Schumann, Deputy-President of the South African Atomic Energy Board, stated in Pretoria that in the past four years South Africa had formed one of the best-trained corps of scientists for nuclear research outside the big western powers, Japan and Russia . . . A further eighty-three South African scientists were at present continuing their studies at many institutes in Europe, England and the U.S.A."

## **FINANCE, CAMOUFLAGE, AND WARNING**

Despite the favourable conditions with regard to materials and personnel, and despite the aid received from West Germany, the large-scale production of nuclear fuel and atomic bombs represents an enormous effort for the South African economy, particularly in the financial field, and this made thorough discussions with Hermann Abs necessary.

One of the results of these discussions was the realization that such extraordinary industrial and financial efforts could no longer be kept

secret. It was therefore decided to launch a large-scale programme for the production of nuclear power by Escom, the state electricity concern; this would help to provide camouflage, and would make easier the financing of the big production of nuclear material.

Suddenly a campaign was launched for the project to cover the entire power needs of South Africa within ten years by means of nuclear energy. Mr. Rood, chairman of the Union Steel Corporation in Pretoria, demanded a speed-up in the plans for nuclear power production in South Africa. Professor Zeemann, director of the Institute of Physics of the University of Stellenbosch, told the press that in about ten years nuclear power could have replaced traditional power sources in South Africa; and Dr. A. J. A. Roux announced that by the beginning of the 1970's it would be possible to count on the economic production of nuclear power in South Africa. (*Sudafrika von Woche zu Woche*, No. 98, October 11th, 1963; No. 113, March 21st, 1964.)

This propaganda led to an Escom loan of forty million rands (20 million pounds sterling) being oversubscribed within forty-eight hours (*ibid*, No. 100, November 1st, 1963), but it could not prevent foreign experts becoming suspicious. The Swede, Dr. A. Sigvard Eklund, Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency, sounded the alarm. At a press conference in Washington he declared that to the degree that nuclear power became economical then international guarantees were necessary in order to prevent the misuse of nuclear material for military purposes.

Dr. Eklund stated that the International Atomic Energy Agency had unanimously decided at its meeting in Vienna in February 1964 that such guarantees were necessary for all nuclear power plants with a capacity of more than 100,000 kilowatts, in order to ensure that at least fissionable material produced by nuclear power works built with the aid of the International Atomic Energy Agency would not be misused for military purposes. (*New York Times*, March 28th-29th, 1964.)

This decision does not specifically name the South African - West German 'nuclear power plan', but it does draw international attention to the frightful threat to world peace posed by such camouflage plans; it also helps to mobilize the peace forces of the world against this threat.

### **HITLER'S IG FARBEN GAS AGAIN**

There is a similar position with regard to plans for the production of poison gases and missiles in South Africa with West German help; the reports of the special Apartheid commission of the U.N. have repeatedly drawn attention to these plans.

On November 7th, 1963, Professor L. J. le Roux, Vice-President of the National Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, told a scientific congress in Pretoria that the South African Defence Research Council had set up a specialist group of scientists to tackle the further development of virulent poison gases such as tabun, soman and sarin. These gases were developed towards the end of the war in Germany, at a time when it was too late for them to be used. They are ten times as poisonous as all previous gases, are odourless, and could be sprayed like an insecticide from planes or rockets. They would have the destructive effect of a 20 megaton atom bomb, but are considerably cheaper. (*Reuters*, November 11th, 1963, *New York Herald Tribune*, November 8th, 1963.)

**This specialist group of scientists includes a number of poison gas experts formerly employed by IG Farben on gas research; these men fled to South Africa since they were afraid of being put on trial for their part in producing the poison gas which was used by the Nazis for killing millions of people on racial grounds. They are headed by Günther Pruss, who served in a leading position in the poison gas research department of the Nazi Wehrmacht.**

The production experience and the licences of the former IG Farben trust were made available to the specialist group by Dr. Felix Prentzel. Prentzel was formerly ministerial director in the West German Federal Economics Ministry under Ludwig Erhard. Today he is a member of the board of IG Farben (in liquidation); Director-General of the Degussa atomic concern, and sits on the board of the 'Otavi Minen- und Eisenbahngesellschaft', the largest West German colonial firm. (*Wer ist Wer*, Arani-Verlag, West Berlin, p. 1165.)

The Otavi Minen- und Eisenbahngesellschaft is controlled, like IG Farben i. L and Degussa, by Hermann Abs through the Deutsche Bank. In the past few years this company has considerably extended its influence in South Africa, and bought up the whole or part of no fewer than nine South African firms, as the latest company reports show. (ADN report from Frankfurt/Main, June 15th, 1964.)

Prentzel also represents the interests of IG Farben i. L in South Africa. During and after the war the Smuts Government in South Africa confiscated German property; the Verwoerd Government has ordered the return of this property to its original owners, and with the help of this new ruling Prentzel is attempting to gain a footing in the rapidly-growing chemical centre at Sasolburg, which works with confiscated IG Farben patents. This is the aim of the transfer of the IG Farben licences to the poison gas specialists of the Research Council, since these terrible gases would be produced at Sasolburg.

## **SOUTH AFRICAN MISSILES—WEST GERMAN EXPERTS**

Regarding the production of missiles capable of carrying atomic war heads and poison gases, Defence Minister Fouché told the South African Parliament in June 1963 that South Africa intended to produce **its own guided missiles**. In October 1963 Professor L. J. le Roux, Vice-President of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, announced that South Africa had established an Institute for Rocket Research near to Pretoria, and had set up its own rocket testing grounds. He said that the Institute would give South Africa 'a foothold in space and weather research'. (*The Times*, London, October 28th, 1963.)

Space rockets are naturally rockets with a long range.

West German specialists from firms controlled by Abs are also occupied in preparations for missile production. The firms concerned are Bölkow Entwicklung KG in Munich, and the practically identical Waffen- und Luftrustungs AG Hamburg. International protests forced this second firm to abandon its rocket tests at Wattenmeer on the North Sea; these tests will now be continued on the rocket testing grounds near Pretoria, following the removal of its experts to South Africa. (*Neues Deutschland*, Berlin, No. 297, October 29th, 1963.)

The firms of Siemens and Telefunken have also sent experts and technicians to the Institute for Rocket Research. (*Sunday Spectator and Vanguard*, Accra, August 3rd, 1964.)

West Germany's main interest in South Africa is research on long-range missiles. In spring 1964 the West German Institute for Aeronomics, Lindau am Harz, established a rocket observation and ionosphere station with antennae 120 metres high near to Tsumeb in South West Africa, near to the Angolan frontier and one thousand kilometres from Pretoria. (*Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, No. 102, April 29th, 1964.) This Institute co-operates closely with the West German Defence Ministry; its projects are directly financed from the budget of this Ministry. (*Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, No. 84, April 10th, 1964.)

This station at Tsumeb, which is particularly suitable for testing missiles which could reach any point on the African continent, is controlled on the South African side by Dr. Theo Schumann, specialist for meteorological rockets, who works closely on the Atomic Energy Board, as noted above, with Diederichs.

## **VERWOERD TAKES A HAND**

Soon after the plans were laid for the production of fissionable material, poison gas and missiles, it became clear that South Africa could make little progress in these fields without a strict co-ordination of its re-

sources. For this reason, Prime Minister Verwoerd himself took a hand. At the end of July 1964 he announced the establishment of a Planning Ministry, which should unite the efforts of various planning and co-ordination bureaux hitherto scattered under the control of Verwoerd and Diederichs. (*Südafrika von Woche zu Woche*, No. 125, July 21st, 1964.)

On August 7th it was announced that a 'Department of Planning' had been set up, to deal with 'the growing importance of joint planning and the co-ordination of certain activities in various spheres'. (*South African Digest*, organ of the South African Ministry of Information, August 7th, 1964.)

The leading officials of this new department will be under the direct control of Verwoerd. Atomic research was included in the new department by means of giving the new minister the title of 'Minister of Planning and of Mines'; the Atom Law gives the Minister of Mines responsibility for atomic affairs. The new Planning Minister is Jan Friedrich Wilhelm Haak, one of Verwoerd's 'young men', and hitherto deputy to Diederichs in the Ministry of Economic Affairs. This appointment means that a further fanatical racist and friend of West German imperialism has been given a key position in the South African production of atom bombs, poison gas and missiles. Haak is a close friend of Dr. Werner Junker, the West German Ambassador. At the annual banquet of the German - South African Chamber of Industry and Commerce at the end of 1963 the two men spoke of the close friendship between the two countries. Haak stated that this traditional friendship went back to the middle of the nineteenth century, and had been steadily increased by the strong German immigration. (*Afrika-Post*, No. 9, November 1963.)

Haak became internationally known in September 1962, when the Johannesburg *Sunday Express* revealed that he, in his capacity as Deputy Minister of Economics, had helped to raise £100,000 in South Africa for Sir Oswald Mosley, British fascist leader.

### **AGAINST AFRO-ASIAN STATES IN 'THE SAME SPIRIT' AND 'ON THE SAME PRINCIPLES'**

The spirit in which Haak and his friends are planning the production of atomic weapons is shown by a statement made by his close friend Dr. Andries Visser, member of the Atomic Energy Board. Visser recently declared publicly that South Africa should begin to produce atomic weapons in order to use them against the 'loud-mouthed Afro-Asian states'. (*The Rise of the South African Reich*, Brian Bunting, London, 1964, p. 302.)

This attitude and this spirit are publicly approved by the leadership

of the West German Federal Republic. As proof two statements made by the two leading representatives of West Germany are cited below. In March 1959, Dr. Heinrich Lübke, today President of the West German Republic, visited South Africa. He visited some large farms and also 'areas farmed by natives'. (*Afrika-Post*, April 1959.) Following this he delivered his infamous judgement: 'The problems (of the natives) are in good hands with the Government; its experience could be usefully employed on the whole continent (of Africa)'. (*Informationen aus Sudafrica*. April 1959, published by the South African Embassy in Bonn.)

In November 1956 Professor Ludwig Erhard, today the West German Chancellor, visited South Africa and told his hosts: '*There is a similar spirit at work both in (West) Germany and South Africa.*' (*Afrika-Post*, December 1956, p. 6.)

Speaking at the annual banquet of the German-South African Chamber of Commerce on November 5th, 1956, he emphasized this point: 'We are all working on the task of shaping life according to the same principles.' (*ibid*, p. 10.)

When Erhard became West German Chancellor, Premier Verwoerd thanked him for his expression of solidarity with a telegram stating: 'We have pleasant memories of your visit to South Africa. I look forward to hearty relations and fruitful co-operation with you and your government in the future.' (*Sudafrica von Woche zu Woche*, No. 100, November 1st, 1962.)

*In this memorandum we have refrained to a large degree from comments; we have left the facts to speak for themselves. As the references show, we have confined ourselves almost entirely to reports and information from western sources. We should like to conclude this memorandum with two remarks:*

1. *We regard it as a national duty, and at the same time as an act of international solidarity, to warn the peoples of the criminal manipulations of the West German imperialists and their South African co-conspirators. Military power, atom bombs, poison gas and missiles in the hands of men like this are a serious threat to world peace, national independence, and the liberation struggle of those peoples still living under colonial regimes.*

*We believe that knowledge of the dangerous plans being made by the West German imperialists and their South African allies will enable the African states threatened by these plans to take defence measures in good time.*

2. *This memorandum is not intended to describe the ever-growing co-operation between the present rulers in West Germany and South*

*Africa in all fields of politics, economics and culture, and the roots of their ideological affinity, which stretch back to the days of the Kaiser's Germany and the Boer Republics. We reserve the right to deal in further memoranda with these and with other aspects of the alliance between the West German imperialists and the South African racialists, an alliance which is so dangerous to peace and liberty.*

*Berlin, September 1964.*

*Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee  
in the German Democratic Republic.*