

campaigns against Angola and Mozambique.

The disengagement offered by Pretoria, at the same time its planes were still murderously bombing Angolan towns, was the signal for a US diplomatic rescue mission. By the time Pretoria's ceasefire went into effect at the end of January, Chester Crocker, US Undersecretary of State for African Affairs, had begun his shuttle diplomacy to all involved African parties. Crocker's mission is like the service which US envoy Philip Habib proffered to 'Israel' during the 1982 battle of Beirut. He is assigned to cover South African failure to comply with the UN Security Council resolutions demanding

immediate, unconditional withdrawal from Angola, not to mention the UN plan for Namibia's independence. Instead US diplomacy aims to extract the results it wants from South Africa's aggression, just as the Reagan plan was launched in the wake of PLO withdrawal from Beirut.

In the interests of warding off Pretoria's sabotage, neither Angola nor SWAPO rejected the idea of a ceasefire at the Angolan border. However, Angola has made it clear that Namibia's independence is not conditional on the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola. SWAPO dismissed the US initiatives as "a diplomatic ploy intended to hoodwink the

people of Namibia" and vowed to continue its people's war until terminating the occupation fully. Due to imperialism and Pretoria's determination to maintain their exploitation of African people and resources, the undeclared war in southern Africa will surely be a protracted one. However, we remind that 'Israel', the US and reactionary forces have yet to achieve their aims in Lebanon, despite massive aggression. The enemy tactics, and then its strategy, will ultimately fail in southern Africa, and the people of South Africa and Namibia will join their Angolan and Mozambican brothers in freedom.

## 'Israel' and Africa



South African troops - the Israeli army's counterpart

*"...beyond the Arab countries... we must expand the field of Israel's strategic and security concerns in the eighties to include countries like Turkey, Iran, Pakistan, and areas like the Persian Gulf and Africa, and in particular the countries of North and Central Africa."*

— Israeli Defense Minister Sharon, 1981 (as printed in "Davar", December 18, 1981, and translated in "Journal of Palestine Studies", No. 43, Spring 1982, p. 167)

Though Sharon never delivered the lecture wherein these words figured, Zionist penetration of Africa is a reality, driven along by the Israeli state's own ambitions and its strategic alliance with US imperialism. Zaire's restoration of diplomatic relations in May 1982, marked official Israeli reentry into the center of the continent. This was the first fruit of the Camp David accords on the African level. Among the aims of the

pact between the US, 'Israel' and the Egyptian regime was to provide for Israeli economic and military expansion into the Middle East and Africa. Sadat offered Egypt as the bridge, concretely by normalizing relations with the Zionist state, and politically by reneging on the platform whereby almost all Black African states had broken relations with 'Israel' in 1973. The southern flank of the continent did not need to be mentioned by Sharon; 'Israel' had long ago established a foothold there, through close military and economic cooperation with the apartheid regime in South Africa.

After the 1979 Egyptian-Israeli accord had confirmed Egyptian recognition of the Zionist state and brought the Sinai pullout within sight, David Kimche, Director General of the Israeli Foreign Ministry, made a number of trips to Africa to pave the way for reestablishing diplomatic ties. In November 1981, Sharon secretly visited Gabon, Zaire, Ivory Coast, Cen-