

Canada is, in effect, helping the minority

to judge whether they form a pattern that would yield politically possible means of striking an economic blow at the southern African regimes. But it is reasonable to assume that the Canadian government has all this information at its fingertips.

Our government, however, vacillates. On the one hand — presumably its left hand — it officially deplores the southern African systems of white domination. On the other hand — possibly the government's right hand — the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce, in a slick-paper publication entitled *Foreign Trade*, offers businessmen detailed information on investment opportunities in southern Africa.

An economic remnant of the 1950s adds another aspect to the Canadian government's encouragement of trade with the Republic of South Africa. Although South Africa withdrew from the Commonwealth in 1961, Canada continues to extend Commonwealth trade preferences to it. The *Toronto Star* commented editorially last week:

"It is not only hypocritical but absurd that South African goods should be entering Canada at an advantage over the products of many countries with whom we have no quarrel whatever. And it's nothing short of disgraceful that a company owned by the Canadian public should be in a position to profit from the economic injustice which South Africa imposes on its black people."

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization, of which both Canada and Portugal are members, has played a major role in contributing to Portugal's domination of Angola and Mozambique.

Portugal has been supplied, through NATO, with large numbers of aircraft, heavy weapons for its army, and ships. In addition, according to the *London Observer*, seven NATO installations on Portuguese soil were built with minimal contribution from Portugal and some 750,000 pounds has been spent on local scholarships and scientific research, with a contribution of no more than 55,000 pounds by Portugal.

All of this contributes, not only to the Portuguese economy, but also — and often directly — to its war effort in Angola and Mozambique. Airplanes, bombs, heavy weapons, and ships supplied through the North Atlantic pact are used in those colonies.

NATO lends additional support to Portugal by accepting its minimal contribution to European



defense, a contribution that has been steadily decreasing as the fighting in Africa has grown heavier.

U.S. relations with Portugal, after undergoing a brief chill in the early days of the Kennedy administration, appear to have been warming steadily ever since. Arms supplied through NATO are not supposed to be used in Africa and, although the United States has taken note of Portuguese violations of this rule, it has made no move to stop them.

France, for its part, makes no secret of its status as a supplier of weapons to white southern Africa and West Germany, despite repeated official denials, has been a major supplier of aircraft that Portugal uses in Africa.

Singlehandedly, Canada can neither change the course of NATO nor undermine the white regimes of southern Africa. But we have an advantage over the United States, France and West Germany: we are not tied, by diplomatic and political strings, to open support of white rule in southern Africa.

It is possible for the Canadian government to state where it stands and to follow its words with action, thereby, at the very least, helping to focus more attention on an all-but-forgotten war and on the thriving European colonialism and white

domination in Africa that has brought that war about.

Canada can also indicate, more strongly, its support for Zambia and Tanzania, both of which, by opposing the regimes on their southern borders, face border incursions and sabotage in reprisal.

An embassy in Zambia would show Canada's concern for the fate of that nation, which is boxed in on three sides from outlets to the sea and which remains partially dependent economically upon the regimes it opposes.

As for Tanzania, Canada last year allowed a five-year aid programme for the training of Tanzania army personnel to lapse, apparently because Tanzania's desire to establish defenses against air incursions from Mozambique conflicted with a Canadian desire to stay out of trouble with Portugal. The aid programme could be renewed.

The war in southern Africa is likely to continue for a long time. The liberation organisations are not winning now, but they are on the move, and the white regimes have not succeeded in stopping them.

If we believe what we say when we condemn white minority rule, we should, if anything, assist those who are determined to end it. Certainly we should not be throwing economic obstacles in their path.

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