

# Resources target for corporate thieves

Industrialized countries. If Africa's multiple and abundant resources were used for her own development, she could take her place among the modernized continents of the world. However, her resources continue to be exploited for the greater development of foreign interests, mainly the former colonial powers, but, increasingly, also the U.S. and Japan. These industrial nations derive their wealth essentially from manufacturing, which greatly depends on the importation of raw material.

In the U.S. for example, for all major metals except iron, over half of American industrial needs come from foreign sources. The U.S. is highly dependent on external sources for manganese, nickel, platinum, tin, zinc, bauxite (aluminum), beryllium, chromium, cobalt, and flourspar. Even in oil, in which the U.S. is the world's largest producer, it still imports 20% of its requirements, and is described as a net importer, with prospects of constantly increasing future needs for energy and petrochemicals, both domestically and by affiliates abroad. Thus the U.S. has shown prime interest in the continent which produces over half of the world's mineral exports.

Foreign investment and the resultant superprofits have sought to exploit the combination of rich minerals and cheap labour. It has thus flourished largely in the intertwined economies of colonial and racist-dominated Southern and Central Africa and Rhodesia and

includes Namibia, Angola, Mozambique, and the quasi-Bantustans of Swaziland, Lesotho, Botswana, and Malawi.

These countries have had their economies warped and distorted to provide raw materials and labour power for the racist regimes and their western supporters. Add to this the exceptionally-endowed countries of Zambia and Zaire whose resources are dominated by western corporations. There are more than 500 British, 300 American, and a large number of European, Japanese and Canadian companies embroiled in exploitation of the Republic of South Africa alone, where return investment (or profit) is among the highest on earth.

South Africa produces most of the world's gold. Remember that gold is important both as a commodity and as the hinge in the capitalist monetary system (*In Gold We Trust?*). African produces nearly all (85%) of the world's diamonds — industrial cutters and gems (*Diamonds Are Forever*). The U.S. is the main world purchaser, with Harry Oppenheimer's empire controlling most of the production and the international selling monopoly through the de Beers Company.

In this same southern-central politico-economic complex, non-ferrous metals have been an important target for foreign exploitation, especially in this age of communications (telephones, radios, television, computers, electricity, electronics, air-planes, spacecraft, etc... all of which

need specialized elements, steel, and other alloys).

Zaire and Zambia produce 22% of the world's copper. This would be enough to compete with the U.S. on a world scale if controlled by the two nations. But foreign monopolies have sought to control it to prevent this competition and the resulting "disturbance" in prices and profits. Zambia has been especially vulnerable, because it has unwisely allowed copper to dominate its economy, accounting for 90 to 95% of its export earnings and two-thirds of government revenue.

Two thirds of the world's cobalt (used in missiles, jet engines, and motors) comes from Zaire (85% of this plus 50% of the tin, and 40% of the zinc), Zambia and Morocco, with the U.S. importing 90% of African production, mainly from Zaire. Forty per cent of the world's manganese (another alloying agent for special steels and bronze) comes from Gabon, Ghana and South Africa.

Uranium: Twenty five percent of the world's uranium, used in nuclear power for electricity, ships, and submarines, atomic and hydrogen bombs in the west comes from Zaire and South Africa (to U.S. and affiliates), and Gabon (where it is exploited mainly by the French Atomic Energy Commission). Revealingly, it was in Gabon that French paratroopers intervened in 1964 to restore their tottering puppet Mba. And the activities of the U.S. in attempting to shore up their men in Zaire are well known.

Thus the fact that about 80% of Africa's phenomenal mineral wealth is found in Southern Africa has been the primary attraction for foreign involvement and domination. It has had a great bearing on the prolonged oppression of the African people. Their present struggle for liberation has caused a great deal of nervousness and confusion in the western world.

The western world's attempts to hold on to those areas in the face of heavy international protest and indignation, clutching at straws in the hope of installing puppet neocolonialist regimes and keeping them buoyant with "aid" while safeguarding their own interests; all these actions must be seen in the light of the treasure that is at stake. All freedom-loving people need to see through the deceptions of the western media and the public relations gimmicks of the business interests which are reaping the superprofits of exploitation (witness the recent sporting links with Edmonton).

We need to understand western governments' complicity with the oppressive system in Southern Africa. We need to see clearly that the oppressive laws set up are designed to tie the people's hands so they cannot raise a finger against their inhuman treatment and exploitation.

We need to understand that there can be no easy solution to the problems of the oppressed, that the struggle will be protracted and tough, and that our active support will be needed.

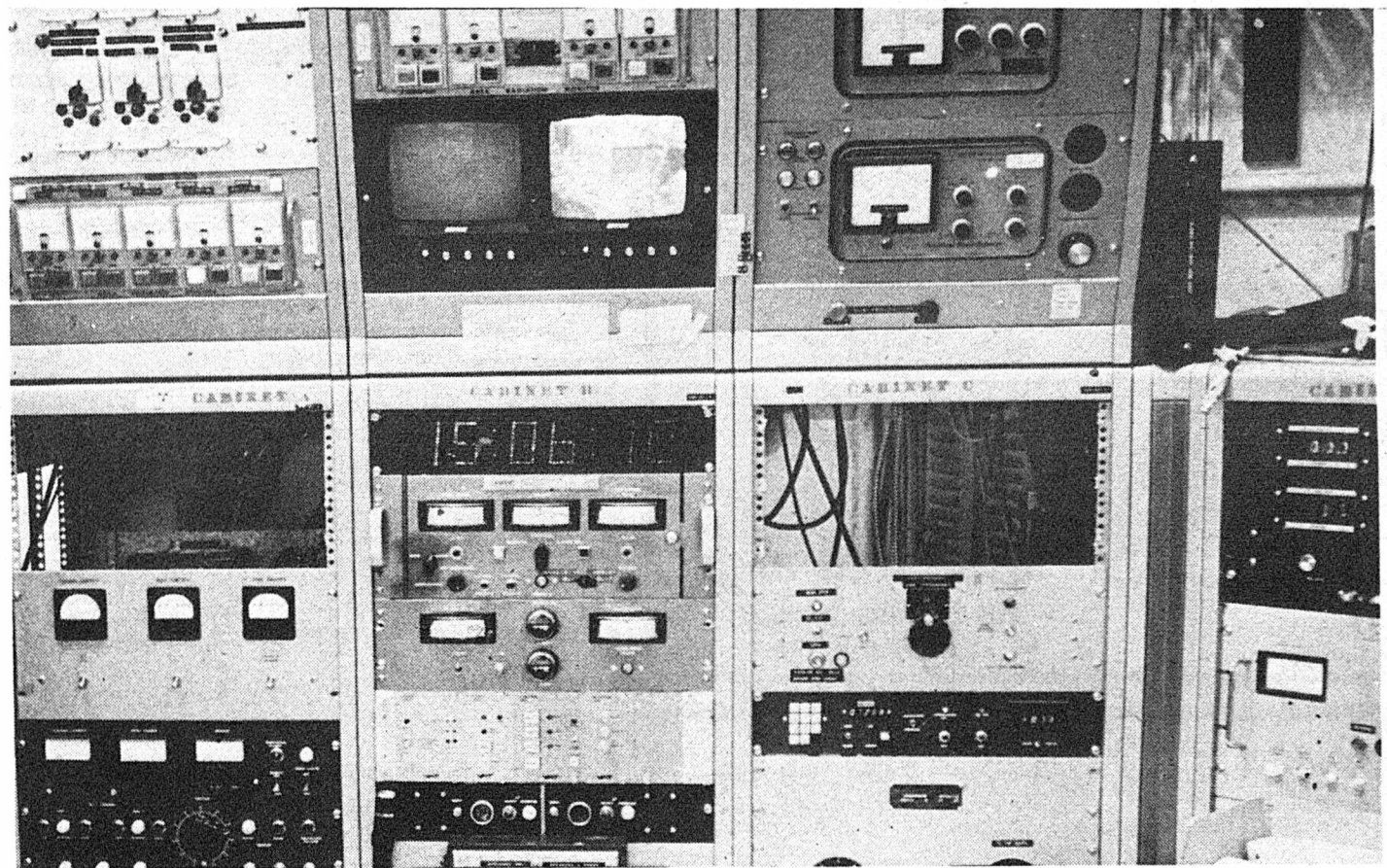
## Scientists at climax

These energized ions are then accelerated downward from the top of the machine, deflected 90 degrees by a strong magnet, and directed at a thin target at speeds approaching 15% the speed of light.

The current specialty of this research facility involves the production of pulsed neutron beams which Dr. Moss feels are the best in Canada.

Since the accelerated particles are of the same order of magnitude as the nuclei in the target sample they can be utilized as probes to explore the structure of the atomic nucleus. When particles collide with target nuclei, various detecting devices and elaborate electronics measure the trajectories of sub-atomic particles, the reaction products of the collision, and the energy released. Nuclear physicists then try to reconstruct what must have happened during the collision to account for the data they have just collected.

On a more practical level, the



production of radioisotopes for biological and pharmacological research is an important extension of the accelerator's capabilities. For example, radioactive substances may be substituted for their normal counterparts in complex biochemical reactions. The radiation emitted by these substances allows scientists to monitor their

radioactive presence and relative concentrations throughout the progress of the reaction, thus revealing the details of the biochemical events taking place. The accelerator has also been used in the trace element analysis of wheat and other organic materials.

Well, it is a comfort to know that our nuclear physicists on campus

are peacefully employed for the benefit of all. But when I gaze at the incredible technology of a Van de Graaf accelerator and then attempt to visualize the awesome technology of Nuclear Armament, I'm afraid that old paranoia creeps right back again ....

### Skiing for the Disabled?

Find out how you can help rehabilitate disabled people through skiing. (Disabled includes the physically, mentally or emotionally handicapped.)

The Alberta Amputee Ski Association will hold a

**General Meeting**  
to discuss  
**Handicapped Skiing**

**WEDNESDAY, NOV. 3 7:30 PM**  
at **SPORTCHEK, 125A Ave and 82 St.**

If you are interested your help is needed. Students involved in related fields of Phys. Ed., Special Ed., Physiotherapy, Medicine or Occupational Therapy are especially welcome.

For further information call Peter Dunster, Coordinator, Lake Eden Resort, # 963-3262 or 963-3411.

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