

...formulating plans that could conceivably drag the United States into an African racial war. Here are the inside details:

Most of the oil consumed by the West is shipped in tankers which steam through the Indian Ocean and around South Africa's Cape of Good Hope. The Soviet Union has been building up its fleet in the Indian Ocean and defense planners now believe the Kremlin could easily disrupt the tanker traffic.

Thus, the United States, in concert with its NATO allies, is proposing to defend the "Cape Route" from the alleged Russian threat. Such plans would, undoubtedly, require the cooperation of White-ruled South Africa.

NATO officials admitted several months ago that contingency plans were being drawn up. Recent reports from South Africa, furthermore, tell of naval visits by the British and French. And U.S. officials are reportedly discussing plans to use South African port facilities.

Once military cooperation is established, NATO could eventually be drawn into South Africa's defense against its neighbors.

There is a strong possibility, however, that the "Cape Route" deal is a

There is a strong possibility, however, that the "Cape Route" issue is a bogus one. A recent United Nations report, classified confidential, traces the controversy back to conservative NATO officials who for years have been looking for an excuse to include South Africa in the western defense system.

The U.N. document, compiled by consultant Sean Gervasi, concluded: "The debate about the Cape Route... is actually a smokescreen for hiding the real motives of those who organized it."

A secret U.S. foreign policy document on Southern

African National Security Study, Memorandum 39, Richard Nixon, because he blatantly acknowledges that South Africa hopes to use the small but persistent Soviet naval presence in the Indian Ocean as a basis for some sort of collaboration with the U.S. with resultant increased U.S. naval presence in the area and use of South African ports.

William Colby, CIA Director, testified before a congressional committee two months ago that the Soviet presence in the Indian Ocean is "relatively small and unimportant."

Colby added that the Russians could increase the size of their fleet in the waters of the Cape of Good Hope. He said that intelligence reports should be examined to determine if the Russians have been "bombed with inquiries for access to South African port facilities."

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For several weeks, we have been searching for evidence of such a deal. We have questioned trusted sources who are close to both Nixon and Ford. One source was actually present at San Clemente during the discussions that led to the pardon.

But if there was an advance agreement between Nixon and Ford, we have found no evidence of it. We haven't uncovered one document, we haven't located one witness, with information about a Nixon-Ford deal.

In the absence of any evidence to the contrary, we will accept President Ford's

word that he pardoned Richard Nixon because he thought it was the right thing to do. We question Ford's judgment, but we have no doubt that he is a man of integrity.

Nato Communists, according to intelligence reports, warn that two Western nations, both members of the Atlantic Alliance, are in the process of withdrawing from the NATO. Italy is already on the brink of economic collapse.

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