ment to be a part of a socialist revolution, and he has sought aid from the socialist bloc countries, including not only China and North Korea, but also Romania, the USSR, East Germany, and Cuba.

Internal opposition has by now been totally quashed, but there have been two unsuccessful attempts by exiles to invade the island, one in 1972 and one in 1976. Two groups, the National Alliance for the Restoration of Democracy (NARD), based in Geneva, and the Equatorial Guinea Liberation Front (EGLT), based in Paris, continue to organize, so far with little effect.

SOUTH AFRICA

U.N. AWARDS APARTHEID FOES

UNITED NATIONS [AN] The UN's lengthy campaign against South Africa's racially defined system of apartheid has reached new heights as the international Anti-Apartheid Year nears an end.

The UN effort now has at least the verbal backing of the vast majority of nations represented here, and condemnations of apartheid were voiced in most of the speeches heard during the three weeks of what is termed the General Debate, which ended on October 12. During this period, member countries, often represented by a foreign minister or head of state, present a policy statement in the General Assembly.

On October 11, the debate was suspended for the morning while the assembly held a special session to commemorate International Anti-Apartheid Year. Addressing the meeting, secretary-general Kurt Waldheim spoke of the South African system in the strongest terms he has ever used.

"Apartheid is not only immoral and inhuman, but it is also a grave danger to international peace and security," he said, employing the language of the UN Charter's Chapter 7—the portion which must be invoked to impose the mandatory economic sanctions that many governments are now advocating against South Africa.

During the October 12 ceremonies, seven international figures were presented gold medals for "distinguished service against apartheid." The recipients included Canon John Collins, chairman of the International Defense and Aid Fund (Southern Africa); Jamaican Prime Minister Michael Manley; two former African heads of state, both deceased, Ghana's Kwame Knrumah and Nigeria's Murtala Muhammed; the late Jawaharlal Nehru, former Indian prime minister; Olaf Palme, former prime minister of Sweden; and the late Paul Robeson, black American singer, actor, and political activist.

It was impossible to understand apartheid, Manley said during the session's major address, without understanding the origins and nature of imperialism. And he called for "total mobilization of the world community" for the campaign period.

Accepting the gold medal in memory of his father, Paul Robeson Jr. declared "It is time for the people of the United States to compel their government to impose an economic boycott on the South African rulers."

The assembly hall was packed for the occasion with diplomats, leaders from South Africa's liberation movement, and representatives of anti-apartheid groups from various countries. Some of the few empty seats were those reserved for the South African delegation, which has not returned to the hall since the General Assembly voted a temporary ouster in 1974.

The ceremony was organized by the Special Committee Against Apartheid, chaired by Nigerian ambassador Leslie Harriman, which coordinates UN actions against South Africa. The committee, and the Center Against Apartheid have been strengthened in recent years as international criticism of South Africa has grown.

NIGERIA

HATS IN THE RING

[AN] Nigeria's political arena is now crowded with eager contenders, as some two dozen parties have surfaced since the lifting of the ban on party politics in late September.

Veteran politician Chief Obefemi Awolowo upstaged rivals by being the first national figure to launch his campaign. Awolowo, a leader of the opposition in Nigeria's last civilian government, more than ten years ago, calls his new organization the United Party of Nigeria (UPN). Its platform, according to the chief, includes four key programs that are designed to bring about the eventual establishment of socialism, among them: free education at all levels, full employment, free medical services and a rural development program based on self-sufficient farming communities.

Other organizations quick to launch their campaigns include:

- the Nigerian People's Party, a partnership (so far leaderless) of three longtime politicians running on a platform of national unity, full employment, and more equitable distribution of wealth;
- the National Party of Nigeria, another organization collectively steered by a number of well-known men, notably several civilian commissioners from the Gowon regime—Alhaji Shehu Shagari, a former finance commissioner, ex-communications commissioner Joseph Tarka, and Alhaji Aminu Kano, a popular northerner and former health commissioner;
- the Republic Party of Nigeria, led by Chief Austine Toritse Rerri;
- the Nigerian Democratic Congress, under Chief Harold Dappa Biriye;
- the Nigeria National Congress, with Alhaji Mohammed Idirisu at the helm; and
- the All State Party of Nigeria, inaugurated at a London press conference by Dr. A.B.C. Nworah, a physician who practices in England.

The field of contenders is expected to widen in coming weeks, only to narrow down to three or four parties by the time elections are held next October.

The UPN held its first convention two weeks ago and nominated Chief Awolowo as its presidential candidate. The NNP, meanwhile, has laid plans to hold its party conference in early November, and is expected to put forth its presidential nominee and elaborate its platform at that time.

Political analysts in Nigeria have predicted that the country's first election campaign under the new constitution will be less an ideological contest than a clash of personalities ultimately won by means of clever alliances. The UPN's adoption of socialist goals comes as something of a surprise, but the influential *West Africa* magazine says that Awolowo's program provides generous guarantees to the private sector and would not mean any radical shift from the policies of the Federal Military Government.

Fearful that campaigning will stir up old ethnic and regional tensions, the government is keeping a close watch on the politicians. Under new regulations a police permit is necessary for the holding of any rally, meeting or public procession. Political parties are also being required to show that their leadership and general membership represent at least 14 of the nation's 19 states.

Head of State General Olusegun Obasanjo has repeatedly issued warnings about the dangers of intemperate politicking. In his September 21 speech lifting the ban on parties, he referred to Nigeria's civil war, saying, "Let all of us solemnly resolve and pledge to learn from the mistakes of the past, knowing that