

(Photographed as evidence from London Telegraph, 3/17/77)

Hero's welcome for Castro in Africa

By DAVID ADAMSON, Diplomatic Staff

DR FIDEL CASTRO of Cuba will make his first foray into the Black confrontation states of Southern Africa when he arrives in Tanzania today for an unscheduled five-day visit.

A hero's welcome awaits him in Dar-es-Salaam as the man who dispatched his troops to Angola and ensured victory for President Neto's Communist-backed M P L A forces.

The Cuban Prime Minister's visit comes shortly after a summit of the five confrontation States—Tanzania, Mozambique, Zambia, Angola and Botswana—in Beira, Mozambique. They discussed intensification of the war against Rhodesia, a matter on which the Cuban ex-guerrilla chief would be able to give useful advice.

Advantage sought

If he keeps to his schedule he will leave Tanzania the day before President Podgorny of Russia arrives in Dar-es-Salaam.

This double-barrelled diplomatic assault on Southern Africa by the Communist bloc is a bold attempt to take advantage of the political and economic dilemmas the West finds itself in over South Africa and Rhodesia.

Revolutionary fervour

Castro symbolises the new revolutionary fervour of the younger Communist states in their espousal of the African cause. Since the Angola civil war he has become the most peripatetic of the Communist leaders.

His present trip has taken him to five of the most militantly Left-wing nations of the Third World—Libya, where he spent 10 days, Southern Yemen, Somalia, Ethiopia and now Tanzania.

The line he has supported in joint communiques is likely to have enraged the leaders of Syria and Egypt as well as other Arab states with its opposition to "reactionary" attempts to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Support stressed

While Castro may offer advisers and other military help to the confrontation states in the campaign to overthrow White government in Southern Africa, Podgorny will probably take a less controversial course.

In a speech made when the Soviet-Angolan treaty was ratified on Monday he made no mention of military aid. But he stressed Russian support for the "consistent struggle" against imperialism, colonialism, neo-colonialism, racialism and apartheid.

Mr Gromyko, the Russian Foreign Minister, said the treaty strengthened the basis for the development of Angolan-Soviet relations. But it was "in no way directed against any third country."

Do-it-yourself society in Cuba

HAVANA, March 18.

From *The Times of India*

A few dozen km. from the American throw-away civilisation, Cuba has evolved since its 1959 revolution into a do-it-yourself society where people have learnt to make the most of what is available.

Cubans throw hardly anything away. Years of shortages and lack of spare parts since the U.S. stopped trading with Cuba in 1962 have taught people to stock bits of wire, hairpins and rubber bands that may come in handy for a makeshift repair of a car, refrigerator or cooker.

Foreigners here discover that non-refillable lighters and felt-tip pens can be refilled and that a new candle be made from old drippings.

Discarded belts become dog collars. Two large plastic bags can be sewn together to make a raincoat.

Empty plastic yoghurt jars are used alternatively as flower-pots, glasses and coffee cups, or are handpainted and filled with sweets for children's birthdays.

In this resourceful society, Cubans laugh loudly when they are told that some westerners use electric toothbrushes.

Foreigners, in turn, are amazed at the skill and ingenuity of Cubans in makeshift repairs.

Almost every Cuban husband has become something of a plumber or mechanic, helping neighbours on a "fix-my-car-I'll-fix-your-fridge" basis.

They broke records in ingenuity. When washers were unavailable, husbands fixed leaky water taps with cork. In one case, a chemistry professor built a water-heater with a burner.

Many Cubans have television antennae made from wire coat-hangers.

Some say they refill non-refillable lighters with a hypodermic needle.

Women have done their bit, too, making earrings with copper wire and jewellery with beads, tropical seeds and bits of broken glass.

They faked cocktail snacks with fried macaroni and made glasses by cutting off the top of beer bottles with a hot wire. Old clothing was turned into cushions or rag dolls as presents for child guests at the frequent birthday parties loved by Cubans.

Recovery of used objects is encouraged at the government level. Each year there are nationwide campaigns to recover glass containers and scrap metal for recycling, saving the country millions of pesos worth of imports.

Used stamps are handed to local committees for the defence of the revolution which collect them for resale to foreign philatelists.—Reuter.

(Photographically reproduced from The New York Times, 4/1/77)

Castro Ends Visit to Angola

LISBON, March 31 (UPI)—President Fidel Castro of Cuba left Angola today after an eight-day visit, promising the Government there that his troops would supply as many tanks, planes and guns as were needed, according to the official Angolan press agency.

The agency, monitored here, quoted Mr. Castro as saying that the presence of Cuban troops in Angola was no business of "Yankee imperialists." Later, the Algerian press agency announced that Mr. Castro had arrived in Algiers.

(Photographed from Karachi

— Dawn, 3/16/77)

Cuba & S. Yemen back move to make Indian Ocean 'Zone of peace'

ADEN, March 13. Cuba and South Yemen have pledged their support for moves to make the Indian Ocean a "Zone of Peace".

The pledge was contained in a communique issued yesterday following Cuban President Fidel Castro's visit here.

The two countries promised total support for the Oman People's Liberation Front and the Palestine Liberation Organisation, and called for Israel's withdrawal from all occupied Arab lands.

They expressed solidarity with Latin American and African liberation movements and paid tribute to Socialist countries support for the people of Angola.—AFP.

Podgorny Hailed As He Signs Pact With Mozambique

MAPUTO, Mozambique, March 31 (AP)—The Soviet Union and Mozambique signed a treaty of friendship today. It was the first treaty signed by this East African state since it became independent of Portugal in 1975.

Presidents Nikolai V. Podgorny of the Soviet Union and Samora Machel of Mozambique signed the treaty after addressing a rally reportedly attended by 10,000 people. Officials said the details of the pact would not be made public till Monday.

After announcing the treaty plans, Mr. Podgorny turned to Mr. Machel and said, "Brother of mine, you will not be alone in the struggle."

Mr. Podgorny, who is concluding a three-nation visit to southern Africa, said that there was "no possibility of conciliation" with the white minority regimes of southern Africa, and pledged that "the Soviet Union will oppose any attempt to retain the racist regimes."

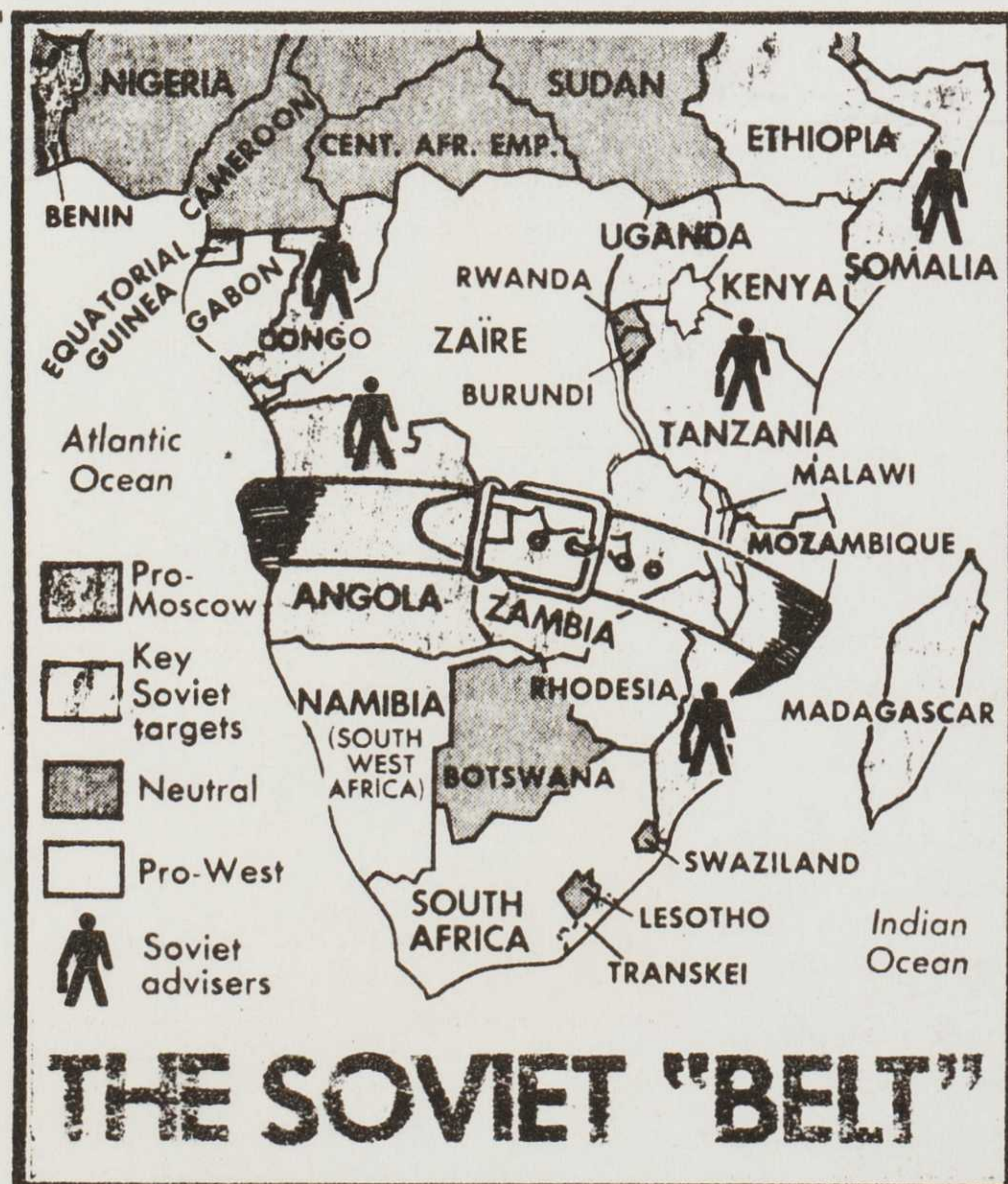
Warmest Reception Yet

His reception in Mozambique was the warmest he has received during his tour, the first in southern Africa by a top Kremlin official. His itinerary included Tanzania and Zambia.

Mozambique, which serves as a base for black guerrillas operating against Rhodesia, is the only one of the countries visited that has a declared policy of Communism.

Earlier in his trip Mr. Podgorny pledged Soviet support to black nationalists in Rhodesia, South Africa and South-West Africa, the former Imperial German colony that is administered by South Africa. The Russian is scheduled to end his visit tomorrow, returning to Tanzania for a tour of game parks.

(Photographically reproduced from Time magazine, 4/4/77)



(Photographed as evidence from New York Times, 4/1/77)