

Claim 3: Allies of the West

That white-ruled South Africa is a valuable ally of the West; that the 'Cape Sea Route' is vital to Western defence and available to the West only if Pretoria's status quo remains, and that the black liberation movements of South Africa are communist-dominated.

The Facts

(a) If South Africa is a factor in the East-West superpower rivalry, which it should not be, the minority white government should logically be regarded as more of an embarrassment and a burden than an ally of the Western democracies;
(b) In practical strategic terms there is no 'Cape Sea Route' today;
(c) The black liberation movements of South Africa are not communist-dominated.

(a) The superpowers compete with one another to win allegiances in the Third World. In this context the inadvisability of the West being so closely identified with Africa's last remaining white minority government is self-evident.

(b) There is no longer a 'Cape Sea Route' in the sense of a limited seaway under the control of a specific country. In the days of sailing ships, Cape Town was a useful port of call, able to supply provisions and to shelter ships from the often stormy seas south of the Cape. But marine technology is far advanced today and modern ships do not need local ports. Besides, there are 2,000 miles of ocean between South Africa and Antarctica, and South Africa cannot claim to control this enormous area.

(c) The African National Congress and the Pan-Africanist Congress are both committed to non-racial democracy in South Africa. Both liberation movements are broad-based and nationalist, and neither, in terms of leadership or policy, can validly be described as communist-dominated. Pretoria's efforts so to label them are clearly aimed at trying to alienate them from the West and at persuading the West that its interests lie in supporting the preservation of white minority rule in South Africa.

Conclusion

Western protection of South Africa is against the interests of both the West and the majority of South Africans.