

requested—and been given—military assistance from the counter-revolutionary regime in Ghana.

What about his apparently militant action in ‘nationalising’ the great Belgian mining monopolies, whose underhand manoeuvres have for so long been the bane of Congo independence? The carefully documented survey by J. Jabulani, in this issue, must cause one to have second thoughts about this, too.

Such factors cannot but strengthen suspicions that this is no straight issue as between African independence and foreign intervention. Behind the ‘patriotic’ stance of Mobutu, we sense the phoney accents of the C.I.A., donning yet another mask.

Of course, everyone in Africa will be delighted to see, at last, the departure of the savage mercenaries from the heartland of Africa, together with their Belgian and other foreign backers. We agree, it is high time Tshombe was punished for his innumerable crimes. We shall be even more pleased when we see an end to U.S. and other intriguers using our African territory of the Congo for their rivalries and dirty deals, and the country and its wealth restored to the rightful owners: the Congolese peasants and workers.

A Worthy Laureate

All fighters for the freedom of South Africa will rejoice at the award of the International Lenin Prize (reported elsewhere in this issue) to that great son of our country, Abram Fischer. There could be no more worthy recipient of this honour. We consider the award as a tribute to the Congress alliance and the South African Communist Party, with both of which Bram Fischer was so closely connected, and to the South African people as a whole.

It is saddening to note that this great South African is reported, according to a recent account by Paul Trewhela, himself recently released from a prison sentence for committing ‘Communism’, to be treated most abominably by prison staff during his serving of a life sentence, and subjected to various crude indignities including being forced to clean out a lavatory with his bare hands.

Efforts must be redoubled to speed the release of Fischer, Mandela, Sisulu and all other South African political prisoners—this is an urgent task before the conscience of the whole world.