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31 January 1966

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

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Zambia: Racial tension in the Zambian copperbelt has been aggravated by demands from white mineworkers.

The miners are pressing for large increases in pay and allowances, already several times greater than those of Africans in identical jobs. Largely white supremacy sympathizers, the miners, essential to Zambia's economy, remain in the country only because of high wages.

These demands may result in a clash between the white miners and the Zambian Government which has long been publicly committed to achieving a single wage scale. President Kaunda has been pressured by African unions for speedier action on equal pay, and a recent speech by Kaunda has been interpreted as giving the deathblow to the principle of a dual wage scale.]

The African Secretary of Zambia's labor confederation has seized the opportunity to make a racial issue of the wage differential, and self-seeking leaders of African unions on the copperbelt, possibly including the miners' union, may join in.7

A recent agreement between the mining companies and the African Mine Workers' Union which awarded improved pay and working conditions but also included an anti-inflationary two-year standstill clause, may also evoke a militant African reaction. 7

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