



Emperor Haile Selassie: Dropped by the CIA

Turkey and Iran, base of Mideast CIA activities. The first announced member of the "15-man Anti-Corruption Commission," Dr. Breket Hapte-Selassie, is returning to Ethiopia from a successful career at the World Bank.

The only publicized military man, new Defense Minister General Aman Michael Andam — trumpeted as a new de Gaulle-Spinola — and a useful figure both as a hero in early wars against the Somalians and as a Eritrean by birth — is also a creature of Sandhurst. Ultimately, however, Andam will not fill the bill. He has a dossier replete with examples of reckless machismo. As an Ethiopian serving with the U.N. in Korea in the 1950s, for example, he punched an American officer in the face when the officer told him not to advance beyond a certain point. Andam repeated this syndrome in a public flap with Haile Selassie in 1964 over how far to penetrate Somalia militarily. Andam's heralded leadership qualities will be useful to solve the Eritrean problem; but for little else. The *Post* already has labelled him an "Ethiopian Naguib," after the Egyptian leader who Nasser first installed and then deposed. Like his weird counterparts springing up throughout the world, Andam is an interim phenomenon, to be shunted aside as the Rockefeller-induced world depression enters its next level.

Sahara Conflict Potential "Western Cyprus"

Sept. 9 (IPS) — While NATO intensifies its gameplan in the Eastern Mediterranean, the spurious Morocco-Spain conflict over the Spanish Sahara is being engineered to thrust the Western Mediterranean region into a similar reorganization.

Publicly declaring 1974 as the year for liberating the Spanish Sahara, Morocco's King Hassan insists that if Spain attempts to de-colonize the Sahara by establishing a "puppet state," Morocco will go to great lengths to wreck such plans. Claiming historical links between the Spanish Sahara nomadic peoples and Morocco, Hassan has enlisted even members of his political opposition to present Morocco's case to state capitals worldwide. To please the East bloc, Hassan has encouraged the resurrection of the miniscule Moroccan Communist Party.

Hassan's demands that Morocco should be given back the Spanish Sahara territory ostensibly are economic. Hassan fears that the extensive phosphate deposits in

Spanish Sahara threaten Morocco's world position as the leading phosphate exporter. (Last year, Morocco exported nearly 17 million tons of phosphate according to the Aug. 26 *New York Times*.)

Hassan: Precarious Puppet

In actuality, Hassan himself is a puppet whose strings are perpetually in danger of being cut. He has been the victim of two botched but serious assassination attempts in the past two years. The essential problem is his overwhelming unpopularity with the city-based working class on the northern Moroccan tips. Centered in the CIA-controlled Union des Moroccan Travailleurs, these workers must be prepared increasingly for unlimited recycling in the new labor-intensive capitalist development projects along the Mediterranean — with vast projects centered in southern France, various Maghreb coastal cities, the Suez Zone, and elsewhere. Just to stay

alive, Hassan has developed a survival instinct of coopting CIA issues; but, as with this Spanish Sahara maneuver, it is a race against time.

Parallel problems are presented by Spain's entry into the post-Franco era, which promises to unleash tremendous ferment. To ensure that Spain is well-groomed for its new role, Rockefeller-aligned technocrats and progressive military types within Spain have agitated for full Spanish integration into the European Economic Community. Spain has never been reluctant to serve as a NATO policing sector; and any provocations by Hassan can provide an excuse for suitable mobilizations to bolster the Spanish military's increasingly responsible Mediterranean role.

Provocations

As if to underline the importance of the Spanish Sahara issue, the notoriously censored Spanish press, until recently forbidden by state law to cover events con-

cerning the Spanish Sahara, carried front-page articles about Hassan's dispatching of key ministers to Franco's sickbed for talks. Similarly, Spain's apparently liberal offer to have a referendum in Spanish Sahara by early 1975 can be seen by Hassan only as a provocation: the vast majority of the nomadic peoples would not bother to vote, and the outcome thus would be dependent on the votes of Spaniards in the small cities. Falling right into line, Hassan appropriately has reacted to this ploy with more blustering and militant posturing.

Although it is uncertain exactly how the militarization will unfold — Hassan, for example, could utilize any one of several "liberation groups" rather than his own armed forces — this developing "Western Cyprus" situation quickly will provide the context for more Rockefeller-NATO manipulation of the crucial Mediterranean area.

Africa Report will be a regular weekly feature in IPS.