

## NSC's Zaire Crisis Threatens Split of Africa, Arab Sector

The unfolding crisis in Zaire, launched last month by the Carter Administration's National Security Council through French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing, is already well on the way toward establishing Africa as a permanent "free-fire zone" in which conservative and pro-Soviet African regimes will be pitted against each other in unending destabilizations.

"After Asia, it's Africa's turn to become the bloody continent, the continent of destabilization," declared Senegal's pro-Atlanticist President Leopold Senghor.

The conscious intent of the Carter-Giscard provocation in Africa is to shatter the ability of the Organization of African Unity and the Arab League to act politically in the interests of Africa as a whole, instead polarizing the entire African and Arab sector around the issue of anti-communism. By raising the bogeyman of a "Soviet-Cuban threat" to Africa, Carter hopes to open a wedge into the continent through which the NSC can insinuate itself along traditional 1950s Cold War lines.

An African diplomat summed up the situation this way: "What I am afraid of is that this latest crisis in Africa will destroy the OAU, and will plunge Africa into an extremely serious and permanent crisis. What I see is an attempt by the United States to return to the Dulles policy of Cold War blocs and alliances, and this will be extremely dangerous for Africa. It is no accident that this crisis erupted just as the entire continent was beginning to unite around the question of the liberation of Rhodesia."

This Carter policy, confirmed also by other sources, presents the entire globe with a fundamental threat to peace, since it represents a direct challenge to the security of the Soviet state that cannot be left unanswered. Along with deteriorating crises in the Middle East, Latin America, and the Indian subcontinent, the cumulative impact of the crisis in Africa brings the world dramatically closer to the brink of general war.

The African Cold War policy was explicitly put forward this week in Dakar, Senegal, by Giscard d'Estaing and a gaggle of puppet presidents of African republics like Senegal's Senghor and Houphuet Boigny's Ivory Coast. At the summit of French-speaking African states, Giscard proposed the formation of a "strike force" of elite troop units from these countries under French command for use in putting down rebellions and coups across Africa. *L'Humanite*, the newspaper of the French Communist Party, called the French proposal an "African NATO."

Senghor reportedly motivated the formation of the force by calling on Western Europe to "secure its supplies of raw materials," supposedly threatened by the

Soviet-Cuban "conspiracy." And Houphuet Boigny said flatly that the force was needed because the "security of Africa is one with the security of Europe."

Such hysterical rhetoric is not unanimous in either Europe or Africa. Even at the Dakar meeting there were signs of dissent among some of the states present, and the Giscard-Senghor proposal did not receive formal approval. In Western Europe, where sharp Soviet warnings of the danger of continued NATO escalation in Africa are having an effect, there is also no unanimous position. The Belgians, the Dutch, and the Italians are bitterly attacking Giscard for his unilateral intervention "in the name of Europe," and it should be recalled that two weeks ago West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt stated unequivocally that NATO had absolutely no role to play in Africa.

### *Soviet Warnings*

In a series of statements, including a major speech by Soviet Communist Party Chairman Leonid Brezhnev, the Soviet Union this week put Wall Street on notice that it will not tolerate a military adventure by the Carter Administration and its French and Moroccan lackeys in Africa.

The Soviet blast at the NATO plot in Africa is not merely an affirmation of Moscow's lawful understanding that defense of the Third World is crucial to the defense of the Warsaw Pact. There are indications that the USSR is beginning to address the real issue in Africa — continent-wide development vs. Rockefeller's debt. A commentary in the East German Communist daily *Neues Deutschland* targets "international bankers" concerned about Zaire's more than \$3 billion debt as a primary factor behind the Atlanticists' frantic "defense" of Zaire.

The Soviets are answering the continued escalation of the Zaire crisis by the surrogate forces of the U.S. National Security Council: the French and Moroccan troops, Israeli advisers, and the swarm of mercenaries from South Africa, Britain, France, Belgium, and the U.S., assembled by Rockefeller's decades-old African intelligence networks.

"If in the center of Africa a new dangerous source of tension is emerging, then the whole responsibility for that lies on those who are violating the fundamental principles of international relations," Brezhnev declared April 18. He warned that those violators must "give serious thought to the consequences that may follow."

Commentary in the Soviet press demonstrates that the USSR stands ready to oppose the growing threat of an

armed attack on its African allies, especially Angola, Mozambique, and Libya. A *Pravda* statement of April 18 warned that "imperialists, trying to pit African against African," are planning an assault on Angola, and coverage in the Soviet armed forces newspaper *Red Star* declared that the "purely local conflict" in Zaire is being exacerbated "to reinforce NATO's political and military positions in Africa."

The USSR, Iraq, Libya, and Angola have begun campaigning to clarify that the crisis in Zaire is the result of a NATO effort backed by Israel and South Africa, the arch-enemies of the Arab-African sector. This cooperative push against the USA's surrogate war-makers is showing up the connection between the National Security Council's "breakaway ally" war scenarios in the Middle East and southern Africa. *Pravda*, quoting an Iraqi newspaper, stated, "Those Arab capitals fighting against the peoples of Zaire play the same role as the racist regimes of South Africa and Rhodesia in relation to the liberation movements." Another Soviet statement blasted Egypt's President Sadat for "subversive activities against liberation movements in Africa."

Such propaganda is isolating the few Arab and African states which have dared to lend support to the French-NATO Zaire operation. The influential Nigerians, who initially adopted a position of foolish "neutralism," are beginning to swing against France. The Nigerian *Daily Herald* yesterday blasted France for its involvement in Zaire, following a visit to Czechoslovakia and East Germany by Nigeria's foreign minister. A Nigerian swing away from neutrality would almost certainly bring a majority of Africa into line against the NATO buildup in Zaire.

A significant sign of real opposition to the Carter offensive in Africa came from Iraq. According to the Soviet government daily *Izvestia*, the Iraqis plan to call for an Arab League meeting immediately in Cairo to denounce the complicity of Morocco and Egypt in the Zaire operation. The possibility of such a meeting has further

terrified the Egyptian regime, which is already scrambling to protect itself in the wake of universal domestic revulsion against Sadat's cooperation with the U.S. and France in Africa. (See *Middle East Report*.)

#### *African Vietnam*

This week Morocco's primordial King Hassan II — an outright stooge of Atlanticism — gave his royal blessing to the French-U.S. scheme against Angola, citing a Cuban-led Angolan invasion of Zaire. This frontal attack on Cuba and Angola, both nations under the Warsaw Pact defense umbrella, is doubtless considered by the Soviets to be an intolerable provocation to the strategic position of the USSR in Africa.

Thus the Soviets are carefully tracking the National Security Council operation to transform Zaire into a base from which Rockefeller can build a military stockpile and manpower pool to open a second front against the African states and guerrilla movements now in a showdown against the South African and Rhodesian minority regimes. According to African diplomatic sources, the Carter Administration intends to establish a deployed capability to wage an escalating, "Vietnam"-style offensive in the region.

The attack on Angola has already begun. According to the *Christian Science Monitor*, brainwashed cannibals of the tribal UNITA group — left over from South Africa's 1975 war against independent Angola — have renewed attacks on Angolan positions from bases in South African-occupied Namibia. The Angolan government has counterdeployed search-and-destroy missions against the UNITA-South African forces.

In addition, there are growing reports that a "vengeful President Mobutu of Zaire" may order reprisal raids on Angola by the French-Moroccan brigades in southern Zaire. The *New York Times'* military correspondent Drew Middleton solemnly warned two days ago, "The Moroccans may get restless. They may wish to prove themselves by some striking offensive operation."

## East Bloc Press Tears 'NATO's Zaire Adventure'

### 'NATO's Adventure in Zaire'

*Red Star, April 17, "NATO's Adventure in Zaire," by Major Y. Gavrilov:*

The conflict in Zaire was caused by strictly internal reasons, reflecting deep internal contradictions. The foreign press has particularly stressed the dissatisfaction of the population of Shaba and other regions with the worsening economic situation, the dominance of foreign monopolies, and the growth of corruption.

However, despite the obvious facts, certain circles in NATO countries and in Zaire itself are trying to give the conflict an international character....

This is all being done in order to hide the attempts of the imperialist circles in NATO countries to use the purely internal conflict in Zaire for their own goals, to

justify military intervention by the West into the affairs of this African country. And this is increasing every day. The world noted well the haste with which the U.S. and other NATO countries responded to the request of the leadership of Zaire for military aid....

It is notable that the imperialist circles are leading things toward a dangerous internationalization of the internal Zairean conflict, drawing into it other African states. France has provided transfer for Moroccan troops to the region of military activity. The foreign press is reporting negotiations on drawing Egypt and the Sudan into the Zairean events on the side of the Kinshasa regime....

Along with this, the U.S. and Western Europe are actively leading a campaign to recruit mercenaries to fight against the insurgents. The American press notes that