

Brzezinski's South American 'Holy Alliance' Against Cuba

Introduction

Within the space of one week, the Foreign Minister of El Salvador has been assassinated, the Foreign Minister of Argentina critically wounded, the former President of Argentina arrested and the current President of Venezuela threatened with a military coup by a former head of state. These seemingly disparate events are not the product of a sudden upsurge in the supposedly traditional "volatility" of Latin American politics. They are the bloody and convulsive symptoms of a drastic realignment in the continent's geopolitical balance — a realignment being imposed by the foreign policy strategists of the Carter Administration.

The determining reality of the week's turmoil is a determined push by the U.S. government and the political networks of the Rockefeller financial interests to utilize the fascist military governments of the Southern Cone of Latin America to wage a "surrogate war" against Cuban military and political influence in Africa. Such a proxy intervention across the Atlantic would be conducted under the umbrella of some official or semi-official South Atlantic Treaty Organization (SATO) formed by the fascist military governments of Argentina, Brazil, Chile and perhaps Uruguay, in alliance with the government of South Africa. That objective is one of the agenda items of the current trip of U.S. Undersecretary of State for Latin America Terence Todman to Colombia, Venezuela, Argentina, Brazil, and Bolivia. It is described in State Department releases as planned discussions of "Cuban foreign policy as it relates to Africa."

Beneath the diplomatic organizing, however, Carter's National Security Advisor Zbigniew Brzezinski is supervising the use of the Rockefeller's private intelligence networks in carrying out the requisite murders and related black operations to smooth the way for SATO. At the center of these gutter activities is the international police organization, Interpol. On the surface an ineffectual international posse, Interpol functions in fact as worldwide hitman for the Rockefeller brothers and their associates.

Interpol is presently at the center of the three components of Brzezinski's quest for a workable SATO arrangement: the promotion of an alliance between Brazil and Argentina on the basis of a shared anti-Cuban foreign policy; the obstruction of a potential alternate Argentine foreign policy oriented to an anti-Brazil alliance with Venezuela; and the use of several provoked wars in the Central American isthmus to foment a political and probable military confrontation with the Cubans in the Caribbean region. The Central American operation includes an attempt to force the Cubans to

divide their military forces between Africa and a fresh provoked war on the isthmus.

The SATO Policy

The latest issue of *Foreign Policy* magazine, a quarterly edited by Zbigniew Brzezinski, features a lengthy article spelling out the public justification for the formation of a SATO. The tract, entitled "South America Looks at Detente (Skeptically)", is authored by Argentinian Mariano Grondona. Grondona's claim is that there is a fundamental divergence between the search for détente by the major Western powers and the conception of relations with the Soviets and Cubans held by the militaries of the Southern Cone. He writes: "In the Southern Triangle there exists what we would call a Holy Alliance...whose objection to communism is solved not at the negotiation tables...but in actual confrontations, at times bloody..."

Throughout the piece, Grondona attempts to pretend that Carter's "human rights" attacks on those militaries signifies a fundamental rift between the U.S. and the fascist governments: "To western liberalism...it seems that the Southern Triangle is overstepping the bounds of international legality and consequently, its rulers take on Nuremberg features..."

In fact, the moral pronouncements of the Carter Administration are designed precisely to encourage those "Nuremberg features" through a calculated backlash while simultaneously providing the U.S. government a thin veil for its own complicity in the fascist undertakings. Grondona cannot help but make that obvious when he zeroes in on the question of Africa: "The fact that international confrontation has reached the southern part of Africa turns the Southern Atlantic into a potential theater of operations. Brazil and Argentina intend to capitalize on their strategic positions in order to be admitted as full or associate members of NATO."

The development of a SATO, or South Atlantic extension of NATO, has been a project of David Rockefeller and the Trilateral Commission since at least the fall of 1975 when the pro-Soviet MPLA led by Agostinho Neto, with Cuban military support, defeated the NATO-backed mercenary armies in the Angolan civil war. It was a personal goal of former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger and has been a standing public dream of the Vorster government of South Africa.

From both a political and military perspective the strategy — to send Latin American naval or army contingents into Zaire or Africa alongside the already numerous other pro-U.S. military units — is complete idiocy. The combined force of the French, Moroccan,

Ugandan, Egyptian, and pygmy "army", even with Brazilian or Argentine reinforcements, would be a poor match for the battle-tested, and politically steered Angolans and Cubans who are armed with the most modern weapons. The only condition in which Brzezinski's desired international brigades could triumph would be with sizeable support from NATO's navies and regular armies. Under those circumstances, the planned Vietnam in Africa would immediately escalate into a thermonuclear showdown between the U.S. and the U.S.S.R. As forcefully expressed by Cuban President

Fidel Castro this week, neither the Cubans nor the Soviets are prepared to watch the rollback of socialism in Africa. Brzezinski and his Administration associates, therefore, are either preparing themselves for a serious strategic setback on the African continent or they are blindly careening down the road to global nuclear war.

Argentina: Toward Brazil or Venezuela?

Zbigniew Brzezinski's central problem in pursuit of SATO is overcoming significant resistance in both the

The Interpol Enforcers

It is no accident that Interpol was the agency that arrested Julio Broner in Caracas last week nor incidental that it is Interpol that is searching the same city for the whereabouts of former Argentine Economics Minister Gelbard. Those functions are merely the "nice" aspects of the Interpol involvement in the campaign throughout South America to clear the decks of all actual or potential opponents of Brezezinski's and Carter's anti-Cuban confrontation strategy.

The importance of Interpol to the Latin American activities of the present U.S. government is its existence since the end of World War II as an integrated arm of the Rockefellers' private intelligence network. The agency was formally established in 1922 and approximately a decade thereafter was taken over in its entirety by the Third Reich. After the defeat of the Nazis, through the activities of Allen Dulles and others, Interpol — maintaining its top-level Nazi staffing — was adopted whole by the Rockefellers. This has been particularly important for the post-war history of Latin America since it was Nelson Rockefeller personally, through his post at the head of the Office of Inter-American Affairs who supervised the wholesale transport of leading Nazis and their terror apparatus to Latin America, particularly Argentina, Chile and Paraguay, in the late 1940s. There, like other Interpol staffers and selected law enforcement officials who comprise Interpol's official membership, the Nazi refugees supervised both official and underground terror activities and ran extensive drug-running operations. In the current effort to bring SATO into being, Interpol surfaces at several key crossroads.

First, the factions inside the Argentine Armed Forces most open to an anti-communist alliance with Brazil are those factions that overlap most extensively with the hardcore Nazi machine inside the country, the transplanted networks of Nazi intelligence officer Otto Skorzeny known as Die Spinne. The choice of Graiver, son of a Polish Jew, as their scandal target is not entirely accidental. Furthermore, it is this same Interpol apparatus inside the country that runs the notorious death

squads, responsible for hundreds of murders in the last year alone, and, more recently, the terror against Videla's factional allies.

Second, the key governmental figures on the continent who have the capability for neutralizing or defeating the Brezezinski SATO strategy have all been the victims of public Interpol death threats. These have come primarily through the second generation of fascist terrorists, the Cuban exile commandos. Orlando Bosch, the most well known of these hit men, told *New Times* magazine last week that he was declaring "open war" on Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez because Perez began a crackdown on the Cuban exile terrorists in Caracas after the October, 1976 sabotage of a Cuban plane off Barbados that took 73 lives. Former Mexican President Luis Echeverria, still a very formidable figure in Mexican politics, is the intended victim of a special squad of Cuban exiles, according to information passed last week from the U.S. State Department to the Mexican Ambassador to the U.S. and subsequently leaked to the Mexican press. And both Omar Torrijos and López Portillo narrowly escaped injury and possible death when a bomb exploded at a military checkpoint very close to the site of their summit last week in Cancún, Mexico.

Finally, Interpol is active in the Belize scenario. Guatemalan Vice-President Sandoval Alarcón is an international organizer of terror squads, most directly of his home-grown Mano Blanca which has carried out a campaign of terror and assassination against leftists and peasant organizers inside Guatemala. He maintains direct ties into the Argentine and Cuban exile networks through his active affiliation with the fascist umbrella group, World Anti-Communist League. The Latin American branch of this international confederation held a high-level meeting in Paraguay two months ago. The Chilean government was represented at the meeting by junta member Air Force Commander Gustavo Leigh. Alarcón was unable to personally attend but sent representatives and a special message of greetings. Among the recipients of his salute was a special guest delegation from the CIA-sponsored Angolan FNLA.

Brazilian and Argentine militaries toward such a suicidal enterprise. In Brazil, the last half year has seen a steady encirclement of President Ernesto Geisel by the extreme fascist wing of the armed forces grouped around former President Garrastazu Medici. Spokesmen for this faction are growing increasingly bold in their calls for a shift in Brazil's policy toward Africa — away from recognition and trade with the Neto government of Angola and toward support for one of the anti-Neto mercenary contingents. The public presence of representatives of the CIA-sponsored Angolan FNLA in Brazil over the last month is one indication of this pressure. The widespread rumors of the impending ouster of Foreign Minister Azeredo da Silveira, the architect of the policy recognizing the MPLA, is another. The daily military pronouncements, called Orders of the Day, have recently been dominated by warlike hyperbole on the link between the battles against communism at home and abroad. Student protests across the country, manipulated by members of the opposition MDB with ties to the Carter Administration, are strengthening the hand of the hard-liners.

In Argentina, the factional warfare within the armed forces has been much more fierce, more public and more bloody. Although there are multiple factions within the Argentine military, there is one broad division that defines two foreign policy groupings. The fundamental issue is whether the country is going to join with Brazil in Brzezinski's trans-Atlantic anti-communist crusade or whether it will build a web of geopolitical alliances in Latin America that will allow continued independence from Brazil. The key to the latter policy is an accord with Venezuela, a country which shares the fears of most Argentines that the economic collapse and territorial appetites of the Brazilian military may well propel them outward and northward in the near future.

Argentina's President, General Jorge Videla, is the captive spokesman of the military and civilian factions which fear subjugation to Brazil most strongly. He is due to leave within the week for summit talks in Caracas with Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez. Press in the two countries have pointed to openness on both sides for an agreement, and the Venezuelans have pointed in particular toward joint projects for the development of nuclear energy.

Argentina has the most advanced nuclear energy program on the continent and has stated its interest in entering into collaboration with the countries of the Andean Pact, including deals for the export of nuclear technology. The Venezuelan Ambassador to Argentina, speaking last week about the upcoming Videla trip, stressed the necessity for all of Latin America to arrive at a common position on nuclear power to present to the Carter Administration. But even as these optimistic openers were being exchanged, both Videla and Perez were being hit with serious challenges to their continued rule.

The Graiver Case

For over a month, as his planned trip to Venezuela approached, General Videla's military rule has been wracked by the so-called Graiver case. The scandal involves an ever-widening web of accusations centered

on the financial dealings of David Graiver, an Argentine-based banker who was reported to have died in a plane crash in Mexico last year. Aside from speculation on whether Graiver is in fact dead, the scandal has focused on his alleged money laundering for several political factions in the country, including the Montoneros armed resistance movement.

It is into this alleged "subversive" connection that the ultra-fascist factions in the Army and Navy have dipped their brushes in order to smear all of their factional opponents traceable to Graiver. The spirit of the investigation is captured in the recent declaration of one of the top scandal-mongers, Army General St. Jean: "First we kill all the subversives; then we kill their collaborators; then...their sympathizers; then...those who remain indifferent; and finally, we kill those who are timid."

This week, over the previous objections of Videla, General Alejandro Lanusse and his three closest associates were arrested in Buenos Aires on charges stemming from corruption in the state-owned ALUAR aluminum company, a spinoff scandal of the Graiver affair. Lanusse headed the military government in Argentina from 1971 to 1973 and is one of the top leaders of the constitutionalist faction within the Army. During his presidency, he pioneered closer ties with Venezuela, and members of his faction have reportedly authored a refutation of Grondona's *Foreign Policy* article.

The day after Lanusse's arrest, May 5, agents of Interpol arrested Julio Broner, head of the Peronist industrialist federation, the CGE, in Caracas. Interpol simultaneously announced that they were combing Caracas for another catch — José Gelbard, former Economics Minister of Argentina in 1973-4 and the initiator of expanded trade with the socialist countries. Then, on May 7, two days before he was scheduled to fly to Caracas to prepare Videla's trip, current Foreign Minister Augusto Guzzetti was critically wounded in a kidnap attempt. There have been charges that the attack was the work of the Montoneros but its execution matches the modus operandi of Interpol's unofficial representatives in Argentina, the fascist death squads. Grondona apparently spoke with some knowledge when he wrote in *Foreign Policy*: "Ideological coexistence between a liberal north (of Latin America — ed.) and a conservative south is becoming more and more difficult in this region."

Since the attack on Guzzetti, there have been some indications that the pace of the Graiver scandal is being slowed, at least temporarily. This may indicate a backlash in the military over the prospect of further splintering and is probably a reflection as well of the fact that the Graiver scandal is a Pandora's box that could eventually burn even its present prosecutors. The government has announced that they are treating the Graiver investigation and the ALUAR charges as two independent cases and that prosecution in the Graiver case will proceed only on the 16 persons already in custody. The Navy simultaneously charged that the attack on Guzzetti was timed to obstruct Videla's mission to Caracas. Videla announced that he will leave on May 11 as scheduled.

Videla's opponents in Argentina, however, have able allies in Venezuela as well. The Argentine daily *La*

Nación took note of this in an editorial May 8 when it pointed to forces inside Venezuela working to wreck the summit. It identified this "aggressive policy" with "the veteran leader Romulo Betancourt." Betancourt, former president of Venezuela and Perez's leading factional enemy inside the Acción Democrática (AD) party, has been a proponent of the Rockefeller family endeavors in Venezuela for nearly 30 years. He has just recently returned from a stay in the U.S., and upon his arrival in Caracas kicked off a campaign to bring down the Perez government.

His two announced targets were corruption and Cuba. Over the course of the week, he has threatened to split the AD over plans for an AD youth delegation to travel to a conference in Cuba in 1978. Accompanying this red scare campaign, Betancourt has put charges of government misuse of funds on the front pages on the country's press. He is explicit about his objective, pointing to the recent forced resignation of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin: "(Rabin) resigned, lost power, lost his position...Now that's a decent democracy. That is the democracy that we are going to implant in Venezuela." Betancourt added, "I also think of the military pinnacle...The arms that Venezuela put in their hands are to guarantee our land, sea and air borders, and to back up the Venezuelan democratic regime."

The Second Front

The elimination of Cuban influence in the Caribbean and Central America and the destruction of the Castro government itself has been an obsession of Rockefeller policy planners for 17 years. In the context of the planned military adventure into Africa, a showdown against Cuba on the U.S. side of the Atlantic is perceived by Brzezinski and accomplices as an imperative. Since Jamaica and Guyana began forging closer ties to the socialist island, they have been subjected to threats, blackmail, and classic methods of destabilization. These were particularly intense to the extent that the Caribbean nations cooperated with the Cubans by providing stop-over facilities for flights to Africa. This pressure has been maintained in a more or less constant fashion in recent months, but has been augmented by U.S. interventions into the Central American isthmus.

The region is rife with potential outbreaks of war, and both direct and covert efforts originating in the U.S. have been made to exacerbate these tensions to the breaking point. The assassination of Salvadorean Foreign Minister Borgonovo by a right-wing terror squad claiming to be a left-wing guerrilla organization has significantly damaged progress toward a peace agreement between El Salvador and Honduras. The entirely hypocritical "human rights" campaign of the Carter Administration has further fueled the aggressive nationalist tendencies of the region's military governments. And the flow of arms into the isthmus, largely from Israel and Brazil, has easily compensated for Carter's fraudulent arms and military aid cutoffs, readying the potential combatants for war.

For the purposes of challenging the Cuban government, however, Brzezinski has chosen three prime tar-

gets: Belize, Panama, and Costa Rica. Those are the three countries of the area that have maintained the most open relations with the Cubans, each of them governed by administrations favorable to the pro-development policies of the non-aligned movement.

Belize, formerly British Honduras, is a self-governing British colony due to be granted independence within the near future. Guatemala, however — its neighbor to the south — is committed to invading the small country as soon as it gains its independence. The Cubans are committed to defending Belize's sovereignty.

In the last two weeks increased pressure for a promise to invade has been exerted on Guatemalan President Laugerud, particularly from military factions tied to his Vice-President Sandoval Alarcón, and the war rumblings have grown louder. The war-mongers in Guatemala have been given the verbal support of their co-thinkers in neighboring Mexico as evidenced by a column this week in the Mexican daily *Novedades*. Right-wing columnist Kawage Ramia, reflecting the views of the pro-U.S. Monterrey Group of businessmen inside Mexico, railed that Cuba is preparing to "transform Belize into a Russian beachhead." Officials of the Belizean government of Prime Minister George Price themselves have pointed to the danger represented by the Guatemalan threat, and have warned that "Belize could be another Angola...We may have to ask Cuba for help."

As the level of tensions increases, however, Mexican President López Portillo and Panamanian head of state General Omar Torrijos appear to be moving to cut off the war scenario before it can build any further. Torrijos met with López at the end of last week and then made a surprise visit to talk with Prime Minister Price. During his stay he publicly told Price that "it would not be convenient at this time" for Belize to ask the Cubans for support. He further announced that, in order to obviate that necessity, he will call upon the governments of Colombia, Venezuela, Costa Rica, and Bolivia to join Panama in guaranteeing Belize sovereignty after it becomes independent.

Torrijos himself, however, continues to be a target of the same regional anti-Cuban Carter strategy. In the middle of last week, General Dennis McAuliffe, commander of the U.S. Southern Command headquartered in the Canal Zone, declared to reporters that he had 10,000 troops in the Zone ready to act in the event that the Panamanians tried to make a grab for exclusive control over the Panama Canal. Such a provoked clash, which would bring the Cubans to the aid of Panama, is featured as a likely scenario in the recently published Latin American report of Nelson Rockefeller's Commission on Critical Choices.

McAuliffe's remarks drew harsh denunciations from the Torrijos government which ordered a mobilization of its National Guard across the country to demonstrate a willingness to defend the country and canal from any U.S. military adventures. Importantly, the government made a special point of denouncing McAuliffe's apparent outburst as being totally at variance with the positions previously enunciated by head of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, General George Brown. This disparity points to a general feature of the African strategy of the Carter

Administration and its Latin American accompaniment — it is being conducted outside the normal chain of command through those sections of the Carter Administration under control of the Trilateral Commission with the assistance of the Rockefellers' private intelligence apparatus.

The case of Costa Rica exemplifies this point in the push for SATO and confrontation with the Cubans. The Costa Rican government of Daniel Oduber has aligned itself with that faction of the Social Democracy or Second International that has drawn sharply away from Atlanticism. The pro-Atlanticist wing of the Social Democracy, headed up internationally by Willy Brandt, is represented within Costa Rica by former President

José "Pepe" Figueres, a publicly proud collaborator of the CIA and defender of the CIA-organized coup d'état in Chile. In an interview with *New Republic* magazine last month, Figueres, a close personal associate of the Rockefellers, accused Oduber of accepting money from U.S. businessman Robert Vesco to finance his 1974 election campaign. The resulting furor inside the country has been such that the government has "invited" Vesco to leave the country. Vesco's name has recently appeared in recent weeks in the Latin American press in another sensational context — as a financial associate of Argentine banker David Graiver.

—Dan Wasserman

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