

Brzezinski were in Algeria for the 25th anniversary of the start of the Algerian fight for independence. The same feudalist Muslim Brotherhood networks of which Yazdi is a part and which are now in control of Iran are slated to play the central role in shifting North Africa away from any possibility of rapid industrialization. Algeria in particular with its strong proindustry policy is on the planning boards to adopt a World Bank-style self-sufficiency policy, so popular with the Muslim Brotherhood. Bernard Lewis, the British national who drew up the blueprints for the balkanization of the Middle East along religious and tribal lines, is now saying that "the Muslim Brotherhood is on the rise in Morocco and Algeria."

Morocco's King Hassan II, otherwise loyal to London-New York financial interests, will reportedly soon be dethroned in what American intelligence agencies are calling an "Iranianization" process. According to the *Baltimore Sun*, U.S. intelligence agencies advised Carter that Hassan II has less than a year to survive as King of Morocco.

The dispute between Morocco and Algeria was set up in 1975 by then U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger. The issue between Morocco and Algeria is the former Spanish colony of the Spanish Sahara, which bordered on Morocco, Algeria and Mauritania. Kissinger convinced the Spanish government of Francisco Franco to give their mineral-rich colony to Morocco and Mauritania in return for U.S. arms, instead of permitting the colony to become independent through the normal U.N.-supervised process. Algeria opposed the move and threw its support behind the Polisario liberation front which had already been calling for the independence of the colony.

Earlier this year, Mauritania gave up its portion of the Sahara and sided with Algeria, calling for the territory to become independent under the auspices of the U.N. At that point, Morocco claimed all of the former Spanish colony.

Spain has since reversed its policy and, along with France, has called the Sahara question a decolonization question that must be resolved in the context of the U.N. Thirty-five African countries have recognized the provisional government established by the Polisario front.

The French government response to Carter's pledge of arms to Hassan II was to immediately answer a prior Mauritanian requisition for French troops.

Since Carter made his arms pledge, Hassan II has launched a large-scale military offensive against the Polisario in the Sahara. But military unrest over a war that can't be won, and an emerging popular discontent over the cost of the venture to the Moroccan economy has Hassan II boxed in. The *New York Times* reported recently that a faction of the Moroccan military favored a limited war with Algeria as the best way out of the

predicament. Such a limited war could kick off the process that would eliminate Hassan II and put Algeria under the thumb of the Muslim Brotherhood.

The death of Algeria's Houari Boumediene and the consequent weakening of the drive for industrialization has opened the door to the Muslim Brotherhood in Algeria. Boumediene was determined to use Algeria's oil wealth to industrialize. But the Algerian government is now turning to a self-sufficiency "small is beautiful" approach to economic organization and development.

Since Boumediene's death two key members of his economic development team have been dismissed: A. Ghozali, who was the director of the Algerian Oil Corporation, and at one time Minister of Energy and Petroleum as well as Minister of Hydraulic and Water Resources; and Ait Laoussine, his close associate.

The promotion of the Muslim Brotherhood in Algeria intersects a strong proenvironmentalist sentiment among the younger educated layers of the population. Organized from Switzerland and France, this movement views advanced technology as destroying fundamental human values and having no immediate visible benefit for the peasant not skilled to work in the plants.

—Douglas DeGroot



Latin coups compete with Cuban influence

The tiny island nation of Grenada last week accused NATO and yet unnamed "U.S. sources" of involvement in a foiled attempt to overthrow the country's pro-Cuban government. In a scenario reminiscent of the 1962 Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba—albeit on a much smaller scale—the coup plan was based on a three-pronged invasion by mercenary forces based in Miami,

whose large anti-Castro Cuban community has long served as a recruiting ground for U.S. CIA "covert activities" in the hemisphere.

The coup plotting in Grenada fits into a pattern of real and potential military coup d'états sweeping the continent. The case of Grenada, and the "epidemic of coups" itself, would indicate that, behind a verbal commitment to defending "democracy" in the hemisphere, U.S. policymakers seek to establish top-down NATO military control over Latin America.

It is no secret that Washington views Latin America as a rich potential "strategic reserve" of energy and raw materials of strategic importance given the volatile Middle East situation. This is particularly true of the Caribbean basin area—including Mexico and Venezuela—which is a primary center of world oil production and refining. Control of the hemisphere's substantial oil reserves, some observers believe, would allow Washington to blow up the volatile Middle East crisis, provoking an oil cut off which would bring the economies of Europe and Japan to a halt and weaken European commitment to the EMS.

The U.S. policy—centered around combatting "subversion" and what was fast becoming an open rebellion against the rule of the IMF—is a replay of the 1960's Kennedy "Alliance for Progress." As the *New York Times* editorially commented on the military coup in Bolivia last week, creation of a credible "democratic option" is important, if Washington is to "compete" with Cuba for influence in Latin America.

But under the guise of a Kennedy-style "democratization" campaign, Washington is attempting to establish the precedent of limited national sovereignty and mechanisms for militarizing the continent. This was stated almost explicitly by a recent editorial in the *Baltimore Sun*, which denounced Col. Natusch—who staged the recent coup in Bolivia—for being a "brat," and called on President Carter to intervene to change the situation.

Such a supra-national, hemispheric approach to security questions was the subject of a top planning meeting this week in Bogota, Colombia of the continent's army chiefs (see box).

Meanwhile, Washington proceeds on its own, with "guidance" from a rump meeting of U.S. policymakers with British and Canadian NATO strategists in London. Those talks have resulted in the following.

Bolivia

The first civilian government in 15 years was ousted in a military putsch last week. While the State Department decried the "setback" to democratization, and refuses to recognize the new regime of Col. Natusch Busch, many observers believe that Washington allowed—if not encouraged—the coup in order to force through an austere and unpopular IMF "stabilization" program.

Reportedly Washington support for Natusch was channeled through the Brazilian, Argentine and Chilean military regimes.

President Guevara Arze's downfall was virtually assured by the refusal of international creditors to refinance the foreign debt, and Washington's refusal to provide increased aid, unless Bolivia accepted IMF surveillance. Guevara, though willing to comply, was unable to do so, paralyzed by popular opposition and a lack of support from Bolivia's two major political parties. Congressional passage of a bill to allow dumping of 35,000 tons of stockpiled tin—Bolivia's main source of revenues—was the final straw.

An estimated 350 people have been killed in mounting repression by the Natusch regime, and at least two countercoups are rumored in the works. State Department sources boast that the U.S.—"unable" to stop the Natusch putsch—has the ability to "call in the cards" from military officials to overthrow Natusch.

El Salvador:

The neanderthal rightwing dictatorship of Gen. Romero was overthrown three weeks ago in a coup by "moderate" younger officers, with active backing of the State Department and Christian Democratic networks around the Jesuit-run Central American University. Washington, publicly committed to preempting a Nicaraguan-style mass-based social revolution in El Salvador, hastily approved the new junta. While a 30-day truce has been negotiated with the left, there is little expectation that the junta will challenge the fundamental financial-political control of the "Group of 14" oligarchical families, rumored to be plotting a counter-coup.

Guatemala:

The news that the U.S. is excluding Guatemala from a new aid package, and has blocked an aid request made to the Interamerican Development Bank, "has been interpreted in the region as the prologue to a coup ... imitating what happened in El Salvador," said Venezuelan press commentaries. But this formula can't work in Guatemala, where the "moderate" opposition has been virtually eradicated by unchecked rightwing "death-squad" terrorism over the past decade.

Nicaragua:

Government leaders have warned that ex-dictator Anastasio Somoza is preparing a full-scale invasion from neighboring Honduras, where several thousand National Guard troops live in exile. Such an invasion, they charge, would be coordinated with internal destabilization by former Guardsmen waging "guerrilla war" against the new regime. The role of Washington in aiding Somoza is not doubted by any source.

Panama:

Two American mercenaries and five Panamanian nationals were arrested Oct. 15 for conspiring to overthrow the government of President Aristede Royo. Among those detained was a leader of the rightwing-Christian Democratic Panamenista Party led by former president Arnulfo Arias, who has lived in exile in Miami for years.

Grenada:

Prime Minister Maurice Bishop accused NATO and unnamed "American sources" of involvement in a plot to invade the tiny island nation and overthrow its pro-Cuban government. The plot, similar to the failed Bay of Pigs operation, was foiled and an estimated 100 persons arrested. (See LATIN Report)

Jamaica:

Prime Minister Michael Manley was targetted for overthrow in a top secret London conference on "Caribbean security" three weeks ago, because of his public support of Cuba

the Havana Nonaligned Conference. The U.S. anti-Cuba offensive has bolstered Manley's opposition, the Jamaican Labor Party, in its rabble-rousing attacks on Manley's ties to Cuba and his "failure" to solve a serious economic crisis. U.S. and Canadian banks have refused to refinance the nation's foreign debt, despite a "green light" from the IMF, and as the Washington Post said in an editorial attack on Manley Oct. 26,

"Jamaica does not appear to be among those tippy countries to which Carter promised extra aid." The intensified wave of terrorism, run through known JLP networks, raises the real threat of an assassination attempt against Manley.

Venezuela:

There are mounting rumors of serious discontent within the Venezuelan military and the possibility of a right-wing coup d'etat. President Herrera Campins was forced to publicly respond to these rumors, substantiating the estimation of one expert that the current coup talk is the most serious in five years. The "climate" for nurturing coup tendencies in the military is being created around the "watergating" of former President Carlos Andres Perez for alleged corruption during his term of office by a faction of his AD party and the ruling Christian Democrats. An attempt to erase his still strong influence, the corruption investigation is also aimed at discrediting the intensive industrialization program associated with the Perez presidency.

Ecuador:

The new civilian government of President Jaime Roldos is already in political crisis, paralyzed by the political faction fight between Roldos and his former mentor and uncle Assad Bucaram over who runs the ruling party and the government itself. There is no telling how long the military, however reluctant to assume the institutional risks of political power, will stand by without interfering.

U.S. presses for Latin American NATO

The heads of 16 Latin American Armed Forces are currently holding their annual policy-making summit in Bogotá, Colombia. As in previous sessions, the theme is "guaranteeing security on the continent, particularly in regard to communist subversion." Attending the summit are the armed forces commanders of Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the Dominican Republic, Surinam, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay, Venezuela and Colombia.

Cuba and Nicaragua were excluded from the summit and Mexico attended only with observer status, protesting that the meeting is solely for the United States "to issue directives on how to fight what they term subversion and communism." El Salvador and Bolivia cited "internal problems" as

their reasons for not attending, while both the United States and Canada sent delegations with observer status.

Colombia President Julio César Turbay Ayala set the tone for the meeting when he opened the sessions with the statement that "where ostensible political vacuums could necessarily lead to generalized anarchy, the armed forces are called upon to exercise power to reestablish the rule of authority." Colombian Army Commander Gen. José Gonzalo Forero Delgadillo nonetheless publicly asserted that the summit was only called to "exchange experiences" and would neither deal with the volatile Caribbean situation nor plan programs of joint military action for the continent.

Whether the United States or one of its allies will formally propose the creation of a Latin American standing army—an idea in which the U.S. has expressed special interest since the Nicaragua revolution—remains to be seen.