

Carter Applies 'Cuban' Policy To Vietnam: Step-by-Step Warmaking

The Carter Administration has announced that it will send a delegation headed by former Senator Mike Mansfield, to Hanoi in the near future to discuss the issue of U.S. servicemen alleged missing in action (MIAs). Advertised as an overture toward normalized relations between the two countries, the move actually marks the beginning of a scenario for provocations heading toward a Southeast Asian regional war, parallel to those now being carried out against Cuba by the Trilateral Commission's Carter Cabinet.

Although the Vietnamese have not formally replied to the Carter "initiative," the Vietnamese Army Daily, *Quan Doi Nhan Dan*, last week roundly attacked the U.S. for intentionally creating the conditions for a regional war through its client states, the military junta in nearby Thailand. The statement, the first since Carter took office, charged the U.S. with having an "immediate and longterm scheme of subversion and aggression in Southeast Asia" using undercover agents in Thailand and teams of Green Beret troops in Laos to prevent detente efforts from progressing in Indochina.

Congressman Bingham (D-NY) proved the Cuban parallel to be no accidental similarity when he submitted legislation to lift the trade embargo imposed on Vietnam since the Communist victory there just before he undertook his recent trip to Cuba to discuss normalized relations there. Although a spokesman for Bingham's House international relations committee denied that legislation specifies concessions from Vietnam as a precondition for lifting the embargo, he admitted that once normalization discussions begin, "a whole range of issues will become relevant..., human rights, security, and the MIAs."

This precise scenario is outlined in the so-called Linowitz Report on U.S.-Latin American relations, the blueprint for the Carter Administration's Cuban and Latin American policies generally. Sol Linowitz, a Trilateral Commission member and now Panama Canal negotiator, prepared the report under the auspices of the Council on U.S.-Latin American Relations, with Rockefeller financing. The report recommended concessions to Cuba purely on a "reciprocal" basis. The U.S. would normalize relations "step-by-step," as Cuba made successive concessions inimical to its socialist policy and government.

The Carter cabinet's Vietnam initiative is clearly designed to sabotage a lasting detente between the Communist Indochinese states and pro-development factions among the governments of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). Such detente requires not only the political will, but a basis in concrete economic cooperation. The Feb. 8 issue of the Japanese

Daily *Yomiuri* reports that the leaders of ASEAN countries fear the zero growth economic policies of the Carter Administration and all share a "high growth" perspective.

By the creations of tension within the region, the Carter Administration intends to mobilize to the forefront these governments' anti-Communist, rentier and military-intelligence establishment factions to isolate Vietnam. The same policy sabotages those potential Vietnamese allies' ability to solidify their own non-Asian economic relations, especially growing with the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.

The Feb. 18 issue of *Far Eastern Economic Review* surprised no one when it reported that octogenarian Wall Street banker Averell Harriman is now playing a determining role in the Administration's Vietnam policy. Harriman is by no means new to the Asian scene. In the 1960s, as John F. Kennedy's ambassador-at-large, he orchestrated the "Secret War in Laos" which served to prepare for full U.S. military intervention, (though it said he attempted to "moderate" the development of the situation). Harriman also conducted peace negotiations with North Vietnam and the National Liberation Front (NLF) under the Johnson Administration while William Colby, later to head the CIA (and now "pro-normalization"), ran the notorious "Operation Phoenix" slaughter of thousands of NLF cadres. As a side operation Harriman advised Kennedy and Johnson on Indonesia during the nationalist Sukarno Regime. Its fall in 1965 led to the slaughter of at least 500,000 Indonesian Communist Party members and supporters under CIA supervision.

Provocation and War

While the Vietnamese properly view Carter's "normalization" as merely a continuation of the Kissinger policy of provocation, their immediate perception of the Administration's intentions is tempered by the increased border clashes aimed at their Cambodian and Laotian allies. Dr. Puey Ungphakhon, the former governor of the Bank of Thailand who has been exiled since the U.S.-backed Oct. 6 coup, warned that the U.S. might use "a second coup" as a threat if Vietnam declines "normalization" overtures. The present Thai government, he said, could be overthrown by an even more anti-Vietnamese clique as a result of "outside interference by the U.S." Dr. Puey revealed that the former Thai dictator, General Praphas, who returned to the country as a "private citizen" after the coup, is now maneuvering for a second coup. "If the Praphas group came to power, it would be worse," he said, rapidly leading to civil war.