

communism in the belief that, at the right moment, they can defeat it. Experience shows that these useful fools end up in front of firing squads. . . .” That same day, Betancur ordered his Foreign Minister Lloreda Caicedo to grant an interview to the leading Bogotá daily *El Tiempo*, which signaled that U.S. “reprisals” against Colombia for joining the Non-Aligned would not be tolerated.

Betancur has been targeted not because of populist speeches about keeping Colombia outside the spheres of influence of the great powers or because of his attacks on the arms race. Betancur has been targeted because he is the first President Colombia has had in many decades who has brought a humanist purpose to governing. His frequent references to the lessons taught by 19th-century humanist scientists Alexander von Humboldt and Celestino Mutis inform the “Second Botanical Expedition” development projects which Betancur has made the cultural and scientific hallmark of his administration.

In a recent speech in the department of Huila, Betancur told a delighted crowd that Lenin had once defined communism as nothing more than socialism with electricity. For me, said Betancur, “Democracy plus electricity means development in freedom.”

Other Non-Aligned targets

Another applicant, Bolivia—whose population is having its first experience of political sanity under the recently inaugurated Siles Zuazo administration—was rocked by a series of coup threats and a U.S. State Department-orchestrated cabinet crisis during January (see article, page 46). The effect of this crisis was to achieve one immediate success: President Siles was unable to attend a scheduled meeting in Europe Jan. 22 with the chiefs of government of Spain and France, as well as the heads of several other countries. Nor was Siles able to accept the invitation of Spanish Prime Minister Felipe González to spend a week in Madrid following the presidential summit. With coup organizing openly taking place within the military and a still unresolved government crisis, if Siles left Bolivia, it would be for good.

Thus Siles has been removed from the immediate international coordination for a New World Economic Order. The Bolivian President has filled the cabinet posts abandoned by the opposition MIR party with colleagues from his own party, and he has pledged to continue to govern based on a return to democracy and an unrelenting war on drugs, but there is little question that his efforts both domestically and internationally have been set back.

Argentina, the leading Ibero-American nation inside the Non-Aligned Movement, is already playing an important role in maintaining the cohesion of that body against numerous splinter tactics. The Argentines were straitjacketed Jan. 24 by the imposition of an International Monetary Fund package of austerity which, if enforced, will paralyze the government both domestically and in foreign affairs with violence and even civil war.

Smear campaign aimed at India's Indira Gandhi

by Susan Brady

Rumors are circulating internationally that “certain circumstances” could prevent the Non-Aligned summit from taking place. Fueling this sabotage effort is the black propaganda campaign that has been launched in the Western press against India and its Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, in an attempt to parley her party's recent electoral defeats in two southern Indian states into the collapse of Mrs. Gandhi's government and the dissolution of the nation.

The near-term aim of this exercise is to destabilize India and undermine the authority of Prime Minister Gandhi as she assumes leadership of the Non-Aligned movement. The British press led the charge with a London *Times* feature on the demise of the “Nehru Dynasty.” The *Times* has been joined by the London *Economist*, the *Statesman* and the BBC. The latter recently ran a lengthy radio feature on the “extreme danger” in which Mrs. Gandhi finds herself. The campaign jumped the Channel, and the West German weekly *Der Spiegel* hit the streets with a multi-page lead international feature about how the “arrogant Nehru clan” is in trouble, how Mrs. Gandhi's rule over India is threatened, and so on.

Sweden's largest-circulation morning newspaper, *Dagens Nyheter*, has published a major op-ed by the paper's editor-in-chief Svante Nysander titled “Political Disintegration in India Has Its Roots in the Planned Economy.” Featuring the opinions of a “sociologist” in New Delhi named Rajni Kothari, a discredited individual with known ties to anti-India networks in international intelligence circles, Nysander's assertions that the Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka election defeats for the Congress-I party “could be the beginning of the end of rule for Indira. . . . Many are now fearing that since she is becoming weaker, there will be anarchy for India.” Kothari, for his part, expresses enthusiasm at the prospect.

Altaf Gauhar, an individual with links to the Brandt Commission, and whose *South* magazine is financed by Pakistani dirty-money kingpin Agha Hassan Abedi, is selling the imminent political revival of Morarji Desai to anyone who will listen. Gauhar's “prediction” is couched in a titillating rendition of how Mrs. Gandhi is increasingly becoming “paranoid” and awash in dirty laundry. Gauhar does not attempt to hide his delight in his own fantastic stories.

More ominously, the rumor mill of distortion and vilification concerning the Prime Minister herself has been supplemented by a resurgence of scenario-mongering over an alleged plan to carry out a pre-emptive strike against Pakistani nuclear installations à la Baghdad, a plan which is alternately attributed to Israel and India, or, even more improbably,

bly, a combination of the two. Anathema to actual Indian foreign-policy approaches and emphatically repudiated by Indian authorities, such a report is given credibility by virtue of Israel's demonstration that it is perfectly capable of carrying out such outlaw actions.

This particular piece of disinformation fits into the kind of misperceptions between India and Pakistan that have always been used to breed suspicion and distrust in the region. Besides creating an adverse atmosphere around the summit meeting itself, it is meant to rekindle mutual suspicions between India and Pakistan, which may well be played in turn into the summit itself in the form of a Pakistani challenge to India's leadership. It is well known that certain Anglo-American circles are eager to have the Non-Aligned movement tie itself in knots around one of the many bilateral or otherwise local political issues—such as Afghanistan.

African destabilization focused against Nigeria

by Douglas DeGroot

The leaders of the African member-states of the Non-Aligned movement are under intense attack as the summit approaches. These include President Shehu Shegari of Nigeria, who is the guest of honor of the Indian government in January during its celebration of Republic Day, and the leaders of the frontline group of nations most directly involved in the fight for survival against South African attacks—Presidents Eduardo dos Santos of Angola and Samora Machel of Mozambique, who are leading countries that have been independent only since 1975, after long fights against Portuguese colonial rule; Prime Minister Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe, which gained independence in 1980 after a long struggle against a minority regime; and President Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia—all of whom, if they chose, could give vital “flanking support” to a debtors' cartel.

The International Monetary Fund and the oligarchs who created it have innumerable options from which to choose when they want to destabilize African countries. Their success in preventing African nations from industrializing and developing viable economies has made African nations extremely vulnerable to financial pressure, leaving them little ability to resist threats of aid cutoffs and IMF conditionalities. The debilitating currency devaluations and cancellations of development plans that are habitual demands of the IMF create the preconditions for destabilization at the snap of their fingers.

Nigeria, the eighth largest country in the world, has been singled out for special treatment because of the potential it represents for Africa as a whole. Its estimated population of 100 million amounts to nearly one-quarter of Africa's total

population. It has just begun implementing longstanding industrialization plans (steel plants, petrochemicals, infrastructure) after political and civil war dominated the first two decades of independence since 1960.

Nigeria is now being targeted as the weak link in OPEC (see article, page 4). The fifth largest oil producer in OPEC until the economic depression drove down their production, Nigeria, which produces a high-grade oil similar to North Sea oil, depends for over 90 percent of its export income on oil. The British drove down Nigerian production by lowering the price of North Sea oil, and taking contracts away from Nigeria, while Nigeria was under pressure from OPEC not to lower prices.

Nigeria had based projections for its present five-year plan, which was launched at the beginning of 1981, on an expected oil production level of 2 million barrels per day. Now Nigerian production is already reported to be down to about 900,000 bpd again.

Northern Nigeria, whose population is heavily Muslim, was hit with riots at the end of 1980, and again in October 1982, by a synthetic “Islamic fundamentalist” cult which claimed thousands of victims by the time they were suppressed. There were also repeated reports of involvement of Libyan strongman Qaddafi's networks in the disturbances in northern Nigeria.

Fear of the Libyan threat has opened some African governments to collaboration with Israel for security reasons, which is potentially dangerous. Israeli Defense Minister Ariel Sharon's January 1983 trip to Zaire has resulted in a deal in which the Israelis will reorganize President Mobutu's security and the Zairean military.

In southern Africa, South Africa is on a drive to weaken all black nation-states. South Africa is now training 5,000 guerrillas from nations surrounding South Africa for purposes of carrying out sabotage activities in their nations of origin. Pretoria has greatly stepped up its interventions into neighboring states after the seven-nation African tour last November of U.S. Vice-President and population-control advocate George Bush. On the heels of that trip, South African Foreign Minister Roelof Botha visited Washington, and met with Secretary of State George Shultz.

South African troops continue to occupy southern Angola. South Africa is also supporting the anti-government rebel group, UNITA, which along with South Africa has carried out over \$10 billion dollars of damage since Angolan independence in 1975, according to Angolan President Eduardo dos Santos.

South Africa has 20,000 troops occupying Namibia illegally, since the old League of Nations mandate has expired. The Johannesburg paper *Beeld* has reported that South Africa plans to build a new military base in the Walvis Bay region of Namibia, as well as renovate another base nearby, which indicates that South Africa has no intention of withdrawing from Namibia, the area from which it launches its operations into Angola.