

Washington is seen edging closer to an invasion of Haiti

by Carlos Wesley

There are increasing indications that the United States may be moving toward a military invasion of Haiti before the end of this summer. Although there is virtually no support for an invasion among the American people, nor from the U.S. Department of Defense, President Bill Clinton may be pushed into taking military action against that poor, black, Caribbean nation on the lying basis that it could provide a relatively cheap foreign policy triumph for his beleaguered administration.

It would also advance the drive for a one-world dictatorship under the United Nations. Such a dictatorship would impose drug legalization and implement the genocidal schemes on the agenda of the International Conference on Population and Development planned for September in Cairo, as spelled out in "Human Development Report 1994," issued by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) at the beginning of June (see *EIR*, June 17, p. 30).

Haiti's acting President Emile Jonassaint said that the United States and the U.N. are trying "impose upon us an adventure of the Pol Pot type," reported Reuters on June 21. Jonassaint said that the return of defrocked priest Jean-Bertrand Aristide to Haiti's presidency would spark massacres of his opponents. Aristide was ousted from power in September 1991 for his dictatorial ways and his penchant for "necklacing" his opponents to death. The parallel to Cambodia's Pol Pot is apt: The United Nations, with State Department support, has also insisted that Pol Pot's Khmer Rouge, which murdered from one-third to one-half of Cambodia's population during its 1975-79 regime, be in Cambodia's government, just as they are demanding that Aristide be restored in Haiti.

U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott told the foreign ministers of the Organization of American States (OAS) meeting in Belem, Brazil, that the United States wants to give "a new mandate" to the U.N. Mission to Haiti (UNMIH), to "send a strong signal" to Haiti's military leaders. We favor "a reconstituted, reconfigured, and strengthened UNMIH," said Talbott on June 6.

Although the OAS members said publicly that they are opposed to military action, the *New York Times* reported on June 13 that administration officials are saying that they have gotten private assurances of support for an invasion from some countries. And the foreign ministers at the Belem meet-

ing did endorse a "total embargo" against Haiti. No other country, not even Cuba, has been subjected to a worldwide embargo as total as that against Haiti. A few days after the OAS meeting, at the Fourth Ibero-American Summit held in Cartagena, Colombia, most of the heads of state of Ibero-America joined the leaders of Spain and Portugal in condemning Haiti for violating "democracy." At the same time, many of those same leaders hypocritically called for lifting the U.S. blockade against Fidel Castro's communist regime in Cuba.

Only Peru's President Alberto Fujimori, a victim himself of assaults on his nation under the propaganda cover of "democracy," spoke out against the embargo against Haiti and said he opposed any invasion of that country. Each country must resolve its internal affairs "by its own means," Fujimori told his colleagues.

Invasion by the end of July?

The purported minutes from a U.N. meeting on Haiti and of a memorandum sent by U.N.-OAS special envoy for Haiti Dante Caputo to U.N. Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali on May 23, after a discussion with Talbott, says that the United States is going "to try to intervene militarily." According to the published accounts of the leaked documents, Caputo said that the United States "considers that an invasion of Haiti is its best option," and that such a military intervention will take place in late July or in August, at the latest. The United States would carry out the invasion unilaterally, and afterward transfer the responsibility for the occupation of Haiti to a multinational force under the U.N., said the reports. A State Department spokesman denied that Talbott had told Caputo that the United States plans to invade Haiti in July.

But Ambassador Lawrence Pezzullo, who was Clinton's point man on Haiti until April, said that the administration is on a path toward a military intervention for lack of other options, according to AP. The chief military correspondent for a leading establishment publication said that his sources in the Pentagon expect an invasion soon. A move into Haiti "will drive Korea out of everyone's mind for awhile," he said. "It stinks—and the high command in the Pentagon thinks so, too. It's all domestic politics; it's Bill Clinton not wanting to look out the White House and see the [Congres-

sional] Black Caucus being arrested," he said, adding that neither he nor his sources in the Pentagon could understand "why a bunch of peaceniks from the 1970s are out there rattling sabers and the first card they want to play is the military."

A senior British defense specialist said hopefully on June 16 that "a U.S. military move against Haiti is on the top of the agenda, it could occur as early as within the month. It would play well for Clinton domestically. He would seem to firm up his position as commander-in-chief, while simultaneously avoiding having to do something in really thorny situations like the Balkans."

According to unconfirmed reports, there is a plan under study to create a zone on the Haitian border with the Dominican Republic to house the flood of expected refugees. The 10-kilometer-wide area would be run as a U.N. trusteeship.

Between a rock and a hard place

Clinton is being squeezed between a rock and a hard place, to try to drive him to the point where he deems military action to be the most expedient solution. On the one hand, the administration is being accused of being racist for failing to take any and all measures to restore Aristide to power. Randall Robinson, the director of Trans-Africa whose hunger strike reportedly led Clinton to tighten the genocidal embargo against Haiti in May, is again attacking the administration for racism, this time for turning back Haitian refugees.

Aristide, who has been calling for "surgical action" against Haiti (while simultaneously denying that he favors military intervention) is also accusing the administration of racism. "When Haitians are in the same boat with Cubans, as I myself have seen on television, the Cubans are allowed to go on, while the Haitians are sent back. That's a racist policy," he said at the Cartagena summit, reported the June 12 Colombia's *El Tiempo*.

On the other hand, Florida Gov. Lawton Chiles and other officials are against letting in any more Haitian refugees. Sen. Robert Graham (D-Fla.) called for military action against Haiti during a visit to that country in mid-June. An AP poll released on June 22 claimed that 54% of all Americans opposed military intervention and only 28% favored it. But a larger margin, 62%, were said to be against allowing more Haitians into the United States.

Sanctions

At a meeting convened to discuss how to mobilize opposition to the U.N.'s agenda for the Cairo population conference, Vatican officials joined with the top bishops of Ibero-America to call for lifting the embargo against Haiti, which has been going on for nearly three years. In a statement published following their meeting in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, which shares the island of Hispaniola with Haiti, the leading prelates of the 22 countries belonging to the Council of Latin American Bishops (CELAM) expressed

their solidarity with Haiti, "at a time that sister nation is going through one of the more difficult periods of its history." The CELAM statement was also signed by Cardinal Bernardin Gantin, prefect of the Vatican's Congregation of Bishops and president of the Pontifical Commission for Latin America, and by Cardinal Alfonso López Trujillo, president of the Pontifical Council for the Family. It expressed particular concern with "the human aspect of the Haitian crisis, the situation of the children, of the sick and all our Haitian brothers who are deprived of the most basic elements to fulfill the needs of existence," reported the Dominican daily *Listín Diario* on June 21. "We urgently insist that humanitarian action be intensified and that the international sanctions, which affect especially the poorest sections of the population, be reconsidered."

According to a report issued by Unicef on June 22, over 50% of Haitian children are now malnourished, as compared with 27% before the embargo. Immunizations have dropped, with only 27% of the children receiving polio vaccinations in 1992, as compared to 40% in 1990. A new round of sanctions that went into effect on June 22-24 will not dislodge Haiti's military leaders, but will increase the misery of Haitians. On June 22, President Clinton ordered a freeze on all assets held by Haitians in American banks. On June 24, all commercial flights were halted. Earlier, all charter flights had been stopped, as were the \$200-300 million in remittances from Haitians living abroad to keep their families alive at home.

For a while, not even food and medicine were getting in, although the embargo supposedly allows them to, according to sources in the Dominican Republic. The Dominican government was forced to shut down the border on the threat of facing sanctions itself, or having the United States recognize Socialist International leader José Francisco Peña Gómez, a member of the pro-drug-legalization Inter-American Dialogue, as the winner of the May 16 presidential elections. A campaign accusing incumbent President Joaquín Balaguer of committing electoral fraud was also threatened. Balaguer sent 15,000 troops to seal the border, and they not only prevented the flow of gasoline and other goods forbidden by the embargo, but also stopped food and medicine from going into Haiti. The total shutdown, sources said, was due in part to instructions from U.N. envoy Caputo, who reportedly told the Dominicans not to let anything through until he provided a list of authorized items. It wasn't until June 22 that the Dominican daily *Hoy* reported that Caputo finally "presented Balaguer with the long awaited list of articles that can enter Haiti."

Predictably, after Balaguer agreed not only to seal off the border, but also to let U.S. military personnel into his country to monitor the embargo, and gave permission for the United States to extend its naval blockade into Dominican waters, the U.S. State Department turned around and ordered the Dominican government on June 15 to heed the charges of vote fraud brought by Peña Gómez and to hold new elections in "those districts where irregularities occurred."