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Latin America Newsletter

Kissinger Pushes Latin America to Brink of Rand War

June 16 (NSIPS) — Secretary of State Kissinger's trip to Latin America, which ended last week in Mexico, put the finishing touches to Rockefeller's Rand Corporation scenario for exploding wars throughout the continent. The immediate target of this policy of "demonstrable shows of force" is the pro-socialist Cooperative Republic of Guyana.

No sooner had Kissinger left South America than his Brazilian puppets called a General Staff meeting of the army and top civilian legislators to discuss the problems of "national security especially around the Amazon border region," part of which naturally borders with Guyana. Five days later on June 14, the Venezuelan Senate held a special closed-door meeting to discuss the border question including the now almost public threat by Brazil to invade neighboring Guyana.

Although the RAND scenario to explode wars throughout the continent has been the effective policy of the Kissinger State Department since approximately the beginning of 1975 — with the particular focus in the past being the crushing of the pro-development government of Peru through a war with Chile — today the whole continent has been brought to the verge of general war as soon as one "border" conflict is begun. That one triggering incident is now focused on the planned Brazilian invasion of Guyana.

The shift away from Peru as a trigger mechanism was brought about by tactical defeats to the U.S.-backed Peruvian right-wing military (the biggest proponents of a war with Chile). Tiny Guyana now represents the most defenseless pro-development force in the continent. The wiping out of the present Guyanese government would give teeth to Kissinger's threats against Cuba, Black Africa, and the Third World.

Kissinger has charged that Guyana was used by Cuba for logistical support for Cuban troops in Angola. In fact Kissinger has singled out Guyana because it has been one of the leading fighters for a Third World debt moratorium and for the creation of an International Development Bank-type institution.

The atmosphere for an invasion of Guyana is being set in Brazil with raving anti-communist speeches by the top military men and politicians from the Guyana border area. A day before the General Staff meeting Jarbas Passarinho, an ex-colonel and Senator from the state of Parana which borders on Guyana, ranted against "Soviet expansionism" — the likely official reason for a Brazilian intervention into Guyana. Passarinho participated in the General Staff meeting. At the same time the Minister of the Army and other top brass have stepped up the anti-communist rhetoric.

In Venezuela the Brazilian moves have brought about an air of crisis. Even before the Senate meeting the "debate" among top political and military circles centered on what to do in face of the Brazilian "expansionism." Those most closely tied to Rockefeller and the CIA proposed that Venezuela essentially join Brazil in carving up Guyana and

in that way resolve Venezuela's fraudulent territorial claims on a large chunk of Guyanese territory. However, President Carlos Andres Perez, and others close to him, who generally act as faithful lackeys of Rockefeller, are known to have strong reservations about promoting any Rand scenarios for reasons of simple self-interest. Were Venezuela to actively join the Brazilians, CAP's days as head of civilian government would be numbered, since the right wing in the military would quickly use these operations to catapult themselves to power. Confirming this was the public position of the agent led MAS (Movimiento as Socialismo) which generally acts as the "left" mouthpiece for CAP, Secretary General of the MAS Pompeyo Marquez declared that the Brazilian expansionisms "imminent" invasion of Guyana, backed by U.S. imperialism.

Adding fear to the forces around CAP, and showing that one conflict would surely begin war throughout the continent high level Venezuelan political circles reported that if a formal military coup d'etat is carried out in Colombia by the same right-wing military U.S. puppets who have de facto control in Colombia today, such action would immediately lead to a war with Venezuela... with the result again being the end of civilian government in Venezuela.

Peru and the War of the Pacific

The defusing, for the time being, of the RAND Corporation's "War of the Pacific" scenario involving Chile and Peru has been brought about by the strong re-emergence of the Peruvian nationalist military led by Prime Minister and Minister of War Fernandez Maldonado. This has strengthened centrist President Morales Bermudes' hand. Although more than willing to impose IMF and World Bank austerity, Morales Bermudez is dead set against war with Chile.

Therefore Kissinger has been deprived of quick Pinochet-style coup capability to bring about war. Kissinger instead has been forced to mobilize and let loose his fascist APRA — Peru's Second International-linked party — thugs from APRA and their cohorts in the Accion Popular led by ex-President Terry Belaunde. Over the last week Belaunde has begun a massive mobilization to bring about a Civic Front, along with the APRA, supposedly to bring "parliamentary democracy" back. In fact the mobilization is to provide muscle to the fascists in the military, who are now feverishly trying to win back their coup capability. Belying the claptrap about "parliamentary democracy" retired Admiral Vargas Cabalero, darling of the fascist hawks in the Navy, has come out openly hailing Belaunde and his new campaign.

Portugalization

Using the "parliamentary democracy" gambit the right-wing in the military have been able to continue their plotting, but now they are being forced to do so openly. Top Pentagon favorite and Peruvian Army General Bobbio Centurian called a meeting of all the top brass to his CIMP (Center for Military Instruction), but Morales Bermudez came to it and delivered a blistering refutation of Bobbio's and the right

wing's demands. Morales opened his statements by ominously stating that only recently he had met with the officials of the Armoured Division — the tanks which militarily control Lima and whose officers are generally anti-Navy and anti-right. In short, by being forced to come out in the open, the right is quickly forcing a "Portugalization" process in the Armed Forces, a dangerous process which they can neither control nor assure its end result, given the wide nationalist and anti-civilian politician sentiment among junior officers.

Bolivian Exit to the Sea?

While the war scenario cooled in Peru, Kissinger personally heated it up in Bolivia. On the trip to the Organization of American States (OAS) meeting Kissinger stopped in Santa Cruz, Bolivia, and backed the Bolivian's demand for an "exit

to the sea." The "exit" is supposed to serve as pretext for the Chilean-Peruvian confrontation, since Chile is only willing to give Bolivia territory lost by Peru in the War of the Pacific with Chile in the 19th century. With this backing the Bolivians tried to raise the issue at the Kissinger-controlled OAS meeting, only to be quickly refuted by the Peruvians, who stated this was not the proper forum for such negotiations.

During this charade the Bolivian government carried out a series of provocations against its students and miners, causing major riots and strikes. Added to this was the CIA assassination of ex-President and leftist Juan Jose Torres in Argentina — all which has created ripe conditions for total control of Bolivia by the pro-Brazilian officers. While the semi-comical military of Bolivia cannot start war, Brazilian control of these tin soldiers gives the Kissinger an added capability for helping bring one about.