

U.S. Sudanese Stooges Fuel East Africa Tensions

The Ethiopian Ministry of Information denounced on June 7 the "dangerous situation which the Sudan intends to provoke by the continued massing of troops" on the Ethiopia-Sudan border. The Sudanese troop concentration, which was admitted in a Sudanese Foreign Ministry statement on the same day, is the latest in an escalating series of provocations made by the Sudan against Ethiopia's socialist Military Council, provocations ordered by the U.S. National Security Council in an attempt to break up the diplomatic initiatives by the Soviet Union and Cuba on the tension-ridden Horn of Africa.

Reflecting the broad global recognition of the U.S. role behind the Sudanese actions, the official Soviet Press Agency, TASS, delivered an unusually strong warning to the Carter Administration, on June 5: "TASS is empowered to declare that the Soviet Union denounced the actions of those circles who are preparing to carry through an aggression against Ethiopia, as well as those who are pushing them to this dangerous course. Those who engage in it will bear a grave responsibility to the peoples of Africa and the whole world." A TASS release on the previous day quoted the Ethiopian Information Ministry, who charged that "...in its aggressive actions, Sudan is relying on the full support of reactionary Arab regimes and international imperialism headed by the U.S...."

While putting his army on full alert, Sudanese President Jaafar Nimeiry is attempting to portray himself as the "victim" of Soviet and Cuban aggression, and this week traveled to Peking to gain further support and credibility as an opponent of "social imperialism." In a speech June 8 in China, Nimeiry charged that Cuba has sent 2,500 military advisors to Ethiopia, who he alleged are training the Ethiopians to use Soviet weapons purchased with Libyan money. He was greeted at the Peking airport by Chinese Vice Premier Li Hsien-nien, who praised him as a "brilliant example in the fight of the Third World against imperialism and hegemonism," and who proposed a "common front" in Africa against "Soviet penetration."

Sudanese and Chinese charges of the Soviet Union's aggressive intent, however, are the exact opposite of what the Soviets and Cubans have in fact been doing on the Horn of Africa. Since the visit to Africa of Cuban President Fidel Castro in March, the efforts of these countries have been aimed at cooling down the dangerous tensions there and ensuring stability for economic development in the region. These efforts have included attempts to mediate the longstanding territorial disputes between Somalia and Ethiopia, both of whom

have good relations with the socialist countries, and a Soviet initiative to mediate a peaceful settlement of the secessionist civil war in Ethiopia's coastal province of Eritrea.

The outbreak of a war on the Horn is widely considered to be a potential spark for a major East-West confrontation, because of the strategic importance of the Red Sea not only to Europe, but to Israel, which receives most of its petroleum shipments through the Sea. Sudanese aggression against Ethiopia, aggression which has the support of private Rockefeller-Interpol channels in Egypt and Saudi Arabia, is seen as part and parcel of attempts led by Rockefeller-linked Saudi elements to turn the Red Sea into an "Arab lake," a development which would almost certainly provoke an Israeli response. While Nimeiry is contributing to further this scenario, Soviet efforts have been aimed at heading it off.

In addition to the Sudanese provocations a parallel effort is underway to pull the socialist government of Somalia away from its longstanding excellent relations with the Soviet Union and into the war scenario on the Horn. This latter effort of necessity includes a plan to overthrow Somali President Mohammed Siad Barre who rejected efforts by the U.S. and their agents in Saudi Arabia to buy him off.

Attempts to draw the Somali government into a blowup on the Horn, however, have met with little success. In an interview with the Paris newspaper *Afrique-Asie* this week, Somali President Barre rejected rampant rumors of a break between Somalia and the Soviet Union over Soviet support to Ethiopia, with whom the Somalis have outstanding territorial disputes. "We are not putting into question at all our relations with the USSR," he said, "We can express to our Soviet friends our appreciation of the situation and tell them that we can't remain indifferent to the reinforcement of a regime hostile to us...but, and I repeat it with force, this policy of the USSR doesn't put into question at all our agreements and our close relations which we have with her and which are stamped with solidarity and profound friendship. We chose the revolutionary camp, once and for all."

The possibility of overthrowing Barre has raised — for the second time — by the right-wing French daily *Le Figaro*, which pretends that a pro-Soviet coup is in the making, cover for the large Somali right wing to launch a "pre-emptive" coup. Reporting on the return from a visit to Moscow by Vice President and Defense Minister Mohammed Ali Samantar yesterday, *Figaro* speculated that the "pro-Soviet" Samantar might have "prepared the fall of his boss."

Sudanese Fuel Tensions

In their June 7 statement, the Sudanese attacked the Ethiopian government, declared their support for *any* separatist movement in that country, announced that the Sudanese army was on full alert and declared that the Sudan "reserves the right to take appropriate measures," in the event of any Ethiopian "provocation." President Nimeiry has previously stated that such provocations would include Ethiopian efforts to retake parts of Eritrea which have been "liberated" by the secessionist movement. Nimeiry also told the Jordanian newspaper *Al Akkbar* recently that "France has committed herself to supply us all the arms which we will ask for."

In a recent statement, an Eritrean spokesman announced the rejection by the Eritreans of a Soviet-delivered Ethiopian offer of a federation including "recognition of a distinctive Eritrean status," i.e., regional autonomy. The statement revealed several meetings between Soviet representatives and the Eritrean movement at the Yugoslav embassy in Khartoum and elsewhere. Eritrean spokesmen have also announced the unification of the "socialist" and "Moslem" factions of the secessionist movement, which in the short term means greater military pressure on Ethiopia, but in the longer run is a precondition for negotiating a peaceful settlement.

Another provocation against Ethiopia came last week from a tribal countergang in southern Ethiopia, which dynamited the country's only rail line to the sea, which runs through the soon-to-be-independent French colony of Djibouti.

TASS Statement On Africa, June 4:

Armed detachments of the Rhodesian racists who illegally govern the land of the people of Zimbabwe recently carried out a new plundering invasion of the territory of a neighboring state — the Peoples Republic of Mozambique.

These actions by the Rhodesian racists, led by I. Smith, are causing a further deterioration of the situation in the southern portion of Africa, and may bring with them serious international consequences. They are an outrageous crime, for which I. Smith and his minions and patrons merit severe censure.

At the same time some western states are conducting constant negotiations with the I. Smith regime, and are in fact providing a cover for and legitimatizing that regime, which has no right whatsoever to be on either the territory of Mozambique or of Rhodesia. The British government's statement that it will not use force against the I. Smith regime under any circumstances is a direct incitement of the Rhodesian racists to armed attacks on neighboring states, to even more vicious and inhuman suppression of the people of Zimbabwe.

In the Soviet Union, the news of the invasion by racist troops of the territory of the Peoples Republic of Mozambique, with which our country not long ago concluded a Treaty on Friendship and Cooperation, was greeted with deep indignation. TASS is authorized to state that all responsibility for the consequences of the invasion rest with the racist regimes of southern Africa and their patrons.