

action are pursued during a crisis.

Most important is the desperation of London. The City of London is acting at the point that the world monetary system is on the edge of a chain-reaction collapse. London is a hair's breadth away from total bankruptcy. It is desperate to the point of insanity. It has an unprecedented degree of improper influence over the leadership of the Democratic and Republican Parties and the U.S. government, and is in virtual control, through the aid of agents-of-influence such as Brzezinski and Kissinger, of the National Strategic Estimate of the U.S. government.

This is aggravated by the decimation of Central Intelligence Agency capabilities under Kissinger and Schlesinger and now Brzezinski, Mondale, and Turner. The U.S. lacks the quality of intelligence and related capabilities it possessed during previous crises.

What is happening to a large number of influential Democrats and Republicans in the U.S. is that they are being inundated by fraudulent briefings through official and semi-official channels — since Mondale, Brzezinski, Kissinger, and Turner have a dictatorial grip on intelligence estimates to the point of blinding the U.S. policy and command structures in favor of whatever lies they put into circulation in cooperation with London. It is these fraudulent intelligence briefings which former President Ford and others are reflecting in their foolish public and semipublic utterances of the present moment.

Everything is set up to provide a maximized opportunity for triggering of total thermonuclear war by stupidity and miscalculation. This is relevant to the fact that the two major wars of this century developed the

course which they followed through monstrous miscalculation on the part of British policy institutions directly responsible for setting those wars into motion. The checks are such that general war now could occur only through combined stupidity and miscalculation on, in particular, the side of the U.S. government. Unfortunately, it is stupidity and miscalculation which prevails in U.S. leading circles at this moment.

It is to be emphasized that almost none of the leading Democrats and Republicans in the U.S. have better than the foggiest notion of what is occurring in the world. They have no independent intelligence capability even approximating that of the U.S. Labor Party. They depend chiefly on the think tanks, briefings through official and semi-official intelligence channels, and the gossip (and, in large part, calculated lies) circulated by the dominant portion of the so-called news media. Put the Intelligence Estimate in the hands of a small circle of British agents-of-influence, such as Mondale, Brzezinski, Kissinger, et al., and one creates the situation in which the more a Gerry Ford is "authoritatively" informed on world affairs, the less he knows in fact about crucial international and even national developments.

Yet, such grossly misinformed persons are the persons deciding U.S. policies, and represent the policy apparatus on which the fate of humanity depends in a major crisis.

We may witness the radioactive obliteration of most of the U.S. during the developing crisis — as things are going now, our survival will not be to the credit of foolishly credulous persons mouthing the sort of nonsense currently regurgitated by former President Ford.

The Horn Of Africa: Poverty, War—And Potential

The one overwhelming characteristic of the population of what now comprises Ethiopia and Somalia is deprivation and poverty, on a scale virtually unmatched in the rest of the world. In no area on the globe would a development program for establishing basic infrastructure capable of supporting modern living be more necessary, or more welcome.

It is this poverty which, above all else, dictates the actions and response to manipulations of the people and governments there, actions primarily linked to grants for aid and arms. The present war is not in the national interest of either country as any kind of territorial imperative, but is simply the manipulated outgrowth of a minor regional dispute which could have been settled through negotiation years ago.

More precisely, the entire Horn area has been the unfortunate product of British enforced backwardness — the British Empire's policy along the entire route through the Mideast to India for over a century, which has kept the two countries from even beginning the process of entering the modern world.

Ironically, Somalia may have under its soil one of the largest uranium ore deposits in the world, close to the

surface and susceptible to economical strip-mining. These were the findings of a United Nations geological survey of the area in 1968. Since then the estimates have been lowered to a very moderate amount, but still large enough for Westinghouse Corporation to attempt to set up a mining operation there, reportedly in collaboration with an East bloc country, in 1977. Although not yet confirmed as a direct countermove, the Ogaden fighting began to heat up at this same time, forcing Westinghouse to leave the area "for political reasons," according to a spokesman at the U.S. Department of Energy.

The significance of the uranium deposit is not simply that here is natural wealth the British are trying to control. It raises the possibility of changing the entire political and economic geometry of the area through the infrastructure which Westinghouse, its reported East bloc partner, and affiliated companies would have provided.

The current fighting in the Horn has been concentrated in the area of Harrar, in the foothills of a mountain range which geographically divides the entire region between the Ethiopian mountains to the west and the coastal plain which leads to Somalia in the east. The fighting has

centered in the vicinity of Harrar because along the whole mountain range, this is the only road passable by vehicular traffic. The mountains stretch from the sea near Djibouti to the Ethiopian border in the southwest. This physical constraint on fighting abilities is characteristic of this region, which contains very few all-year roads.

Basis Of Poverty

The economies of both countries are predominantly nomadic sheep- and goat-herding, plus rural agriculture which makes up 75 percent of the population's activities. There are larger cash-crop organized farms which grow coffee and raise cattle in the Addis Ababa area, due to an earlier European influence in that immediate region. The only larger farms in Somalia are banana plantations around Mogadishu. Natural resources are also very marginal, excluding the already mentioned uranium lode. Some gold and platinum have been found in southern Ethiopia, but in quantities too small and in a region too remote to make extraction worthwhile. All this, and the absence of any industry, leave each country with a per capita annual income of approximately 65 U.S. dollars.

Nonetheless, the entire region (excluding the smaller desert areas in Ogaden in the south and the Danakil in the north near Eritria) is fertile and very susceptible to high-technology agricultural methods of the type proposed for India and the Mideast by the U.S. Labor Party and others. Somalia especially has a well irrigated coastal plain stretching inland for 150 miles or so, and surrounding the country. The priority for developing both countries would minimally be a system of roads and railways to move goods and material; for instance for expanded coffee growing in the mountainous regions of Ethiopia.

Thus *strategically* there is nothing important about the Horn region but its potential — the potential of developing and educating the populations of both Ethiopia and Somalia and bringing them up to modern standards of living. Any talk of the importance of sea lanes or oil routes, which Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan is using to justify Israeli shipments of supplies into Ethiopia — in order to incite Arab opposition in Somalia — is British nonsense, the relic of geopolitical colonial strategy in the age of sailing ships. These two countries can either be developed in a spirit of U.S.-Soviet collaboration, as was the emerging option when Westinghouse planned to move in there, or the region can serve as a manipulated trigger for a much greater and more dangerous confrontation.

The Ethiopian And Somalian Armed Forces

The military strength of Ethiopia has undergone recent extreme changes since U.S. sources of weapons and supplies, which had been predominant, were

changed to Soviet models. This has left a severe shortage of spare parts, making maintenance and resupply difficult. The Soviets have had only six months to airlift supplies to the area, not really sufficient to equip the entire army.

The Ethiopian military consists of 50,000 total volunteers, 47,000 of which make up the ground forces. Since 1953 and until last year the U.S. has had the only contract to train and equip the ground forces. As a result, the armed forces were organized along U.S. lines.

Equipment was relatively modern, including tanks and modern armored personnel carriers and 125 large howitzers. In addition, the ground troops were equipped with the same type of equipment the U.S. provided to Vietnamese soldiers.

No matter what the equipment, it could be retained in relatively good repair. This allowed the Ethiopian army to play the role of stabilizing influence in the area, as the U.S. had intended. Important to this was a large reserve force and paramilitary police force numbering an extra 30,000. Naval and air forces are small but might be significant in several areas. The airforce comprises 36 combat aircraft, which has now been expanded with additional aircraft.

Somalia

The Somali military has Soviet origins. Somalia began to get Soviet aid on a large scale in 1963 when it rejected a U.S. and Italian offer as "too small" and "too restrictive." The Soviet equipment has not been high quality compared to the modern equipment which other countries such as Iran have been supplied with. Overall Somalia is better supplied per capita than the Ethiopians.

Ground forces are more mechanized but total half of the size of the Ethiopian army. An increased emphasis on artillery and armored personnel carriers, characteristic of Soviet training, is evident. In addition a huge anti-aircraft contingent has been added to these ground forces, which is characteristic of Soviet Mideast training and supplies.

In spite of this it must be said that the weapons are of older vintage, and is probably rehabilitated Warsaw Pact surplus. There have been reports that there have always been severe shortages of spare parts, a situation which has undoubtedly become acute since the Soviet pullout.

Paramilitary forces are negligible numbering roughly 13,000 compared to a total military strength of 25,000.

The air force and navy are formidable compared with Ethiopia, and were surely due for further expansion if the Soviets had continued there. Twice the number of combat aircraft were on line as of one year ago, although as stated, these were older vintage. The Somali air force is larger than that of Ethiopia by 300 men. The navies also compare unfavorably with the Ethiopians having only one formidable combat ship, while the Somalis have several smaller vessels which contain Soviet rockets.