

Horn of Africa target for re-colonization

by Joseph Brewda

On June 20, the U.S. Congress voted 410-0 in favor of H.R. 1454, the so-called "Horn of Africa" Act, which sets a crucial precedent in reintroducing outright colonialism in Africa. What George Bush's "new world order" means for Africa and the rest of the Third World is the imposition of United Nations trusteeships, protectorates, and eventually even formal colonies—and starvation, war, and disease, for those who resist.

The bill, sponsored by Sen. Byron Dorgan (D-N.D.) and 48 co-sponsors, claims to "assure the people of the Horn of Africa"—Sudan, Ethiopia, and Somalia—"the right to food and other basic necessities and to promote peace and development of the region through grassroots participation." Reality is otherwise.

The bill attacks the three governments for supposed "gross human rights violations, political repression, and environmental destruction," and the consequent failure of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in "achieving economic reform objectives." Under this pretext, the bill cuts off every penny of military, economic, or other aid to the governments of the three states.

The Ethiopian and Somali governments were just overthrown by revolts; Sudan continues in a civil war. Nonetheless, the bill condemns the governments of the three states as responsible for starvation in their lands. Ironically, the bill had been drafted prior to the Ethiopian revolution, but was left unchanged, despite the installation of the new government.

"Countries in the Horn of Africa are among the poorest in the world," the bill reads, "yet military expenditures by regimes in the region consumed as much as half of all government revenues, thereby diverting scarce resources from development and basic human needs." This is particularly striking since the wars in the region, including civil war, which necessitate such military expenditures, are themselves manipulated largely by the United States, British, and Soviet governments.

For example, John Garang's Sudanese People's Liberation Army has been in revolt against the central government in Khartoum for years, among the reasons the Sudanese state requires large military expenditures. Garang is funded and armed by the U.S. CIA and the Pentagon, the Israeli Mossad,

and British intelligence. Without such support, there would be no civil war—and resulting famine.

Nonetheless, the U.S. Congress claims to be concerned about the people of the region. To this supposed end, the bill provides for giving aid to the "people," bypassing the governments. It calls for providing "assistance to indigenous non-governmental institutions working government-controlled or opposition-controlled territories . . . to advance development programs, or to carry out relief."

What this formulation and others throughout the bill means is this: The United States will continue to provide aid to "the people" in such forms as food, seed, agricultural equipment, and the like—without the consent or even the knowledge of the governments concerned. To this end, "humanitarian" bases will be established in neighboring Kenya, Uganda, and elsewhere, and food—and presumably weapons—transported across the border to the people, especially those people, such as John Garang, in revolt against their governments.

Crocodile tears

As far back as Dec. 14, international law expert Bruce Fein, writing in the *Washington Times*, called for using the Persian Gulf crisis to form a United Nations army which would recolonize Africa and the rest of the former colonial sector. The mission of the force, Fein advocated, would be to "punish violations of international law."

"Who would shed even crocodile tears," Fein asked, "if [U.N.] Security Council forces were deployed to quell the domestic conflagrations in Ethiopia and Sudan and to rule them according to trusteeship agreements similar to those concluded under the U.N. international trustee system?"

For those in the British and U.S. governments who think like Mr. Fein, starvation is a very effective way to create the conditions favorable to reestablishing colonies in Africa.

Thirty million Africans—a population equivalent to that of California—are now in danger of starvation, according to the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization. "Unless there is a massive acceleration of the flow of food aid to the affected populations," FAO Director General Edouard Saouma told the *Financial Times* of London June 19. "We are going to see widespread deaths from starvation between now and the next harvest at the end of the year." The FAO report says fighting in Africa has created 3.5 million refugees, and another 5 million people are displaced within their own nations.

The FAO estimates that 5.7 million tons of grain are needed, though only 3.4 million tons have been pledged, and only half of that delivered. Under the cover of pretending to address this grave problem, several Western governments and aid agencies, such as Oxfam, are proposing that a "U.N. czar for African aid" be appointed. According to the *Financial Times*, the United Nations czar would have the authority to call up military forces, supposedly to overcome logistical problems with food supplies.