



NEW SOLIDARITY International Press Service

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NEW SOLIDARITY INTERNATIONAL PRESS SERVICE
COMBINED NEWS EDITION
DEC. 26, 1975, 2100 HRS.

MIDEAST HOT SPOTS

LEFTIST PRESSURE ON ASSAD TRIGGERED CRACKDOWN

DEC. 26 (IPS)—THE SYRIAN GOVERNMENT CRACKDOWN ON THE SYRIAN COMMUNIST PARTY AND OPPOSITION ELEMENTS OF THE RULING SYRIAN BAAATH PARTY FOLLOWED "THE SECOND WAVE THIS YEAR OF UNREST IN SYRIA," THE EGYPTIAN PRESS REPORTED YESTERDAY.

ACCORDING TO REPORTS CARRIED ON U.S. BROADCAST MEDIA LAST NIGHT, THE SYRIAN REGIME OF DICTATOR HAFEZ ASSAD YESTERDAY ARRESTED MORE THAN 300 MEMBERS OF THE SYRIAN CP, DRIVING ITS LEADERSHIP INTO EXILE.

THE EGYPTIAN PAPERS AL AHAM AND AKHBAR INDICATED "THAT ASSAD WAS COMING UNDER PRESSURE FROM FACTIONS WITHIN THE BAAATH PARTY OPPOSED TO A STATE VISIT ASSAD PLANS TO MAKE TO IRAN," TODAY'S NEW YORK POST REPORTS.

AKHBAR REPORTS THAT ASSAD ORDERED HIS BROTHER, RIFAAT ASSAD WHO HEADS THE 10,000 MAN PALACE GUARD "TO PUT AN END TO THE CRITICISM." THE ORDER, THE PAPER REPORTS, "RESULTED IN A LARGE NUMBER OF ARRESTS, INCLUDING BAAATHIST YOUTH."

OTHER SOURCES HAVE INDICATED THAT THERE IS GROWING LEFTIST OPPOSITION TO ASSAD'S COLLABORATION WITH RIGHT WING REGIMES IN THE MIDEAST. THE LEVEL OF UNREST IS SO GREAT, THE SOURCES REPORT, THAT IT COULD ESCALATE INTO A CIVIL WAR IF ASSAD CONTINUES HIS COLLABORATION.

THE CRACKDOWN OCCURED AS THE MAIN RIGHT WING PRO-U.S. PUPPET IN THE MIDDLE EAST KING KHALID OF SAUDI ARABIA WAS ABOUT TO ARRIVE IN DAMASCUS FOR AN OFFICIAL VISIT.

SAUDI/SYRIAN COMPLIANCE KEY TO MIDEAST: DAILY NEWS

DEC. 26 (IPS)--SYRIAN PRESIDENT AND CIA OPERATIVE HAFEZ ASSAD WAS CHARACTERIZED AS THE "PIVOTAL FIGURE" IN THE MIDDLE EAST IN A NEWS ANALYSIS IN TODAY'S NEW YORK DAILY NEWS.

NOTING THE FORTHCOMING ARRIVAL OF RIGHT WING U.S. PUPPET OF SAUDI ARABIA KING KHALID IN SYRIA, THE DAILY NEWS REPORTS THAT "SYRIAN OFFICIALS AND DIPLOMATS IN DAMASCUS SAID THE SAUDI MILITARY COMMITMENT WILL PLAY A KEY ROLE" IN THE SAUDI-SYRIA TALKS OVER THE NEXT THREE DAYS.

BETWEEN 15,000 AND 30,000 SAUDI SOLDIERS ARE NOW STATIONED IN SYRIA, SAYS THE NEWS.

SAUDI ARABIA IS ALSO REPORTED AS PLANNING TO CONVENE A MINI-SUMMIT OF EGYPT, SYRIA, JORDAN, SAUDI ARABIA AND THE CIA CONTROLLED WING OF THE PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION, AMIDST PROMISES OF LAVISH MONEY DONATIONS BEING THROWN AROUND. IT IS EXPECTED THAT SUCH A MEETING WILL SERVE TO SET UP A JOINT COMMAND STRUCTURE TO COORDINATE MILITARY OPERATIONS FOR A NEW ARAB-ISRAELI WAR, AS WELL AS EXTERMINATION OPERATIONS AGAINST THE PRO-SOCIALIST ARAB LEFT.

SAUDI KING ARRIVES IN DAMASCUS ON STATE DEPT TOUR OF "FRONT"

DEC. 26 (IPS)—SAUDI ARABIAN KING KHALID HAS ARRIVED IN DAMASCUS "TO A TUMULTUOUS WELCOME," SEVERAL PRESS SOURCES REPORTED TODAY. THE KING IS SLATED TO HOLD "EXTENSIVE AND FAR-REACHING" TALKS WITH THE CIA-CONTROLLED SYRIAN DICTATOR HAFEZ ASSAD. THE KING'S TOUR IS BEING COORDINATED WITH THE DEPLOYMENT OF U.S. UNDERSECRETARY OF STATE ALFRED ATHERTON, SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY KISSINGER'S TOP "MIDEAST MAN."

CBS RADIO REPORTED YESTERDAY THAT KHALID, A U.S. PUPPET, HAD BEGUN HIS TRIP TO WHAT HE TERMED "FRONTLINE (IN THE BATTLE AGAINST ISREAL) ARAB STATES" DEC. 20 WITH A TWO DAY VISIT TO EGYPT. THE KING, WHO IS ACCOMPANIED BY A HIGH LEVEL DELEGATION OF THE U.S. TRAINED SAUDI MILITARY WAS IN EGYPT AT THE SAME TIME THAT ATHERTON WAS THERE FOR "IMPORTANT TALKS." ATHERTON HAS ALSO JUST CONCLUDED A WHIRLWIND TOUR OF ARAB CAPITALS TO BE VISITED BY THE KING.

ANGOLA:

NETO ATTACKS KISSINGER, DENOUNCES U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT, REVEALS ECONOMIC BLOCKADE AGAINST ANGOLA

DEC. 26 (IPS)—PRESIDENT AGOSTINO NETO, CHIEF OF STATE OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA, DENOUNCED THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND OTHER WESTERN NATIONS FOR ORGANIZING AN ECONOMIC BLOCKADE AGAINST ANGOLA IN A "LE MONDE" INTERVIEW YESTERDAY.

"SOME OF OUR BANKING ACCOUNTS IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES HAVE BEEN FROZEN, AND WE'VE BOUGHT SEVERAL AIRPLANES THAT HAVEN'T BEEN DELIVERED, NETO CHARGED. HE ALSO SAID THAT NORTH AMERICAN COMPANIES, SUCH AS GULF OIL, HAVE BEGUN TO SABOTAGE THE ECONOMY, AND WARNED THAT IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO TAKE VERY SEVERE MEASURES IN RESPONSE TO THIS SABOTAGE PLAN.

"THROUGHOUT THE STRUGGLE FOR INDEPENDENCE," NETO TOLD LE MONDE, "KISSINGER NEVER BOTHERED TO SPEAK ABOUT PORTUGUESE COLONIALISM. SINCE THAT PERIOD OUR MOVEMENT RECEIVED HELP FROM THE SOVIET UNION. BUT IT IS NOW, WHEN OUR COUNTRY IS INDEPENDENT, THAT THE U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT IS WORRIED BECAUSE WE RECEIVE SOVIET HELP.

(MORE)

DEFENDING SOVIET AND CUBAN AID TO ANGOLA, NETO STATED THAT "WE'RE A SOVEREIGN STATE AND WE DEMAND AID FROM WHOM WE WISH TO, IN ORDER TO GUARANTEE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY, OUR ECONOMY AND NATIONAL RECONSTRUCTION. NO COUNTRY HAS THE RIGHT TO REPROACH US FOR THAT."

NETO ALSO BLASTED THE SOUTH AFRICAN INVASION OF ANGOLA AND ADDED: "WHEN THE NORTH AMERICANS SPEAK OF FOREIGN INTERVENTION, THEY ASK FOR THE EXPULSION OF THE SOCIALIST FORCES THAT HELP US IN THE OBJECTIVE OF AVOIDING ANGOLA FROM BECOMING A NEO-COLONY OF THE UNITED STATES."

COMMENTING ON THE UPCOMING ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY MEETING IN JANUARY, PRESIDENT NETO SAID THAT IT WOULD BE BENEFICIAL IF IT DEALS WITH THE FOREIGN AGGRESSION AGAINST ANGOLA, BUT PREDICTED THAT IF OTHER PROBLEMS ARE DEALT WITH THEN IT WILL FAIL.

SOUTH AFRICA STEPS UP INVASION: SOVIETS WARN OF GENERAL IMPERIALIST OFFENSIVE

DEC. 26 (IPS)—EAST GERMAN RADIO REPORTS THAT ACCORDING TO SOUTH AFRICAN DOCUMENTS CAPTURED BY POPULAR MOVEMENT (MPLA) FORCES, THE RACIST REGIME PLANS TO ANNEX A PART OF ANGOLA (WHICH IS) RICH IN NATURAL RESOURCES, AND IS ALSO OF STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE.

THE SOVIET NEWSPAPER, PRAVDA, WARNED YESTERDAY OF THE DANGER OF MASSIVE SOUTH AFRICAN ATTACKS ON ANGOLA THAT COULD LEAD "TO A GENERAL IMPERIALIST OFFENSIVE AGAINST ALL AFRICAN LIBERATION MOVEMENTS."

NOVOSTI, A SOVIET PRESS AGENCY, MEANWHILE REPORTS ON ATTEMPTS BY THE U.S. AND ALLIED FORCES TO FORM A MILITARY "AFRICAN TRIANGLE OF BASES AT: SIMONSTOWN, SOUTH AFRICA; TENERIFE, AN ISLAND OFF THE COAST OF NORTHWEST AFRICA; AND THE DIEGO GARCIA BASE IN THE INDIAN OCEAN.

"THE CREATION OF THE 'AFRICAN TRIANGLE' OF MILITARY BASES OF IMPERIALISM COULD ONLY HAVE THE ONE OBJECTIVE, " NOVOSTI REPORTS, " TO BLACKMAIL AND FRIGHTEN THE PEOPLE (IN AFRICA) WHO ARE TAKING THE INDEPENDENT ROAD TO POLITICAL AND SOCIOECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT."

NIGERIA GIVES \$100 MILLION IN AID TO ANGOLA

DEC. 26 (IPS)— THE FOREIGN MINISTER OF NIGERIA HAS SENT A TELEGRAM TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE ANGOLAN PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC STATING THAT HIS COUNTRY WILL DO EVERYTHING NECESSARY TO INSURE "THAT THE STRUGGLE OF ANGOLA WILL BE SUCCESSFUL." ACCORDING TO EAST GERMAN RADIO BROADCASTS TODAY, THE NIGERIANS HAVE JUST GIVEN THE ANGOLAN PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC \$100 MILLION DOLLARS IN AID FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS.

RADIO MOSCOW SAYS ANGOLA, OAU SOUGHT SOVIET AID

DEC. 26 (IPS)—RADIO MOSCOW, IN AN ENGLISH-LANGUAGE BROADCAST BEAMED TOWARDS NORTH AMERICA, SAID TODAY THAT SOVIET AID TO THE POPULAR MOVEMENT FOR THE LIBERATION OF ANGOLA (MPLA) HAD BEEN SENT AT THE REQUEST OF THE MPLA AND THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY. THE MPLA HAS FORMED THE LEGALLY RECOGNIZED GOVERNMENT OF ANGOLA IN LUANDA.

OTHER NEWS:

PEKING CALLS FOR WAR

DEC. 26 (IPS)—THE OFFICIAL CHINESE PAPER, PEOPLE'S DAILY TODAY SECONDED RECENT WAR THREATS FROM THE U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY KISSINGER BY ISSUING ONE OF THEIR OWN.

ACCORDING TO CBS RADIO REPORTS, THE PAPER COMMENTED THAT "THE (CURRENT) SITUATION HAS BROUGHT THE ARMS RACE TO A FEVERISH PACE NEVER SEEN BEFORE...DARK CLOUDS OF A NEW WORLD WAR ARE HANGING HEAVILY OVER THE WORLD'S PEOPLE. NOTHING CAN STOP IT (A NEW WORLD WAR)."

WHILE NOT MARKING A SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN THE NORMAL PEKING REGIME 'WAR IS INEVITABLE' FORMULATIONS, THE STATEMENT IS REGARDED AS THE STRONGEST SUCH FORMULATION THAT THE MAOISTS HAVE YET PUT FORWARD.

ASSASSINATION OF CIA STATION CHIEF IN ATHENS AIMED AT ROUTING GREEK LEFT, U.S. CONGRESS

NEW YORK, DEC. 26 (IPS)—A KNOWLEDGABLE OBSERVER OF INTELLIGENCE AGENCY ACTIVITIES SAID TODAY THAT THE CIA'S ATHENS STATION CHIEF RICHARD WELCH - SHOT TO DEATH BY TERRORISTS OUTSIDE HIS ATHENS HOME ON THE NIGHT OF DEC. 23 - WAS DELIBERATELY SACRIFICED BY HIS OWN SUPERIORS IN A BYZANTINE PLOY AIMED AT ACHIEVING TWO INDEPENDENT CIA TACTICAL GOALS.

FIRST, THE SOURCE SAID, THE U.S. EMBASSY IN ATHENS AND THE NATO - CONTROLLED GREEK GOVERNMENT OF PRIME MINISTER KONSTANTINE KARAMANLIS HAVE USED THE MURDER TO TRIGGER POLICE ROUNDUPS OF DISSIDENTS WHO OPPOSE THE KARAMANLIS REGIME. HE NOTED THAT THE PRO-MOSCOW COMMUNIST PARTY (KKE) HAS RECENTLY REAFFIRMED ITS STRONG LENINIST STANCE, REBUFFING AN EFFORT BY THE CIA TO ENGINEER AN ANTI-SOVIET WHITE COMMUNIST "COLD COUP" INSIDE THE PARTY. FURTHER, THE POLICE DRAGNETS, UNDER WHICH HUNDREDS HAVE BEEN INTERROGATED IN ATHENS, WERE PRECEDED BY A DECLARATION BY KARAMANLIS IN PARLIAMENT IN WHICH HE ISSUED A WARNING TO THE MOUNTING OPPOSITION TO HIS REGIME.

BOTH THE KKE AND SOCIALIST LEADER ANDREAS PAPANDREOU HAVE DENOUNCED THE WELCH KILLING AS A SET-UP AND A PROVOCATION.

SECOND, OUTGOING CIA DIRECTOR WILLIAM COLBY, BATTLING CONGRESSIONAL

(MORE)

INVESTIGATIONS INTO WIDESPREAD ILLEGAL CIA ACTIVITIES, HAS USED THE WELCH MURDER IN AN ATTEMPT TO INTIMIDATE CONGRESS INTO CUTTING SHORT ITS INQUIRIES. BEFORE WELCH'S MURDER, HE WAS "EXPOSED" AS A CIA AGENT IN THE U.S. MAGAZINE "COUNTERSPY," THE ORGAN OF THE SO-CALLED FIFTH ESTATE COMPOSED OF "EX"-CIA AGENTS AND RAND OPERATIVES, AND FUNDED BY THE AGENT LINKED INSTITUTE FOR POLICY STUDIES. THE "EXPOSURE" OF WELCH WAS THEN CONDUITED TO THE ATHENS NEWS, WHICH PRINTED HIS GREECE ADDRESS.

COLBY HAS NOW DENOUNCED THE "COUNTERSPY" STORY AS "IRRESPONSIBLE."

HUNT REVEALS EXISTANCE OF INTERNAL CIA ASSASSINATION TEAM

DEC. 26 (IPS)—LONG-TIME CIA OPERATIVE, E. HOWARD HUNT REPORTED THAT AT LEAST DURING THE MID-FIFTIES, THE CIA MAINTAINED AN "INTERNAL ASSASSINATION" CAPABILITY TO DEAL WITH INFILTRATORS INTO WESTERN INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES. ACCORDING TO TODAY'S NEW YORK TIMES, A "COL. BORIS PASH" WAS IDENTIFIED BY HUNT AS HEAD OF A SMALL GROUP OF PEOPLE CHARGED WITH THIS JOB.

THE TIMES REPORTS AT LEAST ONE PROBABLE CASE OF A LATIN AMERICAN BEING KILLED BY THE AGENCY.

WALL STREET JOURNAL WARNS OF SPREAD OF NYC DEBT MORATORIUM

DEC. 26(IPS)--COMMENTING ON THE NEW YORK STATE SUPREME COURT DECISION UPHOLDING THE RECENTLY ENACTED DEBT MORATORIUM ON SHORT-TERM NEW YORK CITY NOTES, TODAY'S WALL STREET JOURNAL SAID IN AN EDITORIAL: "A LOT OF PEOPLE HAVE WORRIED ALOUD ABOUT WHAT A NEW YORK DEFAULT WOULD DO TO THE BORROWING ABILITY AND INTEREST CHARGES OF OTHER CITIES. THEY OUGHT TO WORRY INSTEAD ABOUT THE EFFECT OF A COURT RULING THAT SAYS A MUNICIPALITY THAT PREFERS NOT TO RAISE TAXES MAY ABROGATE ITS CONTRACTS, WITHOUT BANKRUPTCY AND WITHOUT A PLAN PROVIDING FOR THE ULTIMATE SETTLEMENT OF ITS DEBTS."

"IF THE LAW IS ULTIMATELY UPHELD," THE JOURNAL ADDS, "ANY HARD-PRESSED CITY OR STATE WOULD BE FREE TO RESHUFFLE ITS D-BTS, REGARDLESS OF ITS CONTRACT WITH ITS CREDITORS."

END OF COMBINED IPS FOR FRIDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1975.
