

EXCLUSIVE**AFRICA***Behind The Amin Affair***Carter Plotted Coups In Uganda, Ethiopia**

Well-informed African diplomatic sources revealed today that the recent crisis in Uganda was part of a massive covert operation ordered by the Carter Administration to stage pro-U.S. coups in Uganda and Ethiopia, and to aid the takeover of Kenya by a pro-U.S. clique there. The source outlined that a U.S.-backed coup in Uganda and a coup by pro-U.S. officers in the Ethiopian military were planned for February. Both events were timed with the arrival of a flotilla of the U.S. Seventh Fleet to provide the military backing for the operation.

The aim of the Carter intervention was not the overthrow of petty dictator Idi Amin. The Carter Administration is looking to secure a base of military operations on the eastern coast of Africa looking to the Indian Ocean, and on the strategic northeast Horn of Africa, as points of intervention against the socialist governments in the region. Carter's intervention into East Africa is seen by African sources as linked to the Administration's backing for the racist minority regimes in Rhodesia and South Africa and their efforts to block British diplomatic efforts toward a peaceful settlement of that situation.

It is no coincidence that the coup attempts were also timed almost exactly with the opening of the Afro-Arab summit in Cairo, the primary aim of which is to reach accord on a development strategy for Africa.

Target Uganda

The centerpiece of the Carter plan was the unstable situation in Uganda, where according to the sources, dictator Idi Amin discovered a real coup attempt and reacted with a spree of arrests and murders against real and imagined subversives and accusations not only against the United States but against all other perceived "coup plotters," specifically neighboring Tanzania.

When the coup attempt failed, Carter proclaimed that Amin's actions "have disgusted the entire civilized world..." — a comment criticized by one conservative American source as "waving a red flag in front of an unstable personality." Amin answered with threats against American citizens in Uganda, nearly creating the pretext needed to rationalize U.S. military intervention. This crisis was heightened by U.S. press columnists such as Trilateral Commission member Carl T. Rowan and others who called variously for the overthrow and assassination of Amin — a practical application of the "limited sovereignty" doctrine of National Security Council chief Zbigniew Brzezinski. News reporting has exaggerated the extent of Amin's atrocities against the Ugandan population in order to heighten the crisis atmosphere, according to a U.S.

Christian missionary organization with East African contacts. According to Christian missionaries in Uganda quoted by the Christian Science Monitor March 3, reports grossly exaggerated the danger to American citizens.

As late as March 4, William F. Buckley unabashedly indicated U.S. policy: "Sanctions should be voted, the country isolated. Somebody's CIA — not ours, we do not wish to give offense you know — should take the initiative internally."

A CIA-sponsored coup in Uganda would have shored up an increasingly active pro-U.S. clique in Kenya — where rival circles backed by British and American interests respectively have been struggling for control since independence. A U.S. puppet in Uganda would reopen an important market for Kenya's exports of light manufacture and pharmaceuticals.

The pro-U.S. grouping in Kenya, composed mainly of young World Bank "radicals" has received substantial publicity by the *New York Times*. This grouping has led attacks against the "corruption and repression" of the older British-linked leaders around aging President Jomo Kenyatta. When the Kenyatta-British force began its move toward closer economic ties with the Soviet Union and other socialist countries in 1975, the *New York Times* tried to Watergate this circle of exposés of rampant corruption, ivory smuggling, and other "venality." Kenyatta's faction reacted with a purge of the pro-U.S. faction, prompting the *Times* to threaten in an October 23, 1975 editorial: "It will be a tragedy for all of Africa if, in his unwillingness or inability to curb his own greed and that of his intimate circle, Mr. Kenyatta allows that record (of 'steady economic growth' and 'freedom of dissent') to be tarnished beyond repair and the seeds planted for future civil and tribal strife..."

But the pro-U.S. Kenyans managed last month to ground airplanes belonging to the East African Airways, a joint corporation comprised of Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania. These three nations are also part of an East African Community, an economic cooperation organization. Tanzanian President Julius Nyerere then closed his border with Kenya, a move that cut Kenya off from crucial export markets in Tanzania and Zambia, markets which account for a large part of Kenya's revenues. Nyerere discovered on telephoning Kenyatta to discuss the situation according to the *Financial Times* of London, that the grounding had been ordered without consulting or even informing Kenyatta. African sources say that the border closure was continued specifically to pressure the pro-British circles in Kenya, who are in favor of much better relations with Tanzania, to clean house.

An additional effect of a CIA-sponsored coup against Amin would be to prevent the threat of a reinstatement of Uganda's former President, Milton Obote — a close associate of President Nyerere.

Target: Horn of Africa

The Uganda crisis was to provide the smokescreen for U.S. intervention into strategic Ethiopia. With a controlling coastline of the Red Sea, Ethiopia is the gateway to the Suez Canal and to the Israeli-controlled area of the Sinai peninsula. The U.S. has had a major communications base used for commanding U.S. nuclear submarine and naval operations in the Indian Ocean. Already one portion of the Horn — Somalia — is under a socialist government that is close to the Soviet Union.

With the failed Uganda coup attempt the operation in Ethiopia has failed with even more of a vengeance. As sources outlined, in early February there was a coup attempt in Ethiopia by a group of pro-U.S. officers of the ruling military junta, who hoped to clear out the remaining influence of a group of radical nationalist military officers allied with an important circle of pro-Soviet socialist intellectuals and trade unionists. The coup not only failed but the entire circle of pro-U.S. officers was killed in the attempt, leaving the government firmly in the control of the pro-socialist grouping who have since moved rapidly to align Ethiopia with the non-aligned and socialist countries and begin cleaning out of the military and other layers the extensive influence of both U.S. and Israeli intelligence agencies.

Two immediate questions for the new Ethiopian regime are the resolution of the numerous tensions on the borders with socialist Somalia to the east and Sudan to the north, and dealing with the tremendous internal breakdown and subversion operations. The longstanding Ethiopia-Somalia dispute is now being mediated by

African countries, including Tanzania, and the Ethiopian government has publicly stated its desire to establish cooperative relations with Somalia. Sudan, which has been backing the secessionist movement in the northern Ethiopian province of Eritrea, is a larger problem which remains to be peacefully solved. The Sudanese bear a grudge against Ethiopia dating to Israeli intelligence use of Ethiopia as a base for running a major secessionist movement in southern Sudan.

Since the coup the new regime in Ethiopia faces a massive U.S.-run campaign of terror and assassination against government leaders and their supporters. In the capital city of Addis Ababa the Maoist "Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Party," a U.S. intelligence agency creation, has carried out the killings including among their recent victims the head of the trade union federation.

The *New York Times* and *Washington Post* correspondents in Addis have been churning out stories on the instability of the new government, described as a "dictatorship" based on "violence" — all aimed at creating the climate for a second attempt at destabilization of that strategic country. Secretary of State Vance added his bit by announcing a cutoff of U.S. military aid to Ethiopia, under the guise of violations of "human rights," a convenient rationale for the fact that the formerly U.S.-tied regime has announced it will now seek arms from the socialist countries.

But this face-saving posture has fooled no one. "The decision of the American Department of State to reduce financial aid... to Ethiopia, is officially inspired by moral considerations," comments the French daily *Le Monde* Feb. 28, but it also "ratifies an undeniable loss of American influence in a country which was a longstanding privileged ally of Washington in eastern Africa."

An Interview With Ethiopia's Mengistu — The Man Carter Wanted Out

The Carter Administration's attempted coup to eliminate the alliance of Lt.-Col. Mengistu Haile Marian and Haile Fida, pro-Soviet director of the Office of Political and Mass Organizing (OPMO) in Ethiopia, has instead left Mengistu and Fida in a stronger position. The coup was to have capped a four-month Chile-type chaos operation of terror, assassination, and economic sabotage that had been underway since the arrival in Ethiopia of U.S. Ambassador and CIA operative McMurtrie Godley in September.

After finding out about the coup plans, according to the Yugoslav press agency Tanjug, Mengistu on Feb. 3 had Dergue president Teferi Bante and six other Dergue members who were on the inside of the operation arrested. He then called an emergency meeting of the rest of the Permanent Committee, the 17-member highest body of the Ethiopian government, showing them working documents found in the possession of the plot-

ters which laid out plans to profoundly revise the political line put into effect by Mengistu and Fida.

In the course of this meeting the security chief of the Dergue headquarters burst into the meeting and opened fire on the participants, killing Dr. Senaye Likke, a close collaborator of Fida, Lt.-Col. Daniel Asfaw, Dergue member, and an unidentified soldier before he himself was killed. After this panic-stricken response to the arrests was dealt with, the seven conspirators were executed.

Of the seven insiders to the operation, there were two ringleaders: Alemayeu Haile and Mogus Wolde Michael, both avowed enemies of Fida. Mogus, who played the primary role, was trying to reverse specific policies put through by Mengistu and Fida, such as the reorganization of the agent-ridden labor union, elimination of the ultra-leftist countergang, EPRP.