

Will Jimmy Carter attempt another 'Bay of Pigs'?

by Cynthia Rush

According to reports received by *EIR* this week, London policymakers have indicated that once again, they intend to unleash their "dumb giant," the United States, against Cuba.

A Jan. 19 *London Times* OpEd reports that several members of Britain's Tory Party are urging Margaret Thatcher's government to encourage the United States to militarily occupy Cuba in response to Soviet action in Afghanistan. This proposal was raised explicitly at a recent meeting of the Conservative Foreign Affairs Committee in London with the idea that if the U.S. were to take such action, it could remove "this Soviet proxy from the world at a strike."

In 1961, London worked through the Kennedy administration and led the United States into one of the biggest foreign policy fiascos in its history: the Bay of Pigs invasion. Now those London circles propose that the Carter administration give a repeat performance—with one significant difference. In light of the international strategic situation, and the Soviet Union's stern warnings that it will not tolerate threats to *any* Socialist country, what the Tories propose goes far beyond disaster. The militarization of the entire Caribbean region—including Mexico—which would ensue from either a blockade or direct U.S. attack on Cuba, could be a spark leading toward a Third World War.

Nonetheless, the appropriate representatives of U.S. business and political circles are already mouthing Britain's suicidal invasion line, and boasting they can take on the Soviets "in our own backyard"—the Caribbean—"teaching them a lesson." Among the series of provocations being discussed is the proposal made a few days ago by a Georgetown University source to set up a naval blockade of Cuba. "The one real advantage of going after Cuba is that it's closer to home," this source bragged. The Soviets, she continued, would not respond to a blockade of Cuba because the penalties for them would be "too great."

This same source, who is in Democratic Party circles close to Senators Henry Jackson and Daniel Moynihan, commented that "I want Cuba and the U.S.S.R. to understand that ... the destabilization of Cuba is in no way out of bounds." The United States no longer has an obligation to respect agreements made since the 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis relating to Cuba's internal situation, she explained, saying that the Carter administration politically and *militarily* should also support efforts to force the Cubans out of Angola.

Every single presidential candidate—with the exception of Democrat Lyndon LaRouche—is displaying the same kind of bravado. Both John Connally and Ronald Reagan have virtually called for an invasion of Cuba. In a speech before the South New Hampshire Chamber of Commerce Jan. 17, Connally detailed his "get-tough" line:

... The truth of the matter is that we're engaged now in a battle with the Soviet Union for the resources of the world—the Free World—not just the United States. Let me tell you what progress they've made. Let's think for a moment. They've had a base in Cuba for a long time. They're using that base now in an overt manner to extend the influence of the Soviet Union in Central America, South America, and on the African continent as well.

What will we do? My answer would simply be that if, indeed, the Soviets move to take over Iran, to control the resources of that nation, then we should immediately impose a selective blockade on the Straights of Hormuz, of Iran, seize the Island of Kharg from which they ship all of their oil. We should immediately impose a total blockade on Cuba itself, a satellite of the Soviet Union.

We should make it abundantly clear that we will not lift that blockade until, indeed, the Cuban troops are out of South Yemen, out of Angola, out

of Ethiopia and indeed, until they've withdrawn their terrorist forces and their troublemakers in all of the Western Hemisphere. Make it abundantly clear to the Soviets that we, indeed, are going to be embarked on a program of rebuilding a foreign policy that will make possible the expulsion of Soviet influence and Communist influence from the Western Hemisphere which is our backyard. That's what we ought to be talking about and that's what we ought to be preparing to do....

Trying to sound as tough as his Republican opponents, 'liberal' Ted Kennedy last week charged that the Soviets might have hesitated in entering Afghanistan had Carter taken stronger action against the Cubans in Africa last fall.

Cuban "liberation?"

Although the Carter administration has not said a great deal officially with regard to its intentions toward Cuba, reliable Cuban sources have expressed the view that the administration has defacto renounced agreements made following the 1962 Missile Crisis and is considering some kind of military action.

On Jan. 15, Carter told Washington press representatives that a beefed-up series of naval and military maneuvers in the Caribbean, Panama and Gulf of Mexico was a response to "Cuban adventurism in Latin America."

There are also reports of military and naval maneuvers taking place in, and just off the coast of, the state of Louisiana. Troops could be deployed to Cuba from this point.

What suggests that an "inside-outside" operation is being planned against Cuba, in which outside attack or blockade is coupled with an anti-Castro "insurrection" inside the country, is the series of articles published over the last week in both U.S. and British press. An article in the Jan. 19 issue of the London *Economist* emphasized that Cuba was suffering from economic decay, dissent, repression and racism and strongly implied that the island nation could soon be ripe for popular insurrection. Other press articles have cited the recent cabinet shake-up in Cuba as "evidence" that a major internal crisis exists.

The reality that these and other self-consoling articles ignore, however, is that in the 20 years since Fidel Castro took power, Cuba has become a nation-state, despite constant and enormous political and economic pressures from the United States. If an attempt to destroy Cuba does not lead directly to nuclear confrontation with the Soviet Union, at the very least it portends another major foreign policy debacle for the United States.

'Irans to the south'

Jesuit 'mullahs' lead Latin insurrections

A little noted article appearing in the *New York Post* early in January, reported that the head of an influential but behind-the-scenes consulting firm, Probe, International, is now advising its clientele that Catholic countries, notably those in Latin America, will soon be swept by "clerical revolutions," similar to Iran's "mullah-led" horror. Proponents of the "theology of liberation"—purportedly the idea that priests and the church must take an active role in overthrowing the "oppressors" of the people—are leading the radicalization of the Catholic hierarchy, according to Probe, exemplified by the role of priests in the Nicaraguan Revolution six months ago, and the increasingly active leadership of strikes in Brazil by Catholic priests of that country.

"The big question now," the *Post* article notes, "is whether this trend will intensify in Brazil and spread to other Latin American countries ... such as Argentina, Chile, Guatemala and Mexico."

But Benjamin Weiner, the head of Probe, International who offered this analysis, is not merely "asking" the questions; he (and his friends) specializes in fulfilling his own predictions. Probe, which advises multinational corporations on investment "climates" abroad, for example, cites its earlier "predictions" that Iran and Afghanistan would soon become tinderboxes under the effects of religious developments, as an example of its capabilities.

Probe's "insight" was simple: they were on the inside in bringing the Ayatollah Khomeini to power in Iran. The fact that Weiner's attention is now focused on Latin America is cause for concern, but also provides U.S. corporations and Latin American leaders a major lead in their investigations into spreading civil war in the area.

"Cleric-led revolutions" in Central America are already underway. In Guatemala, official representatives of the Society of Jesus's (Jesuit Order) Central America and Panama mission issued a statement denouncing the "anti-Christian" and oppressive nature of the admittedly