
Northern Africa

Britain manipulates Moroccan insurgents

by Douglas De Groot, Africa Editor

The Secretary General of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), Edem Kodjo, unilaterally seated a delegation of the Polisario Liberation Front as a full OAU member-government at the opening of what was to have been a routine Feb. 22 OAU budgetary meeting in Addis Ababa. The Polisario guerrilla organization, nomads backed by Libya and Algeria, has fought a seven-year war against the Moroccan regime of King Hassan II, seeking to have the desert south of Morocco, the Western Sahara, declared an independent micro-state.

Kodjo's sudden extension of recognition, prepared in secret without consulting OAU Chairman Moi of Kenya, provoked an immediate walk-out by 19 delegations of the 50 present. It portends an intensified and "internationalized" Western Sahara conflict, featuring U.S. involvement on the side of the king. It also portends an acute weakening of the OAU, which could cease to exist as an effective instrument for handling African crises.

Morocco was colonized by two powers, France and Spain, the Western Sahara being the former Spanish Sahara. Since 1956, several parts of this area have been joined with formerly French Morocco proper, but the majority of the 120,000 nomadic inhabitants, whipped up by Libya's Qaddafi and short-sighted support from neighboring Algeria, have never been integrated, instead fighting a sometimes bloody war against the monarchy.

At the last OAU summit, King Hassan agreed to a referendum for the Western Sahara. But with Edem Kodjo's recent admitting of Polisario as a recognized government, the referendum is obviously preempted, leaving King Hassan almost no political alternative but to intensify efforts to crush the Polisario rebels.

One of my sources has expressed the fear that "this could lead to a split of the OAU into two organizations, one moderate, the other radical, leaving Africa with no way of dealing with the crises that are being stirred up, and leaving African nations extremely vulnerable to those trying to prevent these nations' development."

Edem Kodjo, from Togo, has closely associated himself in recent years with the Club of Rome, and in particular, its co-founder, Dr. Alexander King. These are circles most interested in preventing African nations' development.

It has been an objective of networks associated with the Club of Rome to depopulate the African continent. Were it possible to draw the United States into "rapid deployment force" involvement in a regional war, these circles reason, all positive U.S. influence in Africa could be eliminated. At present, high-level circles of the British House of Lords are speaking of having Europe under British leadership intervene in Africa as a "Third Force." The content of "Third Force" policy would be that of the Brandt Commission (named for the Socialist International's Willy Brandt), "decoupling" the economies of severely destabilized countries from industrialized nations and returning them to the status of mere raw-materials sources. The Club of Rome's depopulation objective would then be achieved soon enough.

According to Simon May, an aide to former British Prime Minister Edward Heath of the Brandt Commission, the Moroccan-Polisario conflict holds the potential to become an African "El Salvador," not only involving the United States, but with the same potential for discrediting the United States amid nation-wrecking and genocide as the Central American "population war." The Heath aide called the Western Sahara crisis "the most serious crisis after the Israel-Palestine conflict."

The U.S. is preparing to become involved, on cue. Secretary of State Haig, a Club of Rome supporter, recently sent CIA chief Vernon Walters to meet with King Hassan to pledge U.S. support. Similarly the U.S. Ambassador, Joseph Werner Reed, has sought to win Hassan into an open alliance with the United States against the rebels. Reed is a former top-level Chase Manhattan official whom David Rockefeller personally intervened with President Reagan to have appointed. Meanwhile the same Club of Rome-linked (Propaganda-2 Freemasonic) networks to which Haig, Rockefeller, and Walters are linked are behind Muammar Qaddafi's support of Polisario.

Former revolutionary leader Ben Bella is reportedly preparing to "whip up the mobs" in Algeria to retake power on the basis of Islamic fundamentalist furor, which would find a convenient target in U.S. involvement in Morocco. Inside Morocco, too, Islamic fundamentalist ferment includes widely circulated tapes by blind Sheikh Kishk, imprisoned for subversion by Egypt's Sadat. Since the Shah's fall, the same British-supported Muslim Brotherhood networks have targeted the Moroccan monarchy for overthrow. "Without the monarchy in Morocco," I was told by someone who is no friend of the king's, "you would have permanent destabilization."

Thus, Edem Kodjo's recognition of Polisario is, in effect, a well-timed contribution to the staging of crisis and warfare in northern Africa along the lines of the present Central American situation. If it develops according to plan, at least two nations, Morocco and Algeria, won't survive.