

The sudden French reversal contrasts sharply with France's previous passive reaction to the massive Libyan airlift of arms and troops into Chad which began in mid-October. The estimated 4,500 troops of Qaddafi's mercenary "Islamic Legion," plus Soviet-supplied Libyan tanks, artillery, and aircraft resulted in the Libyan takeover of civil war-racked Chad on Dec. 15.

During this period, the French foreign ministry only issued a mildly-worded statement of concern in the week before the takeover of Chad's capital city, Ndjamena. The statement did not mention Libya by name.

However, the Libyan announcement of its annexation of Chad, came only a few hours after the news was leaked in France that the French government-controlled oil company Elf-Acquitaine, had just been granted five oil-exploration contracts in Libya. This was interpreted as a payoff for French passivity.

In fact, during the late-November Libyan buildup in Chad, Alban Chalandon, president of Elf, was in Libya finalizing the deals. But when the deals were leaked, Industry Minister André Giraud issued a communiqué saying: "The French government was not consulted on the opportunity of concluding an oil agreement between Elf and the Libyan government and thus has not given its approval." Industry Minister Giraud, an advocate of dirigist economic policy, has tangled with Chalandon before, including last July when Chalandon lost his position as president of the ELF holding company.

A change in Soviet policy away from supporting Qaddafi may have provided Giscard the opening to again push an activist Africa policy of Arab petrodollars and European technology—Giscard's triologue conception.

The Soviets, under the influence of the KGB "destabilization faction," had been backing Qaddafi's policy of destroying Africa, seeing this as a way of weakening the West. This same KGB faction has been blackmailing

Giscard, threatening to order the French Communist Party to back the Socialist Party presidential candidate, which would jeopardize Giscard's re-election.

François-Poncet's statement in the Ivory Coast, before going on the first official French visit to Angola Jan. 11, that France intends to develop economic relations with countries linked to Moscow lends further credence to the view that the launching of the French anti-Qaddafi campaign may coincide with the Brezhnev pro-"trialogue" faction's gaining the initiative over the KGB "destabilization group."

Qaddafi has made no secret of his intentions. He refers to Chad as part of Libya's "vital living space." He intends to use Chad as the springboard in sub-Saharan Africa to destabilize the rest of central and western Africa. In mid-October he called on the nomadic Tuaregs to revolt: "I declare the frontiers of Libya open to the sons of the Tuaregs in Mali and Niger. I call on them to revolt, raise their heads and take up arms." More than a half dozen African countries have already either broken relations with Libya or kicked out Libyan diplomats. Nigerian officials have charged Libya with involvement in late-December cult riots in Kano, Nigeria, which resulted in the deaths of thousands. As a result of the threat represented by Libya, Nigeria has substantially increased its defense budget.

François-Poncet has bluntly stated that France will not recognize the Libyan annexation since it was not approved by the population. In addition, members of the Organization of African Unity-appointed provisional government in Chad (which Qaddafi claims is allied with Libya) have now opposed the annexation. Chadian Vice-President Kamougue called the claim "an impossible marriage," and Education Minister Abba Siddick said Jan. 9 "that the grand majority of Chadian people will reject the satellization of their country by Libya and that Libyan troops will come up against a popular armed resistance. All the neighboring countries of Chad are now in danger of being destabilized. The most threatened in the short term, in my opinion, is Sudan." A French military delegation arrived in Sudan Jan. 11.

On Jan. 12 OAU chairman, Sierra Leone President Siaka Stevens, opened an emergency meeting of 12 African leaders to organize an emergency OAU summit to deal with the Libyan annexation of Chad, which Sudan President Numeiry had already offered to host. On Jan. 14 the Libyan representatives stalked out of the discussions, which indicates that they had not been successful in preventing the upcoming summit from undoing Libya's annexation of its neighbor.

Qaddafi on Adolf Hitler

In a radio broadcast from Tripoli, Libya on Jan. 9, Libyan strongman Muammar Qaddafi said, according to the Jan. 11-12 issue of *Le Monde*, that "those who, in studying history, have qualified Hitler as 'a crazy dictator who wanted to colonize the world' said this because Hitler was beaten. If he had won, Nazism would not have been considered as a bad thing.

"It is the allies who made a bad thing of Nazism and have presented it that way."

In the article titled "Nigeria: the plan for disintegration" in the Jan. 13 EIR, the party headed by Obafemi Awolowo was incorrectly identified as the Nigeria People's Party. It should have read Unity Party of Nigeria.