

Africa Report by Douglas DeGroot and Mary Brannan

Bush: 'U.S. policy same as IMF's

The Vice-President offered the continent nothing substantial but a return to colonial raw-materials exporter status.

Vice-President George Bush made it unmistakably clear during his recent seven-nation tour of Africa, which is in its worst economic crisis since independence was granted in the early 1960s, that the United States intends to enforce precisely the same nation-destroying policies there which are presently being imposed by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and its soft-cop counterpart, the World Bank.

I described the destructive effects of these policies, as well as the World Bank blueprint for depopulation of Africa—the infamous Berg Report—in detail last week.

Bush was one of the earliest population-control activists in Congress, and is close to pro-eugenicist Averell Harriman.

Beginning Nov. 10, Bush visited Senegal, Nigeria, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Kenya, Zaire, and Cape Verde, and the main focus on his tour was economic policy. He delivered a statement in Nairobi Nov. 19, which was simultaneously released across the continent, entitled "A New Partnership with Africa."

While his language was vague and pleasant, the Vice-President left no doubt that U.S. policy in Africa is the same as that put forward by the Berg Report.

The report, taking advantage of the world economic crisis, presents a blueprint for forcing African nations to abandon any goals of industrialization and infrastructural development which would support a growing population density.

Instead the World Bank report lays out a plan for forcing African nations to become a collection of what will amount to self-ruling colonies providing minerals, along with cash crops produced by small-scale labor-intensive farms.

The report admits that the cause of the African crisis is the international economic depression, but then proceeds to avoid all discussion of the bankrupt Bretton Woods system which it is defending.

Under the guise of opposing corruption of government agencies in Africa, the Berg Report proposes eliminating the role of government altogether, thus eliminating the nation-state as a vehicle to the regional economy.

The Berg Report uses the catchphrase "economic restructuring"; Bush adopted the same approach in his statement and throughout his trip: "We are prepared to help give African governments the wherewithal, and the international political and financial backing, to take the steps . . . to restructure their economies."

Thus Bush offered assistance on condition that African nations consent to return their economies to the colonial model.

The Bush statement was carefully vetted by the State Department, the National Security Council, AID and other governmental agencies. During the trip Bush coordinated with the AID staff in each country he visited.

Under the direction of M. Peter McPherson, AID is committed to the

neo-colonial outlook of the Berg Report, instead of transmitting the original American model of high-technology development to the Southern Hemisphere.

In a November 1982 press conference, McPherson termed the Berg Report "excellent," called for still more stringent conditionalities from the IMF and World Bank, and declared that in the developing sector: "Universities don't contribute much, but they take a huge chunk of the budget."

McPherson then turned around and justified reducing capital inputs to the Third world because of lack of education.

"We have too often put in capital that a country wasn't able or didn't have the know-how to use [it] . . . this is true in Africa where people didn't have enough training to use what people can give them."

Throughout the trip Bush unequivocally supported South Africa's demand that the independence of Namibia, illegally controlled by South Africa, be made to hinge on the departure of the Cuban presence in Angola. Angola borders on Namibia, and part of Angola is occupied by South African troops.

Bush also said South Africa had a role to play in shaping security in southern Africa, siding with South Africa to provide a stick to "convince" Africans to accept his economic package.

Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Chester Crocker, a proponent of the South African position in southern Africa, left the tour to go to Pretoria to meet South African Foreign Minister Roelof Botha. Botha is coming to Washington Nov. 26 for talks with George Shultz, who is playing a decisive role these days on questions of the Reagan Administration's international economic policy.