

Britain's Lord Palmerston and Lord John Russell in the joint British-French-Spanish occupation and Nazi-like looting of Mexico during the period of the 1861–1865 war. For Abraham Lincoln and his associates, from the 1840s through the 1860s, the principal ally of the United States in Mexico was the force of nationalist *republicanos* then led by President Benito Juárez.

Today, the bearers of the *republicano* tradition of President Juárez are within the institutions of the Mexican constitutional government and the ruling political party of Mexico, the PRI. Within the PRI, the most relevant bastions of republicanism are threefold: 1) The bearers of the tradition of the Mexican generals allied with the author of the present Mexican constitution, President Obregon; 2) The victors of present Mexican trade-union (CTM) leader Fidel Velasquez's factional struggle against the Synarchist faction of Lomardo Toledano, and 3) bearers of these *republicano* traditions within the institutions of the Mexican government itself.

Whatever imperfections exist within the present government of Mexico and the PRI, and those imperfections are far less odious than those which have rotted out our own government and leading political parties, these are the viable forces within Mexico. Whoever sets out to destabilize those forces plunges Mexico into chaos.

Presidents Luis Echeverría and Jose López Portillo exemplify that Mexican *republicano* tradition. Whatever differences in style and differentiated outlook exist between those two Presidents, or between them and President Miguel de la Madrid, all are bearers of the constitutional tradition of Mexico. The policy of the United States in Ibero-America must become a fraternal process of consultation between the President of the United States and the Presidents of the republics of Ibero-America. However, because of the proximity of Mexico to our southern borders, and the large number of Americans of Mexican extraction among our citizens and residents, the fraternal relationship between the Presidents of the United States and Mexico must be of a special intensity of friendly collaboration. The other Presidents of Ibero-America would not object to such a special relationship to Mexico; for the other Presidents, our policy toward Mexico is the bellwether of our policy toward Ibero-America as a whole.

I plead with President Reagan to change immediately U.S. policy toward Mexico, to kick Henry Kissinger and Kissinger's military clones out of making of U.S. policy toward Mexico—and all of Ibero-America besides, and to resume the policies of the American Whig patriots such as Ambassador Poinsett and General Winfield Scott, including that great Republican President Abraham Lincoln, toward President Benito Juárez. The President must be freed from control of "Palace Guard" circles to learn at last the truth about the PAN, and thus to rid the United States of a policy toward Mexico which I must describe most charitably as "Nuts!"

## Moscow's political offensive in Africa

by Thierry Lalevée

While most observers have focused in recent weeks on the winds of change sweeping North Africa in the aftermath of the "union of states" between Morocco and Libya, few have considered the deeper political changes taking place throughout the continent. Though many African nations may have been disillusioned by Moscow's previous record on the fight for a new world economic order, as well as concrete economic and industrial aid, more and more countries in sub-Saharan Africa are turning to the Soviets and their allies. None of these countries can be considered either "socialist" or communist in the East European sense.

Such a turn, after the disaster brought about in Mozambique by 15 years of close cooperation with the Soviet bloc, says a lot about the willingness of the Western alliance to effectively "fight communism."

### Western economic failure

At the roots of the shift is the devastating economic crisis sub-Saharan and Saharan African countries face, and the unwillingness of the advanced sector to take the problem seriously. A case in point was displayed at the recent sessions of the World Bank and the argument over adding \$2 billion to a ridiculously small \$9 billion emergency aid program, which, as we have written, is already inadequate from any standpoint. While most countries agreed to the new fund, none volunteered any contributions. Washington argued that other agencies should be involved, adding that its own \$1 billion contribution to Africa this year was an "important effort," to quote Donald Regan, Treasury Secretary.

The kind of wideranging development program which is needed was surprisingly described, for the first time outside of our magazine, in the Sept. 14 issue of the French weekly magazine *Hebdo*, which stressed that "aid to Africa can only be massive: construction of ports, roads, new canals, drying of swamps, reforestation, dams, electrification, etc. Reason calls for major investments in Africa, which it could not finance, but which the Africans could benefit from."

Faced with a continuous economic disaster and no help forthcoming, many countries have begun to look eastward again. Moscow can easily display verbal opposition to IMF conditionalities and Western nation's support of them.

Africa has become a new battlefield for the proponents of

a "Planetary New Deal," as the Sept. 27 *Le Figaro* described the policies advocated by French Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson, talking of the need for better channels of cooperation between East and West, a diplomatic term for a new Yalta deal in which the future of Africa is to be sacrificed first.

The Western side of the proposed redivision of countries between East and West is about to lose simply everything. Take the case of the Libya-Morocco union, heralded in the West as a sign of Muammar Qaddafi's new moderation. He has signed a new deal with France on Chad and even withdrawn his ambassador from radical South Yemen. But it is not Qaddafi who is changing; it is France and Morocco. This was underlined in the interview given by King Hassan on Sept. 25 to the *New York Times*, where he adamantly defended Qaddafi and downplayed any record of Libyan involvement in international terrorism. Asked about the Sept. 20 terror bombing in Beirut, he merely commented that this would go on as long as "the United States does not seek a global and wider peace settlement in the Middle East in negotiations with the Soviet Union." Moscow propagandists could not have said it better, as King Hassan omitted to stress that this was the very reason Moscow was deploying terrorism in the first place.

### High level delegations

The African continent has received particular attention from very high level Soviet and East bloc delegations over the last two months. No one can quite remember the last time Shultz or any major American or European official visited sub-Saharan countries. Thus, while Moscow increases its political and military pressures on the Central European front, increases its military offensive in Afghanistan, and keeps Southeast Asia and the Pacific tense—not to mention the Middle East—Africa figures importantly into Soviet global strategy, too. From Central Europe to the Mediterranean region, the Middle East, and Africa, a complete process of encirclement and suffocation of Europe is in motion.

It was under the sponsorship of K. Demirchian, first secretary of the Communist Party of Armenia and Central Committee member of the CPSU, that the congress of Congo-Brazzaville's main political party was held last July. In mid-August, no less a personage than Politburo member Boris Ponomarev attended the political congress of the African National Union of Prime Minister Robert Mugabe in Zimbabwe. In early September, it was up to Politburo member Grigori Romanov to attend the celebrations of the tenth anniversary of the Ethiopian revolution and the first congress of the Ethiopian Workers' Party which has been described as a "communist Marxist-Leninist party."

Parallel to this Soviet political deployment have been endless military delegations or visits of other East bloc countries' leaders. For example, Erich Honecker of East Germany, whose country plays a most important role in Africa

on behalf of the Soviets, personally attended the Ethiopian celebrations as well as the Sept. 1 ceremonies in Tripoli. His presence in Tripoli was to celebrate both the 15th anniversary of Qaddafi's coup as well as the implementation of the union with Morocco. Similarly, Bulgaria's top leader, Todor Zhivkov, was in attendance in Addis Ababa. Militarily, no one could forget the visit to Ethiopia in late July of Marshal Petrov, as well as chief of staff Sergei Akhromeyev or the regional tour of Rear-Admiral Grobov.

Such visits have not been merely demonstrations of verbal support. In Ethiopia, Moscow committed itself to build a dam on the Awash river, a meat packing factory, a textile mill, a new cement plant, cattle ranches, etc. Whether Moscow actually delivers the goods is another question; confident of its political control, it doesn't mind if Western countries share the economic burden.

Moscow has given the green light to Addis Ababa for closer ties with London, to the point that Britain has been asked to be the mediator between Ethiopia and those Arab countries supporting the Erytrean and Tigris rebellions—a development doubtless the result of negotiations between London and Moscow on how to share African countries. Britain is again the leading power, with the Soviets, in Mozambique and is proud that it has "led Mozambique closer to the Western camp." This is a boast Moscow doesn't mind, as it has written off the country after having looted whatever was not nailed down.

### Enter the North Koreans

Perhaps as indicative as anything else of the depth of Moscow's offensive in Africa is the deployment to the continent of the North Koreans, apparently set to ultimately replace the tired Cubans in Angola. North Koreans are side by side with South African troops in Mozambique to protect the industrial sites of the country against the local rebellion. South Africa, in signing the treaty with Mozambique earlier this year, committed itself to defend some of the industrial centers of the country against the rebellion South Africa had previously backed . . . which, having lost its bases inside South Africa, moved directly inside Mozambique!

North Koreans are to be found in Uganda, side by side with British advisers, and in Zimbabwe, which was visited last August by Pak Song Chol, deputy president of the North Korean politburo. It was also the North Koreans, together with the East Germans, who ensured the success of the 1983 invasion of Chad by Libya. Their presence was so conspicuous that it was one reason behind the French refusal to move northward in Chad, out of fear of creating an international diplomatic incident!

The Soviet strategy right now is to spread as much as possible throughout the continent, to then concentrate on the wealthiest countries, for example, Nigeria. It will then hand over to the West those which have been destroyed in the process.