



United States needs to rethink its development aid to Third World

by Ahmed Kedidi

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. . . We would like to enumerate and decode the strong and weak points of American foreign policy.

In effect, after the disappointed hopes of the "Carter doctrine" we are left in the Gulf with a brutal change in the geopolitical map and the creation of new tensions (the extremist regime in Teheran and the Iran-Iraq war); in the Middle East with the collapse of the Camp David agreement; in Africa with the collapse of various civilian regimes; in Southeast Asia with the birth of new hegemonic tendencies over the ashes of authentic and legitimate popular movements; in Central America with the multiplication of brush fires and civil wars and instability; in Europe with the resurgence of a terrorism which is shaking up the old continent, and which calls into question the very foundations of democracy and the values of liberty and the rights of man.

In the midst of these failures, I believe, we must seek out the desire of the United States to revive its tradition as the standard-bearer of the democratic ideal in the world. It is the duty of this military and economic power to be equally and at the same time an intellectual and moral power. In this would lie not only the health of America, but also and assuredly the victory of liberty and peace.

In order to realize this noble task, it is necessary that the realistic and rationalist America be flanked by an imaginative and fertile America. Over and above the limits of its presence on the international scene, the United States must have this profound vision of the 21st century, must project its strategy into the future, i.e., direct its foreign policy toward the future of a world in which men will be not only independent but necessarily interdependent.

This is not possible in the context of a New Yalta. History evolves and never repeats itself. The world of 1984 is no longer that of 1945, which was then just emerging from a

war and adjusting to peace. The world of 1984 is in conflict and disarray. At the edge of the abyss, humanity is discovering the bankruptcy and fakery of "the ideologues."

In brief, the world is becoming unpredictable. A healthy policy consists in engaging in daily dialogue with the new realities and establishing dialectical relations with the world.

From our point of view, President Ronald Reagan embodies this spirit with dignity. With him, Americans are beginning a slow emergence from the troubled waters of the 1970s: goodbye to Vietnam, to Watergate, and goodbye also to the Teheran hostages affair and even Camp David.

The Middle East

Whoever speaks of Camp David incontestably stirs the embers that are still alive in the Middle East, one of the most tenacious of fires threatening the security and liberty of the world as a whole.

President Reagan has seemed to us Arabs to have detached himself from the spirit of Camp David in order to rethink this entire drama in all its complexity and to propose, through the Reagan peace plan, a more just solution that would take into account the rights of the Palestinian people to a state and a country, and at the same time the security of the state of Israel. But in fact, did not all the Arab states—whatever their differences on other matters—in Fez on Sept. 6, 1982, did they not all propose practically the same solution, based on international law and the recommendation of the United Nations in 1947 to accord the Jews and Palestinians the same right to create two states?

There is no doubt today that the Arabs accept this peace solution, and that the state of Israel persists in rejecting any solution, counting uniquely on its military superiority and on the (never critical) support of the American administration.

'You should teach me to fish'

America must understand that it has friends among all the Arabs and Third Worlders who are as anxious as the U.S. itself to perpetuate universal values of peace and the rights of men; who are as taken with liberty, stability and economic progress as is America; who are as respectful of the dignity of the individual and of his fundamental right to flourish apart from any bondage. But in order for America to comply effec-

tively with its vocation as the ladder of civilization it must help us, the nations of the Third World, to better master our national independence politically and economically; to better safeguard our respective sovereignties, thanks to an American policy no longer geared to providing the world with food aid but with aid for agricultural development, an irreplaceable source of progress, aiding us rationally to better exploit our water resources, the diversification of our production, the realization of our self-sufficiency in food. This is the greatest shield against the rise of political instability and social disorder.

The policies of the International Monetary Fund do not, unfortunately, correspond to these prerogatives. Since 1960, the resources of the IMF have been contracting. The sum of the quotas of the member countries dropped from 12% of the value of world imports to 4% in 1980, while the financing needs have constantly grown. This has favored an uncontrolled indebtedness on the part of the Third World, which has placed an increasing number of poor countries in a position of extreme vulnerability and of social and political tensions, thereby facilitating their dependence on their creditors or other foreign powers.

In order for America to comply effectively with its vocation as the ladder of civilization it must help us to better master our independence.

I will permit myself here to recall certain ideas of the Third World militant, Mr. Mohamed Mzali, Prime Minister of Tunisia, and a man of great universal culture, which allows him to have a global and rational vision of international relations. In his talks with President Reagan [state visit to Washington, April 1982], Mr. Mzali had raised and supported the necessity to rethink the philosophy and structures of development aid, such that it be transformed into an effective means for solidarity, guaranteeing our countries the capacity to develop and become self-sufficient and not an easy prey of problems of neo-colonialism.

Mr. Mzali loves to cite the ancient Chinese proverb which says that instead of giving me a fish you should teach me to fish. Mr. Mzali also spoke with President Reagan on the problem of the Middle East, pointing out that the Palestinians and Arabs who still speak the language of reason belong to the last generation whose culture, education, and spirit still allow for calm dialogue. The future generations will be led by despair and will destroy, at the expense of peace, all the bridges which link nations and cultures with a bond of civilization.

This would mean not only the destruction of the Third World, but surely also of the world as a whole.

The future of U.S.

by Rev. Dibala Mpolesha

The following is an abridged version of the policy paper presented to the Third International Schiller Institute Conference on Nov. 24-25, by the Rev. Dibala Mpolesha of Zaire. Reverend Mpolesha is the president of the Zaire Council of Churches and is the general director of the Ecumenical Center of Kinshasa, Zaire. He is also a founding member of the Club of Life.

I bring you the fraternal greetings of your brothers and sisters of Africa, and I speak to you both as a pastor and representative of the Third World. I would like first of all to express my joy at finding myself among you in the context of this forum.

My sincere felicitations and thanks are addressed to the Schiller Institute, to whom go the credit and the saving initiative of placing us in a dialogue that brings together two realities (church and society) to fight against the decoupling of the United States not only from Europe, but also from Africa and Asia, that is, the world in general.

Africa's geographic and demographic situation

Africa is a continent inhabited by over 470 million people, both white and black. It comprises over 54 independent countries, while the rest are still under the colonial yoke. I, who now speak to you, am an African from Zaire, formerly the Belgian Congo. It is a country inhabited by over 35 million people with a surface area of 2,345,445 square kilometers, meaning it has an average of ca. 15 inhabitants per square kilometer. In this it resembles the rest of Africa.

Africa contains all manner of raw materials in its soil, which are unfortunately exploited in the cyst economy.

Africa has problems, which are underdevelopment, ignorance, disease, misery of all types, and infant mortality. According to the reports of UNICEF, over 1 million infants die in Africa every year due to malnutrition and lack of care. In Africa, unemployment is growing because there is no employment market.

The situation which Africa is undergoing today is not only an internal one, but is more than anything else externally generated. Africa depends on certain factors which stem from the economy established by the great powers.