

British escalate the war in Sudan

by Joseph Brewda

During the first week of February, the Deputy Speaker of the British House of Lords, Baroness Cox, led a delegation to Washington to meet with U.S. policymakers. Her professed, if confidentially stated, purpose was to gain American support for a revived British effort to overthrow the Sudanese government. "We feel the time is now ripe for the U.S., with the support of Britain, to overthrow this regime," she privately told one congressman, after a Congressional Human Rights Caucus-sponsored press conference on Sudan on Feb. 6.

The Sudanese regime, however, is hardly on its last legs. Over recent months, the insurgent Sudanese Peoples Liberation Army (SPLA) has taken a severe beating, only subsisting through the safe-haven, logistical support, and troops supplied by Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni. Museveni works under the direction of Cox's crony, British Overseas Development Minister Lady Lynda Chalker.

Last year, Museveni, under direction from Lady Chalker, instigated the murder of hundreds of thousands of Rwandans when his Ugandan Army, under the rubric of the Rwandan Patriotic Front, invaded Rwanda.

British efforts to persuade Washington to aid their increased military operations in the region (in which the United States is being set up to take the blame), have had mixed results. The traditionally anglophile State Department endorsed the plan, as have such congressmen as Frank Wolf (R-Va.). On March 24, Cox's delegation returned for hearings before the House International Affairs Subcommittee on Africa. There, Wolf called for "stepped-up operations" against Sudan, while State Department Africa hand Edward Brynn said that a "closed session" would be needed to answer one congressman's query on whether the United States is supplying arms to the Sudanese opposition.

In her public testimony before Congress, and in other meetings, Cox and her associates charged that the Sudanese government was committing "genocide" and "ethnocide" against the Christian and animist tribes of the south. This provides public relations justification for British-orchestrated military and economic constriction of Sudan. Cox called upon the United States to aid Ugandan, Eritrean, and Ethiopian-based insurgencies against Sudan, and to impose an embargo against, and air-blockade over, Sudan.

Cox was speaking as an official of the Oxford-based Christian Solidarity International, which claims to protect Christians in Muslim lands. Together with the Royal African

Society and the Royal Geographic Society, the CSI is the British intelligence coordinator of the Sudanese opposition, including such groups as the SPLA, the Southern Sudan Independence Movement, the Sudanese Communist Party, the Umma party, and the Democratic Union Party, all of which are headquartered in London.

A new base in Eritrea

Aside from Uganda, which has been effectively recolonized by the British since Museveni came to power in 1986, London is now building up Eritrea as a new base for destabilizing both Sudan and Egypt. Carved out of Ethiopia's Red Sea coast in 1993 after a war lasting 30 years, cash-starved Eritrea has become a de facto British colony managed jointly by Uganda and Israel. President Assiyas Afwerki's close ties to Israel preceded independence; Israel has secured a naval base on Eritrea's Red Sea Dahlak Island.

Eritrea broke diplomatic relations with Sudan in December, when Sudan began pressuring Uganda for its operations on the Sudan border. That same month, Eritrea sponsored a meeting of the Sudanese opposition including representatives of the SPLA and the northern-based Democratic Unionist Party and Umma party. There the delegates for the first time agreed to the right of southern Sudan to secede. The resultant state would join the ranks of Rwanda and Burundi as satellites of Uganda.

For three weeks in February, Afwerki was in Washington, where he met with President Bill Clinton, State Department, Defense, and intelligence agency officials, as well as senior congressmen and business leaders. Through such means, the British Eritrean card has acquired a "Made-in-the-U.S.A." label.

Following this trip, Eritrea has become the new northern base of infiltration and subversion of Sudan, in a pincer with Uganda's role in the south. Western arms and training are to provide a capability for launching guerrilla operations against nearby Khartoum.

Preparing a new Israeli-Egyptian war?

Eritrea is also being used against Egypt, with which it has unfriendly relations. The failure of the Israeli-Palestinian accords to so far reach their potential, due to sabotage from London and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), has reportedly lured some British-manipulated Israeli circles into contemplating war with Egypt over the mid-term.

Christian Solidarity International has been orchestrating Christian-Muslim violence in southern Egypt, blamed on Sudan. The devastating effects of IMF conditionalities on Egypt have radicalized the population, and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's crude efforts to crush the growing Islamic movement are creating the conditions for a coup. The coming to power of a new regime could be the pretext for an Israeli-Egyptian war, drowning the Israeli-Palestinian accords in blood.