

# McKinney calls for U.S. peace policy for Africa

by Linda de Hoyos

In a letter to President William Clinton dated Aug. 31 and publicized in late September, U.S. Rep. Cynthia McKinney (D-Ga.) has challenged the Clinton administration to drastically change its policy in Africa, from one of war, to that of peace. McKinney, a member of the House Subcommittee on International Operations and Human Rights, wrote the letter upon return from a visit to the Democratic Republic of Congo, where she met with “committed individuals from myriad walks of life.”

She told the President bluntly: “Unfortunately, I feel compelled to report to you that crimes against humanity are being committed in the Democratic Republic of Congo and throughout Africa, seemingly with the help of your administration. I would suggest to you that U.S. policy in the Democratic Republic of Congo has failed and it is another example of our policy failures across the continent. One only has to point to diplomatic duality in Ethiopia and Eritrea, indecisiveness and ambivalence in Angola, indifference in Democratic Republic of Congo, the destruction of democracy in Sierra Leone, and inflexibility elsewhere on the continent. The result is an Africa policy in disarray, a continent on fire, and U.S. complicity in crimes against humanity.

“Mr. President, everywhere, people whisper it, but are too ‘polite’ to say it out loud: Your Africa policy has not only *not* helped to usher in the so-called ‘African renaissance’ but has contributed to the continued pain and suffering of the African peoples.” The Congresswoman specifically asks the President to take “personal charge of our policy. It is now time for you to personally engage on these important issues. I stand ready to be your ally on the Hill for all these important issues. We all know that when you get involved in a concerted push for peace it does make a difference. The time for your personal engagement is now.”

## A policy scripted in London

With this call to the President, McKinney is directly challenging the policymakers who are responsible for carrying out a policy toward Africa that has been irrelevant to U.S. national interests, but was scripted in London. That policy, as reported consistently in *EIR* since 1994, centers around the creation of warlords who, while carrying out the demands of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in their own countries, have also been unleashed to begin wars throughout the conti-

nent against the sovereign states of Africa.

The London blueprint centered around Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni, Rwandan Vice President Paul Kagame, Ethiopian President Meles Zenawi, and Eritrean President Isaias Afwerki. The United States was hooked on this policy around the alleged national security threat posed by the government of Sudan to United States. In Africa, the London script has resulted in wars, destabilizations, and economic pressures—in complete contrast to the President’s own stated policy of a Partnership with Africa for trade and development.

In Washington, the war party has been protected at the State Department by Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, and centers around Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Susan Rice; John Prendergast, formerly of the National Security Council and now with the U.S. Institute for Peace; Roger Winter, executive director of the U.S. Committee on Refugees; and, on Capitol Hill, Rep. Donald Payne (D-N.J.) of the House Subcommittee on Africa.

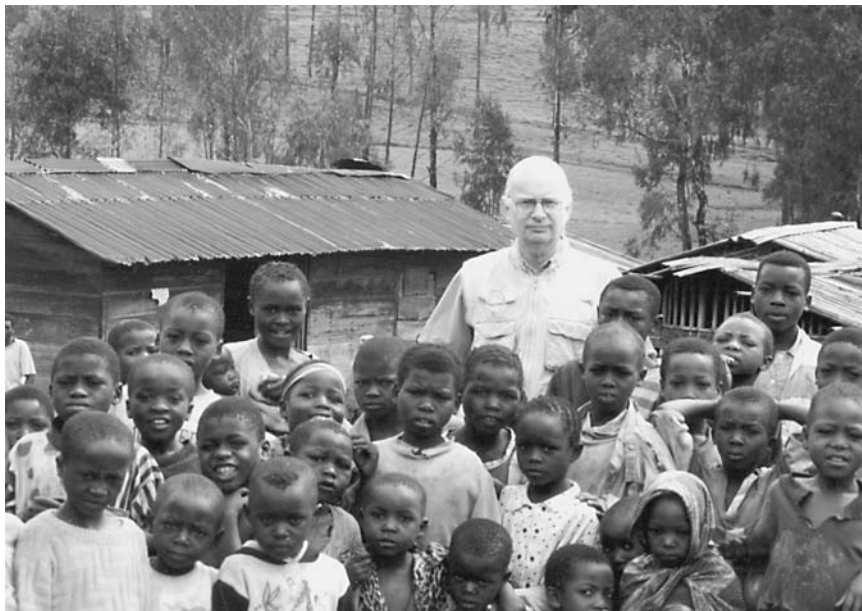
Without naming names, McKinney draws an accurate picture of the effects of this London war policy on Africa *and* the perception of the United States among Africans. Addressing the President, she writes: “Your failure to intervene and stop the illegal invasion of the Democratic Republic of Congo by your allies, Uganda and Rwanda, has directly led to the commission of crimes against humanity by their troops in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

“Even now, you ask the world to shadow-kiss this outrageous policy by calling these two countries uninvited when the world knows that both Uganda and Rwanda are military aggressors deep in the territory of the Democratic Republic of Congo, far away from their borders. The atrocities being suffered daily by all the people of this region are outrageous and are compounded by bad U.S. policy and indifferent U.S. leadership.”

## IMF blackmail

The Congresswoman is addressing a U.S. policy which offered no resistance to the Ugandan-Rwandan invasion of the Congo in August 1998. When Congo President Laurent Kabila called upon Zimbabwe, Namibia, and Angola to help defend his country against the invasion, the State Department demanded that “all parties” withdraw from the Congo. Whereas Uganda has received debt relief and mountains of monies—\$2.2 billion—from the Paris Club to carry out its militarist expansionism, the IMF and the Paris Club have put pressure on Angola and Zimbabwe, with the unspoken demand that Zimbabwe must withdraw from the Congo if it wants to receive a tranche of its debt facility, which had already been guaranteed!

The State Department has been silent on the issue of the Ugandan-Rwandan effective annexation of eastern Congo and the pattern of consistent atrocities carried out against



Roger Winter, Director, U.S. Committee for Refugees, in Zaire, January 1997.

the Congolese people in the occupied zones. Instead, it has assiduously endorsed the “security concerns” of Rwanda and Uganda and their right to be deep inside the Congo in order to deal with them. Meanwhile, the continuing conflagration in the Congo has extended the war to engulf all of central Africa, including Angola and the Republic of Congo. As McKinney notes, the Clinton administration’s de facto support to Uganda and Rwanda has earned it the opprobrium of Africans throughout the region.

### Roger Winter’s fake confessions

Representative McKinney is drawing the President’s attention to the suffering of Africans at the hands of the war policy, and noting that such a policy therefore stands in contrast to the aspirations and principles of the American republic. However, even in its own terms, the war policy has been an abject failure, as noted by one of its most strenuous proponents, Roger Winter. In a conference of the Ethiopian Community Development Council on Sept. 18, Winter broke away from his prepared remarks to state that he had been wrong in endorsing “the new breed of African leaders.” According to members of the audience, Winter said that he and others had put high hopes on the “new breed,” but now all these leaders are fighting among themselves.

The aim, for instance, had been to create a military coalition against Sudan, around Uganda, Eritrea, Ethiopia, and the Congo. But events happened otherwise. In May 1998, Eritrea invaded Ethiopia, and the two countries have been engaged in ferocious trench warfare since; their joint operations against Sudan’s eastern border disintegrated. Although Kabila had been put in the Presidency by the

Rwandan-Ugandan armies in 1997, fifteen months later, Uganda and Rwanda were invading Congo again, since Kabila had reneged on his part of the bargain to hand over all the spoils of Congo to the British Commonwealth companies backing the “new breed.” Now, and the worst, as Winter bemoaned, Rwanda and Uganda are fighting in eastern Congo against each other over the gold and diamonds the region is drenched with.

The coalition of the “new breed” which, as per the 1994 Pan-African Congress in Kampala, was to redraw the map of the African continent by military force, has disintegrated. Winter et al. not only backed the new breed, but also helped bring them to power. Winter was with Museveni in the bush in 1983, three years before the Ugandan guerrilla leader came to power. Winter

supported and backed the formation of the Rwandan Patriotic Front, organized a conference of its adherents in Washington, D.C. in 1988, and encouraged its invasion from Uganda of Rwanda in 1990. According to his own Congressional testimonies, Winter accompanied Kagame’s RPF front line when it blitzkrieged through Rwanda in the summer of 1994. He was with Kabila in November 1997, when the Ugandan and Rwandan troops then backing Kabila assaulted the Rwandan refugee camps, killing thousands and herding thousands more at gunpoint back into Rwanda.

There is no indication that Winter has learned anything from the debacle his policy has caused in U.S. foreign policy, or in the millions of dead Africans it has left in its wake. Disappointment in the “new breed” has not ended the State Department’s support for John Garang and the Sudanese People’s Liberation Army, which continue to wage a militarily hopeless war in southern Sudan, with backing in money and arms from Winter et al. Peace is not the goal of American foreign policy toward Sudan—but continuing war—even though 2 million southern Sudanese people have already died, according to the body count published by Winter’s own U.S. Committee for Refugees. Winter has reportedly stated that the deaths of so many southern Sudanese “is the price that must be paid.”

Thus, the *British methodology* of backing those who are determined to come to power by the gun continues at the State Department, and until it is overturned, U.S. policy will make the United States a target of hatred, not hope, among Africans. In combination with continued reliance on the conditionalities policies of the IMF, such a U.S. policy is guaranteed to result in the mass deaths of Africans.