

AFRICA

The Effort For African Peace and Development

Nov. 27 (NSIPS) — The motion by key European and Arab forces toward a break with the dollar monetary system has pried off the dollar lid imposed on Africa since the post-World War II period and has opened up opportunities for African countries to work out new alliances and orientations which have the potential for a rapid increase in trade and development.

The East African country of Tanzania, Nigeria in West Africa, and the north African countries of Algeria and Libya are playing key roles in realizing this realignment, in cooperation with Europe and the Comecon.

Tanzania, with India, is organizing oil supplies for eastern and southern African countries independent of the Rockefeller seven sisters oil companies to combat oil blackmail threats. And a independent West African economic organization, Ecowas, including for the first time both French and English-speaking countries of the region, has been pulled together recently under the guidance of Nigeria.

The activity of Great Britain is in part responsible for both these developments. Britain is working closely with its Commonwealth partners, including Tanzania and Nigeria, in its fight against International Monetary Fund austerity demands and economic blackmail. Tanzanian President Julius Nyerere visited Nigeria a week ago. At the end of his visit, Nigeria and Tanzania issued a joint communique Nov. 22 demanding that Britain do its part in eliminating the primary stumbling block in anger posed by the Ian Smith illegal regime in Rhodesia, backed by Henry Kissinger and Jimmy Carter. Britain has now complied with the African request.

In north Africa, the pro-development governments of Algeria and Libya this past week reiterated their intention of organizing a regional development bloc including the Sahel states of West Africa. At a meeting in Tripoli, Libya Nov. 23, the Presidents of Algeria, Libya, and Niger discussed how to move internationally to achieve regional development. Algerian President Boumedienne called for broader participation, mentioning specifically Chad and Mali. Mali and Niger are also both members of the newly formed Ecowas.

Indian Cooperation

The basis for the present intervention by India into African development was laid by Prime Minister Indira Gandhi during her October trip to the front-line states of Tanzania and Zambia. Her explicit purpose was to aid in the economic development of the African countries involved in the confrontation with the minority regimes in southern Africa, and agreements of cooperation were made.

In addition to organizing new oil supplies for African countries, India is sending experts to aid in development projects in Mozambique and Tanzania.

The Commonwealth Secretariat, headed by a Nigerian, also involved in coordinating Indian cooperation in African development is helping to expand several industrial enterprises in Tanzania and improve the quality of their production. An Indian consultant firm, engaged by the Commonwealth Secretariat through the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation will examine the working of 21 industrial com-

panies formed by the Tanzanian National Development Corporation. The National Industrial Development Council of India has extensive experience in development consultation in many fields of industrial development in India, as well as several countries abroad including Iran and Libya, in addition to Tanzania itself.

All Indian ambassadors to Africa have been called to New Delhi for a Dec. 14 meeting, according to the Indian press.

Nigerian Initiative

The Economic community of West Africa (Ecowas), is made up of the 15 West African countries. Under the initiative of Nigeria, Ecowas intends to make the region into one economic entity, concentrating on freedom of trade between members, and a freedom of movement of the populations, and coordinated strategies of industrial development.

The treaty just agreed to provides for cooperation on agricultural policy, including setting up agro-industry concerns and joint agricultural research. Ecowas also intends to harmonize infrastructural development and monetary policy of the member nations. Industrial cooperation will include creating a "uniform industrial climate" so countries will avoid unnecessary duplication of projects, and will exchange feasibility studies for various development schemes, as well as sharing the services of experts.

Comecon Input

The Comecon sector has reinforced the surge in development activity in Africa. The East German magazine *Horizont* this week addressed the question of African development by singling out the African Development Bank (ADB), headquartered in West Africa. *Horizont* notes that the ADB is set up to carry out regional development projects, and distinguishes the ADB from the International Monetary Fund's Inter-American and Asian Development Banks because its shares are distributed among contributing countries, freeing it from domination by imperialist monopolies and banks. But *Horizont* adds that the ADB is not able to carry out regional development projects, despite cooperation with several United Nations planning organizations, because it cannot get enough capital. *Horizont* also points out that the ADB participated in the last executive meeting of the International Investment Bank of Comecon, hinting that Comecon may be thinking about how to remedy the sabotage of Africa's development.

Coordination With Europe

The most evident example of Europe's involvement in this African realignment has been the European-African cooperation to defuse the Rhodesia war threat being used by Kissinger-Carter forces to destabilize the emerging anti-dollar line up. On Nov. 24 Italian Foreign Minister Arnaldo Forlani and British Foreign Secretary Anthony Crosland discussed the Rhodesian crisis, and the role Britain was planning to play in guaranteeing a transfer to majority rule which would satisfy African leaders. This meeting, which took place in London between representatives of two of the prominent anti-dollar forces in Europe, came just after Crosland went to Yugoslavia and after the joint communique from Tanzania and Nigeria

governments called on Britain to declare without qualification March 1, 1978 as the date for Rhodesian independence.

This communique was issued Nov. 22; the following day Britain did just what the communique demanded. Rockefeller allies Ian Smith and South African Prime Minister Vorster are now isolated, and the way is open for Britain to take the necessary measures to guarantee the transition, including the appointment of a British Governor-General for the interim period until independence, as well as a Commonwealth

peacekeeping force.

Yesterday the African nationalist delegations at the Geneva talks on Rhodesia agreed with the British proposal, opening the way for serious negotiations to get underway on majority rule. Any war moves now by Smith and Vorster should backfire, since the present commitment from Europe and Africa for a peaceful settlement will make it next to impossible for Smith to depict himself as the victim of unwarranted attack in hopes of justifying aid from the Carter-Kissinger forces in the U.S.

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