

aggression against the Popular Republic of Benin has permitted access to the list of European mercenaries of the commando squad: they are almost all French, were trained in Morocco, and there were also indications of the French banks where their pay was deposited in their accounts. Without doubt, it is not Paris which organized the aggression; it is the African states, "friends of France," precisely those whom Giscard wants to "protect."

Was it done without the green light from someone in Paris? One can try to believe that if one wants. In Brazzaville a few weeks ago, President Nguabi was

assassinated by an ex-captain, a former super-cop who was linked to the French intelligence services, and was the collaborator of Massemba-Debat, minister of Fulbert-Youlou, one of the principle African straw men of the French Fifth Republic....

The ideology that Africa is rejecting is neo-colonialism. And it is doubtful that the Soviets will ever get a foothold in Africa. If they do it, it will be because the Africans have had to defend themselves against the racism of South Africa and against the intrigues of the Americans, and their French, Moroccan, and other agents.

## The National Security Council's War By Proxy

A modern-day Wallenstein's Army has descended on the southern Zaire province of Shaba as the military component of the U.S. National Security Council's war by proxy against Angola and the Soviet Union. The military arm of the forces fighting the Shaba insurgents is currently made up of 1,500 highly trained Moroccan troops, 200 French officers, U.S. advisors, Israeli advisors, a rag-tag Zairean army, and an undetermined number of private mercenaries who were conducted through private intelligence networks associated with Interpol.

Just as in Vietnam, the orchestrated counterinsurgency of these combined forces is geared to provide the pretext for a long-term commitment of military strength to the central African region, and an open confrontation with Angola in the near future.

From the "purely military" standpoint of opposing the Katangan insurgents, the larger part of the mercenary army is superfluous. The Moroccan forces on the scene are sufficient to at least hold a stalemate with the Shaba insurgents, who are largely grouped near and supplied through the Benguela railroad.

The counterinsurgent specialists, the mercenaries, and the advisors are the "militarily superfluous" sections of the forces fighting for Zaire. They are there to provide for the National Security Council's political aims — the use of "limited, surrogate warfare" to internationalize the conflict through continual escalation of various components of the scenario. While protecting the outlaw Mobutu government from an already overripe coup, these privately controlled outfits provide the special operations capability at the front lines for border raids into Angola and similar provocations. The model for these incidents is Operation "Cobra 77" (also known as Operation "Christmas in Luanda), a U.S. special forces-designed hit and run campaign to retake the Angolan capital this coming fall.

Reports emanating from the area (which is barred to the press) indicate a Goebbels-type media escalation designed to provide the pretext for a move into Angola itself. Every so-called "reliable" report which has come from the fighting has been qualified or reversed within hours of its appearance, and at the time of this writing

absolutely no accurate assessment of the balance and composition of forces there is available.

### *The Mercenary Option*

Well known military sources, including Drew Middleton of the *New York Times*, agree that the deployment of private mercenaries to fight in Zaire is in itself the most provocative thing that puppet Mobutu could do vis-à-vis the Angolans. The fact that there are limited numbers of mercenaries in Zaire, however, does not restrict the scope of the provocation solely to the "justification" which it provides the Angolans for a counterattack against invading mercenaries. The mercenaries themselves represent the easiest way in which formal command channels can be bypassed by the National Security Council and its political controllers, for the initiation of special incidents which would create a crisis-level atmosphere which the entire NATO chain of command would then be forced to enter.

The current deployment of private mercenaries comes from three related sources. David Bufkin is recruiting special forces veterans from his base in San Diego, California. David Sterling, a former operative of Britain's Special Air Services, is reportedly recruiting from London. And Colonel Franceschi of the French OAS is recruiting scattered elements of that fascist organization. In addition, South Africa and Portugal have also reportedly been sources for mercenary forces.

It is highly significant that the CIA has denied involvement in recruiting activities. The CIA's non-involvement has been substantially confirmed by well placed sources, several of which were themselves formerly involved in similar types of mercenary operations have elaborated on the difficulty that mercenary recruiters are having in the wake of the Angola trials last year. More generally, they point to the reluctance of major portions of government intelligence networks, especially in Britain and the U.S., to support the aspirations of the Carter regime.

The relevant case in point is David Sterling, the former SAS operative, who was cut loose from British government sponsorship and has since become the premier "networks" and assassination agent for Rockefeller

interests in Africa. Reliable sources confirmed that it was Sterling who oversaw the assassination of Congo President Nguabi and who planned the coup attempt in Benin. He is now in Zaire shaping mercenary units for special assignments.

In this context it is also noteworthy that the recruitment effort in the U.S. has been a dismal failure. There has been very little participation by some of the people

who are normally involved in such operations, leaving the dirty deeds to be largely carried on by Bufkin and Robin Moore, the author of *The Green Berets* who is now a colonel in the Rhodesian Army. A recent meeting in New York sponsored by Moore for the purpose of bringing together another effort similar to last year's mercenary adventure in Angola was a flop. Estimates indicate that no more than 300 to 400 mercenaries have been recruited from the U.S. and Britain.

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## Britain's Owen 'Behind The Times' With Rerun Of Kissinger's Africa Policy

Zambian Foreign Minister Siteke Mwale told reporters in Luanda on April 21 that he considered British Foreign Secretary David Owen's much-trumpeted tour through southern Africa to be simply a delaying tactic. Owen was behind the times, he added.

Mwale was responding to Owen's proposed "new approach," essentially a refurbished version of the same old strategy employed by former U.S. Secretary of State Kissinger last year. It has the further disadvantage of suggesting to the black front-line alliance states — Angola, Botswana, Mozambique, Tanzania, and Zambia — and to their allies in the Rhodesian Patriotic Front that they simply forget the progress they have made in the last six months: the formation of the Patriotic Front and the firm aid commitments from Cuba and the Soviet Union.

Furthermore, Owen catered to South Africa and Rhodesia with his suggestion that the United States be deeply involved in his "new approach." "I was en-

couraged to attempt a new approach by the support of the United States government," he told Parliament April 19, "with which there has been the closest possible cooperation."

This collaboration has pleased Parliament, the United States, Rhodesia, and South Africa. But Robert Mugabe and Joshua Nkomo of the Patriotic Front summarily rejected Owen's plan. "There is no need for us to sit in a conference involving the intrusion of the big powers," said a Patriotic Front statement. The Front went on to elaborate its position that Britain alone, in its capacity as colonial power, convene an independence conference between Britain and Rhodesia's black nationalists; neither Ian Smith, the outlaw Prime Minister of Rhodesia, nor other pseudo-nationalists groups should be allowed to attend. Furthermore, said the Patriotic Front leaders, Britain should be prepared to enforce a settlement on the illegal Smith regime.

Owen has already made it clear that the British are not prepared to commit themselves to any responsibility in Rhodesia, and additionally was explicit in his support for U.S. United Nations envoy Andrew Young's line that Smith is key to the negotiations. Said Owen, "If Mr. Smith's administration does not accept the constitution and the arrangements leading up to it, no immediate progress will be possible, sanctions (against trade with Rhodesia) would continue and so would the war...."