

The Truth About Kissinger's Phony Africa Crisis

A Hoax Designed To Stop East-West Accord

A preposterous crisis in the African nation of Zaire, linked to a hysterical campaign by the press about Soviet and Cuban "imperialism" in Africa, emerged this week as the City of London's riposte to the Soviet-West German treaty signed in Bonn and prospects for a U.S.-Soviet SALT accord.

But, as virtually no Americans are aware due to the lies and fabrications in the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, Reuters, and Associated Press — which controlled the entire flow of news about the "crisis in Zaire" — *there is no Africa crisis!*

The responsibility for this hoax lies with British intelligence, NATO, and select Belgian and other mining interests who sponsored the invasion of Zaire by a scraggly pile of guerrilla mercenaries. It is a desperate attempt to provoke a confrontation in U.S.-Soviet relations.

Great Britain and China, the two nations whose strategic posture in support of Cold War was most

threatened by the 25-year economic accord signed in Bonn May 10, have mobilized against it. Using the duo of Henry Kissinger and Zbigniew Brzezinski, they are seeking to sucker Jimmy Carter into a suicidal show of force against "Communist expansion" in Africa or elsewhere.

"We must hold the Soviet Union responsible," said Kissinger last week. "Up to this point, I have agreed with the Administration that SALT should not be linked with what has happened so far. But in light of what now appears to be occurring in Zaire, I think we ought to review the whole negotiations, all our negotiations with the Soviets."

President Carter, foolishly propitiating the Kissinger line and the mythical "anti-Soviet American public opinion," has been emanating dangerous signals that he is preparing for some showdown with the USSR. In a Capitol Hill meeting with Congressmen, Carter warned of the implications of 40,000 Cuban soldiers in Africa and

Europe Cool To Belgian, British War-Cries

The effort to create an East-West crisis over the fabricated "communist invasion" of Zaire is not going well.

The first setback came after Monday's dramatic announcement that units of the U.S. 82nd Airborne Division had been alerted to rescue American citizens "trapped behind rebel lines." But then the "trapped" Americans, who were already a good 10 miles out of harm's way, were quietly and calmly moved out of the area, by their employer, the Morrison-Knudsen Engineering Company of Boise, Idaho.

Further attempts to create hysteria, and more wild claims of planned Western military intervention, have been led by Belgian Prime Minister Leo Tindemans, enthusiastically assisted by the British and British-subsidiary press. The primary result has been some considerable embarrassment to Tindemans.

There were reports that "some 2,500 Europeans and 14 Americans are trapped behind rebel lines in southern Zaire," and that the "rebels" have forbidden the Europeans from leaving Kolwezi and may hold them hostage, an unsubstantiated claim designed to bring visions of the Stanleyville massacre in the early 1960s. Tindemans yesterday told reporters that "fighting is taking place in the streets of Kolwezi, and whites are the main targets...perhaps dozens of Euro-

peans are being killed." The hitherto unknown "Zaire Committee" in Brussels ominously warned that the Europeans in Kolwezi would be all right if there were not European intervention — but that they could not guarantee their safety if there was.

Tindemans, who is playing host to a routine meeting of NATO representatives in Brussels, also claimed that a NATO "coordinating committee" of France, Britain, Belgium, and Zaire was making plans for intervention, and, getting carried away, he blurted out: "We and the Germans are going to intervene..."

After a West German government spokesman categorically denied that his country had any such intention, Tindemans was forced to retract. Belgium has acted unilaterally, however, according to some reports that Belgian troop transports with 1,200 troops aboard have left Belgium, presumably bound for Zaire.

The French are also indicating caution. The Paris daily *le Figaro*, representing leading French business circles, published an analysis May 18 pointing out that France has everything to lose by intervening, and proposing instead that France put pressure on the government of Zaire's President Mobutu Sese Seko to negotiate a detente with Angola.

reportedly discussed with the Senate "easing restraints on Presidential authority to assist friendly governments in trouble," including via covert military activity.

The "Africa Hoax"

According to the scare reports that appeared on May 15, at least 4,000 battle-hardened fighters, trained in Angola by Cubans and accompanied by Cuban officers, supposedly invaded southern Zaire's rich copper belt and seized the town of Kolwezi. Amid heavy fighting, the story went, they entered from Zambia and spread out in an effort to take over Zaire's Shaba province. Zairean Radio, the only source of official reports, claimed to see a huge plot involving the USSR, East Germany, Cuba, Angola, Algeria, and Libya. Unless help were immediately forthcoming from the U.S., China, and France, the radio screamed, Zaire's President Mobutu was cooked.

Two realities need to be pointed out.

First, there exists absolutely no reliable intelligence assessment of the fighting in Zaire independent of either the wildly inflated Zairean claims or the distortions of the press. Not a single on-the-scene report has appeared in print — dutiful correspondents are filing stories from Brussels, Washington, and Zambia!

At the same time, all the countries charged with supporting the so-called invasion have denied it, and none has issued any statements backing the Shaba "rebels."

Second, and more important, the responsibility for the Shaba crisis can be pinned directly on the City of London. The invaders, probably far smaller in number than the reported 4,000, are admitted to be members of the former Katanga secessionist gendarmes who, it is widely known, are mercenaries owned by the British-Belgian mining interests who formerly controlled Katanga (now Shaba).

The True Story

Here is the true story, a New Solidarity International Press Service exclusive.

According to French diplomatic sources, the invaders of Zaire are a ragtag bunch of mercenaries backed by "Belgian business interests" and supported by a faction of discredited Zaireans including former Foreign Minister Karl I'Bond. Bond, and these Belgian interests, who are closely linked to British banking networks, are working with an outfit called MARC, a Katanga exile organization based in Brussels. They ran the invasion show, whose real muscle was provided by trained personnel drawn directly from the intelligence pool of Britain, Portugal, Israel, and South Africa.

Last year, when a similar "Zaire invasion" took place — again run by the Belgian-Katanga plotters — President Mobutu purged Foreign Minister Bond, several other ministers, and the chief of the Central Bank of Zaire for "treason," accusing them of collaborating with the rebels! Now Bond is active again, an African 007.

European banking sources report that the new chief of

Zaire's central bank, still in office, has been resisting the IMF austerity plan for Zaire, and has worked out a deal with New York's Citibank for a \$210 million loan which ignores the IMF conditions! An IMF mission is currently in Kinshasa, the capital of Zaire, to force his ouster and collect on arrears of \$175 million. This amounts to a direct London-IMF plot to reinstate the ousted clique that Mobutu charged with treason in last year's invasion.

Last year, when French and Moroccan troops, at the request of Mobutu, entered Zaire quietly to help put down the Shaba rebellion, the Belgian foreign minister issued a bitter attack on France for "imperialism." Such an astonishing remark from an EEC colleague was repeated this week by the City of London press. Both the *Financial Times* and the London *Guardian* attacked France, which again is considering support for Mobutu, saying that France should consult its EEC partners before it involves itself in conflicts in Africa.

Africa and the Schmidt-Brezhnev Deal

The solution to Africa's real problems — hunger, poverty, ignorance, and disease — can only be plans for rapid economic development and industrialization — and it is exactly such plans, in the context of the USSR-West German treaty, that France and West Germany are actively considering.

In two days, in Paris, 20 African heads of state will meet with French President Giscard to discuss a wide range of subjects, including development, defense, and political ties. In two weeks, West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt will visit Nigeria and Zambia, two key African states, for similar talks.

In the context of the Bonn treaty with the USSR, there is fast emerging a concerted effort to bring stability and détente to Africa by West Germany and France, and, according to available evidence, both the USSR and Saudi Arabia are supporting that policy. Happily, French troops have been deployed in recent weeks to crush British intelligence-inspired "revolts" in Chad and the former Spanish Sahara, and, if the situation worsens, will be used tactfully in Zaire as well.

Saudi Arabia, which this week opened up a new embassy in Zambia, has recently been increasing its activity in Africa. However, contrary to press lies, the Saudis are not working in a purely anticommunist framework, but have taken into account the realities of the Africa situation and — in such areas as the Horn of Africa — are quietly working with the USSR to stabilize potential conflicts.

The question now is the American response. Adventurism by Carter, if it does not directly lead to World War III, will spoil the chances of the U.S. getting into the "open door" to U.S.-Soviet entente that Schmidt desires. A yahoo response by Carter, a dirty deal with China, or support for Ian Smith's deadly "internal solution" in Rhodesia carry the seeds of catastrophe.

The American people are solidly opposed to a "Vietnam" in Africa. Will Carter get the hint?

—Robert Dreyfuss