

The Soviet view was further indicated in the April 24 *Red Star*, the Soviet military newspaper, which approvingly quoted the Nigerian *West African Pilot's* comment that "the possibility of Egyptian attack on Libya is connected with the recent visit of President Sadat to Washington, where he received an assurance of American support for such an action." Egypt's interference in Zaire is cited as further evidence of Sadat's "pro-American policy." The report concludes, "He has in fact abandoned the interests of his people and rejected a policy of non-alignment, and has become a defender of imperialist interests in Africa and the Arab world."

"Repression Against Everyone"

To counter his consequent growing unpopularity, Sadat has ordered a beefed-up "fight against communism." Over the past few weeks the country's bureaucracy has been terrorized. One think-tank expert on Egyptian affairs reports that "well-known Nasserists in the lower bureaucratic layers are coming under heavy attack," and that "leftists are leaving the country in large numbers — they are fleeing to Libya, Iraq, and Europe." A Rand Corporation spokesman added, "According to two of my colleagues who have just returned (from Egypt), Sadat has launched a repression campaign against everyone — inside the ministries, everywhere. Everyone is accusing everyone else of being a communist." Asked how long Sadat will be able to maintain this policy, the Rand official answered, "He is waiting to see what (Syrian President) Assad will do" in Lebanon. Assad, he said, "is waiting to take control of the Palestinian camps. Sadat has agreed to this and his union with Assad will give him some political leverage inside the Arab world."

Meanwhile, the actions of the legal leftist National Progressive Union have been limited and its funds curtailed. The Egyptian press has been muzzled through the appointment of several new editors and new laws

limiting journalistic freedoms, while the leftist weekly magazine *Rose al Youssef* — a symbol of political freedom in the Arab world — has been taken over by Sadat appointees, as has the Marxist journal *Al Talia*.

Police surveillance of trade-union and student meetings has noticeably increased in the past few months as well. As if to drive the point home, two thirds of those arrested during and after last January's food riots are now being indicted and tried, with execution awaiting those convicted. An official government paper, *Al Gomhouriya*, explains that since neither capitalism nor socialism has worked, Sadat is embarking on a new system of "democratic socialism."

How Sound An Investment?

Egyptian aggression against Libya is more than just empty window-dressing for the domestic crackdown, however. Although it received little press play, there was a recent assassination attempt on Libyan leader Qaddafi, which was carried out by Egyptian intelligence forces. U.S. intelligence sources say that a wing of the Egyptian intelligence machine is currently collaborating with their Israeli counterparts against Qaddafi and his regime.

To help bolster the shaky Sadat, the International Monetary Fund is coming through with a few much-needed handouts. Fund Middle East chief John Gunther reports that the Fund's standby loan to Egypt went through this week, complete with conditions that Sadat implement further domestic austerity. In addition, Chase Manhattan Bank's David Rockefeller, who is Sadat's official economic advisor, has scraped together a desperately needed \$350 million Eurodollar loan to help cover Egypt's short-term debt repayments. But even with Sadat's increasingly tough posture against his domestic and foreign opponents, it is doubtful that these bankers' latest investments in his regime will have any brighter future than the rest of their bankrupt portfolios.

Carter, Giscard Heat Up Ethiopia-Somalia Tensions

Another potential flashpoint is the East African Horn region, where joint U.S. French diplomatic efforts are acting to heat up tensions between Ethiopia and Somalia.

Because the two nations jointly control the passage through the Red Sea into the Gulf of Aden and the Indian Ocean, the stability of the region is of vital concern to all the nations along the Red Sea-Gulf of Aden littoral, including Egypt (which owns the Suez Canal), Somalia, Saudi Arabia, the Yemen Arab Republic and the Peoples Democratic Republic of Yemen.

The other geographic factor in the Horn is the French protectorate of Afars and Issas, soon to receive its independence from France. The future of this territory is a major concern to both Ethiopia and Somalia. The territory's main port, Djibouti, is the sole rail terminus from central Ethiopia and controls the entrance to the

Red Sea. It's population is divided among those with ethnic ties to the Somalis and those with ties to the Ethiopians. A complicating factor is claims by some Somalis to all territory occupied by Somali nomads.

Somalia has been drawn toward the Soviet Union since the 25-member Supreme Revolutionary Council headed by President Jalle Mohamed Siad Barre assumed power in late 1969 following the assassination of previous President Abdirashid Ali Shermarke. But until last year, Ethiopia had been staunchly in the U.S. camp, and relations between the two nations had been kept on edge by Ethiopian charges that the Soviet military equipment provided to the Somali Republic posed a threat to Ethiopia's security.

Since late last year, however, Ethiopia has moved swiftly to distance itself from the U.S. as a result of

heavy-handed State Department and CIA interference in Ethiopian internal affairs, centered around activation of U.S.-backed terrorists and Maoist guerrilla bands.

Faced with a continuation of these operations under the direction of U.S. ambassador C. McMurtrey Godley and a cut-off of U.S. supplies to the wholly American-equipped Ethiopian army, Ethiopia's ruling party the Dergue last week acted to expel both the American Military Assistance Group and the U.S. Information Agency. At the same time, the Ethiopians have turned to the Soviets to re-equip their military forces.

The pro-Soviet turn by the Ethiopians has encouraged hopes that more stable and fruitful economic relations could be established in the region. In recent months, a series of non-aligned and socialist sector statesmen have visited both countries, including Cuban Premier Fidel Castro, Yugoslavian Foreign Minister Milos Minic, and delegations from Tanzania and other African countries. Soviet President Nikolai Podgorny also paid an unscheduled visit to Somalia during his tour of Africa.

Carter's response has been to order the National Security Council to take "initiatives" to counter growing Soviet influence in the region, the *Jerusalem Post* reported this week. While the U.S. was only recently — under the Defense Department stewardship of Carter's current energy czar, James Schlesinger — accusing the Somalis of becoming a center of Soviet military subversion of the region, Carter this week ostentatiously instructed Vice President Mondale in the presence of reporters: "I want you to tell Cy (Vance) and Zbig' Brzezinski that I want them to move in every possible way to get Somalia to be our friend...."

At the same time, Giscard has suddenly begun wooing the Somalis around the Djibouti issue. Giscard has shifted French policy from being pro-Ethiopian to being pro-Somali, the *Washington Post* reported April 26, allegedly in search of a peaceful transition to independence for Djibouti, in fact to win the Somalis away from the Soviets.

Saudi Arabia is being enlisted for the effort as well, the *Post* reported: "French officials believe Saudi Arabia is

having success in swinging Somalia out of the Soviet orbit and into a more moderate and possibly pro-Western position."

There are also indications that Giscard will offer the Somalis a Djibouti deal centered around a hoked up referendum which will have the population "vote" to join Somalia.

Such a development could easily be the last straw that would provoke Ethiopian military response, from fear of being surrounded by hostile states and cut off from the sea.

In addition to the perceived threat to their outside rail link through Djibouti, the Ethiopians are reportedly losing ground in their struggle against secessionist guerrillas in the province of Eritrea, which includes Ethiopia's entire coastline. Other, right-wing terrorists, backed by an Egyptian Sudanese Saudi coalition, are attacking towns in northern Ethiopia, and a Maoist group has launched a campaign of assassination of government officials and local political leaders in the capital of Addis Ababa itself.

Besides putting enormous pressure on the Ethiopian government, Giscard's blandishments toward Somalia are designed to upset the socialist leadership there. Pro-Soviet President Barre has based his country's development on a socialist model, and has recently founded a mass party in the country to organize the population. He has also made considerable efforts to restrain the ultra-nationalist elements.

Barre still has, however, serious problems with the right wing, and it is toward the Somali right that Giscard is directing his appeal. When Cuban Premier Fidel Castro suggested point-blank to Barre that he simply renounce any further territorial claims, as a peace move Barre replied, according to a highly placed source, that any Somali leader that did that would be immediately overthrown.

As a backup to his diplomatic initiative, Giscard has stationed the French aircraft carrier *Clemenceau* in Djibouti, and will maintain a French military force there after independence.