

Belgium Attempted Sabotage Of French Intervention, Incited Massacre

Evidence points to Belgium as chiefly responsible for the massacre of white civilians in Kolwezi. On May 18, at approximately 11:00 AM, the Belgian press agency *Belga* announced an impending airlift of French paratroop units to the Shaba province of Zaire. In the ensuing hours before the French forces were dropped in force over Kolwezi, the center of the Katangese seige, a massacre of European families living in the area took place, with particular vengeance against the French.

According to wounded French officers who were among the first to be evacuated, the Katangese conducted house-to-house searches, demanded that the inhabitants produce passports, and if they were French, killed them. "There was a hunt for the French," was the way one officer put it, according to the *New York Times*.

Even before the French paratroopers landed, the Belgians, under the guise of a "humanitarian aid" mission, first tried to stall the intervention. After the French arrived, the Belgians are known to have caused maximum chaos and panic in Zaire with large-scale evacuations of skilled Western technicians. With these technicians gone, Zaire's mining operations, the core of the economy, are threatened with total collapse — as is the regime of President Mobutu.

Contrary to this, French President Giscard d'Estaing spoke on national television on Saturday, emphasizing that the aim of the French deployment was *not* a large-scale evacuation of Westerners, but to drive out the

Katangese invaders and safeguard the lives of those technicians so that they could continue to carry out their vital activities, concomitant with other French stabilizing initiatives in Africa.

Historically, going back to at least a century ago under King Leopold, the Belgians have been the tools of British political and financial imperialist circles against the French. A century ago, the British were directly using the Belgians in portions of the Middle East and Africa where the French were active, as either a buffer zone or a battering ram against the French. That relationship has to a large extent subsisted until this day.

The Belgian-French "rift," as it is politely called in most of the press, reached such proportions that the French paratroop units sought to prevent the Belgians from arriving in Zaire, both by denying Belgian planes the right to overfly French airspace, and by closing off the runway at Kolwezi airport to Belgian aircraft. In retaliation, Belgian officers have accused the French troops of taking part in the killing of some white civilians!

But the extent of Belgian responsibility for the killings and chaos has apparently not escaped the evacuees themselves. European radio reports indicate that Prime Minister Tindemans, at Brussels airport where he thought he was going to shake hands with the refugees, was instead welcomed with heckles and boos by the refugees who also shouted "Vive Giscard!"

Carter Leans Toward Young On Africa Policy

The President pulls back from Brzezinski's drive for confrontation

Speaking at a press conference in Chicago May 25, President Jimmy Carter stressed economic aid and development as essential to successful U.S. foreign policy in Africa. Sticking closely to policy perspectives previously outlined by the State Department and by U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Andrew Young on national television, Carter said he had "no intention of getting involved in any conflict in Angola." His remarks appeared intended to put a stop to a months-long campaign by his National Security Advisor Zbigniew Brzezinski and former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger to involve the United States in a "proxy war" against Cubans and Soviets in Africa, a campaign which became front-page news and the subject of congressional hearings last week. Carter also appeared to hold open the prospects for a major United States effort to encourage Third World development.

"We do not want to send our military forces into Africa to meet the challenge of Soviet and Cuban intrusion," Carter stated. "But if we can't even give a shipment of wheat, or give a sound commercial loan or vote for a loan by the World Bank to that same people — it means that I can't compete at all, even peacefully, with the Soviet or Cuban military action in those countries. That's what concerns me very deeply. And I might say that it's not just my concern. I had a long conversation yesterday with President Ford." Carter went on to cite Zambia, Tanzania, and Mozambique as countries which might receive U.S. economic assistance if Congressional restrictions on foreign aid were removed.

Carter's insistence on the importance of development was a positive sign for U.S. foreign policy, after a week in which the "British faction" inside and outside the Administration mounted an intense effort to destroy the