

Bush readies invasion to re-install Haitian 'Pol Pot'

by Gretchen Small

Under the same pretext of "defending democracy" used to install the drug-running Endara government in Panama and re-install the slave-holding Emir of Kuwait, President George Bush now seeks to turn the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, Haiti, into the next new world order "test case." The plan is to use the Haitian crisis to replace national sovereignty and national armies in the Western Hemisphere with a "collective security" doctrine mandating supranational armed enforcement of International Monetary Fund (IMF) debt collection and Pol Pot-style genocide.

The Bush regime is thus now in a determined drive to return to power in Haiti, Father Jean-Bertrand Aristide, a Marxist liberation theologian who had set out to impose upon his country an IMF economic program through the most bestial mob-rule tactics imaginable (see box). The Haitian military overthrew President Aristide on Sept. 30, charging him with dictatorial abuse of power, violation of the Constitution, and attempting to form a personal commando unit—in imitation of the hated Duvalier regime's death squads—to supplant the military.

Taking the lead with Bush in this endeavor are Fidel Castro's Cuba, and the socialist Presidents of France and Venezuela, François Mitterrand and Carlos Andrés Pérez. The Organization of American States (OAS) has acquiesced to serving as the instrument to implement this policy. On Oct. 8, all OAS member states agreed to impose a full trade embargo on Haiti—cutting off food and oil to that already starving nation—and to send in a "security force" to protect a large OAS "civilian" force assigned the task of restoring Aristide to power over the objection of a majority of Haiti's parliament and military.

Why has the Bush administration chosen to deploy on behalf of this Marxist Jacobin? Secretary of State James Baker told an emergency meeting of the OAS on Oct. 2 that although the "immediate purpose" of taking collective action

was to return Aristide to power, "our interests do not stop there. . . . This is the hemisphere that is building a future of free trade from Alaska to Argentina."

Even more explicit was the Economy and Development Foundation of the Dominican Republic, an outfit amply funded by the U.S. State Department's Agency for International Development. In a column in the Dominican paper *Ultima Hora* Oct. 3, the foundation hailed the proposals for multinational intervention into Haiti as required to fulfill Bush's free trade Enterprise for the Americas plans. "Haiti must become the Hong Kong of the Caribbean," the foundation stated. Therefore, in order to confront current events in Haiti, it is necessary first to "completely eradicate the armed forces," then, a multinational force can guarantee the immediate opening of the Haitian economy to foreign investment and free trade, and eliminate all tariff barriers.

Once again, western banking interests have been caught deploying Marxist mobs against national institutions which resist the submission of their nation to the bankers' would-be global empire.

Test case for Trilateral plans

The immediate institution which the Bush-communist alliance seeks to eliminate in Haiti is the military. But no attempt has been made to hide the fact that the longer-term target is the elimination of all national armed forces in the developing sector.

In April 1990, participants in the annual meeting of the Trilateral Commission, in analyzing the U.S. invasion of Panama, concluded that all such interventions in the Third World should rather take place under international auspices. Indeed, since Panama, foreign troops have been deployed into Iraq, Kuwait, Liberia, Western Sahara, and Zaire, all under some international rubric.

A special study on Ibero-America prepared for that meet-

ing entitled "Latin America at the Crossroads: The Challenge to the Trilateral Countries," called for the creation of "new institutional mechanisms to update or replace OAS-Rio Treaty arrangements . . . including consideration of some form of multinational police force" to help the U.S. defend "democracy" in Ibero-America. The case of Haiti was specifically cited as exemplary of where force might be required, since "Haiti has yet to embark upon an irreversible transition to pluralistic government and may well experience serious trouble in so doing."

A year later, in an April 1991 address to the annual meeting of the World Bank, former U.S. Defense Secretary Robert McNamara called for an immediate offensive to carry out the Trilaterals' anti-military program. He proposed national military institutions in developing sector nations be reduced or eliminated, in order to free up billions of dollars to bail out the international financial system. The "international system that relies on the national use of military force as the ultimate guarantor of security" must be replaced by a "worldwide system of collective security," led by a U.S.-dominated U.N. Security Council empowered to deploy "coercive" measures against any country which does not follow international "rules of conduct," he argued.

He also specified that regional bodies such as the OAS and the Organization of African Unity must "come to function as regional arms of the Security Council," if the global collective security system is to work.

McNamara's program was adopted by the OAS at its June 1991 meeting in Santiago, Chile. There, a joint deployment by the Bush and Pérez regimes secured passage of the so-called "Santiago Resolution," which set up the mechanisms just activated in the Haitian crisis. The Santiago Resolution committed member states to convoking an emergency session of the OAS within 10 days of any military coup, to discuss collective sanctions against that country—thereby throwing out the window the heretofore reigning principle of non-intervention into the internal affairs of member states.

OAS vs. Haiti

When the Haitian military moved against Aristide on Sept. 30, the Santiago Resolution went into affect immediately. Ibero-America's foreign ministers arrived in Washington for an emergency OAS meeting in record time. On Oct. 2, the representatives voted a resolution demanding Aristide be returned to power, and mandated measures designed to isolate Haiti politically and economically. A high-level OAS mission to Haiti was mandated as the first step in an Iraq-style escalation, to include an embargo, sanctions, and eventually invasion.

By Oct. 5, the OAS mission to Haiti faced unexpected trouble. Not just the military opposed Aristide, but a majority of Haiti's parliament. Political parties and business leaders were adamant that Aristide and his mob violence must not return to power in Haiti.

The OAS mission huddled in Washington, and then flew back to Haiti on Oct. 7 with a new package with which to "sell" the hated Aristide—by having him issue a promise not to advocate violence again! Coordinated actions between the military and the Parliament upstaged the OAS package. The Parliament voted twice, on Oct. 7 and again on Oct. 8, to declare that, on the basis of Article 149 of the Constitution, they declared a vacuum of power to exist in the country, and therefore named Supreme Court Justice Joseph Nerette to serve as provisional President.

The OAS, under U.S. direction, simply declared the provisional government illegal, imposed the trade embargo, and mandated a civilian observer mission, protected by supranational military forces, be sent in.

Hundreds are already reported to be fleeing the capital, Port-au-Prince, out of fear of a multinational invasion, and the bloodshed that they believe will result. Yet few voices outside Haiti have been raised in its defense. Joaquín Balaguer, President of the Dominican Republic which shares the Caribbean island of Hispaniola with Haiti, declared Oct. 4 that his government opposes foreign military intervention into Haiti, since the principle of non-intervention is a "cornerstone of the inter-American system."

In Venezuela, Christian Democratic leaders Rafael Caldera and Luis Herrera Campins, both former Presidents, rejected plans for foreign intervention, and reminded Pérez that he first had to get approval from Congress before sending troops.

Another military to be dismantled

The U.S. press has been drumming up support for the next phase of policy: replacing the Haitian military altogether with supranational forces. An editorial in the Oct. 2 *Los Angeles Times* said that reform of the Haitian military will not be enough, and suggested Haiti consider the Costa Rica precedent—a country which disbanded its military in the 1940s.

Even Aristide's terror is being used to justify intervention. In an Oct. 6 editorial, the *Washington Post* admitted that Aristide has welded his mobs "into an instrument of real terror," but insisted that he must be reinstated anyway, this time with "an explicit pledge of respect for human rights and for a kind of democracy that goes beyond mob rule. There will have to be a way to guarantee that pledge. The most plausible is a peacekeeping force, sponsored by the OAS."

Robert Pastor, a former National Security Council staffer under Jimmy Carter, was even more explicit. He wrote in the Oct. 4 *New York Times*: "Now that the Organization of American States has voted to reject the coup in Haiti, it should go further and try to prevent other coups in the hemisphere—if necessary with collective military action. . . . The next step should be a permanent collective-security mechanism to defend all Western Hemisphere democracies." Pastor called for "the restructuring, perhaps even dismantling, of the Armed Forces" in Haiti.