

NSSM 200 Returns, Targets Africa's Raw Materials

by Dean Andromidas

Pointing to the ongoing mad drive by speculators into raw materials, senior European financial and intelligence sources see the return of the infamous 1974 population-control document, U.S. National Security Study Memorandum 200, as the hegemonic policy of the Anglo-American Synarchist oligarchy. Other players now being drawn into this policy are Western Europe, Russia, and China.

Drafted three decades ago under the direction of then U.S. National Security Advisor Henry Kissinger, NSSM 200, titled "Implications of World Wide Population Growth for U.S. Security and Overseas Interest," was classified as "secret" until 1990. The document defined the population increase of developing countries as a strategic threat to the United States and the West, because it would limit access to the natural resources of these nations, which might use the resources for their own development. (See *Feature*, p. 26.)

The Dismemberment of Africa

NSSM 200 hit Africa brutally in the last three decades. The Four Horsemen of this Apocalypse have been Anglo-American mining and oil corporations, City of London financiers, British mercenary companies, and Israeli arms dealers. These are the forces that have expanded the Anglo-American-backed southern Sudanese separatist movement of their agent John Garang into the Darfur region to the west. This operation is aimed at dismembering Sudan and grabbing its oil and water resources, and in the process, destroying Egypt.

Farther south, in Central Africa and the Great Lakes region, including the Democratic Republic of Congo (D.R.C.), Rwanda, Burundi, and Uganda, wars over natural resources have been raging since the early 1990s. Here all Four Horseman of this Apocalypse can be found ravaging the continent; between 2 and 6 million Africans have lost their lives.

The most notorious example is Heritage Oil and Gas, which has oil concessions in Uganda and mining concessions in the DRC. Its founder and director, Tony Buckingham, is a former British special forces officer, who founded Executive Outcomes out of the same offices in London. Although Executive Outcomes has been formally disbanded, it metamorphosed into companies with other names, including Logo Logistics and Triple A.

The second founder of Executive Outcomes, its former director, Simon Mann, is now serving a seven-year sentence in a maximum security prison in Zimbabwe for illegal arms purchases, as part of a plot to launch a coup in oil-rich Equato-

Northern Africa



rial Guinea. (See *EIR*, Sept. 17, 2004.) This coup attempt was financed by Mark Thatcher, the son of former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

Less international media attention has been focussed on the feverish attentions given to the oil-rich region stretching from North Africa and down the continent's west coast. This region supplies the United States with almost 20% of its oil imports, and the countries of the European Union with 20% of their oil requirements. Algeria, with pipelines running under the Mediterranean to Europe, is the European Union's second most important foreign supplier of gas, accounting for more than 11% of its requirements.

One of the key think-tanks formulating Anglo-American oil policy is the Institute for Advanced Strategic and Political Studies (IASPS), with offices in Washington and Jerusalem. In 2001, shortly after Vice President Dick Cheney released the National Energy Policy Report, which called for the United States to exploit the oil of West Africa, IASPS formed the African Oil Policy Initiative Group, which includes representatives from the U.S. government, oil corporations, banks, and think-tanks, and has been promoting this oil grab and lobbying by the U.S. government to establish military bases in West Africa.

In recent years, substantial reserves of oil have been found deep in the Libyan desert, whose richness is rivalled only by the reserves of the Persian Gulf. Libya officially has no less than 36 billion barrels of proven oil reserves, and some Libyan officials claim the reserves to be as high as 100 billion. Thus, in the past year, Libya's Muammar Qaddafi has gone from "dictator of a rogue state and supporter of international terrorism," to a welcome host for Anglo-American oil companies eager to participate in the recent discovery of new oil and gas reserves.

In March 2004, British Prime Minister Tony Blair visited Tripoli, Libya, where he helped Royal Dutch Shell clinch a natural gas deal worth hundreds of millions of dollars. Blair was soon followed by Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi, and then, in October, German Chancellor Gerhard Schröder arrived, with 25 captains of German industry in tow. French Foreign Minister Michel Barnier also made the pilgrimage to Qaddafi's tent, and will be followed by French President Jacques Chirac later this year.

The mad rush to the Libyan desert was made possible after a deal with the Bush Administration and the government of Tony Blair, in which Qaddafi renounced his weapons of mass destruction program, and agreed to pay off the families

who lost loved ones in the 1988 bombing of Pan Am flight 109 over Lockerbie, Scotland, in which 270 people died. In return, United Nations sanctions were lifted, and now Libya has become a partner in the Bush Administration's crusade against weapons of mass destruction.

War on Terror—or War for Natural Resources

In the context of the war on terror, the Pentagon established a regional headquarters in Djibouti, on the Horn of Africa, where 2,000 U.S. troops are stationed with the mission of hunting down al-Qaeda terrorists in Eritrea, Ethiopia, Somalia, Sudan, Yemen, Saudi Arabia, and East Africa. In addition, the Pentagon and U.S. State Department launched the "Pan-Sahel Initiative," now called the Trans-Sahara Counter Terrorism Initiative, which includes the deployment of U.S. special forces throughout the Sahara and Sahel, from the Horn of Africa to the Western Sahara. The \$100 million program already includes Mali, Mauritania, Niger, and Chad, and it is expected to expand to include Morocco, Tunisia, and Algeria. The mission is to train national forces and establish multinational cooperation, with the object of hunting down al-Qaeda, whose actual presence in the area is disputed.

All four countries, as well as Djibouti, were former French colonies, and all maintain strong relations with their former colonial master. In fact, the French Foreign Legion maintains one of its principal bases in Djibouti. Although France is at loggerheads with the Bush Administration over Iraq, cooperation between France and the United States is said to be close. This, in part, is thanks to the workings of globalization, in which French oil companies have partnered with American companies.

A glance at a map reveals that these four countries—Mali, Mauritania, Niger, and Chad—form a divide between oil- and gas-rich North Africa, and the mineral-rich states of Central Africa, and the oil-rich region of West Africa. Thus we find Niger, which to its north borders oil- and gas-rich Algeria and Libya, and to its south, oil-rich Nigeria. Niger itself is the world's third largest producer of uranium. Chad's northern border is with Libya, and to its east is Sudan, where the Anglo-American powers are manipulating the Darfur crisis in order to dismember Sudan and grab its oil resources. Land-locked Chad, one of the poorest countries in the world, has itself become an oil producer. Oil from Chad flows to the Cameroonian coast through the Chad-Cameroon pipeline.

As for Mauritania and Mali, both share a border with Algeria to their north, and to the west, they border the potentially oil-rich region of West Africa. Mauritania is on the Atlantic, and oil and gas exploration is already under way there.

Who Is Backing Terrorism in Africa?

A look at the terror groups in the region reveals that they, too, are linked to the natural resource grab. An example is

the Air and Azawak Liberation Front (FLAA), the principal insurgent group in Niger, based in the Air and Azawak mountains. In the middle of these mountains, lies the uranium-mining settlement of Arlit.

Another example is in the disputed territory of Western Sahara, which borders Mauritania. When Spain walked away from its colony of the Western Sahara, it failed to ensure that an organized government would be left in its place, in effect inviting Morocco to grab the entire territory. In the subsequent conflict with the West Sahara Polisario Front, the Moroccans drove most of the region's 200,000 population into refugee camps in Algeria. Until last June, the senior George Bush's former Secretary of State, James Baker, served as a United Nations mediator to resolve the crisis. As is well known, however, Baker's law firm also serves some of the largest oil corporations in the United States. Despite the disputed nature of the territory, oil companies are making their moves.

In 2001, the Kerr-McGee energy corporation, based in Oklahoma, signed a contract with Morocco for oil exploration off the coast of West Sahara. One of the directors of Kerr-McGee is William E. Bradford, former chairman of Dick Cheney's Halliburton. Another company, the London-based Wessex Exploration Limited, signed a contract with Morocco to make an oil and gas survey of the entire region.

Not to be outdone, the Polisario Front signed a contract for oil exploration with Fusion Oil and Gas PLC, based in London and Australia, and Premier Oil PLC, also based in London. The transaction is listed on Fusion Oil's website under the name "Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic." Although recognized by many states in Asia, Ibero-America, and Africa, Saharawi exists only as the self-declared state of the Polisario Front, which does not control the territory. Fusion also controls oil concessions up and down the West Coast of Africa, including in Senegal, Guinea-Bissau, Cameroon, Ghana, Mauritania, Gabon, and Gambia.

With United Nations-sponsored talks at a standstill, it is not out of the question that the conflict between the Moroccan government and Polisario could be re-ignited, and oil companies could find themselves aiding both sides of the conflict. It would be a throwback to the 1970s and 1980s, when American oil companies were paying the Angolan government hundreds of millions of dollars in oil revenues, while the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency was financing the UNITA guerrilla movement, which was fighting the Cubans the same Angolan government was employing and paying with its oil revenues.

Far from fostering stability, this Anglo-American policy has undermined the stability of the entire region. Along Africa's West Coast—the new El Dorado for oil and gas—there have been a half-dozen coup attempts in recent years, including Equatorial Guinea, São Tomé and Príncipe, Mauritania, and Guinea Bissau—and regime changes in Liberia and Sierra Leone, to name a few.