

# REAGAN'S BRINKMANSHIP

- BONGANI MATWA



We are living in dangerous times, in times of nuclear armament, a time when the world has been pushed back to the brink of war. A time analysed by Comrade President Fidel Castro in the following way:

"At times one gets the impression that we are living through days similar to those that preceded

Hitler's election as Chancellor of Germany. I do not mean to say that both situations are exactly the same. Back then 'a lunatic like Hitler could start a war with the hope of winning it and without the risk of humanity being wiped out. I think that lunatics nowadays have a different straight-jacket which are changes that have taken place in the world, the current world balance of forces, and we still hope that these lunatics will use common sense."

It is at this grim time that Ronald "Cowboy" Reagan steps into the picture.

## BROTHERS

Ronald Reagan, the new President of the leading and most reactionary country in the world, the United States, has assumed the mantle of the cold war warrior. Who then is this man? Ronald Reagan, a former Hollywood cowboy film-star, infamously known as a notorious racist governor of California, an outright anti-communist who wanted to kill Angela Davis in her framed-up murder trial, is the man who has now entered the American White House. The Pretoria racists have praised their brother in class and racism for they are birds of the same feather, they flock together. This racist cold war warrior bases his foreign policy on the old imperialist cold war policy of the early fifties.

## C O L D W A R

This policy took roots after the triumph of the Great October Socialist Revolution in Russia. According to Winston Churchill, that fat imperialist warmonger of Great Britain, its aim was to strangle the Soviet republic in its cradle. Fourteen capitalist countries following this policy, invaded Soviet Russia during the civil war of 1918-1922.

Soviet Russia, led by the Bolshevik Party of V.I. Lenin, routed these invaders and practically strengthened their peace policy. Imperialism had to resort to economic blackmail and other subversive actions. In 1941 they pushed nazi Germany against the Soviet Union and her people. The U S S R supported by all progressive mankind defeated these schemes by destroying the fascists.

The emergence of the World Socialist system, made the new 'strongman' of the capitalist world, the US, to take it upon themselves to pursue the cold war policy. This they did as early as 1945 just before the defeat of nazi-Germany, when General Patton, one of the cold war warriors, told the world to get ready for another 'inevitable' World War III.

This policy, right from President Harry Truman, till the present times has been the US' foreign policy. Weapons of mass destruction were produced in the United States, and other young states invaded under the guise of defending democracy, while in practice the cold war policy was carried out with red hot lead and bombs. Korea, Vietnam, etc., were the victims of these warriors, but the Soviet Union, the bulwark of peace did not stand and watch. It came to these countries' assistance and helped them to route the forces of darkness.

Contrary to the US imperialists who in their propaganda talked of nuclear armament and war, the Soviet Union talked of peace and initiated detente which has culminated in the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT) One and Two agreements - and it is the US rulers who are deliberately delaying the ratification of SALT Two. Today in their propaganda, they have revived their fairy tale of the century, 'Soviet threat'. They have brought Reagan from the Hollywood screens to torpedo SALT agreements, like a cowboy in a cards game in a pub. He (Reagan) bases his foreign policy on Jimmy Carter's State of the Union message in which he publicly announced his intent to be the strong man of the seventies.



The Pentagon's foreign policy as pursued by Reagan with General Alexander Haig and Henry Kissinger, is nothing else but an attempt to return to times gone forever. Today we are living in the era of peace and disarmament, of national liberation and social revolution.

This militarist (Reagan) is failing to analyse soberly. His policy smacks of Hitler's demagoguery. This racist mad cowboy talks of:

- (a) Working to achieve military superiority over Warsaw member states, as led by the Soviet Union, so as to start afresh talks on disarmament with the US occupying a position of strength.
- (b) Pushing and waging wars of aggression against South-east Asia and the Middle East, so as to protect the US 'interests' and 'reverse' the defeat suffered at the hands of heroic Vietnam.
- (c) Annexing Puerto Rico, repudiate the Panama accord, and introduce a naval blockade against Cuba and recolonise her.
- (d) Promote counter-revolution by supporting fascist regimes in Central America, e.g. Christian military junta of El Salvador.
- (e) Cutting all aid to Nicaragua and getting rid of the revolutionary forces in that country.
- (f) Propping up reactionary regimes in Africa, and supporting bandits like UNITA in Angola.
- (g) Aiding racist South Africa to counter the UN arms embargo and possible economic sanctions.

These are but some of the aims of this 'defender of democracy' and world 'civilisation'. People like these easily forget the lessons of history, and behave like the 17th century pirates in the 20th century. They shut their eyes to forces of peace and to them we say as Comrade President Fidel Castro says: "Our duty is to struggle for peace while at the same time being ready for anything."

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