

BEHIND THE NEW MASK OF US DIPLOMACY

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(Some notes and remarks on the professions of United States diplomacy as against the activities of their war machines).

For a long time and under successive administrations, US diplomacy has played the role of a screen concealing the activities of the US military industrial complex in different parts of the world. It is the task of American diplomats to hide the atrocious activities of their bosses. Today it is common knowledge that, to attain imperialist goals, US diplomacy has taken it upon itself to topple governments disliked by the monopolists and install puppet dictatorships.

The major instrument used for the realisation of these obnoxious schemes has been and continues to be the US Army whose pretexts of unwarranted intervention are woven by the so-called diplomats. The language employed by Washington in its foreign policy has been to portray the US as the peace-maker on international platforms. No doubt the Pentagon hoped to pull the wool on the eyes of the world community. But the wool has not stuck.

1981 has seen the ascendancy of the Reagan Administration. Suddenly official Washington has ceased to hide behind the traditional policy of shedding crocodile tears with the oppressed. Reagan has altered the rhetoric of US diplomacy! All of a sudden he is revealing that fascist South Africa is a "war time ally" and that his Administration is going to step up support for the UNITA bandits. There is even talk of fighting what he terms "international terrorism." This is not surprising. The Reagan line is hardly a deviation from the old policy, but rather a new, even bold wave of Washington's arrogance. They feel that their boat is sinking and that outright brinkmanship can save it. The world needs to be rallied against this new looming threat of plunging people into conflagrations.

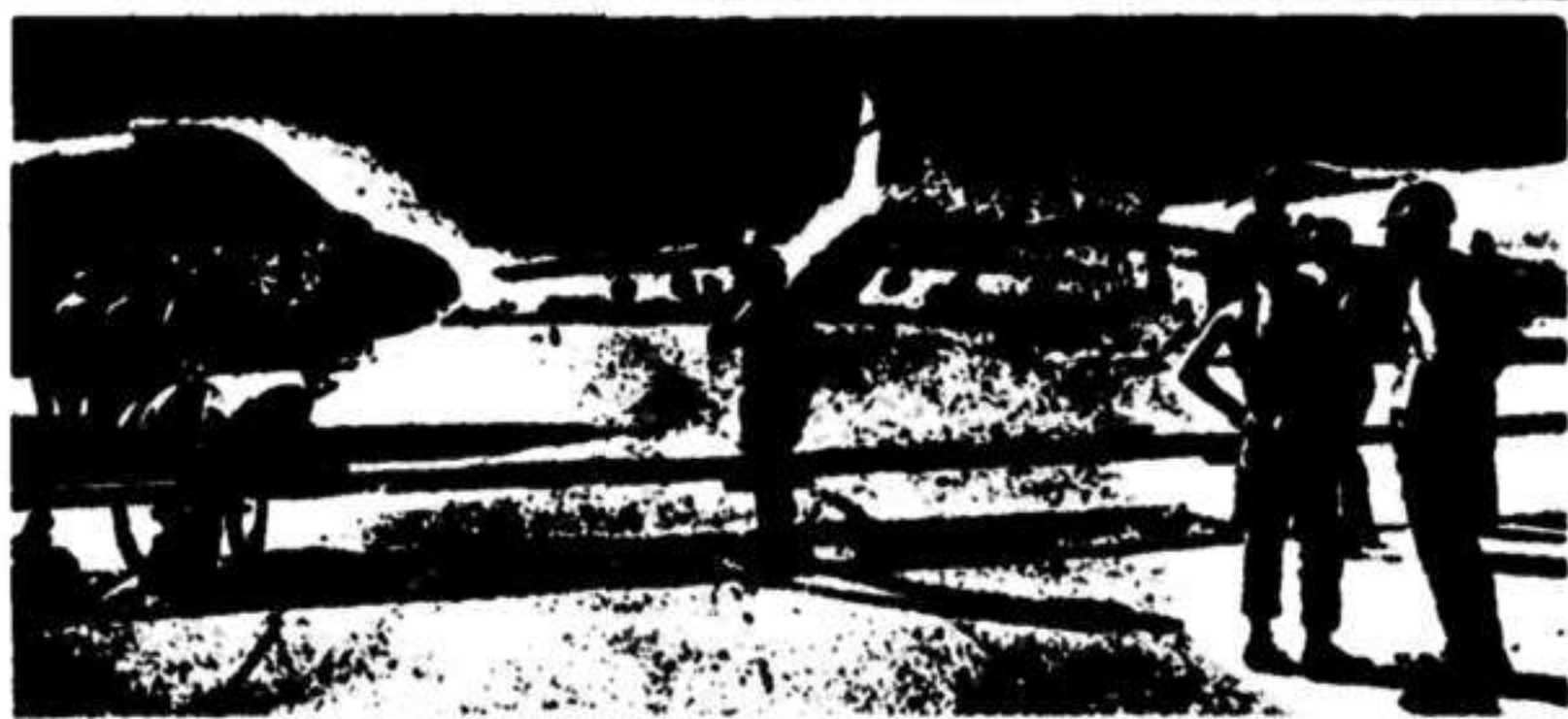
Surely, we have not forgotten Vietnam. Once again the Pentagon is rattling its sabres and oiling its war machine. The US Army is being prepared for another round of aggressive actions.

AN INGLORIOUS PATH

The history of the US Army reveals to us the likely mess that Washington wants the world to be once again entangled in.

For over a long period of years, the US Army has blazed an inglorious path. Since its formation it has launched mass annihilation of indigenes of the present USA. It left a trail of murder and genocide in its wake. The US Army was used to crush slave revolts, to grab Mexican lands and to invade the Caribbean Islands. In pursuit of an aggressive foreign policy, the US set up military naval bases in Puerto Rico, Panama, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras and other countries.

After the Second World War, the Pentagon further increased the number of its bases. Using its economic advantage as bait, it built several hundreds of bases in different parts of the world to ensure the fulfilment of its self-imposed role of world gendarme. In some islands, whole populations were evicted from their lands (as is the case with Diego Garcia) to give space to air and naval bases. In some countries the construction of such bases has brought about the complete destruction of agricultural and fishing industries.



The U.S. base on Diego Garcia, says Time magazine, has "softball fields, volleyball, handball and tennis courts, and a 25-metre swimming pool for those who are afraid of the sharks."

THE MARINES

The US Army was very occupied during the days when "We shall send the marines" was the war-cry of official Washington. The marines were sent to Korea, Lebanon, Guatemala, Santo Domingo and Cuba. In these countries they slaughtered thousands of civilians in order to overthrow progressive governments and prop up puppets.

C O R R U P T I O N

Where US soldiers are based (they are based in more than 40 countries) black marketeering, drug-trafficking and crime rise. As a result of the high rate of prostitution which they encouraged, about a quarter of a million illegitimate children were left in Saigon (now Ho Chi Minh City) by the fleeing Yankees.

In Saigon, the US top brass urged their bosses to go on with the war. Their reasons were not too far to fathom:

- (a) Apart from fat salaries they were reaping super profits from their blackmarkets;
- (b) they never ventured outside Saigon into the heat of the war, and above all,
- (c) they were guaranteed quick evacuation should the going get tough.

The going did get tough and the Americans were ejected out of Vietnam.

On the other hand, drug taking is very rife among the US soldiers. The US Federal Narcotics Commission revealed that 85% of the US servicemen in the FRG take drugs. The commission further revealed that 90% of servicemen who went to Vietnam smoked or had at some time smoked marijuana. Most of the drugs were shipped from the USA in naval vessels which on return voyages shipped back marijuana. The drugs were sold to the troops by agents of the "khakhi Mafia" (underworld of US military big brass in Vietnam). When the troops were 'high', they were let loose on Vietnamese villages.

It is important to note that those who swell the ranks of the US Army are sons of the poor working masses. They are fed with slanderous propaganda coupled with cocaine and heroine. As half-crazed zombies they do not ask the reason why they do and die - they are real pawns in the imperialist game.

'RAPID DEPLOYMENT FORCE'

After the routing of the marines in Vietnam, the military hawks decided to revive the tarnished image of the US Army. The traditional "We shall send the marines" was no longer scarring anybody. The US militarists had to look for another answer. This appears to be the reason behind the breeding of the 'Rapid Deployment Force' (RDF). This involves the transferring of large numbers of troops (up to 20,000 men) and large quantities of sophisticated weapons from the US bases at home or abroad, to operational areas anywhere in the world in the

shortest possible space of time. This force appears to be taking over from the marines as the "blue-eyed boy" of the American world.

The 'RDF' has been staging mock exercises in different parts of the world. Incidentally, Charlie's Angels, as the cut-throats who took part in Iran were ironically named, are part of this very force. It remains doubtful whether the future of the 'RDF' is worth anything to write home about.

WAR RESISTANCE

The US Army is fast becoming unpopular in the United States. Several anti-war and anti-draft organisations sprang up after the Pentagon adventure in Indo-China. Thousands of GIs decided to break away. Many of them are in exile in Scandinavian and some in West European countries. Jimmy Carter pardoned 3,000 during his inauguration, but most are still at large. They refuse to wear the US Army uniform because they have come to understand that it represents crime.

The US masses are also tired of investing their sons in the deadly imperialist war business from which they reap nothing but sorrow. Recently 200 women demonstrators invaded the Pentagon to condemn the draft law extended to them. This was followed by nation-wide anti draft campaigns.

REAL TERRORISTS

We are justified in asking the question sharply: "Who are the real terrorists?" The nature and role of the US Army as discussed above tempts one to honestly and sincerely suggest that it is indeed today's biggest terror machine. The strategies and activities of the Pentagon, its links with and assistance of such racist and criminal groupings as the Ku Klux Klan, John Birch, the American Legion - murderous bands to which it leases base facilities for military training, its links with terrorist organisations such as the Red Brigades, is enough evidence of the real content of Reagan's so-called fight against "international terrorism."

Since the end of the Second World War no other country but the US has launched countless ploys, machinations and outright aggression in several parts of the world. These ominous activities have brought about the maiming and killing of thousands, nay millions, of harmless civilians. We need to be told whether this is what Washington terms the defence of human

rights, whether this is what they term anti-terrorism. Torrents of hypocritical professions will never erase the long record of the untold suffering and destruction brought about by the Pentagon's activities and above all, its interference in the internal affairs of Asian, African and Latin American countries. The world can never forget the criminal plots the US hatched in bringing about:

- (a) the overthrow of Prime Minister Mossadech in Iran (1953);
- (b) the overthrow of the government headed by Jacobo Arbenz in Guatemala (1954);
- (c) the setting up of the puppet regime of Dinh Diem in South Vietnam (1955);
- (d) the establishment of the dictatorship of Sarit Thanarat in Thailand (1957) and
- (e) the toppling of a government headed by Patrice Lumumba in Congo (1960).

The list is long and can be extended to include US interference in Cuba, Egypt, Chile, Indonesia and several other countries. It therefore becomes very clear that the 'new mask' of Ronald Reagan is in fact, the continuation of an old policy. Where their interests are 'threatened' they react like wounded buffaloes. That is why suddenly they are bold to confess that South Africa is a "war-time ally," that is why they are obstructing the path to Namibian independence. The same reason is behind their active endeavour to destabilise Angola through the propping of the UNITA bandits - the little terrorists mentored by the Pentagon. But as Comrade President Oliver Tambo stated:

"... Do the Western powers really think that their interests in South Africa would be saved by setting Southern Africa aflame? It remains doubtful whether the Western interests would survive the flames."