

WHY IS CASTRO IN AFRICA?

The current trip by Cuban Premier Fidel Castro to Africa is a key part of the Soviet Union's new offensive in the ever-widening rivalry between the U.S. and the USSR.

In the last two weeks, Castro visited Libya, Algeria, Ethiopia, Somalia, Tanzania and Zambia. He is reportedly headed for Angola, where he will review the 12,000 Cuban troops which spearheaded the Soviet-Cuban conquest of the country in 1975. His itinerary will be followed by Soviet President Podgorny next month.

Cuba, a third world country, which has been under the domination of Soviet social-imperialism for some time, is now being used by Brezhnev and Co. to fight the Soviet Union's war. It also spreads the ideology of social-imperialism and hinders and weakens the third world movement. As a third world country, it is able to do the Soviet Union's dirty work more effectively than the new tsars themselves. Seizing on the African peoples' legitimate hatred of U.S. imperialism, Castro is trying to bring the African countries and liberation movements under the hegemony of the social-imperialists.

The Angolan civil war provided the clearest example of Cuba's role as a mercenary puppet of the Soviet Union. Even today, Cuban forces are killing and suppressing Angolan patriots in the countryside who oppose Soviet domination of their country.

But more Angola-type situations are developing on the African continent as a result of the intrigues of both superpowers. Castro's trip revealed that Soviet-Cuban forces are anxious to move into these areas, just as Jimmy Carter's threats against Uganda last month reflected the aggressive ambitions of U.S. imperialism.

Arriving in Ethiopia, Castro said that Cuba was ready to help suppress the Eritrean secessionist movement which has been involved in armed conflict with the central government over the last few years. He charged that the Eritrean people's organizations were all "CIA-backed," and offered Cuban arms and

personnel to crush them.

Behind Castro's eagerness to involve Cuban forces in Ethiopia's internal affairs lies the Soviet Union's lust for control of the Red Sea area. The Eritrean region, for instance, has a 600-mile coast line on the Red Sea. Consequently, this part of the world is extremely crucial to the interests of both superpowers in controlling the oil flow.

Previous attempts by the Soviet Union to gain political influence in northern Africa have failed. Most notably, Egypt has broken its "friendship" treaty with the USSR, and the Sudan has foiled several Soviet-backed coup attempts. At the same time, the U.S. has improved its relations with these countries. As a result, the USSR has become more determined than ever to secure a foothold in the Red Sea area and is ready to send in Cuban troops to do it.

MORE SUPERPOWER RIVALRY

In the midst of Castro's trip, other manifestations of the superpower rivalry revealed themselves. Several thousand Katangese mercenaries began marching on Zaire in an attempt to conquer the copper-rich region of that country and overthrow the Mobutu government. In response, the U.S. and some European countries sent several million dollars worth of arms to Zaire.

The Katangese forces were driven out of Zaire in the 1960s after their collusion with the reactionary Tshombe. They have been fighting under Soviet-Cuban command in Angola for the last two years. Their recent invasion of Zaire originated in Angola, and the soldiers themselves are clearly armed and trained by the Soviet-Cuban forces.

It is not currently known if any Cuban troops are with the Katanga troops in Zaire, although during the Angola war, Cuban forces made incursions into Zaire. The USSR has also launched repeated overt and covert attacks against Zaire because the Mobutu government has been an outspoken opponent of Soviet influence in Africa.

Cuban forces are also reported to be in Uganda and other East African coun-

tries. For some time, the Soviet Union has been pressuring the Zimbabwean liberation movement to allow an "international force" to lead the armed struggle against the Smith regime. Cuban troops also have been made available for this purpose. But thus far the Zimbabweans have rejected the social-imperialists' scheme.

All this Cuban activity in Africa is being carried out under the signboard of "internationalist aid" and "fighting U.S. imperialism," themes which Castro demagogically stressed throughout his tour. But his real purpose is to stir up trouble in Africa, foment splits and divisions within sovereign countries and among different African countries and provide bases for a puppet army to carry out the dictates of the Soviet Union.

From the World Press

The Forge, newspaper of the Communist Party (Leninist), carried a major article in its issue of 10/10/77 celebrating the Chinese people's victory in smashing the reaction.

The article saluted the great victories of Chairman Hua Kuo-feng in smashing the "gang's" downfall as "an important triumph of the proletariat and the construction of socialism."

The article went on to expose the "gang's" activities behind a left cover." In particular, The article exposed the conspiracies of the four, emphasizing that they had sabotaged socialist construction, they held the main danger, they attacked unjustly the Party's influence to undermine revolutionary construction, they bourgeois right all the while they themselves were in fashion."

The Forge concluded that the four bourgeoisies infiltrated into the Party," and that the restoration of capitalism if they were not removed.

The article also stressed Chairman Mao's denunciation of the conspiracies of the "gang," and pointed out that the smashing of their plot showed that he is a true revolutionary.

The article said that the Chinese people have the fullest support of the Chinese people in their continuing efforts to realize Chairman Mao's program through to the end.