

THE IMPERIALIST OFFENSIVE AGAINST AFRICA

The hands behind the trail of murder

ON February 19th the Paris journal "Tribune des Nations" wrote that the landing of Belgian paratroops in Stanleyville was only part of NATO'S strategic plan which would enable "a much vaster intervention which would transcend the frontiers of the Congo."

Certainly all the events that have taken place in Africa in the last few months indicate only too clearly that the imperialist aggression against the people of Congo, which followed on the foisting of the puppet Tshombe on to the throne at Leopoldville, was a preliminary to a colossal new offensive against the peoples of Africa.

ARMED STRUGGLE

The imperialists, and especially the U.S., had noted with alarm the advances being made by the African people during 1963 and 1964. Unpopular governments had been overthrown in Zanzibar, Congo (Brazzaville), Dahomey, Gabon (where French paratroops had intervened to restore the puppets), and in the Sudan. There had been a significant general strike in Nigeria and huge demonstrations in Senegal.

Armed struggle had been launched in Mozambique and Niger; the liberation army in Portuguese Guinea had made important advances, and the Movement of the People for the Liberation of Angola (M.P.L.A.) had regrouped its forces in Angola and was now launching an offensive. In addition radical changes had taken place in Algeria, the United Arab Republic, Ghana, Mali, and other countries and the African revolution was advancing.

It was to block these developments that the latest imperialist offensives have been launched.

Just consider briefly what has happened in the past few months. In Burundi, the Prime Minister was assassinated—and the assassin turned out to be a former employee of the U.S. Embassy. Shortly afterwards a changed Burundi Government abandoned its policy of sympathy towards the national liberation forces in the Congo.

In Congo (Brazzaville) the Chairman of the Supreme Court; the Prosecutor of the

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Republic, and the Director of the Information Agency were kidnapped last month and shortly afterwards their corpses were found, mutilated almost beyond recognition.

In the same week U.S. planes attached to the Tshombe forces in the Congo attacked neighbouring Uganda strafing three villages on two different occasions. In a statement to the Uganda Parliament, Dr. Obote, the Prime Minister, openly accused the U.S. for their responsibility in the matter, pointing out that the planes were American and that they had been supplied by the U.S.

At the same time, a special Cabinet meeting of the Government of Kenya announced that it had warned the U.S. Government concerning her policy on the Congo and added significantly that the Kenya Government was ready to give "every support to the Uganda Government in defence of her territorial integrity and sovereignty".

GENERAL CONSPIRACY

In Tanzania, a little while earlier, an anti-government plot was uncovered involving U.S. Embassy employees. In Malawi all the progressive Ministers have been cleared out or forced to flee, and the country is now openly being run under British control, with Dr. Banda as the official Head of State but with British officers running the Army, the Police Force and the Intelligence Services, and with British officials in all key Departments of State.

Moves for a coup have developed in Sudan, resulting in the forced withdrawal of the progressive Ministers in the Government; this has been followed by violations over the Sudanese frontier, by aircraft of the Congo (Leopoldville) Government. In Kenya one of the most outstanding of the national leaders, Pio Pinto, was recently shot dead outside his home. And now last week comes the news of an invasion of the Republic

of Guinea by Portuguese colonialist forces.

All these attacks on the forces of revolution in Africa are part of a new overall offensive which imperialism has launched. No one can easily show that there is a direct connection between each of these events, but when once they are examined *in toto*, one cannot help forming the conclusion that they are part of a general conspiracy.

It has long been clear that central to the aims of imperialism in Africa has been the maintenance of Congo (Leopoldville) as an imperialist base right in the heart of the African continent. Linked to this is the plan to form an alliance of the reactionary European Governments still existing in Africa—namely those of Rhodesia, Angola, Mozambique, and South Africa.

FULLY IMPLICATED

In recent months a number of steps have been taken by the Governments of these territories, in collusion with U.S. imperialism and Western Germany and no doubt with British imperialism too, to strengthen the economic, political and military links with one another, in order to form an imperialist bastion right across the southern part of Africa, not simply to defend imperialist investments in that region, but also to provide a base for a new onslaught against the national liberation movement.

This makes all the more reprehensible the actions of the British Government in leaving the Smith Government free in Rhodesia to hold down the African peoples, as well as its refusal to stop sending military spare parts to South Africa, training South African pilots in Britain, and providing other forms of military aid.

These actions, coming on top of the placing by Britain of Ascension Island at the disposal of the Belgian paratroops for their attack last year on Stanleyville, show only too clearly that British imperialism is fully implicated in the new plots against Africa.

The policy of the British Labour Government in Africa is becoming more clear every day. To its shame it is acting in the same way as it has in Vietnam on the side of imperialism and against the people. It must be urged by the pressure of the Labour Movement to change its policy in Africa, in order that the new offensive against the people can be halted.