

IMPERIALISTS REACTIVATING THE COLD WAR

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ALL the signals indicate that the world is on the brink of Cold War II. At this historical juncture, it is important to briefly recall the antecedents which led to this explosive and abominable situation.

During World War II there was cooperation between a socialist state (the Soviet Union) and the liberal-democratic capitalist states against the authoritarian, decadent, capitalist, fascist states (Germany, Italy and Japan).

However, at the end of the "hot" war in 1945, the old pre-war rivalry between capitalism and socialism surfaced once again.

In 1946, at Fulton, Missouri, the arch-imperialist Winston Churchill warned of "the hordes" coming from the East, and called for the rallying together of the English-speaking peoples to "protect civilisation".

A year later, President Harry Truman, who had graced the Churchill meeting, officially declared the cold war. At Baylor University on March 6, 1947, he pointed out that governments which conducted planned economies and controlled foreign trade were dangers to freedom; that freedom of speech and worship were dependent on the free enterprise system; that controlled economies were "not the American way" and "not the way of peace".

The policy of cordon sanitaire, of the "containment of communism", socialism and national liberation was born. The instruments created were the CIA (1948), military treaties (NATO, BAGHDAD PACT, CENTO, SEATO) and a worldwide "iron ring" of 429 permanent military bases and 3,000 supplementary installations in 30 countries. The so-called "captive states" in Eastern Europe were to be "liberated". And 400 million dollars was voted to prop up the corrupt, reactionary and unrepresentative Greek and Turkish regimes.

The result was a long list of cold-war

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casualties which included Venezuela (1948), Iran (1953), British Guiana (1953), Guatemala (1954), British Guiana (1964), Brazil (1964), Dominican Republic (1965), Indonesia (1965), Ghana (1966), Chile (1973), to name the most outstanding and most blatant.

Nevertheless, the tide of history could not be reserved. Imperialism suffered its major defeats in Indochina at Dien-Bien-Phu in 1954 and in Egypt in 1956. Subsequently the French were expelled from Indochina and Algeria; the U.S. was humiliated and disgraced in its genocidal "undeclared war" against Viet Nam.

Emergence of Political Detente

The costly Viet Nam debacle greatly affected the U.S. economy—balance of trade and balance of payments deficits; the devaluation of the "Almighty Dollar"; the non-convertibility of dollar into gold.

Cold-war embargoes and blockades became obstacles to U.S. national interests. Thus, President Nixon, an old cold-warrior, opened in the early 1970s the door to the socialist countries which the U.S.A. had earlier closed. "Peaceful coexistence" between states with different socio-economic systems, which previously had been regarded as the "cat's paw of communism", became acceptable in certain quarters. And with the 1975 Helsinki Final Act, political detente ushered in a new era for East-West relations.

At the same time, the latter part of the 1970-80 decade saw a decisive shift in the world balance of forces. The fascist and reactionaries were defeated in Guinea-Bissau, Cape Verde, Mozambique, Angola, Ethiopia and Southern Yemen. After the intervention of South Africa in Angola, that country became a test of strength between the forces of reaction and progress—a test in which the progressive forces won a resounding victory; only to be followed shortly after with the victory of the Ethiopian people against feudalism and reaction. And in 1978-79, dictators in

Afghanistan, Iran, Grenada and Nicaragua were overthrown.

The hawks became furious; they went on the warpath. A month after the Saur Revolution in Afghanistan in April 1978, the NATO Council meeting in Washington agreed on increasing military budgets of all member-states by 3 per cent per year until the end of the century. This was at the time of the UN Special Session in New York on complete and worldwide disarmament!

Therefore when in November 1978, the Moscow Declaration of the Warsaw Treaty states called for a halt to the arms race and submitted long-term proposals for arms limitation and disarmament, NATO had already given its answer, i.e., an enormous increase in arms spending.

President Jimmy Carter, whose electoral fortunes had reached an all-time low, fell in line with the dictates of the "hawks" and the powerful military-industrial magnates. He promised billions for the modernisation of U.S. nuclear forces and a general programme for strengthening the "rapid deployment force"—a 110,000-man contingency force for the purpose of "protecting American interests and ensuring an uninterrupted flow of Arab oil". Forecasting "storms of conflict" in the 1980s and a growth of "political instability", he proposed, contrary to past electoral promises to cut military spending (a promise which made him very popular), an increase of 5 per cent above the inflation rate for 1980 and 4.5 per cent for each of the next five years.

Cold War Reactivated in Caribbean

The cold-war was re-activated in the Caribbean. About 2,000 marines equipped with combat aircraft and submarines stormed into the U.S. base at Guantánamo Bay in Cuba; military manoeuvres were carried out in the Caribbean Sea and arms were promised to Barbados and for the creation of a Caribbean security force.

A Caribbean Joint Task Force was established soon after the Grenadian revolution at Key West, Florida, to improve U.S. "capability to monitor and respond rapidly to any attempted military encroachment in the region".

There was increased surveillance of Cuba concomitant with increased economic assistance from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Inter-American Development Bank (IADB); the World Bank and Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) to the

other nations of the region so as to thwart "social turmoil" and stabilize this area.

This escalation was not confined to the Caribbean region but instead was part of a general mobilisation all over the world. According to "Time" magazine (29/10/1979): "At Grafenwohr, West Germany, a U.S. tank battalion roared into combat exercises after having been flown in from Fort Hood, Texas, on a 'no notice' emergency drill. At Florida Eglin Air Force Base, 20,000 soldiers, sailors and airmen prepared to launch 'bold Eagle 80', a 9-day manoeuvre to practise coming to the aid of an invaded ally. In the Indian Ocean, a U.S. Navy 7-ship carrier task force joined up with a 5-ship Middle East force to show the flag."

On December 10, 1979, the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) decided to deploy in Western Europe nuclear delivery vehicles, and about 600 medium-range Pershing II and Tomahawk cruise missiles.

The excuse for upsetting the balance of military forces in Europe was "Soviet military superiority". But this was denied by President Leonid Brezhnev. He pointed out that there had been no increase in military (nuclear) hardware in the past ten years; nor was the Soviet Union planning an attack on the West.

Despite NATO's claims concerning the "defencelessness" of Western Europe, facts prove otherwise. Defense Minister Apel of the Federal Republic of Germany (FRG) declared on 2 February 1979, that, in preparation of the NATO longterm programme, decisions were made as early as 1975 to reinforce U.S. nuclear forces in Western Europe, when there did not exist a single missile of the SS-20 type.

Some time ago, leading NATO politicians declared that there was an approximate military equilibrium. Thus U.S. President Carter could optimistically declare on October 1, 1979: "We have created... in Europe the conditions for the political and military balance of forces required for our security."

The International Institute for Strategic Studies in London, which is closely associated with NATO, confirmed that statement in its analysis: "The Military Balance—1979/80": "We arrive... at the conclusion that the relation between NATO's theatre weapons and those of the Warsaw Treaty Organisation is just about equal at present."

U.S. Secretary of State Vance even stressed on 26 October 1979, that the United States and its West Europe allies on

balance invested "about 25 per cent more in defence than the Soviet Union and the Warsaw Pact". And he added: "Our allies are more powerful than the Warsaw Pact".

Actually, medium-range missiles deployed in the European part of the Soviet Union were only an answer to the advanced forces of the U.S.A., i.e., 1,200 bases for American missiles in the FRG, Britain and Spain plus 123 British and some 70 French launchers and delivery vehicles aimed at the Soviet Union. The total number of nuclear weapon delivery vehicles on the territory of Western Europe is over 3,000. And there are about 9,000 nuclear warheads for these carriers available from the U.S.A. alone; that is, more than double the operative nuclear weapon arsenal of the member-states of the Warsaw Treaty Organisation. In addition to this nuclear powder keg, there will be nearly 600 more U.S. medium-range missiles of a new type by 1983 at the latest! The FRG wants for itself all the 108 envisaged medium-range Pershing missiles and 96 of the cruise missiles. The remaining cruise missiles are to be distributed as follows: UK-160; Italy-112; Belgium-48; Netherlands-48.

Bogey of Soviet Threat

Despite the statements made by the highest U.S. officials, the U.S. people and millions of people across the world are being fed with hysterical propaganda of a "Soviet threat". The objective of this sensational international campaign is geared to winning support for the U.S. government and NATO's sinister plans. Under the guise of "modernisation" and "eliminating imbalances", Pershing II missiles and cruise missiles, as part of an increase in international arms deployment, are being allowed to make their appearance in Europe.

Western propaganda concentrates on the Soviet SS-20 missiles. But these are not new and have been considered in the SALT II Agreement; they are not strategic and are deployed in the Western part of the USSR but cannot reach the United States. The U.S. Pershing II missiles with a range of 1,700 kilometers, and the Tomahawk cruise missiles with a range of 2,500 kilometers are strategic; they can reach deep into Soviet territory. It is not simply a "technical operation" replacing existing U.S. missiles (Pershing I—with a range of 1,000 kilometers) with new and modernised ones.

The special aspect of the cruise missile is its accuracy and undetectability; it flies at low altitudes and is relatively small, radar detection is very difficult.

According to Richard J. Barnet, a leading U.S. military expert, "the introduction of the cruise missile opens the way to deliver a virtually limitless number of nuclear warheads on the Soviet Union from forward bases surrounding its territory".

The capitalist press failed to inform their listeners that the President of the Soviet Union promised unilaterally to withdraw up to 20,000 servicemen in Central Europe as well as 1,000 tanks and a certain amount of other military hardware from the German Democratic Republic. He also made an offer to reduce the number of medium-range nuclear weapons deployed in the west of the Soviet Union on the condition that no additional nuclear weapons were deployed by NATO in Western Europe. In addition the Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko even visited West Germany, Italy and Spain in order to win support for these proposals but to no avail.

Since the fall of the Shah in Iran and the loss of military bases with sophisticated electronic equipment for spying on the Soviet Union, Afghanistan has assumed a strategic importance. Imperialism wants not only to obliterate the revolutionary and democratic gains made by the Afghan revolution, but also to establish Afghanistan as a beachhead with U.S. Pershing II and cruise nuclear missiles, as will now be done on European soil, aimed at the Soviet Union.

The reactivation of the cold war has not, however, daunted the Soviet Union's desire to continue fighting for detente and disarmament.

The new upsurge in the arms race is retrogressive and will result in further sacrifices and hardships for the peoples of the world, particularly of the developing countries, while it also poses a serious threat to world peace.

The arms race must be stopped. Everything must be done to avoid a nuclear holocaust; a struggle must be waged to advance political and military detente to a new and higher stage.

In the spirit of the Helsinki Accords, SALT II must be ratified by the U.S.A. The next step should be the opening of meaningful dialogue on a new international economic order, SALT III and complete disarmament.