

Editorial: Yankee Terror Against Libya

The April 15th US aggression against Libya leaves not a shadow of doubt as to the Reagan Administration's intention to overthrow the Libyan government and assassinate President Qaddafi. The only reason presented by Yankee imperialism, in justifying its attack, is Libyan aid for liberation movements and progressive governments around the globe.

Reagan and his administration consider Libyan aid to the revolutionary government in Nicaragua as an act of terror, but they consider their own support to the reactionary contras as a moral act in support of «freedom»! Reagan and his officials consider Libyan support to the people of New Caledonia as an act of terror, but they consider French colonisation of that country as an act of «freedom»! The Reagan Administration sees Libyan support to SWAPO as an act of terror, but they consider the practices of the apartheid regime in South Africa as legal acts to protect «law and order». The Reagan Administration regards Libyan support to the people of Chad as an act of terror, while considering French intervention and military presence there to be legal!

If we try to mention all of Yankee imperialism's military operations against other peoples, for «defending freedom», the list will be very long. The massive US intervention in Vietnam would not be the first on the list; nor will this list end with the most recent aggression against Libya. Such a list would include US support for the deposed Shah of Iran who was very famous for his «love of freedom»! It would also include the unlimited US support for «democratic» rulers such as Somoza, the former dictator of Nicaragua, Sadat of Egypt, Marcos of the Philippines and Batista of Cuba, not to mention ongoing US military support and economic aid to «very democratic» Latin American regimes, such as those of El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala, Columbia and Chile.

While noting US enthusiasm for defending these figures and their likes, we do not forget the US's fervent support for the Zionist rulers of 'Israel'. Isn't it the US government that stands almost alone in the UN, supporting and protecting 'Israel'? Wasn't it the US administration that vetoed the UN Security Council resolution condemning the Israeli occupation of South Lebanon? Wasn't it the US and its imperialist allies and proxies who voted against the UN General Assembly resolution which considered Zionism as a form of racism? Wasn't it the US administration that vetoed a UN Security Council resolution condemning the Israeli massacre of Palestinian and Lebanese civilians in Sabra and Shatila? Doesn't US economic and military aid to 'Israel' reach \$ 3.5 billion annually? Wasn't it US-made Israeli jets that bombed the Iraqi nuclear reactor near Baghdad, and the PLO headquarters in Tunisia, which is 3500 kilometers from 'Israel'?

Since all these aggressive acts are justified from the Reagan Administration's point of view, it is then not strange for US fleets and bombers to travel thousands of miles to hit Libya, even if young American pilots might be killed, their wives widowed and their children orphaned - in addition to the 39 Libyan civilians killed and over 90 wounded.

Condemning the US aggression

Before Reagan ordered the strike on Libya, he consulted his allies in the so-called free world, especially his Maggie in

Britain. Obviously, he did not consult the thousands of citizens of the 'free world' who poured into the streets to protest the US air strike - in Athens, Rome, Amsterdam, Ottawa, Dacca, San Jose (Costa Rica) and scores of other cities around the world. Nor had Thatcher created a national consensus for having the aggression launched from British soil. Besides heated debate in the parliament, 10,000 demonstrated in London, while thousands more gathered at military bases, including Lakenheath where the 18 US F-111 bombers started their murderous mission; over 150 demonstrators were arrested by the British police. The matter is highly sensitive, for the British people know that the arrangements, whereby the US gained clearance for launching its aggression from bases in Britain, are the same as those which govern the US's getting consent to fire the nuclear missiles installed on British soil. Polls indicated that the majority of British opposed the aggression, as did the majority of West Germans.

The Arab masses also showed their outrage. A US Embassy employee was shot in Khartoum the same day as the raid. Two British citizens were stabbed in Morocco. Over 10,000 Sudanese marched towards the US embassy in protest of US aggression. However, reactionary rulers curtailed the masses in several countries. Hundreds of Tunisians marched in protest but were prevented from reaching the US embassy; 20 citizens were arrested. Five opposition parties called for cutting relations with the USA. Palestinians demonstrated in protest, despite the occupation. In Amman, demonstrations on two different days were dispersed by the police and citizens were arrested. In Cairo, 100 lawyers gathered in their union to burn the US flag and issue a communique demanding a total boycott of the USA. There were three days of demonstrations staged by students and unionists; the police tried to disperse the protests and arrested 44.

We consider the US aggression against Libya extremely dangerous and call on progressive and peace-loving forces, all over the world, to raise their arms and voices against this aggression, demanding its halt before more innocent blood is shed and more damage inflicted.

We received the following telex from the US on April 19th:

We, the General Union of Palestine Students in the US, are presently holding a peaceful sit-in at the offices of the League of Arab States in Washington D.C., to condemn the Reagan Administration's latest vicious attack on the Libyan Jamahiriya and its people. We demand the immediate cut-off of diplomatic relations between the Arab governments and the US. Furthermore, we condemn the recent arrest in Amman, Jordan, of Palestinian and Jordanian residents demonstrating in front of the American embassy to condemn the US aggression.

The New York, Dallas, Chicago, and San Francisco chapters of the General Union of Palestine Students are holding sit-ins and press conferences similar to that in Washington D.C. in the respective offices of the League of Arab States, to condemn the US aggression against Libya.