

US Aggression on Libya

Different Excuse, Same Reason

For the fourth time since Reagan's coming to power, beginning in August 1981 and recently just weeks before the end of his eight-year term, US aggression against the sovereign state of Libya reared its ugly head. It is ironic that upon the accusation that the Libyans were building «the world's largest chemical warfare factory at Rabta» (*Guardian*, January 5th), the US attacked Libyan planes, while its own Federal Laboratories in Saltzberg, Pennsylvania, up until a year ago were shipping off CS and many other types of poisonous gas bombs to Israel to use against the intifada, causing tens of deaths, spontaneous abortions and side effects.

NOTHING NEW

The attack which took place on January 4th came as no surprise. In

August of 1981, F-14 Tomcats of the US Sixth Fleet shot down two Libyan planes over the Gulf of Sidra on the pretext of a territorial waters dispute. The US forces purposely went within the Gulf to prove that they basically have the right to go anywhere they want and to do military exercises with total disrespect for the sovereignty of others. Then, in March 1986, US naval units deliberately crossed the northern border of the gulf. When Libyan gunboats sailed out to challenge the Sixth Fleet, two were sunk and a shore radar installation was destroyed. The following month, after accusations that Libya was behind a bomb in a West Berlin disco, which killed one American and injured 60 others, 18 US F-111 and A-6 bombers attacked Tripoli and Benghazi. Most recently, two Libyan MiG-23 fighters were shot down within 12 minutes 70 miles off of Tobruk by

Sparrow and Sidewinder missiles fired by two US F-14 fighters from the decks of the super carrier USS John F. Kennedy.

Although the excuses have changed over the past eight years, the basic reasons are the same. The US claimed that the plant was intended to produce poisonous gases which could be used in chemical warfare, such as mustard gas and chemical nerve agents, citing Imhausen-Chemie AG, a West German firm, for playing a central role in supplying the Libyan plant.

THE TRUTH

Obviously one cannot take at face value the US excuses given. There are several objective and tangible reasons why the US has continued an aggressive policy towards Libya. First and foremost, Libya opposes US imperialist designs in the region. Qaddafi is well-►

USS John F. Kennedy in the Mediterranean

