

Liberia

Military concerns also rank high in the renewed Liberian-Israeli ties. Before arriving in occupied Palestine in August 1983, to embrace the Zionist leadership, Liberian President Samuel Doe had sent a team to Tel Aviv to see what kind of information the Israeli intelligence service would divulge on alleged Libyan intentions in his country and elsewhere in Africa. Doe has also been drawn in on the imperialist side in Chad since then. In addition to making agreements for Israeli aid in the fields of agriculture, transportation and finance, Doe's regime purchased four Arava transport planes. This meted \$10 million for the Israeli Aircraft Industries.

shasa as Mobutu's most trusted adviser" (*Journal of Palestine Studies*, No. 47, Spring 1983, p. 48).

Zaire, with its great expanse and centrally strategic location, can provide a springboard for the Washington-Pretoria-Tel Aviv axis to broaden its interference in Africa. Mobutu has previously joined in this axis' endeavors, for example, by supporting Holden Roberto's FNLA against the legitimate MPLA government at the time of Angola's independence, while Pretoria supported UNITA to the same end. Presently, Zaire is the only African nation contributing troops to the US-French intervention in Chad. Now Mobutu's role will be expanded to complement Pretoria's aggression against its neighbors, which has increased in step with the Reagan Administration's policy of "constructive engagement" vis-a-vis the apartheid regime.

Moreover, Zaire's restoration of diplomatic relations provided the basis for others to do the same. While this process has been somewhat retarded as a result of the Zionist state's following invasion and occupation in Lebanon, the Zionists can easily make contact with willing African states in Kinshasa, as in January 1983, when Sharon met representatives of Kenya, Uganda, Central African Republic, Tanzania and Chad.

Zaire's Zionization

To secure the linchpin of the reactionary axis, the Zionist state has undertaken a total revamping of Zaire's armed forces. This is in accordance with a five-year plan agreed upon when Sharon, accompanied by an entourage of 90, including military aides and two generals, visited Zaire in January 1983. In advance, Avraham Tamir, head of strategic planning in the Israeli Defense Ministry, had visited Zaire several times and drawn up a master plan for reorganizing, retraining and re-equipping Zaire's 20,000 armed and security forces. As Sharon described the project: "It's on the level of Zaire's national security" (*Jerusalem Post*, January 23, 1983).

The other plan agreed upon at that time, for 'Israel' to establish a Presidential guard for Mobutu, is already accomplished. Initially, 'Israel' supplied Zaire with \$8 million worth of arms to this purpose. Under the new pact, 'Israel' is supplying Zaire with helicopters, tanks, armored personnel carriers, artillery, light arms, radar systems, warships, electronic security fences and spy planes, and donating arms captured in Lebanon in 1982. In the spring of 1983, *Afrique-Asie* reported that the Israeli government was negotiating the establishment of Israeli air bases in Zaire. In the same period, TASS reported that 4,000 Israeli servicemen are to build a US cruise missile base in Zaire.

The focal point in reorganizing Zaire's "national security" is Shaba (formerly Katanga) province. This area is vital not only to Mobutu but to imperialism as well, because of its mineral wealth. (Zaire is the world's biggest producer of industrial diamonds and cobalt and has substantial copper deposits). Shaba has also been the scene of popular uprisings in 1977 and 1978, which Mobutu could only quell with the help of Moroccan, French and Belgium troops. While in Zaire, Sharon flew over the border areas with Angola and inspected the 12,000-

men Camaniola brigade (over half Zaire's military manpower) which guards the Kolwezi mines. In addition to undertaking the establishment of a new 5,000-men division to safeguard the mines, two battalions of commandos are to be deployed along the frontier with Angola.

'Israel' may also be involved in a whole infrastructural project: "The governor of Shaba province said he would like to see established a line of settlements, similar to the IDF Nahal units of farmer-pioneer-soldiers, having the responsibility for area defence such as is assigned to Israel border settlements" (*Jerusalem Post*, January 20, 1983).

Israeli military involvement in Zaire fits neatly into its cooperation with Pretoria, bolstering the apartheid regime's campaign to encircle Angola, harass Mozambique, and stave off the liberation of Namibia and of the South African masses. Israeli aid is also vital if Mobutu is to be kept in power in the long run, for opposition to his dictatorship is growing and there are recurrent guerrilla activities. The Front for the Restoration of Congolese Democracy issued a statement from Belgium that "a secret plan involving Zaire, Israel and South Africa lies behind the Sharon visit." At the same time, the Angola News Agency charged that Israeli military experts had been sent to Namibia to train UNITA counterrevolutionaries operating against the MPLA government. This marks an escalation of long-standing Israeli military and logistics aid to the South African occupation troops fighting SWAPO. It was also noteworthy that the spy plane shot down by Mozambique in May 1983, in conjunction with South Africa's air raid on Matola, near Maputo, was of Israeli design.

To Our Readers:

Join Our Efforts to Expose Zionist Activities

In the first issue of *Democratic Palestine*, we printed a study about the role of 'Israel' as imperialism's surrogate and arms merchant in Latin America. In this issue we deal with the Israeli role in Africa. An important feature of our anti-Zionist position is awareness that the Palestinian and Arab people are not the sole targets of Zionist aggression and expansion. Besides its world-wide activities in pursuit of hegemony in our area, Zionism occupies a distinct slot in imperialism's global strategy. Thus, the Zionist state is ultimately aligned with those forces who try to hold back the people's march towards freedom, progress, democracy and socialism, in whatever corner of the world.

We would like to make the examination of Zionism's global role a regular feature in *Democratic Palestine*. To this end, we call for contributions from our friends and readers who may have access to specific information about Zionist activities in their country or region. Please join our effort by sending a study or article, or selected pieces of information, examples, an overview of Zionist influence and organization, etc., which our staff can work into a composite article. Official Israeli activities are of interest whether in the field of politics, commerce, media, military or intelligence. Non-official Zionist activities, lobbies, front organizations, etc., are also relevant. All areas of the world, historical as well as current aspects, are relevant, including enrichment of what we have already printed on Latin America and Africa.

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