

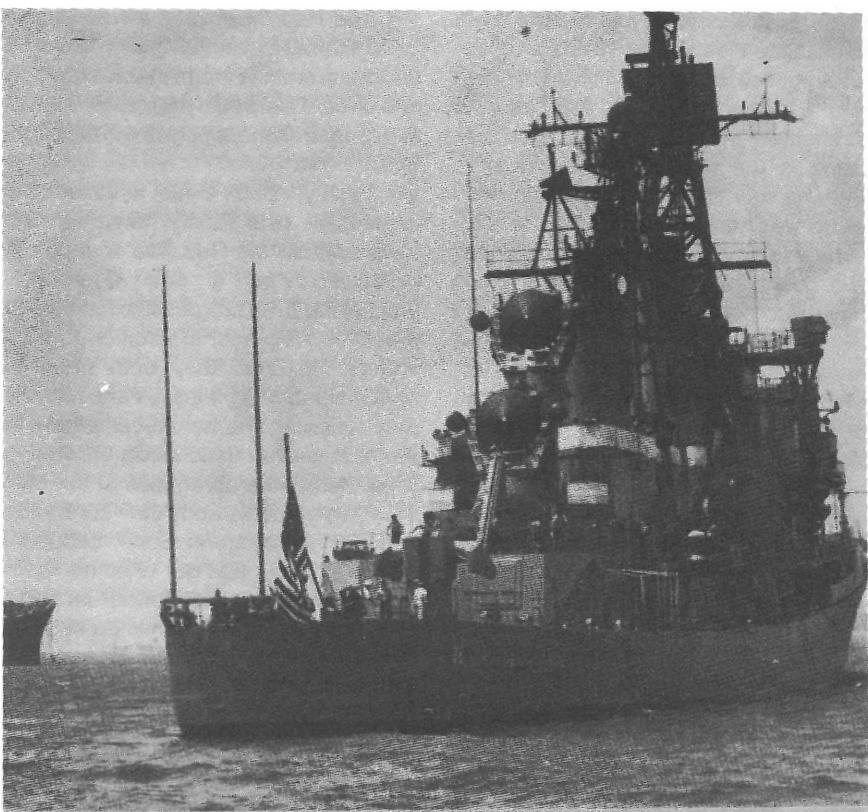
The Red Sea Scenario

Any discussion of the recent Red Sea drama cannot be isolated from the US imperialist strategy and plans for the Arab region. It should be viewed in context of the US's global strategy, the same that installs new nuclear missiles

in Europe, invades Grenada, and conducts genocidal activities against all liberation movements throughout the world.

The vital strategic, economic and military importance of the Red Sea is the

US exhibits its military power in the Red Sea



real issue behind this scenario. In fact, its importance makes it one of the main priorities in the region for the US administration and «Israel».

The Red Sea is of a geopolitical importance. It is located at the cross point of three major continents, Africa, Asia and Europe. It is the main water passage between the East and the West. It connects together the Arab Gulf and the Indian Ocean with the Mediterranean Sea through Bab el Mandeb strait in the south and the Suez canal in the north. Furthermore, it is located in the midst of the largest oil fields and the main oil exporting countries in the Arab Gulf.

The Red Sea incident came at a time in which US imperialism assisted by its NATO allies and «Israel» were quite intimidated by the defeats they suffered at the hands of the Lebanese nationalist forces. Furthermore, the US has recently been unable to move forward with its plans for the area even in the Gulf. On the other hand, the Arab reaction felt the threats of this defeat. In fact, shortly after the expulsion of the US marines and the multinational forces from Lebanon, President Mubarak of Egypt expressed his fear openly to the *Washington Post*. He first warned the US that such an event, if not remedied soon, will cost it the loss of its friends' confidence. Then Mubarak called on the Arab reaction to fill the gap as much as possible. Obviously, the Camp David regime affirmed that the existence and security of the Arab reaction depends on US military presence in the area.

Also, Numeiri of Sudan started the scenario of the air raid on Um-Durman for the same fears. This false alarm gave Egypt the chance to call for US assistance. Shortly, the Awacs came in under the pretext of protecting the Egyptian and Sudanese air space against any Libyan attacks. Washington, of course, welcomed the opportunity to return to the area to assist the reactionary regimes and increase its military presence, as it did recently in the Gulf area when Iraq escalated its attacks on oil tankers.

The Red Sea scenario started in early August when a series of explosions took place causing damage in a total of 17 vessels. This gave Egypt one more chance to call on its Western allies for help in sweeping the Red Sea of any undetonated mines. Immediately, the Egyptian President pointed his finger at Iran and Libya as the two countries