

The ill-fated meeting of the Organization of African Unity at Tripoli, Libya in late July and early August is now history. It was a saga of failure concocted by a greedy king of a north Africa-Arab nation.

King Hassan of Morocco was angered months ago because Edem Kojo of Togo, Secretary General of the OAU had admitted the Polisario — the former Spanish Sahara — as a member of this body of 52 African countries. These freedom fighters have declared their land and the Sahrawi Arab Republic where it controls the major towns against thousands of Royal Moroccan troops. Mr. Tojo had the support of his actions by President Daniel Arap Moi of Kenya, chairman of the OAU during 1982, plus the implicit backing of over one half of the OAU.

King Hassan openly covets the Sahrawi Republic because of its rich deposits of phosphate which he deigns to sell to his western friends, primarily my country, the United States. His awesome military machine — including hundreds of American made tanks, artillery pieces, machine guns, mortars, missiles, fighter planes — pounds the Polisario without results.

So, prior to the OAU conference, which was to have been hosted by Colonel Muammar El-Ghaddafi, leader of Socialist Peoples Libyan Jamahiroya (Libya) — the king proceeded to contact the heads of many African states. His influence in the former black French-speaking colonial countries accrued to his favor. Many others of the sub-Saharan nations, especially those whose leaders had visited the United States in recent months, also joined King Hassan in his ire against the OAU's Secretariat.

Colonel Ghaddafi Is Prime Target

Far beyond the seriousness of Morocco's aggrandizement against the Polisario, I firmly hold that the unwarranted wrecking of the OAU deliberations in Libya were triggered by host Ghaddafi.

Many black African diplomats stationed here at the United Nations suggested to me many times that their administrations at home were hostile to Mr. Ghaddafi and wanted no part of him as chairman of their beloved OAU. Some resented the Colonel sending his armed forces into Chad during that hapless country's civil war. Although invited by the former President Goukouni Queddi, pressure grew on the Libyan leader to withdraw. And he did.

Coupled with the Chad incident, some African regimes saw Mr. Ghaddafi as trying to interrupt their rule by bringing together on a transnational basis dissident Moslem and tribal elements under his aegis.

Libya has vast oil resources and here again a few African rulers interpreted Leader Ghaddafi's free wheeling use of these vast revenues as wasted and misplaced with undeserving nations, groups and even terrorists. There seems to be a residue of "sour grapes" in such criticisms — for many of these countries received Libyan aid far below their expectations. Some in this school of thought cited the lack of favorable treatment in the charges for Libyan oil.

A friend of mine, an American supporter of Libya and Mr. Ghaddafi, has shared a booklet with me. I find it quite informative. Entitled "Africa", it is a compendium of the activities of the Libyan Arab Investment Company headquartered in Tripoli and authorized by the General Peoples Congress (Parliament) February 4, 1981. In addition to Africa, the Company operates in the Middle East, Asia and Europe and in Grenada in the West Indies. I see no reference to any such funding of projects in the United States among blacks. Possibly this will develop in the near future because many blacks are seriously working on the notion.

Anyway, here are some of the nations the Libyan Arab Foreign Investment Company has joint ventures with in Africa: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Burundi, Cameroon, Central Africa, Chad, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau and Guinea-Conakry, Liberia, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Nigeria, Ruanda, Seychelles, Somalia, Sudan, Togo, Tunisia and Uganda.

Togo seems to have prospered with Libya — boasting of an oil refinery financed 40% by Libya. By refining crude from elsewhere, Togo saves millions yearly in energy costs.

In Africa, the emphasis of the Libyan Arab Investment Company centers on agriculture. Common sense mandates that Africa should raise more of its food — with self-sufficiency a needed goal. Other schemes promote transportation, mining, tourism, shipping, fishing, et cetera.

Fawzi Shakshuki is Libya's Minister of Planning. He directs the Libyan Arab Investment Company which has dealings with 48 countries. Mr. Shakshuki portrays Africa as in need of a new economic order. He sees her resources exploited and blatantly stolen by some industrial countries and their multinational corporations.

I agree. I boldly state that Libya's Ghaddafi is no fool. The OAU and others should take note. There is great merit in his willingness to help his people and the needy on his continent and others in other parts of the world.

The U.S. Shadow In Tripoli

When the OAU collapsed because of a lack of a quorum, a sense of shame came over me.

Libya is a small country — less than 4,000,000 human beings who were exploited by occupiers and a decadent political system until Colonel Muammar Ghaddafi took over with the blessing of his people. No one recalls any wholesale murders by this devout, yet puzzling Muslim. Propaganda and poor reporting by the Western press has done this man a grave injustice.

President Reagan had Sgt. Samuel K. Doe, Chairman of the Peoples Movement in Liberia, the other day at the White House. The sergeant killed scores of the former ruling group, pushed them into a common grave and imprisoned hundreds of others. Mr. Doe did destroy a corrupt Liberian regime, but did he have to kill? I say no!

Yet, when Colonel Ghaddafi, a few months back, claimed a part of the Gulf of Serf as Libyan territorial waters, President Ronald Reagan ordered the U.S. Sixth Fleet into the area and shot down several Libyan planes. Mr. Reagan then barred the importation of Libyan oil and cut off diplomatic relations. Yet Libya has been a great admirer of American goods and services and a consistent and reliable trading partner. Although most U.S. nationals were ordered out of Libya by President Reagan, many technicians and professionals saw this as a silly ploy.

Dr. Armand Hammer, the American industrialist, chairman of Occidental Petroleum which is a prime oil operator in Libya, also has misgivings of Mr. Reagan's harsh treatment of Libya.

Thirty-two nations sent delegates, two short of a quorum. Twenty-four heads of state were in attendance at Tripoli.

The fine hand of U.S. sabotage was witnessed by a few veteran correspondents at Tripoli — many from the U.S. and other Western countries out of a total of 109. They noted the absences of President Sekou Toure of Guinea who had just visited Washington, President Alhaji Shehu Shagari of

United Nations

Morocco Wrecks African Unity

By Curtis T. Perkins

Nigeria, President Siaka Stevens of Sierra Leone. Several other heads of State known to be friendly to Morocco and to the U.S., declined to attend at all or send any type of representative or observer. President Moi of Kenya could not be present because of a coup.

Officials at the White House and in our U.S. Department of State may gloat at President Ghaddafi's put-down as Chairman of the OAU for 1982-83 because he could not muster a quorum. But such joy is shortsighted. Negotiation and talking to him and to President Fidel Castro of Cuba could be

a helpful maneuver against the Soviet Union and for world peace.

Stranger than fiction to me is why was a coterie of ex-CIA agents and former Green Beret adventurers so active in Libyan affairs. These include Edwin Wilson, the leader of the ex-CIA cabal now under U.S. arrest, Frank Terpil, a refugee with an arrest warrant over his head; Eugene Tafoya, the former Green Beret indicted for murder, and Jerome Brower, plus others for gun running.

The OAU Must Remain Viable

When ex-President Idi Amin of Uganda was

Chairman of the OAU, its members kept him muzzled and in line. The OAU is needed to tackle the apartheid policies of South Africa, push for independence for Namibia, work on a new economic order, educate its people, set up infrastructures to develop and feed its multitudes, etc.

Let us admit that President Ghaddafi may in the eyes of the world and some Africans be eccentric, erratic, mystical and a revolutionary. He should under no circumstances be denied the chairmanship of the Organization of African Unity. Africa has a good crop of leadership and the OAU has a capable Secretariat. There is Paul Onu, the dedicated and knowledgeable Nigerian who is Assistant Secretary General. His talents could be utilized to help direct events here. It is Africa together that can mesh Colonel Ghaddafi's better instincts toward exemplary service to the continent, the United Nations and the world in general.

Finally, Morocco must be made to realize by the OAU that it is so detrimental to the well-being of its

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