

THE NATO PLAN IS TO OCCUPY LIBYA

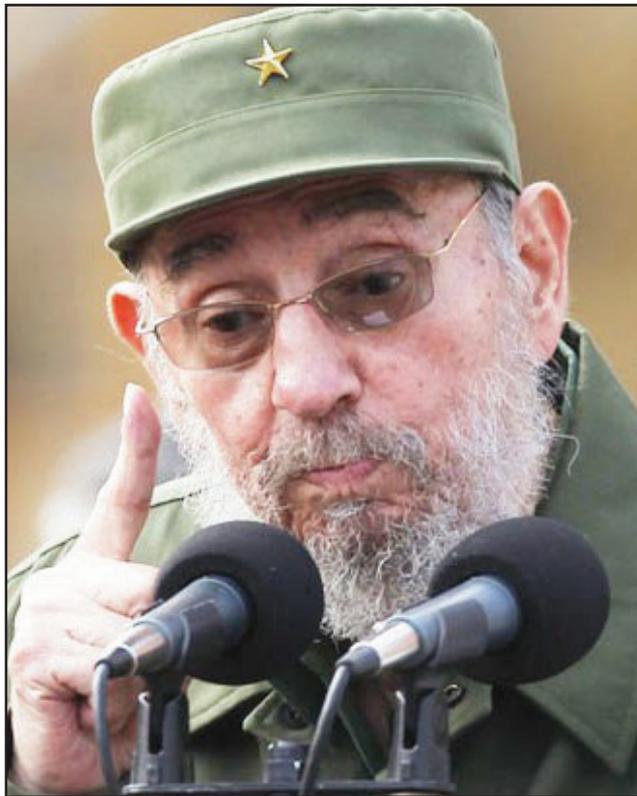
By Cde. Fidel Castro Ruz

Oil has become the principal wealth in the hands of the great Yankee transnationals; through this energy source they had an instrument that considerably expanded their political power in the world. It was their main weapon when they decided to easily liquidate the Cuban Revolution as soon as the first just and sovereign laws were passed in our Homeland: depriving it of oil.

Upon this energy source today's civilization was developed. Venezuela was the nation in this hemisphere that paid the highest price. The United States became the lord and master of the huge oil fields that Mother Nature had bestowed upon that sister country.

At the end of the last World War, it started to extract greater amounts of oil from the oil fields of Iran, as well as those in Saudi Arabia, Iraq and the Arab countries located around them. These became the main suppliers.

World consumption progressively increased to the fabulous figure of approximately 80 million barrels a day, including those being extracted on United States territory, to which later gas, hydro and nuclear energies were added. Until the beginning of the twentieth century, coal had been the basic source of energy that made industrial de-



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velopment possible, before billions of automobiles and engines consuming the liquid fuel were produced.

The squandering of oil and gas is associated with one of the greatest tragedies, not in the least resolved, which is suffered by humankind: climate change.

When our Revolution arose, Algeria, Libya and Egypt were not yet oil producers and a great part of the abundant reserves of Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Iran and the United Arab Emirates were still to be discovered.

In December of 1951, Libya becomes the first African country to attain its independence after WW II, during which its ter-

ritory was the stage for important battles between the troops of Germany and the United Kingdom, conferring fame and glory on Generals Erwin Rommel and Bernard L. Montgomery. Ninety-five percent of its territory is completely made up of desert.

Technology permitted the discovery of vital oilfields of excellent quality light oil that today reach one million 800 thousand barrels a day along with abundant deposits of natural gas. Such riches allowed it to reach life expectancy that is almost at 75 years of age and the highest per capita income in Africa. Its harsh desert is located

over an enormous lake of fossil waters, equivalent to more than three times the land area of Cuba; this has made it possible to construct a broad network of pipelines of fresh water that stretch from one end of the country to the other.

Libya, which had a million inhabitants when it attained independence, today has somewhat more than 6 million.

The Libyan Revolution took place in the month of September of the year 1969.

Its main leader was Muammar al-Gaddafi, a soldier of Bedouin origin who, in his early years, was inspired by the ideas of the Egyptian leader Gamal Abdel Nasser. Without any doubt, many of his decisions are associated with the changes that were produced when, as in Egypt, a weak and corrupt monarchy was overthrown in Libya.

The inhabitants of that coun-

try have age-old warrior traditions. It is said that ancient Libyans were a part of Hannibal's army when he was at the point of destroying Ancient Rome with the troops that crossed the Alps.

One can agree with Gaddafi or not. The world has been invaded with all kinds of news, especially using the mass media. One has to wait the necessary length of time in order to learn precisely what is the truth and what are lies, or a mixture of events of every kind that, in the midst of chaos, were produced in Libya. For me, what is absolutely clear is that the government of the United States is not in the least worried about peace in Libya and it will not hesitate in giving NATO the order to invade that rich country, perhaps in a matter of hours or a few short days.

Those who with perfidious intentions invented the lie that Gaddafi was headed for Venezuela, just as they did yesterday afternoon on Sunday the

20th of February, today received a fitting response from Foreign Affairs Minister Nicolás Maduro when he literally stated that he was "wishing that the Libyan people would find, in the exercise of their sovereignty, a peaceful solution to their difficulties, that would preserve the integrity of the Libyan people and nation, without the interference of imperialism..."

As for me, I cannot imagine that the Libyan leader would abandon his country; escaping the responsibilities he is charged with, whether or not they are partially or totally false.

An honest person shall always be against any injustice being committed against any people in the world, and the worst of all, at this moment, would be to remain silent in the face of the crime that NATO is getting ready to commit against the Libyan people.

The leadership of that war-mongering organization has to do it. We must condemn it!

New sea satellite system helps South Africans combat piracy

JOHANNESBURG, — In order to combat piracy and to improve maritime safety, South African authorities have begun using a sophisticated navigation satellite system, it was announced on Tuesday.

Piracy, especially by Somalis, has been increasing along Africa east coast in recent years. The South African Press Association (SAPA) reported on Tuesday that Karl Otto, head of the South African Maritime Safety Authority (SAMSA) announced the surveillance tool at a conference in Durban.

Called Long Range Identification and Tracking (LRIT), the system monitors and tracks vessels in waters south of the equator.

Otto said the introduction of the LRIT followed concerns over the safety of seafarers, the safety standards of ships within South African waters.

Otto said there were high levels of cargo at risk, such as fuels and oils.

He said reasons for installing the system included the number of shipwrecks along the South African coast, and the threat of pollution of the marine environment by ships.

"It also serves as a mechanism to prevent piracy."

Otto said the satellite system has the capacity to identify and track vessels up to 1,000 nautical miles (1,850 km) from the South African coastline as well as South African-flagged vessels anywhere in the world.

"This is a revolutionary development in the security of our seas," he said.

SAMSA was determined to protect South Africa's seafarers, its coastline and the marine environment, Otto said. (Xinhua)

Chinese leaders call for preparing for hardships and risks

BEIJING, — Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao and other senior leaders on Monday urged the nation to prepare for hardships and risks in the future and push forward reform and opening up.

When joining panel discussions respectively with national legislators and political advisors at the Two Sessions, China's top annual political events, they said that officials should further study the economic situations and adopt scientific measures to overcome difficulties.

At the panel discussion with advisors from economic and agricultural sectors of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), Premier Wen Jiabao said China's development still faced many complexities despite the current sound growth.

Wen said, "We have to keep sober-minded and fully recognize the complexities and difficulties in economic development and prepare ourselves for potential hardships and risks."

Wen also urged to closely



Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao (3rd, R), who is also a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, joins a panel discussion with deputies to the Fourth Session of the 11th National People's Congress (NPC) from the circles of economy and agriculture in Beijing, capital of China, March 7, 2011.

follow economic trends and developments and to adopt flexible and prudent policies accordingly.

"We must consolidate our

confidence. Confidence is strength, confidence is hope," he said.

When attending discussions with deputies to the National

People's Congress (NPC) from Tianjin, Li Changchun, member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, said that the development of the cultural sector was a pressing task. He urged that the industry should be well guided in order to produce good works, which can educate the people.

At a panel discussion with the Henan NPC delegation, Chinese Vice President Xi Jinping said the government attached great importance to the rising up of central China. He urged Henan province to take the opportunity to advance its industrialization and urbanization, and to make greater contribution to national food security and price control as the province is a major grain production base.

In discussion with national legislators from coastal Zhejiang Province, Vice Premier Li Keqiang called for strengthened efforts to facilitate industrial restructuring and deepen reform and opening up. Li urged authorities in Zhejiang to seize the opportunity of developing its marine economy, explore new ways to propel its economy, cultivate new competitive edge and improve people's well-being.

In discussion with the NPC delegation from southwestern Chongqing Municipality, He Guoqiang, head of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Commission for Discipline Inspection, urged the city to accelerate the transformation of its economic development pattern, seek coordinated development between urban and rural areas and speed up reform and opening up.

Officials should have a clean work style and become more self-disciplined to win trust from the people, he stressed. (Xinhua)

African presidents meet in Addis Ababa on Cote d'Ivoire crisis

ADDIS ABABA, — A panel of five African presidents discussed the worsening crisis in Cote d'Ivoire here on Wednesday, after failing to persuade the country's sitting president Laurent Gbagbo to cede power to his rival Alassane Ouattara. Officials of the 53-member African Union said the talks involved Mauritanian President Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz, Chadian leader Idriss Deby, South Africa's Jacob Zuma, Tanzania's Jakaya Kikwete and Burkina Faso's Blaise Compaore.

The five-president panel, which was mandated by the AU to tackle the crisis in Cote d'Ivoire, is expected to continue talks in the coming days, without the participation of Gbagbo, who has rejected its mediation after similar missions by the president to his country to press for his step-down. The crisis ensuing the Nov. 28 presidential election is developing on a political issue to the military and economic fronts.

While Ouattara, who is recognized by the international community as the president-elect, is calling for the suspension of cocoa exports to cut off financial support for Gbagbo's government, the latter has ordered control of cocoa purchase and exports, threatening to seize stocks if an exporter fails to resume business by the end of March.

The military confrontation between Gbagbo's forces and the New Forces (FN) is escalating, with latest reports of three towns lost to the FN moving south in its offensives. Fighting is also reported near the border with Liberia. The country is facing an all-out war unless a breakthrough is made in the near future, some analysts warn.

Meanwhile, a humanitarian catastrophe is looming with tens of thousands of people displaced in the post-election violence, including 200,000 in the economic capital Abidjan alone. Many have fled into neighboring Liberia and Guinea, spreading the crisis elsewhere in the region. The United Nations puts the death toll from the crisis at nearly 400.

Cote d'Ivoire has suffered instability in recent years, including the 2002-2003 civil war, and has been divided in two with the FN controlling the north and Gbagbo's government holding the south. (Xinhua)