

# US-NATO

from page 6

Gates's remarks in Cairo underscored the grotesque level of cynicism and hypocrisy in US claims that it is intervening in Libya to protect lives and promote democracy. Turning to Yemen, where the regime of Ali Abdullah Saleh has massacred scores of unarmed demonstrators over the last week and imposed a state of emergency, Gates stressed Washington's "good working relations" with the dictator and said, "I think we will basically just continue to watch the situation. We haven't done any post-Saleh planning."

As for Bahrain, where the ruling monarchy broke up peaceful mass demonstrations with tanks and live fire, Gates said that he had recently visited the emirate to "express US support for the government" and urge it to "begin a process that would resolve some of the issues."

Both Gates and Clinton



American children crying as their parents are sent to fight in Libya

made statements suggesting that Washington, which has yet to elaborate any clear strategy for its war in Libya and has no confidence that the rebels will prove capable of defeating the government forces, is hoping that intensifying military pressure will produce fissures in Gaddafi's regime, leading to

either his assassination or overthrow.

"I think there are any number of possible outcomes here," said Gates, "and no one is in a position to predict them. Whether there are further defections within his own ruling circle, whether there are divisions within his family—there are a

variety of possibilities, it seems to me."

Similarly, Clinton claimed in an ABC television interview Tuesday night that the State Department had "heard about people close to him reaching out to people that they know around the world, Africa, the Middle East, Europe, North

America, beyond, you know, saying what do we do? How do we get out of this? What happens next?"

What the statements of Gates and Clinton make clear is that Washington is prepared to deal with elements of the old regime and even with members of Gaddafi's family to the extent that they agree to subordinate themselves completely to the interests of US imperialism and the American-based oil conglomerates, turning Libya into another base for US operations in the region.

What the media refers to as the "pro-democracy forces" opposing Gaddafi are themselves dominated by recent defectors from the regime, along with CIA assets and other reactionary forces. These elements announced the formation Wednesday of an "interim government" in an attempt to provide a fig leaf for the imperialist intervention. At its head is a former official in the Gaddafi regime, Mahmoud Jibril, who, the opposition has stressed, was educated in the US. It was Jibril who met with

Clinton in Paris and previously obtained the backing of French President Nicolas Sarkozy.

Obama returned to Washington on Wednesday from his six-day Latin American trip. He has yet to even make a statement to the American people justifying his war in Libya, which comes on top of the ongoing US wars in Iraq, Afghanistan and Pakistan. Nor has he sought any authorization from Congress for the use of military force.

This indifference to even the pretense of popular support or the forms of constitutional legality is not an accident. Nor is it merely a function of his having been out of the country. Rather, it is a measure of the real character of the war itself—a lawless and naked exercise in imperialist aggression in which the US ruling elite, together with the former colonial powers of the region, utilized a civil war which they themselves helped to foment as an opportunity to seize control of another oil-rich Arab nation. **WSWS**

## Cuba condemns foreign military intervention in Libya

**HAVANA,** — The Cuban government issued a statement here Sunday night expressing its "strong condemnation" of the foreign military intervention in Libya's internal conflict.

The statement also pushed for dialogue and negotiation, and supported the "inalienable right of the Libyan people to exercise self-determination without external interference."

The Cuban Foreign Ministry accused the Western powers of "creating the conditions conducive to this military ag-

gression."

The Cuban authorities said the intervention "constitutes a gross manipulation" of the United Nations (UN) Charter and of the authority of the UN Security Council, and shows the "double standards which characterize its behavior."

"UN Resolution 1973 adopted last Thursday by the Security Council does not authorize in any way these attacks on Libyan territory, which constitutes a violation of the international law," the statement

said.

"Cuba supports the inalienable right of the Libyan people to exercise its self-determination without foreign interference, condemns the killing of civilians in Libya and in any other places, and supports the territorial integrity and sovereignty over the resources of this nation," the statement said.

Moreover, the Cuban government said the Western powers carrying out the military attacks against Libyan territory "are causing death, injury and suffer-

ing to innocent civilians."

The official statement added that those powers "are specifically responsible for the deaths of over a million civilians in Iraq and more than 70,000 in Afghanistan, which are called collateral damage."

Arab media reported Sunday that the Western coalition forces had suspended attacks on Muammar Gaddafi's defenses in the Libyan territory, including areas surrounding the two largest cities of Tripoli and Benghazi.

According to the reports, coalition bombs and rockets destroyed roads, bridges and a heart clinic, leaving 65 civilians dead and over 150 injured. **(Xinhua)**

## Mugabe raps 'callous' attacks on Libya

**Harare** - Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe on Monday rapped attacks by the United States, Britain and France on Libya and accused the West of twisting the meaning of a UN resolution imposing a no-fly zone.

"The West has been (acting) in the same hypocritical way as before," President Mugabe told journalists.

"They interpreted (the UN Security Council resolution) to mean permission under it to bombard any places of their own choice in Libya, including civilian places even.

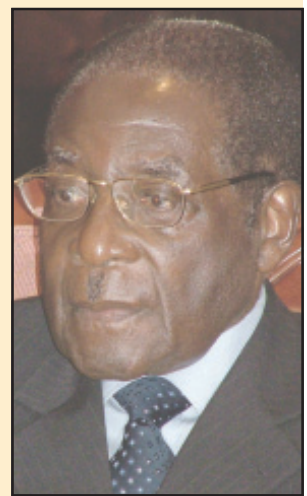
"Now it is the West which is bombarding Libya and doing it callously and they don't care who dies."

President Mugabe said African and Arab countries were mistaken in endorsing the resolution on Libya.

Three African countries - Gabon, Nigeria and South Africa, all non-permanent members of the UN Security Council - voted for the resolution to impose a no-fly-zone in Libya. The Arab League also announced its support for the measure.

"There is no reneging on the resolution anymore, it's there, it's a mistake we made," President Mugabe said.

"We don't agree with the form of government that was in



President Robert Mugabe

Libya, but Libya was nevertheless a member of the African Union and we looked forward to it transforming its own system in its own way."

President Mugabe accused Western nations of taking advantage of the unrest in Libya to gain access to the country's oil wealth. "Now the West is taking advantage of the fact that it has been given that support to let itself in a position in which tomorrow it would be masters of resources of Libya, especially the oil," he said. "And it is this oil, oil, oil which is the undoing of the Libyan people."

President Mugabe was speaking after meeting with Chinese Vice Premier Wang Qishan, who is in Zimbabwe on a two-day visit.

and the creation of a no-fly zone in Libya, where protesters and the government forces have been clashing for several weeks. Civilian casualties in Libya have captured much international attention. Reports said at least 64 Libyans had been killed and 150 others wounded by the missiles and bombs fired by the

foreign forces over the weekend. **(Xinhua)**

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## Zimbabwe referendum delayed to Sept

**Harare** - Zimbabwe's draft constitution is only expected to be ready for a referendum by September and not in June as originally scheduled, the constitutional affairs minister said on Thursday.

The new charter is meant to clear the way for fresh polls

following the country's bloody 2008 elections, but the drafting process is running months behind after public outreach meetings were repeatedly postponed over outbreaks of violence.

"I do not see us going to referendum earlier than Septem-

ber this year," Constitutional Affairs Minister Eric Matinenga told the Herald newspaper.

Matinenga said officials expected to begin compiling input gathered during the outreach programmes in April.

Veteran President Robert Mugabe has said Zimbabwe should push ahead with elections even if the parties to the country's power-sharing government fail to agree on a new constitution.

Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai earlier this month also called for a "divorce" in the unity government, urging elections under a roadmap devised by the

Southern African Development Community, which is expected to take up the issue at a security summit next week.

President Mugabe and Tsvangirai formed the power-sharing government two years ago in a bid to stop the conflict sparked by the 2008 elections and mend the economy.

The agreement included plans for a new constitution and amended media and election laws to ensure free and fair polls.

The constitution committee had originally set a date of June 30 to hold a referendum on the draft constitution.

try, cause new casualties among civilians, push some states to development of weapons of mass destruction," the statement said.

Meanwhile, the statement said the UN Security Council Resolution 1973 "has not presented the clear limits of use of force" and its implementation has revealed the desire of several states to use the mandate of the UN as

## Russian State Duma calls on West to stop military operation in Libya

**MOSCOW,** — The Russian State Duma, or the lower house of Russian Parliament, on Wednesday adopted a statement, calling on Western countries to stop military operation in Libya to avoid possible deaths among the civilians.

In a 350 against 35 voting with no abstentions, the State Duma passed the statement which expressed concern over

"the scale and form of the use of force against Libya."

The statement urged the parliaments of foreign countries who have participated in the military actions in Libya to help bring "an immediate ceasefire and stop deaths and suffering among civilians."

"The indiscriminate use of force against Libya might delay normalization in this coun-