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In the Name of the Most High

Viewpoint

Alarming Rise in US Meddling in Southeast Asia

By: Kayhan Int'l Staff Writer

The US, which is undoubtedly the most hated regime around the world for its policy of state terrorism and interference in the affairs of other countries, has along with its threats against North Korea and unwarranted military presence in East Asia, has stepped up its meddling in Southeast Asia.

At a time when Washington claims with little evidence growing Russian interference in the West's political affairs from Europe to North America, the fact cannot be denied that the chief meddler in the affairs of world countries, since World War 2, is the US, either directly through military intervention or through its notorious spying network the CIA, which has engineered coups to overthrow popularly elected governments.

Southeast Asia is no exception to American designs. A network of US-backed propagandists, posing as journalists, businessmen, industrialists, politicians, and even tourists, are operating in the Philippines, Cambodia, Thailand, Myanmar, Malaysia, and in Indonesia.

If US interference in the Philippines goes back to the beginning of the 20th century and the seizure of this land from Spain during the war of 1898-1902, the meddling in Myanmar and the Muslim countries of Malaysia and Indonesia, has dramatically increased of late, and at times, through the American proxy, the Wahhabi regime of Saudi Arabia.

The US uses pressure on the said countries through American-funded media to transform, direct and determine their future. This is more manifest in the Philippines, where there is intense political pressure on Manila to cooperate in confronting Beijing over the South China Sea.

The US has also attempted to use Saudi-funded terrorism in the southern Philippines through so-called Muslim Jihadist groups like Abu Sayyaf. The use of terrorism as both a pressure point against Southeast Asian states and as a pretext for a US military presence is a tactic the US is attempting to reuse everywhere from Indonesia and Malaysia, to southern Thailand and neighbouring Myanmar.

The US has also stepped up its meddling in Thailand and Cambodia. Like in the Philippines, US agents in these two countries pose as proponents of democracy and as human rights advocates. The aim is to target and weaken independent institutions, particularly the military and the monarchy of Thailand.

In Cambodia, US meddling involves funding of the entire opposition, hosting them in Washington and creating a media network to skew public perception in favour of this foreign enterprise and the interests that propel it.

The government of Cambodia recently expelled the National Democratic Institute (NDI), a subsidiary of the US. It has also tightened laws regarding foreign-owned and foreign-funded media organisations. Opposition members who have openly and for years flaunted their foreign sponsorship are now being arrested and tried while their political parties are being disbanded.

While the US accuses Russia of buying Facebook and Google ads, it is openly engaged in overthrowing elected governments around the world and destabilizing them. In Southeast Asia, these efforts are often interlinked, with US-funded organisations in one country supporting and helping to amplify the activities of another next door.

Myanmar, where the regime is engaged in the genocide of Rohingya Muslims, presents the American Empire's Success Story. Myanmar's Aung San Suu Kyi and her National League for Democracy (NLD) political party's ascension to power is an example of where exactly US ambitions will lead if unchecked.

The regime in Myanmar which is clearly disinterested in either democracy or human rights, considering the burgeoning Rohingya crisis, has allowed the US to operate freely on its soil.

Myanmar is being run by a regime handcrafted by US money and interference. It is a regime being pressured to turn its back on neighbouring China in favour of US plans. It is a regime currently creating a humanitarian crisis that has opened the door to US-Saudi funded terrorism, a potentially larger conflict leading to permanent US military presence in a nation that directly borders China.

If left unchecked, the US will transform Southeast Asia into either client states, or failed states. In either case, it wants to create a front across Southeast Asia against Beijing that will complicate China's rise both in the Asia Pacific region and on the global stage.

In view of these facts, governments in Southeast Asia should do some urgent soul-searching and adopt the best possible ways to protect their sovereignty, stability, and independence from the devilish designs of US meddling and state-sponsored terrorism.

Senior Iranian Official:

Europeans Underline Commitment to JCPOA



Helga Schmid, secretary general of the European External Action Service, at the Europe-Iran Forum in Zurich on Oct. 4, 2017.

TEHRAN (Dispatches) – A member of Iran's committee tasked with monitoring the implementation of the 2015 nuclear deal said Sunday that Europe's approach toward the accord is different from that of the U.S.

Speaking to reporters Ali Akbar Velayati said the Europeans are dissatisfied with U.S. approach lack of commitment to the deal known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

He made the remarks after a meeting with Raymond Knops, the acting chairman of the foreign affairs committee at the Dutch house of representatives.

Members of the Dutch parliamen-

tary delegation criticized the U.S. failure to remain committed to the JCPOA and reiterated their country's full commitment to the agreement, Velayati said.

U.S. President Donald Trump delivered an anti-Iran speech on October 13, in which he said he would not be certifying Iran's compliance with the terms of the JCPOA under a domestic American law.

Speaking at a nonproliferation conference in Moscow on Saturday, Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi criticized the U.S. for preventing Iran from benefiting from the JCPOA, warning that such a move "will have its consequences."

"This negative atmosphere created by the U.S. administration is in fact violation of the JCPOA, preventing Iran from benefiting from sanctions lifting," Araqchi said.

Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov said the JCPOA contains a fragile balance of interests "regarding fundamental issues of its participants' security."

"Any shift of this balance will cause unavoidable collapse of the entire mechanism, and it would be impossible to assemble it in some new form... It is unrealistic to adjust the agreement, as all the issues, which required settlement, were solved this or that way," he told the same conference.

Intel Ministry Seizes Cargo of Illegal Weapons

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- Iran's intelligence forces seized a cargo of illegal weapons and ammunition in eastern regions of the country, Intelligence Ministry announced on Sunday.

The intelligence forces of the south eastern Kerman province discovered and seized the weapons, belonging to "criminal rings" in South Khorasan and Sistan and Baluchestan provinces.

The illegal cargo included two handguns, five AK-47 machine guns, a grenade launcher with 40 grenades,

a rocket-propelled grenade (RPG) launcher with six rockets, one SPG-9 gun, five 107mm rockets and 68 cartridges for the DShK heavy machine gun.

No further details were published about the source and destination of the cargo and identity of the cargo holders.

The ministry also said that its forces have seized 2,600 kilograms of opium from an international drug smuggler gang in Sistan and Baluchestan province following several hours of fire exchange.

Hamas: Visit Shows Special Ties With Iran

GAZA (Dispatches) – Hamas said Sunday the Palestinian resistance group's choice of Iran as the first destination for foreign visit since a reconciliation agreement with Fatah signifies special relations which exist between the two sides.

The deputy head of Hamas Saleh Arouri arrived in Tehran Friday night for talks with Iranian officials, during which he vowed to keep close ties with the Islamic Republic.

"The visit can open a new chapter in relations between the Islamic Republic and Hamas," Hamas spokesman Sami Abu Zuhri told Beirut-based Al-Mayadeen television on Sunday.

The visit, he said, is aimed at briefing allies on the recent developments in the Palestinian territories, most importantly the reconciliation agreement between Hamas and Fatah.

The Hamas spokesman said the visit to Tehran shows that the Palestinian resistance movement is interested in developing ties with Islamic Republic.

Disagreements between the

two sides have been resolved and they are discussing to step up support the Palestinian cause which Abu Zuhri called Iran's distinctive feature.

Relations between Hamas and Tehran took a nosedive after the group refused to support Syria's fight against foreign-backed militants and Takfiri terrorists.

Abu Zuhri underlined that the Palestinian reconciliation agreement will not damage good relations between Hamas and its allies, adding Hamas will ally with all sides that support the Palestinian cause.

On Saturday, Arouri told the Iranian Parliament Speaker Ali Larijani that Hamas will never give up its arms as demanded by the occupying regime of Israel.

The Zionist regime said on Tuesday it would not hold negotiations with a Palestinian government dependent on Hamas and demanded that Hamas recognize Israel, disarm, and sever its ties with Iran.

"Our presence in Iran is the practical denial of the third pre-condition -- cutting ties with Iran," Aro-

uri said earlier, quoted by Iran's Fars news agency.

"We congratulate you for declaring that you will not set your weapons aside and for describing it as your red line," Ali Akbar Velayati, an advisor to the Leader, told Arouri.

In a separate meeting Saturday, Admiral Ali Shamkhani, Iran's secretary of the Supreme National Security Council, expressed hope that Hamas would continue to be a "central pioneer of the Palestinian resistance."

During the meeting, Shamkhani condemned American and Israeli attempts to remove the Palestinian issue from the international agenda.

"The U.S. and the Zionist regime feel threatened by any balance shift in the Middle East in favor of regional people and governments engaged in the fight against terrorism," Shamkhani said. "They seek to obstruct the path of anti-terrorism fight by bringing up unfounded pretexts such as blocking Iran's regional sway."

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The Holy Qur'an



And an announcement from Allah and His Apostle to the people on the day of the greater pilgrimage that Allah and His Apostle are free from liability to the idolaters; therefore if you repent, it will be better for you.

The Holy Qur'an (9.3)

PRAYER TIMINGS

Noon (Zohr)	11:49
Evening (Maghreb)	17:37
Dawn (Fajr) "Tomorrow"	04:54
Sunrise "Tomorrow"	06:18

FM Zarif Begins Africa Tour in Pretoria

PRETORIA (Dispatches) -- Iran's Foreign Minister Muhammad Javad Zarif on Sunday began his three-leg tour of African nations here, his first since the inauguration of the Islamic Republic's 12th administration earlier in the year.

Zarif is being accompanied by a ranking political and economic delegation which left Tehran Saturday night, state news agency IRNA reported.

He arrived in Pretoria, the country's administrative capital, at the invitation of his South African counterpart Maite Nkoana-Mashabane.

The visit is to feature the 13th gathering of the countries' joint commission, as well as meetings with the host nation's president, Jacob Zuma, and Finance Minister Malusi Gigaba. The gathering will address the implementation of standing agreements between the two sides.

The 12th such gathering was hosted by the Islamic Republic in 2015 during a visit by the South African top diplomat.

South Africa's Speaker of the National Assembly Baleka Mbete flew to Tehran in September. Meeting with the top parliamentarian, President Hassan Rouhani said the two sides enjoyed "good and effective" cooperation in international organizations, and their collaboration could play a prominent role in promoting peace and stability across the world.

Zarif's next stop will take him to Uganda, where he will address expanding of bilateral political and economic relations. The Uganda stay is also scheduled to witness inauguration of a 50-bed hospital financed by the Islamic Republic.

The Iranian foreign minister will finally fly to Niger to meet with the country's top officials.

Senior officials at the administration of President Hassan Rouhani have pledged to "update" Iran's Africa strategy, pursuing a "new level" of strategic relations in the coming years.

The Islamic Revolution in 1979 resulted in a fundamental overhaul of Iranian foreign policy, changing its focus from the West to the developing world.

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