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Press TV

'Libya is US, China's battleground'

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In an interview with Press TV, Dr. Paul Craig Roberts, former assistant secretary to the US Treasury, elaborates on US strategy to control Chinese and Russian stakes in the Mediterranean in order to regain economic dominance.

Press TV: I'd like to get your reaction to a statement by the head of Britain's armed forces that he's said that we need to increase the pressure for more intense military action. What further action is he talking about? Is this a prelude to, perhaps, ask for another UN resolution which may go for the famous "boots on the ground" scenario that many analysts said they have feared for Libya?

Roberts: I don't think the Chinese and Russians would permit that. They went along with the UN resolution because it was only a no-fly resolution; it doesn't allow the United States and NATO to intervene in the way that they are intervening.

I think this has angered the Russians, and no doubt the Chinese, because this whole enterprise is directed against China. China has very large energy investments in Libyan oil which is in the eastern part of the country, largely.

The Americans were very much disturbed when the International Monetary Fund announced that the Chinese economy would surpass the American economy within five years. So, the Americans are using the fact that they still are the top dog to try to evict China from its African energy resources in order to deny the energy it needs for the continual development of their economy.

This is what the British and the Americans did to Japan in the 1930's and it's why World War II in the Pacific began.

So what Libya is about is Washington using the so-called Arab protests to evict China from the Mediterranean, North Africa, where we have oil investments.

That's why I think that what will happen is Libya will be petitioned. They don't really care about Gaddafi or any of that; there's certainly no humanitarian concern.

They do want to deny energy to China. So I think that since the CIA is very active in the eastern rebellion, probably behind it, what Libya faces is some kind of separation from its oil in order to evict China from the Mediterranean. In my opinion, this is what it's all about.

Press TV: When you talk about the push that the United States has, and one of the motives it has is to further alienate China in terms of the areas resources - as you've mentioned, China is vested in Libya - are you saying that there are other countries? We talk about Russia or the Brits, that they can have no say in this? Because, as it stands, we're looking at, basically, NATO and five partner nations that are implementing this no-fly zone, that includes the United States.

Roberts: I think China and Russia made a mistake because they thought that Washington would respect the meaning of the UN resolution which was simply a "no-fly"; in other words, it was intended to stop Gaddafi from using his air force against the rebels.

But, immediately, the air force was used to attack Gaddafi's forces from the air, and to try to kill him. They attacked him several times and managed to kill his son and several grandsons by air attacks.

Washington will always put the most expansive possible interpretation on any UN resolution. I'm surprised that China and Russia trusted Washington. But if Washington and the British go back to the UN, I think this time China and Russia will veto it in the Security Council. But, maybe not because neither country is yet ready for a direct confrontation with the United States. It's not certain that they would veto it.

All of this is directed against China and Russia. That's what the activity in Syria is about. We know for a fact the United States government has announced and admitted that it supports the opposition in Syria. Why?

Because the Russians have a massive naval base in Syria, it's undergoing restoration and renovation, but by next year it's supposed to be completed. The Russians have announced that they'll be keeping aircraft carriers and guided missile cruisers. That's not what NATO and Washington wants in the Mediterranean. They do not want a Russian naval presence.

The protests in Syria and Libya, unlike the ones in Egypt and Bahrain, are supported by the United States government because they are directed against China and Russia, and they want them evicted from the Mediterranean. That's really what this is about.

Press TV: When you talk about how Libya's oil in the east is being controlled by the revolutionaries, and most likely we have the West in there, I know the transactions of the US Treasury Department is involved in terms of some of the oil transactions as reported. However,

based on the scenario that you've pointed out, if Libya gets divided at some point, how much of a timeline do you give for the NATO operation?

At the same time, once it divided Libya, what's going to happen to the West? What plans would the US have for that and, of course, its coalition partners?

Roberts: Western Europe is nothing but American puppet states. The governments don't serve their own people, they serve Washington.

Washington wants to remain number one; therefore, it's going to deny China access to oil not just in Libya but also in Nigeria and Angola where the Chinese also have oil investments.

Washington formed what they call the African Command, they call it AFRICOM. And this became effective in 2008, about two and half years ago. It's a military alliance and it's directed against China's economic penetration of Africa. They've got all but five African countries to join.

Of course, Gaddafi would not. He said this is the Americans parting an entire continent, and he wouldn't join it. This is another reason, of course, why he is marked for losing the revenue part of his country. They may leave him with Tripoli but they're going to take away from him the oil revenues.

Press TV: Can you tell us based on this game plan what is going to stop it from going as smoothly based on the details you've provided us?

Roberts: The only thing that will stop the American drive for hegemony is the economic collapse of the United States. This could happen from the abuse of the United States dollar by the United States government and the Federal Reserve because they're printing dollars now like a third-world banana republic in order to finance the large government deficit.

So, it's entirely possible that the United States will commit financial suicide and not be able to complete its plans for world hegemony.