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Government Man

James Dickey

The government man explains
to the press that sectarian hostilities
afflict that region of the world
and have for generations.
Slaughter there is second nature.
Please support our policy of shame.

The government man explains
that Plan B, invasion, will be applied
unless those in power bend
to the will of the powerless.
Meanwhile, butchery continues.

The government man explains
that some minds are inscrutable,
that attitudes can be implacable,
so we too must be prepared
to kill if actual need arises.
Please support our policy of shame.

Citizens of the world are encouraged
to send humanitarian aid promptly
as the dying continues out of all
proportion to self-interests
of concerned nations.

Tests are now being given
to fill a shortage of government men.