

AFRICA NEWS

A Weekly Digest of African Affairs

Recommendations On Minority Business Shared With New Reagan Administration



Report Presented

Nathan T. Garrett, chairman of the National Advisory Committee on Minority Enterprise Development, presents a report on recommendations from a committee to former Department of Commerce Secretary Phillip Klutznick in a letter to newly appointed Commerce Secretary Malcolm Baldrige. Klutznick shared a copy of the report and urged that the initiatives of the advisory group to strengthen the federal government's support for minority business enterprise be continued.

Anational Advisory Committee on Minority Enterprise Development has made specific recommendations for improving federal government policies, procedures, programs, in support of minority business.

Although the advisory committee was established during the administration of President Jimmy Carter by Department of Commerce Secretary Phillip Klutznick, the committee's report has been shared with the Reagan Transition team and the new Secretary of Commerce, Malcolm Baldrige. Former Secretary Klutznick passed the report on to Secretary Baldrige and expressed hope that he would agree to continue the efforts initiated by the advisory committee.

Serving as chairman of the Advisory Committee on Minority Enterprise Development was Nathan T. Garrett, chairman of the board and chief executive officer of Garrett-Sullivan and Company, one of the largest black-owned CPA firms in the country, with offices in Durham, Raleigh, Greensboro, Charlotte, N.C., Washington, D.C., Tampa, Florida, and Detroit, Michigan.

Garrett said there were 25 active members who served on the advisory committee: 15 blacks, six Hispanics, two Orientals, and two non-minority persons. He also indicated that the group was politically bi-partisan.

"Small businesses run by minorities and non-minorities alike are vital to our economy," Garrett said. "They provide more jobs than big business and contribute heavily to the Gross National Product and international trade. Minority small businesses have special problems. Access to markets, equity capital, and management skills for minority businesses have been difficult, historically, and currently because of racism. We need immediate, and the most effective, programs, policies, and procedures of assistance from government and big business in order to overcome these special problems and to improve our opportunities and expand our capacity for success."

The report included the following recommendations:

SBA Leveraging Authority
That congressional authority be given to SBA to leverage against federal funds invested in Minority Enterprise Small Business Investment Companies.

Definition of Minority Business Enterprise (MBE)
In light of a great deal of confusion in the minority business community and throughout the government as a result of the various and differing definitions of an MBE, that the Secretary of Commerce take the initiative in gaining a consensus throughout the federal establishment as to an acceptable definition of

an MBE. International Trade Administration
In order to increase minority participation in the international marketplace, programs initiated by ITA to assist minority enterprise should be supported.

Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA)
Although major MBDA emphasis is now being placed on ventures of larger scale, high technology oriented firms and those in high growth industries, MBDA should be in a position to refer minority business enterprise, which require assistance, to other sources of assistance, if they do not qualify for MBDA assistance.

National Minority Supplier Development Council (NMSDC)
With the feeling that many corporate members of the Council are using it for its public relations value, rather than for its intended purpose, the committee recommended increased representation of minority business on the Council's Executive Board, establishment of a design mechanism for evaluating and motivating corporate members, and a system for monitoring and documenting procedures to gain data on MBE experiences with NMSDC members.

In the area of priority issues for future reports, the advisory committee recommended that steps be taken to insure that

minorities are included in ownership of cable television properties; that MBDA policies and programs be assessed to determine if agency is being adequately funded, that an evaluation be made MBDA and SBA to determine if the minority community is receiving the maximum benefit from them and any adjustments and realignments which should be made to improve their performance.

The committee also indicated that if minority enterprise is to grow and prosper, creative means must be developed to provide meaningful equity financing, and greater utilization of minority brokerage houses is strongly advised for large transactions.

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U.S./AFRICA Reagan African Team Takes Shape
WASHINGTON, DC [AN] The membership of the Senate Africa subcommittee has been settled, and in the House, a chairman is expected to be selected this week. Also expected is the formal nomination of the new assistant secretary of state for Africa, who will be Georgetown University professor Chester Crocker.

Mrs. Nancy Landon Kassebaum (R-Kansas) will head the Senate panel, joined by Republicans Jesse Helms (NC), S.I. Hayakawa (Calif.), and Charles Mathias (Md.). Mrs. Kassebaum, who was elected in 1978 and is the daughter of 1936 Republican presidential candidate Alf Landon, became a member of the Foreign Relations Committee in January. She has no Africa experience.

Paul Tsongas from Massachusetts, who was on the subcommittee when George McGovern was the chair, is the ranking Democrat, along with John Glenn (Ohio) and newly-elected Christopher Dodd (Conn.).

Phil Christenson is the new subcommittee staff director, and Alison Rosenberg is the Africa specialist on the full committee staff. Christenson has been associate director of the U.S./South Africa Leadership Exchange Program, a private organization promoting visits by prominent individuals from both countries. Previously he was deputy manager for sub-Saharan Africa in the Commerce Department.

Rosenberg has been a member of the staff of Senator Charles Percy, the new Foreign Relations Committee chair.

The House subcommittee chair will likely be either Dan Mica (Fla.), Michael Barnes (Md.), or Howard Wolpe (Mich.). All were elected in 1978, but by a toss-of-the-coin Mica has seniority. Only Wolpe has served on the subcommittee, previously chaired by Stephen Solarz, who chose to become head of the Asian and Pacific Affairs subcommittee. Another former subcommittee member, William Gray (Pa.), has moved from Foreign Affairs to the Appropriations Committee.

At the State Department, Secretary Alexander Haig said last week he had decided on all but two of some thirty nominations required to fill top staff positions. Crocker's selection appears secure, in spite of reports his is one of several appointments opposed by a group of right-wing Senate Republicans led by Helms, who want to see more conservatives chosen. Haig told a news conference he foresaw no problems winning Senate confirmation for all his nominees.

Crocker has been using the assistant secretary's office vacated on Inauguration Day by Richard Moose, who has joined the New York investment firm Lehman Brothers Kuhn Loeb. Of the four deputy assistant secretary posts in the Africa Bureau, two incumbents are expected to stay on for now — Lannon Walker, currently the acting assistant secretary, and Hal Horan, who was the Africa specialist on the National Security Council staff in the Ford administration.

Another key area in the department for Africa policy-making has been the Policy Planning Staff. Ms. Elaine Morton, who covers north and central Africa, and Ms. Marianne Spiegel, southern Africa specialist, have both remained at their jobs. But changes there seem likely too.

Alan Keyes, a black foreign service officer described by his colleagues as conservative and Republican, has been

transferred from the southern African office of the Africa Bureau to Policy Planning, where his primary responsibility is southern Africa. Dennis Ross, a Middle East and North Africa expert, has also come to Policy Planning from the Defense Department with Paul D. Wolfowitz, Haig's choice to direct the Policy Planning staff. Both will probably take a major part in the inter-departmental policy reviews Haig has ordered. The State Department is slated to chair these study groups, and Policy Planning is to have the major coordination role.

Changes in personnel will apparently extend to ambassadorships as well. Two Carter appointees have already been told to pack up and return home, friends of the two reports. They are Walter Carrington, formerly the executive vice president of the African-American Institute, who has been U.S. ambassador to Senegal for four months, and Ambassador to Mali Anne Holloway, who was on Andrew Young's Congressional staff and directed his State Department office when he was UN ambassador.

Reagan is expected to name a new ambassador to South Africa, replacing William Edmundson. And Stephen Low in Nigeria, who played an active role in the Rhodesia negotiations, may also be replaced.

SIERRA LEONE Stevens' Critics Threatened By Press Curbs
FREETOWN [AN] The *Tablet*, Sierra Leone's only independently run newspaper, whose irreverent style of political satire has become the lone source of public criticism of President Siaka Stevens' one-party government, is now involved in a struggle over its right to continue publishing.

In the months following its hosting of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) summit conference last June, the Stevens government has apparently begun a campaign intended to force the *Tablet* to modify its editorial content or else shut down completely.

Heavy pressure on the *Tablet* has appeared over the last four months in the form of a new Press Law and Press Review Board, a state-run apparatus for registering newspapers, and a two-count federal indictment against *Tablet* editor Pious Foray, which charges libelous reporting stemming from a recent series of articles on government corruption. "It's obvious," says Foray, "that we're under pressure all the time." In addition to the federal indictment placed against the *Tablet* and its editor, former Finance Minister Francis Minah's wife is pressing a civil libel suit against the maverick newspaper.

Established four years ago, one year before the passage of a constitutional referendum that made Sierra Leone a one-party state under the aegis of President Siaka Stevens' All People's Congress (APC), the *Tablet* has earned a reputation among many Sierra Leoneans as an institution seeking to expose government mismanagement and corruption.

The majority of the *Tablet's* usual four to six-page format generally consists of articles depicting the economic hardships being faced by the common Sierra Leone citizen. The newspaper's criticism of the government usually concerns the size of the bureaucracy, mismanagement, or alleged corruption, themes that are dealt with in front-page editorials or humorous unattributed satires.

Editor Foray, however,

is quick to point out that the *Tablet* is not an opposition newspaper in a strict sense. Foray, who used to work for the defunct *People's Party* newspaper of the banned Sierra Leone People's Party (SLPP) four years ago, asserts that the *Tablet*, as an independent newspaper, "is a forum for national public discussion."

"The *Tablet* is part and parcel of the national development process," says Foray, a graduate of Freetown's Fourah Bay College. "We came to contribute in our own way to the quality and scope of mass communication."

The *Tablet* is the only one of five regularly published Sierra Leonean papers that is neither controlled by the government or the APC. It has been the constant target of threats and attacks by pro-government and pro-APC groups over the last three years. Two years ago, APC party stalwarts threatened to burn the offices of the *Tablet's* former printer, and most recently, the paper's offices were stormed and a press operator beaten by thugs shortly after the beginning of the OAU summit last June.

Foray, however, does not directly attribute these overt threats and attacks to the government or to President Siaka Stevens. Perceiving government coercion to be more subtle, such as in the case of the new Press Law, Foray explains that "there are 100 ways he [President Stevens] could make things more difficult for us."

Despite the pressure brought to bear — both direct and indirect — the *Tablet* strongly opposed last year's hosting of the OAU summit because of its high (\$230 million) cost to the poor west African nation. "We are openly critical of the hosting of the OAU as being not the most advisable thing to do," says Foray.

Ironically, however, Foray admits the international publicity that accompanied the annual African summit may have temporarily eased government constraints on the paper. "It could very well have," states Foray, "but we were pretty determined anyway to tell it like it is."

Recent targets of *Tablet* reporting include the national ministries and in-

dividual government ministers, particularly those who possess "large personal wealth and are living extravagantly."

"Telling it like it is" may become extremely difficult for the *Tablet* during this year. The newly-instituted Press Law and Press Review Board are going to entail considerable financial, and possibly, editorial costs for the paper if it is to remain legally-sanctioned.

Under the Press Law: each paper must appeal for legal registration by the government in order to continue publishing, must post \$2,000 during the initial registration year and \$1,000 for each additional year. And although the *Tablet* has recently increased its circulation outside of Freetown, Foray admits that his paper may have some difficulty in raising the money for registration in this economically-depressed nation.

Although one of five Freetown-based, regularly-published newspapers, including the government-controlled *Daily Mail*, *Press*, *Flash*, and the APC-run *We Yone* (a Creole term meaning "ours"), the twice-weekly *Tablet* is the only paper not dependent in some form on government funding or subjected to censorship.

Already, according to Foray, the *Tablet* has been forced to expand its usual four to six-page format to eight pages to include more space for advertising in an attempt to raise more money for registration costs. Consequently, some news articles and satires have been cut.

"There is a policy of accommodation going on the *Tablet*," Foray asserts, "has to stay. Advertising will increase."

The paper also appears to be shifting its reporting sights to the promising new discoveries of offshore oil and gold. Foray and his fellow editors are cautiously optimistic that government efforts to exploit the gold and oil will trigger an economic boom.

The two-count federal indictment against Foray and the *Tablet* stems from a series of articles reporting alleged money smuggling across the Liberian border involving government officials and their families. One *Tablet* arti-

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