

Atlanta Killings Focal Point For Media Coverage

By Vincent McCraw
Staff Writer
Atlanta Daily World

(NNPA) — During the past twenty months Atlanta's tragic case of twenty (now 23) murdered and two missing black children has become the focal point and in some cases top priority for media coverage for news organizations throughout the world.

Many of the media members have made the crisis front page headline stories or top stories in their broadcasts. In the print media headlines of the largest point size have proclaimed such sentiments: "Atlanta Held Hostage as Killings Continue," "Blacks Deny Riot Threat in Wake of Teen's Death," and other sensationalized heads.

Furthermore, some have even reported that racial tension in Atlanta is at its highest level because the prevailing thought seems to suggest that a non-black faction or factions are responsible for these heinous crimes.

"...the big problem," states one editorial from a mid-western newspaper, "is that I do not believe it would have taken this long to find the killer or killers if the victims were white."

Another northern publication implies that this rash of killings targeted at the black community is a "measure being utilized by the city's white community to discredit its black administration."

Different Versions

All of these accounts and others have given a number of citizens outside of Atlanta and Georgia a totally different, if not slanted version of the factual occurrences in the city.

While refuting many of the allegations made by the various media it will not be refuted that tension does reside among the citizens of the community. However, these tensions are not of racial or violent nature.

In every instance the black and white communities have pulled together in a valiant effort to bring to justice the perpetrator(s) of these crimes.

To be sure, anger and disgust are present, but all of this anger, disgust and frustration is focused upon those person(s) who've taken the lives of the city's children and by virtue of these acts threaten the future of the city's remaining youth.

While support from the entire community has been overwhelming, via financial contributions to aid in the investigation and to aide the families of the slain

children, other support has also been established by members of both the white and black communities.

For instance, programs addressing themselves to the mental needs of the city's youth, some who have experienced unfortunate mental frustration due to the crisis, have been established throughout the metropolitan area in an attempt to allay the fears harbored by the kids and their parents.

Moreover, city officials and other community leaders have cautioned their constituents to refrain from suggesting all these crimes are racially motivated in order to avoid racial polarization in this most strenuous situation. In one instance, a mid-western newspaper columnist stated in a March 12 edition of his paper that neither Reagan nor the government of Georgia had provided any assistance.

"...There is a lot of rhetoric that the U.S. is discussing some funds, but none has of this date, been forwarded," the article said. On March 5, the Federal government allocated \$979,000 to the city to provide after school care for the children in those areas where most of the crimes occurred. Too, it will provide counseling for parents and housing of deprived youth. Moreover, on March 11, Georgia Governor Busbee signed a contract allocating over \$200,000 to the city to cover soaring overtime costs.

Finally, it would be remiss to say that all of the members of the media have misconstrued the crisis in Atlanta, for this is not the case. A number of mediums have taken extreme caution in efforts not to practice overt sensationalism; on the other hand, however, some news agencies have not been totally accurate in reporting the affairs surrounding the crimes, causing persons outside of the city to construct different and sometimes horrifying portraits of the situation.

In the future, it is hoped that the continued coverage of these activities, while not covering up, should be more careful and attempt to accurately relay the accounts in the city.

Relay to readers that Atlanta has pulled together and has become a family of one in an all-out charge to not only apprehend the responsible person(s) but also in efforts to strengthen as well as further the development and character of the city's youth.

African Trade Prospects For Black Americans

NEW YORK — The new breed of black American entrepreneurs that are braving the frontier of international trade with Africa are the focus of the April issue of *Black Enterprise* magazine.

The magazine reports on the prosperous black American business people who became successes in African trade despite some of the financial losses they first experienced.

•Richard Trotman, who once lost \$300,000 in fees and penalties on a Nigerian contract, has completed several contracts worth more than \$10 million through his firm, Afro International (ranked No. 7 on the 1980 BE 100 list of top money-making black-owned businesses in the United States).

•Percy Sutton, former Manhattan Borough president, owner of Inner City Broadcasting Company (ranked No. 41 on the 1980 BE 100 list), and international broker, has made a small fortune through African trade.

•Gourmet Services (ranked No. 27 on the BE 100 list) president, Nathaniel Goldston, once suffered a \$40,000 loss. However, the food and transportation firm remains adamant in its pursuit of African trade that could reap large profits for it.

•Henry F. Henderson of H.F. Henderson Industries (ranked No. 77 on the BE 100 list) in New Jersey is exporting high technology products all over the Third World by subcontracting for larger

The Question Of African/Black American Commercial Link — Clear Or Cloudy?

By Thomas A. Johnson
Director, Harlem Third World Trade Institute

Will American blacks become an effective constituency here for African interests? Will they lobby for technology transfers to Africa, for more American aid and will they support the concept of a New World Economic Order?

This amounts to half an inquiry in the context of African-black American relations, and it speaks to the roles many Africans would like American blacks to play. The other half of the inquiry, the one the American blacks envision goes like this:

Will Africans make black Americans a "preferred" trading partner, an American who "lives in the mouth of the lion" and who, out of historical and familial interest will bring a sense of kinship to the bargaining table?

Whenever representatives of these two poles of the African Diaspora talk seriously of working in one another's best self interest, these questions come forward and at times might either clear or cloud their discussions.

There are logical and historical reasons for this.

That long span of time and terror called the middle passage began the job of making the two groups strangers to one another, and slavery and colonialism completed the process.

And while there were many attempts made to reconnect the severed African ties, the two groups have yet to set up

the systems that would assure them of a consistently meaningful commercial connection.

Africans on both sides of the Atlantic have long called for the institutions that would develop these systems.

And modern-day America provides some clear and most effective role models for the process.

For American Jews constitute a considerable and effective lobby for Israel as do Polish-Americans for Poland, Italian-Americans for Italy and Irish-Americans for Ireland, to mention a few.

This groping now of Africans for commercial ties with African-Americans could represent a very important factor in the development of new American entrepreneurs.

There is no assurance that it will work — there never is in the world of commerce.

But the attempt to make it work is worth it, both to Africa and to black America.

It is within the best self interest of the minority entrepreneur and the nation's gross national product to see if the questions surrounding closer commercial links between Africa and black America can become more clear than cloudy.

A major step toward that goal, we feel, is the Conference on Marketing in Developing Countries held in Harlem on March 10.

American firms. International trade comprises ten per cent of his business.

Some of West Africa's leading businessmen comment on the problems encountered by black Americans doing business in Africa. Political instability of some African nations and, to a much larger extent, the unfamiliarity of black Americans with African

history, geography, customs, and business practices are cited as the major obstacles.

"Many of the black Americans we meet now are what we call 'portmanteau investors' who only want to be brokers. The impression they give is that they are not serious but only want a fast buck from a quick contract," said Chief

Jerome Udoji, vice president of Nigeria's Manufacturer's Association. Former United Nations Ambassador Andrew Young, an advocate of African trade for black Americans, noted that, in America, people "do business with their friends. But when they go to Africa, they want to do business by appointment. It doesn't work."

Should Black Communities Be Preserved For Blacks?

By William R. Morris

There is already good reason to believe that the ideals of a single society will not only be contradicted by America's growing political conservatism but supplanted by blacks themselves in their struggle to transform impoverished ghettos into viable communities where blacks may continue to live.

Recent years have seen a major expansion in the amount of housing available to blacks and significant qualitative improvements as well. Most of this increase has come from the transition of residential areas from white to black occupancy. With the lowering of racial barriers and consequent widening of opportunity, subtle but profound changes are taking shape in the outlook of blacks. Many members of the black community are acquiring new concepts of what is desirable and possible, and new images of their position in society.

Presently, it is no exaggeration to say that the future welfare of blacks is bound up with their segregation. A concentration of numbers seems to be almost an essential condition of group survival. As history has demonstrated, when the members of an ethnic group cease to live together, their ties to the group become weakened and the group itself tends to dissolve. Although blacks will continue to be identified by others as a distinct group, the degree of awareness of blacks as a group is closely dependent upon their numbers and concentration.

In becoming more like other Americans in jobs and incomes, blacks have also tended to assimilate the goals, the status symbols, and social standards of the community-at-large. The process is a familiar one historically in the assimilation of immigrant groups into the nation's mainstream. Where a family lives is a mark of its social position, and people living in similar housing in the same neighborhood ordinarily are judged to be on the same social level.

It is unlikely that the housing of blacks can be brought up to the general standards of quality while separate residential communities persist. Indeed, certain components of good housing, such as variety to suit individual wants and purses, and prestige locations, are obviously impossible to provide within any limited

area. Recognition of this truth was the basis of the Supreme Court's refusal every to apply the separate-but-equal doctrine to matters of residence.

A parallel trend since World War II has been the growth of governmental activity in housing. In programs of widening scope, the federal government has sought to stimulate the production of housing, aid families to obtain homes, eliminate slums and reduce the concentration of minorities and the poor. In the general movement toward racial equality, housing is a crucial area. One of the basic rights of citizens in a free society is the freedom to move and choose a place of residence. No one, of course, has complete freedom of choice in housing or in any other field, but the exclusion of persons from areas because of race (both blacks and whites) is to deprive them of an essential right. This freedom is basic because it is necessary to the enjoyment of many other rights and privileges.

A fundamental problem of housing for blacks is not one of quantity or quality of dwellings, important as these may be, but whether blacks should continue to be concentrated in separate communities or be encouraged to seek their housing in the general marketplace. A whole new value of black communities is emerging.

Until recently, racial segregation in housing has been sustained by widespread white attitudes, practices of the real estate industry, and policies of local, state and federal governments. Probably no aspect of racial discrimination in the United States has been more institutionalized and resistant to change. Now, some black community leaders are shifting their sights away from integration as a goal. Instead, they have begun to focus on ghetto enrichment programs: better schools, better housing and more jobs — within the black community.

Federal integration policies began to shift during the Carter Administration and, it seems, will be continued by President Reagan, i.e., the removal of site and neighborhood restrictions on federally-assisted projects in areas of racial concentration.

The paramount issue, I feel, is "freedom of choice" — including the choice to remain in their communities if blacks choose to, or to seek other

housing freely in other areas. In the meanwhile, the task of revitalizing our cities and upgrading black communities must go on.

with protections for the poor who choose not to leave. With good planning, this can be accomplished

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