

How Moscow Sees Atlanta Tragedy

By Raymond H. Boone
NNPA Foreign Correspondent

MOSCOW — Why can't the American police stop the murders of the children in Atlanta? That's the question I have been asked most often by the Soviet people, including high-ranking government officials, newsmen and those at the grassroots level.

The Soviets find it incomprehensible that American law enforcement officials, with their super sleuth image, have failed to arrest the savage murderer(s) who captured and killed 28 young black persons, mostly male teenagers, over the last 22 months.

Reflecting this Communist nation's interest in the Atlanta tragedy, the government-controlled Soviet press gives coverage to every significant breaking development that comes out of Atlanta. Soviet reporters in America have been assigned to keep watch on Atlanta.

In interviews with the NNPA, Soviet editors refused to speculate on the motives in the murders because, according to them, they think it "inappropriate" for their publications to go beyond stating the facts concerning the tragedy.

(The Soviet editors held the play-it-straight position prior to June 4 when Atlanta investigators questioned Wayne B. Williams, the 23-year-old black man who is considered by police to be a prime suspect in the case, although no charges had been brought against him at this writing. Williams, an electronics expert and local entertainment promoter, who lives in Atlanta, has denied any involvement in the crimes).

The Soviet editors apparently saw no need to slant their Atlanta stories

to cast the United States in an unfavorable light. Simply stating the facts was enough to do the job. They knew that the majority of the world community would conclude that the Atlanta young people were victims of violent white racism. The Soviet people are highly knowledgeable about America's ugly history of violent mistreatment of black people. So it is understandable that the Soviet Union — and the world — would immediately see the Atlanta tragedy as another racist attack on black people. This perception, whether accurate or not, once again underscores the damaging impact that racism continues to have on the United States.

Stories about the Atlanta murders in the Soviet press have drawn considerable reader response. Alexander Palladin, Jr., of the world news staff of *Tzvestia*, one of the Soviet Union's major daily newspapers, told the NNPA that he had received letters from readers asking why the Atlanta police couldn't stop the murders and what was behind them.

Palladin further said that all the letters "first of all expressed deep feelings of sympathy for the families of those black youngsters who lost their lives in such a cold-blooded, strange manner."

Africans in the USSR: A steady stream of African leadership delegations can be seen at the Hotel Ukraine, the huge (1,500 rooms) skyscraper which houses foreign visitors on the Moscow River. These delegations, including women and children, reflect the Soviet Union's positive involvement in the black libera-

tion struggle in Africa. The number of African delegations picked up over the last few weeks. That is because the Soviet Union invited a broad representation of Africans to Moscow to participate in the May 25 ceremonies celebrating "The Day of African Liberation." Soviet leaders noted the USSR's role in fifty African states gaining independence over the last twenty years and pledged to continue to back black freedom fighters in their struggle against the white-controlled, harshly anti-black government in South Africa. The United States still favors the racist South Africa government.

Sending a message? A growing number of Soviets, especially the young, are hardly following the Communist Party's straight-laced line when it comes to fashions. Outfits made in the USA are definitely "in." Topping the popularity list are designer jeans which are going like hot cakes on the black market at unbelievable prices ranging from \$150 to \$200 a pair. Soviet teen-agers also seem to get a big charge out of publicly sporting outfits that seem to have a great potential for annoying the Kremlin, if not ticking it off. For example, well-endowed girls boldly wear USA-manufactured T-shirts screaming across their chests, "Baby, this is what's happening." If this isn't provocative enough, there are even bolder youngsters who think nothing of wearing on Moscow streets military fatigues — with "U.S. Air Force" lettering. No big thing. That's hardly an accurate assessment. Consider the reaction if you were to suit up in a USSR military outfit and march down Main Street, USA. Still, the new dress trend in the USSR makes one wonder whether the people are sending the Kremlin a freedom-of-expression message through fashions.

Keep the Peace: All of the Soviet Union is uptight about Ronald Reagan's massive military build-up and tough talk about the USSR. The concern for peace is widespread among the people. A typical remark about curbing nuclear warfare was expressed by a female farm worker in Tashkent after I was introduced as an American newsman in a well-cultivated cotton field. "Tell America," the mother of four said in a passionate plea, "let's meet on the agricultural fields rather than the battlefields." Comments about avoiding war also were made on tours of cities. When slum housing came into view, Soviet officials did not attempt to hide it. Rather, they faced the reality. "This is another reason we don't want a war," said a Soviet press spokesman, pointing to depressing housing conditions. "If there's a war, we wouldn't be able to improve our housing or any other living conditions for our people."

and reading. The Evening Enrichment Session, with emphasis on competency and test taking, started June 22 and will run until July 15. These sessions are being conducted two evenings a week from 6-8 o'clock.

For further information, call Mrs. Brown at 688-2361, ext. 225 or Mr. Huey at 682-5786.

He who lives at high tension usually blows a fuse.

Enrichment Programs Under Way

The Trapp-Brown Health Education Center, Inc., and the Durham City Community Education Program are sponsoring the first Joint Enrichment Program. Activities started June 15 and will conclude July 9. Mrs. Hazel Brown is coordinator. The Enrichment Program is under the direction of Mrs. Claronell T. Brown of the Durham City Schools administrative staff, and Albert Huey, director of Community Education.

The Community Enrichment Workshop emphasizes the diagnostic-prescriptive approach to teaching and learning.

Morning sessions are planned mainly as an enrichment program for interested persons in levels 3-7 with emphasis on math



MISS LYNCH
Miss Lynch Is Harvard Honor Graduate

Miss Loretta Elizabeth Lynch, daughter of the Reverend and Mrs. Lorenzo A. Lynch, graduated cum laude, June 4, during the 34th commencement exercises of Harvard University in Cambridge, Mass.

Miss Lynch received the Bachelor of Arts degree in English and American Literature and Language. She was active for two years with the Kuumba Singers choral group, participated four years on the basketball cheerleading squad, and was co-captain during her senior year; and was captain of the football cheerleading squad during her senior year.

She was a member of the Harvard video club and produced several television shows. During her senior year, she served as an intern on the Public Broadcasting System's show, "The Advocates."

Miss Lynch will enter Harvard University's Law School in the fall of 1981.

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Miss Clement To Attend Pre-Health Institute

Miss Sandra D. Clement, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A.J.H. Clement, III, is one of twenty minority students throughout the United States selected to attend this year's Pre-Health Institute at Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska.

The six-weeks all ex-

pense paid program is designed for students interested in a career in the health sciences. The program continues through July 30.

Miss Clement is a 1981 honor graduate of Hillside High School. She will attend the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill in the Fall.

Durham Social Notes Of Interest

By Mrs. Symner Days

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Mrs. Arnel Parker of Washington, D.C., spent several days with her daughter, Mrs. Korita Michelle Dugger in Jacksonville (NC).

Pete Harris has returned to his home in Atlanta, Ga., after having spent a few days with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Harris on Hopkin Road in Bahama.

Congratulations and best wishes to newlyweds Mr. and Mrs. Steve Lee Love, Attorney and Mrs. Gary D. Henderson, Attorney and Mrs. Simmons, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Washington III.

Mrs. Jessie Turrentine of Durham attended her grandson Keith Hicks' graduation from the Duke Ellington School of Fine Arts.

Mr. and Mrs. John Folks of Rougemont have returned from Kingston where they visited their daughter, Mrs. Maxwell and family and attended their granddaughter's graduation.

Mrs. Tanella Kaye Turrentine Prevette is spending the summer with her husband, Ricardo, in Altus, Oklahoma. He is in the service.

Recent house guests of Mrs. Jessie Turrentine were Mrs. Sadie Cash, Dr. Henry Cash, Mrs. Mattie Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Gene Washburn and their daughter, Michelle, of Memphis, Tenn. They were also guests of Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Bullock for a couple of days.

Pray for the sick and shut-in: Mesdames Estelle Nixon, Pearl Foskey, Moriah Judd, Georgianna Ray, Maggie Parker, Callie Glenn, Mollie Daye, Mildred Jones, Hattie Parrish, Mayola Holman, Daisy Daye, Annie Roberts, Cleo Hailey, Elenora Johnson, Henrietta Burton, Annie Byers, Edna Charles, Marriett Mabry, Fannie Alexander, Gloria Palmer, Daisy Harvin, Pearl Moore.

Messrs. Barrymore Kenion, W.A. Harris, Broadie Daye, Warren Massenburg, Larry Turrentine, William Carrington, Lucious Glenn and Hosea Moore.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Wells have returned to Washington, D.C. after visiting parents, Mr. and Mrs. Archie Stanfield, in Roxboro.

Sincere sympathy to the families of: P. Finch, Mrs. Odessa Moore, Leon McNeil, I. Thompson, William C. Reed, Mrs. M. Thorpe, James Parker, Jr., Paul John Williams, Barba Harris, Mrs. Irene Jones and Mrs. Hattie Cromer.

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Fayetteville Happenings

By Mrs. T.H. Kinney

Miss Dale Pelsey and John J. Becton, Jr., of Durham were married Saturday afternoon in the First Baptist Church on Moore Street. The Rev. C.R. Edwards officiated.

The bride is the daughter of Sgt. Major and Mrs. Johnny Pelsey. The bridegroom is the son of Mrs. Armentine Banks of Indianapolis, Indiana.

The bride's parents hosted a reception following the ceremony at St. Ann's Catholic Hall.

The bride is a graduate of North Carolina Central University. She is employed with Cumberland County School System. The bridegroom is a graduate of NCA&T State University. He is employed with Wachovia Bank.

The couple will live in Durham.

The Ministerial Wives Alliance of Fayetteville and surrounding areas held its annual state meeting at Elizabeth City State University, June 22-23. Workshops were conducted and a banquet made up part of the program. Several Fayetteville Alliance members will attend a national Alliance meeting June 27-July 4 in the West Indies.

John McQueen of the First Baptist Church was Men's Day speaker at the Sunday afternoon service at Friendship Baptist Church. He is president of the Lott Carey Baptist Foreign Mission Layman's Convention.

Careful kids: 'kicks' can kill

What do commercial products such as spray paints, gasoline, glue and paint thinners have in common that can cause a family tragedy?

They are being sniffed for 'kicks' — and many of the sniffers are youngsters.

A spokesman for the National Institute of Drug Abuse (NIDA) told the Health Insurance Institute that almost 13 million Americans have risked death or illness by this type of sniffing with nearly 1½ million doing it currently, more than one-third of them between 12 and 17 years of age.

Other popular inhalants include toluene (used in paint mixtures), nitrous oxide (used as an anesthetic as well as in foam foods such as whipping cream), and butyl nitrates.

Sniffing these substances may produce a high, but the aftereffect can include drowsiness, headache, and nausea.

But there is worse physical "price" to pay. The effects of inhaling a moderate amount of a chemical, even briefly, are impairment of vision and a loss of muscle and reflex control.

NIDA points out that although sniffing once or occasionally for a few weeks may produce only temporary effects, some irreversible damage can occur.

Also, chronic users tend toward anti-social and self-destructive behavior.

Auxiliary Donates To Lincoln Center

The Auxiliary to the Durham Academy of Medicine, Dentistry and Pharmacy presented a \$300 check recently to Dr. Evelyn Schmidt, director of the Lincoln Community Health Center, for the Lincoln Building fund.

Mrs. Ruth Coleman, Auxiliary treasurer, and Ms. Jackie Roberts, a member, presented the check.

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Coping The Psychological Dynamics Of Racism: Part I

By Dr. Charles W. Faulkner

One of the questions that black people ask most often is, "Why are white people so cruel to me when I have done nothing to hurt them?" Failure to find a readily available answer to this question has caused more neurosis and hypertension in the black community than any other factor.

My next four columns will focus on the psychological issues surrounding this question. In order to understand the dynamics of racism you must understand the psychological structure of yourself, the nature of the problem of racism, the future prospects for elimination of the problem and a method that you can use to cope with the problem of racism.

Black people fulfill a very important psychological need for white people. Black people allow white people to maintain a sense of pride and self-respect — even when they are in the depth of depression and are suffering the greatest attack upon their pride. Whites can always rely upon the feeling of psychological comfort that they receive when they compare themselves to blacks.

They may not be as good as a white businessman. They may not be as intelligent as a white college graduate. They may not be as clean as a meticulous white secretary. But, they are always more competent, more intelligent and cleaner than any black person — at least in their minds. This gives them a feeling of pride that would, otherwise, not exist. Without the existence of black people, it has been said, many white people would develop acute neurosis because of the depression that would result from the absence of self-esteem and the need for a basis for personal pride.

Blacks occupy the bottom rung in society because of the psychological need that whites have which is deeply ingrained, traditional and found in every institution of Western society. Blacks are the psychological "whipping boy" for this reason. Several important implications flow from this fact:

1. Most whites react rudely to blacks in an almost instinctive manner.

2. Whites are often unaware of the psychological reasons for their own behavior. Their behavior is almost automatic. In many cases, whites react discourteously to blacks because it makes them feel good and allows them an opportunity to release stress that would not have been otherwise released.

It is similar to the disregard that one gives to a pet animal when discussing important business. Blacks are considered insignificant: "who cares what they hear, they are not intelligent enough to understand it, so let's just forget that they exist."

3. Blacks have been accorded such an inferior role in every aspect of society — radio, television, education, jobs — that many even believe themselves to be inferior to whites. This feeling of inferiority or self-hatred is a conditioned, subconscious, habituated, deeply-ingrained response.

Blacks have been "psyched" into regarding themselves as inferior and, because skin color is the basis for this determination, they regard other blacks as inferior, also. Thus blacks are treated rudely by whites, foreigners and even each other.

Your questions are welcomed. Suggestions for future articles will be appreciated. Cassette tapes of this and other articles are available for individual use, discussion groups and classroom use. All letters and inquiries should be sent to: Dr. Charles W. Faulkner, Post Office Box 50016, Washington, D.C. 20004