

The Dreams Of King Hassan

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International enemies of Western Sahara's Polisario Front have launched a well coordinated propaganda campaign to discredit the Front and make the Moroccan invaders of King Hassan seem certain of victory.

The campaign got underway several weeks ago when King Hassan of Morocco met with King Khalid of Saudi Arabia to arrange for a reconciliation between Mauritania and Morocco, both claimants to Western Saharan lands and riches.

Having achieved a degree of unity between Mauritania and Morocco, inspired by Saudi wealth and discreet United States assurances of aid, the guerrilla armies of the Polisario Front knocked out Mauritanian ambitions and forced that impoverished nation to sue for peace. Thereafter the Polisario Front concentrated all its efforts against the Moroccans.

The Polisario guerrilla operations against the soldiers of King Hassan have proven to be most effective and extremely costly for Morocco. Today, the Kingdom of Morocco is beset with severe economic problems, including deep seated labor unrest and food riots, which threaten the very existence of the Hassan dynasty.

Saudi Arabia and the United States do not relish the idea that yet another feudal monarch in the rapidly evolving third world may be on its last legs.

When former Spanish dictator Franco died the Polisario Front and its soldiers forced the Spanish colonialists to surrender their claims to Rio de Oro, which was then renamed the Arab Peoples Democratic Republic of Western Sahara.

As the Polisario Front waged its war of national liberation against Spain the King of Morocco staged a massive, theatrical invasion of Western Sahara which soon bogged down in the desert sands. Poor Mauritania, initially inspired by the early glories of King Hassan struck at

Western Sahara from the south and rapidly discovered that the costs far outweighed any and all benefits it may have hoped to gain from the invasion.

Today all international organizations recognize the Polisario Front as the legitimate representative of the peoples of the Western Saharan desert. Why then the sudden campaign against the Polisario Front? Primarily the costly war waged by the Moroccan King has now reached its maximum effort. If victory is not achieved soon the Kingdom will be seriously threatened from within by a disenchanted populace.

Then again both Saudi Arabia and the United States do not wish to see another Arab Democratic Republic appear on the African continent, especially at the crucially important and sensitive time when Israel's Menachem Begin and Egypt's Sadat are desperately trying to establish a conservative military alliance at the juncture of Africa and Arabia which it is hoped could be supported by the Saudis against the evolving non-feudal governments of northern Africa.

The United States for its part hopes to coordinate these developments in northern Africa with its plans for South Africa.

Washington strategists see South Africa working with the Israeli-Egyptian alliance to contain the raw material producing populations of the African continent, now ill-fed, ill-housed, sick and mostly illiterate, from massive rebellion.

Anti-Polisario propagandists, often posing as respectable and objective observers now claim that Morocco can win its war because it has built a six foot high, 280 mile long barrier against the Polisario troops. Polisario officers ridicule this claim. They assert that since the end of the Second World War the forces of colonial and national liberation armies have always and without exception demolished the most sophisticated fortifications.

Botswana

A Much-Needed Census

[AN] After fifteen years of independence, Botswana has transformed its agrarian, cattle-based economy into diamond-studded prosperity. Yet serious economic imbalances remain. To better assess the situation and assist development planning, preparations are advancing for the largest and most scientific census in Botswana's history.

Following independence in 1966, the former colony of Bechuanaland was an arid, dusty, impoverished territory, depending largely on meagre returns from cattle-rearing to sustain some 700,000 people. All but completely dependent on South Africa for its survival, the country even used the South African rand as its national currency until 1976.

Today, Botswana is one of Africa's richest countries, proudly sporting the twelfth highest GNP in Africa. Diamond mining has made all the difference. Production stands at more than \$320 million yearly and accounts for more than 60% of export earnings.

Yet 80% of Botswana's 850,000 people still depend on agriculture and cattle-raising, with the vast majority only managing a bare subsistence living. And even with an impressive 12% increase in the Gross Domestic Product over the last year, massive unemployment remains an embarrassing problem. The situation has not improved much since 1978, when a professor's study showed that 40% of the wage-labor force was out of work.

Not surprisingly, Botswana's Fifth National Development Plan is em-

phasizing the creation of new jobs and rural development. Yet the vital statistics needed to effect the plan, which covers the period 1979-1985, are not readily available. With this in mind, the country is embarking on the second national census since independence, to be conducted later this year.

This first post-independence census in 1971 showed that about 80% of the population lived in the southeast, close to the rail line that still links South Africa's northern reaches with Bulawayo in western Zimbabwe. Besides being the economic life-line of the country, the area is also well-watered by the Limpopo River. With much of the country covered by the arid Kalahari Desert, water has been "the primary determinant in the pattern of human settlement," according to a recent government publication.

But that appears to be changing. The thriving economy is also making its mark on demographic patterns. The massive economic returns from mining have been concentrated in the country's few urban centers, Gaborone, Francistown and Lobatse. This has in turn accelerated the migration of the unemployed and underemployed from the countryside.

In addition, new settlements are growing up around the rich mining centers of Selebi-Pikwe and Orapa in the central province, Jwaneng, 80 miles west of Gaborone (the capital city) and presently under construction, is expected to become Botswana's



Black Scientist Honored

Dr. W. Montague Cobb (left), medical educator and president of the NAACP, and Dr. Jane Wright, noted cancer researcher, talk with artist Ernest Crichlow and Dr. Otto Sturzenegger, chairman of the board and chief executive officer of CIBA-GEIGY Corporation, Ardsley, N.Y., at a special reception held prior to the annual convention of the National Urban League in Washington, D.C. Dr. Cobb and Dr. Wright are honored in the CIBA-GEIGY Exceptional Black Scientists Poster Series for which Crichlow painted the scientists' portraits.

largest and richest diamond mine; it also will likely affect population patterns. While mining in Botswana is fabulously lucrative, it is also capital-intensive, producing few jobs while attracting numerous job-seekers.

Observers agree that the major demographic problems relate to employment. With a population growth rate of at least 3%, the size of the work force is exploding. It is expected to increase from 887,000 in 1979 to 515,000 in 1985 — a six-fold increase. And while the South African mines used to employ upwards of 40,000 Botswana workers yearly, recruitment has already fallen to

less than 20,000 as of 1979.

Presently the labor force is growing at about 18,000 per year whereas the plan aims at formal employment growth of some 10,000 jobs annually, with the accent on "achieving increased productivity in the rural economy."

"When we come to rural development, we find that it is skill-intensive. You need planning in minute detail because every community has its own characteristics," said Botswana's president, Dr. Quett Masire.

If it goes as planned, this year's census will give

the government the "minute details" it so urgently needs to effectively manage national development.

Partly financed and assisted by the United Nations Fund for Population Activities, there are no less than three government-appointed committees running the census operation.

The National Communications Committee is presently coordinating the pre-census publicity campaign. All major media are taking part, producing special programs and stories as well as carrying exhortations and news to heighten public interest. Special lessons have been prepared to inform

students about the census, its purpose and its workings in the hope that the youngsters will re-enforce media messages aimed at their parents.

Even the widespread popular theatre movement, used throughout the country to promote development messages, has incorporated the census theme into its activities. A special film has been prepared about the census and is currently touring the country.

During the census, everyone 12 years and older will be required by law to provide information. But even younger children (to the age of

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Donald King Gives NNPA Archives \$10,000



Cleveland, Ohio: The Archives Committee of the National Newspaper Publishers Association, through its chairman, William O. Walker, has received a contribution of \$10,000 from fight promoter Donald King.

In making his gift, Mr. King expressed his interest in the Archives project which was established in 1973 at Howard University.

The Archives is expected to become the primary facility in the world for research related to the history of the Black press.

As a part of the joint project between Howard University and NNPA, a Gallery of Distinguished Newspaper publishers has been established in the Mooreland-Spingarn Research Center, where portraits of Black publishers are enshrined and can be viewed by the public. Copies of Black newspapers are sent to the Archives center each week for microfilming and for research reference. Dr. Michael R. Winsont is director of the Mooreland-Spingarn Research Center.

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