

United Nations

On Feeling Ashamed For Your Country

By Curtis T. Perkins

I caught up with the Deputy Permanent Representative of my country as he hurriedly left the final meeting of the U.N. Security Council last week. For this Ambassador of ours had just cast the most dastardly of vetoes — in favor of South Africa — which had just been condemned by the Council and the world for invading the Republic of Angola.

I inquired of his name; not that I didn't know but to have him repeat it for the record, and that he, Charles M. Lichenstein, an American, had just alienated Africa, the Third World and our partners in the West. Then I asked him acidly, "Aren't you a little ashamed of yourself for committing this grievous injustice — the veto?" This flabbergasted Mr. Lichenstein. He had no answer and his response was to run away — back to the sanctuary of the U.S. Mission across the street.

Thirteen members of the Security Council voted for the resolution condemning South Africa. Sir Anthony Parsons, the British Ambassador, in some skillful double talk came up with the reasoning — but lamely — to abstain in behalf of his nation.

It must be understood that Mr. Lichenstein, a product of *Commentary Magazine* and a close associate of his Chief Delegate, Dr. Jeanne Kirkpatrick, was compelled to carry out the Reagan policy of coddling up to South Africa. But what worries me, Mr. Lichenstein in a somewhat booming voice and with little substance in his diatribe, does his job with relish but with little understanding for the people of Angola, the OAU and Africa and 45,000,000 Americans of African descent.

It is a truism that racist defenses, despite how eloquently expressed, come out hollow and encouch nausea.

The Africans who spoke on principles for fairness and in behalf of self-determination — the practice of national sovereignty for Angola and Statehood for Namibia — won the day on exposing South Africa's government as a ruthless, unprincipled and bigoted outfit.

Said Mr. Lichenstein: "It is clear that the presence of foreign combat forces in Angola, particularly the large Cuban force, and the provision of Soviet-originated arms to the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) and the presence of Soviet military advisers fuel the explosive atmosphere of confrontation and violence which daily plagues the people of Angola, Namibia and, indeed, the entire region. As a result, the United States had to vote against against the draft resolution under consideration today, a draft resolution which places blame solely on South Africa for the escalation of violence."

In this utterance I am compelled to state that Mr. Lichenstein is still blind — that Angola was forced to seek outside help because our country refused to do so. Covertly I would surmise that we still support Joseph Savimba of the UNITA movement, as does South Africa openly. Mr. Savimba flagrantly fights the present government without cause as most African leaders consider him a traitor and opportunist. In the meantime, the Reagan foreign policy planners seem bent on withdrawing the Clark amendment which was passed during the Carter Administration to prevent support for Mr. Savimba.

The problem with this contention of communism as the cause and the phobia about Cuba is that there is little movement of America to talk or relate to Cuba or to Angola or to really denounce South

Africa concurrently for its acts of aggressive and imposed racism in Namibia and on millions of Africans by military force.

And in a ridiculous fashion Mr. Lichenstein concludes with these incipient words for South Africa: "Without addressing in a balanced way the underlying sources of conflict in the area, on the other hand, it is unlikely that any well-intentioned effort can bring about an end to the resort to violence. . . . We will continue to act as an honest broker. We will deny ourselves the indulgence of taking sides in the public war of words which accompanies this most crucial issue."

Frankly, the world knows that there can be no balance in dealing with South Africa. The answer to these bigots is the one we gave Adolph Hitler — to desist in aggression or face an American expeditionary presence. This is what we did in Korea, Vietnam and elsewhere.

On the contrary, we need to indulge in taking sides now — the right side is with Namibia, SWAPO, the African Nationalist Congress and the Pan Africanist Congress of Anzania.

In contrast to my country's purloined approach to fairness in southern Africa — again the Africans who spoke of their sense of need in history for ridding their continent of the last vestiges of racism made me and their compatriots proud. Their words were formidable as they stood up against apartheid and violations of Angola's borders and for SWAPO and Namibia's independence. There were Ambassadors Elleck Kufunesu Mashingaidze, Zimbabwe; Awad S. Burwin, Libya; Charles G. Maina, Kenya; and representing President Moi, chairman of OAU, Jose Carlos Lobo, Mozambique; Ali Tekaia, Tunisia and others.

Universal support for Angola came in scathing words castigating South Africa from Ambassadors Jacques LePrette, France; Porfirio Munoz Ledo, Mexico; Raul Roa-Kouri, Cuba; Patrick A. O'Conner, Ireland; J. Reid Morden, Canada; Gunther Van Well, Federal Republic of Germany; Dr. Clovis Maksoud, League of Arab States who likened the South African invasion to Israel's bombing of Beirut; Masairo Nisibori, Japan; Ha Van Lau, Vietnam; Jaime de Pinies, Spain; Ling Qing, China; Carlos Antonia Bettencourt Bueno, Brazil; Peter Florin, German Democratic Republic; Natarajan Krishnam, India; Alejandro D Yango, Philippines; Zoran Lazarevic, Yugoslavia and others.

Panama, president of the Security Council for August, sent its capable Foreign Minister Jorge Enrique Illueca to preside. His speech to the Council was lucid and to the point. In part, he said to an attentive audience:

"Universal condemnation of the Pretoria regime is eloquently expressed in the media in Africa, Latin America, Asia, Western Europe, Eastern Europe, North America and Oceania. . . .

South Africa is a country isolated within the United Nations because of its violation of the Charter and its delinquent conduct. . . . South Africa represents a body that is socially, politically and morally sick. It is a State that suffers from such a highly infectious disease that it must be isolated. . . .

It is clear that those who try to absolve the Pretoria regime of sin and cleanse its body of infectious germs without submitting it to the sole treatment that can produce a cure, namely the fulfilment



PARIS, FRANCE—Kanyan President Daniel Arap Moi is greeted by UN General Secretary Kurt Waldheim (r) as he arrived at UNSCO in Paris for the United Nations conference for the least developed countries. UPI Photo

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of the resolutions of the United Nations, will have to face the consequences of contamination and contagion. . . .

African problems must be subject to African solutions. The eradication of colonialism in all its forms and manifestations and the exercise of the right of self-determination by the African peoples cannot be made subordinate to the economic, political or strategic interests of the super-powers. To claim that those interests can prevail over the rights of peoples to freedom and independence is to go against the course of history. . . .

The Pretoria regime must withdraw from the illegally occupied Territory of Namibia, whose people, with the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) as their sole legitimate representative, have the right to see their national unity and territorial integrity respected and to be granted independence promptly, through a process which should be brought to fruition under the control and supervision of the United Nations."

It was Ambassador Otunnu, a bright new face in African diplomacy, who went at the heart of Ambassador Lichenstein's veto for the U.S. in these words:

"What then is the meaning of the veto we have just experienced? My delegation had occasion to warn on 30 April in this Council that the triple veto that was then cast by three permanent members of the Council would not serve the purpose of peace and security in the world; that, on the contrary, it could only strengthen the forces of apartheid and oppression. Well, the aggression which we have just been discussing is clearly a result of the signal that was sent by this Council — especially by three permanent members — on 30 April. Those who cast the triple veto then must therefore today bear a big share of the responsibility for yet another act of aggression against Angola. Today's veto will have the same impact as the triple veto of 30 April 1981. It will strengthen and protect the aggressor and expose the victim of aggression, making the victim ever more vulnerable. It will give comfort and encouragement to the Pretoria regime. It constitutes yet another mighty blow against the people of Namibia in their search for genuine self-determination. It is a rebuff to those who seek to abide by the Charter and, when injured, seek remedy under the Charter through the instrumentality of the Security Council. . . .

Still, I say that all is not lost. We believe in the principle of progress. On 30 April, we witnessed a triple veto; today we have witnessed a single veto. There has been some progress. It remains our hope that even the permanent member which decided on this occasion to abstain will soon join in a positive vote, and indeed, we refuse to give up even on that one single mountain, the one permanent member that cast a negative vote today, because we believe that history is a dynamic process, and because it is a dynamic process it is never too late to join in the global consensus in favour of the forces of freedom and dignity. . . .

So once again, I extend an invitation to that one permanent member, the one with the heaviest hand of all to come and join in the global consensus in favour of freedom and dignity. It is never too late."

Because Ambassador J.A. Eksteen of South Africa tried to speak to the Council on the merits of his government's racism in repeated falsehoods against SWAPO, Namibia and the suppressed Africans under his guns, I see no point except to leave him out of my musings.

However, Ambassador Elisio De Figuerirro, the articulate spokesman for his President Eduardo dos

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Nat'l Teachers Exams Slated On Three Dates

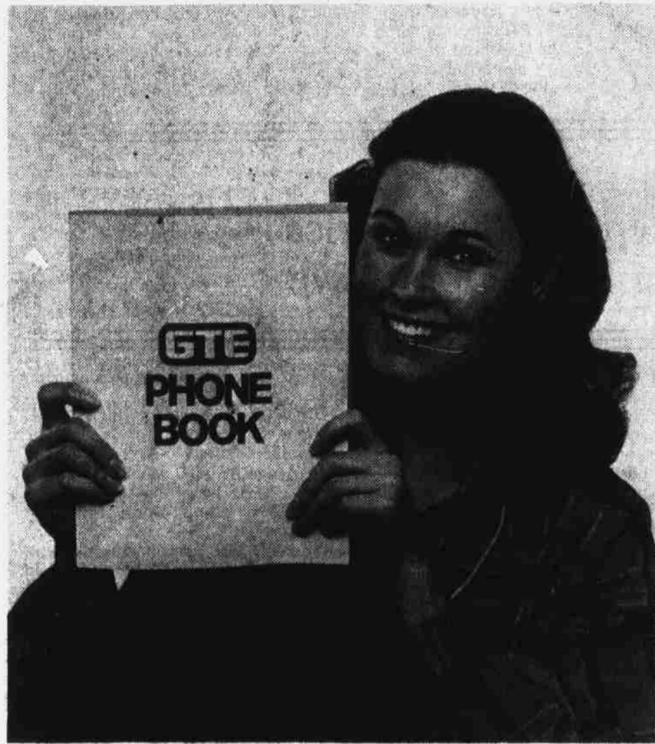
Dr. Norman Johnson, chairman of the department of education at North Carolina Central University, has released a notice reminding prospective teachers that three test administrations of the National Teacher Examinations will be scheduled during the 1981-82 academic year.

Educational Testing Service, which administers the examinations, has announced test dates of November 14; February 20, 1982; and April 17, 1982. The examinations will be given at test centers throughout the United States.

Many states and school districts consider National Teacher Examinations results in selection of new teachers or in the credentialing and licensing of teachers. On each full day of testing, registrants may take the Common Examinations, which measure both professional preparation and general educational background, and/or an Area Examination related to the subject they expect to teach.

Further information is available from Dr. Johnson at 683-6446, from the NCCU Career Counseling and Placement Center at 683-6337, as well as from school personnel departments and other college placement centers. Bulletins of Information and registration forms are also available from National Teacher Examinations, Box 911, Educational Testing Service, Princeton, New Jersey 08541.

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