

Durham-Based Institute Study Points To Conspiracy

By Donald Alderman

Nearly two years after Nazis and Klansmen fatally wounded five Communist Workers Party members, an independent report indicates the killings could have been avoided had local authorities acted more responsibly. The report, released by the Durham-based Institute for Southern Studies last Friday, concludes that "Klan and Nazi members planned an assault" on the CWP and others gathered to voice their sentiments against racism.

The six-months, 31-page report juxtaposes opposing contentions of all actions and actors contributing to the tragic incident.

On November 3, 1979, what was to be a "Death to the Klan" rally turned into a violent confrontation between the CWP and Klan along with Nazis. It was as if the rally was "Death to the Communists." Four CWP members were slain on the spot. Another died two days later and eight persons were injured.

To deaf ears, the CWP almost immediately charged that the slayings were a conspiracy with government complicity.

The Institute's report, the first major independent and objective analysis of the ordeal, again raises concerns that were voiced by the CWP as to the relationship between

the Greensboro Police Department and Klansmen and Nazis, and the degree to which local officials, the prosecutor and federal agents were involved in the killings and/or furthered injustice by covering up the truth.

To further the investigation in an effort to pursue justice, the Institute strongly recommends:

—The Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Justice Department move immediately on the advice of U.S. Attorney H.M. Michaux to prosecute the KKK and Nazi attackers.

—A Congressional investigation be launched into the Justice Department's handling of the Greensboro case; into the role of Treasury Department agents, and all other relevant public officials and agencies in planning, executing and covering the KKK-Nazi caravan's organization and mission; and, into the adequacy of federal statutes to protect citizens when local officials fail to uphold the exercise of their constitutional rights.

—Greensboro citizens be encouraged to pursue an independent investigation into the role the city, state and federal officials played in thwarting their effective self-organization and to demand a public accounting of the city officials' actions through a citizens review commission or whatever mechanism they feel ap-

propriate.

Written by Ms. Liz Wheaton, a staffer with the Institute, the report is the culmination of a multi-hour interview with a reporter who covered the trial of the Nazis and Klansmen, analysis of television film showing the 88-second shooting spree and an exclusive interview with Ed Dawson, a paid police informant within the Klan who was greatly involved in planning and carrying out the shootings.

The Institute held a press conference in Washington to announce release of the report. Commenting on the findings that the report documents was the Institute's president, Julian Bond: "The Greensboro case reveals what happens when there is a total collapse of the criminal justice system in protecting citizens from racial hate and pseudo-patriotic vigilante groups like the Klan and Nazis."

"When local officials systematically abandon protection of citizens and promote an atmosphere of benign neglect toward racial violence, the federal government has an absolute obligation to intervene and ensure that justice is restored," Bond said.

The Greensboro Justice Fund, a legal fund for the widowed and injured in the Greensboro incident, has attempted for nearly a year to get the federal government to intervene and

restore justice. The group has filed a civil lawsuit against federal, state and local officials along with Klansmen and Nazis — all being conspirators in planning and executing the CWP killings, the GJF says.

The Institute's report states that the Justice Department responded to the suit by saying that it was not the federal government's responsibility to protect the community from the Klan or the CWP from their right-wing counterparts.

The Justice Department has not only ignored the Greensboro Justice Fund but also a U.S. Attorney and others who have demanded justice.

Former U.S. Attorney Michaux recommended shortly before leaving office that the Justice Department seek civil indictments against the Klan and others who victimized an innocent neighbor. His request apparently also fell upon deaf ears, as the department has not yet responded.

Published reports say a coalition of Greensboro groups issued a call for an investigation into the shootings. The Greensboro Justice Fund, Citizens for Justice and United and the N.C. Civil Liberties Union are among the groups demanding an explanation from the Greensboro Police Department concerning the lack of protection of the demonstrators on November 3, 1979.

The Institute says the report is not designed to prove a conspiracy but to account for actions preceding and following November 3 that may shed light on many unanswered questions.

The report documents the following conclusions:

—Greensboro police were informed two weeks before November 3 that a large group of Klansmen were planning to "disrupt" the rally.

—There were two known agents involved in planning the confrontation: Bernard Butkovich, an agent for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, and Ed Dawson, a paid informant with the Greensboro Police Department.

—Greensboro city officials, the local and state Human Relations Commission, the news media and the U.S. Justice Department diverted attention from the murders and the role of the local police by citing damage to the city's reputation.

—The prosecutor seated avowed anti-communist jurors. The jury foreman was a former member of a paramilitary anti-Castro group.

—The police monitored the organization of the rally nearly a month before November 3.

—Butkovich and Dawson were never called to trial. They could have proved the KKK-Nazi caravan intended to assault which would have provided a guilty verdict.

Ethiopia—Calm May Be Deceptive Following Sadat's Assassination

In the wake of the assassination of Egypt's President Anwar Sadat, the whole region from Morocco to Saudi Arabia has experienced an escalation of rhetoric, threats and counter-threats, military maneuvers and potential new crises. In Washington, Rabat and Khartoum, in particular, the finger has been pointed at Libya's Muammar Qaddafi and, behind him, the Soviet Union. Surprisingly, however, Ethiopia has largely escaped the sort of pressure directed at Libya, even though the military regime in Addis Ababa was cited until recently as a prime example of Soviet penetration and still hosts an

estimated 12,000 Cuban troops and 2,000 Soviet advisors. Africa News this week examines Ethiopia's changing status in the region.

U.S. military maneuvers still include Ethiopia's enemy, Somalia, from which guerrillas continue to harass Addis Ababa's troops in the Ogaden. But even when Ethiopia, South Yemen and Libya signed a defense treaty on August 19, pledging joint struggle against imperialism, the Western voices of protest singled out Libya, then engaged in a shoot-out over the Gulf of Sidra with a U.S. naval taskforce.

Ethiopia's low international profile results partly from a foreign

policy that, without abandoning the close alliance with the Soviet bloc, has sought to reach a detente with neighboring Sudan, now a focus of Western concern.

To the south, Ethiopia has avoided trouble with staunchly pro-Western Kenya, the two countries being bound in an unlikely military alliance by the common fear of Somali nationalism — the prospect that Somali-speaking minorities within their borders might fight for reincorporation in the Somali Republic.

In addition, Ethiopia has courted Western European, Japanese and even U.S. capital, links that are still more important to the country's

economy than the Soviet connection.

Since late 1980, an Ethiopian compensation committee has moved ahead on negotiations with foreign companies which had property nationalized in 1975. The progress of the negotiations, involving settlement of Japanese, Italian and even one U.S. claim, has made possible the resumption of World Bank financing with a \$40 million rural development package in February.

The European Economic Community and its member countries are the most important sources of Ethiopian development aid, while the U.S. ranks first among buyers of Ethio-

pian coffee, Japan, the U.S., Italy, the G.F.R. and France are the top-ranked suppliers of Ethiopia's exports, with an Eastern-bloc country, the G.D.R., turning up only in eighth place.

In September the Ethiopian government released over 500 political prisoners to celebrate the seventh anniversary of the 1974 revolution, including both officials of the pre-1974 Haile Selassie government and some left-wing opponents of the ruling military council. Though Amnesty International noted that many prisoners had not yet been freed, the move was evidence of a relative calm and sense of security on the part of the

regime.

On at least two fronts, however, that calm is likely to be deceptive. In Eritrea, conflicts in recent months between the Eritrean Liberation Front (ELF) and the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF) have resulted in a much stronger position for the latter, which has continued to resist Ethiopian efforts to reconquer its base areas.

Most striking are the advances reported in recent months by the Tigre People's Liberation Front (TPLF), which after six years of guerrilla struggle in this Ethiopian province bordering Eritrea has in the last eighteen months significantly expanded its control. According to Asfaha Hagos, a TPLF representative, the front as of October held 95% of Tigre's land area, with some 40,000 Ethiopian troops confined to major towns and highways.

Even towns such as Axum, the ancient capital of Ethiopia, are constantly threatened by TPLF forces, writes *Le Monde's* Jean-Pierre Langellier. According to the TPLF, in September, several military operations resulted in more than 200 Ethiopian casualties, and defections from Ethiopia's army including a member of COPWE, the government commission charged with setting up a Marxist-Leninist party. And early this month the group launched an unprecedented attack inside Wollo, the next province south.

The significance of this attack is that the people of Wollo themselves requested TPLF aid in ousting the central government military forces. The TPLF action accordingly fits into the organization's strategy of support for other forces it regards as progressive and democratic within the Ethiopian 'empire-state.'

The TPLF, which has a close alliance with the EPLF in Eritrea, defines its own struggle as aimed at self-determination for Tigre and other oppressed nations within Ethiopia, and for a democratic, popularly responsive government in all of Ethiopia. The TPLF and other left-wing opponents of the government of Mengistu Haile Mariam reject the present government's claims to socialist policies, and charge that in reality it is a 'facist' military junta, relying exclusively on military force for its survival.

The TPLF position is reflected in its critique of measures such as the government's literacy campaign and land policies. Though the national literacy campaign is reported to have

lowered illiteracy rates from 93% to 65% by February of this year, it has only reached the urban population, says the TPLF. The TPLF itself has its own literacy publications, and is carrying on its own schools in the area they control, says Hagos, as well as other social programs such as rural health clinics, of which they recently opened the 29th.

Particularly revealing of the contrasting stands toward social transformation, according to Hagos, are land reform policies. While central government reforms did eliminate the feudal landlords, it was primarily the richer peasants who could benefit, since they had

access to necessary supplies such as seeds, tools, and oxen. The TPLF, Hagos says, has in contrast organized the poor and middle peasants.

Conflicting claims such as these are typical of the guerrilla struggles now being waged in various parts of rural Ethiopia, where the majority of the population lives. And while the claims are difficult, if not impossible, to evaluate, they do point up the likelihood that the fate of the present government and its opponents will be largely determined by their success or failure in social transformation and economic mobilization of the country's 27 million peasants.

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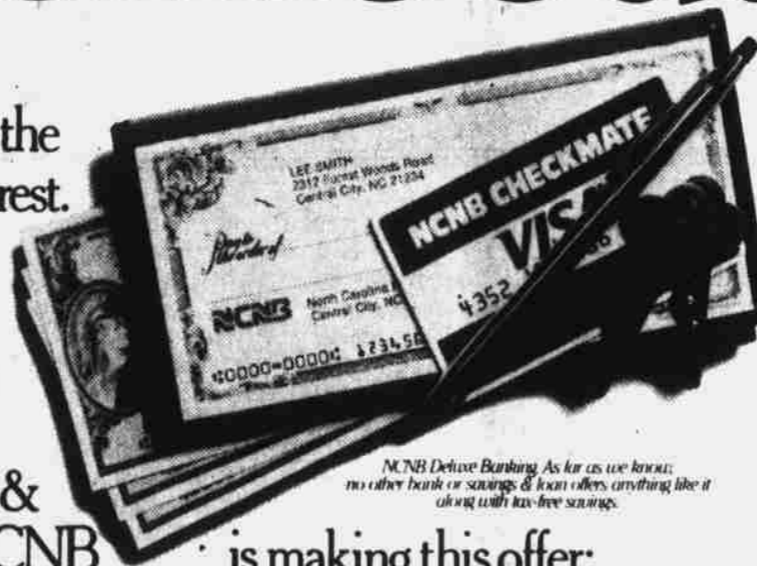
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By the way...
By Joe Black

Since 1960 Black people have had rallying cries such as: "We Shall Overcome"; "Power to the People"; and "Nation Time"; however, for the Black Brothers and Sisters in the 1980's there can be but one rallying motto and that is: "Survival Time."

The national administration is forcefully telling us that the government is not going to take care of us. But rather than curse this unforeseen negative action, we should heed the encouragement of a Black man who suggests: "Take the first step, stand on your feet, there is always help for the problems you meet."

Although they are suffering, I say that there is help for the Black, the poor, and the elderly; and I am not talking about any form of hand-outs. God has given to each of us a mind for thinking and a body for working and He helps those who help themselves. Thus, I am reminding you that Black survival will come through political participation and economic growth. My friends, Black America, with its projected annual gross income in excess of \$100 billion dollars, is not a poverty state — we just have misguided priorities. For example, as we labor through the years we are content to think that Social Security will support us when we reach the age of 65. But why shouldn't we think and plan to live a little better during our golden years? We can if we heed these words of Mr. Allen Beasley: 'No man should stay poor, begin to save; get up! Don't be a slave.'

Let's pledge to gain economic freedom by saving rather than spending. The task won't be difficult — to save \$10.00 each pay day we only need to sacrifice some of our weekly alcohol and tobacco purchases. The Black philosopher tells us: "Don't be a slave to strong drink, a slave to dope; even a slave to creditors; it's no joke. Remember, it's not the one with the highest I.Q., but rather what each chooses to do."

Joe Black
Vice President
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