

US/Africa Activists Launch Anti-Apartheid Campaign

[AN] Domestic opposition to the Reagan administration's policy of "constructive engagement" with South Africa is fueling a new political offensive by anti-apartheid activists, with a major campaign slated to begin this month.

As in the past, much of the current protest focuses on breaking economic and cultural ties with South Africa through tactics such as divestment campaigns, including efforts involving municipal and state legislation, and support for sporting and cultural boycotts. But there is a growing trend to link these foreign policy concerns with domestic issues such as racism and unemployment.

Church groups and trade unions, as well as students, figure largely in the anti-apartheid organizing effort.

On March 21, a number of major religious denominations in New York and elsewhere will participate in "Southern Africa Sunday" in remembrance of the 1960 Sharpeville Massacre in which 69 blacks were killed while peacefully protesting South Africa's pass laws.

This observance, which comes at a time when the church in South Africa is under unprecedented attack by the government of P.W. Botha, was initiated by the Black United Front and has received endorsements from a number of high-ranking church officials.

The March 21 activities will coincide with the opening of two weeks of national action in support of southern African liberation movements.

Organized by the American Committee on Africa (ACOA), the mobilization will involve anti-apartheid groups on over fifty campuses and numerous community organizations as well.

In the effort to link the southern African liberation struggle with domestic issues, the activities have been slated for the period between the anniversary of the Sharpeville Massacre and April 4, the date Martin Luther King was assassinated.

Organizations including the African National Congress of South Africa, the South West Africa Peoples' Organization, the ACOA, the Black United Front, the National Black Independent Political Party, TransAfrica, and the Washington Office on Africa will participate in a series of teach-ins, fundraisers, demonstrations and lobbying efforts during the two weeks of action.

According to organizers, the campaign will bring about the largest mobilization of anti-apartheid forces since 1979, when a similar call to action was taken up by activists in October 1981.

Large numbers of students continue to involve themselves in protests against U.S. support for South Africa — especially campaigns to force their universities or

local governments to withdraw investments from corporations doing business in South Africa.

The likelihood that pressure from university-based groups will dwindle because of the transient nature of student life has been a concern amongst the student organizers. But, according to Josh Nessen, student coordinator for the ACOA, the actions starting March 21 represent "the continued ability of the student anti-apartheid movement to sustain activity." Nessen says "a whole new generation of students is organizing these events" and that repression in South Africa remains a big issue on campus.

Student efforts have resulted in the withdrawal of millions of dollars from firms involved in South Africa and have also publicized the issue of U.S. economic ties with the white-ruled nation.

The two weeks of action will take on a different character for each of the numerous communities where activities are planned. Some of the actions scheduled:

- In New York, a coalition has formed to conduct numerous events, beginning with a forum at John Jay College on March 20. The two weeks of action will culminate on April 3 with a demonstration at Columbia University.

- Boston activists are planning around a March 25 shareholder

- In Amherst, Massachusetts, the weeks of action will center on a commemoration of Martin Luther King. On April 6, South African jazz artist Abdullah Ibrahim will play a benefit concert for the Dennis Brutus Defense Fund.

- A coalition of members of the Black Students for a Free Southern Africa will be organizing events in the Washington, D.C., area.

- In Los Angeles, a coalition of forty groups is organizing a demonstration March 26 at the Federal Building in L.A. calling for the closure of the South African consulate in the city.

- Two events to be held in New York City March 18 and 19 will focus on the cultural and sporting boycott of South Africa. Sponsored by the International Defense and Aid Fund, the first night will include such entertainers as Hugh Masekela, Archie Shepp, Fatima Ibrahim and Amiri Baraka in the United Nations NGO Lounge. The second night is sponsored by the Organization of African Unity and will be located at the Harlem State Building.

Gambia Impressions of Package Tourist

[AN] Gambia, which recently made west African headlines on account of its decision to federate with neighboring Senegal, has a longstanding commitment to tourism as a major industry. Tourism development received a boost following the success of Alex Haley's *Roots*, which is set partly in Gambia, but the entire tourist phenomenon has also come in for criticism because of alleged negative consequences for traditional Gambian society.

So what does an inquisitive visitor find? This week special correspondent Kie Sebastian shares with us a notebook on her travels in this little publicized land.

The hotels, many of them run by Swedes, seemed to be full over the Christmas/New Year's period, though official statistics indicate that tourism in 1981 was down by as much as forty per cent compared with the previous year.

The excursions laid on by the foreign travel agencies include a cruise up the Gambia River, first to see James Island, where slaves had been kept in dungeons before being sold by British slave dealers to plantation owners in the West Indies and America. The river is steadily eroding James Island and the fortress on it, to the dismay of some Gambians who prefer that it be preserved as a reminder of the past.

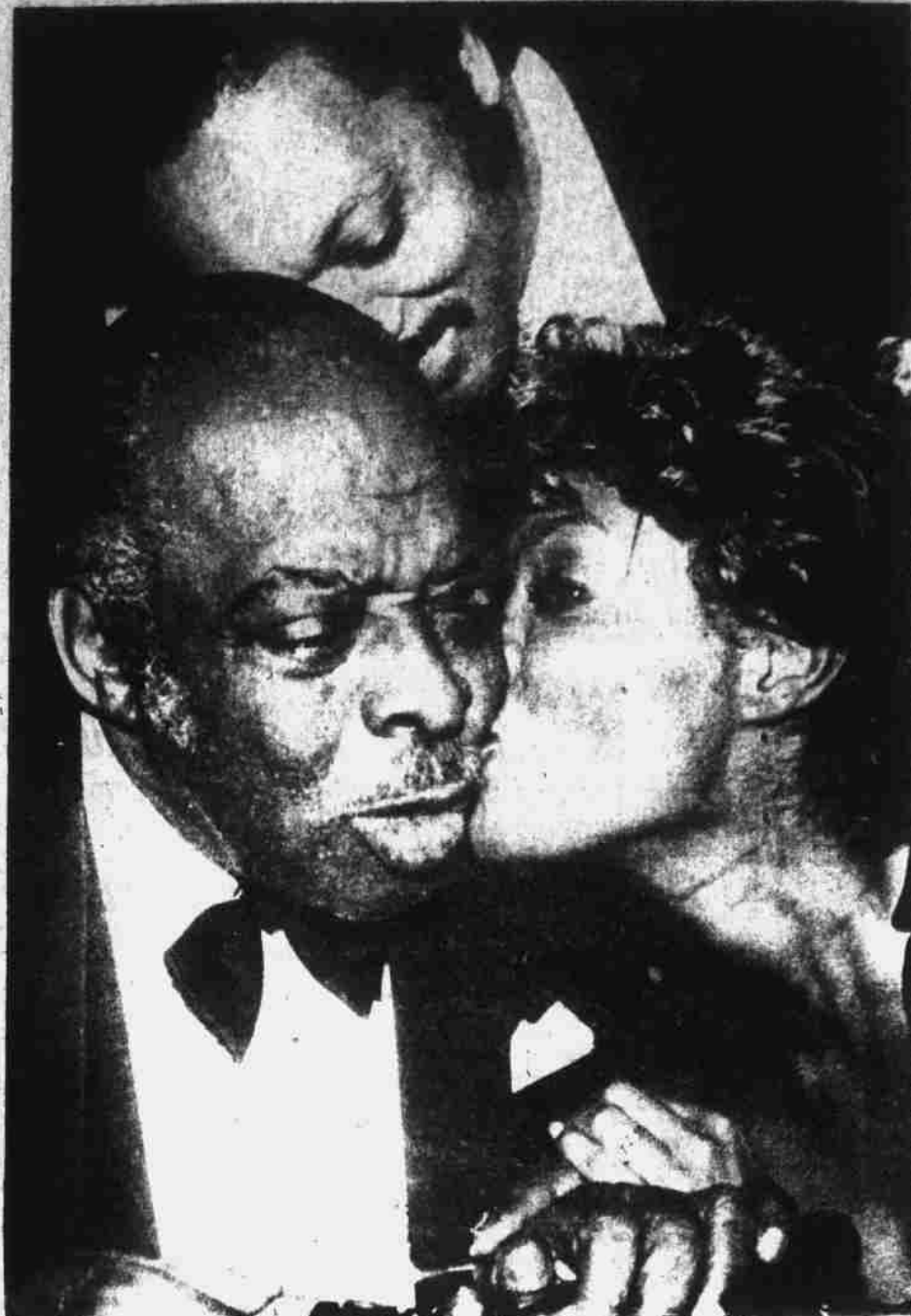
Next the tourists are taken to Juffure, the locale described in *Roots*. Many of the village's 300 inhabitants come to the quay to welcome us visitors with a cheerful handclasp and to escort us to see their elders and their chief personage, the authenticated Kunta Kinte descendant. Although poverty was still very much in evidence (I think several of the children had the symptoms of kwashiorkor), there was apparently some increase in revenue from the tourists, for construction had begun on a small new mosque.

After a collection was taken, the tourists rejoined the boat waiting in the seedy port of Albrera, formerly a French slave-trading station. Later they visit the Abuko Nature Reserve to see the local flora and fauna up close and peer at the troops of monkeys, many colorful birds and a crocodile or two. Large wild game and animals have been killed off completely.

One excursion, to see the "real Gambia," does in fact give a chance to see a large school and to talk with the headmaster and some of the children. Education, entirely in English, is free but not compulsory. Parents are urged by the teachers and by the Ministry of Education to send their children to classes where they are available for as long as possible. Lessons at the school we visited seemed to include much oral repetition by the pupils. Books, paper, pencils and teaching aids at all levels were in short supply.

Also on the excursion we visited a coastal fishing village. I was told that the fishermen and their families are nomadic — this after I spoke with them in French and asked their nationality. Such a situation certainly must complicate their school teaching but it suggests there may be good sense in the incipient Senegambian confederation.

Gambia's primary export, of course, is peanuts, and the itinerary included stops at an agricultural market and a peanut farm, where at that season the nuts were being separated from the dried plants by farm people of all ages. Each wet season one rice crop is also grown in small fields under and among the



Tribute To Basie (II)

NEW YORK: Civil rights activist Rev. Jesse Jackson stops by to pay his regards to world famous musician Count Basie (left) and singer Dionne Warwick during a Tribute to Basie at Radio City Music Hall March 7. Jackson was just one of many well-known personalities on hand for the occasion which honored the 77-year-old Basie. UPI Photo

Black Business Directory Closeout Date Set

AMHERST, MA. — A long-needed National Black Business Directory will soon be published, it was announced by Lawrence Davis, founder of the Black Success Club. Davis stated it would be the most comprehensive directory of its type.

"Many people are unaware of the numerous products and services black businesses have to offer," he said. "Furthermore, some people — including blacks — minimize the importance of these businesses," he continued. "They don't realize that Afro-Americans have been conducting business on this continent since 1762; or that certain segments of the black business world — such as the newspaper industry, to cite an example, have been at the forefront of the fight for equal rights since this country's inception."

Referring to much-needed recognition of black business accomplishments, Davis said, "The National Black Business Directory will help bring about a greater appreciation of the importance of black business."

There are presently close to 200,000 black-owned businesses, according to Davis. Although some will fail, the use of creative imagination and progressive techniques will help many to grow and prosper, he believes. The black businessman suggested a three-point program to improve the profit margin of black-owned businesses in the '80's.

"First," he said, "ensure that the best possible service is being provided to the public. Studies have shown that the major cause of customer loss is dissatisfaction with service."

Next, business men and women should reach out beyond their local areas for clients. Markets must be developed throughout the United States, and, in some cases, overseas.

"Finally, advertising and marketing efforts must increase. No matter how good the product is, the public must know of it, if it is to be sold," Davis declared.

The National Black Business Directory will help black businesses publicize their products and services — and ex-

pand their markets, it was explained. "The directory will be made available to libraries, procuring agencies, businesses and individuals. With this nationwide reference, anyone interested in obtaining products or services from black-owned businesses will have a broad selection to choose from."

Urging black-owned businesses to take advantage of this opportunity to get nationwide exposure, the entrepreneur said, "Inclusion in the National Black Business Directory is offered free to any business that indicates a desire to be listed. There is absolutely no obligation of any type to buy advertising space or to purchase a copy of the directory."

A tentative publication date of June, 1982, has been set, with a placement close-out date of April 15, 1982. Information concerning placement in the National Black Business Directory can be obtained by sending a self-addressed, stamped, business (No. 10) envelope to: Black Success Club, Directory Information, P.O. Box 240, Amherst, Massachusetts 01004.

US/Libya Oil Embargo May Have Limited Effect

[AN] The decision announced by the United States government last week to embargo oil imports from Libya and restrict high technology sales apparently will have a minimal impact on American companies doing business with the north African nation.

The five U.S. firms still pumping oil in Libya — Amerada Hess, Conoco, Marathon, Mobil, and Occidental — say they have been shipping little, if any of their output to the U.S. Libyan production has declined from 2.1 million barrels daily in late 1979 and early 1980 to an estimated 600,000 to 900,000 barrels currently.

Oil market experts expect Libya to face some difficulty in selling the 150,000 barrels per day that have been going to the U.S. The world market has an overabundant supply at present. But the Libyans have reportedly been making arrangements with overseas refiners that might cushion the effects of the embargo.

According to *Petroleum Intelligence Weekly*, the Libyans have been restructuring their agreements with refiners who now handle about 25% of total output. The details are unclear, the newsletter reported in its March 8 issue, but the aim apparently is to make the refiners responsible for selling the products, making the origin of the crude oil harder to trace.

The restrictions on sales of oil and gas technology and of items that might have military utility are limited to products that cannot be obtained from Europe or Japan. U.S. officials said the restrictions would effect only about \$10 million of annual sales, which total \$300-400 million.

"We have seen no evidence of a significant, lasting change in Libyan behavior," said State Department spokesman Dean Fisher announcing the long-expected embargo on March 10. "Libyan efforts to destabilize U.S. regional friends have continued," he alleged.

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