

Forum

'Naked aggression' in S. Africa

Anti-apartheid forces in the United States and throughout the world are outraged at the continued violence and domination by the racist apartheid regime in South Africa. In short, the situation in South Africa reveals continued "naked aggression" by the apartheid government toward the people of South Africa and the peoples of the

necessity to continue U.S. economic sanctions against South Africa. Among the delegation were Dr. M. William Howard and Ms. Jennifer Davis of the American Committee on Africa, actress Alfie Woodard, filmmaker Spike Lee and attorney Aubrey McCutcheon of the Washington Office on Africa. Ms. Lindewe Mabuza, the Chief Repre-

Speaker Foley did intimate that President Bush might attempt to recommend the easing of some of the current sanctions.

All of the suggestions coming from the White House that DeKlerk and the government of South Africa should be rewarded for reforming some aspects of apartheid is actually a continuation of President Reagan's policy of "constructive engagement" with South Africa. During the last eleven years of U.S. "constructive" policy toward South Africa, there have been over one million innocent persons killed in South Africa and in the frontline states as a direct result of apartheid.

Back in 1963, Martin Luther King Jr. asserted, "This is the task to which we are called by the suffering in South Africa, and our response should be swift and unstinting. . . Urge your government to support economic sanctions." Nelson Mandela last year reminded us that, "27 years ago when I went to jail I had no vote. I have come out and I still have no vote. . . To lift sanctions now would be to run the risk of aborting the process of the complete eradication of apartheid."

We must continue our united demand to end South Africa's aggression.

Keep the pressure on! Keep the economic sanctions on South Africa.

Let President Bush know we are not asleep and we will not be fooled by any attempt to falsely certify irreversible change in apartheid South Africa.

CIVIL RIGHTS JOURNAL

By BENJAMIN F. CHAVIS JR.



southern African region.

South African military advisors are still operating in side southern Angola. South African mercenaries are still operative inside Mozambique. The racist attacks against supporters of the African National Congress in South Africa continue to be executed under the color of South Africa's apartheid laws.

Does this ruthless and "naked aggression" by South Africa constitute the necessity for the United Nations to increase sanctions and other actions against apartheid?

Does not this increasing racist "naked aggression" by South Africa constitute the necessity for the United States and its allies to demand an end to apartheid?

Recently, the American Committee on Africa (ACOA) sponsored a special delegation to meet with Congressman Tom Foley, the Speaker of the House, concerning

representative of the African National Congress to the United States was also a member of the delegation that met with Speaker Foley.

Alfie Woodard stated, "I am an African and I am concerned about the situation in South Africa." Woodard posed the following question to Speaker Foley: "Why does current U.S. foreign policy in defining and opposing aggression and oppression differ on the basis of color and nationality? Why would our government contemplate relaxing sanctions against aggressive South Africa?"

Spike Lee stated, "President Bush acting to ease pressure on South Africa would be a great act of hypocrisy." Speaker Foley responded by saying the Democratic leadership in the Congress "would not initiate any action" to relax the current legislation authorizing economic sanctions on South Africa. But

Is 'the system' a racial copout?

A 19-year-old woman took me to task a few days ago over my use of the term "the system" when, she said, I should have said "white people."

I explained to her that I use "the system" because I think it is unfair to indict all white people for the cruelties and injustices suffered by blacks throughout the history of this nation. Even during slavery there were white people who abhorred that system and wanted it abolished as much as blacks, I said, and today there is an even higher level of consciousness among whites about the plight of blacks, and to indict them would not be fair.

I was surprised when she would not buy my argument. Unusually wise for her age (she is a junior and is completing her term as editor of her college newspaper) she replied: "The system" is people. it really bothers me to hear people talk about 'the system.' That's just an easy way to get off the hook and not accept responsibility for the state of things."

She quickly added, "Black people use this 'system' as an excuse too. When we don't succeed at something, or when we decide not to try, we say it's because 'the system' is unfair or we never had a chance because of 'the system.' We should stop complaining about it and work to change it." Clearly

though, her argument is with white people and just as clearly detectable in the tone of her voice was anger, and though not as clearly detectable but there nonetheless, was a bit of hate. She says her best friend is white. "How consistent is that with what you're saying?" I asked.

an outspoken 16-year-old freshman and product of a Virginia school system in which her contact with other blacks was limited at best, was a supreme racial liberal.

"What I mean," she said, "is that we talk about 'the system' like it is some force out there doing



AGAINST THE GRAIN

By ROOSEVELT WILSON

She didn't blink. "I tell my friend this all the time. I hate to say it, but just like when I was growing up and was told - and offended - so many times by white people that I was different from 'them' (other blacks) I almost have to tell my friend that she is different from other whites."

We were talking in the school newspaper office and a few other staff members became involved. One man, a sophomore, said, "Oh, man, does that bug me. I've been told those patronizing things, too: 'You're not like them,' 'You're a credit to your race.'"

Two days later I had a one-on-one with the woman and asked her to further articulate what she meant. This was important to me because three years ago this same woman,

things to people. 'The system' is people and only people can change it.

"The system' makes it too easy for white people to shun guilt and say: 'I'm not like that. I never did anything to your people. Don't blame me for something that happened before my time.' I say just not doing anything to me is not good enough," she said. She also said passivity is unacceptable. "If they don't do something about the system, work to change it, then they must bear full responsibility for it."

"Are you saying whites are either part of the solution or part of the problem, and there is no middle ground?" I asked.

"Exactly," she said. I'm still not sure who won that argument.

Curbing the violence of police

The videotaped police beating of a Los Angeles man aired on the nation's television screens a few weeks ago should shock Americans

King should be a catalyst for changes in Los Angeles and for careful reexamination of police practices elsewhere.

pleas for mercy.

The police say he was driving at 115 miles an hour; the car's manufacturer says it can't go that fast. The police say their victim was fighting them; witnesses and a videotape show him lying on the ground being beaten by three officers while another dozen watched.

The police chief's response was almost as revolting as the beating. Instead of immediately bringing attempted murder charges against the criminals in uniform, he just gave a grudging, halfway apology. And that was only because the storm of national publicity forced him to say something, however inadequate.

This wasn't an isolated incident. Former basketball star Jamaal Wilkes was recently pushed around and handcuffed because his auto



TO BE EQUAL

By JOHN E. JACOB

into the realization that violent racism is a major presence on the American scene and must be removed from our national life.

That's an especially urgent task as it relates to law enforcement and the criminal justice system, and it's an issue that goes far beyond the outrages perpetrated by the Los Angeles police.

The vicious beating of Rodney

While attention is rightly focused on Los Angeles, unnecessary police violence is a nationwide phenomenon.

In the widely publicized Los Angeles incident, the facts are incontrovertible. Mr. King was flagged down for speeding, surrounded by police officers, shot with a stun gun, and repeatedly hammered with clubs despite his

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