

AFRICA NEWS

A WEEKLY DIGEST OF AFRICAN AFFAIRS

America's Apartheid Protest

PART I

[AN] Ford Motor Company, the second largest U.S. auto maker, has just announced its decision to recognize a trade union for African workers at its South African subsidiary.

Ford, which is the first major American firm to take this step, has been under heavy pressure this year for its South African involvement. In May, controversy swept Stanford University when officials there refused to vote the institution's 93,500 Ford shares in favor of a church-sponsored resolution calling for withdrawal from South Africa. As a result, protesters staged a sit-in, and 294 persons were arrested.

"We were really surprised by the students' action," one Ford executive remarked. Indeed there is strong evidence that the student and church criticism actually prompted Ford's union recognition move.

Ford is not alone in facing this kind of public pressure. Bad publicity recently has become as much a part of doing business in South Africa as making money has always been.

During the Spring, more than 700 students at campuses across the nation were arrested during anti-South Africa demonstrations. A winter vigil in New York City forced cancellation of an off-Broadway production about South Africa, and sports events where South African athletes competed have invariably been picketed, with a major protest slugging up at the U.S. Open tennis tournament this month (September).

Much of the action has occurred in California, where during May and June thousands of students joined the campaign to end university investments in companies operating in South Africa.

The nine-campus University of California system was a hotbed of activity on the issue. Coordinated by a group called Campuses United Against Apartheid, students at Berkeley, Davis, Los Angeles, Santa Cruz, and other cities turned out for marches, teach-ins, and sit-ins to convince the University's Board of

Regents to sell stock holdings in certain corporations.

At their May meeting, the Regents decided to write 37 corporations to request information on their South African operations. Last month, the Regents considered and postponed a decision on a resolution presented by Lt. Governor Mervyn Dymally calling for divestiture.

Nationwide, the South African protests at some 25 institutions have had a measurable impact.

—At Stanford, trustees resisted student demands but did agree to a cost/benefit analysis of divestiture.

—A four day sit-in three thousand miles away, at Hampshire College in Massachusetts, prompted Trustees there to sell \$200,000 in stocks and initiate a study of "acceptable" investments.

—Also in Massachusetts, Trustees at the state University agreed to review stock ownership policies, following student demonstrations in Amherst.

—Similar protests raised the issue at the Universities of Connecticut, Maryland, Minnesota, Illinois and Ohio State.

—Duke University President Terry Sanford, a prominent Democratic politician, has been under fire from students for his membership on the board of directors of ITT, which has major South African holdings.

—A student campaign at the University of Wisconsin (Madison) got an unexpected boost from the state's Attorney General, who ruled after an investigation that new investments in companies involved in South Africa violate a 1972 anti-discrimination statute. "I conclude that a company, corporation, or other business entity which does significant business in South Africa... practices discrimination on the basis of race, even though such companies would argue they do not condone it," he told the Board of Regents in May. The Board now has the issue "under review."

[Editor's Note: Next week, Part II of "America's Apartheid Protest" will cover municipal and state actions.]

Ugandan Opposition Unites

[AN] Exiled Ugandan opposition groups from east and central Africa, Britain, Scandinavia, and the Caribbean met secretly this month in Lusaka, Zambia and formed a united front, the Uganda National Movement. American and Canadian groups, absent at the meeting, sent messages of support.

Chairperson for the new group will be Prince John Barigye, once Amin's ambassador to the Federal Republic of Germany. Barigye resigned his post when his brother, a lawyer, "disappeared" in the company of Ugandan secret police agents.

The Prince's father was one of four former kings in Uganda who were deposed a decade ago by Milton Obote, Uganda's first president. Obote, who was overthrown by Idi Amin 18 years ago, was notably absent from the Lusaka meeting. He reportedly tried to get Zambian authorities to prevent it.

Although all the exile groups represented at the meeting oppose Amin, their political and economic preferences vary widely, from monarchist to republican, from capitalist to socialist. There is some apprehension as well about the ability of the various politicians involved to subordinate their personal ambitions to decisions of the larger group.

Zambia has officially warned Ugandan exiles against planning or preparing for any kind of armed action against Amin from Zambian soil, but that topic was on the agenda for the meeting.

In Tanzania, meanwhile, over 150 Ugandan employees of the now-defunct East African

Community, who were ordered home this month, are refusing to return to Uganda. They say they fear for their safety. Some of them have been accused by Ugandan President Idi Amin of involvement in attempts to overthrow his government.

Inside Uganda, sixteen persons are currently on trial for their lives before a military tribunal.

South Africa Closes Soweto Schools

[AN] The closing of forty schools in Soweto by the South African government late last week was another indication of the confrontation brewing in the troubled black township.

Officials said the schools would be reopened next term under direct government administration, and that all students would have to apply for readmission. Since education for Africans is neither free nor compulsory, the government could theoretically exclude any student it feared might be involved in protests.

The action followed months of class boycotts by students opposing the government's "Bantu Education Curriculum," which they say is inferior to the instruction given whites. Conflict also continues to mount between the government and the "Committee of Ten," a Soweto coalition which has announced its intention of taking over control of township administration. White officials are maintaining their refusal to recognize the Committee.

Saharan War Threatens Refugee Camps

[AN] The Moroccan army is engaged in a massive build-up of troops and heavy armaments along its border with Algeria, according to reports from the area by British journalist Martin Walker.

Writing in London's GUARDIAN newspaper, Walker says the Moroccans are within striking distance of more than 100,000 Saharan refugees who fled to makeshift camps in Algeria after Morocco and Mauritania invaded Western Sahara in November 1975. The camps are run by the Polisario Front independence movement of Western Sahara, which has been fighting to

wrest control of the former Spanish colony from its current rulers.

For Sahara's neighbors, the attraction is some 2 billion tons of high grade phosphates, as well as the likelihood of other minerals beneath the desert sands. "The phosphates have brought nothing but misery to our people," said Polisario official Bachir Mustapha last week.

The Moroccan build-up has reportedly moved to the frontier area an estimated 20,000 troops, including specialized assault infantry of the kind Morocco sent to Zaire last spring.

African Leader Calls for New World Economic Order

By Angie Dickerson

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Calls of Uhura, Hhura, Uhara (FREEDOM) greeted President Julius K. Nyerere of the United Republic of Tanzania when he addressed an overflow audience at Cramton Hall Auditorium at Howard University. The slightly built leader excited his audience (mainly Black) as he called for a new world economic order to eradicate poverty

throughout the world.

President Nyerere, affectionately called, "Mwalimu-teacher," in his own country had come to the United States to receive a Doctor of Humanities which was conferred on him by Dr. James Cheek, president of Howard University.

In making the presentation president Cheek made note of the fact that President Nyerere enjoys universal respect as a statesman and he is called

the "Father of his country." Dr. Cheek also noted the vital role which President Nyerere is playing in the critical problems plaguing Africa today.

Embarking on a major statement on human rights and liberation, Dr. Nyerere stated that he was calling for new world economic order because under the present system the poor countries, the

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Rhodesian Leader Looks For Election Mandate

[AN]—Rhodesian Prime Minister Ian Smith is counting on this week's national election to provide him with a mandate to pursue an "internal settlement." So far, however, prospects for such an accommodation seem every bit as dim as those for the Anglo-American proposals leaked

last week.

The two leading nationalist politicians who have dissociated themselves from the militarily powerful Patriotic Front, namely Bishop Muzorewa and Ndabaningi Sithole, have repeatedly dismissed the possibility of joining a govern-

ment with Smith. Last week Muzorewa told reporters in the Rhodesian capital that for him such an alliance would be the "kiss of death."

Muzorewa also said that efforts of his organization the United African National Council, to form a united

Poet's Perspective

[Editor's Note: This is the beginning of a series of weekly poems by John A. Dennis, Jr., a Ph.D. candidate in African history at Stanford University.]

By JOHN A. DENNIS, JR.

Light in the Forest

Is Black
The essence of peace —
The abode of quietude
The tempestuous prelude
To Enlightenment.
It is the nihilism
Out of which
All was created.
To think Black
Is to dispel from the mind
Prefabricated illusions.
To free the soul
Of false expressions.
To be Black

Is to demand
The demise of all
That stymies
Creativity and originality.
To love Black
Is to believe
That from nothing
Came all forms and species.
Hence to realize
That God like
The infiniteness of
His night
Called into being
His Son
That we might
See him . . .

front with Sithole's supporters had been rejected by Sithole.

According to press reports, Sithole is now emerging as the favorite of Rhodesia's white business community, and its representatives have met with the former ZANU leader several times since his return from exile earlier this summer.

It is rumored that Dr. Eliot Gabellah and other officials who last week resigned from Muzorewa's organization are preparing to join with Sithole in forming a new nationalist group.

If Smith succeeds in defeating his rightwing and liberal opponents in this week's election, observers will be watching to see if he makes overtures to either Sithole or Muzorewa.

In any case, Rhodesian officials are expected to reject in its entirety the latest Anglo-American peace plan, since it requires the disbanding of the Rhodesian army.

Leaders of the front line states and the Patriotic Front have also expressed reservations about the leaked version of the peace plan.

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WORLD CONFERENCE ON APARTHEID—Ambassador to the U.N., Andrew Young (L), greets Rhodesian black revolutionary leader Joshua Nkomo (R), at the World Conference on Apartheid in Lagos, Nigeria last week. Delegates from sixty nations are attending the five-day meeting sponsored by the United Nations. (UPI)