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NELSON MANDELA FREE AT LAST! FREE AT LAST!

With gray hair, a somber look on his face, he stood and walked as erect as a soldier. He was some 30 pounds lighter. On Sunday, February 11, at about 4:14 p.m., 27 years, six months and one week of imprisonment behind him, legendary South African Nelson Mandela majestically walked to his freedom from Victor Verster prison. All of the confidence and dignity of his birth was evident. At his side was his wife, Mrs. Winnie Mandela, who had "carried the torch" for her husband the entire time he was incarcerated often to the disdain of some.

Born a chief 71 years ago, Mandela's demeanor bespoke his noble birth as it reportedly had the entire time he was in prison. He gave the raised fist salute several times to the roar of the crowd. There seemed to be an unspoken, but well understood, language between them. It was apparent that Mandela was determined to let the world and the South African government know that, "We have waited too long for our freedom," that he was picking up right where he left off in 1964. "We can wait no longer," he emphasized. "Amandla" power -- Mandela shouted to the crowd of over a half million in front of the old city hall building. The crowd responded with resounding cheers to the leader of the African National Congress. He urged increased pressure against the South African minority government.

Mandela is fully aware that his people are still not free. He urged that (1) all other political prisoners be freed, (2) the state of emergency be lifted, (3) apartheid be dismantled and destroyed, and (4) one man, one vote privileges be accorded every citizen of South Africa, irrespective of color.

The ANC, the United Democratic Front and several other anti-apartheid organizations in South Africa are reported to be combining their efforts under the direction of Mandela. He told the crowd Sunday that "the factors which necessitated the struggle, still exist. 'We have no option but to continue,' he said. '30 years ago our efforts now would be a mistake which generations to come will not be able to forgive.'"

In his speech, Mandela urged the various factions to negotiate those for and against apartheid. Many blacks expect him to work miracles in their behalf and many whites hope he will ease their fears for black domination in the nation. His position is that neither should dominate and that all should be equally represented. Mandela will be walking the proverbial tightrope between the factions. In 1961, Mandela had written that there would be "no easy walk to freedom" for South African blacks after three centuries of white domination and repression." He has continued that theme this weekend.

South Africa President F. W. de Klerk's action in freeing Nelson Mandela brings a modicum of sincerity to the government which had become a sham in international eyes for its reluctance to tackle apartheid.

President George Bush telephoned both Mandela and de Klerk, inviting both at different times to the United States. Both reportedly have accepted.



The Nation's Drug Czar, William Bennett, was in Durham to address the Annual Meeting of the Chamber of Commerce. Shown here, Bennett lauded the state leadership in leading the fight against drugs.

Gov. Martin Supports Creation of Consortium Of Historically Black Universities And Colleges

RALEIGH — The N.C. Consortium of Historically Black Colleges and Universities has been created with the support of the administration of Governor Jim Martin.

The consortium, which will meet twice a year, has elected Dr. Prezell Robinson, president of St. Augustine's College, as its president. Dr. Edward Fort, chancellor of N.C. A&T State University, is vice president, and Dr. Gloria Scott, president of Bennett College, is the secretary.

"This consortium represents the Historically Black Colleges' and Universities' understanding and awareness of their collective role in the economic development of the state," said Lee Monroe, senior education adviser to Governor Martin. "They are also concerned with increasing the numbers of

minority teachers in North Carolina."

The consortium was created during a recent meeting in Raleigh of the presidents and chancellors of the state's predominantly black colleges and universities. The consortium will develop and conduct cooperative educational activities among the eleven-member institutions.

The members include Barber-Scotia College in Concord, Bennett College in Greensboro, Elizabeth City State University, Fayetteville State University, Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte, Livingstone College in Salisbury, N.C. A&T State University in Greensboro, N.C. Central University in Durham, St. Augustine's College and Shaw University, both in Raleigh, and Winston-Salem State University.



NELSON MANDELA

Duke Committee To Address Classroom Discrimination Makes Recommendations

A committee established by Duke University President H. Keith Brodie to address the problem of discrimination in the classroom has presented a series of recommendations aimed at eliminating such discrimination at Duke.

The committee's recommendations include establishing a complaint procedure reporting racial discrimination in the classroom, offering training in racial sensitivity to teaching assistants and writing instructors, developing a race relations manual for faculty, holding faculty seminars to discuss racial and cultural diversity, and taking a series of steps designed to improve student support services that address social, cultural and ethnic problems.

The committee's report was formally endorsed following discussion at the Feb. 13 meeting of the President's Council on Black Affairs. The council also backed implementation of the report's recommendations.

I am pleased with the report presented by the committee and the strong vote of approval by the President's Council on Black Affairs," Brodie said. "I plan us to proceed with implementing the recommendations by the committee."

The President's Committee to Address Discrimination in the Classroom was established in April in response to allegations of discrimination made regarding the charges surfaced in an April 1, 1988 forum sponsored by the Duke University Black Alumni Association (DUBAC).

The committee, which included faculty, students and administrators, conducted an extensive study to document instances of discrimination in the classroom and suggest steps to establish a formal approach to the problem.

The committee based its conclusions about discrimination at Duke on the results of a poll of students taken in spring 1989. The poll revealed that black and white students at Duke have wide differences in their perceptions of race relations in general and of specific acts of discrimination.

Most students responding to the poll generally viewed race relations at Duke as good,

while blacks were much less likely to think so. White students were also more likely to believe that white faculty were positive and (Continued On Page 7)

Reading And Writing: No Major Change Says NEA, Some Promising Notes

WASHINGTON, D.C. Findings from the Nation's Report Card on Reading and Writing issued by the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) show some gains that are "rich with promise" and offer national education goal setters "some important food for thought," says National Education Association vice president Bob Chase.

Deserving attention, he explains, are the findings that, in general, 17-year-olds are reading better and male and racial/ethnic minority students are also making some gains.

Writing progress remains relatively stable with no major changes in student ability to write informatively, persuasively, or imaginatively.

"Writing is a skill that can be honed with practice," Chase says. "But teachers need to spend more time with smaller groups of students to make strides in this area."

Chase notes that variations in reading performance occurred during a time when educators were testing new knowledge on how children learn to read.

"As in business and industry, these new techniques will require a period of testing and adjustment before their effectiveness can be determined. The upside for us is that there has been no major backsliding while experimentation has taken place," Chase adds.

Particularly noteworthy for those seeking to set national education standards, he points out, is NAEP's finding that the most dramatic gains in the reading achievement of nine-year-olds came at a time when Head Start offered early support for disadvantaged preschoolers, enrollment in pre-primary programs was on the rise, and compensatory education programs were helping disadvantaged children

in the early grades. "Thus the considerable gains made by 9-year-olds from 1971 to 1980 may reflect, at least in part, the impetus of special programs

that provided academic support to disadvantaged schoolchildren," says the report.

"The compelling lesson the (Continued On Page 7)



SELMA, ALA. — R. J.A. Willoughby of Providence Baptist Church, in Selma, leads protestors in song and prayer during a sit-in

in the Selma City Hall as protestors wanted a city police officer fired. (UPI Photo)