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Lawyer Babacar Niang of Senegal talks with Charlotte 3 defendant Dr. Jim Grant at the press conference on human rights violations in the U.S. (Photo by Eileen Hanson)

In Judicial System

Visiting Lawyers Investigate

Alleged Discrimination

By Eileen Hanson
Special to the Post

The international spotlight exposing human rights violations fell on North Carolina last week when a team of lawyers came to investigate alleged discrimination in the judicial system.

Lawyers Babacar Niang of Senegal and Richard Harvey of England visited Charlotte and Raleigh August 11-14 to talk with members of the Charlotte 3 and Wilmington 10, their supporters, and N.C. prison officials.

Speaking Saturday, August 11 at a press conference at Charlotte's main library, Harvey explained their mission.

"We are here to test Andrew Young's statement that there are political prisoners in the U.S.," said Harvey, a member of the International Association of Democratic Lawyers.

"Carter has chosen to make human rights an international campaign," he continued. "When we read in our countries about the Wilmington 10 and Charlotte 3, we were honored to be invited to investigate these cases and to see for ourselves if these people are in fact political prisoners."

"The group of 8 international lawyers and jurists were invited to the U.S. by the National Conference of Black Lawyers, the United Church of Christ Commission on Racial Justice, and the National Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression. They are investigating 20 cases presented in a petition by these groups to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights.

Niang, General Secretary of the Senegalese Association of Democratic Lawyers, stressed the importance of the

President Jimmy Carter

Praises New HEW Head

Washington—President Jimmy Carter called former Housing and Urban Development Secretary Patricia Harris "a manager with a heart" and praised her performance as HUD secretary during her swearing-in as Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare recently.

"Hers has been a sterling

investigation.

"We will give our work maximum objectivity," he said. "The question of respect for human rights is the central question of our epoch."

Dr. R.B. Phifer, vice president of People United for Justice, said in introducing the guest lawyers, "We are ashamed to welcome them to the state which has the greatest number of prisoners per capita not only in the U.S., but in the world."

Phifer went on to say that in N.C. "we have one scale of justice for the rich, white and prominent, and another, heavier scale for the poor, black and obscure."

In spite of the somber tone of the remarks, there was some cause for the speakers and audience of 30 people to rejoice. The lawyers were able to meet with members of the Charlotte 3 in their homes, and not behind bars. The "3" were released on parole after Gov. Jim Hunt reduced their sentences last month for their convictions in burning the Lazy-B Stables in 1972.

Dr. James Grant, on behalf of the "3", thanked the supporters and urged them to remain vigilant.

"All countries have their political prisoners," he said. "We should put our fullest energy into the human rights struggle."

Supporters of the "3" say they were framed with perjured testimony, and that they were imprisoned because they were black political activists working to end the Vietnam war and to gain equality for minorities.

Also speaking at the press conference were June Davenport and Helen Othow, sisters of Rev. Ben Chavis of the

performance... All who know her realize that she is bold, strong, outspoken," the President told a group of more than 500 people gathered in the East Room of the White House to witness the event. "Anyone who looks to Pat Harris as a 'yes woman' would be both foolish and ill-advised."

Harris takes over the HEW post from outgoing Secretary Joseph Califano.

The President said Harris "fights for her beliefs and her beliefs are sound and she wins her fights... She's got a superb batting average on the Hill (Congress) in getting legislation passed."

"I want to assure everyone... that I will work tirelessly and resolutely to establish a separate Department of Education - to bring reform and dignity to the American welfare system - and to enact national health insurance. We're going to do them all," she said.

Wilmington 10.

Dr. Othow reminded the press that in 1974 over 10,000 people from across the country marched in Raleigh to protest the judicial system in N.C.

The lawyer team visited Chavis in his prison cell at Hillsborough Prison on Tuesday.

The international jurists will present their report next week to the U.N. Commission on Human Rights, which will decide if further investigation is necessary.

Jesse McCombs, mother of another prisoner, John McCombs, spoke of the violations against her son's human rights.

McCombs was convicted in 1976 of killing a plain clothes policeman who broke into his college dormitory in Durham. McCombs thought he was an intruder. Efforts to win a new trial were defeated last week.

Other speakers included Rev. Herman Thomas, professor of Religion at UNCC; Marlene Archer, National Conference of Black Lawyers; Rev. James Palmer, University Park Baptist Church; Rev. John Epps, St. Mark's United Methodist Church, the Wilmington 10 and Charlotte 3; and Rev. James Barnett, head of People United for Justice.

For City Council

Marnite Shuford To File

"Something During Week"

By William J. Crutchfield
Special to the Post

Marnite Shuford, Attorney at Law, said she will file for an at-large seat on City Council for the Democratic ticket sometime during the week.

Ms. Shuford, 28, began her private law practice in Charlotte in January 1978. Ms. Shuford has a general law practice which includes bank ruptcies, domestic relations car accidents and general criminal law. Previously, she was an associate attorney general for the state's child support enforcement program. She has also worked for the Legal Aid Society of Mecklenburg County, taught courses in law at both Winthrop College in Rock Hill and Central Piedmont Community College.

She obtained her law degree in 1974 from the Indianapolis Law School at Indiana University. Her undergraduate degree is from Earlham College, Richmond, Indiana, where she matriculated at 19 years of age.

As a Charlottean who has lived here most of her life, and who plans to make Charlotte her home, Marnite Shuford said she has watched this city grow and develop, with its expressways and skyline. She

Minorities

Need Passage

Of Salt II

Special To The Post

Washington -- If the SALT II Treaty is defeated, social programs benefiting minorities in America face potential cutbacks, President Carter says.

"There is...a competition for limited federal funds. Without a SALT agreement to limit immediately the level of strategic nuclear weapons, we would have to have a very large increase in expenditures for military defense above and beyond what we would have to have with SALT II," President Carter told a recent meeting of editors and news directors.

He was asked specifically why minorities should care about passage of SALT II, now pending in the U.S. Senate.

President Carter estimated that without a limit on strategic nuclear weapons, as much as \$21 billion a year could be taken from programs such as housing to strengthen military defense -- which he said is far more than the government would spend on defense if SALT II passes.

In addition, the President said there are other reasons for minorities to support SALT II:

"I would guess minorities would be concerned about life or death or war or peace -- increased trade with other countries or a separation of one people from another."

The President said that many black leaders who have been briefed on SALT II and who recognize the importance of the treaty's passage to their constituents are speaking on its behalf around the country.



Marnite Shuford
Attorney at Law

expressed, "I want to be a part of and help make decisions for the future growth and development of Charlotte - to make sure it does not fall in the growth problems of transportation and urban sprawl of other large and growing urban cities."

She continued, "As a City Council member at large I would like to have input from all segments of the Charlotte community on how we can plan for the growth and development of Charlotte for all its citizens."

Ms. Shuford said that she feels this City Council will set

Patricia Harris Promises To Hit "The Ground Running"

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ATTRACTIVE DEBORAH OWENS
...Independence High senior

Miss Deborah Owens

Is Beauty Of Week

By Sherleen McKoy
Post Staff Writer

Our beauty for this week is Deborah Owens, a rising senior at Independence High School.

Deborah describes herself as a "real serious person most of the time who doesn't like to smile, but will. I can be quiet at times and I can be loud at times," she said. "I know what I want to do in life and when I want to do it."

A person who likes to be alone most of the time, Deborah's hobbies are biking, riding, dancing, swimming and traveling. Occasionally, she likes baseball and basketball.

the tone for the 80's and make decisive decisions for Charlotte's future.

Active in both professional organizations and community groups, Marnite Shuford has received the Community Service Award from the N.C. Association of Black Lawyers. She served on several boards, including the National Conference of Christians and Jews, the National Association of Professional and Business Women Clubs, State Executive Committee of the North Carolina Association of Black Attorneys, the Mecklenburg County Zoning Board of Adjusters, and the Board of Trustees of the Legal Aid Society.

She is currently president of the Charlotte Chapter of the N.C. Associations of Black Attorneys, member of the Young Democrats of Mecklenburg County, the Black Political Caucus, and the Black Women's Caucus.

Ms. Shuford is listed in Who's Who Among Black Americans, and Who's Who Among Women in the World.

Campaign Headquarters, according to Ms. Shuford, will officially open Sunday, August 19, at 328 North Tryon with a kick-off from 4 - 6 p.m. The public is cordially invited to attend.

New HEW Head Known

As "Tough In-Fighter"

WASHINGTON -- Patricia Harris promises to hit the ground running when she takes over the Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

And she will have an advantage that might seem a liability in other circumstances -- many important vacancies she can fill with people of her choice.

As secretary of Housing and Urban Development, Mrs. Harris won respect for her ability to attract competent aides capable of turning around an agency under fire.

She did it without a lot of new programs or fresh money.

At HEW, where she replaces the fired Joseph Califano, she will have to manage and administer a sprawling department of some 140,000 employees with a 1980 budget of nearly \$120 billion -- bigger than the entire national government budget of any foreign country except the Soviet Union.

She is expected to make her mark first at the management level, and stressed at her first news conference that substantive policy changes would wait until later.

"Nobody should take any comfort from my appointment regarding changes in current policy," she said.

There are two key vacancies Mrs. Harris can be expected to fill quickly and with her own people -- undersecretary, where Hale Champion recently resigned; and a replacement for food and drug administrator Donald Kennedy.

In addition, Ernest Boyer has left vacant the job of commissioner of education -- a post Mrs. Harris may not fill until the issue is settled in Congress on creating a separate, cabinet-level Department of Education.

As for personal style, White House aides consider Mrs. Harris "a team player" compared to the independent Califano. But she is every bit as blunt and outspoken as he is.

She is also known as a tough bureaucratic in-fighter with traditional liberal philosophies -- a deep concern for the poor, Blacks, the elderly and others out of society's mainstream.

"No issues of our time are more important than those involving the way in which a rich Democratic society deals with the young, the poor, the handicapped, the infirm and the aged," she has said.

While she may press the federal anti-smoking crusade as hard as Califano - Carter's aides are concerned about the tobacco-state vote - she will be equally forceful in using HEW's clout to achieve school desegregation.

Likewise, she can be expected to support the general thrust of such programs as hospital health insurance.

At the same time, Mrs. Harris is a political pragmatist who knows how to live with severe budget constraints -- a political asset given current administration philosophy.

At HUD she proposed few

new programs, putting her efforts into making existing things work more efficiently



T. J. Reddy
...Political prisoner

Victory Celebration

Planned

After seven lean and long years of marches, demonstrations, petitions, speeches and court briefs, this Sunday, August 19, supporters of the Charlotte 3 will sit back and feast on music, poetry and cake.

A victory celebration will be held in Freedom Park amphitheatre beginning at 4 p.m. The party will celebrate the release of the three political prisoners -- Jim Grant, T.J. Reddy and Charles Parker.

The party, sponsored by People United for Justice, is free and open to the public. Supporters are urged to bring a picnic, but cake will be provided.

The "3" are on parole following Gov. Jim Hunt's decision to reduce their long sentences for the 1968 burning of the Lazy B Stables. Supporters maintained throughout the case that the "3" were framed because of their political activities.

The Performing Arts Guild Ensemble (PAGE), a group of performing poets formed by Reddy last year, will lead the celebration.

A new dramatic group, Ebony and Ivory, will perform Jazz musicians scheduled to play include Gerard Benson, Matt Freeman, Ted Stewart, Ben Bayers and Cannon Ball.

Also performing will be jazz singer Dee Rice and drummer Phil Caffey.

Reddy will perform his poetry, some written from his prison cell. Grant and Parker will also speak and greet supporters.

According to Rev. James Barnett, head of People United for Justice, several candidates for City Council have been invited.

"While we're pleased that the Charlotte 3 are out of prison," said Barnett, "we want to be sure it doesn't happen again. No longer are we going to vote for people who just turn around and do us in."

Barnett led several marches from Charlotte to Raleigh to urge Hunt to grant the "3" and the Wilmington 10 pardons of innocence. While Hunt's decision to shorten the prisoners' sentences falls short of their goal, supporters claim his action was in response to their petitions and political pressure.

City To Receive Sister Cities Award

Technical assistance to sister city Arequipa, Peru in improving its tax recovery and collection system has earned the City of Charlotte a special achievement award from the Reader's Digest Foundation.

The award will be presented after the 1979 Sister Cities International Conference in Louisville, Kentucky on August 18, and will be a part of the seventeenth annual Sister Cities Award ceremonies sponsored by the foundation.



Growing old is a question of MIND over MATTER. If you don't mind, it doesn't MATTER.