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Further Talks Reason NAACP March On Japanese Racism Nixed

One of the nation's most powerful civil rights organizations this week placed thousands of African-Americans on hold when it suspended a massive march planned for Washington, D.C.

For the past 60 days, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People has maintained an informational picket line at the Japanese embassy in Washington, D.C. Plans were well underway for a massive protest Dec. 15, involving thousands of demonstrators, sup-

ported by major African-American organizations.

The daily picketing and planned demonstrations were a response to insulting racial remarks by Japanese officials over the past few years and perceptions of discriminatory hiring and business practices by Japanese firms doing business in the United States.

Both the daily picketing and the protest have been suspended pending the outcome of further talks with Japanese government officials and

leaders of Japanese business and industrial community, according to Dr. Benjamin L. Hooks, executive director of the NAACP.

Earlier, the more than 2,200 units of the NAACP had been notified of the proposed demonstration which was linked to the unsatisfactory pace at which negotiations between Japanese officials and the NAACP were progressing. The Raleigh-Apex chapter, under the leadership of Rev. H.B. Pickett, also had planned to take a bus of demonstrators to Washington.

The negotiations were over a number of recommendations for action contained in a position paper prepared by the NAACP and submitted to the Japanese ambassador to the United States and to the Japanese prime minister on Oct. 5.

Included in the recommendations were those related to the dissemination of African-American history through the Japanese schools; the employment and promotion of African-Americans working for Japanese firms; the securing of fran-

chises and dealerships for Japanese products by African-Americans, etc.

"Over the past several days we have received indications from the Japanese that we are beginning to make progress. Based on this, we have concluded that we should hold the planned demonstration in abeyance while we proceed with the talks," Dr. Hooks said.

"The NAACP has also scheduled a meeting in Washington on Dec. 4 with 20 key executives of Japanese firms doing business in the United States.

We will be strongly urging them to exercise their considerable influence to help substantially improve relations between the Japanese and the African-American community," Dr. Hooks added.

"It should be clearly understood that our decision to postpone the mass demonstration at this point does not indicate any weakening of resolve to vigorously pursue this matter.

"We intend to pursue all available options to bring this matter to a satisfactory conclusion," Dr. Hooks said.

Downtown Raleigh Scene BLACK HERITAGE FOCUS

NC Traditional African-American Artists Perform

The best of North Carolina's traditional African-American artists will perform Saturday, Dec. 8, at 8 p.m. in the auditorium of Athens Drive High School.

A concert of black guitarists, gospel songs and singers, folktales of the South, blues and dancing will be performed by some of the state's outstanding black folk artists.

The performance will be sponsored by the Downtown City Gallery as part of a series of cultural presentations held in various locales throughout the city.

Chuck Davis, artistic director, narrator and master of ceremonies for the five-year-old arts festival and tour, will explore the history of black life experiences in the South and west African music and dance.

The tour is managed by staff and students of North Carolina A&T State University's Theatre Division, under the direction of Dr. H.D. Lowery.

Master dance instructor Davis, a Raleigh native, will open the event with "an exuberant demonstration"

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OUTSTANDING STUDENT—North Carolina State University honored aerospace engineer Dr. Christine M. Darden and six outstanding students at its ninth annual University-Community Brotherhood Dinner this week at McKimmon Center. Ms. Darden is an expert in sonic boom minimization. Pictured above, from left: Ms. Darden, with NCSU Chancellor and Mrs. Larry K. Montleith.

Leaders Decry Colin Powell's Leading King Parade In Atlanta

The highest-ranking African-American in the U.S. military is drawing fire from a civil rights leader who has rejected the officer's role as honorary grand marshal for the annual Martin Luther King Week parade.

Gen. Colin L. Powell, architect of the U.S. military buildup in the Persian Gulf, and the first black to serve as chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, will be honorary grand marshal for the King parade in Atlanta.

Powell, a longtime admirer of King, has been criticized by the Rev. Joseph Lowery, president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, as a leader in conflict with King's teachings of non-violence.

"While I have a great deal of admiration for Colin Powell, under present circumstances I have deep concern. I think it creates an awkward set of circumstances that neither a King holiday nor Gen. Powell ought to have to face," Lowery said.

A King Center spokesman said part of the rationale behind inviting Powell stems from the belief by Coretta Scott King, King's widow, that the center should engage ideological adversaries.

"One of the things you want to do is convert your adversary in a friendly way," said spokesman Steve Klein. Powell was invited to participate in the Jan. 21, 1991 parade in honor of a man who taught and preached non-violence. King once declared the U.S. government to be "the greatest purveyor of violence in the world," and vehemently spoke out against the Vietnam War, in which Powell served two tours of duty.

In related issues: A North Carolina professor says that allegations that Dr. King plagiarized parts of his Boston University doctoral dissertation serve little point and that the focus should remain on what he accomplished in civil rights circles.

Dr. Ed Funkhouser of the Department of Communications, North Carolina State University, said he was not sure at this time if he was able to assess "what damage this [the charges of plagiarism] might do to his reputation. But it seems to me that the weight of history probably suggests that what he was able to accomplish, the social change he was

able to bring through his activities, he would certainly be remembered for and held in high regard for.

"The problem of plagiarism is unfortunate and I don't condone it at all, but he was certainly a leader of people and he was very effective with that, and I think he will always be remembered for that no matter what," Funkhouser said.

"Considering the fact that he is deceased... if he were alive to defend himself, that would be one thing... why not leave it alone?"

The Rev. W.B. Lewis of First Cosmopolitan Baptist Church in Raleigh had no hesitation about whether King's degree should be stripped. Commenting on an article he had read, Lewis said, "I don't agree. I think that came up too late. It should have been detected way down the road. All the contributions he's made and the advancement of our society, it's too late."

The Rev. J.B. Humphrey, co-chairperson of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Commission, said the third Monday in January of each year has been set aside by both the state and federal governments as a legal holiday.

"We believe it is appropriate that the state work to plan, promote and assist statewide and local efforts directed toward observance of this important national holiday," said Humphrey.

"The governor of the state of North Carolina has charged us... with the following duties: (1) to encourage appropriate ceremonies and activities throughout the state relating to the observance of the legal holiday honoring Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday; (2) to provide advice and assistance to local governments and private organizations across the state with respect to the observance of such holiday; and (3) to work to promote among the citizens of North Carolina an awareness of the life and work of Martin Luther King, Jr."

Not surprisingly, Powell has been touted a potential running mate for President George Bush in 1992 by some Washington pundits. He has been described as presidential material and military experts say he represents a new breed of post-Vietnam soldier/politicians who admits to no party affiliations.

NEWS BRIEFS

RESPIRE SERVICE

Because of its concern for caregivers and their loved ones, the Council on Aging of Wake County, Inc. will have available Private Pay Respite Service in mid-January 1991. Four hours per service visit at full charge will be provided to the family of the person for whom respite care is needed.

HOUSING AMENDMENTS

President George Bush signed a major housing bill into law Nov. 28, including amendments by Fourth District Rep. David Price to provide affordable housing for low- and moderate-income families and senior citizens. The Cranston-Gonzales Affordable Housing Act was approved by Congress on Oct. 26, in the final hours of the 101st session.

ISSUES FORUM

Former Gov. James B. Hunt, Jr. and North Carolina State University Chancellor Larry K. Montleith will meet with deans and other campus leaders and plan the sixth annual Emerging Issues Forum. Former President Jimmy Carter will be the keynote speaker for the Feb. 14-15 forum.

EAST STREET PROJECT

The construction of four single-family and four attached units has begun on South East Street between Lee and Bragg streets. These homes are being developed (See NEWS BRIEFS, P. 2)

Dan Blue Takes On Speaker Of NC House Role

A significant shift in support has enabled State Rep. Dan Blue (D-Wake) to be the likely successor to House Speaker Joe Mavretic when the General Assembly reconvenes in January.

This week, Blue virtually locked up the victory in his campaign for the seat when his chief rival withdrew from the race. Blue's strongest opponent, state Rep. Robert C. Hunter (D-McDowell), announced he was withdrawing and supporting the Wake County legislator.

A group of House Democrats who helped to create the controversial coalition with Republicans in order to oust former speaker Liston Ramsey (D-Madison) and elect Mavretic to the post in 1989 aimed their support

(See DAN BLUE, P. 2)

Investigators Find Black Organized Crime On The Increase Across US

TRENTON, N.J. (AP)—Law enforcement officials say black organized crime poses a serious problem in New Jersey.

But black mobs have not received sufficient attention from police who have instead focused on La Cosa Nostra mobs, law enforcement officials said last week.

The officials and two former members of black mob groups told the State Commission on Investigation that drug trafficking and violence on city streets usually blamed on street gangs is actually fostered by well-organized operations.

The groups, they said, included well-insulated bosses, middle managers, young street dealers and lookouts who were as young as 8. They deal in drugs, stolen cars, and gambling, and wield high-powered weapons, the commission was told.

The groups which were composed of African-Americans as well as Jamaicans, Nigerians, West Indians and Haitians, use legitimate businesses as fronts, and violence to

voice and image to conceal his identity. "I guess you can say that's an organized crime group."

Officials said the "Five Percenters" originally came to New Jersey as a religious group but now are an organized crime operation. The former member said group bosses consider themselves gods and go by names such as "Knowledge Supreme."

Zazzali said police have not focused on black crime groups "from the erroneous stereotype that African ethnic groups lack the ability to organize and are not capable of structuring a syndicate."

He said this lack of attention has allowed the groups to flourish.

"Several have become wealthy and entrenched, with substantial numbers of members," Zazzali said. "Their leaders are insulated from probing police. They have terrorized neighborhoods, corrupted youth and fanned violence in urban areas."

A former associate of a "Jamaican Posse" mob said Jamaican gangs

operations "because what they do primarily takes place on the streets. It hurts the community because people can't walk at night."

Camden Police Chief George D. Pugh, who did not attend the hearing, said in a statement, "I perceive no greater threat to the rebirth, stability and quality of life in our urban communities than the organized groups of young predators terrorizing our neighborhoods... all under the control direction of well-insulated individuals."

Donald L. Ashton, a special agent in charge of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration office in Newark, said leaders are well-insulated, noting that it took 15 years for officials to nab reputed black mob

(See CRIME, P. 2)

Cry Goes Out Against Deadly Force By Police In Tarheel State

BY CHRISTINA DAVIS-MCCOY
Special To The CAROLINIAN

Between January of 1989 and February of this year six African-American men died in encounters with police officers in North Carolina. Two of the incidents involved state troopers, the others involved city police officers. All of the incidents stemmed from arrests or attempted arrests.

Statistics on such incidents are surprisingly difficult to come by, because until recently the state attorney general's office kept data only on the number of law enforcement officers killed or injured in such encounters. The statistics that do exist suggest that the police and community are correct in fearing that such incidents are becoming more frequent.

Research reveals that in the four years before 1989 there were only six documented cases of African-American males who died in incidents involving the police in North Carolina. Following the shooting death of Sidney Bowen, former mayor of Bolton, in February, the state police issued a statement that four people of all races had been killed

in encounters involving state troopers in the previous year. There had been eight such incidents since 1983.

Law enforcement officials believe that the increase in violence stems from the fact that there is less respect for the law. Citizens, they say, are more likely to resist and use force against police officers, and officers are being forced to use their weapons more often in self-defense.

Citizens, especially in minority communities, argue that officers are more confrontational and violent. Such conflicting points of view, of course, are likely to lead to more misunderstandings.

Guidelines set forth by the U.S. Justice Department's Community Relations Service and advice from law enforcement experts in North Carolina suggest policies that could reduce the potential for such violent confrontations.

All of these policies underscore the main conclusion from the Justice Department report. Violent encounters between the police and citizens can be reduced if a given police force consciously emphasizes

the value of protecting human life and crime prevention. Police must also tailor their services to meet the needs of the community they serve and be accountable to that community.

There are a number of specific policies that can reduce the potential for violent encounters between police and citizens.

For example, the North Carolina Criminal Justice Education and Training Standards Commission could develop a uniform, statewide policy to govern the use of weapons by law enforcement officers. Many police departments, according to the Justice Department, limit the use of deadly force to circumstances that endanger the life of an officer or other citizen. This philosophy is consistent with the 1986 Supreme Court ruling, Tennessee vs. Garner, which asserts that deadly force may only be used when apprehending a felon threatening death or serious injury to officers or others.

Experts say police departments in the state should also address the pro-

(See DEADLY FORCE, P. 2)

protect their operations, officials said.

"There should be no doubt that La Cosa Nostra mobs are not the sole threat to our society from organized criminal enterprises," said James R. Zazzali, chairman of the SCI.

One former member of a group called "The Five Percenters" said its operations, in Monmouth and Ocean communities, were well organized.

"They sell drugs, steal cars, commit murders, and have police working for them," said the former member, who spoke from another part of the Statehouse Annex through a television monitor that distorted his

flourish in many northern New Jersey communities.

"New Jersey is always a good place to hide," said the former gang member, whose identity was also concealed. "It's a safe area for smuggling guns and marijuana. Police in New Jersey did not take the poses seriously."

Law enforcement officials told the commission that leaders of black mob groups are becoming role models for children.

Claude M. Coleman, police director for Newark, said the black mobs "have a more profound impact" on the city than other organized crime