

FOR LIMITED CIRCULATION

WASHINGTON  
NOTES  
ON  
AFRICA  
May 1969

BY

GARY GAPPERT  
AMERICAN COMMITTEE  
ON  
AFRICA

1. South African Airways

A civil rights amendment to the Foreign Commerce provisions of the Federal Aviation Act is about to be introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives by Congressmen Charles Diggs and John Culver (D-Iowa). The amendment is also being circulated on the Senate side. The amendment would have the effect of suspending the air carrier permit of any foreign carrier if that carrier and its government restricted American visitors in their commerce or passage for reasons of race, religion or creed.

At the same time reports have been circulating in South African newspapers that the government of South Africa has officially stated that non-white tourists will not be admitted. This was revealed in a letter sent from the Department of the Interior to a travel agency in South Africa. Not admitting non-white tourists is a South African prerogative. But not admitting non-white Americans under conditions free of discrimination should call into question the special facilities granted to South Africa.

The amendment, after being introduced, will be sent to the House Foreign and Interstate Commerce Committee. Congressman Samuel Friedel (D-Md.), who has been severely criticized for flying to South Africa as the guest of South African Airways, has agreed to Diggs' request that hearings be held on the amendment. Friedel indicated, "I am just as concerned and affronted by the denial of a visa to Mr. Diggs because he is a Negro as I am concerned and affronted by the fact that I, Sam Friedel, was denied free access to Jordan because I am a Jew." However, he has some reservations about the amendment as he sees "serious constitutional questions". He claims that the foreign air rights granted to South Africa are a matter of foreign policy. What he fails to see is that the expansion of foreign commerce relationships, as facilitated by Congressional legislation, must be equally open to all Americans or else they become a manifestation of institutional racism as in the case of South Africa.

The amendment which was originally circulated by ACOA, is really just a civil rights issue. It implies nothing about any one particular country. It just implies when any special facilities, such as landing rights, are granted to another country, that Americans will be protected in their civil rights in the use of those special facilities.

The Senate Commerce Committee, under Senator Magnuson (D-Wash.), has already begun to look into the equal employment aspects of the relationship with South African Airways. This would also pertain to Pan American. It is likely however that Senator Magnuson, a civil rights advocate, might be checked in the vigor of his investigation by the fact that the Boeing Aircraft which South Africa uses are manufactured in Washington.

Expressions of support for an investigation into the civil rights aspects of the landing permit granted to South Africa should be sent to Senator Warren Magnuson, United States Senate, Washington, D. C.

Organizations and individuals interested in the hearings which will be held by Friedel's sub-committee should communicate with William Townsend, Transportation and Aeronautics Subcommittee, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D. C. (202-225-7793).

## 2. 162 Black Americans and the New York Times

The protest statement against South African Airways signed by 162 black Americans was released on May 27 by Congressman Diggs on the behalf of A. Philip Randolph, Co-chairman of the American Committee on Africa. The statement, sharply censored by the business office of the New York Times, appeared as an ad in the Times of May 28. Among the portions censored by the Times included the statement:

The best answer to this high-powered public relations attempt at brainwashing the American public would be to send the plane back empty.

The New York Times did not do a separate story on this joint action by 162 black Americans. The Evening Star in Washington did a two column story in the early edition but bumped it from their later editions. The Washington Post also decided not to run the story even though their national correspondent, Warren Unna, covered Diggs' press conference. The Baltimore Sun did their third story on South African Airways. UPI noticed the discrepancy between the protest statement and the censored version in the Times and filed an additional dispatch on that.

## 3. Riggs National Bank

Riggs National Bank is the bank for South Africa in Washington, D.C. Their vice-president and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. F. Corea were guests on the inaugural flight to South Africa. Upon their return, Mrs. Corea was quoted as saying that she thought that the natives looked "happy". The Washington office of the ACOA is withdrawing its account from Riggs. Other organizations and individuals may also find this action consistent with their objectives.

## 4. Holiday Inns

There are plans to develop Holiday Inn franchises in South Africa. These facilities will obviously be operated on a racially discriminatory basis. Holiday Inns has been silent on their plans for some time. Perhaps they can be encouraged to reconsider their plans to expand into South Africa.

Organizations and individuals may want to write to Mr. Jerome B. Temple, Senior Vice-president, Holiday Inns of America, 3736 La Mar Avenue, Memphis, Tenn., to express their feelings on this matter.

## 5. Nixon and Africa

The National Security Council is currently helping to direct a review of American policy towards Africa in general and towards southern Africa in particular. The inter-departmental group is currently beginning to meet on African issues, circulating papers and examining options. Some observers feel that the hard-nosed Acheson-Ball approach which favors "softness" towards the white minority regimes in southern Africa is the option most favored by the participants.

Roger Morris, a foreign service officer who has done graduate work in Soviet affairs and African politics, is the aide under Henry Kissinger on the National Security Council staff who is responsible for African issues. He can be communicated with at the Executive Office Building. Morris has studied at Harvard, at Cambridge and in Moscow but has had only stop-over visits in Africa. He was brought into the White House under Rostow in October 1967.

The Liberian Ambassador, as Dean of the African Diplomatic Corps, hosted a reception for President and Mrs. Nixon on May 25, African Liberation Day, and the 6th anniversary of the Organization of African Unity. President Nixon was introduced by an impressive bout of oratory offered by Ambassador Peal. President Nixon said a few kind things about African unity, nothing about liberation and independence, and nothing about Nigeria/Biafra. He did mention several times that he had visited 12 African countries in 1957 and 1967. These visitations perhaps are to be a substitute for policy. In his remarks the president was visibly straining to inject a note of enthusiasm into his voice.

Neither Senator Brooke nor Senator McGee, Chairman of the Senate Subcommittee on Africa, attended. Congressman Diggs, Chairman of the House Subcommittee on Africa, feels that the lack of administrative interest in Africa was reflected in the virtual last minute arrangement of the reception. Ambassador Peal heard that the President was willing to participate only on the Tuesday morning before the Sunday reception. Some think that Nixon must feel that he is back in 1958 when the Africa Bureau was first set up under his recommendation and that the intervening 11 years have not happened.

President Nixon, two days after the reception, sent the name of David D. Newsom, 51, to the Senate to be confirmed as Assistant Secretary for African Affairs. Newsom has been serving as Ambassador to Libya. He is a one-time newspaper reporter and an Arab affairs specialist. He is reported to have "nosed out" Robinson McIlvaine and two other career ambassadors. Joe Palmer, the current Assistant Secretary will be sent to Libya as Ambassador.

At an April discussion of 48 scholars on American foreign policy held at the White House, the following Africanists attended:

David Apter, University of California  
Adelaide C. Hill, Boston University  
the ubiquitous Shelby Lewis, Southern University  
Francis X. Sutton, Ford Foundation

## 6. Biafra

Senator McCarthy, in a speech on the Senate floor on May 16, declared that "we should accept Biafra's right to a separate national existence and look to possible early recognition of Biafra by the U.S. and other nations."

Congressman Diggs has blasted McCarthy's statement as a foolish move that will serve no other purpose than to prolong the civil war in Nigeria.

The Center for Strategic Studies held a prestigious conference on Nigeria-Biafra in the Old Senate Office Building on May 22. The conference was set up by Mike Samuels of the Georgetown University Center. It was decided by them not to invite the American Committee on Africa. A number of the relief agencies were also not invited. In the end only representatives from 3 Congressional offices attended. There was a feeling of frustration among some of the academic participants that they were just talking to themselves. Some of the military attended as did representatives of the oil companies. The money for the conference was said to come from that old source.

It is understood that Senator Kennedy is going to make yet another speech on Nigeria/Biafra.

### 7. African Visitors to Washington

The Prime Minister of the restored civilian government in Sierra Leone, Siaka Stevens, was recently in Washington. He is on a tour to several countries trying to encourage foreign investment.

Jet magazine reports that Haille Selassie will be the first African Head of State to receive a ceremonial visit to the White House. Jet reports that the Emperor was chosen for this honor over President Kaunda of Zambia who will visit the U.S. later this year.

Vice President Moi of Kenya was also recently in Washington.

### 8. The Sugar Quota

Due to a printer's mistake, Senator Karl Mundt was credited with co-sponsorship of the amendment revoking South Africa's sugar quota. It was Senator Frank Moss (D-Utah) whose name was misread.

Some of the Republicans co-sponsoring the amendment received considerable Bircher mail afterwards.

### 9. Portugal and Mozambique

ACOA is sponsoring a Makonde carving sale and benefit for Frelimo in New York on Sunday, June 8, at the Ethical Culture Society.

The special Ad Hoc Foreign Relations Subcommittee, Chaired by Senator Symington, which is investigating military bases and policies as they effect American foreign policy has recently visited Portugal and the Azores. They also inquired into Portugal's African policy. No findings are currently available. Open hearings on these questions might be held in the Fall.

### 10. Other Notes

The Ghana Embassy held a special reception on the anniversary of his assassination to honor Malcolm X.

People still claim that black Americans have no interest in Africa. This is not true. In the May 27 issue of the Washington Afro-American there were 11 articles on African topics.

American Committee on Africa  
Woodward Building, Room 527  
Washington, D. C.  
Telephone (202) 638-0835

### Workshop on American Policy and Southern Africa

ACOA is sponsoring a small, closed strategy workshop on "American Policy and Southern Africa". The purpose is to discuss possible initiatives affecting American policy and attitudes towards southern Africa.

Congressman Charles C. Diggs will keynote the conference in an open address. Congressman Bingham, who initiated the sugar quota amendment, will speak to the group at lunch.

Organizations wishing to send a representative to the conference should contact Gary Gappert or George Houser. The workshop will be held on June 17. The cost of the lunch and registration is \$5.00