

AMERICAN COMMITTEE ON AFRICA

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WASHINGTON NOTES apologizes for
the excessive number of typos in this
issue.

Due to our limited budget, however,
we were unable to have the issue
reprinted. We will eliminate such
errors in future issues.

Sincerely,



Charles Hightower,
Editor

WASHINGTON
NOTES ON
AFRICA



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COMMITTEE
ON AFRICA

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A PERFECT NIXON MAN

From the "mobile" White House, this one located at Key Biscayne, Florida, President Richard M. Nixon announced on May 16 his nomination of John G. Hurd as U. S. Ambassador to South Africa. The nomination of Hurd, a partner in the Laredo, Texas oil and cattle investment firm (Killam & Hurn, Limited) is a study in the type of callous cynicism that has characterized this Administration.

Mr. Hurd was Nixon's campaign manager in Texas during the 1968 presidential elections.

The initial pay-off to Hurd flopped last year when Mr. Nixon nominated him to be ambassador to Venezuela. But the millionaire oil and cattleman was forced to withdraw his name from nomination in January 1969 because of revelations of gross conflict-of-interest involving his oil holdings.

In this soiled tableau, some things are clear: John G. Hurd has no professional experience in foreign affairs or diplomacy, and no concern for social justice.

He is a perfect Nixon man. If this nomination is approved by the Senate, he will represent Nixon's policies to the apartheid regime of Pretoria-- losing causes in both cases.

PARTNERS

Major General Sir Francis de Guingand, K. B. E., C. B., D. S. O., president of the South Africa Foundation addressing the tenth annual general meeting of that organization in Johannesburg, on March 11, 1970, said:

"I travelled a great deal last year, visiting many countries, where I met a number of influential people of all walks of life. I spoke at numerous dinners and lunches, and by and large I found an understanding and sympathetic attitude towards this country (South Africa)."

"This was particularly the case in the United States, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. But when it comes to their governments' main line policies, it is self-interest, trade, and local politics that play a dominant part. The influence of the United Nations is felt in America and Canada and the problem of the Negro and his vote affects policies in the United States."

The General said there was a growing awareness in the West of South Africa's strategic importance in Western defense.

"In most countries I visited," he told his white audience, "it was realized that the Indian Ocean and the Cape sea route were of major significance and that South Africa was a reliable ally and was situated in a particularly crucial strategic position...I found in several important quarters agreement with my contention that it would be in the interest of the West for NATO to stretch its arms to include the defense of the Cape sea route and the Indian Ocean."

THE PROCESSES OF JUSTICE

In the denial of a visitor's visa to Mrs. Shirley Graham Du Bois, widow of the celebrated scholar, Dr. William E. B. Du Bois, the United States Justice Department is seen as the vanguard of thought-control repression rampant in the nation today. The State Department had recommended the entry of Mrs. Du Bois into the country after she applied for a non-immigrant visa to the U. S. Consulate in Cairo earlier this year.

On March 5, the Justice Department over-ruled the waiver recommendation of State to allow her into the country. Under the provisions of the Immigration and Nationality Act, Section 212 (a) (28), relating to the exclusion of all aliens whose, "activities, membership in, or affiliations with certain organizations", may be judged subversive, final decision on entry rests with the Attorney General's office.

In an editorial response to the denial of a visa to the 71-year-old Mrs. Du Bois, the New York Post pondered on May 6, "Are John and Martha Mitchell really running this country?"

John H. Lehmann, deputy associate commissioner of the Immigration and Naturalization Service of the Justice Department told the Washington Evening Star on May 4, that Mrs. Du Bois was barred from the U. S. because of her affiliation with "a number of subversive organizations." When asked to specify what activities, membership in, or affiliations constituted "subversive" acts, Justice Department officer John V. Wilson told WASHINGTON NOTES: "I can't give you that information." Asked why such information which was the basis for excluding Mrs. Du Bois from the country of her birth could not be made public, Mr. Wilson replied:

"I'm going to give you the name and telephone number of another officer and you can ask him."

The other officer, Richard Cull, was not in, twice.

Meanwhile Senator Edward Brooke (R. - Massachusetts) wrote the Washington office of ACOA to report his concern in the case.

The Republican Senator stated that he has been in touch with "the appropriate officials here in Washington" and promised to maintain contact.

However, Sen. Brooke did not relate whether or not he had been in touch with the Justice Department, and if so, whether he was able to get through.

WAIT-AND-SEE

Most African diplomats here have adopted a policy of wait and see regarding the recent announcement by the U. S. Government that it will discourage American investments in Namibia, the South West African country which is administered by South Africa.

The policy decision was announced on May 20, by Charles W. Yost, U. S. Ambassador to the United Nations at a UN convocation commemorating the 25th anniversary of the world organization in New York. Yost said that henceforth the Export-Import Bank would refrain from granting loan guarantees for investments in Namibia.

South Africa has maintained control over Namibia with the full implementation of the apartheid system there despite a UN General Assembly vote on Oct. 27, 1966 that South Africa relinquish its mandate accorded by the League of Nations at the end of the First World War. The General Assembly voted to take over that mandate, but nothing happened. One African diplomat, quoting Yost's statement that Namibia is in the grip of a "unique international wrong in the unlawful perpetuation of South African rule", told WASHINGTON NOTES:

"We agree with Mr. Yost's assessment of the situation in Namibia, but we are agreeing in words at this stage."

"We shall have to wait and see what happens."

HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE ON AFRICA HEARINGS RECONVENE

Hearings on U. S. Policy toward Africa reconvened here May 19 under the acting chairmanship of Representative John G. Culver (D. - Iowa). Abdul Minty of the Anti-Apartheid Movement of Britain was the witness that date.

Minty who estimated that his organization was established in every major British university warned that South Africa is embarking on a calculated policy with global implications. "Pretoria seeks to become a continental power in Africa," Minty said in his testimony.

"She also is seeking to form a South Atlantic alliance with Portugal, Argentina and Brazil."

"We want a clear assurance from the United States that this country will oppose any proposed alliance between NATO and South Africa," he said.

Congressman Charles C. Diggs, Jr. (D. - Michigan) was in the chair on May 20, to hear the testimony of Assistant Secretary of State David D. Newsom to the Subcommittee on Africa of the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

Newsom cited three "important developments" concerning U. S. policy toward Africa:

1. President Nixon's report to Congress on February 18, this year, the so-called "state of the world" message.

2. Secretary of State Rogers' visit to Africa during February; and
3. The African tour of Congressman Diggs during March and April of this year.

"Both the President and the Secretary of State have demonstrated by word and action the importance they give to our relations with Africa", declared Newsom. "Both are strong believers in the advantage of personal contact and frank discussions at all levels."

Diggs recently completed a tour of Africa which included visits to Mali, Niger, Chad, Cameroon, Congo-Kinshasa, Guinea-Conakry, Sierra Leone, the Ivory Coast, Upper Volta, Burundi, and Ruanda.

The current hearings before his Africa subcommittee convened on March 17. In announcing the open hearings, Congressman Diggs said on March 11:

"It is time for the Nixon Administration to define its direction vis-a-vis U. S. -African relations. What will be our posture in Africa 5, 10, or 25 years from now? If we are to be on the side of the vast majority of Africans, our policies and plans for the 1970's should reflect an enlightened projection which demands drastic revisions."

SECRET TRIAL IN PRETORIA

The South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO), the largest liberation party in Namibia, reported on April 6, that a secret trial is now underway in Pretoria, South Africa in which ten SWAPO members are charged with violation of the Terrorism Act.

Five of the defendants are charged with activities allegedly committed in 1964-1966, several years before enactment of the Terrorism Act, states the SWAPO dispatch to WASHINGTON NOTES.

The Terrorism Act was enacted in 1967, but made retroactive to 1962, according to South African police-state "law".

Three of the SWAPO members have been indicted for activities allegedly performed in 1968. The SWAPO report on the trial stated that no charges are known at this time for the other two accused.

The ten accused are:

Alexander Simon, Just Mbala Siloka, Manowa Mulibe Mahunga
Mzlikazi, Masia Ingenda, Isiah Muhapulo Sitimeka, Wilkenson
Muluti Lukongo, Alfred Seloise, Bernard Matmola, Charles Simpatie,
and Brendan Kangongola Simbwaye.

Brendan Kangongola Simbwaye is Vice President of SWAPO. His original detention order was signed by Micheal Daniel Christian de Wet Nel, then Minister of Bantu Administration and Development of South Africa.

Simbwaye was moved from East Caprivi Zipfel detention to Ohopoho in Kaokoveld where he remained for some time. Later he was moved to Warmbad in the southern part of Namibia. Information received by his wife states that his health has deteriorated while in detention.

No news of him reached the outside world until recently when it was determined he was being held in Pretoria with the other SWAPO defendants for trial.

The SWAPO report on the trial stated that this is the third in a series of trials against liberation personnel from Namibia.

The trial, said the SWAPO dispatch, got underway in secrecy at Pretoria. News of its development, travelled the liberation intelligence network extending out of South Africa.

A police raid February 21, against the several large South African Sunday newspapers resulted in the seizure of documents containing detailed information about liberation activities in the northern part of Namibia, states this report from SWAPO.

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