

Forget S. Africa

MAY 19 1969

'TRAGEDY AHEAD' IF U.S. DOES NOT STOP INVESTMENT—SAYS EXPERT

UNITED NATIONS,
Tuesday.
AN American specialist on African affairs has urged the United States to give up its economic interests in South Africa.

Otherwise a vested interest in the maintenance of the racial status quo there.

Mr. George Houser, executive secretary of the New York-based American Committee for Africa, told the US's special committee on apartheid that "tragedy lies

ahead if increased American investment in South Africa is in effect permitted to set the pace for American policy."

In a memorandum submitted by him in March and published today, Mr. Houser claimed that "the real risk is that as American investment and economic involvement in South Africa grow, our policy makers will see the future security of our country resting upon the continuation of the power of the white supremacists who form the Government leadership in South Africa.

Mr. Houser asserted that advocates of American economic involvement in South Africa could factually point out "that profits from investments in South Africa have increased in recent years, but they cannot point out that this has lessened the strictures of apartheid on the African people of South Africa."

Profits

He claimed that if the purpose of present American policies towards South Africa was "to reap greater profits

in the short run, then it is a successful one."

But on the other hand, if the reason given for the involvement was to help fight apartheid by opening South Africa to influences from the outside world, the American engagement "was a tragic failure."

"Mr. Houser lists a series of measures that the American Government could take to reverse the trends towards economic ties with South Africa.

He suggested that the president should urge Congress to end the sugar quota set for South Africa since trade was stopped with Cuba.

He also submitted that the US could find alternative locations for space tracking stations presently located in South Africa. The ban on military supplies could be extended to include any heavy equipment, such as trucks or truck parts, which could conceivably be converted to any sort of military use.

Possible gains

American trade and investment in South Africa could be decreased "with a minimum of inconvenience" since the investments in South Africa were only one per cent of the country's total investment.

Trade with South Africa only amounted to two per cent of the total "thus it would be an inconvenience for the US to change the trend of relationships. On the other hand, it would be quite possible to do so and the dislocations which would come about would be minor in comparison with possible gains."

US 'hit' over S. Africa

UNITED NATIONS (New York), Tuesday

AN AMERICAN specialist on African affairs has urged the United States to give up its economic interests in South Africa before it develops a vested interest in the maintenance of the racial status quo there.

Mr. George Houser, executive secretary of the New York-based American Committee for Africa, told the UN Special Committee on Apartheid "tragedy lies ahead if increased American investment in South Africa is in effect permitted to set the pace for American policy."

In a memorandum he submitted last March and which was published here today, Mr. Houser claimed that "the real risk is that as American invest-

ment and economic involvement in South Africa grow, our policy makers will see the future security of our country resting upon the continuation of the power of the White supremacists who form the Government leadership in South Africa".

Mr. Houser, who addressed himself to the committee as a petitioner, asserted that advocates of American economic involvement in South Africa could factually point out "that profits from investments in South Africa have increased in recent years".

He claimed that if the purpose of present American policies towards South Africa was "to reap greater profits in the short run: then it is a successful one".

But on the other hand, if the reason given for the involvement was to help fight apartheid by opening South Africa to influences from the outside world, the American engagement "was a tragic failure", he said.

Mr. Houser listed a series of measures that the American Government could take to reverse the trends towards economic ties with South Africa.

Editorial — Page 6.

DAILY NATION
(Nairobi) MAY 7,
1969

AMERICAN COMMITTEE ON AFRICA
164 MADISON AVENUE
SECOND FLOOR
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10017

U.S. 'PROFIT FROM APARTHEID' CONDEMNED

S. African Investment Cut Urged

May 12, 1969
By Robert H. Estabrook
Washington Post Foreign Service

UNITED NATIONS, May 11 — A private American voluntary organization has suggested to the General Assembly special committee on apartheid that pressures be brought on selected U.S. firms to curtail their investments in South Africa.

The memorandum from the American Committee on Africa was accompanied by a statement by the Committee's executive director, George Houser, asserting that increasing U.S. investments in South Africa are thwarting U.S. political interests.

The thrust of these investments, Houser argues, is to support the status quo, meaning rigid racial separation under apartheid which the U.S. Government has condemned.

Two types of companies are singled out by the committee as likely to be "particularly sensitive" to pressures: those with investments in several African countries, and those whose investments elsewhere in Africa are potentially more profitable than their investments in South Africa.

In the first category are Pfizer Products, Singer Sewing Machine, Pan American World Airways and the Standard Oil Co. of New Jersey and Esso.

The second category includes the Kaiser Corp. of America, the Firestone Tire and Rubber Co., the Olin Mathieson Chemical Corp. and Alcan Aluminium.

Houser contends in his statement distributed by the apartheid committee that the United States should disengage from South Africa, particularly economically.

This could be done relatively easily, he states, because American investments in South Africa are only about 1 per cent of total U.S. foreign investments, and trade with South Africa is only about 2 per cent of total U.S. foreign trade.

Direct and indirect U.S. investment in South Africa in 1968 came to about \$200 million. By comparison with only \$140 million in 1950, Houser argues that the effect has not been to encourage a more liberal, South African policy toward the 75 per cent of the population that is non-white.

The American Committee on Africa obtains its funds from about 25,000 private contributors as well as from churches and trade unions. Its national chairmen are the Rev. Donald Harrington and A. Phillip Han-
dolph.

NEW YORK. — An American specialist on African affairs has urged the United States to give up its economic interests in South Africa before it develops a vested interest in the maintenance of the racial status quo there.

Mr. George Houser, Executive Secretary of the New York-based American Committee for Africa, told the United Nation's Special Committee on Apartheid that "tragedy lies ahead if increased American investment in South Africa is in effect permitted to set the pace for American policy."

In a memorandum published here yesterday, Mr. Houser claimed that "the real risk was that as American investment and economic involvement in South Africa grows, policy-makers would see the future security of the country resting on the continuation of the power of the White supremacists who form the Government leadership in South Africa".

Mr. Houser said that advocates of American economic involvement in South Africa could factually point out "that profits from investments in South Africa have increased in recent years, but they cannot point out that this has lessened the strictures of apartheid on the African people of South Africa".

He claimed that if the pur-

pose of present American policies towards South Africa was "to reap greater profits in the short run, then it is a successful one".

But, on the other hand, if the reason given for the involvement was to help fight apartheid by opening South Africa to influences from the outside world, the American engagement "was a tragic failure", he said.

Mr. Houser listed a series of measures that the American Government could take to reverse the trends towards economic ties with South Africa.

● The U.S. Government should discourage increased investments in South Africa.

● The President should urge Congress to end the sugar quota set for South Africa since trade was stopped with Cuba.

● The USA could find alternative locations for space tracking stations presently located in South Africa.

● The ban on military supplies could be extended to include any heavy equipment, such as trucks or truck parts, which could conceivably be converted to any sort of military use.

● American trade and investment in South Africa could be decreased "with a minimum of inconvenience" since American investments were only one per cent of the U.S. total foreign investment.

Mr. Houser said: "The non-White three-quarters of the population of South Africa look with distrust on a country as powerful as the USA which nevertheless says it is impotent to do anything effective in dealing with the extension of apartheid in South Africa." — (Sapa-Reuter.)

WASHINGTON POST
MAY 12, 1969

AMERICAN COMMITTEE OF AFRICA
154 MADISON AVENUE
SECOND FLOOR
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10016

13 May 69

Friedel, Holiday Inns hit on S. Africa links

BY LILLIAN WIGGINS

Congressman Samuel Friedel (D. Md.), chairman of the House Transportation and Aeronautics Subcommittee, has come under fire from the American Committee on Africa for allowing himself "to be used as part of the South African propaganda apparatus."

Mr. Friedel was the only U. S. Congressman to travel as guest of the South African Government on its inaugural flight April 7 to South Africa.

Gary Gappert, Washington representative for the committee, said "it is interesting to note that Congressman Friedel and these bankers (speaking of the Washington businessmen who also traveled as guests of the South African Airways) are reputed to have so-called good civil rights records.

"They have obviously found it profitable to adopt progressive views towards racial issues in this country. But at the same time they seem to be seeking profits or gains from the apartheid system in South Africa.

"I regret that these bankers, who are leaders in Washington, and Congressman Friedel allowed themselves to go to South Africa as official guests of the regime. I know from my own travel experience in South Africa in 1963 and 1964 how seductive is the South African hospitality.

"They wine, dine and wench you and carefully direct you away from controversial topics and areas. It takes a determined effort to find out what conditions are really like in South Africa since all of the locations are off-limits.

"Interestingly enough I had a chance to travel in the Soviet Union shortly after leaving South Africa in 1964. I could travel in Moscow unrestricted, meet Russians and visit them in the Soviet Union shortly

their homes and dine with them in restaurants around the city: All these activities are illegal in South Africa with members of the African population."

The Committee also rapped the Holiday Inns of America for planning to expand their facilities into South Africa where they will have to follow a racist policy of discrimination under South African laws.

Mr. Gappert indicated that if the Holiday Inns of America did not abandon their plans to expand into South Africa it (the committee) would be compelled to ask its membership and the general public to cease using Holiday Inn facilities in the United States.

Jerome B. Temple, senior vice president, Holiday Inns of America in Memphis, was also among the American guests flying to South Africa as guest of that Government.

The Committee saw the awarding of landing facilities to the South African Airways by the Civil Aeronautics Board as an example of institutional racism.

"These facilities," said Mr. Gappert "awarded by an instrumentality of our government to an instrumentality of the South African government, will not be available to American citizens on a non-discriminatory basis.

He indicated that this is basically a question of civil rights and not of foreign policy.

The committee is proposing civil rights amendments to foreign commerce legislation. Such an amendment and not of foreign air carriers and their governments from practicing racial and religious discrimination on American visitors.

The amendment to the Federal Aviation Act, while broadly conceived, is aimed at the unique status of South Africa.

The amendment would only be the first proposal in a comprehensive legislative program which the American Committee on Africa is developing which will seek to restrict and reverse the engagement of the United States with South Africa.

Mr. Gappert stated, "Congress has the power to pass legislation which develops and facilitates our foreign commerce but they seem to have ignored the issue as to whether the arrangements of our foreign commerce allow for the equal participation of all our citizens."

The proposed amendment, he indicated, would broaden the frontiers of opportunity for all Americans, regardless of race and religion. "It is an attack on institutional racism," he stated.

Mr. Gappert also attacked the idea that the air travel arrangements with South Africa were a way to foster the exchange of persons and ideas with South African society.

"For years," he said, "South Africans have been harassing American citizens. American churchmen have been expelled. Visas have been denied to distinguished scholars and public figures such as Congressman Charles Diggs.

"Peace Corps volunteers in neighboring countries such as Botswana have been caused much inconvenience by being denied transit visas."

AMERICAN COMMITTEE ON AFRICA
164 MADISON AVENUE
SECOND FLOOR

NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10016