



## AFRICA in Today's World

By CHARLES I. WEST, M.D.

We have been disheartened and dismayed by the increasing frequency of "incidents" in New York City in which colored delegates to the United Nations from foreign countries have been subjected to indignities by local hoodlum elements.

Such occurrences are bad enough, but now we have an even more unfortunate development as reported by Darius Jhabvala in the New York Herald Tribune.

Upper Volta's Ambassador John Kabore, speaking on behalf of the 57 Afro-Asian delegations to the United Nations, has accused the New York City police of "lack of courtesy," according to Jhabvala.

Although Mr. Kabore would not amplify the charge, an Asian delegate indicated that the diplomats are more indignant over the alleged discourtesy of the police than over rough treatment at the hands of some inhospitable New Yorkers.

The entire question was discussed at a closed meeting of the Afro-Asians, who decided to send a letter to Secretary General U Thant requesting his assistance to ameliorate their plight.

The letter also hinted that the Afro-Asians may bring the issue to the General Assembly unless steps are taken to protect the delegates against mistreatment and humiliation.

Implicit was the threat that some delegates might demand in the General Assembly that the UN be moved out of the United States.

The charge against the police was a new one. U.S. Mission sources and police officials said they had no report of any specific case where a diplomat had complained against a police officer.

However, U.S. Ambassador Francis Plimpton discussed the charge with Police Commissioner Michael J. Murphy at a luncheon meeting. A police spokesman said afterward that memos will be issued to remind officers of departmental rules about courtesy and diplomatic immunity.

The meeting was held specifically to deal with Afro-Asian diplomats' complaints that they suffer from indignities and damage to their property, particularly automobiles, during their stay in the city.

Their ire was triggered by an attack on the First Secretary of the Mauretanian Mission, Youssouf Gueye, by a group of youths on the night of Aug. 31.

Mr. Gueye was walking in front of his house on E. 86th St. when the youths first poured beer on him and then hit him on the head with a glass.

Several explanations have been given for the assault on the Mauritanian official. Mr. Kabore said that it was because the "attackers did not want a colored person in the area."

However, in a letter to Mr. Thant, U.S. Ambassador Adlai Stevenson stated that the attackers believed Mr. Gueye "to be a member of a group with whom (they) had been engaged in a local dispute."

Despite this explanation, Mr. Kabore claimed that African diplomats live in the city in an "atmosphere of terror," and pointed out that in the past two years there have been "four incidents" involving "humiliations" in restaurants and other public places.

Mr. Kabore pointed out, however, that the

# EDITORIAL

(From the Las Vegas Review-Journal)

## County School Board Can Help End Segregation

The Clark County school board apparently has resolved one of its major dilemmas.

It has, basically, endorsed and reaffirmed its policy of maintaining de facto segregation of the vast majority of Negro elementary school children in Clark county.

It has done this by announcing its intent to build and calling for bids on a new elementary school in the West Las Vegas area where the majority of the county's approximately 20,000 Negroes reside.

The new elementary school, to be built at a cost of about \$600,000, is scheduled to be ready for occupancy next September.

It will be the sixth elementary school on the Westside. The last elementary school built in the Negro area was opened in 1961, although 21 classrooms have been added to another Westside school recently.

The school board plans, tentatively, to build a seventh elementary school on the Westside by the fall of 1966.

There are, in round figures, about 6,000 elementary, junior high and high school pupils living on the Westside.

There are, however, no junior high or high school facilities on the Westside, and so an estimated 2,000 Negro pupils daily travel, either by school bus or by their own means of transportation, to junior highs and high schools throughout the Las Vegas area.

This means that approximately 4,000 Negro pupils on the elementary level attend school on a segregated basis here. They mix with no white youngsters and no whites mix with them.

This is the vacuum of segregation which successive school boards and two school administrations have seen fit not only to create but to perpetuate.

So, instead of integrating at the lowest level of school, at ages when youngsters have not yet acquired hard line prejudices or fears of one another, we wait until they are on the threshold of their teens, when they are facing one of the most unsettled periods of their lives, and we then confront them with the additional problem of integration.

It seems strange indeed that Clark county, because of the school board's unwillingness to seek a new approach, is going against the grain of the one recognized principle which has been accepted nationally by all parties seeking to promote racial harmony — that the most effective and peaceful starting point for any community to approach integration is at the elementary school level. This has even been recognized in countless segregationist communities in the South.

This is not merely a one-sided picture of concern over the emotional and educational challenges and levels of the Negro pupil who is confined to the segregated elementary school. It must also be the sociological problem of the white pupil who grows up in the unrealistic vacuum of a school world without any Negroes, then suddenly is thrust into a junior high school world of contact with Negroes. Is segregation really being fair to that white pupil? We think not.

The school board can, if it has the courage to do so, take steps to bring about more enlightened integration here. If it does not, if it continues its

U.S. mission "is doing its best to help us in this matter and we are grateful for the effort that is being made."

Mr. Stevenson assured Mr. Thant in his letter that the U.S. "is fully prepared to continue the most vigorous efforts not only to assure that diplomatic personnel accredited to the UN are given full protection but also to assure that they can function fully and effectively to represent the interests of their countries in the UN."

We sincerely hope that Ambassador Stevenson and Police Commissioner Murphy are able to control the situation before it worsens. Our image abroad cannot stand further deterioration in the area of protecting foreign envoys to the United Nations.

present policy, then it will have contributed, we fear, to the furtherance of the rapidly developing ghetto conditions on the Westside and the eventual explosion of an ugly situation.

Above all, by building more segregated schools on the Westside, it will have denied thousands of young children — whites and Negroes alike, an opportunity to achieve racial harmony in the world as it exists.

(From Jet Magazine)

## Why Jet Magazine Backs Johnson-Humphrey Team

During the past twelve years, we have studiously avoided partisan involvement in national politics. We have followed national campaigns closely in our news columns, but we have not endorsed specific candidates. We shall continue to present balanced accounts of the views of major candidates, but we are forced by the grave issues of the 1964 Presidential campaign to state our editorial position with frankness and promptness. The stakes in this campaign are too high for any American to sit on the sidelines. The issues are too crucial for any American to remain neutral.

We do not take a stand here on civil rights alone, although civil rights is a crucial issue. Our stand is based rather on the broad issues of the survival of man and the survival of the American idea.

The President of the United States has awesome responsibility. He controls nuclear power that can be a boon or a curse to mankind. He controls instruments of national power that can be used to divide us or unite us.

It is to the best interest of all Americans, we think, that these instruments remain in the tried and experienced hands of President Lyndon Baines Johnson. In the last ten months, President Johnson has proven, under difficult circumstances, that he is equipped to deal with the problems of this century. He has been firm and prudent in foreign affairs, courageous and determined in domestic relations. More significantly, he has translated promises into deeds, guiding through Congress far-reaching legislation on civil rights, social welfare, and foreign affairs.

The contrast between the President and his major opponent is sharp and decisive. By his contradictory statements on nuclear arms control, the United Nations, and social welfare legislation, the opposition candidate has alarmed responsible spokesmen in both parties. By his opposition to the Civil Rights Bill and his apparent willingness to profit by the resentment of segregationists in the North and South, the opposition candidate has raised large questions about the survival of the American system as we know it.

The President, in contrast, has repudiated the raucous voices of retreat and repression. In his appointments and in his public statements, he has stamped himself as a President of all the people, of Negroes as well as whites, of women as well as men, of the new South as well as of the new North. The President, who happens to be a Southerner, has also demonstrated a rare capacity for growth. With the exception of John Fitzgerald Kennedy, he is the only American President who has spoken out consistently on the moral issues involved in segregation and discrimination.

President Johnson and his running mate, Senator Hubert H. Humphrey, are men of sound judgment, prudence, and responsibility. By experience and by temperament, they are prepared to deal with

(See JET, page 12)

## THE LAS VEGAS VOICE

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