AFRICA in Today's World

By CHARLES I. WEST, M.D.

DESPITE MANY OBSTACLES, the Mahgreb dream of North African unity is showing modest signs of life according to a report from Tunis by Chicago Daily News correspondent Milt Freudenheim.

Libya and Mauretania, previously excluded from more important conferences involving Morocco, Tunisia and Algeria, the nations providing the nucleous of the Mahreb idea, are now being included in some conferences of major significance.

This development indicates a drastic change from last year, when Moroccan King Hassan II boycotted the first African summit meeting in Addis Ababa rather than sit beside Mauretania President Mokhtar Ould Daddah.

Another major obstacle to Mahgreb was the Morocco-Algerian border battle last year, which was halted by the organization of African unity and is still under study by that group.

"Mahgreb is not for tomorrow," said Tunisian President Habib Bourguiba in an interview. He added: "We are going slowly and building solidly."

TUNISIA, WITH ONLY 4 MILLION PEOPLE compared with Algeria's 11 million and Morocco's 12 million, has been busily promoting economic and trade accords with other Mahgreb nations.

Algerian President Ahmed Ben Bella seems agreeable although he feels that neither Tunisia nor Morocco has matched Algeria's land reform. (Bourguiba would disagree).

"We don't want to impose our reforms on them--just to set an example that perhaps will stimulate something. We have absolutely no intention of interfering in our neighbor's internal affairs," Ben Bella explained.

Some observers hope the "rediscovery of Tunisia" by Algerians may lead Ben Bella to try some of the non-Marxist solutions to problems of a new state that have worked for Bourguiba.

AS FOR BOURGUIBA, he insists that Tunisian-style socialism won't abolish private property because "we are interested in what works, in results."

"We are interested in increasing the wealth of the people and in human liberty. That is why I will never be a scientific (Marxist) socialist," he said.

Bourguiba wants to increase the output of his largely agricultural and quite poor little North African country where the per capita income is $70 a year.

"If we change the structure of our economy too radically, this will set back production and discourage the efforts to produce," he said, adding: "Profit is the incentive which encourages results."

But he warned that if there are "profiteers" who exploit the system for their pocket's benefit instead of investing in expanding production, "we will eliminate them."

ON THE OTHER HAND, private owners who help the national development are welcomed and respected, he said. They can have large pieces of land to profit by, if they work them productively.

Bourguiba defends the one-party system by noting it is not frozen into the constitution, mentioning Kwame Nkrumah's Ghana as an example of what Tunisia hasn't got.

VOICE READERS COMPRISE A $30,000,000 MARKET

EDITORIAL

Demo League Would Benefit Community

By DR. CHARLES I. WEST

CAREFUL ANALYSIS of the November 3 election returns reveals beyond reasonable doubt that the Nevada Negro is the decisive force which can keep the Democratic party in political power in this state.

I challenge anyone to contradict this statement. I also challenge anyone to point out any group of voters that has been more loyal to the Democratic party than the Negro voters of West Las Vegas ever since the Negroes became convinced that the Democrats were deservant of that loyalty.

As long as the Democrats are led by men with the devotion to basic American principles of fair play displayed by Lyndon B. Johnson, Hubert H. Humphrey, Howard W. Cannon and Grant Sawyer, the Nevada Negro should and will remain firmly loyal to the Democratic party.

It is highly improbable that a single Negro Democrat will desert his party during the next four years. It is highly probable, however, that many Negroes now registered as Republicans out of deference to the memory of the great Abraham Lincoln will switch over to the party of our new champions--Lyndon, Hubert, Howard and Grant.

The Negro voter is rapidly reaching political maturity. He already has adequate wisdom to make a proper selection and to cast his vote where he can expect higher dividends in the way of equal opportunities.

AT THIS TIME in history, the Negro clearly sees a brighter future for his legitimate aspirations in a Democratic administration. That is why an estimated 97 per cent of Negro voters throughout the country supported the Democratic ticket on November 3. There is nothing forseeable in the political climate of the next four years to alter this unprecedented display of loyalty. The Nevada Negro has chosen to place his trust in the Democratic party--and rightfully so. The trend will continue. Under present conditions it cannot, and will not, diminish.

Basing our estimates on the November 3 results and the projected population in 1968, we forsee a minimum of 8000 votes here for the Democratic ticket when LBJ is reelected four years hence and something less than 300 for his unfortunate opponent, whoever he may be. This prediction is highly conservative and can defend itself against challenge.

The Democratic party in this state has no block voting unit that approaches the strength accorded it by the Negro voters of West Las Vegas. Such strength and such loyalty must be preserved if the Democratic party in Nevada hopes to remain in political power. It is important to Nevada Negroes that the Democrats continue to dominate the political scene. It is equally important to the Democratic party that it retain the loyalty of Nevada Negroes.

Historically, political loyalties are won by demonstrated performance and made secure by political patronage. The Democratic party owes much to its loyal Negro supporters. This loyalty must be rewarded. A Westside Democratic Voters League could and would assure proper reward for the loyalty of the Negro voting entity.

LAST YEAR an earnest attempt was made to form a Democratic Voters League in West

(See EDITORIAL, page 3)

Legal Training Needed In NAACP Spokesman

THE NEGRO OF LAS VEGAS, like his Afro-American kin across the nation, can now see a bright, new horizon of hope. The 1964 Civil Rights Act brought this new horizon into view.

It is incumbent upon the national NAACP and its branches to "bird dog" the new law in order to prevent it from suffering the frustrating delays in implementation that has been the sad lot of the Supreme Court's school desegregation edict of 1954.

Each local branch must create a leadership structure that is keenly aware and thoroughly acquainted with the provisions and technical intricacies of the "new horizon" legislation. The leadership of each branch necessarily will be charged with passing on this knowledge to its memberships. When each group is properly oriented in regard to the new law, it certainly will be better equipped to solve its major problems.

It logically follows that each branch must seek counsel from persons specially trained in the field of law in order to fully benefit from the new law. In selecting counsel it is highly important that we choose from among those who would be totally loyal to NAACP objectives. Therefore, we should rely on members of our own branches for legal guidance.

OUR LOCAL BRANCH is most fortunate to have within its ranks several members who possess law degrees. We would be wise to select our leader-spokesman from among these men who are best trained and best equipped to properly interpret the new law.

Our elected leader will be speaking for each of us individually, as well as for all of us collectively. We, either as individuals or as a group, will receive the same degree of respect, or lack of respect, accorded our spokesman.

It is imperative that our spokesman be authoritative and spontaneously conversant with each and every provision of the 1964 Civil Rights Act. He must automatically be able to detect any and all infractions of the law. He must be able to support his position with sound interpretations of the act.

This is no job for the non-legal mind.

Should our spokesman take a stand based upon a misconception of some technicality in the law, our whole program could be seriously damaged. It would reflect unfavorably upon our entire group. We cannot afford to jeopardize our future by placing a lay mind in this untenable position.

WE CAN ELIMINATE the likelihood of such an unfortunate occurrence taking place by selecting a leader-spokesman with a trained legal mind. We need such a leader to protect our program and preserve our personal interests.

Our principal activity in the future will be directed toward seeing that compliance with the new law is assured. We must base our program on a secure legal foundation. We should select a legal mind to lay the base for our operations. We need a man with an education, and a degree, in law.

We cannot afford the cost of delay. The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King made this patently clear in his book, "Why We Can't Wait." We surely do not wish to slacken our pace by placing obstacles in our own path. We cannot and we must not risk placing anyone but the best brains available in the driver's seat.

This business of electing a NAACP branch president is a very serious affair. When we vote, we must not be influenced by personal friendship, social relationship or sentimental attachment. This is not a popularity contest. It is purely a matter of who is best equipped to speak for us.

It is only logical that a trained legal mind should be a compelling factor when we make our choice.

LAS VEGAS Voice

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