



AFRICA in Today's World

By CHARLES I. WEST, M.D.

UNEASY CONCERN was expressed in this country and throughout the free world when Tanzania (formerly the United Republic of Tanganyika and Zanzibar) became the first African nation to invite Communist China to furnish a military mission to help train its army. According to a report in The Observer of London, the move was part of a "carefully-balanced plan" to have several major powers participate in the reformation of the Tanzanian armed forces following the army's mutiny last January.

The Chinese mission reportedly is composed of about a dozen persons who are limited to instructing in the use of Chinese and similar pattern weapons which reached Tanganyika even before the abortive revolution of last winter. The mission is required to complete its course of training within six months under the agreement between the two countries involved.

In an exclusive interview with Colin Legum, President Julius Nyerere disclosed that the Chinese, themselves, had insisted on the six-month limitation. Legum was of the opinion that the agreement does not seem to provide for either an extension or enlargement of the Chinese role.

EXPLAINING HIS DECISION to invite a Chinese element in his military training program, Nyerere said that it should be seen in its proper perspective as part of a carefully-balanced policy. He disclosed that he was about to sign a five-year agreement with West Germany to train the Tanzanian army's air wing. Originally, it was intended that the Israelis should be associated with this air training, but they have since withdrawn at their own request. The bulk of the army's officers are British-trained.

It is an open secret that negotiations are proceeding with the United States for a training program to provide an enlarged and modernized police force. Russia and East Germany had already engaged in training the revolutionary army of Zanzibar under agreements made before the union with Tanganyika was signed last April. Nearly 60 Russian and East German instructors were thought to be in Zanzibar last summer training about 600 men, including a number of Tanganyikan officers. In a separate military camp on the island, the Chinese were training a further 300 Zanzibaris. Coordination between the authorities of Zanzibar and the mainland over their military training had not been fully completed at that time.

THE FACT THAT there is at present no element of British or Commonwealth participation in Tanzania's military and police training plans is not the result of Nyerere's choosing.

"Ideally, I would have preferred to see our army trained by a joint Commonwealth mission," he said. When the British Commonwealth Secretary, Duncan Sandys, visited Tanganyika a few months ago, he is thought to have put forward a number of proposals for British military assistance, but these proved to be unacceptable. Subsequently, Nyerere made repeated efforts to persuade the Canadians to participate in training his army but he received little positive response.

"Having made these efforts to obtain what I needed from the Commonwealth and from the middle-size powers, but without success, what was there left for me to do?" Nyerere asked. "Our country, unfortunately, needs a modern,

VOICE READERS COMPRISE A \$30,000,000 MARKET

EDITORIAL

Childish Attacks Will Not Deter Us

Dear Mr. and Mrs. West Las Vegas:

Certain persons in this community have attempted to discredit the editorial policy of this newspaper by childish attacks on its publisher. By trying to confuse issues, these persons apparently hope to arouse sympathy for themselves. Some of you probably have been misled to believe that the Las Vegas VOICE has condemned the actions of some members of our community for purportedly selfish reasons. Nothing could be further from the truth.

The VOICE was created to serve the best interests of the community and its individual citizens without fear or favor. It is humbly and sincerely dedicated to improving conditions in West Las Vegas and our files indicate that many of you feel that we are doing a good job in that direction. We are deeply grateful for your expressions of support.

In recent weeks, the VOICE has attempted to call attention to a festering sore that threatens to contaminate the entire community. The VOICE cannot shirk its public duty by remaining silent while persons with questionable motives conspire to take over our most cherished institutions.

It is our firm conviction that the best interests of the people as a whole are more important than the ambitions of any individual or any small group of persons with delusions of grandeur. We are irrevocably opposed to--and flatly reject--the "Fuhrer complex" no matter in what guise it may appear.

Our every effort is being directed toward

well-trained army. It can only be a small army, which makes it all the more necessary that it should be effective and well-equipped. Also I want it to be an army trained to meet the special circumstances of this country. I do not want it to be an elite force, but an army integrated with the national life and attuned to our own political system. That is why we have undertaken to provide the major part of our training ourselves. But we are obviously not able to do it all ourselves. . . .

ASKED WHETHER he was not afraid of the risks he was taking by accepting a Chinese military presence for even six months, the President replied: "What are the risks I am taking? The army that proved itself disloyal to my government was not one that was trained by the Chinese. There is always some element of risk about having an army at all in a developing country, but since you cannot do without an army in the times we live, the task is to ensure that the officers and men are integrated into the government and party so that they become no more of a risk than, say, the civil service. . . . Then, too, we must live with the situation that we have inherited. The Chinese, the Russians, and the East Germans are already in Zanzibar. In time there will be no foreign military elements in our republic at all, but that will only happen after we have been able to train our own army."

The President then asked, "Why should people say we should be afraid of being unduly influenced by the Chinese, but not by West Germany? Yet our agreement with the Chinese is for only six months, whereas our agreement with West Germany is for five years." He added that it was ridiculous to suggest that the policy he is following in training his army shows a new orientation towards the Chinese, the Russians, or the Germans.

He concluded: "Our position remains what it has always been. We are trying to be non-aligned. We live in a complex world in which, try as we will, we are not going to be left alone. . . . I know that many people will not like what we are doing. I cannot honestly pretend that I like it any better than we should be subjected to the need of balancing one set of facts against another in order to get the kind of aid we need to achieve the sort of army that will meet the requirements of our United Republic. I am confident that we are going to succeed without losing either our faith in ourselves or the faith of our true friends."

keeping the affairs of our community in the hands of all its citizens through perpetuation of the constitutional right to freely select our own leaders. There is considerable evidence that some of our leaders have violated the trust placed in them by YOU through abject abdication of their responsibilities to all the people.

This is not the responsibility of the VOICE alone. It is equally--and finally--the responsibility of YOU, the citizens of this community.

The VOICE therefore appeals to YOU, the people, to choose wisely between two alternatives: (1) Remain indifferent to the inherent dangers in the present situation and thereby place your destiny in the hands of a clique; (2) Select from among yourselves the most capable and most dedicated persons to form your leadership structure and thereby regain control of your own destiny.

Many of you will be provided an opportunity to make such a choice on Dec. 13 when the local branch of the NAACP elects officers for the next two years. We hope your decision will return leadership to the membership.

Respectfully yours,
Charles I. West, M.D.

P.S.

What we are saying today is exactly what we have been saying for more than a year--ever since the VOICE was founded. In this regard, we call your attention to the following code, first published in the VOICE of Oct. 3, 1963, under the heading, "The Publisher's Ten Point Policy"--

- 1) The Las Vegas Voice shall be dedicated to perform an honest public service.
- 2) The Voice shall never fear to print "the truth."
- 3) The Voice will protect its readers from exploitation.
- 4) The Voice shall be dedicated to improving the image of both our city and our State.
- 5) The Voice will plan a reader education program designed to elevate the position of its readers in every facet of life.
- 6) The Voice will inform its readers of trends and changes in the political climate to encourage realistic use of the vote.
- 7) The Voice shall attempt to clear the atmosphere of the stench produced by the political prostitutes.
- 8) The Voice shall be guided only by facts, and by logic, never by coercion, nor by emotions, nor by sentiment.
- 9) The Voice shall offer its total facilities to the NAACP, as well as to other organizations, with established integrity, that are striving for equal rights for all citizens.
- 10) The Voice shall employ its total potential to guide our youth, and prepare them for tomorrow's leadership.

Shortly before we published the above code, the following statement appeared in these pages. It is still as true today as it was then.

"There is no split among the real leadership of the Negroes of this community. There is only a quest for power by a few Westside residents who are totally unprepared and unqualified for leadership. . . . They are not capable

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