



AFRICA in Today's World

By CHARLES I. WEST, M.D.

(This is the second part of a two-part report on Sudan, Africa's largest country with an area of almost one million square miles.)

SUDAN HAS REMAINED little changed by the flow of world events since the turn of the century. It still is primarily an agricultural country, with most of its wealth in the soil of the Gezira--the region between the White and Blue Niles south of the capital city of Khartoum, where the two rivers meet and rush on as one toward Egypt.

The Manaquil Dam, opened in 1959, uses the Blue Nile to irrigate 800,000 acres south of the Gezira plantations. The Rosieres Dam eventually will bring another 3,000,000 acres under cultivation. Egypt will pay \$15 million to thousands of Sudanese whose lands will be flooded by the Aswan High Dam project.

The country is the world's principal source of gum arabic. Its chief grain crop is great millet (*dura*), the country's staple food. American and extra-long staple cottons are grown and comprise the principal export. Other important products are sesame, senna leaves and pods, ground-nuts, dates, hides and skins, mahogany, dom nuts (vegetable ivory), chillies, semn (ghee), melon seeds, beans, corn, trochus and mother of pearl shell, shea nuts, salt, ivory and gold. (There are untapped resources of copper, iron, gold and salt.) Production of coffee, sugar cane, rice, peanuts and tobacco has been expanded.

A bad crop year in the Gezira can spell economic disaster for the nation and these occur frequently enough to prevent prosperity. Like many African countries, Sudan suffers from a chronic trade deficit.

Life is conditioned by the weather, which is hot and dry in the predominantly Arabic North and hot and rainy (up to 40 inches a year) in the largely Negroid South.

MOST OF THE POPULACE seems to move in perpetual slow motion--the peasant men almost uniformly garbed in flowing robes and turbans, the women in black with their heads covered. Even Khartoum shows none of the bustle of most capital cities. It is essentially an overgrown village of low buildings and neat mud homes.

The urban population in this nation of 12,500,000 is about 500,000--including the separate community of North Khartoum, and Omdurman--across the Blue Nile. Darker-skinned than their Arab brothers to the North in Egypt, the Sudanese also are less sophisticated but more polite, with the charm of rustics.

Joint Anglo-Egyptian stewardship of Sudan, dating from Lord Kitchener's overthrow of the Dervish regime in 1898, was dissolved in 1951 when the Egyptian Parliament abrogated its 1899 and 1936 treaties with Great Britain and amended the constitution to provide for a separate Sudanese constitution.

Sudan subsequently voted for complete independence from Egypt, effective Jan. 1, 1956. Following the first general election in March, 1958, in which pro-Western elements were victorious, Khartoum characteristically barely stirred when the army seized power in November of the same year without bloodshed.

Gen. Ibrahim Abboud proclaimed himself president and moved into the palace where the Dervishes had cut down British Gen. C. G. (Chl-

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

EDITORIAL

A Regrettable Oversight

THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY of the birth of Negro scientist and humanitarian, George Washington Carver, was observed throughout the country last week. We are sorry to admit that the occasion passed virtually unnoticed in this community. It is particularly unfortunate that the leadership of the local NAACP failed to organize a fitting memorial to this great American so that all of Clark County again could be reminded of his many contributions to a better life for all our citizens.

In striking contrast, Los Angeles staged a Caryer Memorial Program that attracted a host of public officials and civic leaders. What's more, the Rev. C. Townsend Tucker, founder of the 25-year-old American Anti-Prejudice Society, saw to it that the Los Angeles City Council passed a resolution commemorating the Carver centennial.

Highlighting the Memorial Program at the recently opened all-Negro Bank of Finance was a summary of the life of Dr. Carver by brokerage executive Robert L. Thornton, a eulogy by writer Jennie Dix and musical interpretations by noted pianist Andre Lewis.

Earl E. Senior, Thornton and the Rev. Tucker organized the observance, assisted by co-chairman and hostess queen Mrs. Elsie Freeman, Donald H. Hutt, Mrs. Sarah Davis, Ken Hall, Sharilyn Moore, Lola Applewhite Huntsman, Josephine Sherman and Sandra DeBlanc.

As far as Las Vegas is concerned, all we can do at this late date is apologize to Dr. Carver for a regrettable oversight.

Best of Luck to Farmer

WE ARE HOPEFUL that James Farmer, currently engaged in a "fact-finding tour" of Africa, will be able to repair some of the damage inflicted upon the United States by Malcolm X during the latter's own expedition to the Dark Continent last year.

It will be recalled that Malcolm X, who founded his own Black Nationalist movement after breaking with the Black Muslims, recently took "credit" for laying the groundwork for the communist-backed attacks on this country in the United Nations following the joint Belgian-American rescue operation in the Congo.

There are those who believe that if Malcolm X actually accomplished what he claims, his actions bordered on treason. The very least that could be said about his self-admitted activities at the Cairo summit meeting and his later conversations with Red-oriented African politicians is that they were a disservice to the United States and the American civil rights movement. Anyone who sets out to discredit and weaken

(nese) Gordon after massacring his occupation forces in 1885, ending the first phase of Anglo-Egyptian rule.

With aid from Britain, the United States and Russia, the military sought to carry out reforms and build up the nation's economy. But its harsh dealings with the Negroes of the South eventually turned even the predominantly Arab North against its police-state methods.

HOPING TO RELIEVE some of the pressures of resentment building up in the country, Abboud decided to permit free discussion of the "southern problem", but the debates became so violently anti-government that the military junta tried to clamp the lid back on. It was too late.

A student debating session ended with tear gas, bullets and death. Rioting spread. Unable to restore order and retain control, the military junta resigned to make way for an all-civilian government that included four communists or sympathizers. The new government released political prisoners, ended censorship and began restoring civil liberties in preparation for elections. Khartoum returned to its usual slow pace of life and all seemed normal.

But less than two weeks after the new government took over, demonstrations broke out

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the present administration in Washington--as Malcolm X did with malice and aforethought--necessarily allies himself with the white supremacists of the South who are dedicated to the same program. It is significant that the commies and our home-bred neo-Nazis see eye-to-eye with the Ku Kluxers and the Birchers in this respect.

These facts obviously have not escaped the attention and concern of responsible Negro leaders in the American civil rights movement, including James Farmer. As national director of the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), Mr. Farmer can do much to counteract the misguided operations of Malcolm X. And when we say "misguided" we are giving Malc all the best of it.

BEFORE LEAVING FOR AFRICA, Mr. Farmer made it clear that he was embarking on his mission neither as "an anti-American or as an apologist.

"It would be foolish to try to hide the fact that we have problems here (in America)," Mr. Farmer said. "The Africans know it, but in some cases their picture is not entirely accurate. . . . What they may not know is that a large number of Americans, white and black, are trying to solve these problems."

Mr. Farmer's itinerary includes visits to pro-communist, pro-western and "neutralist" countries, among them Kenya, Tanzania, Rhodesia, Nigeria, Ghana, Zambia, Uganda and the Congo. He expects to talk to the heads of state in these nations as well as Negro labor leaders--and even Congolese rebels.

His tour, he explained, has four major purposes: to seek a close liaison between the civil rights movement in this country and the new African nations; to attempt to interpret to Africans what is happening here; to try to interpret to Americans what is happening in Africa, and to seek to have "some impact" on United States foreign policy in Africa.

Mr. Farmer said he would point out to Africans the gains that have been achieved in civil rights here, citing the passage of the Federal Civil Rights Act, "the massive desegregation of public places in the South" and the "War on Poverty." He said he would emphasize that many white Americans have joined in the civil rights movement.

THE CORE CHIEF PLANS to offer new nations the services of trained Negro American specialists in a type of Peace Corps operation, but he stressed that such services would be provided by request only. He also suggested that more American Negroes could be used effectively in diplomatic posts in African countries. We agree.

Describing himself as a "free agent" in representing American Negro leadership during his tour, Mr. Farmer said he holds credentials from the American Negro Leadership Conference on Africa (established more than a year ago by the NAACP), the Urban League, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and the National Council of Negro Women in addition to CORE.

We feel certain that James Farmer will present a much more accurate picture of conditions in America to the people of Africa than did Malcolm X. We also are sure that James Farmer will speak as an American patriot rather than as a traitor to an American government that is striving mightily to erase racial injustice in this country. May God be with him.

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