



AFRICA in Today's World

By DR. CHARLES I. WEST

(Despite a surface show of prosperity, the Republic of South Africa apparently is feeling the pinch of restricted foreign trade resulting from wide disapproval of its strict "apartheid" or "separation of the races" policy and hopes to bolster its economy by widening cracks in a boycott now being imposed by Black Africa. Some of the problems confronting the white supremacy government in such an undertaking are discussed in the following recent dispatch from Capetown by New York Herald Tribune special correspondent John Jordi.)

New patterns forming in the current confusion of Africa have tempted Prime Minister Hendrik Verwoerd into the belief that his country's almost total continental isolation can be ended.

South African diplomacy accordingly is being geared to undertake probing operations aimed at setting up some contact and form of co-existence with Black Africa.

In speeches in the last year or two, Dr. Verwoerd has pursued the theme that white South Africa must be patient with the "juvenile" attitudes of new African states, because the time would come when some of them would be only too anxious to seek that friendship and aid which they had from the South before independence.

This attitude avoids facing the reality that South Africa's apartheid, the public prejudice that sustains the Verwoerd government, will continue to work against any intended improvement with the new African nations.

Therefore, it might be no more than a demonstration of the bland optimism that is characteristic of Dr. Verwoerd, but the official assessment is that the time is now at hand to open a "dialogue" with some states and through them to re-establish links with the rest of the continent.

The obvious candidates for initial cautious probing are Zambia (formerly Northern Rhodesia) and Malawi (formerly Nyasaland).

Before Zambia became independent and he became President, Dr. Kenneth Kaunda upset fellow nationalist leaders by urging a "new approach" toward South Africa. He argued that a "change of heart" in South Africa might be effected more easily by securing new links than by severing old ones: by establishing diplomatic relations with South Africa rather than by boycotting its trade and encouraging subversion within its boundaries.

This was heresy by the standards of the Organization of African Unity and, as a loyal member, Dr. Kaunda has since gone through some of the motions of giving South Africa the hot and cold treatment. But he is reluctant to go the whole hog.

NO INVITATION

He did not, of course, invite a South African representative to his celebrations. But he showed himself contemptuous of the predictable extremist argument that, because of his extensive financial interests in South Africa, Charles W. Engelhard, international executive, was not a worthy United States representative at those festivities.

Instead, it seems he gave Mr. Engelhard reason to tell a Johannesburg audience of U. S. business men soon afterwards that Dr. Kaunda was "prepared to make a real effort to develop trade with South Africa."

Since then the Zambian leader has followed a carefully plotted middle course on the trade question. He has made an appropriate gesture by giving the full 12 months' notice required for the scrapping of the tariff agreement between the two countries.

But he has resisted, so far, all OAU and other pressures to join in the boycott of South African goods.

This is not primarily because no one could be very impressed by a boycott incapable of preventing an 11 per cent (about \$18 million) increase in the value of South African exports to the rest of Africa during last year. (Indeed, only yesterday, the OAU's economic commission in Calro complained that some African countries had stepped up trade with South Africa, urged all to observe the boycott.)

More likely reasons are that South African goods are
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VOICE READERS COMPRISE a \$30,000,000 MARKET

EDITORIAL

State Housing Law Needed NOW!

(From the RENO GAZETTE)

Two Shameful Incidents

THE STATEMENT from Police Chief Briscoe that demonstrations of a racial nature will not be tolerated is received with approval by Reno residents who were shocked and disgusted with two incidents in the last few days.

These incidents involved Negro families moving, or considering moving into white neighborhoods in the city. In one case, a Negro man who had been looking at a house for sale was struck by a rock thrown by a white youth on a motorcycle. The other was a case of vandalism where someone threw rocks and coal through windows of a home recently purchased by a Negro couple.

Violence and wanton damage of property are injuries not just to individuals, but to the entire community. Reno has long regarded itself as a tolerant city, and the rare demonstrations against persons or groups that have occurred in the past have brought instant condemnation by Reno citizens.

These are times when racial tensions are high, but Reno has been comparatively free from the controversies that have been stirred up in other parts of the country. In the opinion of Chief Briscoe, the recent cases are isolated ones, but he is determined that they will not lead to further and more serious ones. In this determination he has the support of all thoughtful and fair-minded residents of Reno.

Two local breaches of the peace do not mean that a pattern of racial violence has been established here and that the civil rights of the Negroes or any other group is threatened. There is no need to appeal for federal interference in this purely local matter, as some ardent advocates of civil rights are suggesting. Reno and its authorities are capable of dealing with such matters properly and efficiently.

WE HOPE AND TRUST the Reno Gazette is right when it claims: "Two local breaches of the peace do not mean that a pattern of racial violence has been established here and that the civil rights of the Negroes or any other group is threatened. There is no need to appeal for federal interference in this purely local matter, as some ardent advocates of civil rights are suggesting. Reno and its authorities are capable of dealing with such matters properly and efficiently."

(See editorial from the Reno Gazette of last Friday, Feb. 12, reproduced intact on this page.)

We appreciate and applaud the general tone of the Gazette editorial, which reflects mature judgment and a fine sense of civic responsibility and leadership. We also can well understand the Gazette's concern about the possibility of outside intervention in police matters that can and should be handled at the local level under existing laws covering breaches of the peace.

"Federal interference" in such cases would be regrettable, providing, of course, that local authorities are, in fact, "capable of dealing with such matters properly and efficiently." If it ever becomes necessary for the federal government to become openly involved in the investigation of civil rights violations in Nevada, the tourism-based economies of both the Las Vegas and Reno areas could suffer serious harm.

OUR DELICATE POSITION as a legalized gambling oasis would be endangered by any wide-spread publicity suggesting that Nevada requires the same attention from federal authorities now being focused upon Mississippi and Alabama, for instance. And we most certainly could write off attempts to further bolster our economy by trying to entice new industries to this state.

All of which, it occurs to us, points up the compelling need for enactment of strong "fair housing" legislation in Nevada at the earliest opportunity. That would mean at the present session of the state legislature.

It is quite likely that incorporation of "fair housing" provisions in civil rights legislation now being considered by the Nevada legislature would eliminate, or at least forestall indefinitely, the necessity for "federal interference" in matters similar to the recent Reno incidents.

(It should be noted that even before the Reno Gazette editorial of Feb. 12 appeared in print, the Rev. Clyde Mathews Jr., chairman of the Nevada Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, had reported the Reno incidents to the Community Relations Service of the U.S. Department of Commerce for possible action under the federal Civil Rights Act of 1964.)

There is no mention of "housing", per se, in the lamentably weak state civil rights bill (AB-159) presented to the legislature two weeks ago, which was restricted to prohibition of discrimination in some areas of public accommodations and employment. But a new bill almost unanimously approved by state civil rights groups includes a strong "fair housing" section.

THIS SECTION makes it unlawful "For any person to aid, abet, incite, compel or coerce" anyone else in discriminatory housing practices, which are spelled out in detail. Proper utilization of this section, if and when such legislation is enacted, would seem sufficient to preclude the necessity for inviting federal scrutiny of incidents such as occurred in Reno last week. At the very least, the mere existence of such a law, coupled with local ordinances prohibiting acts of violence, would serve as a powerful deterrent to physical expressions of bigotry and ignorant prejudice.

All of this is apart from the moral aspects of the question, "Should all citizens of the United States be protected on the state and local level in their constitutional right to 'secure the blessings of liberty' for themselves and their posterity by being able to purchase and live in a home of their own choice without being subjected to discriminatory practices, acts of violence or other indignities?"

The predominantly white Clark County Ministerial Association, with prominent members of

the Protestant, Catholic and Latter Day Saints (Mormon) churches and Jewish leaders participating, met this moral issue head-on last Sunday by distributing Open Housing Covenants to their congregations. We are happy to report that the number of persons who signed the pledge to "welcome neighbors on a personal basis without regard to race, creed or country of origin" far exceeded the expectations of "fair-housing" proponents.

UNFORTUNATELY, moral considerations do not seem to bother some of those in high places with easy consciences, including certain Nevada legislators. This was evident when an "anti-fair-housing" resolution to amend the state constitution was introduced on the floor of the Assembly last week.

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