



## AFRICA in Today's World

By DR. CHARLES I. WEST

POLICE STATE METHODS are despicable wherever applied, be it the Republic of South Africa, Alabama--or Ghana. Tyranny is base and vile, whether it is imposed by white supremacists on Negroes or by blacks on their own kind.

If charges made in a letter delivered to British Prime Minister Harold Wilson the other day are true--or only half true--President Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana deserves the same scorn and censure accorded Prime Minister Hendrik Verwoerd of South Africa and Gov. George Wallace of Alabama by civilized peoples throughout the world.

Reported to have been smuggled from a Ghanaian prison, the letter received at 10 Downing St., London, purports to describe the pathetic plight of Ghanaians being held under Nkrumah's Preventive Detention Act. This instrument is patterned on the dastardly South African detention law that permitted the Verwoerd government to remove its political enemies--black and white--from circulation indefinitely without a charge of any kind being made against them.

World-wide condemnation and United Nations pressure initiated by communist-oriented black nations of Africa--including Ghana--finally forced South Africa to suspend its detention law in January of this year. But the socialist Ghanaian government apparently sees no incongruity in using a similar law to suppress its own political enemies. However, this attitude is not surprising in view of the fact that Nkrumah continues to accept hundreds of millions of dollars in "loans" from the United States while denouncing this country as "fascist imperialist" and permitting his controlled press to pursue a "hate America" campaign.

(As explained in this column last Dec. 3, the U.S. State Dept. justifies our continued aid to Ghana by claiming that Nkrumah's anti-American propaganda is merely designed to strengthen his position as a "big man" among former African colonies who like to see "imperialists" attacked, and that there is a good chance of wooing Ghana away from the communist camp.)

THE LETTER RECEIVED in London reportedly was written by a prominent Ghanaian now being detained in an Accra prison. It claims that although none of the 600 political suspects in the prison have been convicted of any crime, they are being treated "worse than hardened criminal convicts."

Political prisoners are being "recklessly exposed to danger and death" according to the letter, which goes on to say that suspects "are handcuffed" when transported in fast-moving vehicles and thus unable to protect themselves from injury and refers to "torture and ill-treatment . . . ordered against us at will."

The letter alleges that J. B. Danquah, an attorney who opposed Nkrumah in the 1960 presidential election as a candidate of the United Party, died in detention last month "as a result of the 'exercise' he endured for 13 months . . . in chains," as reported by certain warders.

"He was once seen by fellow detainees chained for merely standing up in his cell to stretch his limbs . . ." the letter continued. "He was an asthmatic, and had frequent attacks because he was kept in a cell quite unsuitable to his condition."

The letter said those being detained included Members of Parliament opposed to Nkrumah,

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# EDITORIAL

## Unbridled Bigotry Shocks Community

WE HAVE RECEIVED numerous expressions of shock and dismay during the past few days from citizens of this community regarding an alleged public display of colossal bigotry and slanderous vituperation last Sunday. We say "alleged" because we did not personally see and hear the episode in question.

However, as all accounts of the occurrence

### Moral Fallacy Exploded

COLORED PERSONS with deep religious convictions sometimes find themselves troubled by the old segregationist argument that in asking to be served at a restaurant which has built up a good business on a "white trade only" basis, they are jeopardizing the proprietor's livelihood. Trying to be fair-minded, these good folk are often bothered by the possibility that in seeking service in such establishments, even though well within their lawful rights, they may be committing an immoral act by working an injustice on a restaurant owner who is at the mercy of a bigoted clientele.

Nothing could be farther from the truth! These well-intentioned persons are only helping to perpetuate an immoral situation!

In support of this contention, Brother George Barton of St. James Catholic Church here, has produced an eloquent, 14-year-old rebuttal to the erroneous argument propounded by the segregationists. We are reprinting it here to set the record straight. It places the moral blame right where it belongs.

Back in 1951, the Rev. John P. Markoe, S.J., acting under the official sanction and approval of Bishop Francis J. Haas of Grand Rapids, Mich., and Provincial Daniel H. Conway, S.J., of Missouri, published a tract entitled "A Moral Appraisal of An Individual Act of Racial Discrimination." The preface to Father Markoe's scholarly treatise points out:

"Perhaps the greatest social problem confronting America today is the problem of making Democracy work at home. Until this problem is solved, America's bid for moral leadership throughout the world is tremendously handicapped, if not rendered hopeless.

"The most glaring breakdown in the working of Democracy at home is found in the unjust and uncharitable discrimination practices against the Negro American. Until this defect in the operation of our democratic machinery is remedied, it is idle to speak of selling Democracy abroad. We must first practice ourselves what we preach to others.

"MOTIVES ARE NECESSARY in any human endeavor. The most powerful of all motives, the one that should underlie all other motives, whether they be political, economic or otherwise, must be the moral motive. It is also the most necessary and important. Other motives, unless they rest on the solid foundation of morality, are reduced to mere opportunism and expediency.

"It is to supply the necessary moral motive for the solution of America's race problem that the following moral appraisal of an individual act of racial discrimination has been prepared. It deals with racial discrimination in a restaurant.

personal enemies of Nkrumah's party leaders, a number of Nkrumah supporters "used by government leaders for shady activities" and then imprisoned to prevent exposure, and police officers suspected of complicity in an attempt on Nkrumah's life last year.

Dr. K. A. Busia, exiled leader of the United Party living in London, said about 1,400 persons were rounded up and jailed in Ghana following the attempted assassination. Dr. Busia said copies of the smuggled letter are being sent to the governments of all British Commonwealth and African nations.

Ghana, a nation of about 5,000,000 persons and some 92,000 square miles, comprises the former West African colonies of the Gold Coast and Ashanti, the protectorate of the Northern Territories, and the United Nations trusteeship of British Togoland. It became a member of the British Commonwealth of Nations in 1957.

reported to us by actual witnesses were in complete accord, we are forced to accept the reports as true.

We would be the last to deny anyone the right to express his personal opinions on any subject under the sun. But when a sizeable segment of the colored citizens of this community is outraged by a preposterously unfair and intemperate attack on a proven friend of the Negro--especially when the attack could be mistakenly construed as representing the sentiment of responsible members of the colored community--we find it necessary to use this medium to disavow and totally reject the views expressed in the attack.

It is for this reason that we offer apologies to the community as a whole and particularly to the one man in the Nevada Legislature who labored longest and hardest to produce an adequate state civil rights law--the Hon. Mel Close Jr.

It is to be noted that what is proved to be immoral, and sinful because it is immoral, is the act of racial discrimination. This act is immoral wherever practiced. The place is merely incidental. Hence the case before us applies with equal force to racial discrimination practiced in a church, hotel, school, employment policy, etc. The moral principles used in solving the particular case presented are universal in their application. Hence, like a spotlight, they may be used to illuminate the immorality in other types and cases of discrimination."

Father Markoe then proceeds to describe the hypothetical case of John White, a Caucasian, and Jim Black, a Negro. Although hypothetical, it was unhappily typical in many parts of this country not too many years ago. In fact, as noted in the first paragraph of this dissertation, similar cases still exist--even in Nevada. Read on, and you will soon understand what we mean.

In Father Markoe's hypothetical case, John White operates a public restaurant to support his family. He recognizes that all human beings are essentially equal. (In his private life and dealings, he probably is completely unprejudiced.) But one day he refuses service to Jim Black on the grounds that to serve a Negro would harm his business, which has always catered to "white trade only." Father Markoe then poses the question: Is John White's act of discrimination moral or immoral?

IN SEEKING A LOGICAL and canonical solution to this problem, Father Markoe first establishes that an act is immoral if one or more of its constituent elements are immoral. Specifically: 1) the End of Agent, or Purpose; 2) the End of Object, or Means, and 3) the Circumstances. He then offers the following diagnosis of the White-Black case to support his conclusion that elements 2 and 3 are immoral; hence, John White's act is immoral on two counts, or doubly immoral. To wit:

First, the End of Agent may be construed as good, therefore morally correct, because White's purpose and intent is to support his family.

Second, the End of Object is immoral because: a) White is striking a blow on the wedge (See EDITORIAL, page 11)

## LAS VEGAS Voice

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