



AFRICA in Today's World

By DR. CHARLES I. WEST

SUBSTANTIAL EXPANSION of its facilities and financial role in Africa is being pursued at a "satisfactory pace" according to the Chase Manhattan Bank of New York City.

It was previously announced that subject to the approval of regulatory authorities in this country and abroad, Chase Manhattan planned to acquire an "important shareholding" in an overseas banking combine being set up through a merger of the Standard Bank Ltd. of London and the Bank of West Africa Ltd. Chase Manhattan's participation in the new corporation is being arranged by its foreign affiliate in England.

The new corporation also will have as major stockholders three major London clearing banks -- the National Provincial Bank Ltd. the Westminster Bank Ltd. and the Midland Bank Ltd.

George Champion, chairman of the board of Chase Manhattan, and David Rockefeller, president, said in a recent joint statement that their bank's new foreign investment "will be moderate and will be carried out with full recognition of the guidelines being established by the United States Government in connection with President Johnson's program to improve the balance-of-payments situation.

"CHASE MANHATTAN'S association with this banking corporation will provide us with enlarged facilities for aiding the United States' drive for increased exports and helping American companies that are assisting importantly in Africa's development," the statement said.

"Along with the rest of the international banking community, we regard the Standard Bank and the Bank of West Africa as two of the leading banking institutions in Africa."

Chase Manhattan has been a factor in the international banking field since 1880, when it opened an office in London. The bank now has 142 direct and affiliated units in 28 foreign countries, in addition to 130 offices in the New York metropolitan area.

The Standard Bank was organized in 1862. It has had business contacts in Africa for more than a century.

Chase Manhattan's interest in the African market coincides with that of several other American banks that have been buying minority equity positions in banks in Africa.

THE BANKERS TRUST COMPANY purchased a 20 per cent interest in a Nigerian Merchant Bank in 1963. The Morgan Guaranty Trust Company has acquired an interest in the Banque du Congo, largest bank in the Republic of Congo. The First National City Bank recently announced that it was planning to take a 40 per cent interest in a new bank that would own the 34 offices, mostly in Africa, now operated by the Banque de l'Afrique Occidental of France.

In connection with the Standard Bank and Bank of West Africa merger, Lloyds Bank said it would dispose of its holdings in the Bank of West Africa to avoid a conflict of interest. Lloyds has another bank operating in Africa.

All of these moves by important American and British banking interests indicate that the free world does not intend to permit international communism to dominate orderly development of the African economy. It is a hopeful sign, to say the least.

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

EDITORIAL

Selma Marcher Refutes Boycott Foes

OUR POSITION in regard to boycotts initiated by responsible civil rights leaders seeking economic and social justice for Negroes everywhere should be well known to constant readers of this page. The VOICE approves and defends such boycotts.

Our position in regard to the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King's prime leadership in the civil rights movement also should be well-known by now. The VOICE approves and applauds Dr. King's policy of non-violence, the methods he has used to implement that policy, and firmly believes that these methods are producing desirable results.

Opposition to the economic boycott is largely based on a contention that it penalizes innocent people. In the case of the "Alabama boycott," it is even claimed that the very Negroes the boycott is designed to help will be among its chief victims. In a temporary sense, this may be true. But we prefer the long-range view of the Rev. Lewis P. Bohler Jr., rector of the Episcopal Church of the Advent in Los Angeles and a participant in the Selma-Montgomery march. This is what the Rev. Bohler recently had to say on this subject:

"WHILE THE FUNCTION of a boycott is to bring pressures on individuals, organizations and areas where grievances are met with insensitivity, boycotts, of necessity, must affect everyone. And rightfully so, since we're all involved, one way or another, whether we like it or not.

"Furthermore, in two trips to Selma, Ala., I failed to see any economic help being accorded the poor people of that besieged city by those who now express concern for their economic plight. Even though an economic boycott may inflict more severe hardships on the already stricken Negroes, the plight of the majority can hardly become any more acute. And if more suffering will hasten what is inevitable--total

freedom--there is not the slightest doubt these people are prepared to endure it.

"Anyone who has attended a Jewish Seder fully understands the nature and results of a boycott. The children of Israel were never freed until the Egyptians were hit by the great plagues where it hurt most--at the very top of the power structure. Alabama will never change until the power structure tells Alabama to change. And by power structure, I mean the press, local white clergy and those who control Alabama industries."

SPEAKING ABOUT Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., the Rev. Bohler suggests that "someday young students of history will acknowledge that this man was, perhaps, more singularly responsible for the complete freedom and vindication of the American way of life than any other individual, past or present. I shudder to think of what the movement may have developed into without his leadership."

The VOICE agrees with the Rev. Bohler in all particulars.

Now that we have reiterated our position, we feel it necessary to present the other side of the coin, so to speak. We do so in the firm belief that our readers are entitled to know how a large segment of the country views the present state of the civil rights movement.

In selecting a spokesman for the "other side," we decided it would be misleading to offer the views of a confirmed bigot. Instead, we are presenting the observations of James Kilpatrick, a widely-read commentator who has expressed sympathy with the legitimate aspirations of the colored people. You won't like some of the things he has to say any more than we did. But we still think his comments, as they appeared in the editorial pages of the Los Angeles Times and other mass-circulation dailies last week, deserve close study and sober reflection. They appear below:

Sanity May Be Returning

BY JAMES KILPATRICK

Granted that it seems unlikely, a pleasant possibility is beginning to peek above the embattled ground of civil rights. It is the possibility that some small measure of sanity may return.

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, in his bid for a boycott of Alabama, is getting some egg on his face. Recent events in Selma and Montgomery are coming into better perspective. The administration's voting rights bill no longer is rocketing through Congress like a Dixie Cannonball. Maybe the country is in for another long, hot summer, but a feeling grows that it's time for a cooling off.

Plainly, Dr. King over-leaped himself in the boycott call. Such normally friendly cartoonists as Mauldin in Chicago and Haynie in Louisville picked up their pens and jabbed him in the ribs. The New York Herald Tribune, than which there is no whicher, frowned editorially on the scheme. The White House proved frigidly non-committal. Whitney Young of the Urban League fired a warning shot over the doctor's

parade in Birmingham, the city's leading Negro businessman, A. G. Gaston, bluntly refused to go along.

Indeed, there is some evidence that the boycott demand will backfire altogether. At Montgomery, the Governor's office is kneedeep in sympathetic letters from citizens, many of them expressing liberal views, who want to know what they can buy from Alabama by way of expressing their resentment.

In the midst of the Selma demonstrations, through an unhappy piece of timing, Hammermill Paper Co. joined Gov. Wallace in announcing a major new mill in Alabama. The decision to build this mill had been based entirely on economic considerations; the company's reputation in both race relations and labor relations is excellent. Nevertheless, a howl went up to boycott Hammermill, and for a few weeks the company was badly worried that it might lose some large college accounts. Except for a few bedraggled pickets at some of its other operations, Hammermill's troubles appear to have subsided, and orders are rolling in from new customers

who object to boycott tactics.

Other signs appear. One of Dr. King's top aides is the Rev. James Bevel. Mr. Bevel is proving a top embarrassment. In recent weeks this voluble fellow has (1) seriously proposed the impeachment of Governor Wallace, (2) announced that Alabama's Negroes are rightfully entitled to 34% of the seats in the State legislature, and (3) promised a rally at Northwestern that "we're coming up this way to create confusion and disturb the peace."

"We're going to close Chicago down," Mr. Bevel declared. It is not reported that Chicago was impressed.

A country that spent much of last year pondering the meanings of "extremism" is losing what sympathy it may have had for extremism on the part of the civil rights demonstrators. The Attorney General of the United States, no less, has endorsed a policy of ejecting sit-downers bodily when they prevent a public servant from doing his work.

And the more the country gazes upon pictures of these unwashed and frowny drifters, the more the country remarks that they're not heroic, many

of them, they're dirty. Eye-witness accounts are beginning to accumulate from sincere and respectable persons who were shocked by some of the goings-on among the Alabama marchers; and these accounts, once publicized, will add to the national bellyfull.

Meanwhile, the sponsors of the voting rights bill have discovered that the original bill of March 18 was not the masterpiece they thought it was. That bill has been junked, and an entirely different bill is going before the Senate. This version is in some ways better, and in one or two ways worse, but no one any longer talks of ramming it down the Senate's throat by Saturday night.

None of this adds up to any real reversal of the civil rights tide. That tide still flows in, as indeed it should flow in. God knows the Negroes are entitled to the same civil rights that others have enjoyed. The changing mood does suggest that some levees are being erected against such brute weapons as boycott and reckless breath of the peace.

Our republic prides itself as a land of ordered liberty. For a long time, now, liberty has been getting all the play. Before long, it may be order's turn.

