



AFRICA in Today's World

(This is the second and concluding part of an examination of the present precarious condition of the Organization of African Unity compiled from various reports received from abroad, including recent observations by Los Angeles Times correspondent Dan Shannon writing from Addis Ababa, capital of Ethiopia and temporary headquarters of the OAU.)

BREAKING DOWN TRADE BARRIERS is admittedly hard work outside Africa, as the six nations of the European Common Market are currently discovering, but even the grand shows of African unity which began with pomp and ceremony at Addis Ababa two years ago are running into trouble these days. At least half the 18 French-speaking states and Nigeria, most powerful of the English-speaking members, have threatened to absent themselves from next month's summit meeting called by Ghana's Kwame Nkrumah at Accra.

The objectors are understandably reluctant to be guests of a man who is giving shelter and active aid to political opponents from their own countries who are plotting subversive attacks against their homelands.

With the careful optimism of a civil servant, Ato Kifle Wodajo of Ethiopia, first assistant secretary-general of the OAU, points out:

"Ghana has promised that the refugees would not threaten visiting chiefs of state and has offered to permit an advance check of security arrangements."

LIKE THE INEFFECTUAL Economic and Social Commission, the six other permanent commissions of the OAU are still in the talking stage, with enormous fields to talk about. These are the commissions on education and culture; health, sanitation and nutrition; defense; science, technology and research; transport and communications; and jurists.

The OAU's big accomplishments thus far have been the quieting of disputes. The most serious of these was a 1963 border clash between Morocco and Algeria which threatened to develop into a real war. Emperor Haile Selassie personally took charge of peace negotiations which stopped the fighting, and the OAU had similar success in a conflict between Ethiopia and Somalia.

The OAU charter provides for the eventual organization of a permanent Commission of Mediation to which disputes would be submitted automatically.

Much publicized but less successful is the OAU's African Liberation Committee, a nine-nation group set up at the founding session to combat remaining colonial regimes and white rule in the Republic of South Africa. Headquarters of the committee is at Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, where a guerilla tactics school is operated to train men to fight in the neighboring Portuguese colony of Mozambique.

ONLY FIVE AFRICAN STATES have contributed to the war chest despite unanimous pledges, and the underground battle against the Portuguese in Mozambique is foundering, while the rebellion in Portugal's big west coast colony of Angola is all but dead.

Kifle was reticent about this phase of the OAU's activities, but he indicated that the split in the Angola rebel leadership has been recognized by dividing the meager available funds between Holden Roberto in Leopoldville and a rival faction headquartered in the Brazzaville Congo.

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EDITORIAL

'Equal Justice' Must Include the Negroes

BY ROY WILKINS

Two young Negro men in Americus, Ga., are about to become the latest exhibits in a certain kind of Southern justice and the latest racial elements in crime statistics.

According to first reports a shot was fired from a car in which two men were riding and a young white man was fatally wounded. The city was tense from civil rights demonstrations. Clusters of white hecklers made passing Negroes the targets of jeers and abuse.

In a matter of hours the two men were arrested and the first conflict appeared in stories of what happened. One of the white hecklers is quoted as saying "we weren't doing nothing" when the shooting occurred. However, Police Chief Ross M. Chambliss is reported as declaring that when the shooting started a group of white bystanders was throwing rocks at the car driven by one of the accused Negroes. Chief Chambliss is then directly quoted as saying, "Suddenly two shots rang out from the car and as the car sped off a bystander fired several times."

Negroes' Universal Belief

Thus the stage is set for a Georgia version of the guilty-not-guilty drama that accounts for much of the subterranean anger and the recurring outbursts of bitterness on the part of Negro citizens. They are convinced, by an almost unbroken series of events, that in a contest with a white man in a Southern court in a capital case they cannot win.

No matter where an inquiry is made in the South, the Negro natives can cite cases upon cases from their areas to back up their complaint. They will tell about a white man who drove home from a gasoline filling station, got his pistol, drove back to the station and shot and killed a Negro attendant because the attendant put in more than \$2 worth of gas! The killer was acquitted at a "trial."

They will tell about a young, respected white lawyer of a most respectable family, married and a father, who raped a 16-year-old Negro baby-sitter for his children as he was taking her home one night. He went free on probation.

Previous Cases Remembered

Of course they and every other Negro in the nation will recall the assassination of Medgar Evers in Mississippi in 1963 and the two hung juries that have resulted in the accused man's complete freedom while awaiting an unlikely third trial.

Then, there are the sheriff and his deputy in Neshoba County, Miss., accused but as yet untried in the murder of three civil rights workers in Philadelphia, Mississippi, in June, 1964. The two men and the accused man in the Evers sniping were reported as attending a recent Klan rally.

In far-off Sudan last month, James Meredith, the first Negro graduate of the University of Mississippi (courtesy of U.S. marshals and troops) made a bitter speech against his country's racial practices.

One Truth Stands Clear

The timing, setting and wisdom of the speech may be questioned, but it contained at least one undeniable, if unpalatable, truth: Negroes in the South are convicted and executed for crimes against whites, but never in Southern history has a white man been convicted and executed for a crime against Negroes.

As the nation watches the Americus drama unfold, it might ponder what effect such a system of justice has upon racially-labeled crime statistics, a fresh batch of which has just been released by the FBI.

America properly expects the Negro to respect law and to eschew crime. By the same token it must make the law color-blind, else the system becomes, in the minds of the minority, merely another instrument for persecuting both the skins and the aspirations of black people.

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from the CAPITOL

By GOV. GRANT SAWYER



NEVADA WAS ONE of only four states to show a decrease in its crime rate during 1964 according to the Federal Bureau of Investigation in its annual report, "Crime in the United States." However, the controversial statistical formula used by the FBI credits Nevada with the highest crime rate in the nation--2,790 acts of lawlessness for every 100,000 residents in 1964. This represents a seven percent reduction from 1963, when the crime rate was 2,990 per 100,000.

Nevada showed a drop in all but one major crime category last year. Decreases were reported in murder, forcible rape, robbery, burglary, larceny and auto theft. But there was a substantial increase in cases of aggravated assault.

Colorado, Montana and Vermont also reported a drop in crime, but most states showed dramatic increases. Nationally, the crime rate was up 13 percent.

Nevada's law enforcement officers, district attorneys and courts deserve commendation for their efforts to reduce the statewide crime rate. Together, they have worked tirelessly to insure the safety and protection of law-abiding citizens and their property.

Although the FBI figures reflect progress in the fight against crime in Nevada (while stamping us as the nation's "most lawless" state), they are greatly misleading. They are based on incorrect population estimates and fail to take into account the millions of tourists who visited our state last year. The result is a distorted picture of crime in Nevada.

IN ASSIGNING NEVADA the nation's highest crime rate in 1964, the FBI based its study on a statewide population estimate of only 408,000. This was an error of 20 percent, because our "resident" population was at least 480,000, an estimate supported by the U. S. Department of Commerce.

Even more damaging was the failure of the FBI to consider the influence of transient traffic as a factor in Nevada's crime rate. In 1964, for example, we hosted more than 18 million visitors. Not one of these was included in the FBI's population figure of 408,000, yet every transient convicted of a felony--even if he had been in the state only a short time--was charged to our crime rate.

Last year a total of 225 inmates were admitted to the Nevada State Prison. Of these, 116 (or more than half) had resided in Nevada less than six months. Many were transients who were in our state only a matter of hours before committing a crime. These statistics prove conclusively that a crime-rate formula which does not take note of heavy tourist traffic within a particular state can produce a wholly inaccurate picture.

Earlier this year, I wrote to J. Edgar Hoover, director of the FBI, to suggest that the annual crime study should utilize correct population figures and should recognize the tourism factor.

In reply, Mr. Hoover said he could only rely on the Bureau of the Census for population estimates, but agreed that tourism, while difficult to gauge, could be a significant factor in determining crime rates. He said this would be noted in future crime reports.

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