



## AFRICA in Today's World

A DRIVE TO AID VICTIMS of South African racism is being pushed by A. Phillip Randolph, veteran labor leader and "father" of the celebrated 1963 March on Washington. As co-chairman of the American Committee on Africa, Randolph has been writing letters to members of civil rights organizations and other friends of freedom, calling for contributions to a legal defense fund for persons being persecuted "under the maze of apartheid laws" set up by the government of Prime Minister Hendrik Verwoerd.

Money also is needed for the destitute families of those jailed or executed, according to the long-time head of the Pullman car porters. He said donations will be channeled to South Africa through the Africa Defense and Aid Fund, 211 E. 43rd St., New York City.

"We can win the struggle for justice and equality here at home and still lose the world to racism," Randolph writes. "We permit our government and our business interests to bolster a government which systematically persecutes its own citizens--whether they be African, Indian or European--for working for justice and equality."

(It was noted in this column last week that the United States may be hardening its attitude toward South Africa in the area of trade relations.)

RECALLING THAT THE GOVERNMENTS of India, Pakistan, Sweden and the Netherlands have already given or pledged money to the legal defense of persecuted South Africans under a United Nations resolution, Randolph wants American citizens to demand that the United States--which voted for the UN resolution--make a substantial gift to the fund.

"But South Africans fighting racism need immediate help," Randolph insists. "We cannot wait for our government to act; we must ourselves give substantial aid to our co-workers in South Africa NOW."

A South African refugee, Khotso Lekhela, recently pointed to the continued "detention" of Mangaliso Sobukwe, president of the Africanist Congress of South Africa, by Verwoerd's white-supremacy government as a particularly flagrant "abuse of justice and morality."

Sobukwe has been in jail since the March 21, 1960, massacre of 186 Africans in Sharpeville by government police. The Congress had organized the peaceful demonstrations which the Afrikaaner authorities turned into bloody butchery.

AS LEADER OF THE CONGRESS, Sobukwe surrendered himself to the police following the massacre but refused to make a plea in court and was sentenced to three years in jail for incitement. In April, 1963, less than a month before Sobukwe was scheduled to be released from custody, the minister of justice received new powers from the South African parliament which enabled him to "detain" Sobukwe on Robbin Island, the South African Alcatraz for political prisoners and hardened criminals.

Lekhela revealed in New York that the minister of justice has announced that he will "detain" Sobukwe on Robbin Island indefinitely, without formal charge or court trial. The minister bluntly rejected requests by two white members of parliament to bring the Congress leader to the mainland so he could be visited by his family.

Lekhela was one of Sobukwe's followers who fled South Africa after the Sharpeville massacre.

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

# EDITORIAL

## Logic Supports Sawyer on Parole Law

**WE'RE CONVINCED!**

When Gov. Sawyer first proposed his new parole bill and outlined its provisions, we were among those who were troubled by what appeared to be a move toward undue leniency for the inmates of the Nevada State Prison convicted of major crimes.

With most of the state's law authorities condemning the measure, together with a majority of the newspapers, we felt ourselves to be on safe ground in opposing passage of the act. But something told us to "wait and see" before expressing our opposition in print. So we refrained from making any comment on the subject, both before and since the law was enacted, and now we're glad.

We're glad because events during the past several months have convinced us that Gov. Sawyer and his expert advisors were right all

along when they insisted the law tightened, rather than loosened, parole rules. The recent rash of escapes from the 'big house' opened our eyes.

The way we figure, if this so-called "early parole law" gave all the best of it to the convicts, why should they risk serving extra time and having all, or most, of their few privileges rescinded, by attempting to escape?

The fact that some 22 of them made good their escapes--for short or even lengthy periods of freedom--has nothing to do with the merits of the parole law. The fact remains that they thought so little of their chances for early release under the new law that they were willing to risk longer and more stringent confinement in order to ATTEMPT escape.

That's how it looks to us. If our logic is faulty, we'd like some of the governor's more scholarly (?) critics to show us where we err.

## Prejudice Not Confined To America or Whites

BY ROY WILKINS

It seems that some of the Vietnamese officials (along with some of the Vietnamese who are not officials) have a strong prejudice against American Negroes because of their color.

James Reston, the New York Times staffer now in Vietnam, tells of a Negro major, in command of a unit which included Southern white soldiers, having no trouble with the Dixie lads. His trouble, it appears, was with Vietnamese officials who made it so uncomfortable for him that he asked for a transfer.

It makes a good talking point for American Negroes and for some of their more energetic friends to pretend that the white-black prejudice in the United States is unique. There is prejudice here, in Detroit and in Dothan. It is wicked and senseless. It has infuriated and deprived the Negro; it has hurt white people in ways of which they are not aware.

### Other Countries Un-Bound

Racial prejudice is more reprehensible in America because this country proclaimed equality in its founding doctrine. A lot of other countries never pretended to have a national policy for equality. Their citizens may exercise their prejudices without violating any Declaration of Independence or Constitution containing a Bill of Rights.

So the Vietnamese, a people with colored skins, react to American Negroes with as much venom as do some

## Houston Addresses Council at Doolittle

WORK EXPERIENCE and training programs available to local citizens will be explained by Eva Houston, project supervisor for the State Welfare Dept. under Title V of the federal Economic Opportunity Act, at tonight's (Oct. 14) meeting of the Clark County Citizens Council at Doolittle Center, scheduled for 7:30 p.m.

Guest speaker at the recent semi-monthly meeting of the council was Diane Mason of the Volunteers in Service to America who outlined the objectives and activities of VISTA. She was introduced by Mrs. Gloria Rome. Other speakers were James Anderson, executive secretary of the State Equal Rights Commission, and the Rev. Leo A. Johnson, who informed the council on the progress of several community projects now being undertaken.

Reports were heard from the traffic and health committees, composed of Clarence Ray, Woodrow Wilson, Lorenzo Calhoun, Ike Rome and N. M. Scott. It was recommended that the intersection of Washington Ave. and 'D' St. be made a four-way stop in order to protect school children and that the county health department investigate alleged unsanitary conditions at a Westside restaurant-bar.

American white people. These are the people, we are told by peace-loving, internationally-minded American Negro haranguers, that American Negroes should embrace as brothers-in-the-skin.

Well, our skin brothers in Vietnam apparently want none of us. Similar stories have come from other Asian countries. Some have come--in whispers--from some African countries!

### View Negroes' Standing

Some of the Africans are said to feel that the American Negro is a second-class citizen in his own land and thus has not enough standing to warrant treatment as an equal. The fact that some of these Africans are below our Negroes in education and worldly possessions counts with them not at all.

The Africans, they will tell you, hold the precious gifts of freedom and dignity, and beside these a Cadillac or a ranch house in a ghetto is as nothing.

The prejudiced Vietnamese and the uncomprehending Africans may have done the American Negro here a favor by making plain that the discrimination battle has to be won at home before it can be won abroad. It is more important to change Shreveport than to win over Saigon. Those who would have the American Negro, needing and near naked on so many fronts, stretch his meager resources to tackle some task in far-off Vietnam are giving the U.S. civil rights struggle no help.

### Can't Afford the Fighters

We were told sometime back by the devotees of a higher philosophy that the Negro's struggle here is inseparable from the struggle in Vietnam. And so it seems to be. The Freedom Fighters need to send a task force to Southeast Asia to win its people over to our side. We can ill afford the force because we still have a non-repentant St. Augustine and a savagely bitter Watts district in Los Angeles.

But we cannot afford not to send it. Suppose the Vietnamese turn out to be the Asian wing of the John Birch Society? They could believe that the 1954 school desegregation decision was a grave error and that Chief Justice Earl Warren really should be impeached. As for the Negro major, whatever made President Truman abolish racial segregation in the army?

It is easy to imagine their wailing: "What's the world coming to? The next thing you know a white man--oops, a Vietnamese--won't have a place to lay his head!"

## LAS VEGAS Voice

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