MISS BLACK AMERICA TO GO OVER THE RAINBOW

Four beauty queens will land somewhere over the rainbow this summer and it sure won't be in Kansas. Miss Black America 1978, Lydia Jackson of Willingboro, will head for the Caribbean sometime this month with three state winners for the second tour of the 1979 Miss Black America USO Show.

The Miss Black America USO Show is one of the most popular USO shows sent overseas to isolated military bases. This year's 75-minute musical extravaganza is one of the best ever. It has been dubbed, 'The Foxiest, Funkiest Show Around.'

The four foxy friends get the audience into the mood and on their feet as they join in singing to tunes from the Broadway smash hit, "The Wiz", and dancing to the disco beat. In between Motown hits and disco tunes, Miss Black Oklahoma--Debra Greer will be scarecrow, Miss Black Louisana--Judianna Furlough becomes tin man, Miss Black Michigan--Lazet Boatman will play the cowardly lion, and of course Lydia leads them all to the Land of Oz as Dorothy.

The show was a big hit on the first tour this winter to the Far East before daily standing-room-only crowds of U.S. military personnel. The girls bowed to standing ovations in Korea, Japan, Guam, the Philippines, and remote Diego Garcia. Their second time down the yellow brick road could send them to American bases in Puerto Rico, Cuba, the Bahamas and Bermuda on their one-month tour starting around June 26.

The musically-gifted contestants from the 1978 pageant all agree the USO performance tours are the high points in their lives so far. Lydia summed up their enthusiasm when she said, "The chance to entertain such an appreciative audience is like a dream come true." Repeat performances are rare occurrances for USO celebrity tours, so the beautiful quartet are thrilled and feel privileged that they were selected to tour military bases with their show once again

Each of the beauty queens attends college and adds her own special gift of talent and personality to the show. Lydia feels she is headed for Broadway and has won awards for her opera singing. Judianna wants to be a speech therapist, and her abilities range from flute playing to karate. The scarecrow, Debra, is an experienced gospel singer who was voted Miss Positivity at the pageant in August. Lazet sings and dances up a storm and says she hopes to be in tele-p vision some day.

The Miss Black America USO Show is just one of many USO shows which tour annually around the world. Besides the popular shows, the USO provides a wide variety of programs and services to the more than 2 million American servicemen and women and their 3 million dependents stationed at home and abroad.

Now in its 38th year, the USO is a non-profit civilian organization whose main goals are to boost the morale and offer a friendly hand to all Americans in uniform, through a network of over 100 centers. USO Shows, like the Miss Black America Show, are sponsored in part by the United Way and the Department of Defense.



NEWS PROGRESS What does the recently than domestic apparel, footcompleted Tokyo Round of wear 11.5 percent cheaper trade agreements have to do and home furnishings made with inflation? According to abroad 11.8 percent less

experts, free trade among expensive than those made nations is one of the few at home. ways left to reduce prices without risking loss of jobs. Trade agreements recently initialed in Geneva by 41

nations will reduce tariff jobs. barriers and therefore prices on nearly 90 percent of the manufactured goods entering this country.

Already, according to Dr. William Cline of the Brookings Institute, consumers save an average of ten cents on the dollar by buying imported products rather than comparable domestic goods. For instance, according to Dr. Cline, imported apparel is generally 8.7 percent lower in price duction rate.

At the same time the new trade treaty is lowering prices on consumer goods it will also help to create new

An increase in exportrelated employment should bring openings in entry level jobs, expanded training opportunities and more stable work situations

In short, free trade should contribute to the controlled expansion of the economy necessary for slowing down inflation and help substantially to maintain a desirable unemployment re-

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