

Semi-Monthly Summary...

HISTORY-MAKING BLACK HAPPENINGS:

(For your continuing calendar of major black events. Please cut out this column and keep it in your own notebook. Please mark the date of each entry.)

INTERNATIONAL...

Israel — Israeli authorities and sports enthusiasts here still report mixed feelings regarding the Israelis' recent decision to suspend sports relations with the South African Republic.

At stake had been the possible disqualification of Israel from taking part in the 1980 Olympics which are to be held in Moscow. The South African reaction expressed surprise at what it termed the discriminatory behavior of the Israelis. South Africa has not been recognized by the International Olympic Committee since 1970 because of its racial separation policies.

Mexico — Pope John Paul II's recent visit to the largely dark-skinned people of Mexico has been seen here as a boost to Third World dignity. The Mexican authorities for some time now have openly aligned themselves with other Third World nations.

The pope's visit, on the occasion of the meeting of the Latin American bishops, raised other issues of importance to Third World peoples. The pontiff urged the need for social justice to prevail in Latin America and throughout the world, noting that sustained inequities breed world tension and revolution.

At the same time, he warned his bishops and priests about direct involvements—in their official roles—in the political conflicts within their jurisdictions. The pope's position was that the church should teach the truths of justice unfailingly and encourage their people to

act for justice in accordance with divine law and the dictates of their conscience.

There was, thus, a fine line between the position drawn by the pope and conservatives on the right and liberals on the left. The pope admittedly sought to avoid a fracture within the church along political lines or along lines of traditional theology and the American black church-spawned "theology of liberation."

NATIONAL NEWS...

New York, N.Y. — Franklin A. Thomas, a veteran black activist and lawyer who had formerly served as a Deputy Police Commissioner of the City of New York, was named head of the five billion dollar Ford Foundation. Thomas, who until recently was director of the Bedford-Stuyvesant Restoration Corporation in Brooklyn, succeeds McGeorge Bundy in the leadership role of the prestigious and influential Ford Foundation. Attorney Thomas is 44 years old and will receive a salary of \$120,000 a year.

In making the announcement of the choice of Thomas after a year-long search, the Ford Foundation omitted any reference to Franklin Thomas' race. A number of newspapers immediately spoke editorially and otherwise as to the actual relevance of race. The New York Times noted, in an unusually pointed and positive way, that being black does mean bringing a fresh perspective into the affairs of the nation.

What the Times had to say may give cause for many blacks and others, so some editors noted, to reappraise and possibly to readjust their thinking in regard to race and its importance as a "background and perspectives bearer."

Mr. Thomas indicated that the Foundation would probably make no major shifts in emphasis, at least for the immediate future.

Washington, D.C. — Leading a chorus of dissenting voices concerning the Carter Administration's budget cutting, Vernon E. Jordan, Jr. president of the National Urban League called 1979 a "Year of Crisis."

Jordan was especially critical of budget cuts in ameliorative programs for the poor, the elderly and minorities. Jordan was joined in his protest by Senator Edward Kennedy of Massachusetts who may challenge President Carter in the primaries preceding the next national elections. He was also supported by women's rights groups and by Operation PUSH's national director, the Rev. Jesse Jackson.

Senator Kennedy termed many of the budget cuts "unwise, unnecessary and unfair." His ire was especially noticeable regarding cuts in the 1980 budget for the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration.

Atlanta, Georgia — Controversy continued to rage over the presentation to President Jimmy Carter of the Martin Luther King Jr. Peace Prize some weeks ago. Many residents of Georgia and followers of the late Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., including Julian Bond, have felt that Mr. Carter has turned his back upon the basic interests of black Americans.

(For an in-depth analysis of these and other issues on black and Third World life, please see "The MONITOR Microscope" in the monthly magazine supplement to this paper.)



BLACK EMPOWERMENT

By Dr. Nathaniel Wright, Jr.
Human Rights Activist

BLACK DISSENSION AT THE WHITE HOUSE

In his inflation-fighting campaign, President Carter has repeatedly struck the raw nerves of his black supporters particularly in the projected White House cutbacks on social programs for the black and other poor.

In a well publicized series of meetings with black leaders, Mr. Carter at first met with the almost uniform ire of his black leadership audience. Next Mr. Carter had a follow-up meeting with a select group of leaders in which he put forth the notion that his administration had, indeed, a warm heart and a social conscience. He stated that the social programs would not suffer since the government's savings from a crackdown on waste and inefficiency would be applied largely—presumably by some internal transfer—to needed social problems.

The leaders came away from this second meeting with a much more positive feeling. But this maneuver began to boomerang almost immediately when leaders not invited to this second round, along with other blacks, began to raise questions about just who was making decisions at the White House.

The President had never been really off the hook with his black constituents who take claim for putting him into office and who hold that Mr. Carter had never reciprocated in terms of fulfilling his obligation to meet the most urgent needs of the nation's black community.

A central part of Mr. Carter's response has been to appoint "more blacks" to highly visible positions in his administration. But it has turned out, and most clearly

so in the ongoing inflation war's budget-cutting process, that blacks in the Carter Administration are excluded completely from the White House "inner circle" of decision-makers. It is this latter fact that black leaders have now fastened upon in their ongoing assaults upon Mr. Carter's ostensible lack of sensitivity and reciprocity.

Specifically, it has been noted that no black persons at the White House are in the "inner circle" of advisors closest to the Oval Office. Mr. Louis Martin, the veteran black newsman at the White House, it was noted, has as his principal job and portfolio the responsibility for interpreting the lily-white "inner circle" decisions in the most favorable possible light.

Again, in the Office of Management and Budget, where the budget making and budget cutting takes place, blacks of influence are not to be found either.

To add to the picture, HUD Secretary Patricia Harris has had an almost continuous battle with the White House and the Office of Management and Budget over arbitrary cuts in her department without even consultation with her. In a revealing and cavalier fashion, the White House's lily-white "inner circle" of advisors began to make noises to the effect that it was Mrs. Harris' job to support whatever positions the "inner circle" of (white) advisors made and not to express any views contrary to those which they espouse.

The picture which has surfaced in all of this recent confrontation is that of a highly benevolent or patron-

izing white President who wants to do "more" for blacks... just so long as "more" does not include sharing with them the reins of power.

It is now the facing of the issue of power that increasing numbers of blacks feel is the major new approach required on the part of black Americans.

This endeavor has two parts. One is toward an assault on the unspoken policy which has effectively excluded blacks from all but highly sophisticated window dressing positions. Policy is made at the Oval Office. It should have been evident long ago that the President's Chief Domestic Advisor ought to have been a black person and that his councils of "inner circle" administrators and policy statement preparers should have some considerable number of black voices on them. Short of this, blacks remain effectively powerless in the Carter White House; and Mr. Carter's administration may be characterized continually as being no more than paternalistic at the very best.

Again, Mr. Carter needs to get the message, so it has been strongly felt, that "more blacks" is not "enough blacks." To have sufficient numbers of blacks means to bring black numbers—at all levels of government and in every branch—up to a level proportionate to blacks within the population. If that should be the goal of blacks and of the White House, then Mr. Carter's latching onto simply "more blacks" completely and disastrously misses that reasonable mark.

World Scene

WHY I ESCAPED FROM SOUTH AFRICA

(For Classroom and Group Discussion)

Donald Woods, editor of an anti-apartheid newspaper who escaped from South Africa a year ago, addressed the United Nations Security Council in January of 1978, concerning the situation in South Africa.

In this part, he discusses an additional reason for leaving South Africa.

Courtesy Unesco Features

Part III of Three Parts

Finally, members of my family began to be attacked by the security police. My five-year-old daughter received a parcel through the post which contained a small tee shirt with Steve Biko's face on it. The shirt had been sprayed with an acid substance by two members of the security police. Although an investigation established that these two men were Warrant Officers L. van Schalwyk and J. Marais, the regular police did nothing about it. I realized that such attacks would probably continue and intensify. This was yet another reason why we left.

Key Questions:

1. What are three main issues in this article?
2. What does this article suggest that you can do about our world situation today?
3. How many words did

you look up in the dictionary? (If we do not use a dictionary daily, and for every word whose FULL meanings we may not know, we cannot grow individually and assure the best use of our resources for group freedom and a better America.)

BLACK EVENTS QUIZ

(This quiz is designed to accompany History-Making Black Happenings. It can be used for classroom discussion or to help you focus your own thinking on current issues.)

- 1) Just how successful do you feel that the United

States, France and Great Britain can be with their "go it alone" policies of arbitration with South Africa outside of the structures of the United Nations?

2) In viewing the colonialist activities of the French in Africa over the past three decades—or even over the past several years—do you feel that France is making or will make a major withdrawal from African colonial or economic domination? Why, in either case?

3) Should black Americans seek official desegregation (a clearing of the opportunity state) or integration (an official mixing of blacks and whites)? How would these positions seem to apply to the North Carolina HEW case?

4) How do you feel about solidarity—or lack of it—in the nation's black communities? Is it present or not? Is it diminishing or growing? Is it necessary or not?

HOW TO USE YOUR ARMY BENEFITS AT HOME.

Just because you left the Army doesn't mean you have to leave all your Army benefits behind. Serve with us 16 hours a month plus two weeks active duty, and you can still enjoy low-cost government life insurance, PX privileges, not to mention a nice extra income and valuable retirement points that build on what you've already learned on active duty. For more details, call your local Army Reserve Recruiter.



MEET TODAY'S ARMY RESERVE.