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others have adopted changes that take market forces into greater account, and the resulting economic growth is encouraging.

Increased sensitivity to the issue of human rights and political freedoms has been demonstrated lately in Nigeria, the Sudan, Uganda, and Liberia, although there is certainly more room for improvement. Botswana is a country with a record of democracy and human rights that is unrivaled in Africa. Gambia and Senegal have vigorous parliamentary systems and Kenya is committed to democratic principles and economic reform.

Yet, continued progress in human rights and economic growth depends on continued Western involvement and assistance that help alleviate the causes of abuse. Western funds have been used to assist in law codification, to promote fair elections, to upgrade legal facilities, to educate people about civil and political rights. Economic aid has also been used to combat hunger and disease, and to help refugees.

But financial assistance must be offered in conjunction with diplomatic efforts to promote human rights. Unfortunately, the Reagan Administration has sharply curtailed or economic involvement in Africa and our ability to help African countries make the difficult economic and political transitions they are attempting. Congressional cuts in foreign aid and other factors will dramatically reduce our economic assistance for Africa to \$705 million this fiscal year. That is 35 percent less than in 1985 and 18 percent less than in 1986. As a senior State Department official recently observed, these cuts will seriously damage our interests in Africa and could lead to a reversal of recent African efforts to undertake the critical economic reforms that are so vital as underpinning to human rights reform.

For those of us concerned with democracy and the fundamental issues of human dignity, individual rights and civil liberties, this country's growing indifference to developments in Africa is a disturbing development. Freedom of the press, religious tolerance and free elections are not exclusively Western rights; they are vital human rights. But the

**Teen Pageant Seeks At-Large Contestants for 1987 Program**

The Black Teenage World Scholarship Program and Pageant has announced that it is looking for young men and young women 14 to 17 years of age as At-Large Contestants, for the 1987 Miss and Mr. Black Teenage World Pageant which is sponsored, nationally, by Dudley Products Company of Greensboro, N.C.

The pageant presents college scholarships to all participants and is listed by its producer, Ronald Charity, as, "the only pageant where everyone leaves a winner." Scholarships are presented by colleges and universities from across the country. All participants must have at least a "C" scholastic average.

1987 will mark the 14th anniversary of the program which is billed as "the most exciting teenage program in the world."

Each participant must compete in sportswear (no swimsuit), talent, creative expression, eveningwear and personal projection. Charity said, "this year we will present each participant a college scholarship as well as other prizes. Our theme, "...Proud, to be", will serve to highlight the talents and abilities of our young people. We are delighted to provide a vehicle of expression for the future leader of the world."

Persons interested in participating or in sponsoring someone should write, PUI, P.O. Box 1139, Danville, Virginia 24543.

impoverished nations of Africa will be unable to foster these rights without resources to meet the basic needs of existence. America cannot ignore Africa, and then point accusing fingers at human rights abuses or the rise of Marxist regimes. If our human rights policies are to have moral consistency, then we must be ready to aid the aspirations of Africans the way we helped those in Haiti, the Philippines and Latin America. And black leaders in America must help send this message with the same urgency and force as calls for punitive measures to press for the abolition of apartheid in South Africa.

**Norman Hill is President of the A. Philip Randolph Institute.**

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giving the special group.

It appears that Lieutenant Colonel Oliver North, a low man on the totem pole, is being made the John Dean (Watergate). White House Chief of Staff Donald Regan says he knew nothing of what was going on in the White House -- this in itself is evidence that he was not doing his duty, and there is evidence that the CIA was involved and CIA Director Bill Casey did not know what that agency was doing. Why doesn't the president get rid of them?

Senator Lugar, Chairman of the present Foreign Relations Committee (Republican of Indiana), said on the *Today* show that Mr. Reagan should get rid of Casey and Regan and call for a special prosecutor.

President Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole (Republican of Kansas) has asked the president to call for a special session of Congress and ask them to set up a special committee to investigate the matter, rather than have several Congressional Committees investigating the same situation.

The Congressional Black Caucus is calling for an expansive probe of the Contra affair. Caucus Chairman Mickey Leland (Democrat of Texas) and Mervyn Dymally (Democrat of California) issued a statement on behalf of the Caucus: "Three must immediately be established a Congressional Committee to probe the actions of the Reagan Administration in the National Security in dealing with Iran and possible connection of passing prohibited money to Nicaraguan Contras. CBC supports the call of House Judiciary Chairman in having a special prosecutor of independence to investigate the conduct of White House staff and representatives of foreign interest for violations of the spirit and letter of the law mandated by a check and balance system which is based on respect, and the branches must respect each others' distinct authority. Flagrant disrespect damages the U.S. Only by full disclosure and investigation of these accounts by neutral and independent bodies can these actions be corrected."

Representative John Conyers, Democrat of Michigan, said "What is at stake here is something far more important than the lack of wisdom in making policy. What is involved is the very

essence of our system and its integrity..."

Representative Bob Mrazek, Democrat of New York, stated "The revelation today that the United States has been selling weapons to one set of terrorists in order to finance another group of terrorists -- and used one of our closest allies to do the dirty work for us -- indicates that the foreign policy of this nation has spiraled out of control."

President Reagan has called on Attorney General Meese to apply to a three judge panel of the Federal District Court in the District of Columbia to appoint a special prosecutor. He would like to have special committee to investigate the matter. The president says that he had informed the White House people to cooperate fully with Congress. However, Lieutenant Colonel North invoked the Fifth Amendment around forty times Admiral Poindexter refused to answer the committee's questions. Is this what Mr. Reagan meant by cooperation?

On the *Today* show

recently, Senator Hollings said that the President, Schultz, Weinberger, Casey and Donald Regan knew about the transaction that was taking place.

If Secretary of Defense Weinberger did not know that arms were being sold to Iran, the amount of money that was received for the sale and that money was received funnelled to the Contras, he was not doing his job. If Secretary of State Schultz did not know what was going on in foreign policy by our National Security Council, is there any wonder that he was telling the foreign nations not to sell arms to terrorist countries, while we were doing the same thing) Then CIA Director Casey did not know that the CIA was involved in the arms transaction, and Donald Regan, Chief of Staff of the White House, did not know what White House staff members were doing, and of course the President, who is over all of these person, did not have any knowledge of any of this, then it is apparent that all of these individuals were not doing

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King, Jr. it must be done in interracial and multicultural kind of way because we are all apart of the same human family and Martin spoke to all humanity," said King.

In 1976 in Israel, 39 trees were planted in memory of King, one for each year of his life. Now the trees in the King memorial forest exceed 10,000. The Israeli government also instituted a mandatory social studies course on the life of King and the civil rights movement.

But King Holiday festivities throughout the United States have not been without complications. Gov. Evan Mecham (R-Ariz.) rescinded the state observance of King's birthday, but local cities officials said celebrations would continue.

their duty, and they should be handled as people who failed to perform the jobs for which they were elected and appointed to do.

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