

NATIONAL ALLIANCE AGAINST RACIST & POLITICAL REPRESSION

WHY SOMALIA? WHY NOW?

By James S. Tate Jr., MD

The recent news that the United States has in essence invaded the African nation of

Somalia brings to mind many questions. Primarily, the issue is, 'why invade Somalia now'? It must be remembered that the

United States was the nation that heavily armed Somalia, including the so-called Somalia warlords long before the overthrow of Said Barre. Indeed, the United States has a history all over Africa of arming and encouraging the most reactionary, the most brutal, and the most deadly criminals on the continent, case in point, Joseph

Sivembi. President Bush would have us believe that these soldiers are being sent there as angels of mercy, only being placed in the country to guard the shipment of food. This is clearly not true. The marines and the other troops are sent there for the same reason they are sent anywhere else, to kill people. Isn't it amazing that in

the last 50 years this country has waged wars on many nations, all of those nations in the Third World. At no point in the last 50 years has this nation ever attacked or fought a predominantly white, i.e., European nation. If indeed Mr. Bush is so interested in preventing the starvation of millions, the millions of dollars of taxpayers money that he is



JAMES S. TATE JR., MD

spending on this misadventure could have well been used to provide food, tools, and a means for people to begin to feed themselves. And, if we are concerned about starvation and oppression, a better chosen area of invasion would have been, the former Republic of Yugoslavia, where so-called "ethnic cleansing" is going on or even South Africa, where the South African government funds a criminal element called Inkatha, which makes war on the black population of South Africa on almost a daily basis with government approval and direction.

No, I am afraid that the claim on the part of George and his friends: that this is a humanitarian effort, rings somewhat untrue. The African-American community in the United States must not sit idly by and allow this charade to continue or to be
(See NAARPR, Page 16)

THE RAY WILLIS REPORT
BY RAY E. WILLIS

SOMALI RELIEF

Those news reports out of Somalia seem to get more sentimental the closer it gets to Christmas. So much so that Somalia now dominates news coverage world wide. It's hard to believe that only a month or two ago, no one seemed in the slightest to be interested in Somalia's starving millions.

As U.S. troops prepared to deploy in Somalia recently, news reports made it seem as though fierce bands of marauding armed gangs led by "warlords" would resist the peace-keeping force. But since the troops landed without incident, there have been only minor confrontations. Nothing like in Bosnia, where the body count from fierce civil war mounts daily.

Sadly, though, in Somalia a different, silent battle rages. It's a battle for survival—a battle to evade utter starvation. It is estimated that more than a quarter million Somalians will die by Christmas if help does not reach them.

Yet, the media persists in conjuring up negative images of what's unfolding in Somalia as compared to what's happening in Bosnia, despite the fact that both countries are engaged in civil war. Terms like "paramilitary" and "warring factions" are frequently used in reference to Bosnian fighters. Conversely, armed Somalis are frequently called "gangs", "strongmen" or "looters."

As I watch the extensive news coverage and see groups of Somalians cruising by in four-wheel drive vehicles armed with the latest automatic weapons, I can't help but question the source of the weapons and the vehicles. It occurs to me that without weapons and land cruisers, the opposing groups there would be much less of a threat than they are armed to the teeth. For the record, the Somalis got their weapons and vehicles directly or indirectly from us and the Soviets. In essence, we are responsible. So it's only fair that we should send troops to restore order and ensure that starving Somalis get the food shipments meant for them.

They say timing is everything. Consider it fortuitous that the Somalia relief effort coincides with Christmas season. It gives you a nice feeling in the pit of your stomach to know that in spite of racial problems abroad and especially at home, this country can still find the wherewithal to respond to a major need for humankind in such a magnanimous way. Peace on Earth. Goodwill Toward Men.

To know is to grow. Until next week.

NLV...THE WESTSIDE STORY TOO STRONG

By R.K. Brown

Often, when we reflect upon the negative situations which occur in our city, we forget the great amount of progress blacks have made in this valley. Just a couple of decades ago black stars as large as Sammy Davis, couldn't live in the hotels they were performing for and headlining.

Minority workers were shown the back doors of strip and downtown businesses, then herded back to the fledgling Westside after hours. In the matter of a generation, we have catapulted to a place of national recognition. The Westside boasts a thriving black community, displaying business expertise which is second to none.

Today the black business and professional representation includes prominent doctors, lawyers, retailers, and bankers. The central business district of West Las Vegas includes such necessary services as the Barber's Assn. and the centers of Cosmetology. Chez's cafe, Frank Hawkins place, and the Heritage lounge, have provided an exciting alternative to the formality and stuffiness of other social clubs.

In this valley we have developed a wonderful array of minor-

ity professional associations and services. Whether it is the Black Women's Alliance, Help of Southern Nevada, Youth's project, or Funk A Fide Productions, we are a legitimate force, which is continually getting stronger.

This Las Vegas generation has produced an unprecedented level of public appointments and minority community representation. Eric Jordan was promoted to Nevada's regional manager, Yvonne Gates was selected to participate in an international political study, and Morse Arberry was selected to chair the

assembly Ways and Means Committee. We established a first in black representation in the city council. And our numbers increased across the public spectrum, from commissioners, to managers, to administrators, to representatives; we have made great strides.

In the area of gaining a political and social voice, our influence has been the most dramatic! Just a couple of years ago we couldn't have imagined gaining a settlement from Metro. The organization of such com-
(See Westside Story, Page 16)

TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

THE WINAN FAMILY

WORLD TOUR

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1992

7:00 pm

at The Aladdin Theatre for the Performing Arts
Tickets are available at the Aladdin Theatre Box Office and all Ticketmaster locations.

Presented by
PING CORP
and
RAINBOW PRODUCTIONS

ALADDIN
THE NEW
HOTEL & CASINO

TICKETMASTER
SMITH'S / MAY COMPANY / TOWER RECORDS
702/474-4000
CALL-FOR-TIX

Coming Soon!

Hairs To You
"A Cut Above The Rest"

Steve E. Orange
Barber Stylist/Owner
646-6600

1100 N. Martin Luther King Blvd.
Las Vegas, Nevada

ANNOUNCING

FREE LECTURE

The I.D.M.R., a non-profit research organization, presents uncommon facts, with PROOF concerning your Creator and the purpose for this creation.

You Vitally Need To Know

a public lecture will be held on Saturday, December 19th from 11:30 am to 2:00 pm and Sunday, December 20th from 10:30 am to 2:00 pm at the Showboat Hotel/Casino, 2800 Fremont

Topic: "If there is one faith (Ephesians 4:5) Why are there so many deonomiations of Christianity?"

COME AND LEARN — IT WILL BE INTERESTING