

# Genocide, cocaine and politics

By Dr. Conrad W. Worrill

The recent series in the San Jose Mercury News about the CIA's involvement in cocaine distribution to Los Angeles gangs, reinforced and documented what many people in the African community in America have been saying for a long time: That the U.S. government is somehow involved in the drug traffic in America's black communities.

The series reveals the horrifying fact that, "This drug network opened the first pipeline between Columbia's cocaine cartels and the black neighborhoods of Los Angeles, a city now known as the crack capital of the world."

And that, "The cocaine that flooded in helped spark a crack explosion in urban America ... and provided the cash and connections needed for L.A.'s gangs to buy automatic

weapons."

The proliferation of the distribution and sale of crack cocaine by Africans in American street organizations, throughout America, has reached epidemic proportions, causing serious harm to the African community in America.

This harm can only be described as acts of genocide by the U.S. Government through its Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).

When I speak of genocide, I am referring to the Genocide Convention adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on Dec. 9, 1948. According to the Convention, genocide is defined "as any killings on the basis of race."

The book *We Charge Genocide*, edited by William L. Patterson that documents the historic Convention petition should once again be read by all



African people truly concerned about our liberation.

In 1951, a delegation led by Paul Robeson presented this historic petition to the United Nations. The petition "was submitted to that body in Paris, France at the Palais Chaillott where the Fifth Session of the General Assembly had gathered," according to the book and copies were presented "to the office of the Secretary General of the UN in New York."

It is clear from the government's response that it has no serious intentions of investigating the connection between cocaine, the CIA, and urban street organizations even though they have wreaked havoc on the African community in America.

And even if an investigation is launched, it will probably not conclude that the racist practices of the CIA, in the African

community, are related to any government interest in genocide.

In response to the Congressional Black Caucus and Rep. Maxine Waters' Sept. 13 letter calling for an investigation into the matter, for example, "CIA Director John Deutch, [said] he has found no evidence of such wrongdoing." However he has ordered an internal investigation.

On this note, Attorney General Janet Reno wrote Rep.

Waters that a Justice Department inquiry had found "no evidence to support the allegations."

It is also clear that President Clinton who is "riding high: on his presidential campaign re-election bid, is not going to say a thing about this issue. He is definitely taking the black vote for granted and most black elected officials are solidly behind him. Few, if any African-American elected officials have

demand that Clinton speak out on this issue..

Again, it must be made clear that this action on the part of the CIA is outright genocide.

According to the Genocide Convention "any intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, racial, ethnic or religious group is genocide." It also states "causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group is genocide as well as killing members of the group."

We should be reminded of what the late great Dr. Bobby E. Wright wrote in his article in 1978 on *Mentacide: The Ultimate Threat To The Black Race*. He said, "The deliberate and systematic destruction of a person's or group's mind may give a clue to why the black race, after developing such an advanced civilization, has for the last 400 years been assisting in its own destruction and the nearly total subjugation of Africa by foreign invaders."

We must realize that we are at war against the forces of oppression and white supremacy. We must fight back and stop the genocidal practices of the U.S. Government against us.

I agree with the Final Call's Sept. 24 editorial that explained, "No self-respecting people could, should or would allow the murderers of their children to go free. Only a cowardly people would refuse to demand justice, reparations and the truth in the face of deadly betrayal. Black America must show self-respect and courage by demanding justice, reparations and the truth."

## Black children hit hardest by homelessness in New York

New York City's poor black children were hardest hit in eight straight years of increase in child homelessness, according to recently released report.

One in six black children lived in city shelters last year and African-American children were also 33 times more likely than their white peers to be homeless, the study said. Nearly one in 10 of the city's poor children under five lived in shelters at some point in 1995, it stated.

Children's Defense Fund New York director Donna Lawrence said the five-year federal time limit on welfare recipients will leave 260,000 children statewide without basic income support and 135,000 new children will be thrown into poverty.

Lawrence welcomed news from researchers at the University of Pennsylvania about the apparent decline in the number of homeless New Yorkers over-all, but said the change was the result of fewer childless adults living in the city's shelters.

The report, prepared by researchers Dennis P. Culhane and Stephen Metraux, also found that homelessness among children is on the rise in other cities. Philadelphia, for example, has experienced a more than 50 percent increase in families with children living in homeless shelters since 1992.

Children's Defense Fund (CDF) President and Black Community Crusade For Children (BCCC) Working Committee member Marian Wright Edelman said, "It is unconscionable that tens of thousands of children across America have no place to call home. We know the toll homelessness takes on children's schooling, health, mental well-being, and family stability. Every state must act urgently to reverse growing child homelessness and to ensure that new welfare rules protect rather than force more vulnerable children into the streets."

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