

## INTERNATIONAL

## Jamaicans rail against Garvey tribute

**Howard Campbell**  
Special to Sentinel-Voice  
KINGSTON (IPS) — Marcus Garvey once likened a people without knowledge of their history to a tree without roots, and some say the Pan Africanist's famous statement also sums up his relationship with the land of his birth.

Token commemorations throughout Jamaica marked Garvey's Aug. 12 birth, with the Rastafarian community's observance of his 112th birthday being the most devoted.

"The Visit," a play that pays homage to Garvey's teachings, played in his birthplace in the rural parish of St. Ann as well as in Kingston, but there was no mass tribute to the Pan African movement's most acclaimed son, who died in London in 1940.

Much has been made about the lack of regard for Garvey's work in Jamaica. Recently, one newspaper columnist stated that it was a conspiracy by the country's middle-class to keep

Garvey's work out of the schools.

Because Garvey is usually associated with the Harlem Renaissance in New York during the 1920s, several people including scholars have mistakenly listed him as an American.

In fact, many Jamaicans while aware that Garvey was born here, are ignorant of his contributions even though he is the country's first national hero.

On the other hand, the names of Alexander Bustamante, a former Prime Minister, and Norman Manley, the country's first Premier, are embedded in Jamaican culture as the pillars on which modern Jamaica was built.

While he agrees that it is essential that Garvey's teachings be incorporated into Jamaica's educational curriculum, Professor Rupert Lewis, a political science lecturer at the University of the West Indies, does not believe a sinister cabal is responsible for the lack of material on Garvey in

schools.

"There's a lot of opposition from people who feel he doesn't deserve prominence because they think it is going to be a Rasta thing and stir up racial antagonism," said Lewis, author of the book "Marcus Garvey: Anti-Colonial Champion."

"Despite the widespread criticism, Phyllis Reynolds of the Ministry of Education believes students get more than their share of Garvey. I don't know of a subject on Garvey but he has always been taught in the schools," Reynolds said. "He gets equal treatment just like the other heroes."

According to Reynolds, students are first introduced to Garvey at the primary level (ages 6-12), then, at the secondary level (ages 12-18), there is an entire textbook chapter devoted to his work.

"At that (secondary) level, it intensifies because students are beginning to appreciate his work as a labor leader and nation builder," Reynolds said.

But Lewis notes that Garvey's philosophy is available through modern media like the Internet.

He said it is not likely teenagers will bypass more enjoyable pursuits to explore matters dealing with racial pride.

Throughout the 1970s when Black consciousness swept the country, it was the Rastafarian musicians like Burning Spear and Bob Marley, who kept the teachings of Garvey alive in Jamaica.

As the militancy of the 1970s simmered in the 1980s, the championing of Garvey became less fierce, despite the efforts of people like Lewis.

The current mood typifies the indifferent relationship Marcus Garvey had with his countrymen.

Born to a stonemason father and homemaker mother in 1887, Garvey moved to Kingston in the early 1900s, where he became involved in the labor movement and became a  
(See Garvey, Page 13)

## WORLD BRIEFS

## TWO DOZEN IN GHANA INFECTED WITH AIDS EACH DAY

ACCRA (IPS) — Each day, 25 Ghanaians are infected with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, according to Ghanaian vice-president, John Atta Mills. Mills said AIDS cases in Ghana have risen to 440,000 since the first case was diagnosed in 1986. Of the total, 29,550 have already died. Ghanaian health officials have warned that if nothing is done to reduce the spread of the disease, AIDS will become a major public health nightmare by the year 2001, with AIDS patients occupying most hospital beds in Ghana. The peak ages for AIDS in Ghana, like elsewhere in West Africa, are 25 to 34 years for females and 30 to 39 years for males. The proportion of infected females in the 15 to 24 group is higher than for males in the same group, according to figures provided by the Ghanaian Ministry of Health.

## MALIAN GOVERNMENT GIVES INTO WORKERS' DEMANDS

BAMAKO (IPS) — The government of Mali has finally given in to the demands of the workers to increase their salary by seven percent after a protracted negotiation. The National Workers Union of Mali, the country's main labor organization, went on strike July 20-21 to demand better salaries and working conditions. In the end, the two sides agreed to a seven-percent rise in salaries beginning Oct. 1. "This new system where contract provisions take effect immediately is very reassuring", says a member of the labor group. The entire salary scale for public sector workers will also be revised and go into effect on Jan. 1, 2000. The revision will be hammered out by a committee of economists, government and union representatives who are expected to be named shortly by Ousmane Oumarou Sidibe, the Minister of Civil Service and Employment. The accord will also address price controls on staples, whose costs have risen on an average of up to 10 percent per year, and reduction in the kilowatt/hour price of electricity sold to Malian workers.

## Eritrea: Rejecting peace tantamount to war

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — Ethiopia's rejection of the terms for implementing a peace deal to end a 16-month conflict with Eritrea is "tantamount to a declaration of war," the Eritrean government said Monday.

The statement followed Ethiopia's announcement that it was not satisfied with the terms recently drafted by the Organization of African Unity for implementing a peace deal both sides had already accepted.

The Ethiopian government said in a statement on Saturday that the proposed outline for the plan's implementation contradicted the original agreement regarding Eritrea's withdrawal from areas its forces have occupied since the war started on May 6, 1998.

"Ethiopia's statement is tantamount to a declaration of war," the Eritrean Foreign Ministry statement said.

Eritrea on Monday urged international mediators to "impose punitive measures" against Ethiopia, and to demand that it accept the OAU package.

The OAU package is composed of three parts: the original 11-point proposal brokered in October, an additional seven points of clarification and a recently drafted outline for implementation.

Eritrea said that Ethiopia's position "does not constitute a rejection of the technical arrangements alone, but of the entire OAU package," the ministry statement said.

"Eritrea will have no choice but to resort to legitimate acts of self defense," the statement warned.

The two Horn of Africa nations are fighting a war over contested areas of their 620-mile border.

The OAU agreement calls for a cease-fire,

the withdrawal of both countries from areas captured during the war, and for international observers to step in while a new border is delineated.

Ethiopia said that it was committed to achieving peace, but wanted better assurances that its territories would be fully returned.

Separately, religious leaders from Ethiopia and Eritrea met secretly in Norway this weekend to discuss possible war resolutions.

The Muslim and Christian leaders are the only parties that had been in direct contact during the 16-month conflict, said Norwegian Church Aid, the humanitarian group that organized the talks in Hamar, 75 miles north of Oslo.

"The parties have reached an agreement on important points for the further steps," a statement from the aid group said.

It was not immediately clear if the religious leaders' had the explicit or implied support of their countries' governments.

## South Africa tornado damage estimated at \$25 million

CAPE TOWN, South Africa (AP) — A tornado that ripped into a Cape Town neighborhood last weekend caused more than \$25 million in property damage, the Cape Town city council said Friday. The storm killed five people and injured 177 when it hit near dawn Sunday, leaving some 5,000 people homeless. In addition to wrecking hundreds of homes, the tornado damaged four schools, two of them severely, destroyed one church and damaged another.

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