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AFRICAN AGENDA

A Voice Of Afro-American Opinion

Vol. 4 No. 1

December-January, 1975

Double Issue, 40 cents

Highlights Of 1974—Direction For 1975 1974 At A Glance

JANUARY 1974

January 3

- The United Nations Emergency Force in the Middle East reported a tense situation in the Egyptian-Israeli sector. The Israeli troops barred passage to a column with food and other non-military goods to the town of Suez and to the Egyptian Third Army area on the eastern bank of the Canal.

January 4-5

- Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Dayan paid an official visit to the U.S. for talks with Secretary of State Kissinger, and the Sec. of Defense. The talks dealt with their joint approach to the disengagement of troops in the Middle East and, contrastingly, the further deliveries of U.S. military arms, aircraft and over \$300 million worth of military aid to Israel.

January 10

- A statement on Cuban-American relations was publicized by the Foreign Ministry in Havana re-emphasizing the Cuban Government's position; namely, that before Cuba will consider any exchange of views on the matter, the U.S. economic blockade must be ended. Further, the United States must express readiness to abstain from any interference in the sovereign affairs of Latin American countries.

January 15

- The working bodies of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe resumed sessions in Geneva. The main aim of the conference is to establish a stable system of inter-European relations based on the principles of peaceful co-existence.
- Millions of people paid tribute to the work of the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on the occasion of his 45th birthday. He was assassinated in the heat of the civil rights movement in Memphis, Tennessee in 1968.

January 18

- An agreement on troop disengagement was signed by representatives of the Egyptian and Israeli governments at the 101st kilometer of the Cairo-Suez road.

January 26

- 10,000 African textile workers went on strike in Durban, South Africa. The strikers demanded pay increases and called for international sanctions against South Africa. Police quickly used strong actions to break up the strike to prevent it from spreading. In South Africa, the African workers are denied the right to bargain collectively and to strike.

FEBRUARY 1974

February 12

- A bomb planted in a parcel killed Boy Mvemve, Deputy Chief Representative of the African National Congress of South Africa in Lusaka, Zambia. Barely two weeks earlier, Abraham Tiro, Leader of the South African Student Organization was brutally assassinated also by a bomb planted in a parcel. These maneuvers by the South African racist regime were condemned internationally and increased the vigilance of the South African freedom fighters.

February 19

- The United Nations Commissioner for Namibia, Sean MacBride, issued a statement condemning the South African government for disregarding written promises given to the UN Secretary General Waldheim that they would not interfere with political activities of the people of Namibia. MacBride said, "Not only is the intention of the South Africans to prevent the people of Namibia from expressing their desire for complete independence, but they are, as all oppressive colonial dictatorships,

seeking to sow terror among the people they misrule." South Africa is attempting to crush SWAPO, the liberation organization in Namibia.

MARCH 1974

March 8

- International Women's Day was celebrated by progressive peoples around the world.

march 17-19

- The 2nd National Black Political Convention was held in Little Rock, Arkansas under the theme of "Unity Without Conformity". About 1500 delegates attended. Due to a number of political factors, the meeting was characterized by controversy and the convention fell short of its goal.

March 18

- The Vienna conference of the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries closed. The communique said that the oil embargo on deliveries to the United States were lifted, but that the situation would be re-examined in June.
- Rep. Charles Diggs, Chairman of the House African Sub-Committee made public a Black lobby effort in Washington, D.C. to repeal the Byrd Amendment that permits U.S. importation of chrome from white-ruled Rhodesia (Zimbabwe). United States trade with Rhodesia defies a United Nations boycott.

March 21-24

- The International Commission of Inquiry into the Crimes of the military junta in Chile held its first session in Helsinki. The hearings dealt with (1) the conspiracy of the junta against the people and the legitimate government of Allende, (2) foreign interference in Chilean affairs, (3) violations of fundamental human rights and the treatment of political prisoners and refugees.

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1974 At A Glance

March 24-27

—The 11th session of the Council of the Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organization opened in Baghdad. The agenda included questions relating to Afro-Asian peoples' solidarity and national liberation struggles and the establishment of a collective security system in Asia.

APRIL 1974

April 8

—Hank Aaron, the famous Black baseball player, made history when his 715th home run surpassed the legendary Babe Ruth record. While Aaron's victory was celebrated by millions who were following that major league contest, some racists who did not want him to break the record sulked.

April 9

—The sixth special United Nations General Assembly session on raw materials and development opened. The important international issues of world resources and economic development were discussed. This special session was convened on the initiative of many Third World countries that want imperialist domination of their natural resources to be stopped.

It was emphasized by Algeria's head of state Houari Boumedienne that the inequality in the West's economic relations with the Third World was due to the dictate of multinational corporations, vestiges of colonialism and veiled discrimination in commodity exchanges. The policies of the multinational corporations are chiefly to blame for the continued economic backwardness of the newly independent states, for the poverty and hunger still suffered by the millions in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

April 25

—Progressive forces around the world hailed the democratic revolution in Portugal that overthrew the fascist Caetano dictatorship, which had oppressed and tortured the Portuguese for fifty years and persisted, with the aid of the imperialist powers, to wage a colonialist war against Guinea-Bissau, Angola and Mozambique. Precisely because of the strength of the African liberation forces, Portugal had already been defeated in Guinea-Bissau and was losing ground in the other two colonies.

MAY 1974

May 5

—The third annual African Liberation Day observances were held in many cities across the country. Close to 5,000 people participated in the activities organized in Washington, D.C.

May 15

—General Antonio de Spínola was proclaimed President of the Provisional Government of Portugal. On his inauguration, he said he intended to resign the presidency and return to the army after elections that were to take place in 1975. However, months later, he was forced to resign.

May 24

—Duke Ellington, the world-renowned jazz artist, died at the age of 75 of lung cancer.

—The United Mine Workers of American District 20 members organized a massive campaign with the International Longshoreman's Association to refuse to unload South African coal in Alabama which was being imported by the Southern Company.



May 28

—The list of the new Israeli government was announced in Tel Aviv. The "pillars" of the old cabinet — Golda Meir, Moshe Dayan, Abba Eban and Pinhas Sapir — were dropped. The new government is headed by Yitzhak Rabin, the former Minister of Labor.

JUNE 1974

June 10

—President Nixon toured the Middle East—Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Jordan and Israel.

June 12-16

—The 11th summit Assembly of the Organization of African Unity met in Mogadishu, Somali Democratic Republic. Stressed were the strengthening and expanding of inter-African cooperation and the strengthening of the unity of the African countries and promoting closer solidarity and cooperation with the socialist countries. A special relief fund was set up for the Africa drought victims.

June 19-27

—The Sixth Pan-African Congress was held in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania. The 500 delegates discussed going beyond nationalism to the fight against colonialism, racism, Zionism, neo-colonialism and imperialism. The Congress, over the objections of certain members of the U.S. delegation, reached the conclusion that today's realities are that a class struggle exists between the forces of socialism and capitalism, and that all progressive

forces have a duty to fight against the imperialist policies of the capitalist countries. This especially includes peoples of African descent who live in the capitalist countries.

June 27

—President Nixon and Secretary of State Kissinger were in Moscow, USSR for Soviet-American talks related to strategic arms reduction and other international developments.

June 30

—Mrs. Alberta King, mother of the famed Black civil rights leader Martin L. King, Jr., was senselessly assassinated during a church service in Atlanta, Ga. by "beserk" Marcus Chenault of Dayton, Ohio. Many suspected that this brutal act was a calculated conspiracy. Mrs. King's loss was mourned by millions of Americans and people around the world.

—A panel of 26 nutrition experts reported to the Senate Select Committee on Human Needs that the high cost of food is hitting the poor so hard that one-third of the dog food sold in inner city slums is being eaten by human beings.

JULY 1974

July 4

—10,000 Americans from across the country marched against racism and repression in Raleigh, North Carolina. The march was organized by the National Alliance Against Racism and Political Repression. Angela Davis and Rev. Ralph Abernathy were among the speakers who pointed out the need for unity among Americans of all colors in the fight against the increasing level of racist and political repression. They protested the infamous construction of the Federal Center for Correctional Research in Butner, N.C. which will be used to experiment on prisoners in "behavior modification" techniques.

July 10

—The first memorial statue to a Black American erected in a public park in the nation's capitol was unveiled by the National Council of Negro Women. The memorial statue was of Mary McLeod Bethune, the late Black educator and humanitarian.

July 27-30

—The All-Africa Women's Conference (the 4th Congress) was held in Dakar, Senegal. The question of women's participation in the economic, social and cultural development of African countries and in national liberation movements was discussed. The name of the Conference was changed to the All-African Women's Organization.

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AUGUST 1974

August 9

—President Richard M. Nixon resigned in the midst of important Watergate revelations and the increasing impeachment drive in Congress. According to public polls, the popularity and confidence in Nixon and in the Congress had dipped to an all-time low.

Gerald Ford became the first President of the United States to hold the office without having been elected. He became the 38th President. Only 8 months earlier, Ford had been appointed Vice-President by Nixon to succeed Spiro Agnew in the wake of the Watergate scandal.

August 12

—The Security Council unanimously recommended that the United Nations General Assembly admit the Republic of Guinea-Bissau to the UN.

August 19-30

—The World Population Conference was held in Bucharest, Bulgaria.

August 26

—Representatives of the Portuguese Provisional Government and the PAIGC signed a joint declaration in Algiers on ending the war in Guinea-Bissau and on the principles governing their future relations. The declaration stipulates that Portugal will withdraw all its armed forces from Guinea-Bissau's territory before October 31, 1974.

SEPTEMBER 1974

September 7

—Representatives of the Portuguese Provisional Government and the Mozambique Liberation Front (FRELIMO) signed an agreement which will put an end to Portugal's 400-year rule in Mozambique. The agreement states that on June 25, 1975 Mozambique will be officially proclaimed an independent country. A provisional government made up of FRELIMO and Portuguese representatives would rule in the interim.

September 8

—President Ford granted Richard Nixon "full, free, and absolute pardon for all offenses against the United States which he, Richard Nixon, has committed or may have committed" during his presidency. This maneuver prevented the possibility of indicting Nixon for criminal charges connected with the Watergate offenses.

—U.S. newspapers revealed that the Central Intelligence Agency Director Wm. Colby admitted during closed hearings in April 1973, before a House of Representatives sub-committee, that the U.S. government had allo-

ed the CIA to conduct subversive operations against the legitimate Chilean government of Salvador Allende in 1970-73.

September 12

—The Ethiopian Armed Forces Coordinating Committee deposed Emperor Haile Selassie I from power. Power was transferred to the Committee and the provisional military government.

September 16

—The frame-up charges against the American Indian Movement leaders Russell Means and Dennis Banks totally collapsed and a district court in St. Paul, Minnesota dismissed all charges. However, over 100 other Indians remain indicted on trumped-up charges in Sioux Falls, South Dakota for participating in the protest activities at Wounded Knee.

September 25-29

—The 1974 PUSH Expo was held in Chicago, Illinois with the theme "Save the Worker". The African American Solidarity Committee sponsored a Booth in Solidarity with South African Workers and the African National Congress of South Africa. The Committee was successful in getting close to 10,000 signatures for the petition to expel the racist minority South African regime from the United Nations.

September 28

—The Portuguese people and the Armed Forces Movement frustrated an abortive plot to overthrow the Provisional Government of Portugal and to transfer full power to General Spínola. Spínola was forced to resign the provisional presidency, because he cooperated with those who attempted to impede the process of democratization and decolonization.

OCTOBER 1974

October 27

—Over 20,000 people from across the country demonstrated their support for the independence of Puerto Rico at Madison Square Garden in New York City at the national rally called the Puerto Rican Solidarity Day Committee.

October 29

—The 7th Arab Summit Conference ended in Rabat. The conference reaffirmed the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and the status of the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Arab population in Palestine.

October 30

—In a desperate and unprecedented move, the UN Security Council delegates from the United States, Britain and France banded together to veto a resolution to expel the racist South African government from the United Nations. The resolution, which had

the overwhelming support of the Third World countries and the socialist states, would have passed had not all three vetoes been cast.

NOVEMBER 1974

November 5

—The World Food Conference opened in Rome, Italy

—Approximately 62% of the eligible voters in America stayed away from the polls, demonstrating once again the decline of voter confidence in the government and elected officials. Government analysts try to attribute the low voter turn-out to "voter apathy".

November 12

—The United Nations General Assembly overwhelmingly voted to deprive the white minority government of South Africa from participating in the current session of that body.

November 13

—The United Nations General Assembly recognized the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) as the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. Yasser Arafat, Chairman of the PLO addressed the UN and was overwhelmingly received.

DECEMBER 1974

December 13-20

—Gladys Marin, the General Secretary of the Chilean Young Communist League and a former-Senator in the Popular Unity government in Chile that was overthrown by the fascist military junta, spoke to thousands of American people about the tragic situation in her country and the continuing struggle of the progressive Chilean forces against the junta. She urged the active solidarity of the American people with their cause, by pressuring the United States to end its military aid and support of the fascist junta

December 19

—After almost four months of hearings, Nelson Rockefeller, the international oil company giant, won the Congressional nomination to become the 41st Vice-President of the U.S.

December 31

—It was officially announced by the government that the national unemployment rate soared to 7.1% in December, the highest unemployment rate in 13 years. President Ford revealed the grim fact that unemployment and inflation would continue to rise into 1975. Hundreds of thousands of laid-off workers crammed into state employment offices to file for unemployment compensation. In December the total number of unemployment compensation claims filed reached 2.8 million nation-wide.

██████████

The Role of The Food Crisis Today

The problem of feeding the world's population is a critical one for the present and the future. The United Nations designated 1974 as Population Year in order to underscore this vital issue. The growth of world population presses the question of developing resources necessary to feed it. It is, therefore, understandable that last August's World Population Conference in Bucharest should have been followed by the opening on November 5th of the World Food Conference in Rome.

In the past ten years, per capita food production in the developing countries increased at an average annual rate of 2/10 of 1%, while to keep up with the present rate of population growth, it should have grown by at least 10 times that rate.

Increasing food production is a matter of man's further intervention in the biosphere, of its continued reconstruction by man to be able to feed everyone without suffering damage itself.

At the World Food Conference in Rome, most of the spokesmen from the capitalist countries emphasized the growing *quantitative* gap between per capita food production in the developing countries and their population growth. This was highlighted by U.S. Secretary of State Kissinger who said: "World population is projected to double by the end of the century. It is clear that we must meet the food need this entails; but it is equally clear that population cannot continue indefinitely to double every generation. At some point we will inevitably exceed the earth's capacity to sustain human life." These neo-Malthusian declarations were strongly countered by the head of the USSR's delegation, N. N. Rodionov. It is quite revealing that his speech was hardly commented upon by the Western press—particularly the U.S. Press.

In his speech, on November the 8th, Rodionov referred to the urgency and importance of the discussion of the current situation in the world and particularly in the developing countries. He pointed out the completely *anti-scientific* nature of theories "explaining" the lack of food by the rapid growth of population in the world and first of all in the developing countries, by the scantiness of the productive forces of the planet, which allegedly are not keeping pace in their development with the growth of population.

The main reasons for the increased aggravation of the food problem in the world should be looked for *not* in the natural environment and *not* in the food market fluctuations, but first of all in the *socio-economic and socio-political fields*. The solution of the food problem and the problem of economic development as a whole depends, in the first place, on universal peace and security, implementation of specific measures of disarmament and the reduction of military budgets. The creation of appropriate

conditions for mutually advantageous international cooperation creates additional possibilities for the socio-economic progress of those States which, through no fault of their own, have fallen behind in their economic development and now experience considerable difficulties in providing food for their populations.

Rodionov further stressed the importance of the implementation of democratic agrarian reforms in developing countries, *accompanied by radical changes in land-property relations*, the establishment of a progressive system of land ownership and use, and the speediest liquidations of the consequences of colonialist and neo-colonialist policies, putting an end to any attempts to artificially hinder the growth of agricultural production:

"In recent years the urgency of agrarian reforms in the developing countries has gained a general recognition. However, this measure is often underestimated. The documents of the present conference mention it as if in passing, which seriously weakens the significance of these documents. Agrarian transformations are an important prerequisite for the elevation of agriculture without which the world food problem cannot be solved.

The transfer of land to those who till it, mass cooperation of the peasantry are all effective means of putting agricultural production on a modern material-technological basis. This is also facilitated by the strengthening of the role of the State, over-all economic planning, the introduction of effective tax policies, ensuring the rational utilization of outside assistance."

It cannot here be overemphasized that unless there is a radical transformation of land-property relations with the concomitant strengthening of the state-sector of the economy (with its coordinating ability), it would be impossible for most of the developing countries to improve their agricultural potential sufficiently to ward off starvation in even the immediate future. In short, the Soviet delegate has offered the key to the ultimate solution of the world food problem. And it was hardly noted in the Western press! The Soviet position here complements the decisions of the conference held in April last year at the United Nations, on the New World Economic Order.

Referring to the present World Food Conference, N.N. Rodionov said, that the Soviet Union was ready to make a constructive contribution to the solution of the concrete questions of international cooperation in the field of agricultural production and the regulation of the world food market. The Soviet Union is interested, he said, that the international division of labour in this field should be effected on an equal and mutually beneficial footing.

"The Soviet Union," he went on to say, "is one of the countries which for many years has been rendering great and many-sided assistance to countries which embarked upon the road of independent development, mainly in the framework of intergovernmental agreements on economic and technical cooperation. A characteristic feature of such cooperation is the participation of the USSR in the creation and strengthening of the state sector in the economy of these countries which is important for the acceleration of the rates of their economic growth, the increase of agricultural production, the stabilization of domestic prices, and the liquidation of speculation with food stuffs.

Nearly 250 projects in the field of agriculture, in food processing, meat packing, dairy and fish industries are being constructed with the assistance of the USSR in more than 20 developing countries."

To give a brief example; farms, experimental farming and cattle breeding stations have been built in India, Syria, Mali, Algeria, the People's Democratic Republic of Yemeni with the assistance of the USSR.

"The Soviet delegation," added N. N. Rodionov, "is prepared to make a constructive contribution to the adoption of resolutions which would be of a progressive nature, and would set the task of the elimination of discrimination in international economic relations, converting external economic ties into an effective means of accelerating social economic progress." He stressed that the world had by no means come to the limit of its potential possibilities in this respect. At the present time only one half of arable lands suitable for agriculture are cultivated in the world.

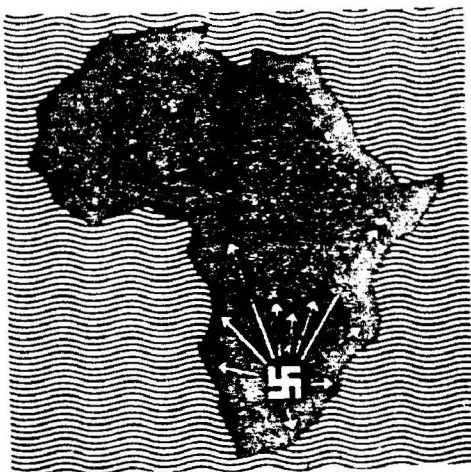
According to the calculations of U.N. economists, potentially, there are enough arable lands to feed 30-40 billion people. There are still hundreds of millions of hectares of uncultivated lands suitable for agriculture in the world with enough moisture for irrigation purposes.

The main effort, therefore, of the developing countries should be directed at stimulating the natural productivity of the biosphere. This means fuller utilization of solar energy, rational cultivation methods and thorough biological protection of crops, strictly scientific application of the achievements of chemistry and microbiology and comprehensive use of the seas and oceans as sources of food.



Another Vietnam in Southern Africa?

"Flames of national liberation are sweeping through southern Africa like flames through dry grass after a long drought," said Bishop Abel Muzorewa, Chairman of the African National Council of Rhodesia recently. The achievement of independence in Guinea-Bissau in 1973; the collapse of the fascist Caetano regime in Portugal in 1974; and the fixing of the dates for the official proclamation of independence of Mozambique and Angola in 1975; all of these progressive developments have dramatically changed the interplay of forces in southern Africa. Hence, 1975 will prove to be a crossroads year for the racist states of South Africa and Rhodesia.



One of the key factors that will hinder further progressive changes in southern Africa is the aggressive role that the United States imperialists will play in that region. All signs indicate that Secretary of State Henry Kissinger's foreign policy is geared toward strengthening the South African white minority government militarily and economically, while simultaneously encouraging South Africa to project a "new image" toward the Black independent states in Africa. Further, Kissinger will prod the Smith regime in Rhodesia to make certain minor concessions allowing the Black majority there to participate in national elections.

The rapid change of political events in Portugal created panic in the ruling circles of the United States, South Africa, and Rhodesia, and forced them to change their tactics in order to counter the mounting adverse world reaction to their exploitative policies. Consequently, we witnessed a significant increase in loans and grants from the U.S. corporations to the South African government during the fourth quarter of 1974 to buttress South Africa's influence in Africa. More importantly, South Africa has assumed greater importance for U.S. military plans in the Indian Ocean and for their desire to build an air and naval base on the tiny British island of Diego Garcia. The erosion of U.S. influence in certain Indian Ocean countries, in Angola and Mozambique makes South Africa a "natural ally" for the

United States in the Indian Ocean region. Already secret counterinsurgency plans for southern Africa and the Indian Ocean are being devised at the Norfolk, Virginia military headquarters of SACLANT, the acronym for Supreme Allied Commander, Atlantic.

A major change for imperialist military strategy in southern Africa was the Ottawa Declaration that came out of the NATO Ministerial Council meeting in June, 1974. The Council decided to expand its territorial realm of interest beyond the region originally defined in 1949. Under the old definition, the Middle East and all territory south of the Tropic of Cancer was 'out of bounds'. However, under Article II of the June declaration, "The Allies... are finally resolved to keep each other fully informed and to strengthen the practice of frank and timely consultations, by all means which may be appropriate, on matters relating to their common interests as members of the alliance, *bearing in mind that these interests can be affected by events in other areas of the world.*" (Emphasis added.) This is a *carte blanche* for the NATO allies to become involved in any area of the world they choose.

In southern Africa, the pressure from the liberation fighters could be a justification for direct imperialist air and/or naval intervention using SACLANT's contingency planning. Tad Szulc in his informative article "Why Are We In Johannesburg?" (*Esquire*, Oct., 1974) significantly states that SACLANT was studying contingency plans for the Indian Ocean and the South Atlantic, but that this did not impose a commitment on any member nation to become engaged there. This leaves the United States and any other interested NATO member free to become involved in any operation that they deem necessary under their own flag.

The possible increase of U.S. military presence in southern Africa was outlined as far back as February 1970 in a document called National Security Council Decision Memorandum (NISDOM) which was constructed by Henry Kissinger's NSC staff and subsequently recommended as policy to former President Nixon. The plan provided the rationale for current military contingency planning for the "defense" of southern Africa and for further economic and political support of South Africa, but with a "low-key profile".

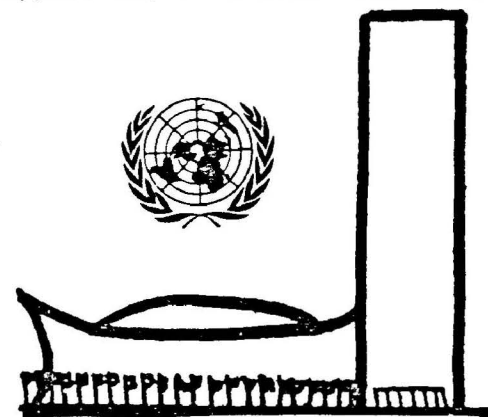
The key question facing the United States militarists in 1975 is whether to be drawn into a possible military adventure in southern Africa considering their defeat in Vietnam. The progressive events in Portugal were a temporary setback for the imperialists. However, there is no doubt that Henry Kissinger and his cohorts are working overtime to implement their aggressive plans in southern Africa.



Growing Attacks On The United Nations

The multilateral treaty that spawned the United Nations has always been abhorrent to the right wing nationalist (chauvinist) forces in the United States. However, the support for these chauvinist tendencies has recently been broadened to include the so-called liberal internationalists (internationalist in word and cosmopolitan in deed). True internationalism involves cooperation between nations, while cosmopolitanism suggests bourgeois exploitative relations between nations or a disguised form of supranationalism. Why this 'about face' at this time in history—this desire to reduce the role of the United Nations to a debating forum rather than a center of international cooperation?

As is well known, in the early history of the U.N., especially up to 1955 before the membership log jam was broken resulting in the admittance of many newly independent states into the world body, the U.N. was a central instrument of United States foreign policy, most notably in the U.N. intervention in the Korean conflict. The U.S. government had the Latin American bloc vote in its hip pocket, as well as the compliance of the western European states with the main line of U.S. foreign policy. At that time, international law applied only to "civilized states", i.e.,



Western nations. Even imperialist Japan, a 'yellow' nation, was not considered "civilized" enough to have equality under international law. This unequal structure of international law reflected the inequality of peoples in their socio-economic life. The principle of equality of states and its corollary, the principle of universality of representation, was a decided boost to the democratization of international relations, a powerful weapon against the arbitrariness that characterized the politics among the imperialist powers, an arbitrariness that produced two *sanguinary* wars in our century.

Unfortunately, many progressive citizens of the United States think that the U.N. is now unimportant due to the media's suppression of many very important political initiatives undertaken in that prestigious body. This disdainful attitude

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United Nations

towards the U.N., is not shared by the majority of the world's people, especially by the peoples of the "Third World". Not only has there been more development in the field of international law in the past 20 years than in the previous history of international law, but the process by which general principles of international law are created has been democratized.

Laws are mainly formulated by the General Assembly and its many commissions. They are voted upon by all the member states as opposed to the previously undemocratic method whereby precedents were made by powerful and rich statesmen in Britain, France and the United States. This undemocratic method of establishing the structure of the international order has, naturally, left a baleful historical legacy of privileges for a few states that is being re-structured by the newly emerging forces of peace, democracy and social progress.

What are some of these new principles that have prompted the United States delegate to the U.N., John Scali, to aver that the U.N. is now under "the tyranny of the majority"? Presumably, the previous situation in which the majority of the world's people were enslaved under colonialism was a form of benevolent despotism. As James Kilpatrick observed in the *Chicago Sun Times*, "The Security Council has not maintained peace and the Assembly has degenerated into a mere tom-tom, sounding the beat of Third World propaganda."

Being a great fan of the drum, myself, these "tom-tom" diplomats have beat out some very fine sounding general principles with the help of the hammer and sickle diplomats, such as:

1. Resolution 242, incident to the Middle East crisis, in which the principle of the "inadmissibility of acquiring territory by means of war" was approved.
2. Implementation of the *Declaration of the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples* wherein colonialism was declared an international crime.
3. A draft Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crimes of Apartheid.
4. The passage of a convention that required the non-use of force in international relations, making Secretary of State Kissinger's recent comments on the fuel crisis the ravings of a potential war criminal.
5. The passage of a convention against all forms of discrimination against diverse peoples, thereby making racism an international crime.
6. The passage of a convention on the strengthening of international peace and security.
7. The passage of measures banning chemical and bacteriological warfare.

It seems that these "tom-tom" diplomats are moving from Lockean and Grotian principles of international law to the Leninist principles of international law rooted in the basic notion of peaceful relations among states.

The convocation of the General Assembly's first economic session, on the initiative of President Houari Boumedienne of Algeria, was concerned with the creation of a new international economic order in the spring of 1974. It became clear that the anti-imperialist forces in the U.N. were more powerful than the imperialist forces. By the end of the regular session, the General Assembly in December approved a new "Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States". The vote was 120 to 6 with the United States, Britain, West Germany, Denmark, Belgium and Luxembourg voting nay and Japan, France and Canada abstaining. This declaration gives all nations full sovereignty over its wealth, resources and economic activities. The declaration also promulgated the notions that prices of imports should correspond to prices of exports and the right to organize commodity cartels to implement this policy.

Our government will attempt to ignore these new principles in an effort to maintain its hegemonial position. With the recent ouster of the racist state of South Africa from the U.N. General Assembly and the recognition of the Palestine Liberation Organization as the sole representative of the Palestinian people, we can expect an escalation of the attack on the U.N. by the imperialists. Progressive forces in our country should join the fight to strengthen the United Nations at this time of severe crisis, given the propensity of imperialism to generate wars. Indeed, it would be better to drum up support for the "tom-tom" diplomats than fiddle around with the would-be gunboat diplomacy of Kissinger.

Correction

We have received quite a bit of criticism for the statement in the article on Ethiopia of the October-November issue in which we stated that, "We are no longer in the age of transition from capitalism to socialism."

This criticism is appropriate since we are in the transitional epoch from capitalism to socialism. This error in the article was typographical rather than political, since a key phrase was left out, viz., "We are no longer in the age of the bourgeois democratic revolution, but in the age of transition from capitalism to socialism. Hence, Ethiopia's national democratic revolution will eventually evolve into an attack on all exploitative relations, both feudal and capitalist. Already there are signs and symptoms that such motion is taking place in the Ethiopian revolution."

The Editor

"We Live in A Time Of Glorious Change"

The Middle East saw some dramatic developments in 1974. The moves by the oil producing nations serve as an example to all of the developing world. It serves as a clear warning to the imperialists: Japan, Western Europe, and the United States, that the days when they are able to control and dictate the exploitation of the world's resources are numbered. The U.N.-sponsored Conference on Raw Materials and Development signaled the increased determination of peoples all over the world to end the plunder of their raw materials by imperialist nations, and to fight for the development and control of their material wealth. Today we find a racist hysteria being whipped up which blames the oil producing Arab nations for the present deep crisis of capitalism. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger even threatens military intervention to guarantee the continued control of the Mid-East oil fields. During the last world wide economic crisis (the Great Depression), World War II and a huge deflation in the prices of already cheap raw materials allowed the capitalists to temporarily recover. Despite Kissinger's threats, the peoples of the world will not allow the wheels of history to be turned backward. We will see increasing equality in the prices of raw materials, including oil.

The Middle East represents a hot spot which everyone views with great concern. The position arrived at in Rabat, that the Palestine Liberation Organization was the true representative of the Palestinian peoples and must be included in peace negotiations, focuses on the real problem in that area: the violation of the rights of the Palestine people to their land and sovereignty. It is very significant that the United Nations General Assembly invited the PLO to participate in the debate on the Middle East. Yasir Arafat himself pointed out, when he addressed the General Assembly in November, that his presence "... indicates anew that the U.N. of today is not the U.N. of the past, just as today's world is not yesterday's world. Today's United Nations represents 138 nations, a number that more clearly reflects the will of the international community. Thus today's United Nations is more nearly capable of implementing the principles embodied in its Charter and in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, as well as being more truly empowered to support causes of peace and justice. . ."

Arafat's speech clearly delineates the major questions involved in the Middle East crisis. He places the struggle of the Palestinian people as part of the worldwide struggle against imperialism. "Great numbers of peoples, which include those of Zimbabwe, Namibia, South Africa, Palestine among many others, are still victims of oppression and violence. Their areas of the world are gripped by armed struggles

January 20th and January 27th 1973



Mdme. Nguyen Thi Binh and Amilcar Cabral

January 1975 marks the second anniversary of two important events—one tragic and the other historic. On January 20, 1973 agents of former Portuguese colonialism assassinated Amilcar Cabral, leader of the PAIGC, in Conakry, the capital of the Republic of Guinea; while on January 27, 1973, the U.S. imperialists were forced to sign the Paris Peace Agreement ending direct U.S. military involvement in Vietnam.

These two events are historic because in Vietnam the United States imperialists were defeated by the patriotic forces after trying to turn Vietnam into a colony of the U.S. On the other side of the globe, in the Portuguese colonies, the U.S. militarists were attempting to suppress the liberation movement and extend its influence through Portuguese colonialism. After two years, the United States is still violating the Paris Agreement and attempting to create a situation for U.S. military involvement there.

Even though the U.S. suffered a setback in Africa with the defeat of Portuguese colonialism by the forces of FRELIMO, MPLA and the PAIGC, and a setback in Portugal with the overthrow of fascism, the CIA is still interfering in the internal affairs of Portugal. Since the events in Portugal, Rhodesia, Namibia and South Africa have assumed greater significance for the U.S. capitalists in their attempts to maintain economic political and military holdings in southern Africa. The African American Solidarity Committee and other progressive people will continue to carry out the spirit of Amilcar Cabral and the struggle of his people by increasing our actions of solidarity until the people of southern Africa are free and the Paris Agreement is implemented.

"For us the struggle in Vietnam is our own struggle. We consider that in Vietnam not only the fate of our own people but also that of all the peoples struggling for their national independence and sovereignty is at stake. We are in solidarity with the people of Vietnam and we immensely admire their heroic struggle against U.S. aggression and the aggression of the reactionaries of the southern part of Vietnam who are no more than the puppets of U.S. imperialism."

Amilcar Cabral—September, 1968

Glorious Change

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provoked by imperialism and racial discrimination, both of them merely forms of aggression and terror. These are instances of oppressed peoples compelled by intolerable circumstances into a confrontation with such oppression; but wherever this confrontation occurs, it is legitimate and just."

Making a distinction between Zionism and Judaism, Arafat correctly characterized Israel as a gendarme state, a northern beach head of imperialism which threatens peace in the Mid-East, the entire continent of Africa, and indeed the entire world: "Just as colonialism heedlessly

used the wretched, the poor, the exploited as mere inert matter with which to build and to carry out settler colonialism, so too were destitute, oppressed European Jews employed on behalf of world imperialism and of the Zionist leadership. European Jews were transformed into the instruments of aggression; they became the elements of settler colonialism intimately allied to racial discrimination ... Zionism is an ideology that is imperialist, colonialist, racist; it is profoundly reactionary and discriminatory; it is united with anti-Semitism in its retrograde tenets and is, when all is said and done, another

side of the same base coin ... And so the Zionist movement allied itself directly with worldwide colonialism in a common raid on our land. ... We need only mention briefly some Israeli stands: its support of the Secret Army Organization in Algeria, its bolstering of the settler colonialists in Africa—whether in the Congo, Angola, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Azania or South Africa—and its backing of South Vietnam against the Vietnamese revolution. ... One can mention its refusal to cast its vote in support of the independence of African states, and its opposition to the demands of many Asian, African, and Latin American nations and several other states in the conferences on raw materials, population, and the law of the sea and food. All these facts offer further proof of the character of the enemy which has usurped our land. Mr. President, the enemy we face has a long record of hostility even towards the Jews themselves, for there is within the Zionist entity a built-in racism against Oriental Jews."

Today Israel still prepares for war; their very existence as a state is propped up by massive economic and military aid from the United States. The burdens of war, inflation and an uncertain future weigh heavily on the working class Jewish people. Despite differences in nationality and religion, Jewish workers have more in common with Yasir Arafat than their own Zionist demagogues. In New York, Arafat declared, "We call upon Jews one by one to turn away from the illusory promises made to them by Zionist ideology and Israeli leadership. Those offer Jews perpetual bloodshed, endless war and continuous thralldom. We offer them the most generous solution that we might live together in a framework of peace in our democratic Palestine."

How soon peace comes to the Middle East depends on the actions of the United States and Israel. They must bear the full responsibility for every drop of blood shed; the longer they delay justice, the heavier their burden. As 1975 begins, the exact course of future events in the Middle East are uncertain. The African American Solidarity Committee joins the progressive forces throughout the world in supporting the just cause of the Palestinian people. We fully agree with their leader, Yasir Arafat when he said, "despite abiding world crises, despite even the gloomy powers of backwardness and disastrous wrong, we live in a time of glorious change. An old world order is crumbling before our eyes, as imperialism, colonialism, neocolonialism and racism whose chief form is Zionism, ineluctably perish. We are privileged to be able to witness a great wave of history bearing people forward into a new world they have created. In that world just causes shall triumph. Of that we are confident."



Recommended Books

1. *Revolutionary Tracings*, by James Jackson, International Publishers, N.Y. \$3.50. An outstanding collection of articles and speeches by one of the most respected fighters for peace and Black liberation.
2. *Freedomways*, published quarterly by Freedomways Associates, 799 Broadway, N.Y., N.Y. 10003; \$4.50 a year. Articles by major figures in the peoples movement for peace and equality in the U.S.
3. *What Is To Be Done*, by V. I. Lenin, Imported Publications, Chicago, \$1.00. An important work for the present economic crisis in the U.S. Lenin's elaboration on the need for a party of a new type.
4. "Why Are We In Johannesburg", *Esquire*, October, 1974 by Tad Szulc. An interesting account of Henry Kissinger's policy toward Africa based upon a secret White House document.
5. *Southern Africa: The United States Record At The United Nations, 1973*, published by The Africa Fund, 164 Madison Ave. N.Y., N.Y. 10016. A brief on the U.S. voting record on issues affecting southern Africa at the United Nations.

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Harold Rogers Editor

Highlights



Members of the African American Solidarity Committee at their booth on South Africa at the P.U.S.H. Black Expo that was held in September 1974. 10,000 signatures were collected at the booth on the petition to expel South Africa from the United Nations.

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