

From behind the wall



by Larry Baker
Salem (OSP) Correspondent

(THE JOINT WAS ROCKIN')

On March 18th, the Black Culture Club (Uhuru) with a membership of one hundred Black prisoners out of three hundred housed at the Oregon State Penitentiary, had their 9th Annual Anniversary. Although only about half of its

membership was allowed to attend because of the visiting room capacity where the gathering was held. The prisoners were allowed to invite wives, sweethearts, members of family and guests.

This once a year occasion, in which the Black prisoners donated their nickles, dimes, and dollars will be a great one to be remembered. Thanks to it's inmate Coordinator, Ray Charles Maple, the Club's Executive Body, the two Inmate Staff Advisors, Nathan Baker and Bob Ricktor, who put in many, many long hours of planning, scheduling and arranging for its success. And a success it was!

Opening the evening program was a pledge of Uhuru, (Freedom) the master of ceremony, inmate Harold Hammick, better known as the "Fat Man" gave a special acknowledgement to many of the beautiful young ladies throughout the wall to wall packed audience, along with many other loved ones, who drove as far as three hundred miles away to attend this two hour (7 - 9 p.m.) Anniversary benefit.

With the dynamic singing of individuals such as Michael Johnson, Harvey Gaither, Steve Kennedy and Dee William thrilling the crowd with songs by their talents and uniqueness of style of pure professionals.

While the guitar magic fingers of

Charles Williams, Mel Tilman, mellowed by saxophonist piano and Michael Nathan sweeten the atmosphere with sounds of rhythm, blues and spicy jazz.

Half way through the ceremony—DINNER was served, Southern Fried Chicken, home made potato salad, rolls, cake and soft drinks—deliciously prepared by Jewelia's in Portland. Watching Pan-Fry (Leroy Hasting) and Brother Luther (Luther Hamilton) as they fill their plates, one would say, 'It Was Finger Lickin' Good.'

Door prizes were given away of hand-made leather crafted beautiful wallets and key purses.

The Black members of Uhuru would like to give a special thanks to Ron Sykes, photographer, and Gloria Fisher, Manager of the Portland Observer to whom many express their feelings on how much Behind the Walls is needed in order to bring close ties of communication between their Black community in Portland and this institution.

A great deal of thanks go to Doris King, Uhuru's Outside Coordinator, who unselfishly volunteers her time and effort working with the Club. She stopped into the party wearing an attire of elegance.

A big appreciation was the appearance of Rev. and Mrs. Parker, who throughout the years dedicated themselves to all the

Black prisoners at O.S.P. by their spiritual guidance. Mrs. Parker was called upon for her soulful gospel voice to bring to a conclusion the Black Culture Club's 9th Anniversary. YES -- there were a few faces in the crowd choked up on memories, for they could remember the first.

AND THEN IT WAS OVER

As this reporter slowly walked back to his cell among all the others, there was a touch of sadness mixed with silence chilling the air.

Was that a tear seen in the corner of your eye....George Gain?

Don't worry, you were not the only one.

BLACK LAW CLASS

Starting Friday, April 8, 1977, the first Black law class will be given bi-weekly from 7 - 9 p.m., in the Education Department at the Oregon State Penitentiary.

It has been a well-known awareness among the Black population that a large number of the prisoners actually are knowledgeable of the legal procedures they have gone through in our Criminal Justice System.

This class will allow a maximum of twenty-five students which will deal in

the following areas:

1. Arrest
2. Preliminary Hearing
3. Grand Jury
4. Plead
5. Discovery
6. Suppress
7. Habeas Corpus
8. Mandamus
9. Trial
10. Pre-Sentence
11. Parole Procedures
12. Revocation

13. Civil Rights
14. Appeal
15. Sentence

The class will be under the sponsorship of the Black Culture Club Special Program Committee. It is with great hopes in the near future to implicate the scheduling, to invite attorneys and also judges as guest lecturers on per-subject. If anyone of the Legal Profession is interested, please write: Black Law Class, Black Culture Club, 2605 State Street, Salem, Oregon 97310.

Inside Latin America

EDITOR'S NOTE: Inside Latin America, developed from on-the-spot sources working with PNS, is designed to give readers a quick sense of the dominant moods and trends in this vital region.

COLOMBIA DROWNING IN COFFEE

BOGOTA, COLOMBIA, (PNS) -- "I have this recurring dream of drowning in my cup of coffee," commented one pessimistic Colombian coffee exporter about the current bonanza of this country, second only to Brazil in world coffee production. The exporter's fear, shared by many officials here, is that the record high prices will encourage massive over-production inevitably leading to a post-bonanza crash. "Everyone is increasing production to increase their share of the international market even though this will eventually glut it," says Coffee Federation head Arturo Gomez Jaramillo.

Another concern is that a lack of national economic planning will fail to channel coffee profits—expected to top a billion dollars this year—for national development to benefit Colombia's 25 million citizens. Finance Minister Abdon Espinoza explains the predicament: "All national planning and projection are based on coffee at \$1.20 per pound. It is very difficult to adjust to \$2.45 when it is extremely unlikely it will remain there."

Colombia is one of Latin America's poorest countries, and the small coffee growers and laborers are traditionally one of the most impoverished groups. For these people, some of whom had never

tasted beef or owned a transistor radio, the extra income has been spent wildly on consumer goods.

At the same time, increased demand for meat and milk in the coffee regions has led to shortages in other parts of Colombia, especially in the capital of Bogota, and has forced prices up throughout the nation. According to one local agronomist: "The sad thing is that when the boom is over, these people are going to have nothing to show for it—not a school, not a clinic, nothing."

CLAMPING DOWN ON PILL-POPPING

GUATEMALA CITY, GUATEMALA — Guatemala will no longer be a haven for pill-poppers. The military government has finally ordered an end to over-the-counter sales of several dozen stimulants and sedatives including Nembutal, Seconal and Ecuamil. Until just three years ago, virtually any drug could be bought freely in Guatemala. But when lines of young people waiting to buy Quaaludes and similar depressants became common sights outside of pharmacies, the government passed its first controls. The recent order is an extension of that original ruling.

NO CUBAN TROOPS IN UGANDA, BOTH NATIONS

WASHINGTON, D.C., — Cuban and Ugandan officials have denied last month's sensational reports flashed worldwide that Cuban troops were reinforcing the army of Uganda President Idi Amin.

"There is no Cuban troops in Uganda,"

Chris Nabata, spokesman for the Ugandan government in Washington told PNS. A Cuban diplomat at the U.N. also denied the reports. A U.S. State Department spokesman acknowledged that "We have nothing to confirm these reports." In Havana a Western journalist with extensive ties in the diplomatic corps said that "No one here has heard anything solid about that." He called the reports "screwed."

The first news of the alleged Cuban intervention, published during the height of the recent mini-crisis in Uganda, was reported by two newspapers in Kenya and fed by wire services to newspapers and radio stations throughout the world. The reports, which made page one headlines in major U.S. dailies, have never been retracted. The original reports were apparently based on rumors picked up from either Ugandan refugees or anti-Amin factions in neighboring Kenya. The report said the move had been planned several weeks earlier when an official Cuban delegation led by Cuban Defense Minister Francisco Cabrera met with Amin in the Uganda capital of Kampala.

LAND REFORM KEY ISSUE IN EL SALVADOR

While U.S. attention focuses on this country's deteriorating human rights situation—dramatized by the government's bloody repression of post-election protests—the number one political issue here is land reform. The one percent of landed interests who control 70 percent of the cultivable land have successfully blocked

implementation of the 1975 agrarian reform law. Unrest has been steadily growing among the 90 percent of campesinos who are landless in this smallest and most densely populated of the six Central American republics.

Landowners have been scoring the Catholic clergy for allegedly supporting "anti-Christian and antipatriotic subversion and campesino unrest," following the shooting of a prominent landowner. In the latest incident a Jesuit priest working with the campesinos was ambushed and killed March 12 near the town of Aguilar.

A spokesman for the local bishop said that Father Rutilio Grande, 49, was machine gunned by agents of rich landowners. Eight Catholic foreign missionaries, including three Americans (Bernard Survil of Pennsylvania, Lawrence McCullough of Michigan and John Kevin Murphy of Minnesota), have been expelled from El Salvador in recent weeks.

THIRD WORLD ECONOMIC UNITY URGED

CARACAS, VENEZUELA — Two prominent third world leaders, Jamaica's Michael Manley and Venezuela's Carlos Andres Perez, met recently and agreed to work together to strengthen third world economic power. Manley arrived in Venezuela at the end of a Caribbean trip that included stops in Guyana and Trinidad-Tobago, both of which have supported Manley's left-leaning program for Jamaica. He has been seeking markets for Jamaican bauxite and aluminum oxide outside of the major industrial countries.

The Palestinians in Israel

(Third of four parts)

by T.D. Allman

NAZARETH, (PNS) — Nearly 30 years have passed since Israel's founders, to use the Biblical idiom, drove the Palestinians of Jaffa and Haifa and Galilee and the Negev out from before them.

Yet even within the borders established then, which the Arab states are now prepared to accept, the problem of the two peoples has not gone away. In many ways the problem of Israel's Palestinian minority poses a far greater threat to the cause of Zionism, and to its ideals, than it did in 1948.

Indeed, the major threat to Zionist aspiration today is no longer external Arab hostility, but the very existence of a large, well-organized and unassimilable non-Jewish population within Israel itself.

It affects everything from the attitudes of Israeli youth, who increasingly regard menial labor as "Arab" work, to Israel's democratic stability. Within Israel's multi-party system, the danger always exists of the Palestinian members of the Knesset gaining the balance of power.

The problem is visible almost everywhere inside Israel, from the Palestinians sweeping the streets of Haifa to the de facto segregation of the Jerusalem school system. But nowhere is the discrepancy between military success and political failure more conspicuous—and more ominous for hopes of a permanent peace settlement—than in northern Israel.

There the Golan Heights—taken from Syria during the 1967 Six Day War—tower above Lake Tiberias and the farmlands of Galilee like some immense barricade erected to hold back a flood. The Arab population has been expelled, the promontories covered with Israeli defenses, the empty Syrian villages repopulated with fortified Jewish settlements.

Today in Galilee there is no external military threat at all. But behind the bristling Golan defenses—in Galilee and

the Jezreel valley—Israel has suffered, without a single Arab attacking or scarcely a shot being fired, one of the most disturbing political defeats in its entire national history.

During the last 10 years, in that crucial northern area lying between Syria and the sea, and between the West Bank and Lebanon, the Palestinians of Israel have developed from a politically powerless minority into an increasingly potent but unassimilable group within the boundaries of Israel itself.

The Palestinians today comprise nearly half the population of the entire northern region of Israel. By next year, the Israelis fear, the Palestinians will become a majority. As even the Israelis themselves now point out, this demographic defeat could in time render most of Israel's victories on the battlefield meaningless.

While the Jewish population of Israel today is increasing at a rate of 1.5 percent per year, the non-Jewish population is increasing at a rate of 5.9 percent. Since 1948, the non-Jewish population has grown from 150,000 to nearly 450,000 in a nation of 3.5 million people.

Despite announced Israeli policy of converting Jerusalem into an overwhelmingly Jewish city, the Jewish proportion of Jerusalem's population declined last year. In 1974, the Jewish population of Western Galilee and the Jezreel valley increased by 759 persons, while the Palestinian population grew by 9,035.

WINNING CONTROL

In an official report made public last September, Israel Koenig, governor of the northern region of Israel, warned that the Palestinians in that region were steadily gaining power "through methods that were followed by the Jewish settlers before the creation of the state."

Not only, he complained, were the Palestinians winning control of more and more municipal governments by peaceful, legal means, but "organized operations for the purchase by Arabs of real estate

in the northern areas" were beginning to threaten Jewish predominance there.

Gov. Koenig also lamented the growing Palestinian proclivity for higher education. He found particularly ominous a "Palestinian" hunger strike in front of the United Nations headquarters, as some people are doing with regard to the Jews in the USSR.

Koenig's recommendations for dealing with non-Jewish Israeli citizens were similar to policies outlined by Israeli Gen. David Maimon for policing the Palestinian refugees of the Gaza Strip.

Higher education for Palestinians, Koenig argued, should be discouraged. Government agents should infiltrate legal political parties in which Palestinians were active. Palestinian leaders who threatened Jewish interests should be removed from public life and replaced by officials willing to serve Jewish interests.

Taxes on non-Jewish Israelis should be increased so as to deprive them of disposable income for real estate purchases and capital investment. Employers should be required to give preference to Jews over non-Jews. Palestinian refugees who left the country should have "obstacles placed in the way of their return and obtaining work in Israel."

Welfare benefits should be made available "exclusively to Jewish families." In areas with large non-Jewish populations, the government should "increase the Jewish population in all social categories," with the aim of making Galilee "loyal to Jewish society."

A considerable distance still separates the Gaza conditions of barbed-wire enclosures from the Koenig recommendations for Galilee. But as the Koenig report demonstrated, one of the chief effects of military rule over a subject people has been not to enhance Israeli-Palestinian understanding, but to predispose Israeli officials toward using discriminatory martial law tactics even against Israeli's own non-Jewish citizens.

A PROBLEM WITHIN

In his report, Gov. Koenig complained

about low tax receipts from Palestinians. But in those areas where Palestinians have won control of their own municipal governments, the fiscal results are even more disconcerting to the Israelis.

Tax revenues from Palestinians have soared, and Palestinian voters have in some cases tripled their own tax burden to pay off municipal debts and finance new public works.

For an Israel that no longer attracts major Jewish immigration, that faces continuing economic problems, and whose government is shaken by charges of corruption, this growing problem of Palestinian power seems one that no borders, however defensible, can solve.

The Palestinians of Galilee have learned that emancipation, which never arrived in the form of Arab armies, is never going to arrive in the form of bomb-toting guerrillas either.

Instead they have learned, as the Palestinian mayor of Nazareth, Twefig Zayyad, recently told a visitor, "We must organize ourselves and depend on ourselves, if we are to survive as a people." "We will never repeat the mistakes that produced the historical catastrophe of 1948," a Palestinian resident of Jerusalem said recently. "We will never flee and leave them empty lands to claim as their own. Let them annex the city and fly the Israeli flag here forever. I will stay, my sons and grandsons will stay, whatever they do to us."

And in Nazareth, Mayor Zayyad said in a recent interview that even if a Palestinian state were established on the West Bank, the Palestinian minority in the part of Israel would remain where it was. "We naturally do not intend to leave our country," he said, "for we are a part of it."

In this sense, the Palestinian problem inside Israel, like the Palestinian problem in the Occupied Territories, is not merely one that lacks a military solution. It is, for Israel, a problem within its own borders for which there may be no solution at all.

(Next: The Palestinians in the Arab World.)

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