

EDITORIAL / OPINION

Was Iran venture coup attempt?

On April 17, 1961, the United States landed a force of Cuban exiles - financed, trained and directed by the CIA - on the coast of Cuba. The plan was to establish a beachhead and to declare a provisional government which would ask the United States for military aid. Together the exiles, the Cubans who would join them against Castro, and the U.S. military would overthrow the Castro government and a government which the U.S. considered friendly to its interests would be established.

Of course it is now history that the plan failed. The Cuban people did not join the attempt to overthrow their government, but fought and defeated their attackers in 72 hours.

Nineteen years later, on April 24, 1980, the U.S. military landed in Iran, its stated purpose to free the American hostages. Again the outcome is history - everything went wrong and another campaign failed.

The parallels between these two invasions are interesting. Following the Iranian excursion the government has revealed that an air base was established in the desert; many of the men were Farsi speaking (Iranian exiles?); CIA operatives had infiltrated the country; aid was expected from within Iran.

Iranian sources have said many more men were involved than the U.S. admitted and many spoke Farsi; much military equipment was left behind. Since the operation, there have been bombings and sporadic shooting in Tehran. An Assassination attempt was made on the Foreign Minister during a visit to Kuwait.

Did the United States attempt to join with elements of the Iranian military who are still loyal to the shah, or who oppose the current government, in an attempt to overthrow the government of Iran?

We predict that within the next few weeks, a shakeup in Iran's military will indicate the conspirators have been identified. Eventually we will know the truth.

Thank you, Fidel!

A few months ago the Canadian government rescued employees of the U.S. Embassy in Iran by providing false Canadian passports and hiding them in the Canadian Embassy. Every since, there has been an outpouring of gratitude to the Canadian people and their government and justly so. Not only has our government heaped praises on the Canadians, but just recently a busload of Portland talk show listeners travelled to Vancouver to express their thanks.

This week the Cuban government rescued the U.S. Ambassador to Columbia, Diego Asencio and fifteen other hostages who had been held captive for 61 days. The Cuban government not only negotiated the captives' release and transported them from Columbia to Cuba, but sent Asencio home to the United States the same day.

We have not heard any outpouring of gratitude to the people of Cuba and their government. We have not even been told whether our government has formerly expressed its gratitude.

Carter economics + Black apathy = President Reagan

By Norman Hill, President
A. Phillip Randolph Institute

Ronald Reagan, who just a few weeks ago was being written off as a sure loser to President Jimmy Carter, has become a real threat. Already talk of a Reagan administration is circulating in Washington, and several recent polls have shown that Carter's once huge lead over Reagan has dwindled to nothing. Some polls even show Reagan beating the President.

For Black people and workers, this unexpected surge in Reagan's political strength poses serious dangers. If elected, Reagan would seek to transform his archaic and simplistic conservatism into policy. Among other things, Reagan has already promised to abolish the minimum wage, to slash the federal budget, and to support measures that will further weaken the bargaining power of workers. With Reagan and his friends comfortably entrenched in the White House, Black people can expect nothing more than four years of economic setbacks and political disappointments.

In an ironic way, the political behavior of Black voters in November may be the single most important factor leading to a Reagan victory. Reagan, an outspoken and consistent opponent of the economic and social policies supported by the civil rights and labor movements, can hardly expect to receive anything more than a sprinkling of Black votes. But the

level of his Black support is not the crucial factor. Instead, the Reagan forces are far more interested in the Blacks who won't vote on election day. To put it another way, Reagan has a vested interest in Black apathy and disenchantment.

Looking at the arithmetic of the 1976 presidential race, Reagan's dependence on Black apathy becomes all too apparent: if just a few thousand Blacks had remained at home in 1976, Gerald Ford, not Jimmy Carter, would be sitting in the Rose Garden. Without strong Black support, Carter would have certainly lost the closely fought contests in Ohio, Pennsylvania, and New York, states that were indispensable for his electoral vote majority.

In 1976, Carter did exceptionally well within the Black community because Black people understood that he was offering the country a set of economic policies that differs dramatically from the conservative policies espoused by Gerald Ford. Whereas Ford argued for a stark version of the jobs vs. inflation trade-off, Carter strongly backed the Humphrey-Hawkins bill and committed himself to full employment, meaningful tax reform, and greater economic security for the poor and elderly. In short, Carter ran as an economic liberal, an heir to the tradition of Roosevelt, Kennedy, and Humphrey. Black people responded to Carter's campaign program; they responded overwhelmingly.

Although the vast majority of Blacks saw a clear choice between Ford and Carter, I now fear that many Blacks believe that the differences between Reagan and Carter are so slight and so uncertain as to make a choice meaningless. This is not to say that real differences don't exist (they most certainly do). But, Carter, who is playing to the conservative mood of the country has set out purposely to obscure his differences with Reagan, apparently with the hope of neutralizing Reagan's attack from the right. Indeed, with Carter's deep cuts in the federal budget, and with his growing devotion to conservative economic doctrines, one might think that Reagan's advisers have already arrived in Washington.

On the surface at least, Carter's strategy of co-opting Reagan makes some sense, but it fails to recognize the key lesson of 1976 -- Black voters will turnout for elections only when the choice is absolutely clear. Moreover, the choice must be based on more than just superficial differences; it must be based on significant differences in economic policy.

If a Reagan-Carter race becomes as close as the Ford-Carter contest four years ago, the outcome may very well be determined by Black votes. But if Blacks are forced to choose between two versions of Ronald Reagan, the votes that allowed Carter to squeak through in 1976 may be missing this time around.



Namibia: Sitting in limbo

by N. Fungai Kumbula

Starvation looms in East Africa, unless massive infusions of foreign food aid reach the countries of Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania very soon, thousands of people face starvation.

The reasons for the acute food shortages range from poor government planning to severe drought to lingering fallout from the overthrow of Idi Amin. Only five months after Tanzania shipped 70,000 tons of maize (corn) to Mozambique and Zambia to ease their shortages, she (Tanzania) was requesting 100,000 tons of wheat, 50,000 tons of maize and 25,000 tons of sorghum from the United States. Tanzania had exported her maize because the planners thought they had a surplus. Instead, they now find they have only enough supplies to last to the end of April.

Complicating Tanzania's food problem is the ever soaring bill for oil currently consuming 45% of her export earnings. The war Tanzania waged against Idi Amin cost the country over \$560 million and falling production of export crops are all adding up to a very serious budget deficit. Consequently, there are no reserves with which to purchase the needed food. Outside nations have pledged assistance but it is uncertain if this aid will arrive in time to avoid a major crisis.

Kenya's drought problems are not as serious as those of her neighbors but she too faces some very trying times ahead. Shortages have already produced some very long queues and there have been reports of violence. When Kenya's president, Daniel Arap Moi, visited the U.S. recently, he arranged to purchase 15,000 tons of rice, 30,000 tons of wheat and 60,000 tons of maize.

South Africa reportedly will, through various intermediaries, sell some 100,000 tons of maize to Kenya.

Kenya's problems also stem from poor government planning. Just last year, she exchanged some 20,000 tons of maize for 10,000 tons of wheat through the World Food Program. Food production meanwhile has fallen 11% between 1969 and 1977; the country only produced 2.6 million tons of maize in 1979 even though national needs were in excess of 7 million tons.

To encourage production, the government has raised consumer and producer food prices and is also subsidizing farmers by offering loans. This plan has backfired though, as a result of middlemen hoarding supplies in anticipation of higher prices for the goods in the very near future. So far twenty people have been taken to court in Nairobi on charges of hoarding. The country's situation does not look good.

It's been well over a year now since the overthrow of Idi Amin Dada of Uganda, but the country has yet to return to normal. Gangs of Amin loyalists still make occasional raids from across the border in Sudan. Tanzania soldiers still patrol the countryside but the security situation is still very precarious.

By the time Amin fled the country, he had literally drained the treasury dry, food production had ground to a halt, the economy was in shambles and Uganda was, to all intents and purposes, dead. The incoming administration's first of Yusufu K. Lule and then of Godfrey Binaisa have been grappling with the mammoth task of trying to

resuscitate the nation of Uganda.

Amin's bandits mentioned above have been raiding northeastern Uganda among the Karamajong people, killing people, livestock and destroying what they cannot carry back to Sudan. As if that were not enough, the area is the last to receive any international relief that comes to Uganda because of the security situation, lack of transportation facilities (from trucks to gasoline), poor communications, impassable roads and the central government's preoccupation with "more pleasing" problems.

In the urban areas, stores are critically short of supplies. Where available, the food is prohibitively expensive: beyond the reach of the average Ugandan. Sugar, which should sell for \$2.00 per kilo (2.2 lbs) sells for as much as \$10.00 per kilo. Gasoline costs as much as \$2.00 per gallon, though that is somewhat of an improvement from the \$3.00 per gallon during the day of Amin. Bread cost as much as \$5.00 per loaf! At these prices, who can afford to eat? Smuggling has become a very thriving business. The average citizen sinks further and further into despair.

All of East Africa is in dire need of food aid and, unless something is done and done fast, there will be a whole lot of starvation going on. In Uganda, the flow of international aid needs to be closely monitored too, because local bandits continually disrupt shipments of food. The ghost of Idi Amin Dada stalks the land.

NOTE: Across the border in Sudan, thousands of refugees face starvation too, as do thousands more in Somalia but, that is another long story.



Notes from City Hall

By Charles Jordan
Commissioner of Public Safety

Sometimes there are unforeseen problems with getting your property back once you've been arrested. The reasons vary with every situation, however, procedures do exist to make this effort easier for you.

With that in mind you may want to know, **WHAT HAPPENS TO YOUR PROPERTY AFTER YOU HAVE BEEN ARRESTED BY AN OFFICER, BOOKED IN THE COUNTY FACILITY AND IT IS DECIDED THAT YOU MUST BE HELD AT THE COUNTY JAIL?**

If you have anything on your person the officer feels could be used as evidence, the officer will seize it and hold it at the police station's property room. You will be given a receipt for your property. All other personal property will be held by the County Corrections officers when you are processed into jail.

Each item you turn over to the County Corrections officer will be identified and listed on a receipt. You sign this receipt and receive a copy for your records.

Upon release from jail, your receipted personal property will be returned to you. If you should discover that an item listed on this receipt is missing, alert the person on duty, so that an initial search for your property can be conducted.

If your belongings are not found, you will be asked to complete a

Property Claim Form. This form will be reviewed by supervisory staff, and a full search will be conducted in all possible property storage areas.

At this point, your claim will be forwarded to the investigative officer who will make a determination as to the validity of your claim.

Inquiries are then made to ascertain the circumstances leading to the loss of your property.

If your property is still not found, your claim is submitted to an adjusting firm, and you will be reimbursed for an equitable amount of the lost item.

Those items the police officer seized for evidence when you were arrested will remain in the police station's property room until your case is adjudicated, or a judge releases the property to you. This evidence can include anything from your clothing to weapons or contraband. The officer will give you a receipt for all items seized.

Upon final disposition of the case, the property will be returned to you if you are the legal owner.

The police bureau will give notice that the property can be released to you and that it must be claimed within 30 days of the notice. Otherwise, your property will be delivered to the property control officer, who will dispose of it.

When you are released from police custody, your personal property will be returned to you. All property will be held, free of charge, during your incarceration. However, if for some reason, you are unable to claim your property when you are released, no charge will be made provided you remove it within 15 days after being released from custody. Thereafter, your property can be held at a storage rate of 50¢ per day per item.

You can request that someone else claim your belongings for you. This person must present a signed authorization from you, as well as your property receipt.

If the property is not picked up by the designated date, it may be disposed of.

Incidentally, all contraband and illegal weapons will be destroyed.



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Ockley Green

(Continued from P 1 Col 3)
is scheduled for Kennedy school. Alternatives offered for Ockley Green's approximately 750 children are Multnomah, or a split between Terrwilliger and Collins Viein, all in Southwest Portland.

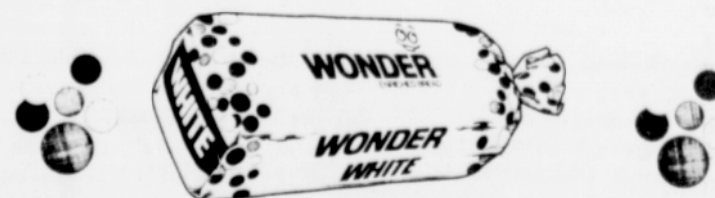
Cawthorne and Steve Buel proposed, as they did during the desegregation discussions, that the Eliot children go to Kennedy; Ockley Green go to Monroe; and another space be found for Beaumont. The Board hopes to make that decision at its next meeting.

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