

EDITORIAL/OPINION

Racist role of US corporations

We haven't seen much in the dailies about the South African troops that have poured into Angola for the past months. South African troops have launched the largest aggression since the 1975-1976 Angola war.

The invasion began on June 7 when battalions of infantry, supported by armoured cars and artillery entered Kunene Province.

On June 27th, the United Nation's Security Council condemned the racist nation for its "premediated and sustained armed invasions" of Angola. The Security Council called for immediate withdrawal and payment for damages. Of course the U.S. abstained.

In the meantime, U.S. corporations, doing business as usual, are assisting the South African government, in its effort to put down the current wave of strikes and protests by Blacks.

Following demonstrations commemorating the fourth anniversary of the Soweto uprisings, the South African government has ordered "key point" industries to upgrade

their security programs and to take steps to protect their facilities. Secret General Motors memos obtained by the American Committee on Africa revealed that GM has been identified as a "key point" industry and plans "to work closely with South African forces in case of industrial disruption or civil unrest."

The memo stated that SA security forces are supervising security operators at the plants and in case of intense confrontations it is almost certain that support industries "would be taken over by an arm of the Ministry of Defense, which would regulate output and coordinate the entire industrial effort. At such times operating control of plants like General Motors and Ford, as well as others, would be vested in South Africa's network and all materials, manpower and production requirements would be tied into the national requirements."

So much for the idea that the American corporations are in South Africa to upgrade the living conditions of Blacks.

Punishing the poor

The Governor and the Emergency Board of the State Legislature are arguing the merits of the various cuts in State Services proposed by the Governor's office to meet a \$20 million budget deficit.

When money is short - whether through miscalculation, mismanagement, or mistake - the burden is placed on the poor. Budget cuts dig deep into programs that already provide only the minimum welfare, health and mental health programs, housing, education, child care, corrections. Those whose lives are already miserable are made more miserable.

In the meantime, the State - because of the foolish political deals of the 1979 Legislature - pays one-third of the property taxes owed by people whose homes are valued in the \$100,000 bracket. Should it be the obligation of the poor starve and suffer - to go without even the basics of life - so those who live in luxury can avoid the tax obligations?

Our recommendations to the Legislature is

to retain the home owner and render relief programs for the low and middle income tax payers and to amend its tax relief program to apply only to those homes valued at \$50,000 or less.

We should also remember that the voters of Oregon just voted to pay for the State Police and the State parks out of the general fund instead of the highway fund - thereby placing an additional burden on the already depleted general fund. This constitutional amendment should be offered to the people on the earliest possible date to put the costs back in the highway fund where they belong.

Another proposal the administration plans to send to the voters is the finance the building of two new prisons. The voters of course should turn the proposal down in favor of cheaper and more humane rehabilitation and prevention.

The nation's failing economy cannot be used as an excuse for neglecting human needs.



The Organization of African Unity

N. Fungai Kumbula

The Organization of African Unity, OAU, held its 17th annual summit in Freetown, Sierra Leone this past week. The high point of the summit came with the presentation of credentials of the delegation from the Republic of Zimbabwe led by Prime Minister Robert Mugabe. Since its inception in 1963, the OAU has taken the liberation of Africa from colonial domination as its number one priority.

Siaka Stevens, Sierra Leone's President, host and incoming chairman of the OAU for the next twelve months, lauded the liberation of Zimbabwe as a giant step in the continuing struggle to return to the continent to African control. For his part, Mugabe called for increased contributions to the ANC of South Africa and SWAPO of Namibia to speed up the liberation of these last two African nations still languishing under colonial domination.

The thunderous applause Mugabe received was as much for Zimbabwe as for all of Africa for a job well done. It's not every day that the OAU has something to celebrate and the celebrants felt they owed it to themselves. After the backslapping and the toasts, however, came the more contentious issues of the Western Sahara and Chad. This time the Western Sahara which is still illegally occupied by Morocco, a member of the OAU, was seeking admission.

The battle lines were drawn from the word go. Admission of the Western Sahara to the OAU would be tantamount to recognizing her as a separate, independent and sovereign state. That would also mean that the OAU was rejecting Morocco's claims and occupation of Western Sahara. As with almost every other issue pitting one African nation against another, the OAU members seemed evenly split: one group backing admission of Western Sahara while the other backed Morocco's continued occupation of the former. Morocco, for its part, was using the "big stick" as it applies to OAU politics: threatening to quit the African body if its position were rejected.

There was a heated exchange between Mozambique's President Samora Machel and Morocco's prime minister. Machel accused Morocco of "blatant colonialism, exploitation of the Saharan people and their resources and gross disregard for their human rights and political preferences." Morocco responded by lamely scoring Mozambique's economic "ties" to "the racist regime of south Africa." This was very lame indeed considering Morocco is getting some of her military hardware from that same racist regime. The Morocco-Sahara dispute, as expected, could not be resolved so it was delegated to a committee. The committee is to "study the problem in depth, make

recommendations and report to the full body."

As far as Chad is concerned, even though this approach has been used without too much success in the past two to three years, the OAU recommended once again the creation of a peace-keeping force with troops drawn from countries bordering on Chad. The idea is to try again to bring the warring Chad factions back to the negotiating table. This was somewhat a better "solution" than that proposed for Western Sahara.

The glaring weaknesses of the OAU are always very apparent when it comes to intra-African disputes. Any problems pitting one African country against another seems to get completely mired in rhetoric. Both disputants always threaten to quit the OAU if their respective positions are rejected and this tends to weaken the body as a whole. It's time the OAU started calling this blumm. It makes no sense at all for the OAU to condemn colonial domination of Namibia by South Africa while turning a blind eye to Morocco's illegal occupation of Western Sahara.

If Morocco quits the OAU because of the OAU's support for the liberation of the Saharan people (the Saharouis), then let her go. It's time the OAU started taking positions because they are right and not because they are afraid of reprisals. As long as African leaders are afraid that the OAU will break up if they take certain positions, then the body will never have the muscle that it should have. The OAU needs to be consistent regardless of whose toes get stepped on. After all, it is supposed to be the Organization of African People, not the Organization of African Leaders.

Missing from this summit was one Master Sergeant Samuel K. Doe, new leader of Liberia. A few of the African leaders are still highly upset

with him for overthrowing the Tolbert regime. The Liberian delegation was refused admission to the April economic summit held in Lagos.

Tolbert was the outgoing chairman of the OAU and, after he was done away with, his replacement, Doe, should have replaced him as OAU chariman also. In the end the very people who barred Doe from these African gathering will have to mend their fences with him because (1) Tolbert is very dead and Doe is here to stay.

Sierra Leone also spent an estimated \$100 million just to host the OAU conference. For a country so poor, that's an unholy sum: money that could have been better spent creating new job opportunities, doing away with slums, providing health and education opportunities. The OAU is in danger of going the way of the Olympics: pricing itself almost to death. Maybe it's time the OAU had a permanent home instead of shifting to a different country each year. Also, the African Heads of State can do without a lot of those trappings like limousines, fancy hotel suites, batteries of telephones and the like. The motto should be: "We come to work, not to play."

Another missing figure at this summit was burly Joshua Mqabuko Nkomo, Zimbabwe's Minister of Home Affairs. He was not included in the Zimbabwe delegation because it was thought "he had nothing useful to contribute." It is the first time in almost five years that he has not been in attendance: he used to have observer status. In a sense it is rather ironic.

The OAU is a very good idea; it will become an even better idea when the average African starts to exert some more influence as to which direction the body should take. It will be an even better idea when it represents the people more than the Heads of State.

Notes from City Hall

By Charles Jordan
Commissioner of Public Safety



" YOU FEEL AN OFFICER VIOLATED YOUR RIGHTS. DURING YOUR ENCOUNTER WITH A POLICE OFFICER ANY NUMBER OF THINGS MAY HAVE HAPPENED THAT YOU FEEL WERE A VIOLATION OF YOUR RIGHTS AS A CITIZEN."

Try to remember the officer's name, or badge number, your location, the time of day and note any witnesses.

Call or visit the Internal Affairs Unit of the Police Bureau and file your complaint by filling out a form that requests specific information.

This Internal Affairs Unit will investigate your allegations by interviewing you, then interviewing the officer you've accused of wrong

doing.

This unit will then determine if the officer was acting in accordance with prescribed standards.

The disposition of your case will be reflected in one of your findings. Sustained, not sustained, unfounded, or exonerated.

When the findings are "SUSTAINED," that means that you have a legitimate complaint and there will be some action taken in reference to the accused officer by the Police Chief. When the findings are "NOT SUSTAINED," that means your allegations cannot be proved or disproved.

When the findings are "UNFOUNDED," that means your case was disproved. When the findings

are "EXONERATED," that means the officer acted in accordance with standard procedure.

You will be notified of the findings by letter usually within 30 days from the date of your complaint.

If you are not satisfied with the findings, you may appeal it through my office by calling 248-4682 for an appointment.

NOTE: No investigation will be conducted by the Internal Affairs Unit if any court proceeding are underway. Your complaint will be acted upon as soon as your case is adjudicated but "YOU" must notify the Internal Affairs Unit so that the investigation can proceed.

Letters

To the Editor:

This article is a request from the Black United Front on behalf of Mr. Noble Vaughan, Branch Manger of the Northeast Benj. Franklin Bank. The N.E. Branch has been robbed twice in the month of July 1980, and Mr. Vaughn was shot, fortunately his injury was not serious, but his experiences have been.

The recent boycott of the Benj. Franklin banking establishment has no doubt brought out people who have declared open season on robbing the Benj. Franklin N.E. Branch. The Black United Front would like it understood that Mr. Vaughn is an employee of Benj. Franklin and not an advocate nor member of the recall campaign. It is sometime difficult to separate the individual from the organization, but it is necessary in this instance to do so.

Mr. Vaughn is performing his gig as many blacks are who working for other unnamed racist establishments. Mr. Hazen and the Benj. Franklin Corporation are the targets of the issue of racism and not brothers and sisters trying to make a living. Punishing Mr. Vaughn for racist practices of Benj. Franklin Corporate leaders is not the point of nor will it bring about the desired results of the boycott.

Evelyn Crews

Citizen of the Week

Nate Proby is executive director of the Southwest Washington Minority Contractors Association, funded by the Washington State Department of Transportation. The Association provides technical assistance and training for minority contractors and assists their participation in construction work and supplies related to highway construction.

Prior to his current position, Proby was director of the United Minority Workers for nine years. In that position he coordinated training; found jobs in construction and other trades; worked with and against contractors, government agencies and unions to get minorities into construction. Among his contributions were a suit which resulted in much of Portland's "Home Town Plan" being discarded by federal court, and a federal court finding of discrimination against Operating Engineers Local 701.

Proby was founder of Blazerhaul Trucking Company. Proby's community activities are multitudine. He was a member of the Regional Model Cities Citizens' Advisory Board; was a founder and is Third Vice President of the Albina Lions Club; and was a member of a Bureau of Labor Advisory Committee.

His main interest is youth. Proby has been involved with Little League for thirty years, and was President of the Peninsula Park League for three years. He has been PTA president at Duniway and a Boy Scout leader. For the past two years he has coached winning men's and women's softball teams sponsored by Blazerhaul.

Proby has five children: Jay, a 1979 Cleveland graduate; Deangela, a 1980 Cleveland graduate; David, a 1978 Benson graduate; Hiedie, 14; Calvin, 11; and Simone, 3. He and his wife, Francine, live in Portland.

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