

EDITORIAL/OPINION

Arms sales help corporate profits

"The sale of American arms to other nations complements the defensive forces of the United States and serves as an important constructive element in U.S. policies," said James Buckley, Under-secretary of State for security and technical assistance.

Differing from previous administrations that lied, hid or at least did not offer information about the external sale of arms, the Reagan administration not only boasts about its course of action but even proclaims the sales as a "constructive element" of its foreign policy.

Jimmy Carter said, shortly before his election in 1976, that the sale of arms is "a dangerous and cynical business." But he forgot his words soon after being installed in the White House, elevating exports of arms by \$3 billion. It is not known for certain whether there were additional sales since the government did not boast about such business.

The U.S. has been gradually accelerating its export of arms, in the process gaining advantages for the administration and for the military-industrial complex, and is selling more sophisticated and destructive arms, especially to NATO members.

Between 1950 and 1980 the U.S. government exported 26,800 airplanes and helicopters, 32,300 tanks, 50,000 transport vehicles, 31,900 ships, 29,700 pieces of artillery, and about 240,000 miscellaneous rockets.

During the 1970s the U.S. government sent arms and war material to 131 countries, at a cost

of \$123.5 billion. Of this total, \$47.7 billion was sold to Middle East nations, generally to Israel and Egypt.

The sale of arms increased from \$4.5 billion in 1970 to more than \$20 billion in 1981.

These figures are probably low, since true statistics are not offered by the Pentagon. This also does not include non-governmental sales of arms.

Another factor that does not appear in the statistics is the export of arms for "police" activity. In the last five years the U.S. has sent tens of thousands of light arms to Chile, Haiti, Uruguay and South Korea, for example—also armored cars, tear gas bombs, communications equipment, cars, airplanes, bludgeons, gauntlets, and other equipment used by rightist governments to repress their people.

This commerce directly benefits the military-industrial complex and its large corporations. The German magazine *Der Spiegel* said, "The profits of these firms from arms in relation to their capital were three times greater than the average profits of the U.S. industrial corporations." A Senate commission found that 164 of the 169 companies involved in the war industry made profits from 50 to 200 per cent. Three corporations made more than 500 per cent and another more than 2,000 per cent.

With this type of profit it is obvious that these corporations and their supporters in government put their own interests above the peace and security of the peoples of the world.

Boycott of Greenberg is racist

by Bayard Rustin

According to a recent report in the *New York Times*, the Harvard Black Law Student Coalition and the Harvard Third World Coalition are calling for a boycott of a Harvard Law School course on race and legal issues because that course will, in part, be taught by a white civil rights lawyer. The lawyer in question is Mr. Jack Greenberg, executive director of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund.

The leaders of the boycott are protesting Jack Greenberg's appointment for two reasons. Because he is white, the students believe that Mr. Greenberg, is, in the words of the Third World Coalition, unable to "identify and empathize with the social, cultural, economic, and political experiences of the third world communities." Secondly, the students are opposed to Mr. Greenberg's serving as director of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, again presumably because he is not black.

The objection to Mr. Greenberg's role in teaching the Harvard course and to heading the Legal Defense Fund simply because he is white amounts to nothing more than blatant racism, i.e., the denial of a person's right to pursue certain activities solely on account of his race. Blacks, as victims of racial discrimination, should be the first to reject the view that race can disqualify one from any particular pursuit.

Anyone who objectively examines the record will conclude that Jack

Greenberg is eminently qualified both to teach civil rights law and to direct an important civil rights organization. Indeed, during his twenty years as head of the Legal Defense Fund, Mr. Greenberg has shown himself to be one of our country's most effective fighters for racial justice and civil rights. Over the years he has directly participated in many of the landmark civil rights victories which have been won in our nation's courts.

What, then, one might ask, has provoked the militant protest of Harvard Law School's young blacks? Today, black law students at Harvard feel frustration at the fact that their less privileged counterparts in the ghetto are suffering unemployment rates approaching fifty per cent. They feel great unease over the current administration's callous disregard for such matters as equal employment opportunity. They are angry at what they rightly perceive as an abandonment by the federal government of its legitimate role as a leading advocate of civil rights. In this context it is entirely understandable that these students would seek to make their voices heard. It is regrettable, however, that their militancy and sense of social responsibility manifests itself in this fundamentally destructive and irresponsible way.

Harvard's young blacks are pursuing their education not only as a result of their abilities, but also as a consequence of the opportunities opened to them by the civil rights battles waged both inside and out-

side the courts. It is ironic—indeed perhaps tragic—that they would vent their rage on Jack Greenberg, a talented and sensitive man who has contributed in no small measure to the freedom and dignity of young black Americans.

There is something else underlying the black protest at Harvard. It is the mistaken view that, somehow, the issues of civil rights is an issue which is exclusively black. Nothing could be further from the truth. Civil Rights is an issue of universal significance and, as such, should be important to all Americans. Civil rights, moreover, is an area in which progress cannot be attained without the building of a strong and wide-ranging coalition of blacks and whites, Christians and Jews. Blacks, despite their large numbers, constitute a minority in American life. They cannot achieve progress by going it alone. Attacks such as the one against Jack Greenberg may have the harmful effect of discouraging idealistic whites from participating fully in the battles for civil rights and social justice.

We don't need to worry about Jack Greenberg. He will not be discouraged and his organization will continue to make a contribution to the advancement of racial justice and human rights. We have more cause to worry about the leaders of the Harvard Black Student Coalition. Unless they change their perspectives they will be ill-equipped to serve the cause of civil rights, a cause which their recent actions have served to undermine.

Fighters for black rights in South Africa recognized

The Executive Council of the AFL-CIO voted last week to grant the George Meany Human Rights Award for 1982 to two champions of black rights in South Africa.

Dr. Neal Aggett, a white officer of the African Food and Canning Workers, a union of black workers, was honored posthumously. He was only 28 years old when found dead in Johannesburg jail.

Mangosuthu Gatsha Buthelezi is head of the 350,000-member National Cultural Liberation movement, a black rights organization in South Africa, and is currently under tremendous pressure from the apartheid regime.

Last year, the inaugural award was presented collectively to Solidarnosc, the Polish labor federation. Lech Walesa was scheduled to accept it at the November 1982 AFL-CIO Convention, but was unable to attend. Martial law was imposed in Poland a few weeks later.

Aggett and Buthelezi are the second recipients. Buthelezi has been notified and is "delighted" with his selection.

Neil Aggett was found dead in his cell in John Vorster Square, Johannesburg, on the morning of February 5, 1982. Assertions by police that he had hanged himself are disbelieved both inside and outside South Africa. Aggett, 28 years old when he died, is one of over 50 people and the first white person to have died in police detention.

Neil Aggett was born in Kenya and came to South Africa with his family as a child. He studied at Kingswood College, Grahamstown

and later at the University of Cape Town Medical School, where he qualified as a physician.

After completing his internship in hospitals serving black patients in Tembisa and Umtata, he worked at the Baragwanato Hospital serving the black population of Soweto, Orlando and its environs, where he became interested in the development of the black trade union movement.

Working as a doctor, Aggett wrote, he saw "the limitations of medicine in an oppressive society . . . What was needed was an end to oppressive conditions, if the health of society was to improve. And the key to this was in the organization of the people, especially the workers."

At the time of his death, Aggett was the Transvaal Regional Secretary of the African Food and Canning Workers Union.

Mangosuthu Gatsha Buthelezi, Chief Minister of Kwa Zulu, was born on August 27, 1982, at Mahlabatini, South Africa, the son of Chief Mathole and Princess Constance Magogo Zulu. On his mother's side he is a grandson of King Dinizulu and a great grandson of King Cetshwayo. On his father's side he is the great grandson of Chief Mnyamana Buthelezi, who was Prime Minister to King Cetshwayo. The Buthelezis serve as hereditary first ministers to Zulu royalty.

Buthelezi, who was educated at Adams College and at Fort Hare University College and the University of Natal, has led relentless opposition to apartheid since 1957

when he assumed the chieftanship. When South Africa imposed the system of "Bantustans" or homelands on the Zulus as a prelude towards giving them so-called independence, Buthelezi accepted the position of chief minister in order to block this "independence" move, which he characterized as a sham and a fraud, involving, as a price of "independence," the surrender or abdication of the Zulus' claim to rights as South African citizens. Buthelezi insisted that if Kwa Zulu leaders were to accept, "they would go down in history as betrayers of each and every thing our forebears stood for, suffered for, and fought for. There can be no right more inviolable than the right to be a citizen of the country of your birth."

In addition to his role as a leader of some 5 million Zulus, Buthelezi heads a potentially powerful national political base, the Inkatha Yenkululeko Yesizwe (National Cultural Liberation movement). Inkatha has a paid-up membership of upwards of 350,000, making it the largest black liberation movement in South Africa, which includes many black trade unionists. Inkatha has among its aims: to help promote and encourage the development of black people spiritually, educationally and politically; to ensure acceptance of the principles of equal opportunity and treatment of all peoples in all walks of life, to abolish all forms of discrimination and segregation based on tribe, clan, sex, color and creed; to ensure observance of fundamental human freedom and trade union rights.

Action result of National Black Economic Summit

In the closing hours of the National Summit Conference on Black Economic Development and Survival, held in Gary, Indiana's Genesis Convention and Exposition Center, an economic game-plan was adopted by delegates that stressed action, not resolutions, to advance America's struggle to attain economic parity. Gary Mayor Richard Gordon Hatcher termed the convention actions, "a workable strategy for the 1980s."

Delegates who journeyed to Gary for the five-day meeting, July 24-28, 1982, adopted more than a dozen action recommendations which echoed the persistent themes highlighted in papers, speeches, workshops and panel dialogue. Chief among the adopted agenda items are:

- Initiation of a black common

market patterned after the European Common Market.

- A two-pronged national black selective patronage campaign: 1. Directing black consumer dollars to businesses that engage in meaningful trade with black America (e.g., hiring practices, advertising dollars); 2. Withholding black consumer support from those businesses who do not engage in reciprocal trade with black America.

- Creation of a black development fund that would loan and invest capital to launch and maintain black business ventures. Initial operating capital would be secured through contributions from the nation's black community.

- Preparation of a legislative agenda. Its first priority would be the passage of a Revitalization Bank. Government-operated, it would

loan money to all American businesses, emphasizing black business development.

- Establish a committee to monitor the flow of black contributions to labor unions, including their pension funds, to assure that dollars are proportionately invested in the black community through employment opportunities, venture capital, urban revitalization and similar practices.

- Establishment of an Afro-American/Caribbean and an Afro-American/International Development Services Fund; establishment of an African Business Information Exchange.

Mayor Hatcher, major convenor and host of the conference, said to accept it at the November 1982 AFL-CIO Convention, but was unable to attend. Martial law was imposed in Poland a few weeks later.

Community control of cable TV

by County Commissioner Gladys McCoy

United States Congressman Ron Wyden of Oregon and Al Swift of Washington conducted a public meeting on S2172, the proposed rewrite of national cable communications legislation. This meeting was held Monday, August 9, 1982, in the Portland Building Auditorium.

S2172 would generally leave local government powerless in terms of cable regulations. I support Congressman Wyden's and Swift's efforts in holding this hearing because I believe it is essential for our community to keep control. We granted a monopoly to cable companies to provide services in the City of Portland and the County of Multnomah. Now it is in the best interest of the citizens that we as local officials maintain the ability to negotiate franchise agreements and control the local cable companies.

Some of the negative impacts of

this legislation mean nearly complete federal jurisdiction over cable systems through the FCC; allows the FCC to eliminate all free public, educational, and governmental programming by finding "unreasonably available alternatives"; sets specific and rigid limitations on the number of local access channels the jurisdictions can require; and eliminates any significant rate control (without which we have no leverage over a company's performance or responsiveness to community needs).

At this time, S2172 is in the United States Senate. This legislation is unusual coming from a Reagan Administration that has been promoting a "new Federalism" policy that returns to the states local control. If S2172 were adopted, this would have precisely the opposite effect. In my view, this is clearly not

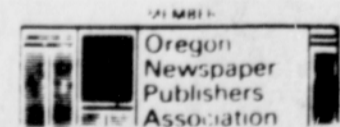
in the public's interest.

Congressman Wyden's and Swift's testimony and a wide range of views presented by industry, citizens and local government officials were presented in four hours of testimony.

Portland Cable Access Corps, in cooperation with Cablesystems Pacific, videotaped the meeting which is being run on local access channels and Liberty Cable from gavel to gavel. KOAP broadcast the meeting statewide.

Portland was put on the map as a source of leadership concerned with this nationwide problem with national attention drawn to this discussion of the pros and cons of local access federal cable legislation.

I encourage my constituents to participate. For further information, please contact my office, phone 248-5219.



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