

Foundation official sees So. African progress

by Robert Lothian

A Ford Foundation official and South Africa expert speaking in Portland Thursday, December 6, said the current round of protests in that country might lead the opposition movement into actions that are "premature," bringing on a new round of repression that could set it back.

Dr. William D. Carmichael, Vice President of the Ford Foundation with responsibility for its developing country programs, had just returned from his 18th trip to South Africa. His talk, "South Africa and its Implications for U.S. Foreign Policy," was sponsored by the World Affairs Council of Oregon at the Marriott Hotel.

Carmichael described a tense and explosive situation in a South Africa that seems on the verge of massive change. "Though violence is increasing," he said, "there is evidence that the violence will lead to a just new social order and not to a bitter civil war."

A series of recent protests by a wide range of the populations of South Africa's Black townships has caused the arrests of 1200 leaders, including "friends and grantees," said Carmichael. Many townships are under occupation by the South African army, experiencing "atrocities associated with occupying forces," he said.

In addition, he continued, a two-day work stoppage organized by Black unions was 65 - 90 percent successful, and "cause of very considerable concern to the government of South Africa."



Dr. William D. Carmichael, vice president of the Ford Foundation, mingles with the audience following his talk on South Africa and its implication for U.S. foreign policy. (Photo: Richard J. Brown)

He described "inhuman and appalling conditions" in the Black township of Mongwali, which he visited recently, as an example of the situation causing the protests. Mongwali, with a population of 10,000, has roots that go back to 1820 as a mission station and successful farming community. But the South African government considers it a "black spot" surrounded by white South Africa. Its citizens are considered "surplus people," and their town is scheduled to be bulldozed, said Carmichael. The people will be relocated to a homeland and then whites will resettle their former home. "It is this aspect of separate development that I think we have to pause over," he said.

Carmichael said that some Black

leaders he spoke with, including union leaders and the wife of Steve Biko, cautioned that a new layer of opposition leadership lacking the experience of those who have been arrested could cause the protest movement to be "politically propelled into actions that will bring down a new stage of repression that will eliminate a new generation of leaders and start the whole cycle of protest and repression all over again."

As he spoke, Bishop Desmond Tutu was about to meet with President Reagan. And American Black leaders continued their protests at the South African embassy in Washington.

The Reagan-Tutu meeting signifies a positive change in attitude by U.S.

policy makers, who are beginning to realize that it's "time for a dialogue with these people," he said. People in the U.S. are realizing that "what happens there does affect what happens here," he added. The talks also represent a signal to South African leaders that it is time for them, also, to enter into dialogue with Black leaders, he said.

Tutu has been critical of Reagan's policy of "constructive engagement" with South Africa, calling it "evil" and "immoral." While Reagan's policy is ostensibly meant to encourage efforts at integration by U.S. companies and through selective use of U.S. aid, critics say it amounts to at least tacit support of the apartheid regime.

Constructive engagement, said Carmichael, includes quiet diplomacy and "avoidance of anything smacking of economic warfare, and avoiding anything that could be construed as a pinprick or negative statement against the South African government."

Carmichael described some positive developments within South Africa. "Elements of the white population recognize that change is called for." For example, he said, the Black Sash organization of mainly white women, a grantee of the Ford Foundation, has been involved in recent protests, and offers paralegal services in some townships.

Carmichael spoke against divestiture. He cited the Ford Motor Company's recognition of a Black union and education programs financed by Mobil Oil Corporation as positive aspects of U.S. investment.

Prudent investor rule upheld by court

by Robert Lothian

A Lane County circuit court judge ruled on December 4 that the State Board of Higher Education violated the state's "prudent investor" rule in 1977 when it voted to divest its endowment fund of stocks held in companies doing business in South Africa.

Student groups had convinced the Board to divest itself of stocks in 27 corporations involved in South Africa as a blow against apartheid. The endowment fund then totaled \$12 million, about \$3 million of which was invested in companies with South Africa connections. Current endowment fund investments in companies that do business in South Africa are about \$7 million out of a total of \$20 million.

The Oregon Investment Council overrode the State Board's 1977 decision with the aid of an attorney general's opinion. The Board's decision to divest was never carried out, which explains why the endowment fund continues to include investments in companies that do business in South Africa.

The judge's decision came at a time when the debate over divestiture is heating up nationwide, and as Black and white leaders and celebrities continue to be arrested at South African embassies in Washington and other cities. The ruling appears to be a setback to the divestiture movement in Oregon, but student leaders said that at least the court battle gave the issue some publicity. Lawyers said the decision would be appealed.



Maurice Barron, 49, has been elected Vice President and Director of Taxation of Safeway Stores, Incorporated. Barron is a Certified Public Accountant and has a BA in accounting and an MBA in taxation and has been with Safeway nine years.

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Bogle nixes nuclear zone

Members of the Portland-based New Clear Vision confronted City Council candidate Dick Bogle, Thursday, December 6th, at his campaign headquarters. Responding to their challenge to his opposition to declaring Portland a nuclear-free zone, Bogle said "Every one in his right mind is against nuclear madness, but the competing interests in this instance are jobs for the people of Portland and a healthy economic climate pitted against what I feel is an issue best addressed by those charged with national policymaking." Neither side changed their position, but Bogle said he would meet with the group and thoroughly discuss the matter. Herb Cawthorne, also running for the Council seat, supports making Portland a nuclear-free zone.

(Photo: Richard J. Brown)

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