

EDITORIAL/OPINION

Reagan Continues His Support For Apartheid

The veto by President Ronald Reagan of legislation imposing economic sanctions against South Africa for its racial policies, once again reveals Reagan's support for apartheid in that repressive country.

Since Reagan's first term in office, he has defended the racist South African government through his constructive engagement policy, which has helped the most brutal regime since Hitler's Nazi Germany, denying millions of citizens basic civil rights, just because they were born with black skin.

Reagan's lack of moral conscience about the situation in South Africa is the reason both Republican and Democratic lawmakers have put together legislation calling for stronger economic sanctions despite Reagan's veto.

These lawmakers believe that the United States should take a stance against hatred, bigotry, and oppression and stand for freedom, opportunity, and dignity for all people, regardless of their skin pigmentation.

It's a shame that the President of this country doesn't share these principles.

POSAF ON SOUTH AFRICA

Coke Boycott Continues!

On Wednesday, September 17, 1986, the Coca Cola Bottling Company announced its intent to "disinvest" its holdings in South Africa. Company President Donald Keough states, "A decision to complete the process of disinvestment is a statement of our opposition to apartheid and of our support for the economic aspirations of Black South Africans." While this move by the Coca Cola Company has been hailed by several political and Black leaders as a positive example, and, "It's a departure from the status quo in the disinvestment debate that set a precedent for other companies."

But what is the real nature of the Coca Cola move? What is Coca Cola's real intent? It must be remembered that the object of the disinvestment campaign is not to change the color of people who finance apartheid, whether Black or multiracial, but to end all financial support for apartheid by cutting off all corporate taxes to the South African government: the apartheid economy. Before applauding Coca Cola's move too loudly, let us have some questions answered:

1. If Coca Cola is disinvesting, will Coke be removing its license and trademark and relinquishing claim to profit from its products?
2. What are the remaining tax liabilities of the Coca Cola Company to the South African government?
3. What is the position of other Coca Cola subsidiaries in South Africa? Will Coke still receive benefits from these subsidiaries and/or the new company?
4. What is the composition of the new entity purchasing the Coca Cola holding? What amount of

money is necessary for the purchase? In light of the severe limitation on Blacks ability to purchase property and secure capital, how are they able to buy this company?

5. What will take place within the six to nine month timetable Coca Cola has set for disinvestment?

6. To what extent does Coca Cola see this move as a change from its previous policy in South Africa?

7. How will this new position effectively change the lives of the majority of the people of South Africa?

While we recognize this move by Coca Cola as an initial step and a partial response to public pressure, we feel that congratulations may be a bit premature. The above questions must be answered. For as Coca Cola says, "The company won't lose any money; its products will still be sold through the 15 independent Coca Cola bottlers in South Africa." Hence, Coca Cola will still be helping to finance apartheid. Any corporation that makes a profit from apartheid, regardless of the channel, participates in the destruction of the lives of the majority people in South Africa. There can be no reform of apartheid. Total disinvestment by Coca Cola or any other foreign company must mean the cessation of all economic operations and connections, including license, trademarks, factories, suppliers and distributors.

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Along the Color Line

by Dr. Manning Marable

Dr. Manning Marable is professor of sociology and political science at Purdue University. "Along the Color Line" appears in over 140 newspapers internationally.

"Black Leaders and Conservative Cults"

A desperate people will turn to almost anything which promises some relief from oppression. As the socio-economic conditions of black America have continued to deteriorate in the 1980s, and as Reaganism has become the national ideology of both major parties, some black leaders have begun to search desperately for allies. A few prominent civil rights spokesmen have gone so far as to form alliances with ultra-right groups, which might give lipservice to blacks' traditional interests.

Consider the careers of James Bevel and Ralph David Abernathy. In the 1960s, Bevel was a critically important figure in the desegregation campaigns. With Marion Barry, James Lawson and John Lewis, Bevel led the successful sit-in movement in Nashville. Bevel was a key strategist and stalwart for King in the difficult Birmingham desegregation campaign of 1963. Bevel was in Memphis five years later when King was assassinated. Abernathy was, of course, second only to Martin as a pivotal leader of the Southern struggle from Montgomery to Memphis. But deprived of King's guidance, both black leaders floundered, personally and politically. Abernathy was unable to keep the Southern Christian Leadership Conference's (SCLC) momentum going, and within a few years he was overshadowed in the civil rights field by his charismatic junior lieutenant, Jesse Jackson. Both Bevel and Abernathy ran unsuccessfully for Congressional seats. As King's other proteges continued to make headlines—most prominently, Andrew Young—the flow of public events increasingly bypassed both civil rights veterans. Neither leader exercised any clout within the Carter administration.

In the 1980 election, Abernathy took a decisive step away from King's political legacy by endorsing Ronald Reagan for the presidency. He justified this unexpected action by accusing the Carter administration of a variety of sins. Coretta Scott King promptly attributed Abernathy's endorsement to sinister "forces". Less charitably, some black journalists bitterly ridiculed Abernathy as a modern "Judas" and "Uncle Tom".

Abernathy and Bevel drifted even further to the right after 1980. Bevel became a Republican party leader in Chicago's black community and soon earned the reputation as an extremist of the right. By 1985, both former leaders had been drawn into the political orbit of CAUSA, an anti-communist front established by the Reverend Sun Myung Moon. This April, Abernathy joined Black radical-turned-reactionary Eldridge Cleaver at a CAUSA conference held in Los Angeles. In May, Bevel and Abernathy were the key participants in a Two-day "Freedom Rally and Convention" sponsored by CAUSA and held in the impoverished Lawndale section of Chicago's west side. CAUSA was created six years ago by supporters of the Unification Church, in an effort to build conservative links to educators, clergy and local elected officials.

The sad conversion of Abernathy and Bevel to CAUSA's agenda highlights the expanding role of the Unification Church inside the black community nation-

ally. For more than a decade, Moon and his followers have pursued policies totally at odds with black interests. The church has donated hundreds of thousands of dollars to rightwing groups such as the National Conservative Political Action Committee, which opposes affirmative action legislation and civil rights. Moon's previously public statements on race relations also appear to have more in common with segregationist Lester Maddox than King. In 1974, for instance, Moon claimed that each racial group held specific characteristics: "Orientals can contribute in the spiritual aspect, white people can contribute in the analytical, scientific aspect, while black people can contribute in the physical area." The actual number of black converts to the "Moonies" remains small. Yet CAUSA recently reprinted an early speech by King critical of Communism, which in turn provides a suitable ideological cover for their growing activities with blacks. Unwittingly perhaps, Abernathy and Bevel have become key pawns in this strategy.

The right-wing sect of Lyndon LaRouche has also initiated a campaign to recruit black supporters. As in the case of the Unification Church, the LaRouchites work primarily through several fronts, the Schiller Institute and the National Democratic Policy Committee. Again, the LaRouchites have been linked to a number of racist and extremist groups, including the Liberty Lobby, the Klan and neo-Nazis. Currently, the LaRouchites are vigorously opposing sanctions against South African apartheid.

The most prominent black leader close to LaRouche is Roy Innis, who heads the remnants of the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE). Innis denies membership in the cult, but recently acknowledged "an ongoing collaboration." This fall, Innis ran an unsuccessful campaign in the Democratic primary against progressive Rep. Major Owens of Brooklyn. Innis received support in his effort from the National Rifle Association and was endorsed by Bernhard Goetz, the controversial "subway vigilante." Since the mid-1970s, Innis has championed the cause of Jonas Savimbi, the apartheid-supported terrorist and leader of the Angolan rebel group UNITA.

What Abernathy, Bevel and Innis all share is a virtual lack of accountability to any significant working class constituency inside the black community. Opportunism and clientage is nothing new in black politics, and these former civil rights leaders have found it convenient to advance conservative dogma in a conservative climate. But what is more significant is the failure of most progressive-to-liberal black leaders and organizations to expose and critique their behavior and alliances with ultra-rightists. They have continued to take for granted a unity of political purpose and collective vision which has ceased to exist among black activists. As Major Owens finally recognized, CORE has "become a vehicle for the opposition, and Innis is an agent of the opposition.... We've been silent for too long in the name of black unity."

Letters to the Editor

I Was Touched

The Lord touched my heart when I heard Proverbs 21 v. 13: "Whoso stoppeth his ears at the cry of the poor, he also shall cry himself, but shall not be heard." I wish to publicly confess that I did not represent the interests of our neighbors most in need. I represent King Neighborhood on the Steering Committee for HCD (poverty) funds. I voted our entire \$180,000 yearly budget toward an excellent project helping a number of unemployed & home-seekers, and also fix up housing;

but thousands and thousands of our most needy neighbors will not be helped at all. This has been called "cream-skimming".

I repent, and ask your forgiveness, and promise to work harder to use our money to touch more poor—especially those most bruised.

Jim Anderson
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The A.M.A. Headstart Program's Cascade Center held an open house Friday, Sept. 26, 1986, for staff and the parents of children who attend the Center. An enjoyable evening was had by all and included

a gumbo dinner, salads, and desserts. The event was coordinated by Elaine Harrison (2nd from L). Photo by Richard J. Brown



Healthwatch

by Steven Bailey, N.D.

The use of gamma-globulins in western medicine has been increasing dramatically over the past few decades. These components of our serum represent the major antibodies within our humoral immune system. Specific globulin antibodies have been used to effect immunity to many forms of contagious diseases (vaccines against the flu, etc.). More recently, gamma-globulin therapy has been used to assist the immune system in such diseases as hepatitis.

Although it has been known for over a century that antibodies (immunoglobulins) are soluble serum components, they were not isolated as proteins until the work of Tiselius and Kabat in 1937. Their specific structures and mechanisms of action have been elucidated in the more recent years. Today we have the ability to isolate specific fractions of the immunoglobulins and to use these products in the care and treatment of many conditions. Yet a new concern has been raised in current gamma-globulin therapy.

Last week I was given a copy of a newsletter out of the South that quoted a Donald Steel, M.D., of Newport Beach, California, as stating that the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the FDA had informed him that "all samples of gamma-globulin tested positive for the HTVV virus of AIDS." Whether this means that recipients of gamma-globulin therapy could develop AIDS from this therapy remains to be seen, but the potential of this occurrence has caused some laboratories to cease marketing their supplies of gamma-globulin. A supplier of mine told me this past week-end that Armor had found all their batches of this drug

to be contaminated, and the product is no longer available until an uncontaminated batch has been produced.

Mr. Dave Chesney, Branch Head of the Portland office of the FDA remembered the April 19, 1986, FDA bulletin of this subject and is in the process of tracking down the current status of pharmaceutical supplies of globulins.

The main concern now is that the public be aware of the current questions concerning gamma-globulin therapy. The problem has arisen primarily because gamma-globulins are extracted from pooled supplies of up to 1,000 donors¹, and if only one person in the pool escapes AIDS detection, the entire pool is contaminated. Hopefully, with the current tests for AIDS, the potential for the future contaminated gamma-globulins is reduced. Studies of past lots of gamma-globulins have shown that up to two-thirds of HBIG (the globulins used in hepatitis) were contaminated.² Fortunately, the FDA labs have not isolated any live AIDS viruses in the samples, and the current government statements suggest that the fears of receiving AIDS from globulin injection are unwarranted. While much about the AIDS progress and transmission remains moderately unclear, the FDA feels that the chance of infection from immunization is extremely low. For the present, if you are possibly going to receive isolated immunoglobulins as an injection, you should question your doctor as to their awareness of this new concern. Sometimes the treatment can be more harmful than the disease.

¹ Communicable Disease Summary, Vol. 35, No. 7.

² Ibid.

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