

EDITORIAL / OPINION

BUSH INVITES SAVIMBI: A CRIME AGAINST HUMANITY

by Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr.

In the wake of President Bush's speech to the General Assembly of the United Nations, we are alarmed and dismayed that the President of the United States would invite the terrorist murder of innocent Angolan women and children to have tea at the White House. No one questions the President's prerogative to invite whomever he wishes to have a personal audience. Yet, we do have the right to question the wisdom and the morality of condoning, supporting and encouraging Jonas Savimbi's UNITA terrorists in their merciless acts of vicious brutality and inhumanity against the people of Angola.

On October 5, 1989, President Bush will welcome Jonas Savimbi to the White House. This embrace of Savimbi by Bush is tantamount to a hideous crime against humanity. Why? We take this position because of the reality of the situation in Angola at this very moment. Since the historic Obadote, Zaire agreements between the government of the People's Republic of Angola led by President Jose Eduardo dos Santos and Jonas Savimbi of UNITA before 18 African heads of state, the cease fire that was declared on June 24, 1989 has repeatedly been violated by UNITA. Rather than supporting the ceasefire, the Bush Administration in July of this year pressured the Senate Intelligence Committee to approve an increase of U.S. military aid to UNITA to over 40 million dollars. Now hundreds of innocent Angolan civilians have been slaughtered by UNITA as a consequence of deliberate UNITA attacks on the civilian population of Angola. Who bears the responsibility of these human rights atrocities? Who bears the responsibility for these acts of terrorism?

The Bush Administration not only prides itself with taking responsibility

for UNITA, but recently the U.S. State Department reaffirmed its "vigorous support of Jonas Savimbi and UNITA." The invitation for Savimbi to once again cross the threshold of the White House is but a public testimony of both the arrogance and the blindness of the Bush Administration when it comes to Angola in particular and southern Africa in general.

Savimbi is scheduled to meet on October 3 and 4 with members of both the House and the Senate. Senators Dennis DeConcini (D-AZ) and Jesse Helms (R-NC) will be renewing their support of Savimbi while Congressman Dave McCurdy (D-OK) will be introducing Savimbi to McCurdy's newly-formed Angola Task Force which also supports UNITA's acts of violence. Then Savimbi will meet with Vice President Quayle, Chief of Staff Sununu and National Security Council Director Scowcroft. On October 11, 1989 Savimbi will be escorted to New York City to lecture at the Council of Foreign Relations.

In a recent letter to the Washington Post, Mrs. Ethel Kennedy wrote, "Americans should be clear about what we are doing in Angola. It is a conscious policy of UNITA to target civilians. We should call an immediate halt to our policy of providing support to UNITA." Unless there is a massive public outcry from millions of Americans throughout this nation, the White House cocktail parties with Savimbi will continue and the suffering of the people of Angola will be unabated. We call for your prayers, we call for your protests and we call for your continued support to build a national movement of concerned citizens to challenge these continued crimes against the people of Angola which are crimes against all humanity.

PLAYING BY OUR RULES

By Dr. Lenora Fulani

On September 12 David Dinkins became the first Black man in history to win the Democratic party's nomination for mayor of New York City. Not surprisingly, the white corporate-owned media attributed this historic victory to liberal white voters. Others are saying that the brutal murder of 16 year old Yusef Hawkins, a young Black man, by a gang of white hoodlums three weeks before primary day had translated into a massive "sympathy" vote for the Black Democrat. But neither of those explanations is the right one.

The fact is that a new movement has come to maturity in New York City--an independent, Black-led, working class-wide political movement which has grown up in the shadow of the murderously racist, anti-poor administration of Mayor Ed Koch. This new movement is the future of progressive politics in New York. The immediate beneficiary of the new movement is Mr. Dinkins and the rest of the city's Democratic Party reformers. That's alright. The new movement needs them--for now. But if the new movement remains independent, and I am committed heart and soul to making sure that it does, it will someday soon take over from the reformers--the parasites who live off the righteous anger of our people.

I ran as an independent candidate for mayor in case Dinkins lost the primary. Now I am urging New York voters to pull the lever for Dinkins in November--and the independent New Alliance Party candidates who with Mr. Dinkins make up the Dump Koch slate in this year's election.

It's an unusual situation. I am on the ballot, at the top of the NAP line. But I am using my independent candidacy, as I have all along, to support Mr. Dinkins. I have neither withdrawn my name--doing so would only lose votes for the other NAP candidates who are running--nor reneged on my promise to work for Dinkins' election if he won his party's nomination. I know that my refusal to play by the rigid "either you're in or you're out" rules of the electoral game will annoy the hell out of many people--from Democratic Party insiders to those who believe that the only principled position to have is on the outside, looking in. But my sup-

port, as an independent candidate, for Mr. Dinkins, the Democratic nominee, is the essence of NAP's hallmark "inside-outside" tactic.

Dinkins must win. Like it or not, this dyed-in-the-wool Democrat is the Dump Koch candidate of the Black and Puerto Rican working class communities in this election. But the die-hard Democrats who are running with him have nothing to do with dumping Ed Koch--these fake reformers don't deserve the time of day, let alone the votes, of our people. On election day we need to vote Dump Koch all the way--which means pulling the lever for Dinkins in the Democratic column, then crossing over the NAP column and voting independent. We need to make it very, very clear to Dinkins and the Democrats that he is beholden to the black and Puerto Rican working class communities which have been the base of the Dump Koch movement since 1981.

New York's Democratic Party reformers, Black and white, have always been the beneficiaries of the Black and Puerto Rican-led independent political movement. Over the years, the reformers (Dinkins among them) have used the intense Anti-Koch sentiment boiling over in the Black and Puerto Rican working class communities to win votes away from regular Democrats, only to shake hands and make up with the machine the morning after election day--while our people are left holding the bag of police brutality, official corruption, and poverty. This year is different.

I plan to accept every invitation to debate with the other candidates, to speak as a candidate, and to be interviewed as a candidate. And I'll use every opportunity to campaign for a "rival." But I have never used my independent candidacies just to get votes. I am building an independent political movement, a movement to empower our people, the Black working class, and our disempowered sisters and brothers in the Latino community, the Native American community, the Asian American community, the lesbian and gay community, and the progressive white community. It can't be done playing the Democrats' game by the Democrats' rules--just as it can't be done the Republicans' way. We have to make up our own rules, and play to win.

Vantage Point

THE ROOTS OF RACISM AND THE RISE OF REAGANISM



by Ron Daniels

Over the past decade Reaganism and Reagonomics, as much as anything have been responsible for the rise of racism in America. However the roots of racism run deep within the American character. Historically racism has been utilized by the white ruling elite of America in a sinister strategy to divide the masses of poor and working people and to exploit those divisions in the interest of the further enrichment and empowerment of that ruling elite. Because African-Americans have been the explicit object and target of racism the white population in general has benefited from the suppression and exploitation of African-Americans.

At the psychological level the "WHITE ONLY" access to public facilities, transportation, water fountains, toilets, cemeteries, schools neighborhoods and positions of power was a mean pillar in the structure of white supremacy. However old "Jim Crow" as the symbol of segregation and discrimination was not just a psychological bird. The system of segregation in the U.S., as is the case with apartheid in South Africa, was designed to yield substantial benefits to the oppressor. Though those at the top benefited most, whites at all levels, not only had the warped psychological satisfaction that comes with a sense of racial superiority, they benefited materially.

When white skin color is used as the badge to get a mob and other services and privileges in society, white people in general benefit. Over the years there were instances when some jobs were for WHITES ONLY, and other instances when whites automatically received much higher wages for doing exactly the same job. Hence whites developed both psychological and material stake in the preservation and perpetration of racism, segregation and discrimination. Put more bluntly, being racist could be profitable!

To be sure, rich whites are never willing to pay Black or white workers the full wages they are entitled to for their work. But by giving white people a psychological and material incentive to perpetuate racism, the whites at the top conveniently and profitably can exploit both the Blacks and whites lodged at the bottom of the economic pyramid. Racial antagonism, therefore, is often most acute when Blacks and whites compete for jobs and other opportunity benefits e.g. education, housing, recreation etc. The level of racial antagonism is usually exacerbated and intensified during periods of economic hard times.

had raided the Irish coast. Ali had grown up with the family; he loved Mary and she had refused him. Note that African sea-rovers used to raid the British Isles for loot and slaves until late in the 18th century (see p. 10, Rogers, Your History).

This type of northern European interaction with Africans does not seem at all unusual if you consider the home-base of these peripatetic navigators. From as early on as 2000 B.C. Africans were sailing to Britain and Spain and establishing tin mines; the metal was needed to alloy with copper to create their magnificent bronze statues. At the other end of their time spectrum we have it from Dumond (History Of The United States) that these Moors, North African rulers of Morocco, algers, Tripoli and Tunis, "collected large tributes from all nations that traded in the Mediterranean...Great Britain paid annual tribute to these Africans, and after gaining independence the United States continued to pay tribute."

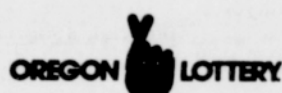
In 1815 Thomas Jefferson launched an undeclared war and sent a fleet to Africa to secure the safety of American prisoners. We will note that in the customary vein of racist European writers, these 'African' sailors are never revealed as such. But they are dubbed "Barbary Pirates", while the British navy which inflicted infinite piracy and inhumanities upon the seafarers of all nations (including America) is never referred to in such a denigrating fashion. "Hail the British Lion, Mistress of

the Seas--upon whose glorious empire, the sun never sets."

From the well-documented research of J.A. Rogers we have it that "The Scottish people trace their ancestry to the ancient Egyptians who used to visit the British Isles long before the Christian Era (through 'Scota', a daughter of the Egyptian Pharaoh whose people settled first in Spain and then in Scotland). These Picts and Scots, as they were known, proved very troublesome to the Romans, two of whose emperors, Hadrian and Antonine, built great walls to keep them out of England. As late as the 14th century large portions of the population of Scotland were Black and many Scotch people still show their Negro ancestry in their color and their hair."

All of this is seen to fit very well with recorded history. For instance, in the official register of the Roman administrative system (notitia Dignitatum), we find listed among the African troops that Emperor Hadrian brought to Britain, the 'Numerous Maurorum Aurelianorum' division of Moors from North Africa. And several weeks ago I described the African faces appearing upon the shields and the Coats-of-Arms of Scottish families - and throughout Europe.

This revealing series will continue next week (Barbary Pirates indeed).



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PERSPECTIVES

by McKinley Burt

Sorry about that folks, I was wrong; The Portland Observer's 'Minority Business Issue' will be published at a later date. In the meantime let me take you on a little excursion. Today, we are going to speak of pirates. You heard right, 'PIRATES'!

Once upon a Halloween my mother bought me a pirate's costume - and much later, in high school, I learned that in the West Indies, those Caribbean Isles that produced so many African greats (from Audubon to Napoleon's generals), many of the most fearsome and notorious buccaneers were African. What I didn't learn at the time was that for centuries the most feared raids and explorers of the 'northern European coasts' were also African--from

very ancient times up until the 19th century.

Now, this is indeed odd because, usually, blacks are seen to rightfully complain that only their naughty deeds are heralded while the magnificent accomplishments are ignored. So why then, we may ask, is there no mention of the race of these d k-skinned interlopers in the Emerald Isles of Ireland and the Bonnie braes of Scotland? As usual, the answer is found within the context of racism - there are reams of documented interaction with 'Mr. Charles genes'.

In particular, let us cite one very determined African, 'Ali Krussa', a searower who in 1631 attacked Baltimore Castle, Ireland and carried off Mary, daughter of sir fincen O'Driscoll. Ali Krussa had been captured as a child by her father when Ali's uncle, Nudda,

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