East and West Staging Tug-of-War For Africa's 230 Million Persons

Editor's note: Thomas R. Curran, United Press International vice president and general manager for Europe, has just completed a six-week tour of Africa. He visited 15 nations and talked with all the leading political figures. In the following dispatch he describes the struggle that is going on between East and West for the allegiance of the minds of the Africans.

By THOMAS R. CURRAN

Khartoum, Sudan – (UPI) – A tug-of-war is going on between East and West for Africa's 26 nations and 230 million persons. Of those 230 million only two per cent are white.

The West is not taking any chances in this struggle and can not afford to do so. Topmost in the minds of the Western nations is the old saying that a man "with bare feet and an empty belly is a candidate for Communism."

Who is winning? At the moment, nobody. For both Communism and capitalism are secondary in the minds of the Africans, and that means pan-Africanism and nationalism.

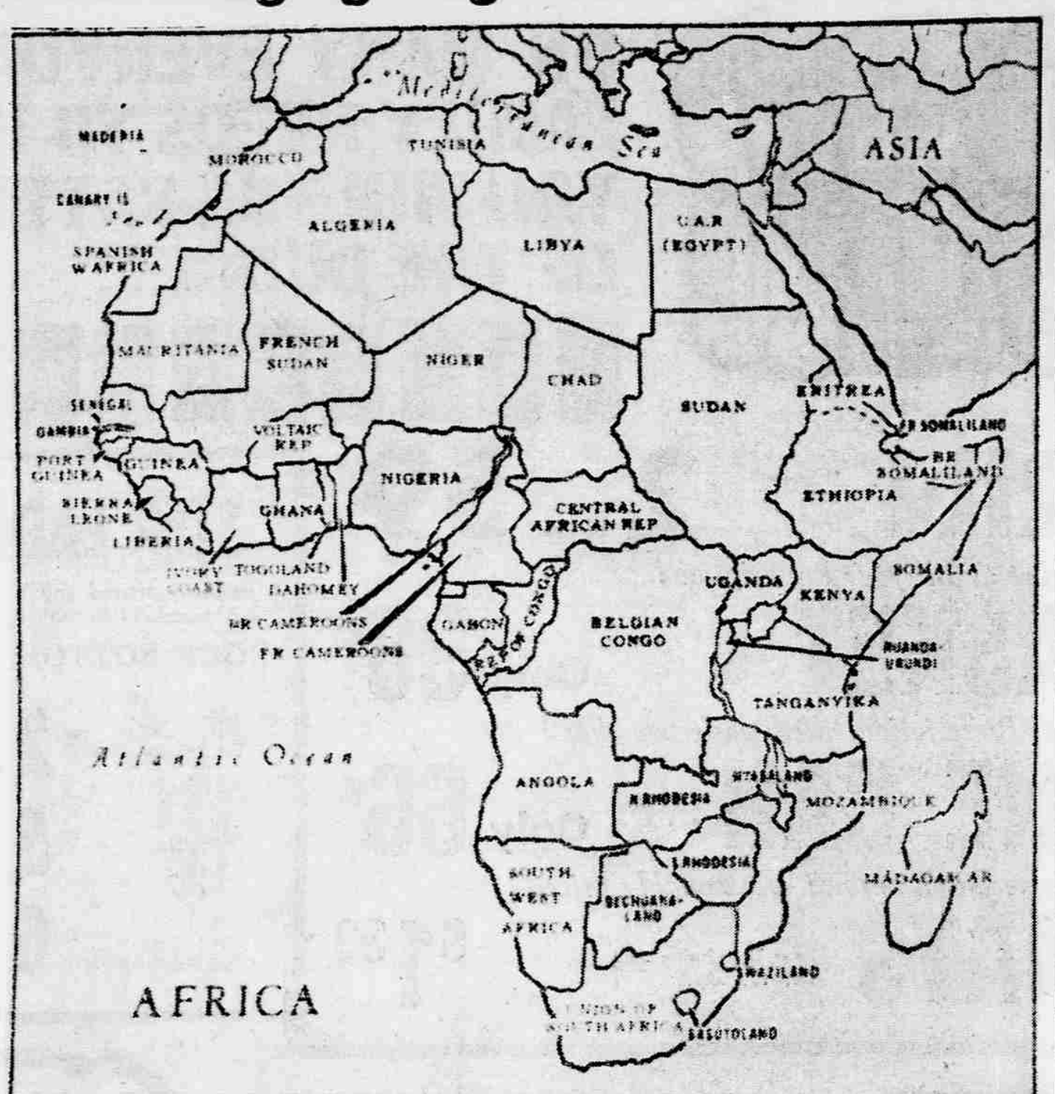
Leaders Visiting

Indicating the extent of the struggle for Africa, leaders of both sides have visited or plan to visit the continent.

President Eisenhower touched down in Tunisia and Morocco on his journey to the Mediterranean and Asia last December; Prime Minister Harold Macmillan toured the British areas in January. Nikita Khrushchev has indicated he will accept invitations from Guinea and Ethiopia later this year. There's even talk that Khrushchev may go to Liberia, the first independent country on the west coast of Africa which was settled by ex-slaves from the United States 138 years ago. To this day Liberia uses dollar bills printed in Washington for legal tender. It has no currency notes of its own.

Seeks Soft Spots

Red China and Russia are probing for soft spots as the new African states get their independence after 300 years of European colonial rule. Nevertheless, most leaders of the 26 nations on this huge continent–five times the size of continental United States–are friendly to the West. Least favorably disposed are thought to be Sekou Toure of Guinea and President Gamal Abdel Nasser of Egypt, but neither of them has moved toward making his country a Communist state.



Taking advantage of the East-West jockeying, the African countries may be expected to play both sides against the middle. If Uncle Sam isn't sufficiently generous and open-handed, African leaders may seek Russian aid. Nasser got Russian help for the first stage of construction of Aswan dam on the Nile; Emperor Haile Selassie recently got a whopping Russian credit of the equivalent of one billion dollars. It's all in rubles, however, and has to be spent in rubles.

Black Leaders United

The black leaders of all the new African states are united in denouncing "racial discrimination" and "colonial imperialism." The Communists love to hammer those themes, too, but the European powers have been divesting themselves of the colonial tag as fast as they could. Great Britain, France and Belgium have all offered independence to their former colonies.

England started it three years ago when its old Gold Coast colony became the free nation of Ghana. Nigeria becomes free in October. Under de Gaulle a whole raft of new countries are popping out in what used to be French West Africa and French Equatorial Africa. Guinea was the first French colony below the Sahara to emerge as an independent state, and just a few weeks ago Belgium agreed that her big African colony, the Belgian Congo, could be independent the end of June.

Speed Up Indicated

Kenya, Tanganyika, Northern Rhodesia, Nyasaland, Zanzibar, Uganda and Sierra Leone are on the planning board for independence in the future. Phased withdrawal of British control in from 18 months to 5 years is planned for all of them, but the irresistible surge of African nationalism may force the colonial office to step up its time-table.

This correspondent saw signs in Swahili for "uhuru" in Kenya, Zanzibar and Tanganyika – independence now. Tom Mboya, African leader Nairobi, said after the recent London conference on Keyna: "Some people talk of this constitution lasting four to five years. Personally I am not committed and do not consider any of us committed to this."

On racial discrimination, Macmillan told the parliament of South Africa in a frank speech in Cape Town that England would no longer support the apartheid policy. Apartheid is South Africa's program for separate development of blacks and whites.

United States Blamed

Some Johannesburg editors blamed the United States for Macmillan's tough talk, but other observers pointed out that Ghana and Nigeria, new black commonwealth nations, had given their point of view to Macmillan as he traveled south to Cape Town.

Portugal's holdings in Africa are anti-Communist oases and have been an exception to what Macmillan called "the wind of change." The Portugese consider Angola, Mozambique, Portugese Guinea, the Cape Verde Islands, Principe and St. Thome "overseas territories" – pieces of metropolitan Portugal abroad.

There is no trace of racial discrimination in Portugese territory. The Portugese have never been accused of race prejudice. Vacationers from Rhodesia and South Africa comment on the lack of tension in Mozambique.

Tribal Law Rules

In their administration of native affairs, the Portugese whenever possible are guided by tribal law and do not try to make the natives understand Anglo-Saxon common law or the Napoleonic Code. If a native wants to leave his cattle and holdings to his nephew, cutting off his own son as heir, Portugese judges do not object. Both in Angola and Mozambique the natives follow this practice with the explanation: "We know the son of our sister has blood. We can't be so sure of our own son."

In some of the New African countries the Chinese Communists have more appeal than the Russians. The Chinese are considered "non-European" – like the black people themselves. So far, however, only three African countries have recognized the Peiping regime – Guinea, Egypt and the Sudan.

Exchanges Provided

The Chinese Communists attended the Afro-Asian conference at Bandung five years ago. One resolution there provided for "cultural exchanges." Taking advantage of it, a troupe of 50 Chinese acrobats are now touring Africa. Advertised as a "spectacle of diablo, mimicry, trident and Chinese magic," the performers ran from Feb. 24 to March 4 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. They vacated the Haile Selassie I auditorium to make way for some American "culture" – Herbie Mann's jazz band, and Billy Graham's evangelical crusade enters the Haile Selassie Stadium March 8 and 9.

Gift of Faith in God Effective Antidote to Hysteria of Fear

By THE REV. DR. HENRY E. HOESMAN
Director of Evangelism, American Lutheran Church
Columbus, Ohio
Written for UPI

"Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: For the powers of heaven shall be shaken" Luke 21:26.

Thus the Lord Jesus describes conditions as they are to be preceding the great day of His coming. One word best describing life today in the Americas is fear. Plenty of evidence exists to support a conviction of an organized campaign being underway to inoculate every last American with a repeated dosage of fear.

Part of Campaign

Headlines, articles, lectures, editorials, sermon introductions, screaming alert sirens, roadside signs are all a part of the campaign.

Soviet missile experts hit the moon and the stock market dips. Cape Canaveral continues reporting millions of dollars going up in pyrotechnical busts. Congressmen panic. Crash programs are introduced into the educational systems. The hue and cry is for more scientists.

Not Compatible

All of this is symptomatic of the lack of faith in the one, true God. Fear and faith are not compatible. "Righteousness exalteth a nation, but sin is a reproach unto any people." A giant pinned down an entire army. King Saul and his troops were paralyzed with fear. A mere youth went forth in the name of the Lord to battle the profane physical specimen. He conquered. He had what the others lacked – courage, born of saving faith.

Every Christian has this blessing. It is a gift God wants us to share with others. Only then can it be the effective antidote to this hysteria of fear.

Society Observes Save Vision Week

"Visual training has become one of the most important techniques for helping children who have trouble reading," according to Dr. Tom Anderson, chairman of the Southern Oregon Optometric society.

The society is observing National Save Your Vision week March 6-12. Dr. Anderson said "It is generally acknowledged that seeing is a learned process – not merely a physical act – and that some children 'learn' to see improperly."

"It is these children who need visual training in order to see as the normal child sees," he declared. A common example of children who see things wrongly are those who mistake the word "was" for "saw", or "on" for "no", or find it hard to keep their attention on an object for more than several seconds.

They can be helped by visual training in most cases, according to the optometrist.

Legion Presents Plan to Congress

The American Legion has presented to Congress a plan for care of the chronically ill veterans in convalescent cottages recommended for construction at five widely scattered VA hospitals, according to Eugene Orr, Medford Legionnaire.

Orr was in Washington, D.C., to take part in the 37th annual national rehabilitation conference March 1-4.

Among other recommendations the Legion made to the house veterans affairs committee were cost of living adjustment in compensation for the service-connected disabled and for surviving dependents of those who died as a result of war service; granting a one-year period in which veterans of World War II and the Korean conflict could renew GI life insurance; extending the GI home loan guarantee program; and giving the administrator of veterans affairs the same authority to set interest rates as is now exercised by the commissioner of the federal housing administration.

Documentary Film On Trip Available

A documentary film based on the 1959 Oregon Centennial covered wagon train is now available for free showing to schools, civic and social groups, according to Ivan C. Hoyer, administrative director for the On To Oregon Cavalcade, Inc.

The film, "Wagons West," was produced by the New York Life Insurance company in cooperation with the Cavalcade organization, sponsors of the epic trek. It is 16 millimeter with sound.

Seven authentic wagons manned by a crew of over 30 men, women and children made the trip.

Any school, civic groups and other organizations interested in showing "Wagons West" may obtain a print by contacting their nearest local New York Life office, or by writing to the company at 621 S.W. Morrison st., Portland, or 163 East 12th ave., Eugene.

'Good Friend' Takes Man Second Time

Alliance, O.–Henry Maile, 33, told police he loaned a "good friend" his $2,500 car for an emergency trip to Wheeling, W. Va. and didn't hear from him until two weeks later, when the man phoned from Detroit.

Maile complained his "friend" disappeared again after he wired him $190 to have the auto's transmission repaired.

BRILL
METAL WORKS
Commercial — Industrial
Residential Sheet Metal Work
Stainless, Galvanized and Copper Fabrication
2287 West Main
PHONE SP 2-4440

Midget Prices
Thursday, Friday, Saturday
TOM THUMB
OPEN 8 a.m.-7 p.m. EVERY DAY
Table Rock Road at 4 Corners
We reserve the right to limit

WE GIVE S&H GREEN STAMPS

Picnics Swift's Premium, fully cooked ... lb. 35¢
Fish Fillets Ocean Fresh Red Snapper ... lb. 29¢
Frankfurters Nebergall's Skinless ... lb. 43¢
Sausage 100% Pure Pork ... 3 lbs. $1.00
Beef Pot Roast U.S. Graded Good ... lb. 49¢

WE GIVE S&H GREEN STAMPS

Lettuce Crisp Green, Garden Fresh ... 3 Heads 29¢
Carrots Golden Snoboy Quality ... 2 lb. cello bag 19¢
Potatoes Klamath U.S. No. 1 ... 10 lbs. 49¢
Onions Sweet, Medium, Yellow ... 10 lbs. 39¢

WE GIVE S&H GREEN STAMPS

Coffee Hills Bros. Instant ... 10 oz. jar $1.59
Margarine Holiday, Colored Quarters ... 6 lbs. $1.00
Syrup Nalley's Lumberjack ... 22 oz. bottle 29¢
Cheese Genuine Tillamook, Medium Aged ... 2 lb. loaf $1.19

GREEN STAMPS WE GIVE S&H

FATHER-SON UNDERWEAR SALE!

big price cuts on year 'round underwear in sizes from 4 to 40

SEARS ROEBUCK AND CO

regularly 69c each men's athletic shirts, T-shirts, briefs, yoke front and boxer shorts

your choice 2 FOR $1.15

Buy dad a year's supply now, save even more. Choose soft, absorbent white cotton knit briefs and shirts that really hold their shape, or Sanforized cotton broadcloth shorts in fancy patterns. Sizes 30-40.

big savings on boys' briefs and T-shirts

T-shirts, sizes 4 to 8 regularly 2 for 1.18 — 2 for 1.00
T-shirts, Sizes 10-16 regularly 2 for 1.38 — 2 for 1.17
Briefs, sizes 4-16 regularly 2 for 1.00 — 2 for 88¢

These combed cotton knit briefs and T-shirts are tailored for a boy's comfort. And mom, you'll like the way they take the hard wear of even the most active boy, hold shape wash after wash. White only.

"Satisfaction guaranteed or your money back" SEARS
JACKSON AT BIDDLE
SP 3-6661
Open Mondays and Fridays 'Til 9 p.m.—FREE PARKING