

United States Possibly Losing Africa Battle for Friendship

Editor's note: The following article was written by a June graduate of the school of Journalism at the University of Oregon as an "editorial summary" of the conclusions developed in the senior thesis required of each graduate. The opinions are those of the writer.

By DAVID LORTIE (Springfield, Ore.)

The United States may very well be losing the battle with the Communist world for the friendship of the emerging peoples of Africa.

Shortly after the second World War, the world became aware that the once dark continent of Africa was aglow with the flames of anti-colonial revolt. This revolt, triggered by the promises of freedom and self-determination made in the 1943 Atlantic Charter, has been going on now for 15 years.

Some progress has been made in Africa, large areas such as Kenya, Algeria, and the Central African Federation are still very much embroiled in the anti-colonial revolution.

Among the nations most concerned with events in Africa are the United States and the Soviet Union. These two powerful nations, as the leading spokesmen of competing ideologies, see in Africa the chance to gain new converts to their respective political beliefs.

The Soviets have declared themselves solidly against colonialism and imperialism in any shape or form. Because of this stance they have been able to gain many friends among the Africans.

The success of the Soviet plan thus far has not been particularly great. However one need only look at Egypt and more recently Guinea in West Africa to see that the Soviets have made some inroads into the African continent.

In contrast to the active program of encouragement and support being carried on by the Communists, the United States has failed to give any support to the Africans. This country since the first flickerings of anti-colonialism up to the present time has followed a policy of strict neutrality in the struggle between the anti-colonialists and the colonial powers.

To say the least this neutral stand by the United States has been extremely disappointing to the Africans. They feel that America, because of its historic belief in "life, liberty and happiness" is morally obligated to aid the independence struggle of Africa.

The answer to this question is rather simple. Active American support of the Africans' independence struggle might very well result in the loss of two of America's most important allies, France and England.

These two nations, holders of vast territories in Africa, consider the problem of colonial Africa as strictly a matter of domestic jurisdiction. That is, they say that no nation has the right to meddle in a matter which is strictly the concern of another nation. They point to the domestic jurisdiction clause of the United Nations Charter as legal proof of their claim.

In addition England and France, faced with the mounting pressure of the Africans for immediate independence and the cry of the white colonial settlers for continued colonial status, have been forced to devise a compromise program. What they have come up with is a plan of gradual independence by which they hope to achieve independence for Africa and at the same time provide the necessary legislation to insure that the white settlers will be able to keep their lands once the Africans become self-governing.

Naturally both countries want to see their programs carried out to a successful conclusion. They feel that should any nation intervene in the colonial controversy, the gradual independence program would be destroyed and Africa would be thrown into complete chaos. Because of this both countries have positively but firmly told the nations of the world to stay out of Africa.

ly happened is that the ideals on which America was founded have been forced aside by the political realities of the current world situation. Support of our allies is considered more important than the support and friendship of the emerging peoples of Africa.

But is there any way that the United States can assist the Africans, thereby regaining the position it has lost, and at the same time keep the western allies united? Middle Course Seen

Obviously, neutrality is not accomplishing this. And active support of the Africans, on the other hand, would be no solution because of the adverse effects it would have on allied relations. But there could be a middle course.

First, the United States, through proclamation in the United Nations, reinforced around the world by its diplomatic corps and propaganda agencies, must reaffirm its support of the principle that all peoples have the unalienable right to determine the form of government under which they wish to live.

Second, the United States, as an individual nation, must not intervene in the specific outbreaks which may ensue when the peoples of one particular area of the world attempt to gain the right of self-determination.

Third, the United States must become a leading force in the United Nations in upholding the basic principles of that body: human dignity, equality and the right to freedom and self-rule.

By adopting these measures America could improve its position in African eyes. The Africans would be reassured

that America has not forgotten its great heritage. America's position in regards to its allies certainly would not be enhanced by adoption of these measures. However, at least the allies would be reassured that the United States would not actively intervene in the colonial problem.

Compromise positions are rarely comfortable, but by adopting a program along the lines that have been outlined America would at least have a chance of keeping the friendship of both the Africans and its two important allies, England and France. If we continue with our present neutrality policy all we can expect is that Africa will at some future date become yet another area of the world under Communist control.

Bend Princesses Visit in Portland

Portland (UPI) - Five pretty princesses from Bend visited here this week to give Portlanders the first hand word about that city's Mirror Pond Water Pageant July 24.

The five lovelies - Kathy Murphy, Sue Merrill, Anne Moty, Joyce Cole and Nan Hutchins - appeared on television, at the Visitors Information Center at the Chamber of Commerce and made other visits.

They said the pageant this year would feature 16 events.

COAL CHAIRMAN DIES - Fair Haven, N.J. (UPI) - Robert V. White, 73, chairman of the Lehigh Coal and Navigation Co. and a former governor of the New York Stock Exchange, died Tuesday.



WRECKAGE PROBED - Firemen probe the wreckage of an auto in which Antonio Martin, 27, of Oakland, Calif., was fatally injured when the vehicle blew a tire and swerved into the path of a truck on the Nimitz Freeway. The driver of the truck, and another motorist, pulled Martin from the flaming wreckage of his car but he died en route to a hospital. (UPI Telephoto)

Pistol Toting Mama Shot Accidentally

Knoxville, Ky. - Nineteen-year-old Mrs. Jeanette Duncan was out wheeling her baby when suddenly she dropped to the ground with a bullet wound in her leg.

Mrs. Duncan solved the mystery by explaining the pistol discharged when it dropped from her purse to the ground. She said she used it for target shooting and was carrying it for protection.

Teen-ager Drawn Astray by Love

New York - Police radios blared out the description of a youth who had held up two taxi drivers and taken off in the cab of one.

At headquarters, the bandit told police he went on his spree in order to raise \$1,800 - the price of a leopard coat for his sweetheart.

Playground Program Attracts 359 Youths

A total of 359 youths of all ages have signed up for the park and recreation department's summer playground program which started Monday.

The program offers games, sports, social activities, arts and crafts, music and drama, nature lore and special events. These activities are being coordinated with the program offered by the Medford school district.

Each of the city's six program centers will have the services of recreation leaders who will organize and supervise all activities. At some of the centers there will be both men and women leaders.

The centers and the number of children which have so far registered at each are Howard school, 121; Wilson school, 29; Jackson school, 21; Washington school, 88; Hoover school, 18; and Hawthorne park, 82.

Ken Lyons, city recreation supervisor, said that those program centers which have registered only a few youths may have to be combined with some of the larger centers.

Lyons said 79 students have

so far signed up for the tennis instruction classes offered by the city since registration started Monday. The classes are offered at Medford High school, Hedrick Junior High school and McLoughlin Junior High school. Instruction for both beginning and advanced players is being offered.

The classes will be held throughout the summer and will include some tournament play. Matches are scheduled with Grants Pass, Klamath Falls and other southern Oregon teams.

A fee of \$1 is being charged to defray the cost of equipment. Tennis balls are furnished. A minimum age limit of 10 has been set but this limit is flexible, Lyons said.

Registration for the city's baseball clinic, which also started Monday, totals 226 boys. Any boy who has reached his ninth birthday and who did not graduate from high school prior to June 7, is eligible to enroll.

Lyons pointed out that each boy will be given an opportunity to play with a team. The clinic is held at the Medford High school baseball field and is staffed by such men as John Kovenz,

Alex McDonald, Jack Brown and Don Stroh. Further information on any part of the city's summer recreation program can be obtained by calling the parks and recreation department in the city hall.

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