

"DENNIS THE MENACE"



"PRETTY GOOD HORN FOR A LITTLE CAR, HUH, DAD?"

East And West Staging Tug-Of-War Over Domination Of African Nations

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.

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 cannot afford to do so. Topmost in the minds of the Western nations is the old saying that a man "with bare feet and 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.

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 133 years ago. (To this day Liberia uses dollar bills printed in Washington for legal tender. It has no currency notes of its own.)

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.

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.

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 from Nairobi, said after the recent London conference on Kenya: "Some people talk of this constitution lasting four or 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.

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

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Actors Strike Film Studios

HOLLYWOOD (AP) — The Screen Actors Guild today called the first strike in its history against producers of theater motion pictures, forcing seven major film studios to shut down part of their operations. No picket lines were expected, but the 14,000 members of the SAG were preparing for a strike at least six weeks long. The guild rejected a request by the Assn. of Motion Picture Producers that films now being shot be completed before the actors walk out. The SAG board of directors also voted to ask the Federal Mediation Service to help settle the dispute, a guild spokesman said. Main issue is the guild demand that actors be paid part of the earnings of pictures made since

1948 and sold to television. Producers claim this would be paying twice for the same job. Not affected by the strike will be independent producers, studios filming television shows and Universal - International. The independents and U-I have signed new contracts with the SAG. An industry spokesman said about 5,000 persons will be idled at Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, Columbia, Allied Artists, Paramount, 20th Century-Fox, Warner Brothers and Walt Disney. Hardest hit will be 20th where four pictures are in the works. MGM will have to shut down a pair and Paramount and Columbia one each. The walkout went into effect at one minute after midnight and actors thus joined the Writers Guild of America which has been on strike on a similar issue since Jan. 16. The SAG has never struck the motion picture producers, but it has walked out twice in disputes with television.

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Couple Stage Diamond Hunt

NEW YORK (UPI) — A pretty brunette and her fiance spent most of the day Sunday melting a snowbank to find some ice. Joyce Mullan, 21, and Thomas McCauley, 23, were looking for her \$2,000 diamond engagement ring.

Joyce and Thomas were saying goodnight after a Saturday night date when the ring came off her finger and found its way into the snowdrift by her door. First explanation was that Joyce had handed the ring back to Thomas after a quarrel—and that Thomas angrily tossed it away. The couple later said the ring slipped off her finger. Any argument—if one there was—melted a way immediately. Joyce and Thomas got down on their hands and knees and started sifting the snow.

No ring. Then they woke her parents to help them search. Still no ring. Around 9 a.m. they called the police, and four patrolmen joined them. Shooing away children who wanted to use the precious snow for a snowball fight, they started melting it, shovelful by shovelful, with hot water.

Still no ring. Then the police had to leave, but Joyce and Thomas kept at it. They even invited 26 relatives and friends to a dinner party to be followed by a snowdrift treasure hunt, but only eight were able to come. The search was temporarily called off. Joyce and Thomas planned to do a little more hunting before work—and after, if necessary—today. The ring was not insured.

OUT OF RED INK BALTIMORE (AP)—You'd never believe it of the Post Office Department. Postal officials here, when they wanted to put schedules on some new air mail collection boxes, found they had no red ink and had to buy some.

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