

The Black American Lobby for Africa and The Caribbean

TRANSFRICA WEEKEND

On the evening of May 31, TransAfrica will host its Third Annual Dinner at the Washington Hilton Hotel. The \$75 a plate fundraiser will be followed on the afternoon of June 1 by the Annual Meeting of members.

This year's dinner audience is expected to exceed 1500 guests, the principal address to be given by Ambassador Salim Ahmed Salim, President of the United Nations General Assembly and Permanent Representative to the United Nations from the United Republic of Tanzania. Ambassador Salim's speech will focus on the growing cooperative relationship between Africa and Afro-America.

The gathering to include a large number of diplomats from Africa and the Caribbean will be entertained by Jean Carn. Miss Carn, a rising vocal artist, will be returning home to her native Washington to perform.

The following day at noon, Board Chairman Richard Hatcher will convene at the Hilton, the annual meeting of members. Slated are Board of Directors elections and a series of policy resolutions on United States policy toward Africa and the Caribbean.

It is anticipated that much of

the discussion will revolve around two issues: U.S. relations with South Africa and the general U.S. response to economic development efforts in Africa and the Caribbean.



His Excellency Salim Ahmed Salim

"Now that Zimbabwe is independent we must increase the pressure on the Administration to apply comprehensive sanctions against South Africa" said Randall Robinson, Executive Director, to a group of Washington journalists recently. Mr. Robinson had earlier indicated that the issue of U.S. economic relations with Africa shared top priority with the South Africa question.

SALIM AHMED SALIM

Since February 1970 Salim Ahmed Salim, 38, has served as

the Ambassador from Tanzania to the United Nations. Before coming to New York, Ambassador Salim represented his country in Egypt, India, the People's Republic of China and the Democratic Republic of Korea. His current presidency of the thirty-fourth session of the United Nations General Assembly began in September 1979.

Ambassador Salim, born in Zanzibar, was trained at Lumumba College (Zanzibar), University of Delhi (India), and Columbia University, School of International Affairs. A youthful participant in his nation's struggle for independence from Great Britain, he served as founder and First Vice President of the Zanzibar Students Union and Secretary General of the Zanzibar Youth Movement.

During his ten year tour of duty at the United Nations, Ambassador Salim has distinguished himself most notably for his work as Chairman of the United Nations Special Committee on the Situation with Regard to the Implementation of the Declaration of the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (Special Committee of 24).

AFRICA COULD FACE ECONOMIC DISASTER IN THE 1980s

Transition to a new decade has occasioned a good deal of reappraisal of the first twenty years of African independence and prognostication about the future. The emergence of a genuinely free Zimbabwe, the return to civilian rule and the demise of autocrats in several countries all spark optimism that political freedom and popular participation will advance during the next decade. But, Africa confronts a serious economic crisis in the economic domain and can do little about it on its own. Yet, fundamental changes will have to occur if the deepening economic crises are not to undo the considerable political progress that has been and is being made on the continent. There are important implications for the friends of Africa in the U.S. and elsewhere.

The recent comprehensive United Nations study of *The Future of the World Economy* concluded that Africa, along with other parts of the developing world, cannot even begin in this century to narrow the income disparity with the industrialized countries by continuing the present course. The report concluded that only with fundamental changes in the amount of domestic investment, changes in tax policies, income distribution patterns, changes in the prices received for the products of developing areas, considerable industri-

alization, substantial expansion of agriculture, and massive increases in international economic assistance, could the developing areas achieve accelerated growth.

Overall growth rates for the developing world will have to reach nearly 3.5% for GDP per capita, whereas throughout the last decade they have averaged only about .2% in Africa. The World Bank has estimated that with present and foreseeable trends during the 1980s Africa's per capita GNP growth will not surpass 1% per year.

In the crucial area of agricultural expansion, Africa will have to achieve an annual level of expansion of about 5% or 4.3 fold increase in the next thirty years, whereas in the past decade it has been stagnant in many places, and the continent is headed toward a 15 million ton grain deficit by the year 1985.

Industrial expansion will have to be around 7%, against the stagnation outside the petroleum and extraction industries that has characterized Africa during the last decade.

International economic assistance to Africa would have to increase from its present level of about \$3b a year to around \$17b, and the U.S. share from its present level of under \$500 million to about \$4b or nearly eight to ten times as much. Nothing in the present

political scene in the United States suggests this will happen.

The African states will also have to change their pattern of indebtedness. Already the sub-Saharan states have built up a debt burden of about \$30b. Everyone expects Zaire, with its \$4b of debt to have problems, but Ivory Coast has nearly as much, and Zambia half as much. Ghana has over a \$b in foreign debt. By the year 2000 half the export earnings of Africa will go into just meeting the interest charges on this debt.

The level of suppression and exploitation of the working and productive portion of the African population that will have to occur to meet these burdens and support the governments and their ruling elites will be very high indeed. It is hard to imagine anyone truly concerned about the plight of the general African population finding such conditions acceptable. For them to be avoided or for them to change will require drastic changes in the international economic order, in the levels and types of economic assistance rendered, and in the internal African political and social structures. The real African revolution may only be beginning.

Willard R. Johnson
Chairman
Policy Committee

RECENT EVENTS

- In response to an invitation from ZANU-PF, Randall Robinson, Executive Director, attended the Zimbabwe independence celebration in Salisbury, Zimbabwe April 18-19.
- Under the sponsorship of Mayor Coleman Young and Marc Stepp, some 300 Detroiters attended a TransAfrica fundraiser on March 9 at Detroit's Pyramid Gallery. Speakers were State Senator Julian Bond, Congressman John Conyers, Rosa Parks and Ambassador Bias Mookodi of Botswana. A pre-event breakfast was hosted by Catherine Blackwell. TransAfrica organizer Margaret Baylor coordinated the program.
- On April 13, Mayor Thomas Bradley hosted a \$50 a plate luncheon for TransAfrica in Los Angeles. 400 people turned out to hear Ambassador Andrew Young speak. Television sportscaster Bryant Gumbel served as master of ceremonies.
- Policy Committee Chairman Willard Johnson recently submitted to the House of Representatives testimony in support of H.R. 6811. "A bill to provide for increased United States participation in the International Development Association, to provide for United States participation in the African Development Bank, etc."
- On April 6, TransAfrica joined Howard University and the Embassy of Senegal to host a reception for President Leopold Senghor of Senegal on the occasion of the closing of The Exhibition of Contemporary Art of Senegal.
- Under the management of volunteer staffers, Sebron Humphrey, Donna Walker, Felipe Noguera and William Tutman, a pressure delivery system is being organized in the 153 Congressional districts across the country in which blacks comprise at least 10% of the electorate. Under the new system, hundreds of letters to Congress have been generated in support of sanctions against South Africa and in opposition to U.S. arms sales to Morocco.

From Rhodesia to Zimbabwe

At 12 o'clock midnight on April 18 in Salisbury's Rufaro Stadium, the British Union Jack was lowered and in its place was raised the flag of the new nation of Zimbabwe. After six bloody years of war between the Patriotic Front and the illegal Smith/Muzorewa regime, Zimbabwe had achieved independence on the strength of British supervised elections which brought Prime Minister Robert Mugabe, President of ZANU-PF, to power by a landslide margin.

The Rhodesian General Election of 1980 was a seminal event. To assess the fairness of that election, a delegation of independent American observers, including a representative of TransAfrica and the NAACP, Cynthia Cannady, visited Rhodesia from February 14 to March 1. The group traveled extensively throughout the countryside interviewing villagers, social workers, missionaries, soldiers, candidates and party organizers. The group filed their report before the results of the election were known. Excerpts from the group's report follow:

"Before listing problems connected with the political campaigning we want to mention some positive elements:

- (1) Advertising space in newspapers and on television and radio seemed to be equally available to all parties.
- (2) The level of violence during the three days of balloting was down significantly from the period of campaigning. Even the campaign period saw a decrease in the level of violence due to the ceasefire. There were approximately 350 deaths or an average of 5 deaths per day during the campaign. If deaths had continued at the same rate as before the ceasefire, there would have been 3500 deaths in the last two months.
- (3) A beginning was made in the last week toward the integration of the government forces with the Patriotic Front guerilla forces.
- (4) It was heartening that more than 93 percent of the potential voters cast their ballots. Obviously Zimbabwe is a well-politicized country. There is a sense of involvement by the people that should auger well for the future of the country.

"Despite these positive developments, other factors have militated against free and fair elections:

- (1) The deployment of auxiliary troops numbering about 26,000 to policing duties particularly in the tribal trust lands. These troops loyal to the United African National Council of Bishop Abel Muzorewa were not confined to the designated assembly points as were the Patriotic Front and the ZANU-PF forces. Therefore they played an active role in intimidating people to support the UANC, and discouraging them from supporting other parties.

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ACTION ALERTS

Write, call and arrange a meeting with your Congressman and Senator and tell them that:

- The United States should take measures to sever all economic, cultural and diplomatic relations with the Republic of South Africa.
- The U.S. should increase its overall level of foreign assistance to Africa and the Caribbean to \$5 billion

NOTE: Please respond immediately. A vigorous response from black American can and will mean the difference between victory and defeat. Let us know your representative's response so that we can follow up in Washington.

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(2) The overwhelming military presence in Rhodesia fostered fear and a constant sense of intimidation among the people. During the last two weeks of the campaign, for example, there was a government call-up which put an additional 96,000 reservists in uniform.

(3) Secret ballots do not necessarily affect intimidation that is intended to hinder campaigning.

(4) The media was biased against the Patriotic Front and the ZANU-PF. Radio, television and the daily press constantly slanted the news in such a way as to accuse the two parties associated with the guerilla struggle of any violence which occurred without offering proof.

(5) Only a small percentage of the refugees in the neighboring countries of Zambia and Mozambique were returned to Rhodesia in time to vote. The largest number of refugees were in Mozambique, where only about 7 percent were returned by February 27. Since these people were sympathetic to ZANU-PF and the Patriotic Front, the candidates of these two parties lost in the neighborhood of 100,000 votes.

"In making its observations of the election, the delegation particularly tried to examine the extent to which free campaigning by the parties and the free choice of the voters may have been interfered with throughout the country. The following incidents which the group witnessed or which were reported to it, give a valid picture of intimidation of voters and illegal campaigning:

- A young social worker at a Catholic mission in Sinoia told us that he was present at a ZANU-PF rally in Sipolilo on February 2nd. A permit had been given to hold the rally, but a group of auxiliaries, disputing the authority for the rally, shot into the crowd of 2000, killing three persons and injuring several others.
- In an interview with Patriotic Front President Joshua Nkomo, we were told of an incident in Gokwe where auxiliaries shot and killed two persons when they became engaged in a dispute about attendance at a Patriotic Front rally in Bulawayo.
- In Mhondoro Tribal Trust Land, south of Salisbury, we interviewed on February 16 several villagers and a school teacher who told us that the auxiliaries in the area frequently follow and beat people who have attended non-UANC rallies.
- In Fort Victoria on February 23 we interviewed two women from Mazorodze Tribal Trust Land in the Chibi district who had been forced at gunpoint by auxiliaries onto a bus bound for a Salisbury UANC rally. They escaped from the bus in Fort Victoria and were trying to get back home to their Tribal Trust Land when we met them.
- A school teacher and a villager in Mhondoro Tribal Trust Land told us that the auxiliaries had told them that, since the 'boys' were gone, they (the villagers) had no one left and had to do as they were told.
- On February 17 three members of our delega-

tion and a journalist were interviewing residents of villages and a school in Chiota Tribal Trust Land in Mashonaland East about the election. We were accompanied by four officials of ZANU-PF from the Salisbury office. We were arrested at gunpoint by about 15 security force personnel in a violent and abusive mood, apparently because we were traveling with 'terrorists'. We were taken to Mahusekwa base for questioning. On the bumpy road to Mahusekwa, an automatic weapon was held to the head of one of the ZANU-PF officials and he was repeatedly threatened and insulted. We passed three cars full of African civilians traveling in the opposite direction; the first two were stopped and required to travel with us to Mahusekwa, the third car, in which at least one passenger wore a UNAC T-shirt, was waved on. Upon arrival at Mahusekwa, one of the ZANU-PF officials was kicked in the chest and hit on the face. We were detained for about an hour for questioning and then driven to the provincial center, Marandellas (about one-half hour away) for more questioning. At around 5:30 p.m. we and the ZANU-PF officials were released without charges. This incident was reported to the office of the Governor but we did not receive a response.

• In the early morning of February 16, about seven trucks of police and security forces raided the Mushandira Palmwe Hotel in Highfield Township outside of Salisbury where many ZANU-PF officials live. The police and army personnel had ransacked several rooms, stolen 1000 Rhodesian dollars of campaign funds and arrested 5 ZANU-PF supporters without charges. We saw the ransacked rooms and interviewed several witnesses.

• On February 25 at 2:00 a.m. the same hotel was again raided by 80 to 100 policemen who arrested 35 persons. According to one of those arrested, police stormed in with weapons drawn, hit doors with truncheons, lined up the residents downstairs and searched the rooms of the hotel for one hour. Three persons were bitten by dogs, one seriously. The arrests were later explained as part of an investigation into a complaint of assault, but 34 of 35 arrestees were released without charges within 48 hours.

• On February 26, the first day of the polling, two members of our group witnessed the arrest of two ZANU-PF polling agents in Triangle Estates, Victoria District. The agents were accused of 'intimidation' of voters when they took notes concerning an irregularity at the polling station: a dead rooster (the ZANU-PF party symbol) had been tacked to a tree with a sign 'Jongwe is dead' (the rooster is dead). The two men remained in detention for that day and part of the next so that they were unable to fulfill their duties as polling agents."

Illegal Campaigning by Rhodesian Military

• "In early February, Rhodesian government DC-3's were sighted air-dropping UANC pamphlets over Chiweshe Tribal Trust Land. The issue was raised with the Governor who deplored the

practice and order an immediate end to it. On February 26, it was reported at the daily press briefing that the practice was continuing. The Governor's spokesman again deplored the practice. Government aircraft have also been observed dropping campaign literature in Fort Victoria and Gutu.

• At Beregina Mission in Victoria province, Security Forces distributed leaflets attacking black governments 'to the North' and instructed the people not to vote for the 'Marxist party'."

Dirty Tricks: Efforts to Discredit ZANU-PF and the Patriotic Front

• "In mid-February, Salisbury was rocked by a series of explosions and one attempted bombing. The first occurred at 8:40 in a car in Harare Township. Then another bomb exploded near an Anglican church. It appeared to have been an accidental detonation of an explosive transported in the car. Two passengers, who were killed in the blast, were later uncontroversially identified as Selous Scouts. Two hours after the Harare blast, a bomb exploded in a church in the white Salisbury suburb of Boorowdale. Two minutes after that explosion, a massive explosion wrecked a Presbyterian Church downtown. The next morning, February 15 at 6:00 a.m. a briefcase containing an undetonated explosive device was found in the Catholic Cathedral. On the briefcase was inscribed 'Pambere ne Mugabe' (Forward with Mugabe).

This series of events was attributed by a UANC spokesman to 'terrorists', reasoning that churches are 'anathema to Marxist-communism'. A Rhodesian Front spokesman attributed the attacks to 'those people who follow the anti-Christ dictates of Marxism'.

• At 3:00 a.m. in the morning on February 24 the Mambo Press, a Catholic press that publishes the 'Moto' newspaper was destroyed by a bomb. 'Moto' is a critical weekly that had been banned by the Smith regime. One week prior to the bombing a fake issue of 'Moto' accusing Mugabe of Marxism and homosexuality had been printed and distributed throughout the country. Members of our group interviewed one worker at Mambo press the day after the explosion. He told us that remains of two bodies had been found in the ruins that morning — one white and one black. This information was subsequently confirmed by the British press spokesman and the police, thus contributing to speculation that the bombing was part of a 'dirty trick' by Selous Scouts to associate ZANU-PF with anti-Christianity. The worker whom we interviewed also felt that the bombing was part of a plan to 'pay back the church for its commitment to social justice'."

Editors Note: Two days after this excerpted report was released the overwhelming victory of ZANU-PF was announced. In view of the above, it was indeed a remarkable result.