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THE UNITED STATES AND AFRICA

Two weeks ago United States Vice-President Hubert Humphrey undertook a lightning tour of several African countries. The longest he stayed in any country was two days while in others, such as Zambia he stayed only a few hours. In this manner and method the visit resembled the tours of conquered territories undertaken by Roman Pro-Consuls two thousand years ago. Perhaps there is a moral in this similarity.

During his tour Hubert Humphrey mouthed grand phrases about freedom, democracy, self-determination, etc. He assured all and sundry about the determination of the U.S. government to defend these things and promised aid of this and that kind. But, typically, he was sufficiently vague so as not to tie the U.S. Administration down to anything specific and precise except in one or two specific instances. In essence his was what is usually called a "goodwill" tour. It signified no changes in U.S. Foreign policy - a foreign policy whose chief architects and sole beneficiaries are the imperialist monopolists who control the U.S. government.

Hubert Humphrey had nothing to offer Africa and being a representative of the imperialists could offer nothing. In fact, even while Humphrey was assuring Zambia of support against Rhodesia, the rebel Rhodesian representative in Washington was for the first time given official recognition. This action sums up the deceit, double-talk and double-dealing which is the stock-in-trade of imperialism.

The role that the United States has played and continues to play in Africa and elsewhere makes it clear that it is no friend of oppressed peoples. On the contrary, U.S. imperialism is the chief supporter of reaction and repression wherever it exists.

In Africa there are strong feelings that the C.I.A. has had a hand in virtually every counter-revolutionary coup - and such coups are the plague of Africa. The U.S. "Peace Corps" is so riddled with C.I.A. agents that many African countries refuse to deal with them. That U.S. imperialism has underwritten Israeli aggression in the Middle East is not news anymore. In the Congo the U.S. (in the guise of the United Nations) actively intervened to overthrow the patriotic regime of Patrice Lumumba. When the fascist White South African regime faced financial catastrophe in the immediate post - Sharpeville period it was U.S. imperialism that bailed them out.

And inside the U.S. itself centuries after the Declaration of Independence the huge Afro-American minority continues to suffer the stigma and degradation of second class citizenship.

This is the "freedom" of the United States. It is the "freedom" of the brute armed with the bomb, the bullet and napalm ever-ready to enforce his policies with violence, if need be. Freedom, democracy, justice, self-/.

self-determination are words and phrases used by the U.S. to cover up their very opposites.

U.S. imperialism has nothing to offer Africa except oppression and exploitation. Even the so-called "aid" is largely covered by import of raw materials at ever-falling prices. Hubert Humphrey came empty-handed. (though full mouthed). Let Africa ensure that he and his ilk go back empty-handed. Let Africa be on guard.

* * *

LISTEN AMERICA

Listen America, listen to the sounds of human suffering!
For mother America is a selfish hen who strangles her brood
Before they blossom;
And drowns their cries with wave-length shriek.

The child of the revolution has a stone heart
That was hardened by Mormon worship
And reverberations of soul destroying weapons.
The whirr of machinery has sealed her ears.

Born out of death pains of native and bondsman
She revels in human destruction
And constructs steel and glass structures,
Which glitter and dazzle to hide her warped pot-bellied souls.

America listen to the cries of soul-less mothers
Tearing their hearts in the paddy fields!
Listen to the wails of motherless children
And the searing flesh of human torches!

Let these sounds of human suffering
Soften your heart and stay your death-soiled hands!
America don't exult in the sounds of voodoo drums
And smack your pride on hearing
Mexican superstitious litanies!

For America stalks the corners of the world
like a ghost,
Sowing death and destruction with hurricane force
Listen America, listen to the sounds of human suffering!

By I.K.M.

* * *

THE POLITICS OF HEART TRANSPLANT

The historic heart transplant operations performed in quick succession in Cape Town have, very properly, received considerable international publicity. Under normal circumstances we would hesitate to comment on surgical operations or new techniques in medicine for we cannot claim to be experts in this field. However, circumstances surrounding the Cape Town successes have brought the whole issue into the political limelight.

But, first we take this opportunity of congratulating the Cape Medical Team on what, on the surface, appears to be an outstanding achievement. The whole subject of organ transplant is still hedged by several problems, notably, the problem of tissue rejection. The Cape Town team - feels confident that they can overcome this by irradiation with massive doses of radio-active Cobalt. This suppresses the body's immunological reaction to foreign protein. Unfortunately, irradiation suppresses all immunological reactions including anti-body reaction against bacterial invasion. The Cape Town Team hopes to protect its patients during the critical period by large doses of antibiotics and by attempting to maintain a germ-free atmosphere. Nevertheless, the first heart transplant patient succumbed to Pneumonia - a bacterial infection not usually fatal these days. It does appear as though in overcoming one problem the Doctors may have created a second and equally difficult problem. In this context, the remarks made by the U.S.S.R. Minister of Health are salutary. It reminds us that the whole technique of organ transplant is still in its infancy and man has a long way to go yet in this field. We wish the Cape Team every success in a most complex and difficult field.

Unhappily, Cape Town is in racist White minority ruled South Africa. Apartheid is such an unmitigated evil and the policies flowing from it so devoid of Humanism that the fascist-racist clique ruling S. Africa has become moral lepers and political skunks in the international community. Despite the best (worst) efforts of the South African Information Services, few people have anything good to say about South Africa - always excepting fanatical fascist and greedy money-sharks who profit from the exploitation of their fellow men. Thus the first heart transplant notably newsworthy in itself, was pushed, publicity-wise, as hard as possible by the racists in order to bolster up their wrecked "image". The racists conveniently overlooked their recent banning of that eminent medical scientist, Dr. Raymond Hoffenberg, in their haste to "cash in" on the heart transplant operation.

In the second operation the donor was a young Coloured man and the recipient a White dentist. In race-conscious South Africa it was inevitable that this fact would receive as much publicity as the heart transplant itself: and the international news agencies gave the fact due publicity. Nobody attempted to use the "race" aspect to detract from the value of the operation itself and certainly nobody tried to make political capital. But the paranoid racists expressed disgust that the
question/....

question of race had been "dragged" in to mar the notable medical achievement.

It is interesting to note that the gentlemen who hurried to cajole the international press for playing up the race issue are themselves members of the extreme right, lunatic fringe of racism in South Africa.

We think they protest too much. We would suggest that they have guilty consciences except that up to now they do not seem to have had consciences at all.

We ask them:-

- (1) If organ transplant across the colour line has no consequences at all then why do they forbid by legislation, blood transfusions across the colour line? Where is the difference?
- (2) What happens to their pseudo-scientific arguments about genetic racial differences? Or have the organs no genes?
- (3) What is race? If hearts can be transplanted across the colour line then so, presumably, can other organs? Is race then only a matter of skin pigmentation?
- (4) Why accept the heart of a dark man and yet forbid him to study, travel, live, eat, etc. in the company of a White?

The racists have and can have no reasonable answers to these questions for racism is not a matter of reason but of sheer fanaticism and hypocrisy. Scientifically there is only one race - the human race. All other classifications are pseudo-scientific twaddle and nonsense. But in fascist South Africa the spectre of race will continue to haunt every aspect of human activity and achievement.

There is only one answer and that is the complete fatal destruction of the fascist White minority regime with all its paraphernalia for racial division and the substitution of this for a non-racial democratic, majority government representing all the people of South Africa.

THAT RED - BOGEY AGAIN.

Not so long ago it was fashionable for racist White minority regimes to use the propaganda technique of protesting and defending "Western, Christian Standards" against incursion from "primitive Black savages." With the advent of independence in most of Africa this thesis has been dealt a shattering blow.

The smoothness with which independent African countries have taken over the reigns of government and the relatively speedy (though, still inadequate) strides made in rebuilding economies ravaged by centuries of imperialist plunder has silenced the most perverse of critics. True, there are still occasional dark references to the Congo, etc., but these are more a carry-over from the past.

Compelled by events to find a new bogey, the fascist-racists have come up with "totalitarian Communism." This is the new windmill of the racists. They are now a "bastion of the Free World in Africa" against the incursions of the "savage Communists." We have on several occasions in the columns of "Mayibuye" and in our sister publication "Sechaba" exposed this propaganda technique. It is, of course, not a new method but of late it has been considerably intensified.

We quote from recent issues of South African Newspapers to expose the base nature of this technique:-

"The Communist "Big Two," Peking and Moscow, who, with their satellites, largely support, equip and train the bulk of Black terrorists used against the White south, made a slashing attack on the O.A.U. There was, they said too much talk. And too little action. They were particularly critical of the protracted bog-down of the so-called "liberation" movements in Mozambique, Angola, Rhodesia and South-West Africa: ultimate target, South Africa. Unless more positive action was seen, the Reds warned, the vital arms supplies from Red China, Russia, Czechoslovakia and Cuba would come to an abrupt end."

- Sunday Tribune - 10/12/67

This is how they also play-down the inspiring success of the guerrilla war in Mozambique led by Frelimo:-

"Mao Tse-Tung's famous "thoughts" are not only giving the British something to think about. They are also giving the Portuguese cause for thought, too. More and more Frelimo terrorists captured in Northern Mozambique are found carrying the little, red-bound "Thoughts of Mao Tse-Tung," the new Chinese Bible. And many of the terrorists can reel off the thoughts verbatim."

- Sunday Tribune 10/12/67

"For the Mozambique war is not a civil war. It is not merely a White power defending itself against a handful of its own African insurgents. This is, for all practical purposes, and for the first time in Africa, open confrontation with the two Communist giants, the U.S.S.R. and Red China. Frelimo, observers believe, is nothing but a "front" organisation for Peking and Moscow. It would collapse, almost overnight, without their active, positive and constant support. The Portuguese, fortunately for their White neighbours and, in the long-term, for the West generally, are definitely committed to preventing a Communist-backed take-over of their territory." 10/12/67 SUNDAY TRIBUNE

Radio South Africa quoting a Chief in a news commentary broadcast on December 15, 1967 had this to say:-

"The African Politicians used to lock our doors from outside and then set fire to the house, and kill the people inside including the children who knew nothing about politics. The only trouble we have now," said the Chief, "is from terrorists who come with bombs from China and Russia; Communist countries with no freedom of speech or opposition parties." 15/12/67

The utter imbecility of this propaganda is mind - boggling. One's first reaction is:- "Do they really expect people to swallow such balderdash?" But it would be dangerous to write it off as trash and forget about it. One needs only to remember that the mentor of these fascists, Adolf Hitler, and his chief propagandist Dr. Goebbels used the technique of the Big Lie with great effect.

The main purpose of such propaganda appears to be to:-

1. Win over wavering sections of the Whites
2. Confuse the oppressed African masses and thus isolate them from the vanguard Freedom Fighters.
3. Give ideological justification for blatant injustice and rash racism and
4. win support among the masses in Europe and the United States.

Such lying propaganda should therefore not be dismissed without the necessary rebuttal. We must however stress that the lies spread by our White oppressor can now only be effectively exposed by intensifying our struggle. The arguments are so idiotic as to be absolutely laughable.

We are/....

We are not privy to the work of the international Communist Movement but we are amused by references to the "joint-hand of Moscow and Peking." The "Thoughts of Mao Tse Tung" is a little volume which has received considerable publicity recently.

Playing upon these fears the professional propagandists place a copy of this book in the hands of "more and more Frelimo terrorists." We can picture Frelimo activists grinning at such a suggestion. They will be even more amused to discover that they are "nothing but a front organisation for Peking AND Moscow". The writer goes on to state that Frelimo (which incidentally, controls a large area of Mozambique) "would collapse, almost overnight, without their (Moscow and Peking) active, positive and constant support.

Radio South Africa in the meantime quotes an underpaid, and frightened chief as saying that Communist countries have no freedom of speech or opposition parties. We feel nothing but pity for the miserable chief who has to say such things knowing fully well that he is but a serf in his own country.

But when the propagandists come to the fighting which started at Wankie in July 1967, they truly exposed themselves. They know fully well the panic in rebel Rhodesian circles as a result of that fighting; they know fully well the enormous casualties sustained by the rebel forces; they must have visited the hospitals if not the mortuaries. Yes, it was a debacle, but not for our freedom fighters but for the white minority forces.

Do they still think we are playing games - surely not after Wankie. One single example will clearly demonstrate not only the clarity of instructions given but the discipline of our freedom fighters.

After fighting through Wankie and Matabeleland, in the process of which they inflicted heavy casualties on the rebel white forces and captured enormous quantities of arms and ammunition, several groups of guerrillas reached Botswana. Discovering that a patrol of police had spotted them, our freedom fighters silently surrounded them. Having satisfied themselves that the patrol comprised Botswana Police they, despite the fierce battles they had come through, surrendered peacefully although they could have completely annihilated the Botswana police. Their instructions were not to fight in Botswana. They carried out this instruction even in the most difficult circumstances.

So much for the veracity of the propagandist. In the face of a determined people's vanguard, in answer to a people's just struggle, they can offer only lies and deceit. As the struggle progresses, as our Freedom Fighters win bigger victories, these lying propagandists will have to work overtime trying to hatch new lies. We will attempt to counter them. But their efforts are doomed to failure. When our people take up arms in the name of justice and freedom, no force on earth can hold them back from victory.

NO VETERANS' PENSION FOR AFRICANS

When Hitler declared War against all peace loving peoples and all progressives, the Africans, in White minority ruled South Africa threw their lot on the side of all Progressives and fought the fascists in North Africa and all over the world where they were allowed. Their bravery, courage and patriotism was acclaimed by the whole world and even racist South Africa could not hide this. Thousands of Africans lost their lives defending Peace, Freedom and Progress and about 1,700 of these appear on the Roll of Honour in South Africa where Africans are despised and discriminated against by the fascist White minority regime.

When the World returned to peace after the defeat of fascism and the whole of humanity settled down to reconstruct the damage and ravages of war, many countries honoured all the heroes who had laid down their lives in defence of Peace, Freedom and friendship of all peoples and gave pensions and disability grants to all the veterans who had returned from the war. Even South Africa, in the immediate post-war era joined the World in this but as usual Africans were excluded. The 6,000 Africans who had fought mostly in North Africa, distinguished themselves in such battles as Tobruk and El Alamein were not accorded all the rights and privileges granted to the Whites and other races in South Africa. They did not receive the back pay and pension given to other war veterans of European decent.

The South African Legion led by Mr. Mcpherson has carried on a long and courageous battle against the Govt. pleading for the extension of War Veterans' pensions and grants to Africans who saw active service in World War II. It is regrettable to report that the negotiations which dragged on for more than 2 years have failed. In a letter to Mr. Mcpherson, the Minister of Bantu Administration and Development says that there will be no deviation from the 1942 policy which stipulated that assistance to African War veterans in the form of ex gratia payments would be fixed at R3.70 (£1.17.0) per month.

In reply to this Mr. Mcpherson said that the South African Legion "deplored" the fact that "the Govt has categorically refused to recognise the services of African ex-servicemen to their country in time of War." Mr. Mcpherson contends that many elderly and infirm Africans living in cities cannot live on the ex-gratia allowance of R3.70 (£1.17.0) a month. He said that in 1963 a survey found that the minimum cost of food for an elderly African was more than R5.00 (£2.10.0) a month. This did not take into account housing, clothing, fuel, medicine and other human necessities and the cost of living has since risen very sharply.

During the last parliamentary session, the Minister of Social Welfare and Pensions, Mr. W.A. Marce said that Africans could not be regarded as war veterans because they did not do war service as defined in the Act/....

Act. "Because they did not actually do service in fighting units on the battle front, they cannot be included in that definition."

But Mr. Mcpherson disputes this and strongly asserts: "Many Africans were given Specialist training as stretcher bearers, motor transport drivers, orderlies and in some instances they served as ammunition carriers with the artillery units. Many Africans were killed and their Roll of Honour totals 1,700". He said the Legion felt that the introduction of an African War Veterans' Pension would remove the present discrimination against African War Veterans. The Legion suggested an African War Veterans' Pension of R9.00 (£4.10.0) per month which it claims is the minimum living cost of an elderly African living in an urban area.

Since 1941 European ex-servicemen and women have been eligible to war veterans' pensions at a maximum rate of R39.00 (£19.10.) per month. Coloured and Indian ex-servicemen may receive pensions at the rate of R19.00 (£9.10.0) a month.

The government has also given semi, if not full recognition to such Fascist Organisations as the Ossewa Brandwag (O.B.) and others which openly supported Hitler during the war and thwarted all efforts and measures undertaken by the peace-loving world to defeat Fascism. This is instanced by the address and the oath-taking ceremony and salute given by Premier Vorster, a top Commander of the O.B. during the War who was himself interned, at a remembrance ceremony last year for those O.B. saboteurs who died in internment camps. The A.N.C. is not surprised at this as it had warned the World of the Fascist Nature of the minority regime in our country. As the Fascist policies practised by the racist regimes in South Africa become more pronounced in the course of the suppression of all fundamental human Rights and the imprisonment of patriots like Mandela, Motsoaledi, Fischer and Kathrada, and the murder of noble sons of the South African revolution like Vuyisile Mini, Wilson Khayingo, Zinakile Mkaba, Washington Bongco, Babla Saloojee and the brave soldiers of Umkhonto We Sizwe who have now fallen in Rhodesia and on the banks of the Limpopo - the world will witness one of the bloodiest clashes in Southern Africa.

* * *

QUOTE:

"The aged, the orphans, the disabled and the sick shall be cared for by the state;

Rest, leisure and recreation shall be the right of all;

Fenced locations and ghettos shall be abolished, and laws which break up families shall be repealed.

South Africa shall be a fully independent state, which respects the rights and sovereignty of nations."

B L A C K H E A R T S

The question of racial discrimination permeates every aspect of life in South Africa. But never in the history of that fascist dominated country has the selfishness, the humbug and hypocrisy of the Whites been so graphically (or surgically?) demonstrated as in the human heart-transplantation experiments performed by Dr. Chris Barnard.

Dr. Chris Barnard, of course, treats all queries relating to the vast implications of the cardiac experimentation that he conducts, with a professional aloofness too detached to give solace to inquiring minds. There are important issues of religious ethics, political and legal interpretation of what constitutes death that have come up sharply for discussion in view of the Barnard surgical exploits. For the man with a scalpel in one hand and the dream of extending life by surgical means uppermost in his mind, some of the matters raised in respect of such operations as heart transplants do not visibly concern the surgeon.

I do not intend to engage the attention of your readers in joining issue with those people whose admiration for Dr. Barnard's work goes no further than praise for his mastery of the technique of performing heart operations. I do not begrudge the surgeon praise for the skill he demonstrates in pursuit of his objectives as a doctor. But life in South Africa is not all surgery. Nor is it remotely concerned with saving human life by medical or surgical means.

For the Africans, Indians and Coloureds life is a perpetual day-to-day battle to survive against heavy odds and without the assistance of the Government or the State. Our people are afflicted by disease, by poverty, by poor housing conditions, by inadequate social and educational facilities. There are a host of heart-rending disabilities that inflict a heavy toll on the human hearts of the Black people of South Africa while their White compatriots have the green pastures to disport themselves. There are no resources, we are told by the Government, to improve even the most glaring social defects which surround the daily lives of non-Whites; but there are ample funds and facilities to enable the White society to conduct experiments in any field of inquiry that might interest them: atomic research, expeditions to the Antarctic, heart-transplants etc. etc. For the Africans, Indians and Coloureds there is one golden rule that governs life: live in poverty in the midst of plenty.

The lifespan of the Africans is short and the rate at which their children die is staggering. The preventable diseases that take a toll of lives among our people are known to the world: malnutrition, rickets, trachoma, tuberculosis etc. The infant mortality rate among the Africans is among the highest in the world, namely, 400 per 1,000 whereas for the Whites in South Africa it is only 127 per 1,000.

*There/....

There are more than 8,000 White doctors to minister to the needs of 3½ million Whites, whilst there are only 120 non-White doctors including Africans, Indians and Coloureds to serve the 14 million non-Whites. This is a shocking state of affairs. And the success of people who are pre-occupied with the advancement of medical research and experimentation in South Africa cannot be allowed to conceal the abject poverty and lack of hospital amenities facing the non-Whites.

The racist regime of Vorster has played down the political significance of the transfer of the heart of a Coloured to a White person. The Government has even ignored some suggestions that the hearts of Africans might prove to be the most suitable for use in the heart-transplantation experiments conducted in South Africa.

In a country where blood-transfusions are conducted on a rigid racial basis that forbids the blood of a White donor to be given to a dying or mortally injured Black man, it is not irrelevant to make the observation that in the sphere of heart transplantation, the futility of apartheid is undeniably proved. To what race in South Africa will a White man with a Black heart belong? The irrationality of colour prejudice could not have been better illustrated in S. African conditions than has been done by the Barnard experiments.

Then there is the wider question of how long race discrimination can now be justified in the medical sphere in view of the work of Dr. Chris Barnard. We warn that in a fascist country, the use of hearts from Africans obtained under conditions that defy public verification of death, or consent by next-of-kin could lead to the development of a new aspect of the disguised genocidal practices against Africans that apartheid already permits today. If the racist regime in South Africa could sanction the denial of blood-transfusion to Africans on grounds of race alone; if the Vorster regime could make it a criminal offence for non-White patients or injured people to be transported to hospital in ambulances set aside for Whites only, it is also possible that Black hearts could be procured by the same criminal means that characterise Government indifference to the suffering of the Africans, Indians and Coloureds.

World-acclaim for the success of Dr. Barnard's heart surgery should also be coupled with a demand for the abolition of the system of apartheid in South Africa. Africans and other oppressed people in our country are not going to tolerate the practice of being used as guinea-pigs for the benefit of the White ruling-class in South Africa. The Barnard experiments have established the unscientific basis of race discrimination in one field only - medical research - but I go further to assert that racial discrimination in every sphere of human life is criminal and oppressive and must be completely abolished.

Yours for the liberation of South Africa,

MAGAZI