

NEWS NOTES

This section of the Newsletter features articles culled from various periodicals which make their way into our office. We welcome suggestions or contributions from members.

The 1972 Democratic Platform Excerpts: Africa

The central feature of African politics today is the struggle against racism and colonialism in Southern Africa. There should be no mistake about which side we are on. We stand for full political, civil and economic rights for black and other non-white peoples in Southern Africa. We are against white-minority rule. We should not underwrite a return to the interventionism of the past. But we can end United States complicity with such governments.

The focus of America's concern with Africa must be on economic and social development. Economic aid to Africa, without political conditions, should be expanded, and African states assured an adequate share of the aid dollar. Military aid and aid given for military purposes should be sharply reduced.

All military aid to Portugal should be stopped and the Nixon \$435 million deal for un-needed Azores bases should be cancelled.

U.N. sanctions against the illegal racist regime in Southern Rhodesia should be supported vigorously, especially as they apply to chrome imports.

The U.S. should give full support to U.N. assertion of its control over Namibia (South West Africa), in accordance with the World Court's ruling.

The U.S. should make clear its opposition to the racial totalitarianism of South Africa. The U.S. government should act firmly to press U.S. businesses in South Africa to take measures for the fullest possible justice for their black employees. Blacks should be assigned at all levels to U.S. offices in South Africa, and throughout Africa. The South African sugar quota should be withdrawn.

No. U.S. company or its subsidiary should be given U.S. tax credit for taxes paid to white-minority-ruled countries of Africa.

[The Congressional Record 7/6/72]

The Organisation of African Unity announced [that] it will stage a world conference in support of victims of apartheid and colonialism next year in Oslo. A statement issued by the OAU Secretariat-General said the conference would be held in full agreement with the Nordic countries from May 14 to 19, 1973. It said the conference would be organised as a meeting of experts rather than a formal conference grouping government representatives. But invitations would be sent to: the Secretary-General of UNO, members of the Security Council, the U.N. special Committee on Decolonisation, the U.N. Special Committee on Apartheid, and the U.N. Council on Namibia, the Scandinavian countries themselves, UNESCO, FAO and ILO, members of the OAU Liberation Committee and the African Liberation Movements recognized by the OAU. The decision to stage the conference was made during a recent visit by a mission to the Scandinavian countries led by OAU chairman M.O. Daddah, President of Mauritania, in a bid to persuade them to review their policy and attitudes towards South Africa and Portugal.

[Agence France Presse 5/11/72]

Former OAU Secretary General Diallo Telli is likely to be appointed shortly as the director of an OAU Information and Coordination Office expected to be set up in Switzerland, according to reliable sources in Rabat today. They said the bureau would be based in Geneva as an

information and action centre for African decolonization. It would also co-ordinate African participation in international conferences staged in Europe on economic, cultural, social and scientific matters of interest to Africa, the sources said. Mr. Telli failed this week to win re-election as OAU Secretary General, a post he had held for eight years. New OAU chairman King Hassan II of Morocco said, however, that Africa was not unmindful of the Guinean official's OAU work and would soon name him to a post "befitting his status."

[Agence France Presse

6/17/72]

The Council agreed to increase the strength of the OAU liberation committee from 11 to 15 members and to ask the heads of state if they would be willing to commit army units in advance for an African force to help countries which came under attack. A committee of chiefs of staff from nine countries is to consider other recommendations on co-ordination of defence arrangements between OAU countries. The four new nations named to the liberation committee were Congo-Brazzaville, Libya, Morocco and Mauritania. Madagascar pledged to revise its policy towards South Africa, which was a "point of discord between Madagascans" (Madagascar is a popular holiday resort for South Africans). Proposals on Rhodesia, South West Africa, African refugees, and Portugal's African colonies were also prepared, after which leaders of African liberation movements were allowed into the meeting for the first time to put their amendments. Representatives of a dozen liberation movements had earlier complained that they were kept out of discussions although they had observer status.

[West Africa

6/23/72]

Following the decision of the OAU Summit meeting in Rabat last month to strengthen the OAU Liberation Committee and the liberation movements, President Nyerere has appointed Major Hasim Mbita Executive Secretary of the Liberation Committee.

Major Mbita who until his appointment was the Tanu National Executive Secretary replaces Mr. George Magombe who has held the post since 1966.

[Sunday News (Tanzania)

7/23/72]

Utrecht, The Netherlands, Aug. 22 - The World Council of Churches voted overwhelmingly tonight to liquidate its financial stake in all corporations doing business with white-ruled African countries.

The decision, made by the council's 120-member policy-making committee, could oblige the church agency to sell off its entire portfolio of \$3.5-million in company stocks, the committee's finance unit said.

By its action the committee hoped to set an example for its 250 Protestant and Orthodox member churches in the fight against racism.

A council official said that a preliminary study indicated that the council's holdings in about 18 United States corporations would be affected by the sell-off.

[New York Times

8/23/72]

Washington: Sudan and the United States have resumed diplomatic relations after a five-year break, according to the State Department. It follows Yemen as the second Arab country to restore relations with the U.S. this month.

Sudan, Yemen, and four other Arab League states broke diplomatic relations with the U.S. during the 1967 Middle East war, charging that it had participated in Israel's victory.

[The Christian Science Monitor 7/26/72]

The World Bank announced yesterday that it was reorganizing internally, establishing five regional offices to oversee its lending activities.

According to bank president Robert S. McNamara, "Regionalisation of operations will both provide closer integration of the area and project activities of the bank, and establish even more firmly that the development of individual countries is the basis on which the bank's program is built."

The five regional offices— each with their own vice-president — include East Africa, West Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Europe (including the Middle East and North Africa).

[The Washington Post

8/12/72]

Rabat, Morocco, Aug. 12 (Reuters) – A new movement has been formed in Morocco with the aim of forcibly evicting Spain from her last colonial territories in Africa.

Called Morehob, the movement, which was formed in July, represents nationalists in the Spanish cities of Ceuta and Melilla on Morocco's northern coast and in the region of the Sahara held by Spain south of Morocco's border.

Ceuta, opposite Gibraltar, has been held by Spain since 1580 and Melilla, 130 miles east, since 1497. They have a combined population of about 160,000, including large garrisons.

The Spanish Sahara covers 102,000 square miles and has about 50,000 inhabitants. It contains huge phosphate deposits that Spain is due to start mining next year.

In a statement issued here, the movement made clear that its eventual aim is integration of these areas with Morocco.

It said it would train commandos recruited inside Morocco, set up cells inside the territories and begin "reprisal operations" against Moroccan collaborators and Spaniards "known for their colonial policies."

The organization is believed to have been formed by people from the Spanish Sahara who live in Rabat and other parts of Morocco, notably Tarfaya Province, which borders the Spanish-held territory.

Many of them belong to the desert tribes known as the "blue people" for the indigo robes they wear. "Morehob" is a local dialect word for these people.

The group's leadership is composed mainly of young men, many of whom are studying in Rabat. The president is Edouardo Moha.

Mr. Moha says he has the support of Moroccan political parties, notably the old-guard Istiqlal party and the Socialist Union Nationale des Forces Populaires, both of which are in the Opposition.

[The New York Times

8/13/72]

Washington, June 20 (WP) by Spencer Rich – The Senate voted 41 to 36 yesterday to assert its powers over foreign policy by blocking military base agreements with Portugal and Bahrain until they are submitted as treaties.

The vote, which came as the Senate continued debating the \$1.7 billion foreign military aid authorization, represented a sharp setback for President Nixon in the continuing dispute between Congress and the executive branch over the Senate's role in foreign policy.

The administration negotiated agreements for U.S. use of bases in the Azores and Bahrain in the form of executive agreements, which aren't subject to congressional approval.

Sen. John Sparkman, D., Ala. argued the administration case on the Senate floor yesterday and said that the two base agreements made "no commitment" to defend either area and, therefore, weren't significant enough to be submitted as treaties, which are subject to Senate approval.

But the Senate, which has been moving to reassert itself in the foreign policy field in a number of ways in recent years, agreed with Sen. Clifford P. Case, R., N.J. and the Foreign Relations Committee that agreements which provide for stationing U.S. men and equipment overseas in sensitive areas are sufficiently important to warrant being submitted as treaties for full review and scrutiny.

It declined, on the 41-to-36 vote, to strip from the bill a provision blocking all funds for carrying out the two agreements until they had been submitted as treaties.

[Int. Her. Trib. (U.S.) 6/21/72]

Richard Gibson, a black American journalist based in London for the past eight years, is about to unleash a hornet's nest into the maze of African liberation movements and their supporters in this country. The cause is his book, African Liberation Movements which the Oxford University Press is publishing today on behalf of the Institute of Race Relations (itself only just emerging from internecine battles). Already the air is thick with threats of legal action and aspersions about Gibson's background.

What Gibson has done, in fact, is to write a survey of all groups operating in Africa, not just those which find favour with white sympathizers outside the continent. He has also, he says, examined the multiple splits, assassinations and the in-fighting that has tended to be the hallmark of these organizations. Gibson believes there has been a deliberate attempt here to cover up these divisions.

[The Times 5/12/72]

Jamaica, N.Y. - "Black Africa," the current issue of St. John's semi-annual review of national literatures, has been hailed as "the most balanced and informative volume on Black Africa so far."

The volume includes articles contributed by outstanding and distinguished scholars. Each article explores a different facet of Africa as an object of cultural study.

The issue contains articles on Yoruba, Swahili, and Hausa literatures. It covers studies on the African-European literatures (Portuguese, French, English) and articles on such little-explored areas of African literature as the oral-narrative performances which are characteristic of certain areas.

"Black Africa" serves to point up the wonder of Africa from the time of the first circumnavigation, through the age of Portuguese discovery, to the dawn of the modern literary awakening.

Dr. Anne Paolucci, Editor of Review of National Literatures, comments: "For 2500 years, sub-Saharan Africa in its length and breadth has been an object of cultural study. Hereafter it is to be also a subject of cultural study, examining itself and communicating to others what it experiences in its self-conscious spiritual freedom."

[N.Y. Amsterdam News 7/29/72]

New York - In a move to reinforce the anti-South Africa lobby in Washington, the American Committee on Africa is working with three Protestant Church groups to establish a joint office there.

The office, which would be operated with the Presbyterian, Methodist and United Churches would deal with all aspects of American policy on Africa, but would pay special attention to Southern African questions.

To provide a nucleus for the body, an office has been opened in Washington by ACOA, whose executive director is Mr. George Houser of South West Africa "fly-in" fame.

The office is being run on a caretaker basis by the Reverend Edgar Lockwood, the Episcopal (Anglican) clergyman who has been an active anti-apartheid campaigner here and who attended the trial of the Dean of Johannesburg as an observer for Amnesty International and other organizations.

Several other candidates are believed to be under consideration for the permanent directorship of the office.

ACOA has not had a representative in Washington since last year when it closed down the office run for two years by Mr. Charles Hightower, a Negro.

Both ACOA and the church groups involved have played a leading role in campaigns here against White domination in Southern Africa, with the churches concentrating on putting pressure on American firms operating in South Africa.

This is the first time, however, that they have contemplated joining forces to set up a united lobbying organization in Washington.

Mr. Houser, who returned recently from an African tour that included his second unsuccessful attempt to enter South West Africa, envisages the proposed Washington Office on Africa working closely with the congressional Black caucus.

It is not yet clear how the various interests represented in the new coalition will go about deciding the policy to be followed by the Washington office.

[Star (S.A.)

7/18/72]

Georgetown, Guyana - A political Committee of non-aligned countries yesterday met behind closed doors to set up a joint fund to finance the African and Middle-East liberation movements.

The 66 countries have agreed in principle to double their efforts in aiding the liberation movements with financial assistance, the purchase of arms and training.

"The time has come when it is no longer sufficient for our countries to pledge their solidarity with the cause of freedom in the Middle East and especially Africa - concrete action is needed," an African delegate said.

Both Arab and African delegates said from now on countries would have to state precisely what aid they intended to give, "how much money, how much arms and how much medicine."

According to conference sources the aid would be channelled to the individual movements by the committee and the same committee would arrange the financing and purchase of arms, the sites for training freedom fighters and the way to get ammunition and medicines to movements aiming to liberate occupied lands or toppling colonial regimes.

[Daily News (Tanzania)

8/11/72]

Presidents Mobutu Sese Seko of Zaire and Sekou Toure of Guinea have reaffirmed their total solidarity with African liberation movements in a joint communiqué issued in Conakry.

The communiqué, marking the end of General Mobutu's three-day State visit to Guinea, was broadcast by Conakry Radio yesterday.

The two African Heads of State expressed their pleasure at the reconciliations which have taken place in Africa - between Zaire and the neighbouring Congo Republic, Senegal and Guinea, the two rival Angola liberation movements, and Morocco and Algeria.

The communiqué said the two Presidents hoped that the two Angolan liberation movements would soon unite to intensify their struggle against Portugal. They also hoped that Senegal and Guinea would aid the liberation movement in Portuguese Guinea-Bissau.

[Daily News (Tanzania)

6/29/72]

Cape Town - South Africa's apartheid policy is leaving a growing backwash of black consciousness and for the first time the country is facing a black-power movement.

Three events in recent weeks have starkly underlined the rising black awareness. By far the most important has been the formation of the Black People's Convention - a black, Indian, and Colored (mixed-race) political organization to liberate oppressed non-whites.

The other developments have been the:

- Dissolution of the multi-racial University Christian Movement through opposition from black radicals who are critical of integrated bodies.

- The swift action of the South African (black) Students Organization to depose its president after he had debated SASO cooperation with the black organizations set up by the South African Government. The president had favored a dialogue with black leaders operating within the apartheid system.

White liberals are feeling uneasy over the rise of black power and their own inability to engage in dialogue with those black groups spurning white contact...

The Black People's Convention (BPC), formed as a rallying point for black power, is the first organization of its kind since the banning of the African National Congress and the Pan African Congress 12 years ago.

The BPC aims to be a mass political organization with one million members within three years. Significantly, the convention will operate outside the black apartheid institutions established by the government - the lone black political organization to operate this way.

BPC seeks to liberate blacks and one of its policies is to popularize and implement the philosophy of black consciousness and solidarity. The convention will try to create an egalitarian society in South Africa - one where justice is meted out equally to all.

Other aims are to apply an education policy by blacks for blacks, reorient the theological system so it is relevant to black needs, and activate black communalism (sharing).

It is not yet clear whether South Africa's law prohibiting one racial group's interfering in the politics of another will affect the BPC's mixed-race membership. by Paul Dold

[The Christian Science Monitor 8/2/72]

Johannesburg, South Africa, Aug. 1 - Prime Minister John Vorster announced the retirement of five Government ministers today, including some who have been involved in recent public controversy and criticism.

In some opposition circles the shuffle was seen as a purge by Mr. Vorster. However, at least three of the ministers had indicated they wished to retire and one - the Minister of the Interior, Theo Gerdener - had made it clear that he wanted to resign to work outside of Government for improved relations among South Africa's races and with neighboring black nations. He was replaced by Dr. C.P. Mulder, currently Minister of Information, who is regarded as one of the more right-wing Cabinet ministers.

The Government has faced considerable criticism from the Opposition, particularly Frank Waring, who is leaving as Minister of Sport. He is a former national rugby player and the only English-speaking member in the strongly Afrikaans Cabinet.

Other departing ministers are Dirk Uys, Minister of Agriculture, Dr. Carel de Wet, Minister of Health, and Blaar Coetzee, Minister of Community Development, which administers the policy of racial separation at the residential and social levels. They have been censured publicly for statements and actions regarded as undiplomatic.

But in general the result of the shuffle leaves the Government much the same as before. The Star of Johannesburg, the country's largest daily paper, said today: "At a time when South Africa cries out for imaginative change and a new dynamic the hard and ideological core remains essentially the same."

[The New York Times

8/2/72]

United Nations, N.Y. (AP) – South Africa has agreed to the appointment of a U.N. official to help bring about self-determination and independence for South-West Africa, Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim announced.

But the announcement gave no indication that South Africa's white government would abide by his findings and no timetable for independence for the former German protectorate.

[The Atlanta Journal

7/25/72]

By Frederic Hunter – With South-West Africa again a sensitive international issue, the South African Government has placed a five-year ban on three persons familiar with the territory's politics.

They include David de Beer, former diocesan treasurer of the Anglican Church in South-West who publicized the Ovambo labor strike last December, and the Rev. Stephen Hayes, formerly of the Windhoek parish.

These two men were expelled from South-West in March under conditions of disputed legality.

The third man, Nathaneal Maxulili, acting president of the South-West Africa People's Organization, is thought to be the first South-West African to be banned.

Reasons have not been given to justify these orders. It seems probably, however, that they were issued to silence three men capable of knowledgeably criticizing South Africa's administration of South-West at a time when United Nations – South African contacts were scheduled for debate at the UN.

Persons are banned by administrative order on the basis that they are furthering the aims of what South African law very loosely defines as communism. Ordinarily, banning orders sharply circumscribe the activities of those banned, controlling their movements and limiting their personal contacts.

Banned persons are confined to specific areas. Some must report to the police daily or at specified intervals. And others are under house arrest. For some banned persons, making a living becomes almost impossible.

South African law prohibits publishing or disseminating the utterances or writings of banned persons. . . .

The process by which persons are banned is one of the most controversial aspects of this highly controversial matter. At a recent trial, a high-ranking police officer was reported to have said that people could be banned merely on the strength of reports from security police agents.

Court proceedings have shown that such reports often lack reliability. In addition, there are reasons to believe that some agents report what their employers wish to hear and that the police are pleased to hear what they wish to believe.

In June, 1969, in the Supreme Court in Cape Town, for example, a police spy admitted under cross-examination that he had lied in a previous trial. The judge concluded that other state witnesses had lied as well.

As a result, 24 men were discharged — a number of them having spent 17 months in jail.

[The Christian Science Monitor 8/17/72]

Lourenço Marques – Mozambique is planning to defoliate 250 ha of land around the Cabora Bassa Dam to improve security at the multi-million rand construction site.

Vegetation for 50 m on either side of the Tete-Songo road stretching 115 km is also to be killed in the plan, estimated to take four years.

Tenders for the work are being invited by the government. Because of the rough ground most of the defoliating will be by spraying from the air.

[Star (S.A.)

7/29/72]

Washington - by a Wall Street Journal Staff Reporter - A group of about 10 blacks who identified themselves as the African Liberation Support Committee picketed the National Press Building office of The Wall Street Journal to protest an article that appeared in the Monday edition.

The article, written from Cabora Bassa, Mozambique, dealt with a huge hydroelectric and irrigation dam being built on the Zambezi River.

Material distributed by the pickets asserted that the article "attempted to portray African freedom fighters in southern Africa as unsuccessful in their attempt to slow down progress on the construction of the Cabora Bassa dam." It also said that The Journal "neglected to print" that the dam "clearly represents white peoples' attempt to control black land."

[The Wall Street Journal 8/11/72]

Lagos, Nigeria, Aug. 24 - by Thomas A. Johnson : Nigeria's military Government has taken control of all six of the nation's universities, assuming what an official announcement called "full responsibility for higher education throughout the country."

The universities have an enrollment of about 10,000. Two of them, the Universities of Ibadan and Lagos, have always been under federal control.

The others, formerly state institutions, are the University of Benin, the University of Zaria and the University of Nigeria at Nsukka.

The move, decided upon during a recent meeting of the Supreme Military Council here, is aimed at insuring the creation of a large cadre of educated Nigerians needed for the country's ambitious development programs and also at making Nigeria less dependent on foreign universities....

Although the official statement said the move was made with the proviso that the status quo in respect of the existing universities should be maintained, the statement gave little indication of how the takeover would proceed.

The statement said in part: "The effect of this will be to enable the federal government to be more positively involved in educational development within the country, and to insure that there was a national direction in education so as to promote uniformity in content and standard, whilst at the same time relieving the state governments, as far as possible, of the financial burden so that they could devote their resources to other sections of development."

It said, "It is the intention of the federal military government that through common education law, policy and curricula, all Nigerian children throughout the length and breadth of the country shall be taught from the day they enter primary school to be Nigerians, to value their citizenship, and to be proud of their country."

"Moreover," the statement said, "it has been observed that as a result of wide variation in pattern and standards, there was a discrimination in the types of schools attended by the children of the well-to-do on the one hand, and those of the common people on the other. Such a dichotomy was undesirable in a country where efforts are being made to bring up children together in mutual respect, love and understanding."

In a related move, the government voted a grant of \$18 million to set up teaching programs for medical students and health workers in 12 state hospitals.

[The Sun 8/1/72]

By Tom Horton: U.S. Representatives Parren J. Mitchell (D, 7th) and Charles Diggs, D, Mich.) proclaimed a "local victory" yesterday based on Baltimore longshoremen's refusal to unload a ship arriving today with cargo alleged to be Rhodesian nickel ore.

However, investigation raised considerable doubt as to the true origin of the cargo, which port authorities confirmed is not ore, as was stated by the congressmen, but 62 barrels of nickel-plated cathodes, used in electrolytic processes.

At a joint press conference, the two black congressmen assailed the United States for its current status, which allows the import of certain Rhodesian minerals in contravention of a United Nations sanction against economic relations with the white supremacist government.

A spokesman for the Baltimore District Council of the International Longshoremen's Association confirmed the union's decision not to unload the Moore-McCormack lines freighter, the *Mormaccove*, tentatively scheduled to dock this morning at the Dundalk Marine Terminal.

William Haile, international vice president of the ILA in Baltimore, said that his workers "were unanimous in their feelings [not to unload] as far as I know."

Members of Representative Mitchell's staff met with union members last week to explain their position opposing the import of Rhodesian metals and to ask the longshoremen's support.

Spokesmen for both Moore-McCormack Lines and the buyers of the shipment of cathodes, Phillips Brothers, Inc. of New York, flatly denied that the nickel came from Rhodesia.

A spokesman from the office of Representative Diggs said, "we have no particular confirmation on this ship. We are going solely on circumstantial evidence."

A press aide to the Michigan congressman, who is an acknowledged expert on African affairs, added, "we have had confirmation in several cases similar to this one [the *Mormaccove*] that the nickel was from Rhodesia."

Representative Mitchell, reached in Washington, stated that his office had "definite confirmation" that the nickel cathodes were coming from Rhodesia.

Both congressmen cited as their chief source of evidence the American Committee on Africa, a New York-based private organization dedicated to the struggles for equality of blacks in southern African countries.

Henry Lieberg, a spokesman for the committee, claimed that the nickel was known for certain to have originated in Rhodesia, but said only, "...we can't tell you exactly how we confirm it...we have our own sources."

He explained that the certificate of origin on the shipment in question which indicated that it came from Durban, South Africa, only referred to the port and that a product is not necessarily shipped from the country which produced it.

Representative Mitchell's aides said the fact that the nickel was shipped from Durban, a port very near to landlocked Rhodesia, was further evidence that the metal came from the sanctioned nation.

A mineral resources map in the Encyclopedia Britannica shows, however, that Durban is also the port nearest South Africa's own nickel mines, which produce approximately 12,000 metric tons of the metal a year.

A spokesman at the South African Embassy claimed that statistics for the past year showed no imports by his country of Rhodesian nickel ore. "We produce more than we need ourselves," he said, citing exports of 2,251 metric tons in a recent three-month period.

Both Representative Mitchell and the Committee on Africa said that there are plans to picket the *Mormaccove* when it docks in Baltimore. The ILA's William Haile said that he expected no incidents and voiced his belief that "if the men refuse to unload the ship, they'll probably just take it to another port."

The U.S. incurred worldwide displeasure last September when the Senate passed the controversial Byrd amendment. In effect, this permitted the U.S. to import Rhodesian chrome and other metals deemed critical to U.S. economy or defense needs. Besides South Africa and Portugal, the U.S. government has been the only nation to violate the United Nations economic sanction against Rhodesian apartheid.

Last week, the U.N. Security Council voted 14-0, the U.S. abstaining, to condemn any nation violating the world organization's sanctions.

[The Sun

8/1/72]

Washington (AP) – The State Department said yesterday it expects the first black American diplomat assigned to South Africa will not be subject to any restrictions in that country.

"We would not proceed on any other basis," press officer Charles W. Bray said at a news conference.

Bray confirmed that James E. Baker, 37, a career foreign service officer, has been assigned to the U.S. embassy in Pretoria, where he will be economic and commercial officer.

Other black American diplomats and diplomatic couriers have served on a temporary basis in South Africa but Bray said Baker will be the first one on a permanent basis, probably spending two to three years in that country.

[Evening Tribune

7/7/72]

By Monty Hoyt: A gentle-spoken black poet from South Africa scored his own victory at the Munich Olympic Games — without entering a single event.

Dennis Brutus was present at the Parliament building in Munich Aug. 22 when his old-time antagonist, Avery Brundage, the 84-year-old retiring president of the International Olympic Committee, bowed to mounting world pressure and announced that the invitation for Rhodesia to participate in the 20th Olympic Games was being withdrawn.

It was the culmination of an all-out three-week effort that Mr. Brutus helped to spearhead that saw African nations, as well as some Asian, Eastern European, and Latin-American countries as well as black U.S. athletes led by 400-meter runner Lee Evans, threaten a boycott if Rhodesia was not thrown out.

Now he is planning new protests: against his own country, South Africa, next year as it tries to enter the Davis Cup tennis competition as a Latin-American entry; and against an all-white South African Rugby football team invited to the 1974 Commonwealth Games in New Zealand...

For 10 years, Mr. Brutus has been president of the 70,000-member black South African Nonracial Olympic Committee. For his activities, he was first barred from any further association with sports, then imprisoned for 18 months, shot and wounded (during a second escape attempt), and finally expelled from his country.

In 1968 he played a major role in exile in mounting a protest against South Africa's invitation to the Olympic Games in Mexico City, which resulted in their withdrawal. In 1970, South Africa was formally expelled from the International Olympics Committee...

"Dennis doesn't have great power behind him, but he is able to organize great power," says long-time friend George Houser, executive director of the American Committee on Africa. "He plays the catalytic agent role. He has broad international contacts and he knows the organizational picture of the sports group. He keeps the issue in front of people, pushing them along in position which they have already taken, but which they may not have implemented."

The protest against Rhodesia began to well up late in July. Professor Brutus reached by phone or telegram contacts he had built up over a decade of attending international sport meetings: world sports officials, the Supreme Council for Sport in Africa, the Organization of African Unity, UN delegates, members of the news media, and influential blacks in America.

Many observers questioned why an integrated Rhodesian team was the object of protest (there were seven blacks on the 44 member Rhodesian squad). But Mr. Brutus calls this "window dressing."

Integrated sports at school or college level is a crime in Rhodesia, he points out. It is illegal to have sports contests between black and white schools. The few integrated clubs at the very top level are show pieces, he says. "Blacks are always at the mercy of the system; the majority remain excluded from sports."

Born in Rhodesia but raised in the ghettos of Port Elizabeth, South Africa, Mr. Brutus has seen discrimination against black athletes first as a competitor, then as a teacher and trainer of high school blacks, then as an organizer of a black national sports body.

[The Christian Science Monitor 9/5/72]
