BLACK NATIONALIST GAIN INFLUENCE

Nambia seen as S. Africa's Vietnam

JOHANNESBURG, S. Africa — Namibia as the mineral-rich protectorate is known to black activists and the United Nations, could become to South Africa was Vietnam was to the U.S., analysts say.

South Africa has said it is ready to give the territory — which at 318,261 square miles is twice the size of California — independence early in 1979. But the apartheid country already previously has defied the UN on coming up with a freedom plan.

And the style of self-government proposed by the white-supremacist government is clearly unsuitable to the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO), an increasingly influential black nationalist group.

Hennie Serfontein, author of the recently published book "Namibia,?" says it will be disastrous if South Africa implements constitutional plans hammered out in Windhoek by representatives of the territory's 11 race groups.

The republic, he says in a newspaper article, will be "committing herself to her own Vietnam, by becoming involved in a war which she perhaps cannot lose, but almost surely can never win in a territory from which she has agreed to withdraw.

"As with the Americans in Vietnam, South Africa will be forced to leave the territory eventually with equal dishonor and loss of pride," he said.

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Delegates to the constitutional conference represent ethnic, not political groups. This excludes SWAPO, which claims majority support among the country's estimated 760,000 blacks and is recognized as their representative by the UN.

The constitutional blueprint provides for a multiracial interim government to be set up by the middle of this year to precede independence. SWAPO and the West reject the plan bcause SWAPO would have been ignored during its formation.

Pretoria (South Africa's governmental capital) has consistently refused to deal with SWAPO and accused the organization of using terror tactics to gain support. The South African government has also ignored repreated U.N. resolutions demanding the withdrawal of troops and administration from Namibia.

But in the past two months South Africa's hardnosed attitude has softened. Enoys from U.S. and other Western countries have discussed the Namibia issue with Prime Minister John Vorster.

Diplomatic sources say Vorster is being pressured into accepting the West's scenario for South West Africa, which includes open participation of SWAPO in UN supervised elections.

Unless he agrees, the sources say, the five nations — all Security Council members — will not use their veto on expected anti-South African sanctions proposals by black African states.

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SWAPO president Sam Nujoma and African leaders are skeptical of the West's ability to force South Africa's hand.

Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda said in a recent interview, "We have no faith at the moment in the polite political approach the West is making to Mr. Vorster," who called SWAPO a "Communist-inspired organization."

But there is a growing realization in political circles that SWAPO no longer can be ignored. SWAPO's external wing is the most militant and controls the guerrillas fighting against South Africa.

SWAPO believes it will be running Namibia within five years and the Namibia institute in Lusaka Zambia trains young SWAPO members to take over administration of the diamond-rich territory.

Institute director Hage Geingob said the emphasis is on practicial training. "We have too many thinkers and not enough doers in liberation movement," he said recently.

(UPI Telephoto)

CONTRAST OF FEELINGS—While whites at the South African Customs offer no more than grim-faced "official" courtesy upon UN ambassador Andrew Young's arrival at Johannesburg, May 21 (top photo) black workers clamor to shake the hand of the civil rights fighter-turned public official, who has been outspoken against apartheid.

AFRICAN RESEARCH A SUCCESS

Bacteria seen helping food production

IBADAN, Nigeria — A major argument of Pan-Africanist liberationists goes something like this: "By developing the ability to feed ourselves we take away one of the oppressor's greatest potential weapons."

Major research being carried out here and elsewhere on a bacterium called rhizobia could play a vital part in boosting African and Third World food production.

The bacterium is a natural fertilizer, aborbing nitrogen from the air and converting it and the organic matter in the soil into a valuable nutrient to improve the yield of various food crips.

Scientists have proved that rhizobia is vital to the plant cycle—plants themselves cannot use nitrogen straight from the atmosphere and rhizobia and other related bacteria are the only living organisms which can convert it into a form which growing plants can use.

Research has been going on for 15 years, and a program at the International Institute for Tropical Agriculture here is now ready to move into the practical phase.

Field trials are planned in varous parts of West Africa's humid lowlands, backed by grants from the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP),the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the UN's Educatiinal, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

The vital role the microorganisms play was first discovered in the rice paddies of the Philiplines in 1962. Scientists at the Internationa Rice Research Insttute near Manila were puzzled when a trial plot where no chemical fertilizer had been added kept giving sustained high yields of rice year after year with no decline in soil fertility.

This seemed to defy the basic truth to get some reward from the soil, you have to put something into it.

Research showed that temming millions of the tiny bacteria were working with the rice plants, drawing atmospheric nitrogen through the water, to revitalize the soil.

The rhizobia performed the job of nitrogen fixation effectively only when the paddy field was under water. This was proved to be because that particualr strain of rhizobia reached the rice by way of the blue-green algae in the water.

Even in countries where chemical fertilizers are available, they conceivably may be applied more sparingly if rhizobia and other nitrogen-fixing organisms are used. This would avoid pollution of water supplies resulting from overuse of chemicals.

It may also prevent damage to the fragile ozone layer around the earth. Some scientists fear that the intense use of nitrogenous fertilizers may have even more serious effects than aerosols

Since the Philippines! discovery of the busy bacteria, rearch has been widespread. And there is a UNEP rhizobia project in Nairobi, Kenya. Attention has been concentrated on leguminous plants (peas and beans), since it is known that some rhizobia live in symbiotic relationship with peas and beans.

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Many African small farmers have been cultivating their corn for generations in fields also planted with beans or peas — experience has taught them this brings better yeilds.

It is hoped that the African experinment will result in the discivery of rhizobia strains which can work in conjunction with other crops, as well as legumes.

Will the next Muhammad Ali be an African?

Editor's Note: In the 1968 Olympics at Mexico City, the world learned to respect African track stars, especially in the distance runs — those track events in which many whites had thought blacks were physically incapable to competing in representative manner. Following is a story of how boxers would be trained to dominate.)

By Sam Uba

LAGOS — An ambitious plan to get more African boxers to challenge for world titles is now being studied by leading boxing promoters in Europe and the U.S. The plan has been put forward by former Nigerian welterweight champion Santos Martins, who has just completed a tour of several European and American cities.

Martins, who was one of the first black Africans to campaign successfully in British and European rings (in the 1940s and 1950s) told me in an exclusive interview in London that he duscussed with businessmen, top promoters and managers the possibilities of exchange touranments with African countries and holding elminiation bouts in Africa for world titles.

His ideas, he said, were well received and he was returning to Nigeria to work out the details with the Lagos-based Jossy International Promotions. which recently appointed him its boxing agent. He also plans tour of African countries to discuss his ideas and scout for boxing talents he could train.

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If his negotiations are successful, Martins is confident, he could make boxing a big business in Africa, just as it is in Europe and the U.S. He believes that Africa has many potential world champions and that all they need is the motivation and the right handlers or managers.

(Note: A similar argument was advanced in the 1950s in behalf of potential track stars. At the time, according to Mal Whitefield, a black Olympic champ from the U.S. in 1948, colonial powers simply were not interested in developing black athletes, except for their own whites' entertainment.)

At the moment, no African holds a world boxing title and no African fighter is rated among the first 10 contender for a world title in any class.

Although black fighters—mostly from the U.S.—have figured strongly in professional boxing since the mid-Ninteeenth century, when it became an organized business, only three black Africans have ever won world titles.

They were Hogan "Kid" Bassey of Nigeria and David Kotei, who were both world featherweight champions, and the late Dick Tiger, also a Nigerian, who was world middleweight champion in 1963 and from 1963 to 1966.

Tiger also was world light-heavyweight champion from 1966 to 1968.

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The only other black African to win a world boxing crown was John Conteh of Sierra Leone, recently stripped of his WBA light-heavyweight title. But Conteh is not listed as an African because he holds a British citizenship; he was born in Britain and has lived there all his life, visiting Sierra Leone only once in 1975. after he won the world title.

Today, the only black African boxers officially acknowledged to be of world class are the Zambian, Patrick Mambwee, who is Commonwealth flyweight champion; and Jonathan Dele of Nigeria, current Commonwealth lightweight champion.

But Martins believes Nigeria—and Africa as a whole-have many potential world beaters and his ambition is to find them and ensure that they are given the opportunity to prove their mettle.

As he sees it, the main problem facing African boxers is the lack if proper training facilities and good management. That, he explains, is why almost invariably African fighters who have shown any promise have had to go to Europe or America to develop their talents and to be "discovered."

First Mali head dies

BAMAKO — Former Mali President Modibo Keita, known as a leader of the "first generation" of African revolutionaries, died May 16 in Bamaka, the Agence France - Presse reported recently. He was 61 years old. The cause of death was not known.

Keita, Mali's head of state in its first eight years of independence, was deposed in a 1968 military coup. He was said to have been held in detention ever since his ouster.

A Lenin Peace Prize winner in 1963, became pro-Communist during his last years in office. His swing to the left, it is believed, was the major reason he was overthrown by junior army officers.

Born in Bamako, capital of the former French Sudan, Keita was said to have been descended from a nobility that ruled the Old Mali empire in the 13th and 14th centuries.

He was graduated from the William Ponthy Normal School in Dakar, Senegal and after a few years as a teacher, he switched to politics.

He was a member of the first Territorial Assembly of the Sudan, a counselor of the Assembly of the French Union, and a mayor of Bamako. Elected a deputy for the French Sudan to the French National Assembly in 1956, he later became the Assembly's first vice president from Africa.

He joined the French government in 1957 as Secretary of State to the Presidency of the Council in the cabinet of Felix Gailiari.

In 1959, after the French Sudan became a self - governing republic within the French community, Keita became Prime Minister and was elected President the following year.

Desert confab in August

GENEVA — Delegates from 30 countries and observers from 11 international organizations have just completed a regional meeting here covering the Mediterranean area, in preparation for the UN Conference on Desertification which begins in Nairobi this August.

The UN conference will be the first gobal move towards a comprehensive assessment of the problem and towards action to halt and reverse desertification.

Beginning in 1968, countries along the southern border of the Sahara endured six years of disastrous drought that caused scientists and governments to fear that some basic change had occurred in the climate of the region and that the desert was expanding southward.

In 1974, the UN called for practical measures "to stem the spread of deserts."

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Four feasibility studies are under preparation for the Nairobi conference.

One deals with the extension of the Saharan "green belt" (Morocco and Egypt). Another, with tht underground water systems of Egypt, Lybia, Chad and Sudan, as well as the Arabian Peninsula.

A third covers monitoring techniques including remote sensing by satellites and the fourth concerns livestock management in north Africa.

An international rescue operation has already been mounted to preserve the delicate ecological balance in a vast stretch of rangeland across Africa and the Near East.

The program, supported by many countries under the umbrella of the UN, is to stop the rapid deterioration of a vast area of rangeland into barren deserts through pressure of expanding human and animal populations.

People

WASHINGTON — Ms. **Willi Delaney** has been named special assistant to the director of the U.S. Labor Department's Women's Bureau. A native of Washington and former Atlanta resident, she worked in Jimmy Carter's 1976 campaign for election.

She graduated from Martha Washington High Scholl and attended Catholic University of America, both in Washington.

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CLEVELAND — Andrew L. Johnson Jr. has become the first black president - elect of the Bar Association of Greater Cleveland. For years, the attorney campaigned to get blacks in leadership posts in the 300 - member association.

A native of Youngstown, Ohio, Johnson has been practicing law in Cleveland since 1960.

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CLEVELAND — **Pernel Jones**, 35, a funeral director, has been elected president of the Cleveland Civil Service Commission. He is a native of Baltimore.

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WASHINGTON — **Howard A. Glickstein**, a professor at Howard University Law School, has been appointed project manager for the Civil Rights Reorganization effort under the Carter Administration. Glickstein will initiate the civil rights enforcement study of President Carter's Reorganization Project.

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WASHINGTON — **Clifton B. Jeter Jr.** has been appointel controller for the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. Jeter, who began at the cultural center May 2, is a former manager in the Government Services Division of Wolf and Co., a national certified public accountant firm.

The 33-year-oll resident of Silver Springs, Md., holds degrees from Howard and American University "is back in Washington."

MS. WILLI DELANEY

PERNEL JONES

CLIFTON B. JETER JR.

JAMAICAN FEAST — A torchlit buffet featuring such Jamaican dishes as suckling pig, pumpkin soup and rice and peas is served by a Jamaican attendant to two tourists. The sounds of cascading waterfalls and whispering [illegible] with calypso melodies during these Thursday-night feasts in Ocho Rios.

Pan-Africanists march in D.C.

By Ronald Hanna

"Africa for the Africans, white boys hands off the black man's land" they shouted, proclaiming their support for the continued struggle to free all African people, and their nation.

African Liberation Day, (ALD) an organized celebration of unity among the black communities through out the world, began Saturday morning with a march through the District of Columbia.

The All African's People Revolutionary Party, an organization with branches throughout the United States, Africa and the islands, sends learned leadership persons into the Washington community every spring for the ALD, activities.

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African Liberation Day had been proclaimed, and began with a 10 a.m. gathering of hundreds of black people in Malcolm X Park.

Proceeding from the park to 14th St., women pushed baby carriages as the march picked up people on its way toward the White House.

"Come brother, and join us," an unidentified women said to a man observing the procession at 14th and You Sts.

He entered the crowd, camera in hand, and picked up the chant: "Scientific Socialism!" about two hundred people shouted repeatedly, as police escorts stopped traffic at Thomas Circle, allowing the "Free Africans" movement into the Washington business district.

The procession moved on, turning past the Madison Hotel and the Washington Post Building, down 15th St. toward the White House.

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A tour was leaving the entrance of the towering estate, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW. The tourists, having just experienced an excursion through the home of U.S. Presidents, were greeted by chanting, singing and the sounds of African drums.

"Africa for the Africans," the voices reached the ears of tourist, who stopped in the driveway of the White House, viewing the force of people approaching the President's domain.

By this time the procession, estimated to be thousands, moved slowly pass the mansion, pinning some tourists to the gates.