ANC exiles return for S. Africa talks

CAPE TOWN, South Africa — Five exiled members of the African National Congress, including leaders of its guerrilla war against White rule, headed back to South Africa April 27 in advance of the first formal talks with the government.

ANC officials said the five would be accompanied by senior aides to rendezvous with members of a delegation headed by Nelson Mandela that will meet a government team.

The exiles returning temporarily from Lusaka, Zambia, for the first time since the 1960s are: White Lithuanian-born South African Communist Party chief Joe Slovo; ANC General-Secretary Alfred Nzo; ANC military wing commander Joe Modise; External Affairs Director Thabo Mbeki; and former ANC London representative Ruth Mompati.

They are part of an 11-member "rainbow" delegation of White, Indian, Black and mixed-race anti-apartheid leaders meeting President Frederik de Klerk's all-White team about obstacles standing in the way of power-sharing negotiations.

"The talks between the ANC and the government next week will mark a decisive moment in the history of our country," the church-backed weekly New Nation said in an edition devoted almost entirely to the negotiations.

"It is a moment that will decide the course of the resolution of our problems will take."

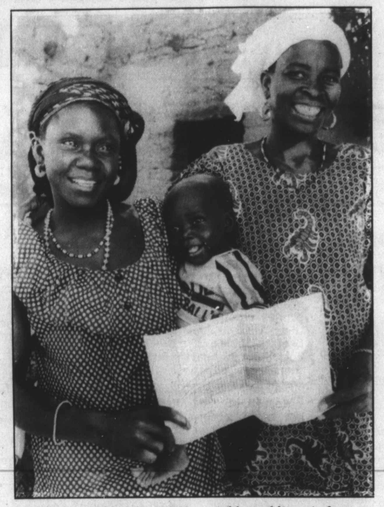
Shortly after their arrival in Cape Town, the five were to hold a news conference. There was no official schedule but on April 29 an ANC rally was to be held in the mixed-race township of Mitchells Plain where ANC leaders will outline their negotiation positions.

The May 2 meeting, originally schedule for April 11 but suspended to protest the deaths of 13 Blacks in police gunfire, is intended to address several conditions the ANC has set before it will agree to formal power-sharing negotiations.

Among their demands is the lifting of a 4-year-old state of emergency. The release of all political prisoners and a general amnesty for exiles are potentially the most politically sensitive for Mr. De Klerk given right-wing resistance to his reform initiatives.

Mr. De Klerk has added to the list of obstacles, condemning both the wave of violence that has swept the country since he unveiled his racial reform program in February and the ANC's continued "war talk" and commitment to the armed struggle.

Political analysts believe Mr. De Klerk is unlikely to grant amnesty to exiles or consider releasing all political prisoners until the ANC moderates its position on the armed struggle — despite the introduction of legislation that would empower him to do so.



THESE SCORPION WOMEN are taking a bite out of poverty. Aminata Kanakomo (left) and Massitan Rofano of Mali are proud of 16-month-old Dumar Toumeta's briming good health. The Malian villagers founded a community health group called Scorpion Women with help from CARE, the international relief and development organization. More than one child in 10 dies in Mali of easily preventable causes before they reach age 5. The Scorpion Women are mothers who have banded together to save their children. "True, the scorpion is deadly," said Aminata, "but it has the wisdom to attack those that threaten its existence. We have to take our lead from these creatures and confront our problems head on."

Ethiopia rejects call to open Massawa port

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia — Ethiopia has rejected international urgings that it stop bombing the rebel-held northern port of Massawa to permit shipment of emergency food for famine-struck areas of the country.

In a statement issued by the Foreign Ministry, the Ethiopian government said calls in the United Nations for use of the port to avert a repeat of the famine of 1984-85 were inappropriate and amounted to "dictating a code of conduct to a sovereign state."

The European Community, Canada, the United States, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland all called on Ethiopia to put aside its war with the Eritrean People's Liberation Front on humanitarian grounds.

The EPLF captured the port in early February, cutting off a government garrison at Asmara, 40 miles to the west, and wrecking government plans to move food into Eritrea and Tigre provinces from Massawa.

Massawa is the only port serving northern Ethiopia and the government has been forced to implement an ad hoc convoy system from the southern port of Assab to get food into drought-affected areas.

The government has been bombing the port with cluster bombs every other day so famine relief donors would need government cooperation before sending food through the city.

At least 2.5 million people risk starvation in Eritrea and Tigre in the next nine months, according to government, church and U.N. estimates. Analysts fear 4.5 million could die in Ethiopia as a whole.

The emergency trucking operation of the three-church Joint Relief Program last week moved its first 700 tons of food into Tigre province, but organizers fear that trucks alone will provide too little too late.

Relief officials at Dessid, 160 miles north of Addis Ababa said they needed at least 300 trucks to be sure of supplying enough food. Only 80 trucks are operational.

"The government rejects claims, however implicit, that other countries are more concerned about the fate of Ethiopians than their own government," the foreign ministry statement said, however.

It said it wishes to reassure the international community that everything possible was being done to get food to those needing it, but that allowing the rebel-held port to be used as a conduit was unacceptable.

Ethiopian Relief and Rehabilitation commission Yilma Kassaye hit out at the international community for its one-sided approach to the issue of famine relief.

"They did not condemn it when the rebels took Massawa," he said.

President and Mrs. Denis Sassou-Nguesso of the Congo along with Dr. and Mrs. Benjamin Hooks, executive director of the NAACP, attend a reception for the visiting president during his stay in Washington.

Congo leader makes historic visit

Bringing a message of strengthened friendship and cooperation between the Congo and the United States, President Denis Sassou-Nguesso made a State visit to the United States recently; the first such visit by a Congolese president.

President George Bush, in remarks during the official arrival ceremony at the White House (which was broadcast live to Brazzaville via satellite) praised the efforts of the Congolese president as a peacemaker and an advocate of economic development.

Mr. Bush urged President Sasso-Nguesso to use his "respected voice" to pursue peace and self-determination for the people of Angola. He saluted "the growing health of the free markets and free ideas" in the Congo. "Today it is my privilege, on behalf of the American people, to thank you again for your efforts and on-going commitment to regional stability," Mr. Bush concluded.

The remainder of President Sassou's visit included not only the ceremonies accorded a visiting head of state, but also a wide range of substantive meetings with key senior members of the administration.

Following the arrival ceremony, President Sassou briefed President Bush in the White House Oval office on recent events in Southern Africa, including discussions between the Congolese, Gabonese and Zairean heads of state toward promoting peace talks in Angola. Immediately after this meeting, the two presidents met with key Congolese officials and members of the Bush Cabinet.

During the balance of the first day, President Sassou had extensive meetings with Vice President Dan Quayle and with acting Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger.

The traditional State Reception and Dinner hosted by President and Mrs. Bush in honor of President and Madame Sassou, capped the first day's events.

In his toast to President Bush, President Sassou remarked, "On these various issues [peace among the Southern African nations], our cooperation remains entire and whole and very positive, and I'm gratified by this, just as I am also encouraged by the process underway in the world leading to glimmers of hope for peace and leading to progress along the path of democracy."

The meetings and events of the second day of the state visit covered a range of interests for the Congo. President Sassou began the day by meeting with Michel Camdessus, managing director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and with World Bank president Barber Conable to review current Congolese loan obligations and to discuss economic development programs and assistance.

Carrying his message of economic development and growth and of peace for all of Africa, President Sassou addressed students and faculty of Howard University, followed by a luncheon at the Africare Center and meetings with senior officials of the African Development foundation.

In the afternoon he met with scholars at the American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research, a prominent Washington think-tank.

President Sassou and the Congolese delegation concluded their visit to the United States with stops in Houston and Boston. Houston Mayor Kathy Whitmire welcomed President Sassou at city hall, preceding a tour by the delegation of the Johnson Space Center and events sponsored by Amoco and Conoco, two oil companies with important investment in the Congo.

In Boston, President Sassou addressed the student body and faculty of Harvard University at the Kennedy School of Government and attended a reception and dinner in his honor at the J. F. Kennedy Library.

Shuttle pilot takes flight in stride

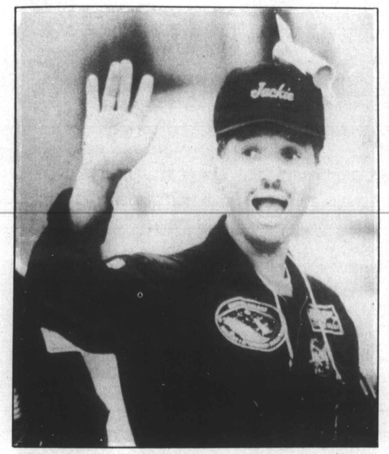
Marine pilot Charles B. Bolton, Jr., who blasted off aboard the shuttle Columbia just 16 days before the Challenger disaster, off on his second space odyssey April 24, a high-profile mission to launch the Hubble Space Telescope.

Col. Bolden and four crewmates, all shuttle veterans, were scheduled to spend five days in orbit to deploy the giant telescope, the most powerful such instrument ever built to operate above Earth's obscuring atmosphere.

It is given in the astronaut office at the Johnson Space Center in Houston that any flight assignment is a good flight assignment. But the Hubble Space Telescope, the most expensive satellite ever built, is in a class by itself and Col. Bolden clearly relishes a chance to play a role in the showcase mission.

"Astronomy captivates everybody," he said in an interview. "A kid in the ghetto, a kid on the farm, everybody at one time or another happens to glance up at the night-time sky and they see these things we call stars and every once in a while a planet.

"You'd just have to be a non-human being not to go 'what the heck is that?' It has a fascination for everybody."



Pilot Charles Bolden sports cap with replica of Hubble Space Telescope and his wife's name.

As for his impression of the space telescope, he said: "It is an absolute monster of a vehicle."

"There are going to be long periods of time when we can't see anything out (the crew cabin windows) because of this monster in the payload bay. It's very, very impressive, its beauty, the intricacy of it. It's just awe-inspiring to me."

Col. Bolden's first space flight came four years ago when he and six crewmates, including Rep. Bill Nelson, D-Fla., took off aboard the shuttle Columbia on Jan. 12, 1986 - 25 days behind schedule — for what turned out to be a six-day flight to launch a communications satellite.

Col. Bolden's primary role during the space telescope mission will be to assist commander Loran Shriver during launch and landing and to help coordinate the crew's extensive schedule of Earth photography.

Col. Bolden, born in Columbia, S.C., earned a bachelor of science degree in electrical engineering from the Naval Academy in 1968 and a master's degree in systems management from the University of Southern California in 1978.

He accepted a commission in the Marine Corps following graduation from Annapolis in 1968 and after flight training in Pensacola, Fla., and other bases he was designated a naval aviator in May 1970.

In 1973, he flew more than 100 missions into North and South Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia while based At nam Phong, Thailand.

After returning to United States, he began a two-year tour as a Marine Corps selection officer in Los Angeles. He spent the next three years at the Marine Corps Air Station in El Toro, Calif.

In 1979, Col. Bolden graduated from the U.S. Naval Test Pilot School at Patuxent River, Md., and was assigned to the Naval Air Test Center's systems engineering and strike aircraft test directorates.

He, who lists his hobbies as racquetball, running and first day cover collecting, has logged more than 4,800 hours flying time in a variety of aircraft.

Selected as a NASA astronaut in 1980, he is married to the former Alexis Walker of Columbia, S.C., and the couple has two children: Anthony Che, 18, and Kelly M., 14.

He is a member of the Marine Corps Association, the Montford Point Marine Association, the U.S. Naval Institute and he is a lifetime member of the Naval Academy Alumni Association.

DERRICK BELL, the first Black professor to receive tenure at Harvard Law School, tells a group of students that he intends to request an unpaid leave of absence until the school appoints a tenured Black woman to the faculty. "I cannot continue to urge students to take risks for what they believe if I don't practice my own precepts," Mr. Bell said, adding the loss of his salary and health benefits would come at a time when his wife is seriously ill. The move comes after students at the prestigious law school twice this month occupied the dean's office overnight to protest the lack of minority representation on the faculty.

New image for President Bush?

WASHINGTON — Has President George Bush shaken the anti-Black image of his predecessor, Ronald Reagan?

This, despite the fact Mr. Bush's presidential campaign was charged with racism, scaring the daylights out of White voters by using ads featuring Willie Horton — to win the Presidency.

Horton is a Black convicted murderer/rapist who while on leave from a Massachusetts' prison allegedly committed a similar crime. This successful campaign was reportedly committed a similar crime. This successful campaign was reportedly the brainchild of Mr. Reagan's close associate and present chairman of the Republican National Committee, Lee Atwater. But few knowledgeable observers believe it was launched without Mr. Bush's discreet acquiescence.

Just 14 months into his own presidency, however, the former Vice President seems to have created a "kinder, gentler" relationship with African Americans that had been glaringly absent from the White House during the somber Reagan years.

For example, Mr. Bush has opened up the White House to Black leaders and celebrities. These include the Congressional Black caucus, the National Newspaper Publishers Assn., the NAACP, Black educators, from the National Association For Equal Opportunity in Higher Education (NAFEO); the Urban League, a visiting assortment of African and Caribbean political figures, and others. All seem to have been extended if not an open invitation, a friendly welcome mat to visit, a courtesy not witnessed here in many a dark year.

At the recent glittering, grand anniversary dinner of the prestigious Joint Center For Political and Economic Studies, a Black think tank that recently added the "economic" component to its name, the President, in an expansive mood, said he expects to see a Black occupying the 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue address in his lifetime. Some cynic attending the affair muttered," maybe in the next hundred years."

Undaunted, the President crowed about the number of African Americans he has already named to high positions in his administration — 42.

Chase Untermeyer, Director of Presidential Personnel, told CNS, however, the President's Black nominees so far number 47, not 42.

"And these, unlike some in other administrations, are not token positions," declared a White House official, who asked to remain anonymous.

AN ATLANTA MAN identified as James Calvin Brady, 31, was taken into custody April 24 near a suburban shopping mall. Brady was charged with firing into a crowd of about 200 people, killing one man and wounding four other people. Documents found on Brady indicated he was released the day before from a mental hospital.

Blacks debating Wilder's view on mainstream campaigning

An Old Dominion University professor says Gov. L. Douglas Wilder's success in eliminating race as an issue in his election may have earned him widespread White support, but ultimately compromised the Black political process.

The argument over "deracialization" in the Black campaign process has stirred controversy among scholars who fear Black politicians will abandon traditional issues and constituencies for the sake of electoral progress.

Michael Clemons, who directs ODU's institutional research and planning department, discussed that deracialization theory in Atlanta recently at the National Conference of Black Political Scientists.

In a 46-page research paper, Mr. Clemons suggests politicians like Mr. Wilder who foresake traditional Black issues such as voting rights, fair housing and affirmative action to reach out to a White majority may jeopardize the Black movement.

Mr. Wilder, once regarded as a political maverick, recast himself during the 1980s as a moderate Democrat as he positioned himself for his first statewide bid for public office in 1985.

But Wilder spokesman Laura Dillard says such thinking fails to take into consideration the politics of inclusion Mr. Wilder practices.

"I don't think he is abandoning any constituencies," said Mrs. Dillard. "I think he is appealing to all. I think it is detrimental to say that to reach out to everyone is to abandon someone."

Mr. Wilder is also seen by many as a palatable alternative to the Rev. Jesse Jackson, the nation's leading Black politician, who twice has sought and failed to win the Democratic presidential nomination.

"It's offensive to see any of this appeal in racial terms," said Paul Goldman, a longtime Wilder aide.

"It's time for people to stop seeing each other in terms of their race or their gender or in some group standard; its backward thinking.

"The majority of Americans are tired of people dragging them down."

EX-BLACK PANTHER John Spain celebrates after leaving the federal courthouse in San Francisco. The U.S. Supreme Court let stand the reversal of his 1976 conviction of conspiracy to murder during a 1971 San Quentin prison riot.

Head Start celebrates 25 years of success

When Head Start celebrates its 25th birthday this month, Dr. Angela A. Moore in Marshall, Texas, will be one of its most enthusiastic well-wishers.

Head Start is the early childhood development program that offers education, health, and social services to low income parents and children, with an emphasis on parent involvement.

In 1966, when Angela was four years old, she attended Head Start in Victoria, Miss. "I liked to listen to the stories, and I was good at putting puzzles together," recalls Dr. Moore.

Dr. Moore continued to be an enthusiastic student through elementary and high school. She attended Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee, on an academic scholarship, then went on to Meharry Medical College. After receiving her medical degree, Dr. Moore decided to take a couple of years out of her medical career to join the faculty at Wiley College in Texas.

During the past 25 years, Head Start has given hundreds of thousands of children like Angela Moore a strong boost toward lifelong achievement. All low-income children deserve the same good start, but Head Start's funding is large enough to enable only about 20 percent of eligible children to attend.

This year, Congress must reauthorize Head Start for another four years. The reauthorization bills that are now being considered by the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives would authorize enough funding over four years to maintain the quality of the program and expand enrollments so that by 1994 all eligible three and four-year-olds and a percentage of five-year-olds can attend.

Hate crimes bill signed

WASHINGTON — President Bush has signed into law the Hate Crimes Statistics Act, which requires the attorney general to collect information on crimes motivated by bigotry.

In brief remarks, Mr. Bush said the bill "is an important further step toward the protection of all Americans' civil rights and pledged the administration will work with Congress to determine whether new law enforcement measures "are needed to bring hate-mongers out of hiding and into the light of justice."