Miriam Makeba returns to S. Africa from exile

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa — Miriam Makeba, the Black South African - born singer hailed as "Mama Africa" for her passion and popularity, sang on home soil for the first time in 31 years Sunday after returning from political exile to visit family and her mother's grave.

Miss Makeba, 57, joined relatives, local entertainers and supporters in singing the Black liberation anthem "Nkosi Sikele i'Afrika," or "God Bless Africa," after arriving from Brussels to her racially reforming homeland.

Miss Makeba, for millions around the world a symbol of Black pride, fortitude and resilience, returned to a traditional tribal welcome and knelt quietly on a mat given her by an elderly female relative in a ceremony to mark the end of a long absence.

Saying she was "very happy to be home," Miss Makeba said priorities during the week's visit will be seeing her brother and other family, visiting Johannesburg's satellite Black township of Soweto — the place of her youth — and "praying by my mother's grave."

The weary Miss Makeba told reporters she did not "sleep for a week" in anticipation of getting an entry visa, which was refused her until June 10. Authorities were fearful the woman who has performed at numerous African independence celebrations would stir up political unrest.

"I've always wanted to come home. Now that everyone is coming home, why shouldn't I?" she added, referring to other exiles being given permission to come back, or simply returning, following the racial reforms launched in February by

Miriam Makeba

President Frederik de Klerk.

"I think I'll be happier when I come back to sing before my people," Miss Makeba said, noting she had no plans on the private visit for any public performances of the dozens of songs which, over three decades, she has sung and recorded in North America, Europe and Africa.

Mandela says even partial lifting of sanctions is unacceptable

STRASBOURG, France — Black nationalist leader Nelson Mandela, in an emotional speech to the European Parliament, insisted June 13, that even a partial lifting of economic sanctions against a reforming South Africa would be unacceptable to his country's Black majority.

The civil rights leader received a warm welcome from parliamentarians, who in December 1988 awarded him the Andrei Sakharov Human Rights Prize. He was unable to accept personally then because he was still in a South African prison.

Mr. Mandela told the deputies that Europe knows from experience that racism "leads inevitably to genocide and to the most horrible crimes against humanity."

As he had done in Paris, Geneva and Bonn during his current 14 - nation, six - week tour of Europe, the United States and Africa, he insisted that full economic sanctions must remain in place despite efforts by South African President Frederik de Klerk to end apartheid.

"It is not yet the moment (to lift sanctions) because police repression is still part of the reality of our daily lives," he said. "Our people continue to die in the providence of Natal as a direct result of the fact of the system of apartheid."

Recently Mr. de Klerk lifted a state of emergency everywhere in South Africa except the troubled province of Natal, which is racked by violent Black - on - Black conflict between supporters of Mandela's African National Congress and a rival Zulu movement.

The nationwide state of emergency had for four years given police widespread powers to arrest suspects and search homes.

At a news conference following his speech, Mr. Mandela said even a partial lifting of sanctions would be contrary "to the interests of the international community" and unacceptable to his people.

"We could not accept even a partial symbolic lifting for sports, for example," Mr. Mandela said.

The 12 countries of the European Economic Community are to decide at a summit in Dublin at the end of June whether to maintain the sanctions. Most EC members, with the notable exception of British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, who has unilaterally lifted some sanctions against Pretoria, support maintaining economic pressure on the South African government.

ENRICHMENT

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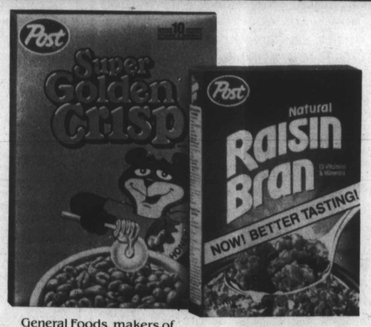

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GENERAL FOODS USA

White power must go, de Klerk tells press

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Constitution could be a model for the protection of minority rights under Black majority rule in South Africa, President F. W. de Klerk said in an interview published June 14.

In an interview with the Washington Times, Mr. de Klerk denied his government was trying to preserve White power and privilege as South Africa moves towards ending minority White rule — a process he emphasized was "irrevocable" and "irreversible."

"Time is of the essence," he said. "When we say White domination must go, we mean it."

"I know that there has been a misunderstanding as to this and an erroneous interpretation that somehow or other we want to maintain White privilege, White domination," Mr. de Klerk said after outlining possible methods of protecting minorities. "Simply not true."

"I love doing what I'm doing under great pressure. I'm doing what I know is right," Mr. de Klerk said of his reform program. "My party has come to the conclusion that there is no other road. The sooner we travel this road together, the better for all of us. But we're in a hurry."

In response to a question of whether he envisioned a Black becoming president of South Africa after his reforms are completed, Mr. de Klerk said, "Full participation of all South Africans at all levels means what it says."

But, citing President James Madison's Federalist Papers, he said he wanted to drastically reduce the powers of the presidency and establish a system of checks and balances against the abuse of power.

"We will be looking for a solution in the direction of a bill of rights like yours, checks and balances to avoid too much power in any one institution, a non - racial society," Mr. de Klerk said.

Warning that forces on the extreme right and extreme left threatened his moderate cause, Mr. de Klerk said the racial reforms he has already implemented were enough for the United States and other nations to end economic sanctions against his government.

"The time has come for fundamental re - evaluation leading to encouragement (of his reform program), not with a pat on the back, but by lifting sanctions," he said.

"When the (African National Congress) argues that nothing has changed, they are flying in the face of facts," Mr. de Klerk said of the ANC's plea that international sanctions be maintained. "My government is not dragging its feet on a single issue."

"True, certain things have not changed but most of them we have agreed will change as a result of negotiations," he said, adding that "the ball is now in the ANC's court."

Mr. de Klerk praised ANC leader Nelson Mandela — currently on a tour of Europe before beginning a two-week visit to the United States as "a man of integrity, honestyand interesting, a worthy interlocutor."

Angolan ceasefire

The Angolan government has issued an official statement calling for a final and permanent ceasefire in the country and for general elections to take place following direct negotiations with rebels. The next meeting between the Angolan government and UNITA will be held this month under the auspices of Portugal.

The statement, delivered by Angolan Representative to the United Nations Manuel Pedro Pacavira, stated that UNITA should recognize the legitimacy of the current Angolan government until general elections take place. The government has withdrawn its armed forces from one of the areas of conflict, the southeastern area of Mukundi, "to create a more favorable environment in the search for peace," the statement said.

The government urged UNITA to accept a final ceasefire instead of the temporary "period of rest" proposed by UNITA officials, and called on UNITA to discuss the establishment of a final ceasefire in the upcoming talks between the two sides.

The government also urged UNITA'S rebels to "cease its destruction of civilian infrastructures." In recent months, UNITA has stepped up its attacks on Angolan civilians in the north and south of the country. A number of bombs were also set in Luanda causing the city to be without water and electricity for significant periods of time and killing a number of civilians.

Notable quotable

Former Cards catcher, now CBS broadcaster Tim McCarver:

"I remember one time going out to the mound to talk to Bob Gibson. He told me to get back behind the plate, that the only thing I knew about pitching was it was hard to hit."

SPORTS

Demise of Black league vital to progress

Sam Lacy

A recent issue of the Washington Post Magazine carried a well-documented history of the old Griffith Stadium where the Washington baseball club played its American League games for more than four decades prior to 1960.

Much of the piece was devoted to the arrival of the Homestead Grays, a superb Black team that occupied the stadium on Thursday nights and Sunday afternoons when the Senators were out of town .... It spoke highly of the talents of Josh Gibson, Buck Leonard, Satchel Paige, Cool Papa Bell, Luke Easter and others .... It also offered mild condemnation of Clark Griffith, the Senators' owner who remained steadfast in opposing the integration of Black players into what was known as "organized baseball."

That phrase, incidentally, was an overt slap at baseball that was being played elsewhere, as in the Black league.

Illustrated with old photographs supplied by Bobby Scurlock, the youngest member of a family that operated the city's most popular Black studio, the article described the electric atmosphere that gripped DC's Black community whenever the Grays were in town.

— —

It captured the mood of a community filled with justifiable pride and social acceptance .... It focused on the "fun times" of the era.

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While the author displayed a keen sense of recall and made the piece an interesting read, he either ignored or was not aware of, another AFRO figure who was an integral part of story.

Art Carter booked the teams, secured the Griffith Stadium right-of-way, promoted the games and arranged for housing the teams.

As the piece neared conclusion, the writer made point of the fact that after 1947, with Black players entering the major leagues, crowds at Black league games began to dwindle (from 46,000 at one stage to 6,000), thus "proving Clark Griffith right: Integration was the beginning of the end of the (Black) league."

Whether intended or not, that statement struck a sensitive nerve for the AFRO writer who had drawn the original remark from the Senators owner: "If we admit Black players, we will destroy the Black league."

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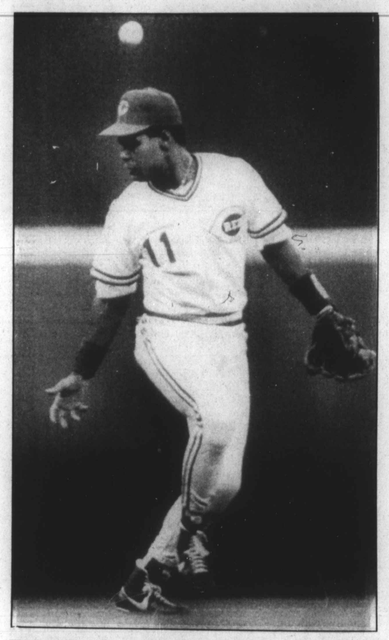
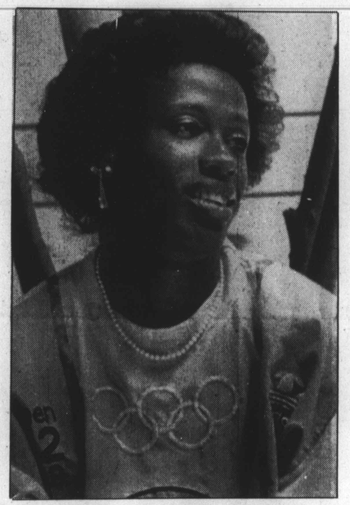
I was that AFRO man .... To my way of thinking then and now, the Black league was an institution, and nobody wishes to attack an institution.

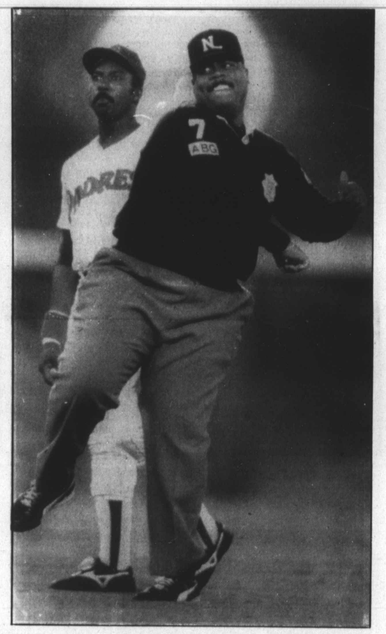
But the Black league also was a symbol of segregation, an insidious blot on American history — one that is not yet completely erased.

And who knows but that the perpetuation of that "separate but equal — yet unequal" — condition would not still be with us today?

And if it were, would not history still be blind to the amazing talents of the Jackie Robinsons, Willie Mayses, Bob Gibsons, Henry Aarons, Frank Robinsons, Reggie Jacksons and the thousands of other young men who thus were enabled to break out of the dastardly cocoon of Jim Crow?







SEARCH, LISTEN AND POUT — "Where'd that sucker go?" Barry Larkin of the Reds wonders as ball hides above his head (left); Jackie Joyner-Kersee can only listen as hubby-coach Bob Kersee describes her second longest jump in history at Norwalk, Cal. (above), and slimmed down umpire Eric Gregg makes emphatic "out' call on displeased Padre Gary Templeton (right), in Gregg's first game since long layoff to diet.

Former AFRO writer buried

A funeral service was held Thursday for Lanier R. Covington, one-time AFRO photowriter, who died suddenly June 13 at Howard University Hospital.

Covington, widely known as "Pee Wee," had been popular in Washington as an outstanding sandlot baseball player and amateur basketball coach and player.

He covered sports for the Washington AFRO for 15 years, illustrating his stories and commentaries with his own photographs.

He is survived by a sister, Dorothy Ramsey; two brothers, Samuel "Buck," and Pearson Covington, and a host of friends, relatives and Pigskin Club members.

Rites were held at the Robert G. Mason Funeral Home. Interment was at Harmony Cemetery.

38-year-old leads Cameroon

SELVA DI FASANO, Italy (UPI) — Cameroon's Roger Miller, at age 38 the oldest non-goalkeeper in the World Cup, continues to add to his legend in Africa.

The 18-year veteran striker, included on the squad only at the demand of Cameroon President Paul Biya, scored twice Thursday to give Cameroon a 2-1 victory over Romania and guarantee a place in the second round.

Miller, whose two goals made him the oldest player ever to score in a World Cup, originally was not selected for Cameroon's 22-man squad. He was added by Biya after Cameroon's poor showing in the 1990 African Championships.

"He is a legend in Cameroon, and the people wanted him on the squad as they thought he was the one who could save Cameroon's honor in the World Cup," said one member of Cameroon's 75-man strong World Cup delegation.

Coming on as a 59th-minute substitute, Miller **sealed Cameroon's spot in the second round** June 23, with goals in the 76th and 86th minutes.

"I had prepared specially for this match," Miller said. "I knew I would be sent in, but not at what stage in the game."

Valery Nepomniachi, Cameroon's Soviet-born coach, said that when Miller entered the game "he had a precise task to fulfill. He fulfilled it and won the game for us."

OVERVIEW

LONG ON SHORTSTOPS — The continuing discussion of the consecutive-game streak of shortstop Cal Ripken of the Orioles, serves as a pleasant reminder to Baltimore baseball fans that they have witnessed an amazing succession of slick fielders at the position.

Two years after the Birds set up business in Baltimore in 1953, Willy Miranda arrived with his wizard's glove (1955-59). Slender Ron Hansen took over (1959-62). Then came the flashy Luis Aparicio (1963-67), followed by steady but cat-quick Mark Belanger to hold forth until Ripken was ready.

* * *

U.S. OPEN LANDMARK — A golf feature offered on cable television in conjunction with the U.S. Open at Medinah (Ill.) last week, reminisced on the 1913 championship which attracted the first group of foreign players.

Harry Vardon, Edward Ray of England, and Francis Ouimet of France battled for the top prize, won by the Frenchman.

John Shippen became the first Black in history to compete in a U.S. Open tournament. Although he finished in 33rd place and was no threat to the top three, his presence was a landmark on the major golf scene.

Interestingly, Shippen was openly identified as Black and was sponsored by the Merion Country Club (Pa.) where he served as teacher for the membership.

* * *

HOT HIDING HAVEN — PALERMO, Sicily (UPI) — One safety-conscious World Cup fan had a shock when he returned to his hotel room after a few drinks late Friday night.

The fan, who preferred not to be named, had decided to leave his travellers checks in the hotel room before going out and, as a further precaution, hid them in the shade of the room's wall light.

The secrecy in this strategy was its undoing. When his roommate came home he unwittingly switched on the light and burned all the checks.

* * *

ABC TO CBV, GEE!! — From Cosell (Howard) to Brent (Musburger) to Valvano (Jim). The class of Jim McKay is a lonely thing in that network's sports. . . . SAM LACY

Champ chafes at 'no respect'

LAS VEGAS, Nev. (UPI) — James "Buster" Douglas, heavyweight champion of the world, wonders how seriously the world takes him as heavyweight champion.

If not for his title belts and tapes of the fight, Douglas might think his 10th-round knockout of Mike Tyson Feb. 11 in Tokyo was a dream. Douglas has not cashed in financially, former champion Tyson remains more of a public figure than the man who beat him and Douglas will again be an underdog the next time he enters the ring.

"I don't feel I get my due," Douglas said in a Friday night interview. "I have the title belt, sure, but there's still a lot of speculation that he (Tyson) wasn't ready or it was a lucky thing.

"After the next two fights, there'll be no doubt in anybody's mind that he (Douglas) did it with skill and ability."

Douglas, 30, gets his next chance for respect Sept. 21 when he defends against unbeaten No. 1 contender Evander Holyfield at The Mirage Hotel and Casino.

Douglas' lack of respect comes even from the most unlikely places. The sports book at The Mirage lists Holyfield as a more than 2-1 favorite over Douglas. And this is a hotel whose owner Steve Wynn pledged to pay Douglas $24 million for the bout and another $25 million to fight Tyson if he wins Sept. 21.

Back-to-back for Hank Allen

Well, not exactly. But almost.

Two thoroughbreds nursed through injuries by Hank Allen, came within two lengths of giving the former ball player-turned trainer a back-to-back double in Laurel's first Saturday of summer racing.

Northern Wolf set a 6-furlong record of 1 minute, 8 1/5 seconds in winning the Duck Dance Handicap.

In the previous race, Allen-trained She's a Champ was nipped by 2 lengths by Shameful Pride in the day's co-feature.

Zina bounces back

Zina Garrison bounced back from her first-round ouster in the French Open to win the Dow Classic grass court tennis title Sunday.