International Page

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia — Former President Jimmy Carter (L) walks with Ethiopian Vice President Fesseha Desta at the airport as Carter prepared to leave for the Sudan. He met earlier with Ethiopian President Mariam concerning proposed peace talks with Eritrean rebels.

Mind-boggling Mandela-Botha parley

By Daniel Marolen

As Minister of the Native Affairs Department, and before he became South Africa's Prime Minister, Hendrik F. Verwoerd ordered all white civil servants in his department never to shake hands with Africans.

He considered shaking hands with Africans as signifying equality. But, Verwoerd lived to shake hands with Africans before his assassination in his parliament in 1966.

And, in more recent days, President P. W. Botha relegated Africans to the status of non-people, non-citizens and non-participants in the running of their country, South Africa.

And he only dealt with their leader, the 27 years imprisoned Nelson Mandela, only as a jailed prisoner.

Botha, like Verwoerd, accorded Africans the status of inferiority. Botha's infamous ethnic - oriented "Tricameral parliament" took away all citizenship rights from the Africans.

Last week's invitation by President Botha to Nelson Mandela, leader of the African National Congress (ANC) to an agendaless meeting, was a most mind-boggling event.

No one ever dreamed that an event like that would occur.

But, like Verwoerd, the architect of institutionalized apartheid, Botha, the architect of South Africa's political monstrosity — apartheid tri-cameral parliamene — surprised all of mankind by dragging aging Mandela from his custody to have tea with him in the Presidential palace of South Africa!

Both Prime Minister Verwoerd and President Botha were extreme haters. And both had the tactic of political deception of using a single moment in their lives to pretend that they loved Africans.

That momentary bluff was used to dupe their critics and opponents to believe that they loved Africans, when, in reality, they didn't.

After such a bluff Verwoerd and Botha did nothing to alleviate the grinding farce and oppression of apartheid under which Africans chafed and still chafe.

This is exactly what P. W. Botha did last week. He dragged poor 70-year-old Nelson Mandela from his incarceration to the posh South African Buckingham Palace as a public relations gimmick only. He had nothing to discuss with him of national significance, especially pertaining to the strained race relations in the country.

But nothing is happening as a result of the historic meeting, just as nothing happened after Verwoerd changed to shaking hands with a few Africans on the day of his historic visit to Springs.

Verwoerd was assassinated in his parliament before he did anything beyond those hypocritical handshakes with the Africans of the Witwatersrand.

World nations at U.N. have all long pressured Botha to release Mandela and all other political prisoners — in vain . . . But they all still languish in their interminable Golgotha.

But, suddenly Nelson Mandela is "honored" with an invitation to Tynhuis, Cape Town! But, sadly, his people's slavery is not discussed.

Is there any sense in this? Or purpose? Or logic? Surely, none.

No wonder eminent anti-apartheid leaders of the Calibre of Tuti, Chikane, Buthelezi and Winnie Mandela are all joined in their expressions of suspicion and doubt about the inconsistency of that presidential invitation.

A golden opportunity to end apartheid was lost by Botha.

But the greatest wonder of this historic political howler is that Botha has only a bare few weeks before he quits the presidency. Why, then, has he chosen those few last moments of his administration to pretend to befriend Mandela whom he has never loved? An earlier invitation would have been fruitful.

To further complicate the tasks of his successor, maybe? Or to snatch a quick undeserved last-minute accolade before his exit? All this is mind-boggling to friend and foe alike.

An invitation to Mandela for an agendaless interracial parley is far beyond anybody's ken. Little wonder, therefore, Nelson Mandela's wife had to fly to his rescue posthaste.

But the universal intervention and local fury of leaders of the fibre of Rev. Frank Chikane, Archbishop Tutu, Dr. Mangosutu Buthelezi and others have not elicited any response from the Botha regime, which remains adamant.

Is Botha belatedly wishing he had been a better leader all these past years, that his record does not show? too late, the phalarope has flown away!

Botha has lost a golden opportunity for dialogue and negotiation to plan the future of a better South Africa after apartheid . . . That role now awaits his successors, not Botha! Too late, Botha! Farewell. . . .

Mozambique changes ideology

By Jack Reed

MAPUTO, Mozambique — Mozambique's ruling Frelimo party shrugged off its domatic embrace of Marxism Sunday in the most sweeping adjustment of economic and political policies since its freedom from Portugal more than a decade ago.

In a dawn vote that followed an all-night session, the ideological shift, aligning themselves more closely with Western principles in hopes of bringing peace and prosperity to one of the world's poorest nations.

The new ideology is intended to guide the party for the next five years as the government of President Joaquim Chissano searches for an end to a 14-year civil war while courting international aid and foreign investment.

Among the more significant measures, Frelimo endorsed opening party membership to businessmen, religious orders and polygamists, and abandoning a policy of state-owned farms in favor of private ownership.

It accepted for the first time the principle of private education, pledged to crack down on high-level corruption and deleted from party statutes all reference to Marxism, Leninism and class struggle.

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National Page

FLIGHT 232 SURVIVORS:

'I thank God for everything'

CHICAGO — Five flight attendants from the United Airlines jet that crashed in Iowa called on officials to make airplanes safer by spacing rows farther apart and adding child-restraint seats.

The five described the crash during an emotional news conference saying their training and religious faith got them through the agonizing 44 minutes between the time the plane's hydraulic system failed and its crash in Sioux City.

"We did the best we could. We all prayed," Donna McGrady said, her voice cracking as she wiped away tears. "At a time of crisis, we look at things so minute to life. I thank God for everything.

McGrady, who was serving food when the hydraulic system failed, said she heard a loud sound that was "indescribable."

"We felt the plane start falling," she said. "I felt we were still floating so we continued with service. Then the plane started vibrating. I thought it was turbulence. We got the cart out of the way. We stayed calm for the passengers' sake."

First flight attendant Jan Brown said she was thankful the crew had enough time to secure the cabin before the plane hit the ground, cartwheeled and caught fire.

"We didn't really know how much time we had," Brown said. "The amount of time seemed irrelevant. We had so much to do."

Brown said she willed her hands to stop shaking as she briefed passengers for the landing and said the infants on board were one of her main concerns.

"I thought about the number of infants and told the parents to put them on the floor and hold them on the floor," Brown said.

Asked whether she thought federal regulators should insist on some kind of child-restraint device aboard airplanes, Brown said: "We have to have some type of child restraint. We really do need to have child restraint. They certainly do in cars and I don't know why they don't do it on airplanes."

The other Chicago-based flight attendants presented — McGrady, Timothy Owens, Virginia Murray, Susan White and the three Denver-based attendants who were on layoff at Sioux City and aided crash victims — all nodded their assent.

"I think it would be really helpful," White said.

White said many of the men aboard the plane had trouble assuming the "brace position" — doubling over and grabbing their ankles in preparation for the emergency landing.

"I think the seats are too close," White said.

The five attendants, among 185 people who lived through the ordeal, said they could not believe they had survived and felt euphoric and guilty once they realized they had not died.

"I feel guilty that I am here and other people didn't make it." White said breaking into tears.

Donna McGrady, surviving crew member.

A.C. mayor says he will not resign

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. — Embattled Mayor James Usry admitted through a lawyer Friday that he took money from a businessman working undercover for the state police, but said there was no bribe and that the cash was intended for a charity fund-raising effort.

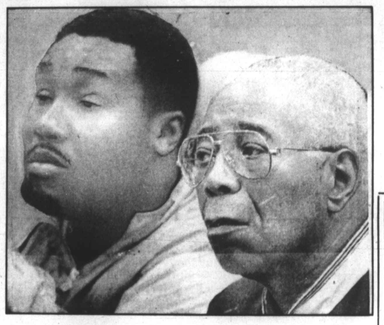
Usry, 67, was arrested Thursday and charged along with more than a dozen other Atlantic City officials and businessmen in a series of alleged influence-peddling schemes.

He said he was innocent of charges that he accepted a $6,000 bribe, and that he would not step down as mayor.

City Administrator Carl Briscoe, who has been acting mayor for two weeks since Usry was hospitalized for a shoulder injury, said Friday he would continue in that capacity until Usry fully recuperated.

Briscoe said morale in City Hall was "very good" and that he has had no problems running the resort city.

Usry, president of the National Conference of Black Mayors, appeared Friday afternoon at a news conference in the office of his lawyer, Donald G. Targan.



Ernest English (L) and Atlantic City Mayor James Usry in the courtroom.

The usually blustery Usry — who during his arrest and arraignment Thursday appeared uncharacteristically somber, pained and subdued — appeared much more relaxed Friday and even cracked an occasional smile.

But Usry, his arm still in a sling from recent shoulder surgery, remained silent at his attorney's side and allowed Targan to read from a prepared statement.

Targan said he has advised Usry, who won office as a reform candidate in a 1984 recall election, not to speak publicly about the corruption charges.

Usry is accused of pocketing $6,000 from businessman Albert Black, who was working for state police, in return for backing a proposed ordinance allowing motorized carts on the casino resort's famous Boardwalk.

Targan, while not specifically mentioning the alleged $6,000 payoff in a hospital room July 21, said Usry accepted money from Black as part of a recent fund-raising effort for childen's, senior citizens and other charitable programs.

"All monies received from Albert Black were for a legal and lawful charitable purpose, none of which was to be for the personal benefit of Mayor James Usry," Targan said.

The mayor also "immediately and voluntarily" alerted state troopers who arrested him that he had received contributions from Black, both in checks and cash, and turned the money over to them, Targan said.

State Police said Thursday that they had recovered the $6,000 Black had allegedly passed to Usry.

Targan said the fund-raising effort, in conjunction with a dinner-dance scheduled for Aug. 5 in Usry's honor, began last month.

Although Targan stressed the "primary purpose" of the dinner-dance was to collect donations for charitable benefits, a copy of the invitation to the event makes no mention of charity.

Stokes says he intended to pay

SHAKER HEIGHTS, Ohio — Former Cleveland Mayor Carl Stokes testified at his petty theft trial Friday that he took a $17.25 bag of dog food from a pet store without paying for it because no cashiers were available, but said he had intended to return with the money.

Under cross-examination, however, Stokes, now a municipal judge, said he did not tell anyone in the store he planned to return, did not think to leave the money, and did not telephone the store's owner.

Stokes, who in 1967 became the first black mayor of a major American city, is facing a petty theft charge in Shaker Heights Municipal Court. He is considering a run for mayor later this year.

Stokes, 62, said he went to the store at 8:30 a.m. June 2, was told by dog groomers there were no cashiers available and left for a short period of time.

Upon returning at 9:05 a.m. and told again that no cashiers were available, Stokes testified, "I said, 'The hell with it. I'm going to get a bag of dog food and come back and pay for it this afternoon."

Stokes said he drove to downtown Cleveland for some appointments and returned to the Shaker Heights store at 2 p.m., but became frightened when he sensed tension from the store owner.

Carl Stokes

He told the jury of eight he feared the consequences of offering to pay for the food if police had already been contacted.

"You open yourself up to other charges—attempt to bribe, intimidation of the witness, obstruction of justice."

Stokes said he bought shampoo, left the store and drove his car for three hours trying to decide what to do. He said he returned again at 5 p.m. with the intention of paying for the dog food but, again, became scared and left after buying another bag of dog food.

In January, Stokes admitted taking a $2.39 screwdriver from a Bedford store and paid $50 restitution to the store in exchange for a promise not to prosecute.

He said he forgot about the screwdriver in his pocket when he carried other items to the cashier.

2 killed in church shootings

LOS ANGELES — A gunman dressed in black and wearing a hood burst into a church in South Los Angeles where about 45 people were attending a bible study session and opened fire, killing two women and wounding one man, police said.

The gunman fled after the 9:30 p.m. shooting at the Mount Olive Church of God in Christ at Naomi Avenue and 21st Street, Sgt. Frank Mena said.

Mena said the man, dressed in black and wearing a hood, walked into the church and started shooting, killing two women and wounding a man in the leg. Several bullet casings were found on the floor, but officers were not sure what type of weapon was used in the attack.

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