1. South African Airways

Various forms of indignation have been expressed to Congressman Samuel N. Friedel (D-Md.), Chairman of the House Subcommittee on Transportation and Aeronautics, for going as the only Congressional guest on the April inaugural flight of South African Airways from New York to Johannesburg. The Baltimore Congressman, from Maryland's 7th District, has a relatively liberal voting record on domestic issues and seems to have blundered badly by accepting an invitation to South Africa. His opponent in last year's primary was Perry Mitchell, brother to Clarence Mitchell, Jr. of the NAACP. Mitchell has already declared against Friedel for next year's primary flight. The 7th Congressional District has approximately a 33 percent black population.

The American Committee on Africa, in a letter to Friedel, has asked him to introduce an amendment to the Federal Aviation Act which would suspend the permit of foreign air carriers if they practiced racial or religious discrimination on American visitors. In the letter, the ACOA wrote: "Congress has the power to pass legislation which develops facilities for our foreign commerce but they seem to have ignored the issue as to whether the arrangements of our foreign commerce allows for the equal participation of all of our citizens. The proposed amendment will broaden the frontiers of opportunity for all Americans, regardless of race and religion. It is an attack on institutional racism."

Such an amendment, while broadly conceived, seems to apply only to the uniqueness of the South African system. But in this case it makes the issue with South Africa a civil rights issue and not a foreign policy issue. Other civil rights amendments might be proposed to our foreign commerce legislation but at the present time expressions of support for a civil rights amendment to the foreign commerce provisions of the Federal Aviation Act should be sent to: Congressman Harley O. Staggers, Chairman, Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee and Senator Warren G. Magnuson, Chairman of the Senate Commerce Committee. Copies of letters of support should also be sent to your Congressmen and Senators.

The ACOA amendment is currently being considered for introduction in a somewhat altered fashion by Congressman John Culver (D-Iowa) and Congressman Diggs.

In another development Congressman Diggs has asked the Federal Trade Commission to show cause why South African Airways should not be prevented from continuing deceptive advertising in the United States.

Letters protesting the deceptive advertising of South African Airways should be sent to Paul Rand Dixon, Chairman, Federal Trade Commission, Washington, D.C.

2. South Africa Sugar

African Affairs Subcommittee Chairman Charles C. Diggs (D-Mich.) held hearings on the South Africa Sugar Quota on April 16. Officials of the Department of Agriculture and the Department of State testified. They indicated that South Africa has received $19.4 million in special subsidy over the last several years through the workings of our quota system. A background paper of the South African Sugar Subsidy is available through the New York Office of ACOA at 164 Madison Avenue.
Subsequent to the Hearings a joint resolution was introduced in the House and Senate on the initiative of Hon. Jonathan Bingham (D-N.Y.). Twenty-four other Congressmen co-sponsored the resolution including one Republican, Hon. Ogden Reid (D-N.Y.). In the Senate the resolution on revoking the South African Sugar Quota was introduced by Senator Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.) with the support of 12 other Senators including Senator Hugh Scott (R-Pa.) and Senator John Sherman Cooper (R-Ky.).

The effort of the Bingham-Kennedy amendment was seen by its sponsors as an educational one. But Senator Kennedy defined the amendment narrowly, seeing it as a withdrawal of a positive privilege now bestowed on South Africa and not as an imposition of a negative sanction or punitive measure. This broadens the appeal of the bill and, if the amendment were to be released from Committee, might be winnable.

Letters asking that the Bingham-Kennedy amendment be released from Committee should be sent to Senator Russell B. Long, Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, and Congressman W. R. Poage, Chairman of the House Agriculture Committee. Copies of the letters should be sent to your own Congressmen and Senators.

2. The Rhodesian Lobby Acts.

The Rhodesian Lobby is beginning their campaign to reduce sanctions on Rhodesia. Columns have appeared in the Chicago Tribune and by James J. Kilpatrick describing how it would be in the best interests of the U.S. to remove sanctions on chrome imports from Rhodesia. The strategy of the Rhodesian Lobby is to get sanctions reduced one by one so as to soften up official and legislative opinion by the time of next year's British general election. The Tories, seen as "soft" on Rhodesia, are predicted to win that election. Shortly thereafter a sell-out settlement with Ian Smith is likely.

Letters, supporting the maintenance of severe sanctions on Rhodesia, including chrome, should be sent to the President and to your Congressman. Letters supporting the other point of view are already coming in from the South and Southwest.

4. Naval Visits To South Africa.

In response to a letter signed by 33 Congressmen and initiated by Congressman Rosenthal and Fraser, Secretaries Laird and Rogers have indicated that no change in policy is proposed. U.S. Navy ships will continue to avoid South African ports because of their racial policies.

5. Biafra

Clarence C. Ferguson, relief coordinator for President Nixon, testified at hearings of the House Africa Subcommittee. His masterful performance renewed talk of the possibility of his being chosen as Assistant Secretary for Africa. Ferguson, deftly dangling every nuance, used the English language in the way that Frenchmen use French.

In this testimony describing his efforts to facilitate relief, Ferguson indicated that the growing problem was not just food but public health with the growing acute of TB, anemia, and hook worm.

Although the relief situation has seen some progress on the federal side, the Biafran relief situation remains confounded by the fact that the military situation is taking preeminence with both sides.
Efforts to resolve the political and military problems are not being made at the present time by any U.S. government personnel, according to Ferguson.

In the Washington Post of May 1, journalist William Chapman described some of the disenchantment with Nixon's failure to move decisively in pursuit of support for a negotiated settlement, a cease fire or an arms embargo. He wrote that "the people who looked after the Nigerian issue for President Johnson are by and large the same ones who tend it for Mr. Nixon. They are wedded to the 'one Nigeria' policy...."

In the continuing Kennedy efforts to achieve a more existential foreign policy Senator Kennedy, writing in the May Readers Digest, has said, "we have looked into our moral bank, and drawn a blank." He calls for (1) a diplomatic initiative so that African sponsored negotiations under a truce can begin, (2) a total U.S. commitment to meet the relief needs, and (3) a U.N. International Conference on Nigerian-Biafran relief.

In the same issue Rep. Donald Lukens (R-Ohio) calls for the U.S. to issue an official statement in support of Biafra's moral right to be heard in her struggle for self-determination.

Another Congressmen, Richard McCarthy (D-N.Y.) in a letter to Secretary of State Rodgers, has proposed even stronger U.S. initiatives including a call for a meeting of the U.N. Security Council, and an offer of equipment, food, personnel as well as any necessary security forces to establish relief food terminals in Nigeria and Biafra under the auspices of the U.N. and the OAU.


6. Manifesto On Southern Africa

The Fifth Summit Conference of East and Central Africa States held in Lusaka, April 14-16, issued a 24 point Manifesto on Southern Africa. It was reprinted in the New York Times as a half page ad on April 25. The Manifesto, available from the Zambian Embassy, was an analysis of the Southern African situation by the 14 states concerned.

The statement indicated its opposition to the continuation of the oppressive regimes in Mozambique, Angola, Rhodesia, South West Africa and South Africa. It indicated their preference that human rights in those countries be achieved without physical violence but that peaceful progress is being blocked so that no other alternative seems possible at the present time.

Continuing in its moderate tone, the statement recognized that "all the peoples who have made their home in the countries of southern Africa are Africans, regardless of the colour of their skins." They indicated their rejection of "reverse racialism" but supported majority rule and human dignity for all citizens.

The statement very strongly reflected the humanistic attempts of President Kaunda to gain Western support for the independence struggle in Southern Africa so as to keep the conflicts in that area from developing into a bitter racial war.

1What is an existential foreign policy? One in which one acts as a moral imperative, in response to humanitarian crises in the face of "complexities" even when the results of your action cannot be entirely predicted.
7. Freedom Days

The April issue of Sechaba, the official organ of the African National Congress of South Africa, published the list of freedom days selected at the January Khartoum Conference by the International Conference of Solidarity. The days to be celebrated include:

- Angola: February 4
- Zimbabwe: March 17
- South Africa: May 25
- Portuguese Guinea: June 26
- Namibia: August 3
- Mozambique: September 25

8. People

The 13th Congressional District in Michigan of Congressman Diggs has been chosen as the site for a Republican experimental program in establishing an action center in an inner city neighborhood. This Action Center project in Detroit was designed by Elly Peterson, new Vice Chairman of the Republican Party. The main work of the Center is in handling problems brought to it by community residents. The District is already well serviced by two centers established by Congressman Diggs. This kind of activity however in the District limits the amount of resources Diggs is able to allocate to his interest in international affairs including Africa.

John Accord, who directs the American-Southern Africa Council, has been cited in several recent Drew Pearson columns as being associated with a George Wallace youth group which has been taken over by a neo-Nazi group funded by the Liberty Lobby.

Offield Dukes, former Afro-American press aide to Vice President Humphrey, has opened up a public relations firm in Washington. It is called Offield Dukes and Associates and is located in the National Press Building. One of the objectives of Dukes is to improve relations between Africa and the United States. Dukes, who accompanied Humphrey to Africa in 1968, already has assignments with a few African embassies.

Mrs. Jewel Coleman, wife of the Africa Bureau Special Assistant Bernard Coleman, has recently joined the staff of the Capitol Travel Bureau (Woodward Building, Washington) as a specialist in African travel.

With regard to the appointment of a new Assistant Secretary for African Affairs, it is understood that both Waldemar Nielsen and Wayne Fredericks have said "No." New names floating around include Clarence C. Ferguson; George Lindsay, brother to John, and member of the Africa Bureau Advisory Board; and William Roundtree, U.S. Ambassador to South Africa. Another story has it that the names of four career ambassadors currently serving in independent African states have been submitted to the President.

9. Other Items

Crossroads Africa and the Freedom from Hunger Foundation are co-sponsoring an Africa Trek in Washington on Saturday, May 17. This is a fund-raising hike of 25 miles through Rock Creek Park. Marchers will include Justice William Douglas, Senator Charles Percy, other public figures and numerous area students. Sponsors of individual students have pledged so much per mile hiked. The funds raised are to be partially used to send inner city school students on summer Crossroads programs to Africa. The route of the hike will include stops at several African embassies.
The Liberian ambassador is sponsoring an African and American benefit on May 20 to raise funds for an inner city project. The benefit will include an Afro-American and Liberian fashion show, a drum ensemble and "authentic Soul Gospel" music. Tickets are available from the Liberian Embassy.

American Committee on Africa
Woodward Building, Room 527
Washington, D. C.
Telephone (202) 638-0835

LATE NOTES

A small working conference on "American Policy and Southern Africa" will be held in Washington on Tuesday, June 17. Congressman Diggs has been invited to keynote the conference. Organizations wishing to participate should contact Gary Gappert or George Houser.

Noteworthy articles in recent publications include an updated account of CIA-sponsored activities in the June issue of Ramparts. The April issue of Ramparts had a story of a visit to liberated Angola by Don Barnett, the American Mau Mau scholar. The 10-16 May Economist had a long piece on fighting in southern Africa.

The State Department Bulletin of April 7 contains the U.S. statement at the 10th Anniversary Meeting of the U.N. Economic Commission for Africa. The hearings of Clyde Ferguson, Special Biafra Coordinator are printed and now available from the House Committee on Foreign Affairs.

The Vice-President of Riggs National Bank was one of the guests on the South African Airways inaugural flight. Riggs is the banker in Washington for South Africa. Organizations and individuals in Washington may find it consistent with their objectives to withdraw their accounts from Riggs.