NAMIBIA

Mr. David H. Meroro, national chairman of SWAPO inside Namibia, eluded a police dragnet and crossed the border safely into Botswana.

Mr. Meroro is expected very soon in New York to address the Council for Namibia at the United Nations.

ALERT!

The delegation from the South African-sponsored constitutional conference in Namibia is expected to arrive in New York City 14 October for a three-day stay.

A spokesman at the U.S. Mission to the U.N. assures that no one of the rank of ambassador will receive this delegation. A political officer is prepared to meet with them and to say that the U.S. government does not regard the constitutional conference or the Declaration of Intent as representative of all the Namibian people.

A newly-learned item is that there are three white bureaucrats included in the delegation - one each for the Owambo, Kavango and Caprivi 'homelands'. They are in addition to the two representatives of the white 'ethnic group', and the white secretary for constitutional development, a department set up to oversee South Africa's scheme for readjusting its control in Namibia.

THE JOHANNESBURG STAR of 8 October prints a dispatch from their reporter in Washington which claims the delegation received the cold shoulder from the Africa Bureau at the State Department. A diplomat (unnamed, but obviously a South African) complained they were met by only low and middle-level officers and described one of them as 'seedy'.

THE STAR report says further that the USA will regret not having afforded a higher-level meeting with the puppet delegation.

THE STAR continues by reporting that Charles Runyon, human rights officer in the State Department's office of the legal adviser, told the delegation that they were 'not truly representative of the people of Namibia' and that they had 'been elected against a background of repression'.

Focus now turns on New York City and the United Nations.

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NO WELCOME MAT FOR AFRICA GROUP

Few in Washington Talk to Conservative South-West African Politicians

By CHARLES MOHR

WASHINGTON, Oct. 8—A delegation of mostly black politicians from the obscure and long-disputed territory of South-West Africa came to Washington this week to explain their conservative point of view and found that almost nobody would talk to them.

The 28-man group includes the leading figures in a 156-member constitutional conference that is attempting to agree on a new political future for the area, which the United Nations calls Namibia. Their discussions are expected to be prolonged over a period of years.

The delegates, who arrived on Monday, had hoped to reach a wide audience with their opinion that they, and not militant nationalist movements, truly represent the territory's 850,000 people and that South Africa's controversial and contested administration of the area should only gradually be withdrawn.

Black Caucus Declines

However, after a day of uncertainty, no members of the Congressional black caucus, which the visitors were anxious to see, agreed to meet with the group.

Senator Dick Clark, Democrat of Iowa and chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and Representative Donald M. Fraser, Democrat of Minnesota and chairman of Americans for Democratic Action, also did not meet with the group.

"Frankly, we have no illusions about the orientation of this group," but he added that some members felt uneasy about a situation in which blacks could come to the United States and find no blacks with whom to talk.

It was learned that some black Congressmen felt they should not be introduced to the delegation by South African officials because the United Nations has declared South Africa's continued presence in the territory illegal.

Delegates and South African sources said that Representative Charles C. Diggs Jr., Democrat of Michigan, was approached to arrange a meeting of black congressmen with the group, but that he agreed to meet only with the nonwhite members, excluding Dirk Mudge, leader of the National party in the South-West African Legislative Assembly and another white South-West African delegate.

Black delegates said they found Mr. Diggs's attitude unacceptable.

Mr. Diggs said this evening that the incident was an example of the kind of "distortion" he had suffered in past dealings with South African officials.

He said he agreed to meet with the delegation on the "condition" that they come without any representatives of the South African Embassy or the South African Government, "or the South-West African government" because the presence of such figures would be "inhibiting" and would prevent an assessment of how independent was the thinking of the delegates.

He denied he made a racial qualification for attendance, although his formula automatically excluded Mr. Mudge, who is a part of the territorial government.

Part of the group did meet for an hour today with Representative Edward G. Biester Jr. of Pennsylvania, a liberal Republican, who said that he expressed his suspicion that the constitutional conference "is not genuinely free of South African influence."

The whole delegation also met on Tuesday with Roy T. Haverkamp, director of the office of southern African affairs at the Department of State, who said he emphasized the United States position that "we do not recognize the South African administration" of South-West Africa.

Mr. Mudge, who originally called for the attempt to draft a new constitution supposedly leading toward independence and who this year led a movement to relax some elements of apartheid, or separate racial development, shrugged today and said, "you can't blame people if they have doubts and reservations."

In a news conference Monday, the delegates vehemently insisted that they were the authentic representatives of their people and not the South-West African Peoples Organization, called SWAPO, which has the support of the United Nations and of liberal groups in this country and Europe, and which is boycotting the talks.

The group left this afternoon for Arizona—which closely resembles their homeland—to visit dryland farming experiments and an Indian reservation. Later they will visit Chicago and Buffalo before arriving in New York on Oct. 14 for a three-day visit and an attempt to meet United Nations officials and delegates. While in Washington they bought raincoats, which are not sold in arid South-West Africa, in preparation for a visit to Niagara Falls.