

Moderate approach might solve South Africa strife

Washington—The question of U.S. investment in South Africa is, particularly among black Americans, virtually past debating.

Not that there aren't good arguments to be made on both sides of the question. There are. But—again for blacks—it's getting tougher politically to make them.

One illustration: When the producers of the PBS television show *The Advocates* decided to take up the question a few months back, they wound up with an all-white panel arguing for continued U.S. investment in South Africa, although they had very-much wanted to avoid making it a black-white issue.

Part of the reason they were unable to find a suitable black advocate for the pro-investment side has to do with the show's format, requiring that an advocate take a headline position on one side or the other. But partly it has to do with the fact that it has become politically unpopular for blacks to acknowledge that there is a pro-investment-side.

One moderate black

This fact makes all the more impressive the persistence of the Rev. Leon H. Sullivan in pushing his more moderate view, that the presence of American businesses in South Africa could be a positive thing—if they can be persuaded to lead the way toward more equal treatment for black workers.

Sullivan, founder of the Philadelphia-based Opportunities Industrialization Center, is author of the so-called Sullivan Principles, six points he has urged on

American companies doing business in South Africa.

The principles included desegregation of work facilities, equal pay, equal hiring and promotional opportunity, better training opportunities and efforts to improve the lives of black employees outside their work environment.

Some companies help

Some 107 American companies have endorsed the principles, and the first report of their anti-apartheid progress was released last week.

william raspberry

The report, by the consulting firm of Arthur D. Little, Inc., was based on responses from 81 of the signatories to the Sullivan Principles. Among the findings:

* Three-fourths of the companies report that their eating, toilet, work and locker-room facilities are desegregated or in the process of being desegregated.

* 55 of the employers have common medical, pension and insurance plans for their black, white, colored (mixed race) and Asian employees.

* At least 42 percent of the workers of each race are in integrated job categories—that is, jobs not restricted by race.

* Of the companies that had no black professionals in 1976, 13 percent now have them.

* 51 percent of the companies provide financial assistance for housing for their

black employees; 39 percent offer subsidized schooling.

First step

These are modest gains—pitifully modest in some cases. But as Sullivan points out, the first-year report marks only the first step. Two other steps will go a long way toward showing whether the Sullivan Principles can achieve what their author hopes.

First, the next report—due early next year—will list the progress of the companies in an individual basis, in specific categories of improvement.

Second, a monitoring system will be established so that it will no longer be necessary to rely on the employers' own assessment of their progress.

The two changes should provide added incentive for some of the companies that have been slow to move. In addition, they will provide the basis for American activists to target their protest against the most recalcitrant corporations.

No credit given

One of the major difficulties with the recent calls for across-the-board disinvestment is that such demands neither encourage those corporations that are trying to work for change nor isolate companies that are comfortable with apartheid.

It seems useful to distinguish between the 75 percent of the companies that have undertaken to desegregate their employee facilities, for instance, and the 25 percent that have made no effort at all.

None of this matters to those who see South Africa as beyond redemption and who see the economic chaos and evel all-out race war as the holy hope for change.

But for those who still hope for some resolution short of major violence and destruction, the Sullivan Principles may make some sense.

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Third, we need to Negate the Actual And Pursue the Possible. What I mean is that we must accept reality, but along with this acceptance of these conditions must also be a categorical refusal to accept these conditions as unchangeable.

As I see it, Black/Speak could help elevate the consciousness of many Afrikans on the UN-L campus; but here we must deal with the augmentative and instructive aspects of what the struggle is all about; as students, we are confronted with the change and challenge of working mutually to become our own liberators—and we won't find it chasing and marrying the oppressors' women; we won't find it slam dunking, dancing in the end-zone or some other example of the gladiator syndrome; and we sure won't find it by slipping off into "our own bags" and acting as if a "do your own thing" philosophy is the key to our freedom. It ain't.

Fourth, Black/Speak is necessary and sufficient in that it may be viewed as an ideological formulation that is not only critical but also spontaneous, reactive and proactive. In this light, we see that Afrikan students in Nebraska are serious about struggle—on one level or another.

What we must do now we must do together—there are no separate solutions. We either support one another or the institutional lies of the oppressor. This speaks to the issue of inter-campus communication, not just among students, but black faculty as well.

Fifth, it is so true that racism is something that people of color should learn to deal with. But it is also true and tragic that the oppressor-people must assume another role in this process. They must learn that the problem, as far as race relations goes, is THEM, and that is the white community that is in need of "civilizing." Once we understand this general truism, we can move on to self-awareness, because "if you don't know who you are, then you can't know who your opposition is."

I am being short purposely so that perhaps the thoughts that have been stimulated will blossom forth. Whatever happens, let us always remember the words of Karenga when he cogently contends that, "progress in struggle is dependent upon progress in thought." Black/Speak is a step in the right direction. I hope that bloods in Lincoln continue to do meaningful work.

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Snakes, squid chosen over hamburger

By Pete Mason

The other day a friend and I were talking about food and as so often happens when you're talking about food, I had this terrific urge for some. In this case I had a terrific urge for a big fat tongue sandwich on rye bread, with tons of mayonnaise.

humor

"I've got this terrific urge for a big fat tongue sandwich on rye bread, with tons of mayonnaise," I said.

"You can leave any time," my friend said. "don't forget to close the door."

"What's the matter?" I innocently asked.

"I don't appreciate people talking about disgusting things in my presence," he answered.

"What disgusting things? What are you talking about?"

"That disgusting organ you just mentioned!"

"What disgusting organ? You mean, tongue? Tongue is terrific stuff. Especially beef tongue."

Broke the habit

"Sure it is. Like turkey droppings or several sharp raps up side the head with a

ball-peen hammer."

"You mean to tell me you've never tried tongue?"

"Tried it! I have a hard time looking at it!"

"Aw, you ought to try it sometime. It's really great."

"Uh-uh, I make it a habit never to put disgusting things in my mouth. It's a habit I broke as a child. I make it a point never to eat organs and other appendages an animal uses for digestive purposes. Call me old fashion. Call me irrational. Now, can we drop the subject?"

"Well, how about brains? Brains aren't used for digestive purposes."

"Okay, that's enough. Let's talk about something else."

I admit to a certain sadistic streak and I figured I could have some fun and educate him to the joys of exotic foods.

Unnatural aversion

"Look, I think this aversion to perfectly good food is rather unnatural. You're always telling about how you want to travel to far away places. You know, the chances of getting a quarter pounder with cheese in Hong Kong are far and few between. In Hong Kong they eat snakes and puppies. Some day you may find yourself in an eat-or-starve situation, buddy."

"And what about Japan?" I went on.

"What will you do if your choices are squid or raw fish?"

"Hey, man, that's enough, really," my friend pleaded. "Give me a break, will you?"

"And what about the Philippines?" I asked with relish. "In the Philippines they have this thing called *balut*. It's a duck egg that's ready to hatch. They hard-boil it and then you skin off the shell and eat the thin layer of whites and yolk and then you hold the little duck embryo by the head and..."

"Enough! Enough! I thought you were my friend!"

"And deep-fried beetles. They're terrific! Great big brown beetles fried in oil and served hot and when you pop them in your mouth they crunch just like..."

"Out! Out of my house! Never darken my door again!"

"Or monkey. Now there's a treat. Barbecued monkey fresh off the spit. They cook it without skinning it and once you've picked all the burnt hair off..."

"GET OUT OF HERE!!!"

I had to leave pretty quickly. I didn't like the look in his eyes. I'm sure he'll calm down after a while and I'll be welcome there again. I've been considering bringing him a peace offering. I think I'll buy a few dozen mountain oysters and take them to him. That ought to cheer him up.

