

of the U.S. country teams. American Negroes were observed as representatives in AID, the Peace Corps, USIS, and on Embassy general staffs. In one of the countries visited, the Ambassador was an American Negro. The study mission observed in each instance that these minority representatives added an extra dimension to communication with the indigenous population in and out of government, evidencing that the American Negro can play a particularly important role in African affairs in the interest of the United States. Since the total number of such minority representation remains relatively small, despite present increases, the study mission feels this advantage should be developed further in Africa. Precedent has been established and the advantage noted in several other nations.

In order that the maximum could be accomplished in the time available in each country, the members visited separate projects and met with various groups, including Peace Corps volunteers, representatives of private foundations and organizations, and of educational institutions, private citizens, U.S. firms and businesses operating in the country, and with missionaries of many faiths. Visits were also made to several AID projects.

The study mission regrets it was unable to spend more time in each country visited. Traveling in an old Constellation that averaged but 250 miles an hour meant a great amount of time was spent in the air to cover distances between countries. The slow travel necessitated night flights in order to meet the allotted time scheduling within each country.

The study mission was able to learn much of the feelings, the problems, and the aspirations of the eight countries visited, and reports its findings, opinions, and recommendations in hope of creating a greater awareness, interest in, and broader understanding of Africa. It is hoped that more Members of Congress will avail themselves of opportunities to visit this continent of 263 million members of the world community who are playing and will continue to play a major role in international affairs. The rapid political changes on the continent require that greater attention be focused on Africa.