

GENERAL COMMENTS

PRESS CONFERENCES, RADIO AND TELEVISION INTERVIEWS

In all of the countries visited, the members of the study mission held press conferences. Members were also interviewed on television and radio in some of the countries visited. The study mission was questioned concerning many subjects, but the two main topics concerned the race problem here at home and the Rhodesian crisis. Mission members did not attempt to defend the race problem here, but indicated on the positive side many examples of progress which have been made in the issuance of judicial edicts and in the enactment of laws by the Congress and through executive action which has been taken on Federal, State, and local levels. It was made clear that the official policy of the United States is in opposition to inequality; that this is significant, and that continuing efforts are being made to eliminate inequality.

Concerning the Rhodesian crisis, it was explained that U.S. policy now is to follow the lead of the United Kingdom which has primary responsibility in this area, but this does not preclude certain independent steps being taken if deemed feasible.

CONFERENCES WITH LEADERS OF GOVERNMENT

Meetings with high government officials brought forth fruitful discussions concerning the problems of individual countries. All of the nations are striving to attain economic and social development in the shortest period of time. The study mission met with seven heads of state in the eight countries visited. The only one not seen was President Bourguiba of Tunisia, who was out of the country, but his son, the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Habib Bourguiba, Jr., met with the members.

The leaders stressed that Africa's major problems are combating poverty, ignorance, and disease. Their emphasis, they said, is to create an awareness among the Africans to learn and to work harder at nation building. They feel the process is slow, but that evidence is visible that advancement in trade, new industries, and in health and education has been made in some countries.

ONE-PARTY, ONE-MAN-RULE POLITICS

Although a one-man, one-party rule is the dominant political system in the countries visited, African leaders feel the system is best suited to their needs. They feel they cannot afford the luxury of opposition forces, as we know them, at this stage of their development. This underscores the importance of American understanding that democracy, as we know it, is not necessarily the most ideal form of government in the new African nations.