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An American Negro Looks at Black Africa

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AN AMERICAN NEGRO LOOKS AT BLACK AFRICA

The real goal in black Africa: "black supremacy."

That's the conclusion of an American Negro after touring Africa, meeting its leaders. "Nationalism," he says, is directed against what Africans call "our common enemy, the white man."

A book on black Africa by an American Negro reporter is getting increased attention. The book finds that "African nationalism" is, in fact, antiwhite racism.

Louis E. Lomax, a Jamaica, N. Y., writer, met with African leaders on a journey from London to Cairo to Johannesburg. His book, "The Reluctant African," published by Harper & Brothers, New York, concludes that Africans have reacted to white supremacy by pressing for black supremacy.

Mr. Lomax says African leaders want complete political and economic control. Europeans can stay on only as "squatters."

African leaders will accept arms and aid from either Communists or Westerners, but without commitment, he adds.

Christianity, Mr. Lomax finds, is on the decline in Africa because it is tied to the white man.

A blood bath shaking the world is inevitable in South Africa if conditions there remain as they are, he was told. Revolutionists have set a 1963 deadline for use of force if necessary.

New snobbishness. The American reporter discovered an African snobbishness that looks down upon American Negroes. Once he was called an apologist for white America.

Beginning his trip in London, Mr. Lomax talked there with Joshua Nkomo, who may be a future Prime Minister of Southern Rhodesia. Mr. Nkomo believes his land can be freed from white domination without violence. But in nearby South Africa, Angola and Mozambique, it is "quite another matter," he said. Violence was called the only visible solution.

J. G. Silundika, another nationalist leader of Southern Rhodesia, was asked if Christianity was losing out in Africa. "I can tell you it is true," he said. "The church has not played a proper role in African affairs. It has stood against us, with those who would enslave us. The

church is on its last leg in Africa. . . . Islam will win in Africa."

A change in Egypt. Arriving next in Egypt, Mr. Lomax found that the people there, under President Nasser's leadership, now look upon themselves as black Africans, no matter how white they may be.

Writes Mr. Lomax:

"In my hotel, in the gift shop, the post office, the open markets, civil servants drew me aside to talk about our common



LOUIS LOMAX—In his report on a tour of Africa: a grim prediction for whites

enemy, the white man. "What are you going to do about Little Rock? Mississippi? When are you American black men going to come and help us run the white man out of Africa?"

Nasser has made Cairo a headquarters for exiled African nationalist leaders in his own effort to become the chief leader of the continent.

Ethiopia turned out to be a fear-ridden country, restive under a harsh, black dictatorship, but sharing the antiwhite nationalism of all Africa, according to Lomax. He found that, despite American aid, American embassy and Point Four personnel are bitterly disliked.

Traveling to Kenya, he heard Tom Mboya, who may one day be Prime Minister there, addressing a political meeting as follows: "The Europeans know they are finished in Kenya. Now all they

want to know is if we're going to pay them for their land. The civil servants know they are done here. Now all they want to know is whether we are going to give them a pension. Every day they stop me on the streets and they ask me, 'Mr. Mboya, are you going to take our land? Are we going to be compensated? Are we going to get pensions?' . . .

"I tell them . . . 'Don't ask me to pay you. Tell your troubles to Macleod (the British Colonial Secretary). Let him pay you. As far as we are concerned, the Europeans have lived off the fat of our land. They have had their compensation and their pension. . . .'

"Then the Europeans want to know if they can stay on in Kenya. I tell them, 'Sure.' . . . But if they stay they must get out of politics. We are going to have an all-black Parliament and an all-black Government. We are going to divide the land among our people. If the Europeans want to stay, they can stay on as squatters. If they want to work, they can work for us. . . .'

At these words the African audience was reported to have screamed with glee.

In Salisbury, Southern Rhodesia, Mr. Lomax found the African nationalists planning underground action and open demonstrations. They were sending representatives to Ghana and to Cairo to contact sources of money.

South Africa seemed to Lomax to be one vast prison camp for black Africans. But the underground was busy, and tension filled the air.

For Africa as a whole, reporter Lomax carried away these impressions:

- The effect of Communism as an ideology is almost nil, but the impact of the Communists as people—the Russians and the Chinese—is tremendous.

- The Communists are satisfied if the Africans move out of the Western orbit into neutralism. They believe Africa will thereafter drift into Communism.

- In the next five years or so, most of the hot battles in the "cold war" will be fought in Africa.

"The world is making a grave, if not fatal, mistake," he concludes, "by not taking African threats to clear that continent of colonialism and white domination seriously. I am convinced that the Africans mean just what they say and that they will use force only if necessary but fully *expect* that force will be needed."

[END]