

and the contradictions in the foreign policy making process and official inattention to Southern Africa demand a blunter instrument.

Second, the emphasis on race and official racism as characteristics that distinguish South Africa from other nations and as factors that are "largely deterministic" in the situation, leaves the analysis vulnerable to "reforms" that "deracialize" without fundamentally altering the life situation of the mass of Africans. The concluding analysis and recommendations do not call attention to the developing capitalist economy in South Africa and its impact on inequality, class stratification, labor surplus conditions, and its role in fostering large-scale cooptive strategies.

Third, the report pays inadequate attention to the liberation movements, presumably because of the commissioners' *a priori* commitment to "nonviolent" strategies and outcomes. Whatever the force of those aversions, the choice represents a limitation on the analysis and recommendations. An effort by the commission to help legitimize the role of the liberation movements (as the commission does for other organizations) would have added to the pressures central to change in South Africa and might have helped prepare the United States public and government for the critical role of such organizations in the process of change.

Finally, the commission speaks vaguely of "power sharing", preferring understandably to leave the specifics of any future dispensation to the parties concerned. The use of the term and concept, however, are unfortunate. Extremely modest proposals for "power sharing" are even now congenial to the present white rulers who are busily fashioning constitutional arrangements that allow for participation but that leave most areas of white privilege intact. The African majority, the commission recognizes, is fully committed to different arrangements—a non-racial, unitary state. By opting for caution here, the commission apparently hopes to encourage white flexibility; but it pays a price for this balance: it misses an opportunity to identify itself and organized U.S. interests with the most fundamental aspiration of the vast majority of South Africans. That affirmation in the face of a very uncertain future might well have proved the more realistic course.

Stanley B. Greenberg
Associate Director
Southern Africa Research Program
Yale University

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editors:

Congratulations on the appearance of the *ASA News*. I found the cover attractive and the contents stimulating. Keep up the good work.

In your next issue, the note on the back cover should include the following: "ASA NEWS continues the AFRICAN STUDIES NEWSLETTER." I'm afraid most libraries are going to be confused by the change in title, and some note would be helpful. On page 2, you refer to the *ASA Newsletter*, which is the popular name for our newsletter. But except for the first issue in March, 1968, when it was the *African Studies Association Newsletter*, the real name has been the *African Studies Newsletter* and it is so listed in

most standard references. . . . I like the theme of continuity and change. An additional change might be to drop the sentence about the post office not forwarding periodicals. However, I must confess a certain nostalgia over such blatant errors.

Sincerely,

Joseph J. Lauer
Editor, Sahel Bibliographic
Bulletin

Editors note: Fools rushed in where Angels feared to tread. See back page.

ANOTHER COMPUTER VICTIM

Dear Editors:

I write this letter with much trepidation! I am aware that in our computerized society, the individual who requests the correction of a computerized error exposes himself/herself to humiliation and annoyance and in turn is exposed to the paralysis possible with modern technology. I brave my chances.

I received two copies of *ASA News*, January/March, 1981. The error is in the computerized address label. . . . I pray, as I shudder, that my "affront" at the computer will not cancel my ASA membership, *ASA News*, *African Studies Review* and *Issue!*

Peace,

Kofi R. Glover, Ph.D.

Editors note: We print this note from Dr. Glover as a sort of apology to him and to others who have been inconvenienced by the born again ASA mailing list.

LIBRARIANS CONFRONT ASA NEWS

Dear Don:

. . . . I feel it is incumbent upon me to scold you for changing the title of *ASA News*. You have caused the generation of countless new Kardex cards, catalog cards, and on-line cataloging records. Think of the paper, ink, man-hours and electricity that you have used up. Aside from this quibble, the new format looks great, and I like the new features.

Best Wishes,

Gretchen Walsh
African Studies Library
Boston University

PROTEST NEW AMERICAN POLICY IN AFRICA

The editors of the *ASA News* received a copy of the following letter:

7 April 1981
Dar es Salaam
Tanzania

President Ronald Reagan
White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

As U.S. citizens living and working in Tanzania, we are deeply concerned about recent reversals and shifts in our government's foreign policy.