

Government has offered to hold a plebiscite but the bid was rejected earlier this year by the World Court at the Hague.

A statement by the churches Aug. 19 said Mr. Vorster had reaffirmed his intention of carrying out the apartheid policy in spite of their objections.

...The churches are rigidly opposed to South Africa's plan to divide the territory into small independent homelands.

The public stance taken by the Lutheran Church which says it represents 300,000 blacks in the territory comes at an embarrassing time for the South African Government coinciding with OAU plans to force a UN debate on the South-West Africa situation in a few weeks. ...

The speed with which the government reacted to the open letter is an indication of the importance it attaches to the protest by the churches.

(CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR 8/23/71)

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Geneva, - The United Nations has invited 32 member countries to send delegates to the south of France to discuss human intolerance and how to make men easier to get along with.

(THE WASHINGTON POST 8/22/71)

## LETTER

I was heartened to read in the June issue of the Newsletter Professor Barbara Callaway's defense of the ASA as a pluralistic agency, open to conflicting views and approaches but committed as an organization to no one. I was, alas, equally disheartened to read Professor Immanuel Wallerstein's reiteration of the theme he has argued for some time; and I was dismayed at the curious account presumably of the African Heritage Studies Association's conference by Professor Joseph Okpaku (it actually said very little about the conference but was rather a broadside against the ASA) in which he uses disparaging names to characterize my position on matters in dispute between the ASA and his camp.

Because of space I will limit my extended remarks to Professor Wallerstein's letter. It is strange that someone who presumably considers himself a scholar first articulates non-scholarly criteria by which to judge his relationship to the subject matter he studies. Clearly, this kind of dilemma -- not uncommon nowadays -- can be solved only in one way: the beleaguered Professor Wallerstein should take time off from his scholarly chores and become a fulltime political activist in behalf of African liberation, whatever that may be... He might just organize a separate political instrument for this purpose -- a sort of political action body of Africanists consumed with a need to help blacks.

It is, in fact, rather astounding that Professor Wallerstein and his cohorts have not yet founded such a body. My suspicion is that they know well what the outcome of such an organization would be: something rather like Hobbes' state of nature -- nasty, brutish, and short. It would at least exhibit all of the factionalizing tendencies rife among activist groups nowadays. What is worse still, it would quickly discover that the very blacks they wish to help (liberationist Africans and Negro American militants) would prove the real stumbling block. Dealing with the real stuff of politics and power is, as any school boy knows, just plain messy business.

I suspect that Professor Wallerstein and his cohorts know this too, and so they settle for talking a lot about aiding radical blacks but little else. Meanwhile Professor Wallerstein satisfies his activist urge by propagating the transformation of the ASA into his particular conception of a black-oriented activist body. I consider this fully inappropriate for the ASA or any other scholarly association and wish Professor Wallerstein, the scholar, would return to first principles, or else get out of the scholarly business altogether.

Martin Kilson