

**Navy Bows To S. Africa Jim Crow: Navy Bows To S. Africa Bias Policy**

ETHEL PAYNE Defender Washington Correspondent

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## **Navy Bows To S. Africa Bias Policy**

By **ETHEL PAYNE**

*Defender Washington Correspondent*

WASHINGTON — The bias-free Navy of Uncle Sam has run up the flag of surrender to the race hate policies of the Union of South Africa.

Acting Secretary of the Navy James H. Smith, pinchhitting for Navy Secretary Charles Thomas, who is ill, said that the visit of the Midway to Capetown was to satisfy an operational logistic requirement. "It is customary to observe local laws and regulations while visiting a foreign post," Smith, declared. "The American consul general in Capetown is making mutually acceptable agreements with authorities there," he added.

This correspondent learned last Friday that the U. S. Aircraft Carrier "Midway" was scheduled to arrive at Capetown, South Af-

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rica, Saturday, with orders that the 400 Negro members of the crew, when granted shore leave, must submit to segregation in line with the policy of that country.

The only heartening thing in this wretched business is the forthright action taken by Frank Mitchell, head of the NAACP Washington Bureau and Senators Hubert Humphries (D-Minn.) and Herbert Lehman (D-N. Y.).

In an eloquent wire to Navy Secretary Charles Thomas, Mitchell pleaded that last-minute orders be issued to the "Midway" command to rescind the orders for segregated shore passes or avoid Capetown as a port of call.

Mitchell's wire said: "We have learned with sick dismay that U. S. Aircraft Carrier Midway is proceeding to Capetown, South Africa, where 400 colored members of the crew must submit to segregation.

"In a few weeks representatives of nations from Asia and Africa will be meeting in joint session. It is impossible to believe that even the most inept propagandist would fail to this incident to embarrass and denounce our country in that forum.

"We must not permit the colored, Jews, Protestant and Catholic seamen of the United States to stain their shoe soles on the hate-polluted soil of the Union of South Africa in the name of a vital democracy which we all love and are prepared to defend against all enemies.

"We ask that the "Midway" proceed to some other port where our flag may fly in air that is not tainted with the stench of apartheid and where our fighting men may walk ashore with the dignity that U. S. citizens deserve."

Mitchell suggested that the "Midway" be re-routed to the Portuguese port, Delgoa Bay for refueling.

In his wire to Thomas, a copy of which went to Secretary of State Dulles, Sen. Humphries declared: "It is my understanding that the South African government has demanded that 400 members of the crew of the "Midway" submit to segregation and that, as a result, segregated passes will be issued, restricting some of our servicemen to certain segregated areas ashore.

"To me, this is a shocking example of discrimination and should not be tolerated by our government. Every American soldier or sailor, wearing the uniform of the U. S. military service, is an American regardless of race, color or creed and is entitled to be respected and treated as such anywhere in the world.

"We cannot submit to another country's insulting the uniform of our country by such discrimination in the tense international situation which exists today.

"Neither can we permit Soviet imperialism to have this propaganda weapon against the United States, to exploit, as it most certainly will, among the colored peoples of the world as an example that the democracy we preach is not the democracy we practice.

"I urge that immediate steps be taken to see equal treatment of American service personnel allowed shore leave in South Africa or the elimination of Capetown as a port of call."

Senator Lehman's wire was essentially the same as that of the Senator from Minnesota.