

NAACP RAPS NAVY'S SUBMISSIVENESS

S. Africa Enforces Bias Law

WASHINGTON — (ANP) — The United States Navy underwent heavy fire from the NAACP and the Committee on Africa as a result of its forcing of 400 Negro sailors to submit to South African segregation.

The carrier Midway docked in Johannesburg last week and the 400 Negro personnel were told by the Navy that they would be subject to the nation's drinking laws if they took shore leave.

South African police were instructed that the Negroes would not be allowed to drink in establishments reserved for whites.

Cape-town's "nonwhite" bars are for Indians, persons of mixed blood, and other races. The American sailors issued certificates exempting them from the prohibition against Negro drinking.

Clarence Mitchell, director of the Washington bureau of the NAACP, in a telegram to Navy Secretary Charles S. Thomas, said:

"We must not permit the colored, Jewish, Protestant and Catholic freemen of the United States to stain their shoe soles on the hate polluted soil of the Union of South Africa.

"In the name of the vital democracy which we all love and are prepared to defend against all enemies, we ask that the Midway stay out of South Africa and proceed to some other port where our flag may fly in air that is not tainted with a stench of apartheid and where our fighting men may walk ashore with the dignity that United States citizens deserve."

Mitchell added that the Soviet propagandists would not fail to use the incident to embarrass and denounce this country in a forthcoming meeting between nations of Africa and Asia.

The Navy, however, ignored Mitchell's protest, stating that the "visit of Midway to Cape-town is being made to satisfy an operational logistic requirement."

The Navy also said that it is

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INCOMING PRESIDENT Thomas G. Neuton, left, is congratulated by outgoing president Dr. E. J. Robinson, following installation of local branch NAACP officers and board members at Phillips Temple last Sunday. C. L. Dellums, right, regional advisory committee president, installed the group.

So. Africa...

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customary for it to observe local laws and regulations of nations visited.

While the NAACP lashed out at the Navy's submissiveness, the American Committee on Africa called the incident "one of the gravest insults to the U.S. to be perpetrated by a foreign power in recent years."

The organization said it "was shocked that the U.S. Navy would willingly permit its uniform to be so humiliated by a foreign power," and said it was "astonished that the administration would humbly accept so blatant an affront to its great and loyal Negro population."

The committee said that "it is regrettable that our government feels obliged to ally itself with nations so ideologically distant from our own democratic credo as is the Union of South Africa.

"Certainly U.S. prestige has not slipped so far that a second rate power such as the Union can, with impunity, submit U.S. citizens to such indignities as those commonly meted to colored South Africans. This is hardly the way for the U.S. to retain the respect of the millions of dark people throughout the world."

The committee pointed out that since the "intentions of the South African government were known in advance, neither the Midway nor any other U.S. vessel had any business visiting South African ports."

Among the members of the executive committee of the American Committee on Africa are Judge J. Waties Waring, the judge who dissented in the original Clarendon county school bus case which eventually ended up in the United States Supreme court. The Supreme court affirmed Judge Waring's views.

Other messages to Eisenhower included one from Sidney Williams, executive secretary of the Chicago Urban League and a life member of the NAACP.

Williams asked the president to order the Midway out of Capetown and said that the subjection of Negro sailors to "the criminal and vicious segregation laws of the so called government of South Africa negates your fine integration program among military and civilian personnel."

Williams said the subjection of the Negroes to the humiliation "by influence gives your and our country's sanction to the wretchedness" of South Africa.