

Is This Apartheid?

# SOVIET UNIVERSITY FOR UNDERDEVELOPED COUNTRIES

**MOSCOW**  
**"CREAM of the crops"**—that's as American as any description of the 500 young men and women enrolled in Friendship University during the first term of the institution last year.

They were selected from 35,000 who applied. The lucky-one-out-of-every-70 beginning the five and six year courses was chosen on the basis of general educational level, knowledge of Russian, and family conditions. The selectees are "the most capable and gifted from families with the worst economic conditions," declares Sergei Rummyantsev, the rector.

Since very few youth from the underdeveloped countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America—to whom admission is restricted—have had an opportunity to learn Russian, their first year's work revolves around Russian studies.

A preparatory faculty of 120 teachers of Russian language and literature—one teacher for every five students—gives the main course. Moreover, because educational practice in underdeveloped countries suffers, as every other aspect of life there, from a lack of resources and equipment, the students are being drilled this first year in basic work for their selected future professions, such as mathematics, physics, chemistry, biology, geography, history, etc.

**BARBS FROM THE WEST**

Although this university is not a government institution—being sponsored and subsidized by Soviet social organizations such as peace committees and friendship societies—the students are beneficiaries of the government's policies of peaceful coexistence and aid to underdeveloped countries. The very classrooms where they study and the dormitories where they live are state property formerly occupied by the Ministry of Defence, which vacated them after the recent general demobilization of 1.2 million servicemen.

Needless to say, it was to be expected that people interested in perpetuating the backwardness of underdeveloped countries would try to disparage this new project. The Soviet press has taken note of the fact that some voices in the West have made the ridiculous charge

that Friendship University is an "apartheid" institution, in which Africans, Asians and Latin Americans are "segregated" from Soviet and European students.

**This invention is so crudely hypocritical—originating in countries whose governments have made racial and national discrimination and segregation a state policy—that no one here bothers to take it seriously. It is assumed that all reasonable people understand that the needs, interests and problems of students from underdeveloped countries differ from those of students from developed countries.**

In point of fact, Friendship University may be considered a pro-

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**An On-the-spot report by American journalist JOHN PITTMAN**

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**HELP GIVEN**

Though a non-governmental institution, Friendship's facilities are not inferior in any respect to those of state institutions. On the contrary, as in the case of foreign students, and particularly African students in the University of Moscow under governmental or United Nations exchange agreements, students at Friendship enjoy advantages which are not accorded Soviet students. For example:

- Stipends: tuition is free for everyone at Friendship as well as at state institutions, but in addition, Africans at Moscow University receive 900 rubles per month stipend throughout their five-year or six-year courses, whereas Soviet students receive a maximum of 280 per month

- Clothing allowance: on admission, Africans at Moscow University get a 3,000 ruble clothing allowance, of which an overcoat of good quality costs 1,000 and boots and a fur cap total 200, leaving 1,800 for other clothing needs throughout the course. Such allowances are not given to Soviet students, but all Friendship University students receive them.

- Accommodation: all students, African as well as Soviet, if they live in University boarding houses, occupy rooms for four during their first, second and third years, but have individual separate rooms during their fourth and fifth years. However, owing to the Soviet housing shortage, some students are referred to non-University boarding houses where facilities such as hot water are lacking. On investigation, I learned that no African student is ever referred to a house without hot water. Moreover, Africans who need special conditions for health reasons receive individual rooms. Moscow University students pay 30 to 40 rubles per month for rent; Friendship students pay no rent.

- Transportation: Africans receive free plane tickets to Moscow, and free round-trip "open" tickets to their homes every two years. An "open" ticket is one which permits a student from—say, the Sudan—to return home not directly through Cairo, but via Amsterdam, Paris, Rome and Cairo. In the intervening years, African students may vacation on the Black Sea or elsewhere, and are given a 1,500 ruble vacation allotment, or 200 rubles more than the standard 24-day rest home ticket of 1,300 rubles. None of these special allowances is given to Soviet students.

- Discipline: A Soviet student who fails his examinations loses his stipend and may be expelled. Not so an African student; he is given a tutor or special classes to help him overcome his mistakes.

**LINE DRAWN**

But there is a limit to the forbearance of Soviet educational

authorities. No student, Soviet, African, or any other kind, may continually neglect his school work and fail to study, repeatedly fail his examinations, get drunk, assault others or engage in what Soviet people call "hooliganism," or entertain youth of the opposite sex in his or her room. A single infraction may bring nothing more severe than a lecturing from representatives of the Komsomol or a reprimand from the administration. But repeated violations invite expulsion.

Thus, two Somali students who struck a girl and engaged in a brawl at a dance were expelled. They are two of the 13 among the approximately 550 African students at Moscow University who have been expelled. Both had records of drunkenness and brawling.

A Uganda student in the Moscow University medical school, who subsequently peddled "expose" articles to anti-Soviet journals in the West, including U.S. News and World Report (Aug. 1, 1960), was expelled after neglecting his studies and failing his exams for two years.

**EMBASSIES WATCH**

It is doubtful if there are any responsible educational authorities, of whatever country, race or nationality, with unlimited tolerance of such practices.

It should also be mentioned that there are certain embassies in this capital which strive to perpetuate colonialism in their own way. Students from underdeveloped countries, especially from countries rich in mineral resources of strategic importance, may always find in these embassies keen ears attentive to every grumble, free food, entertainment, cigarettes and liquor and a "friendliness" never accorded these same students in their own countries.

One could guess, however, that less than a fraction of 1 per cent of the foreign students here are not serious-minded, purposeful youth, intent on making the most of such educational opportunities.

Perhaps a sound index of this fact is the number who have applied to enter Friendship University. If conditions for students here were truly those depicted by proteges of the British, West German and other embassies, the word would certainly have gotten around in the underdeveloped countries. But today Friendship University is already getting applications for admission during the next school year.

**Call For Algerian Volunteers**

A crowd of 100,000 Egyptians, massed at a rally in Cairo to condemn "barbarous massacres" in Algeria, passed a resolution appealing "to Arabs, Africans and all the youth of the world" for volunteers to fight the French in Algeria, Cairo Radio reported.

Powerful transmitters of the Egyptian broadcasting network beamed the proceedings direct from Republican Square to the Arab world.

The resolution appealed to the Governments of Arab, African and other States to facilitate the participation of their peoples as volunteers.

The radio also reported that President Nasser had cabled M. Ferhat Abbas, leader of the Algerian "Provincial" Government, that the United Arab Republic "places all its potentialities at the disposal of the Algerian people in support of their effort to attain freedom and independence."

**AFRICA**



**Nkrumah on Casablanca Meeting AFRICA UNITY FOUNDATIONS ARE LAID**

**THE Casablanca African leaders' conference laid the foundations for the political unity of the African continent, President Nkrumah of Ghana declared recently on his return to Accra.**

The conference opened a new era in African history, he said, and the decisions would ensure an early settlement in the Congo.

Representatives of Ghana, Guinea and Mali have started talks in Accra on establishing a political union with common currency and bank.

**HIGH COMMAND**

The eight-nation Casablanca conference—Morocco, Ghana, Guinea, Mali, United Arab Republic, Algerian Provisional Government, Libya and Ceylon—took these main decisions:

1. Formation of a joint African High Command of Chiefs-of-Staff, which, said observers, might take action in the Congo independent of the United Nations.

The command is to protect African States threatened by colonialist aggression.

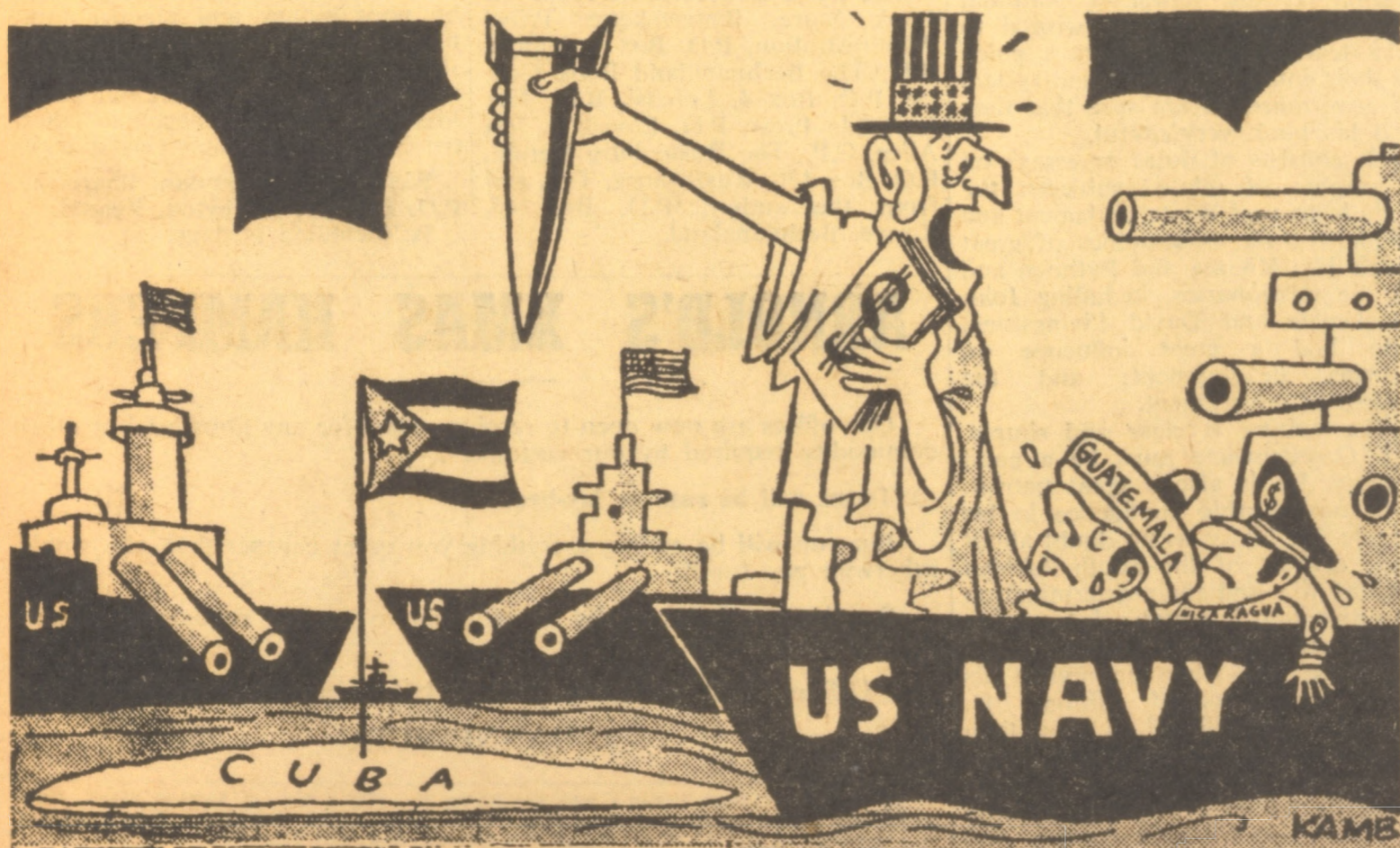
2. Withdrawal of African countries' troops from the UN command in the Congo and the taking of "appropriate action" if the UN fails to restore the authority of legitimate Congolese Premier Patrice Lumumba, now held in jail by Belgian puppet Col. Mobutu.

3. African and other volunteers to help the Algerian liberation fight against France.

4. Adoption of "The African Charter of Casablanca" pledging non-alignment of African countries to any bloc, co-ordination of policies between African States and the setting up of an African consultative assembly as soon as possible.

**Ecuador Peasants Seize Land**

Five hundred Indians in the Cayambe region of Pinchincha province of Ecuador occupied the estate of Carrera. Shouting slogans against the landlords and "Long live land reform," the Indians drove out those in charge of the estate, occupied granaries and took over the farm tools there.



"If this goes on they'll be invading us next."



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