African Civil Rights Movement Founded

The African Civil Rights Movement was officially launched by seventy-five representatives from the nations of Nigeria, Sudan, Rwanda, Burundi, South Africa, Uganda, China, Congo-Zaire, Lado, Tanzania, Liberia, and the United States, who gathered for a day-long meeting at International House in New York City on Dec. 20, 1997.

The conference opened with a speech by EIR's Africa Intelligence director, Linda de Hoyos, on the necessity for creating a new Bretton Woods system. She examined the present global crisis and used slides of paintings by Brueghel and Rembrandt, among others, to suggest the cultural determinants of the collapse—for example, Brueghel’s “The Blind Leading the Blind,” to evoke a population’s compulsive adherence to failed axioms.

Dependence on British Ideology
She was followed by Godfrey Binaisa, the former President of Uganda, who spoke on the urgency of consolidating an African Civil Rights movement. He was introduced by Dennis Speed, Northeast Coordinator of the Schiller Institute. Reading from a speech Lyndon LaRouche gave on Jan. 20, 1997, in Florence, Ala., on Martin Luther King and agape, Speed argued that Binaisa’s proposal for the African Civil Rights Movement represents the same concept.

President Binaisa focussed on the importance of rejecting social and cultural dependence on British ideology, a

China’s Relevance to Africa
Zepp LaRouche At Nigeria Summit


The Economic Summit was organized, in coordination with the government, by Nigeria’s private business sector, which had arranged for Professor Paul Collier, from Oxford University, England, an economic policy adviser of the Museveni regime in Uganda, to be the keynote speaker. The government insisted that Zepp LaRouche give the first lecture, however.

Zepp LaRouche began by outlining the current world financial crisis, noting that “there is no national economy in the world which can survive,” if the international financial system is not reorganized. While the I.M.F. system is disintegrating, as the result of thirty years of mistaken neo-liberal policies, there is also “a completely different dynamic”: The Chinese government has taken the initiative for the development of the so-called Eurasian Land-Bridge. She proposed that...
dependence which renders us incapable of liberating Africa. It was in the shedding of that ideology, he suggested, that the African Civil Rights Movement could and would make its most significant contribution.

Several African leaders then spoke, beginning with Jacques Bacamurwanko, former ambassador to the United States from Burundi. Also speaking was Mike Igga, the representative to the U.N. for Lado, who described how the British Colonial Office erased his country from the maps of the world.

Sanctions Against Britain
At the end of the day, Binaisa was voted acting chairman of the African Civil Rights Movement by acclamation. The meeting resolved to launch its campaign on campuses and throughout the regions represented, to confront the United Nations and other institutions on the need for sanctions against Britain as the prime supporter and deployer of terrorism, to support Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in his attack on British terrorism, and to question the sanctions against Sudan.

African leaders take this as an example to realize similar large-scale infrastructure programs for the African continent.

President Abacha’s Response
Not surprisingly, Prof. Collier strongly disagreed, warning the audience “to be very careful about those who peddle prosperity.”

In his closing remarks, Gen. Abacha indicated that he was extremely interested in the Land-Bridge perspective: “Ladies and gentlemen, I note with appreciation, that in the course of this . . . summit, we have been treated to an insight into how China has achieved fundamental economic development within a very short time. There are several lessons to be learned . . . from how China has overcome the hurdles to its economic growth and development. Nigeria is already drawing . . . on the Chinese experience and we will utilize this for our own development, where they are found relevant to our needs . . . .”

Symposium speakers Helga Zepp LaRouche, Alfredo Mendoza (right), David Merrell (left).

Washington, D.C. Symposium
Education for Moral Character: The Musical Example

We must create a fundamental change in education in America,” declared Dennis Speed, in his opening remarks to the symposium “Excellence in Education through Music,” held Feb. 7 at Howard University’s Rankin Chapel in Washington, D.C. Official greetings were offered to the 150 attendees by Dean Bernard Richardson of Rankin Chapel.

Dr. Charles Borowsky, the president of the International Friends of Music Association, and C.E.O. of Intermuse, as well as a founder of the Committee for Excellence in Education Through Music, explained the importance of the project which had occupied him over the past few months—that of bringing the St. Thomas Boys’ Choir to the United States [SEE article, page 85]—as one of replicating the highest standards of Classical culture.

Dr. Borowsky cited a recent study which showed that children who study music, achieve the most overall: “Give your children music, instead of games,” he advised.

Helga Zepp LaRouche opened her keynote speech to the seminar, “Toward a New Renaissance Through Classical Education,” by noting that the direction of education determines what kind of society will exist in the future, whether it will be beautiful or violent, free or under the whip of oligarchical forces.

One must take an “elevated view” of history, she said, noting that today, in China, there is a revival of the Classical principles of Confucius, who lived some 2,500 years ago; this Renaissance in China is occurring precisely because the Chinese leadership is ready to replace the discredited ideas of the Maoist period, which have failed. Confucius, not surprisingly, wrote a great deal about music, observing the effects of differing moods in music upon the human character. The mastery of language and music makes man human, Confucius said. Music is the flowering of the character.

In Germany, similar ideas were reflected in the famous Nineteenth-century Classical education reforms of Wilhelm von Humboldt. These reforms were based on the ideas of Germany’s national poet, Friedrich Schiller, who