

police colleges is restricted to 3 per cent, as is the number of those awarded fellowships to study abroad.

- Egypt's Christians are denied leadership positions throughout the country. No Christian is a college dean, a university president, a police commissioner, or a city manager. And there are no Christians among the top 160 appointed officials of the rank of minister or higher outside the cabinet.

- Though there are approximately nine million Christians among Egypt's forty million citizens, the Egyptian Government underestimates their number at a mere 6 per cent. In addition, the state-controlled media characterize Christians as infidels, and the government severely censors Christian authors who write books and articles defending their faith.

- The Egyptian Government has retained a law issued in 1856 by the Ottoman Empire, when Egypt was one of its colonies, which requires a presidential permit to build a church or repair an old one. Additional restrictions were imposed in 1934, which made it virtually impossible to secure a presidential permit.

- Arabic language and history courses are heavily saturated with Islamic teachings and overtly prejudicial to Christianity; Christian children are obliged to memorize verses from the Koran that characterize Christians as infidels. In history courses the Christian era in Egypt, approximately seven hundred years of history, is completely ignored.

- No one who attacked or killed a Christian during the presidency of Anwar el-Sadat has been prosecuted. Christian properties have been seized by Muslim fundamentalists and converted to mosques without any protection by Egyptian officials.

- Finally, the highest-ranking Coptic Christian leader, Pope Shenouda III, patriarch of Egypt, has remained in exile since September 5, 1981, by order of the Egyptian Government. Pope Shenouda never has been officially charged with any crime, but has protested the treatment of his people by government officials and Muslim fundamentalists. The human rights organization Amnesty International recently declared Pope Shenouda a prisoner.

Peace within Egypt can be greatly enhanced by a climate of religious tolerance; the prospect for financial and social progress is only worsened by making the large Coptic minority the scapegoat of Egypt's problems. Developmental and military aid from the United States should be conditional on respect for the human rights of Egypt's Christians and the freedom of their leaders—this in accordance with the U.N. Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The guarantee of human rights to Christians throughout the Middle East is an integral part of any solution to the problems of the area.

Shawky F. Karas, Professor and Director of Research in Behavioral Sciences at Southern Connecticut State College, New Haven, is president of the American Coptic Association.

EXCURSUS 2

Ross K. Baker on SON OF HUAC

Though the House Un-American Activities Committee has been defunct for a good many years now, it appears those old antic spirits have not abandoned Capitol Hill altogether. Today's Subcommittee on Security and Terrorism belongs to the Senate Committee on the Judiciary, and to examine

its roster of Republican members is to penetrate deep into the Senate's Hall of Primitives. The chairman is Senator (né Admiral) Jeremiah Denton, an ex-POW, one of the group that is displacing ex-astronauts for the title of moral unassailability. Other members include Orrin Hatch of Utah and John P. East of North Carolina. The chairman of the full committee is none other than J. Strom Thurmond of South Carolina. One's heart goes out to the two Democrats dragged to serve with them: Pat Leahy of Vermont and Joe Biden of Delaware.

Unlike that wily opportunist Richard Nixon, who gave only the most cynical lip-service to anticommunism, these senators are cardinals in the College of Conspiracies. What they are up to tells us a great deal about the preoccupations of the radical Right as well as about the relations of the United States with the developing world in the age of Reagan. It is summed up in a committee report entitled "Soviet, East German and Cuban Involvement in Southern Africa." Its conclusion admonishes us that "Those in our society who, blinded by the success of the Soviet Union and its Communist allies in appropriating and distorting the language of liberty, have misguidedly embraced these Soviet-sponsored terrorist organizations [e.g., the African National Congress and the Southwest Africa People's Organization] have a particular need to study this report..." This is followed by the vow to "conduct an investigation of the support apparatus established in the United States to provide assistance to these ... terrorist organizations."

Imagine how much staff time, witness fees, travel expenses, and printing costs were expended on the effort to establish links between Southern African liberation movements and the European Communist states and Cuba! Had they given me, or anyone else who reads a newspaper, the cab fare to go over to the Senate, I could have told them that these movements receive military, financial, and moral support from the Communists. Where are they going to turn? To the Reagan administration?

Perhaps the most creative use of inferential reasoning is found in Senator Denton's letter that accompanies the report:

As this report goes out, I am saddened and shocked to learn of the death of Mr. Bartholomew Hlapane, a former member of the African National Congress (ANC) and the South African Communist Party, who was murdered in his home on December 16, 1982, in Soweto by assassins using an AK-47 Assault Rifle. Based on the modus operandi and the choice of weapon, it appears that these people were ANC terrorists.

Based on the same evidence, I can state categorically that the assassination of Mr. Hlapane was perpetrated by any or all of the following groups: (1) the Palestine Liberation Organization, (2) the Sandinistas, (3) the Irish Republican Army, (4) the Baader-Meinhof Gang, (5) the Corsican Mafia. Tracing the authorship of a deed by the parentage of the weapon requires inferential leaps of Olympic proportions. Accordingly, Leon Trotsky was done in by a Swiss mountaineer because the weapon was an Alpine axe.

The wacky irresponsibility of the terrorism subcommittee would, I suppose, be harmless in and of itself if it did not unleash a kind of Gresham's Law, whereby bad anticommunism drives good anticommunism out of circulation. One may well believe that the Soviet Union is a reproach to human freedom, that it is a dreary totalitarian state capable of acting out of the basest of motives. This, however, does not require one to accept Soviet involvement in every plot culled from the pages of *Readers' Digest*. Such international scandal-mongering ascribes magical powers to a bleak and feckless police state, which is bad enough; but it tends as well to dilute and discredit more substantive and serious

charges against the USSR. This is particularly pernicious at a time when the United States has no foreign policy beyond the quirky reactions of Ronald Reagan—diffuse and self-defeating spasms of vengeance rather than measured and durable policies that have as their objective long-term stability in the relations between this country and the fragmented Communist world.

The liberation movements of Southern Africa are unlikely to be defeated and disappear, as they are also unlikely to achieve their goals anytime soon. We may assume that they will continue to receive AK-47s and scholarships to Lumumba University. The Reagan administration has cast its lot with South Africa, and such dialogue as the United States once enjoyed with these movements has been suspended. The best that can be hoped for, in some future administration, is that the United States may resume its role as broker and reestablish some credibility with the liberation movements and their supporters in the front-line states. Consigning them to a netherworld of groups fatally tainted by their association with the Soviet Union is not a very profitable enterprise. Launching an investigation of their supporters in the U.S. probably would be the least helpful and least enlightening series of hearings since Gerald Nye and the congressional Neanderthals of his day fobbed off on munitions makers the responsibility for all the ills of humanity. The only good that might come from it would be the prospect of Senator Denton and his investigators parading their tortured logic before the TV cameras for the benefit of the American public—who might then be able to test Mark Twain's proposition that fleas can be taught nearly anything that a congressman can.

Ross K. Baker, Professor of Political Science at Rutgers University and a Worldview Contributing Editor, is spending a sabbatical year in Washington, where he works with the House Democratic Caucus.

EXCURSUS 3

Thomas Land on A NEW MEDICAL PLAN FOR AFRICA

A historic conference of the deans of Africa's medical schools and the directors of its university centers for health sciences has decided to adopt a common pattern of medical training throughout the continent. This breaks the traditional dependency of the African universities upon the great medical institutions of Europe and North America, a relationship that has been responsible for the transplanting of Western scientific values in Africa to the detriment of indigenous medicine. It also has been largely responsible for the medical "brain drain."

Significantly, the conference—held under the auspices of the United Nations World Health Organization (WHO) in Geneva—chose to include among the criteria for judging the effectiveness of Africa's medical schools their practical impact on the home health services available to the continent's poor, largely rural population. The continent's new approach to training public health professionals is to seek a partnership between traditional medicine—which has survived among the people despite many years of official disapproval—and modern medicine imported from the West.

Already about twenty African countries have established research and treatment centers devoted to traditional medicine, and others either have decided to integrate traditional



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medicine into their health care schemes or are debating such a course of action. In a related effort, the U.N. recently established working arrangements with five research institutions in a program of medical studies concerning herbs, plants, and other traditional remedies: the College of Pharmacy, University of Illinois; the Mexican Institute of Research on Medicinal Plants, Mexico City; the Instituto Italo-Africano, Rome; the Gujarat Ayurved University, Jamnagar; and the Academy of Traditional Chinese Medicine, Beijing.

The new partnership between Western and African schools of medicine enables the traditional healer to take advantage of modern techniques in relevant spheres, such as hygiene, while contributing his knowledge in diagnosis and herbal remedies. Most people in the developing regions prefer treatment in traditional rather than modern medicine—and most of them have no choice. Fewer than 10 per cent of the two billion rural dwellers of the Third World live within walking distance of Western-type clinics. There is one scientifically trained doctor for almost 5,500 Africans. Clearly, traditional medicine offers the only available avenue for approaching a reasonable system of health care for the majority of people within this century.

At present, only a quarter of the world's physicians trained in Western-type medical schools work in the developing regions, caring for two-thirds of mankind. Of the remaining three-quarters in the industrially developed countries, a large proportion are migrants, trained at the expense of the poor. A discussion paper recently placed before the U.N.'s Conference on Trade and Development calculates that over a decade the "brain drain" of professionals cost the poor countries about \$51 billion.

A global study compiled by WHO shows that 85 per cent of all migrant doctors practice in just five countries: Australia, Canada, the United States, the United Kingdom, and West Germany. WHO believes that one important factor in the migration of physicians is that the medical curricula of the developing countries have been based traditionally on the standards and expectations of the Western world. The study concludes "that the money spent on the education of those migrant physicians could have been better spent on other and more appropriate forms of health personnel and health care."

Thomas Land writes from Europe on global affairs.