

Code clearly requires each state party to hold a binding preferential primary election and states that delegates to the national nominating conventions of the political parties “shall be apportioned according to the votes cast for each candidate”; and, despite the fact the Arkansas Democratic Party, in its Arkansas Delegate Selection Plan, which has been approved by the DNC, clearly states that the primary *shall* be governed by the election laws of the State of Arkansas, the Arkansas Democratic Party announced that, based on orders from DNC Chairman Joe Andrew, Lyndon LaRouche would not be awarded any delegates, despite the fact that he cleared the 15% qualifying threshold in all four of Arkansas’s Congressional districts, and that those delegates who would have been awarded to LaRouche had the law been followed, would instead go to Al Gore!

Not surprisingly, the announcement created an uproar. Reporters who questioned state party officials were referred to the Washington headquarters of the DNC, where ranking party officials declared that they didn’t care how many Arkansas Democrats voted for LaRouche! Apparently, one journalist, who called the White House for comment, was told that President Clinton had nothing to do with the events, and would not comment, “since he is no longer a resident of Arkansas,” and has already registered to vote in the New York Democratic Primary!

Sen. Tim Hutchinson (R), who is Bush’s Arkansas chairman, was quoted from the floor of the U.S. Senate, saying that the LaRouche vote was unquestionably a strong challenge to Gore’s candidacy, and reflected the growing anti-Gore sentiment. Not surprisingly, Hutchinson failed to comment on the fact that LaRouche also trounced George W. Bush.

Although a Supreme Court decision earlier this year upheld the Democratic Party’s right to function as a private club, and exclude LaRouche and his supporters, the explicit nature of Arkansas’ Election Code, and of the state party’s agreement to adhere to that Code, poses new problems for Gore’s would-be dictatorship, and promises to develop into a brawl that will spill over into an all-out credentials battle at the National Convention. Civil rights leaders across the United States have likened LaRouche’s continuing fight to defend his growing vote to the 1964 Convention fight waged by the Mississippi Freedom Democrats. It was that fight which thrust the issue of voting rights before the American people, leading to the passage of the Voting Rights Act, considered among the crowning achievements of Martin Luther King, Jr.’s civil rights movement.

LaRouche will have the opportunity to amass more delegates in the period immediately ahead, when Democrats go to the polls in Alabama, New Jersey, and New Mexico on June 6. And, the compelling question on the minds of Democrats across the nation, is whether the current Democratic Party leadership will come to its senses, and embrace the voters that only Lyndon LaRouche’s candidacy can turn out, or whether they will continue on their current suicidal drive to deliver the party’s nomination to the unelectable Al Gore.

Poverty’s Link to AIDS Demands Financial Reform, Says Mbeki

by William Jones

The first official state visit of South African President Thabo Mbeki to Washington on May 22-23 may have helped to strengthen the strong bonds already established with U.S. President Bill Clinton, and may have served to shake things up a bit in Washington, which has been all-too-complacent in the face of the global financial crisis, which has collapsed living standards and led to pandemics of old and new diseases around the globe.

Speaking at the state dinner at the White House on May 22, President Mbeki praised the attention President Clinton has placed on Africa. “I followed a lot of your remarks, Mr. President, as you’ve raised questions about poverty and deprivation and disease around the world, as you’ve spoken against war, against conflict, and the need to find peaceful resolutions to these various questions. You may remember that when you spoke at the [UN] General Assembly last year . . . we met, and I said I was very, very moved by the comments you made, where you were clearly saying that the levels of poverty and suffering around the world were unacceptable and something needed to be done about that.”

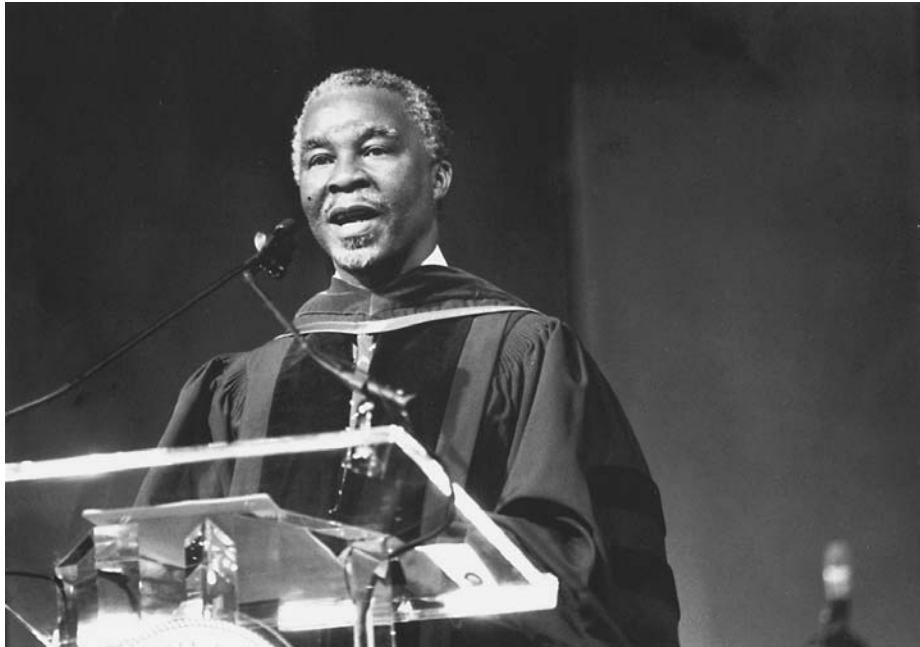
Indeed, it was this issue that dominated much of the discussion between President Mbeki and President Clinton when they met on May 22.

Urgent and Extraordinary Interventions

The international media virtually declared war on the South African President when he set his mind to finding a solution to an AIDS epidemic that has become a grave threat to the very existence of his nation. When asked about the numerous press allegations that he had denied a connection between HIV and AIDS, or belittled the significance of AZT in combatting the disease, he characterized such allegations as “pure invention.”

The media have been especially incensed over Mbeki’s consistent emphasis on linking the rapid spread of AIDS in Sub-Saharan Africa to the rampant poverty there.

Speaking at his arrival at the White House on May 22, President Mbeki said, “We believe, Mr. President, we must act together in solidarity with as many people around the world, and especially in Africa. The best possible ways have to be found to end poverty and disease, and to help people to extricate themselves from the indecencies of wars and violent



South African President Thabo Mbeki speaking at Howard University, where he received an honorary Doctor of Laws degree.

of discussion between the two leaders. “They agreed on the importance of having a common strategy to move forward,” one official told reporters. “They discussed at some length the issue of the affordability of medicines. And while President Mbeki certainly appreciates the recent steps that have been taken—in terms of the Executive Order, initiatives by pharmaceutical companies, and other steps to make medicines more affordable to a majority of Africans—he did point out that for a majority of people in South Africa, even with these measures, prices are very high, and focussed to a great extent on the need to also treat the opportunistic diseases associated with AIDS, and to ensure that the medicines needed to fight those diseases are affordable.”

conflicts. These challenges require of us not just standard responses, but urgent and extraordinary interventions that will ensure that the benefits of the current scientific and technological advances are shared by everyone, including those in the most remote and isolated villages of the world.”

Indeed, even the Clinton White House has begun to treat the AIDS epidemic as a question of national security. In a recent Executive Order, President Clinton promised not to seek sanctions against African countries which produce generic AIDS drugs rather than purchase more expensive U.S. and European drugs. As Democratic Presidential pre-candidate Lyndon LaRouche recognized more than a decade ago, the AIDS epidemic would threaten the very existence of entire nations, and ought to be treated as a global pandemic. The rapid spread of AIDS in many parts of the world is prompting belated adherence to that far-sighted observation of LaRouche.

Clinton’s Executive Order underlined that the devastation of AIDS in Africa will also weigh heavily on the United States itself. White House press spokesman Joe Lockhart, responding to a question from this author on May 22, confirmed that the South African leader’s point was well taken. “I think what President Mbeki has done as eloquently as anyone in the region, or anywhere in the world,” Lockhart said, “is draw the connection between poverty and AIDS, and the connection between the difficulty in fighting this sort of health epidemic in areas where health infrastructure is not as strong as in other parts of the world.”

Later in the day, several senior Administration officials confirmed that poverty and AIDS had been a major topic

A New, Just Economic Order

The U.S. media, however, chose to virtually ignore this aspect of the South African leader’s message, with the *Washington Post* running a vicious editorial attacking Mbeki for complaining too much, and doing too little to deal with the AIDS crisis in South Africa. With the financial markets on the verge of a complete breakdown, and emergency stop-gap measures being implemented practically on an hourly basis to keep the financial system afloat, no Western official has had the guts to call for the obvious necessary program to deal with the AIDS epidemic: a Marshall Plan for Africa.

Mbeki delivered the Inaugural Oliver Tambo Lecture at Georgetown University in Washington on May 23, choosing as his theme that fundamental question that Cain asked God, “Am I my brother’s keeper?” Quoting John Donne and Percy B. Shelley’s “Ode to the West Wind,” President Mbeki said that the International Monetary Fund’s (IMF) “Washington Consensus”—under which African nations are called upon to liberalize, deregulate, and reform their economies, promising that, from these measures, all good things will flow naturally to them through the workings of the “free market”—has failed miserably to produce the promised results. “Many African countries have tried and are trying to live up to these prescriptions, naturally with varying degrees of success,” Mbeki said. And yet the benefits have been nonexistent.

Quoting from a recent article by Moses Naim in *Foreign Policy* magazine, Mbeki said, “Not many emerging markets are ending the decade with foreign money, hot, warm, or cold, overflowing into their economies. On the contrary, the decade is ending with a boom on Wall Street that makes investors

wary of sending their hot money abroad. Internet stocks are providing the high risk and high rewards once supplied by the allure of emerging markets, only they do it with a higher credit rating.”

Mbeki then outlined the effects of this “liberalization” policy. “According to the United Nations Development Program 1999 *Human Development Report*, more than 80 countries have per-capita incomes that are lower than they were a decade or more ago,” he said. “Since 1990, fifty-five countries, mostly in Sub-Saharan Africa, eastern Europe, and the former Soviet Union, have had declining per-capita incomes. The income gap between the fifth of the world’s people living in the richest countries and the fifth in the poorest was 74 to 1 in 1997, up from 60 to 1 in 1990 and 30 to 1 in 1960.”

“The end result of all this,” Mbeki said, “is the further entrenchment of both Afro-pessimism and poverty, the very things that the implementation of the prescriptions was, in our case, intended to address.”

Even worse, he continued, the UNDP report makes the important observation that “fiscal pressures are cutting back on the supply of state-provided care services. Tax revenue declined in poor countries from 18% of GDP in the early 1980s to 16% in the 1990s. Public services deteriorated markedly—the result of economic stagnation, structural adjustment programs, or the dismantling of state services, especially in the transition economies of eastern Europe and the CIS [Community of Independent States].”

What Mbeki has been warning about regarding the lack of needed infrastructure to deliver medical aid to Africans, has been the very result of that “Washington Consensus.”

No One Is Immune

Mbeki also warned that the United States is by no means immune from the devastating effects of the financial crisis. Quoting the report by the New York Council on Foreign Relations (CFR)-sponsored Independent Task Force on the Future International Financial Architecture, Mbeki said, “Our defense against crises should not be predicated on the assumption that crises will occur abroad only when the U.S. economy is well-positioned to absorb them. . . . As Federal Reserve Chairman [Alan] Greenspan has aptly put it, the United States cannot expect to remain ‘an oasis of prosperity’ if the rest of the world is in financial chaos.” As an example of the financial insanity, Mbeki pointed out that “the average daily turnover in global foreign exchange markets is now roughly \$1.5 trillion, while the global over-the-counter derivatives market is larger than \$70 trillion.”

The South African leader was also clear about the fact that the CFR Task Force report largely understated the problem, and heavily favored monied interests. “The report does not give sufficient weight to the need to create a more level playing field,” Mbeki quoted one of the participants as admitting.

“By default the world is now opting for a version of capitalism in which the profit motive is largely unrestrained,” Mbeki said. Referring to the anti-IMF demonstrations at the Nov. 30-Dec. 2, 1999 World Trade Organization summit in Seattle, he said, “We should not stigmatize as Luddite or reactionary those who query the universal validity of this social model. They have a case that deserves a reasoned reply.”

Mbeki warned that action must be taken quickly and must be appropriate to the gravity of the crisis. He cited the example of the British garrison in Singapore during World War II, which had pointed its guns toward the sea in anticipation of an attack by the Japanese from that direction, and was unprepared, when the Japanese came overland on foot and by bicycle and easily overpowered the garrison. “Will it happen again that we, who deserve a reasoned reply, meet a stony silence because those who man the garrisons of wealthy societies are confident that they have pointed their guns in the right direction?” Mbeki asked. “Surely the lesson has to be relearned and taken to heart that, once more, if the cries of the poor of the world are not heard, they will come by bicycle and on foot, leading to the disaster which President Clinton rightly fears, that instead of continuing to thrive together, we begin to shrivel together.”

DO YOU KNOW

- that the American Revolution was fought *against* British “free trade” economics?
- that Washington and Franklin championed Big Government?
- that the Founding Fathers promoted partnership between private industry and central government?



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