

**Roy Meachum**

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## More blasphemy over South Africa

Oliver Tambo dropped by for tea with George Shultz who laid on the state department's best sterling and porcelain for the occasion. The hollows of Foggy Bottom resounded with the hallelujah choruses of 10,000 palm-waving Christians.

But those Bible-reading, hymn-singing brothers and sisters are wrong. Tambo is not washed in the blood of the Lamb but rises to international importance on the murders committed by his African National Congress — many his fellow blacks who refuse to accept racial violence as the one true answer to the evils of apartheid.

While his jet was still in the air, one more young South African black was cut down and his home converted into a fiery pyre. The latest victim was a Zulu, a follower of Chief Buthelezi, a man who has worked against the present system of seeking accommodation among races.

For pursuing moderation, instead of blood and fire, Buthelezi received a snubbing from Shultz; the head of South Africa's largest tribal nation was treated as an embarrassment by politicians attuned to the blood lust cries from the American electorate. The chief was shuttled through backdoors on his Washington visit, eventually surfacing only as the result of extreme pressure from conservatives.

When Sen. Jesse Helms must give balance to U.S. foreign policy, then it can be

safely said chaos reigns supreme at the state department.

Understand: Oliver Tambo should be heard. However, without the sanctimonious anointing showered on his presence by the reverend clergy and their holier-than-thou congregations. He is no saint, but a self-seeking politician who tolerates no vision for South Africa but his own.

Under Tambo's guidance ANC assassins are working hard to kill off all his rivals among South African blacks. Only those opposition leaders known to the West have received reprieve, at least for the time being. Meanwhile, they suffer losses among their followers, as Americans cheer and venerate murderers.

Allowing Tambo to deliver his racist views may serve to slow down the killings; it helps remove some of the desperate frustration which continues to claim lives. Neither blacks nor whites have been exempt. More women and children have died from ANC actions than men; those weaker make easier victims.

In this regard, Shultz performed a humanitarian service. Seeing Tambo might cause the ANC to reconsider its bloody pogroms among blacks; one less bomb may shatter a white woman or child.

However, there should be no illusion that either official receptions or the praise lavished on Tambo and the recently

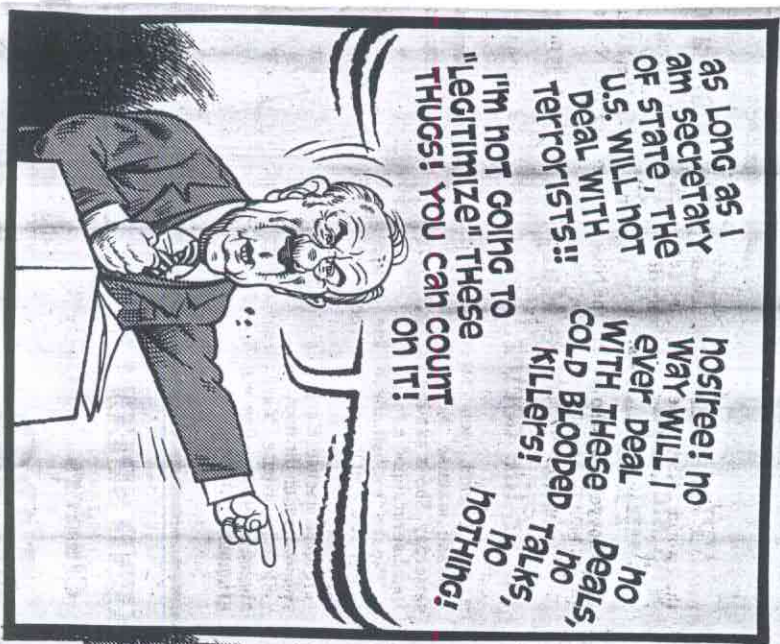
departed Winnie Mandela will pressure Pretoria. Quite the reverse is likely.

At its base, apartheid derives from paranoia, an unreasoning fear that any rise in the human status of South African blacks will lead to death or banishment for South African whites. They are not colonials, as were the British and the French, but people prepared, if necessary, to kill to protect the

only life they have ever known. In the process, thousands of whites have accepted a willingness to die themselves.

In South Africa, the world faces the very real prospect of multi-racial genocide: the wholesale slaughter of blacks and whites and coloreds and the country's sizeable Indian population.

There are radicals — Tambo has his white



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counterparts — who would welcome massacres, figuring to grab power out of what remains. Mass murder figures in their calculations as a way to make South Africa more manageable. These opportunities, white and black, in their thinking, make the evils of apartheid almost benign by comparison.

These radicals, black and white, would institute regimes for the sake of their own megalomania, patterned after the Khmer Rouge's "killing fields" in Cambodia. Tambo's triumph in South Africa must inevitably result in blood splattered over those pulpits where his praise was preached this week, in advance of his meeting with Shultz.

Forget the red menace theory advocated by conservatives, like Helms. Any advantage gained by the Soviets from an ANC-ruled South Africa would represent as big a loss for Moscow as a white extremist victory would mean for Washington. Tambo cannot occupy Pretoria without killing innumerable blacks, starting with the Zulus. The impact on other African nations and the world can be imagined.

Not superpower politics, but the lives of men, women and children, by the millions, were at stake in the meeting in Foggy Bottom. Secretary of State Shultz was right to give time and attention to the ANC leader, precisely because of Tambo's capability of provoking terror in South Africa.

On the other hand, to portray Oliver Tambo and the African National Congress as worthy of Christian blessings makes a mockery of every principle taught by Jesus. It places American preachers in the same hypocritical league as the white Afrikaners' pastors who quote the Bible to defend apartheid. In the name of political justification, both sets of Christian ministers are guilty of the worst kind of blasphemy.

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