
Kenyan Students or CIA Operatives?

The few American tourists to the Soviet Union whom the CIA fails to approach with an offer of enrollment prior to their trip, are usually, upon their return, interviewed by CIA agents just the same. And sugar from a mysteriously damaged British vessel on its way from Cuba to the USSR is unloaded during an emergency call in Puerto Rico and poisoned by CIA agents in order "to create discord between Soviet and Cuban authorities..." (*The New York Times*, March 26, 1965.)

Against this background what could be stronger than the suspicion that the wild accusations against the Soviet Union by 29 Kenyan students who recently returned to their country had been ghost-written by CIA fiction specialists? Not that there could not be among the Kenyan students studying in Russia some who are genuinely dissatisfied and disillusioned. The process of integrating into a new society and culture is never easy. Nor do we doubt that there can be *justified* misgivings on the part of foreign students studying in the USSR. But there are also complaints of an entirely different nature. "All the people hated us. They just didn't like black people. If we went into restaurants, they refused to serve us. They don't allow you to dance with white women and if we tried to dance with a Russian girl in a club we were beaten up," a spokesman for the returned 29 Kenyan students was quoted

as saying. (*The New York Times*, April 7, 1965.) Such sweeping accusations are justified when made about our own South, but not about the Soviet Union. Not that sporadic outbursts of racial prejudice are unthinkable in the USSR; but to say that *generally* restaurants in any part of the country refuse to serve food to Negroes is to lie. It is much more likely that a Russian bigot would consider himself forced to conceal his attitude and outwardly to conform to the general spirit and laws of racial and ethnic tolerance and respect.

Since the Kenyan students' complaints are obvious falsehoods, and since upon their return to Nairobi they were immediately offered, over the heads of their government, scholarships in the United States, it would be naive not to discern here a CIA fabrication. In fact, we are almost ready to bet that before all too long a retired CIA agent will have published his reminiscences including those of the arrangements that had been made for some students from Kenya to become "totally disillusioned" upon their arrival in the Soviet Union.

You just cannot look at a bull and mistake him for a flea.
