

FEB 22 1966

ROWAN WRITES:

Negroes Who Back Rhodesia

By CARL T. ROWAN

WASHINGTON: America's two busiest Negro apologists for racial segregation and colonialism are at it again. And that means more headaches for the State Department and trouble in Africa for the United States and Great Britain.

Max Yergan, a former Communist turned super-patriot, and George Schuyler, a writer for the Pittsburgh Courier, have popped up as front men for a new right-wing organization designed to "save" Africa from communism.



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They have begun by trying to preserve the segregationist, breakaway regime of Ian Smith in Rhodesia.

The group, the "American-African Affairs Assn.," says in its "Money Pitch" being mailed all over the country, that it will fight the "ignorance, cupidity and mischievous intent of those individuals, institutions, periodicals and organizations which are in effective control of American policies toward Africa."

Even a cursory check shows, however, that the leaders of the group are primarily interested in defending South African apartheid and Rhodesian racism—and in protecting the United States from the incursions of the 20th Century.

Yergan, the association's co-chairman, Rep. John Ashbrook (R.-Ohio) and Ralph de Toledano, a former leftist who has made anti-communism a profession, recently returned from a "fact-finding" mission to Rhodesia. They issued a 12-page report that warns, in so many breathless words, that the survival of Western civilization depends on the survival of Smith's outlaw regime.

Ashbrook, chairman of the "fact-finding group," was in Rhodesia for three days, his office reports. He con-

cluded that Smith's government commands "the respect of a preponderance of the Africans."

That is like spending three days as the guest of Alabama officials and discovering that a preponderance of Alabama Negroes just love Gov. George Wallace.

Last year, by the way, Ashbrook voted against the voting rights bill, Medicare, aid to schools, foreign aid, urban affairs, the poverty program and virtually every other liberal or moderate proposal to come before Congress.

A few years ago, Yergan and Schuyler were used to give a little "color" to another right-wing lobby called the "Katanga Freedom Fighters." This group tried, almost successfully, to force the U. S. Government to acquiesce in an effort by Moise Tshombe to steal mineral-rich Katanga away from the rest of The Congo.

Co-chairman with Yergan is William A. Rusher, publisher of the National Review and a long-time king-maker in right-wing circles. Rusher was the founder of the movement for Barry Goldwater but bowed out when it was taken over by what he thought were "Arizona hicks."

The new Rusher-Yergan group is dangerous for two reasons:

• Some Africans may be naive enough to believe that this collection of fear-merchants is really representative of the United States.

• It is just vocal and troublesome enough that it might make an already timid State Department even more tremulous in dealing with the vital problems of Rhodesia and the rest of Africa.

The group may be correct when it says that "communism and free men are locked in a deadly struggle" in Africa. But the surest way to doom free men to defeat is for the United States to base its policies on the "fact-finding" or the views of men who obviously think the Renaissance was subversive.

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