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AFRICA: INTELLIGENCE SIDELIGHTS

I. In connection with one of the policy papers for consideration at today's meeting, there are some intelligence sidelights which illustrate the ^{more} ~~most~~ important trends in Africa south of the Sahara.

A. These trends are the growing seriousness of racial problems, the accelerated pace of nationalist demands for early independence, and the ^{intensified} ~~growing~~ interest in Africa shown by the Soviet Union.

II. In the Belgian Congo, which has been virtually free ^{from} ~~of~~ racial or nationalist disturbances, serious riots broke out on 16 June after a football game between an all-white and all-Congolese teams.

A. As a result of stoning and jeering, the European settlers [^aapparently] panicked. They bought up the local supply of firearms, tried to punish some innocent native houseboys, and talked in terms of the end of Belgian rule.

B. The government flew in an experienced police chief from Belgium, armed the police with pistols and tear gas bombs, and cancelled all football matches for the rest of June. *No further incidents have been reported.*

C. The Belgians ^{had already} ~~have recently~~ granted basic rights to Congolese labor unions and ^{still} ~~plan~~ to permit limited voting by Africans in municipal elections.

III. Where the Africans have gained a taste of authority, they have stepped up their demands for complete independence.

A. In French West Africa, ^(especially) the pace has accelerated, and

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some top French officials foresee independence for that area in from two to five years.

B. The more autonomy the French grant, the more the Africans want. The Africans are already acting like the real rulers, and they are not being opposed by French officials.

IV. In British East Africa, nationalists are demanding more representation in local government.

A. In Kenya, Africans have refused since March to take their seats in the ~~electd~~ Council of Ministers, ^{demanding} unless ^{in the treaty agreed} that their representation ^{is} increased.

B. In Uganda, in response to nationalist pressures for early independence, the British have agreed to ~~indirect~~ ^(for a legislature) direct legislative elections next year.

V. Despite rebuffs, the Soviet Union continues to try to expand its influence in the African continent.

A. The Bloc was ~~not~~ ^{heavily} represented at Ghana's independence celebration in March, and the Communists are still trying to establish diplomatic relations with Ghana and with Liberia. *There is to be increased travel between these 2 countries and the Soviet bloc.*

B. Over 100 African students, many of them contacted by Communists in Paris and London, attended the World Youth Festival in Moscow.

C. Soviet academic journals have recently published a spate of articles about Africa.

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