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CIA 1.04 Scranage, Sharon
Patrice Lumumba
Coalition
CIA 4 Ghana

Ghana love triangle

CIA 'spy' charge irks Harlem unit

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A Harlem group is mobilizing national support in defense of a Black woman and a Ghanaian who were arrested in Virginia last week and charged with espionage.

In announcing its support of Sharon Scranage and Michael A. Soussoudis, a spokesman for the Patrice Lumumba Coalition posed the question: Should an African, born either on the Continent or in the U.S. be accused by Uncle Sam of spying for Africa?

Elombe Brath, a spokesman for the Coalition said the answer should be a resounding no. He also put forth the following hypothetical question:

"If an African were to discover a highly sensitive document which reveals that the U.S. is about to drop an atomic bomb on the Continent, what should be his moral obligation. Should he keep his mouth shut or warn his people?"

Brath described the charges against 29-year-old Ms. Scranage and 39-year-old Soussoudis as a case where an Afro-American and an African stumbled upon information revealing CIA activities that were detrimental to Ghana and they turned the record over to Ghanaian authorities in Accra.

"This is not an espionage case, but rather a situation where Ms. Scranage and Soussoudis were trying to stem the

involvement of U.S. Central Intelligence Agency in the West African country of Ghana," said Brath.

He added that CIA activities in Ghana is nothing new. "It dates back to Feb. 24, 1966 when the Agency engineered the overthrow of the legitimate government of Dr. Kwame N'Krumah," Brath explained.

According to Brath, the CIA did not appreciate Dr. N'Krumah's constant attacks against U.S. imperialism on the African Continent and devised a plan to topple him, using an Afro-American to do the dirty job.

Franklin H. Williams, former U.S. ambassador to Ghana who is now president of Phelps-Stokes Foundation is identified as the CIA hatchman in "Dark Days In Ghana," a book written by Dr. N'Krumah shortly after he was overthrown.

Ever since the 1966 military takeover, Brath said Ghana has not been the same. "In addition to losing its international prestige," he continued, "the country has been on the decline economically and is currently plagued by internal strife."

Ms. Scranage, who worked as a clerk for the CIA in Ghana, was accused of passing classified information to Soussoudis, a cousin of the country's military leader, Flight Lt. Jerry J. Rawlings.

According to published reports, Ms. Scranage told the FBI that she provided Soussoudis who is her lover with identity of CIA personnel in Ghana as well as operational plans for the country's classified cable traffic.

She also said she provided information about CIA communications and radio equipment as well as an intelligence report on military equipment, which a Ghanaian group had requested from Libyan Strongman Col. Muammar al Qadhafi.

Meanwhile, Ghana's military government on Tuesday protested in the strongest terms through its U.N. Mission here the arrest of Soussoudis. It said it will hold the U.S. responsible for his safety.

"We hope that both Ms. Scranage and Soussoudis will be accorded due process of the law to ensure that the full truth comes out, bearing in mind that the means exist for subverting by fabricating evidence," the government noted in a statement released to the Amsterdam News.

The statement added that reports of CIA activity in Ghana have come as no surprise to the citizens since "we knew all along of the Agency's involvement in dissident activities in the country aimed at destabilizing our revolutionary cause."

"Our government considers the confirmation of a CIA presence and CIA activities in Ghana as a flagrant interference in the internal affairs of the country."

In the interest of continued favorable relations between the U.S. and Ghana, the statement adds that Ghana should be assisted in addressing its crucial problems of development.