NATIONAL ROUNDUP

By Larry A. Still and Art Carter

Although most U.S. media is focusing on needed support of refugees from Cambodia and Vietnam, African experts who ought to know report there are four million homeless refugees throughout the vast continent, four times the total number of refugees in all other countries of the world . . . .

These outspoken experts from the State Department and the House of Representatives' foreign affairs committee admitted that African countries are being penalized by racism, callousness and lack of organized support for trying to solve their own problems while Americans of all colors are rallying to support Asian refugees who have been expelled from their nations and set adrift as "boat people."

There have been numerous fund-raising efforts and campaigns for the "boat people," yet, there has been little attention devoted to the problems of black African refugees, even by traditional Afro-American human rights organizations such as the black church, the NAACP and the press.

Speaking at a recent unheralded conference on the Resettlement of Refugees from the Sudan to South Africa, representatives of government, educational institutions and private organizations called for more interest, concern and "help" from black Americans.

Carl Beck, director of the Office of African and Latin American Refugees Programs in the Department of State and *Johnnie Carson*, staff director of the subcommittee on Africa, House Foreign Affairs committee, admitted that U.S. support for African refugees will be reduced instead of increased by government agencies unless there is more active support and interest from the American public. . . . And, most ironically, the U.S. State Department of Refugee program is headed by *Victor Palmieri*, who was executive director of the long forgotten Kerner Commission Report on White Racism in this country.

In the increasingly important horn of Africa, Somalia, alone, has an estimated half million refugees in official United Nations refugee camps, in addition to another half million, mostly women and children, roaming over the countryside as a result of the ten year Somalia-Ethiopian conflict over independence for the Oganden region.

The current U.S. government effort to re-establish military bases in Somalia to protect "American interest" in the "oil rich" Persian Gulf area is certain to aggravate the problem and increase the number of refugees which our government and people are doing little to help.

Insult is added to injury by the fact that Arab and Islamic states in the area reportedly refuse to help the predominantly Moslem country because of the political and religious differences in the areas by refugees who cling to their Ethiopian or Somalian identity . . . . while traditional western and Christian agencies are looking the other way as Soviet and Cuban communists enter the area.

The problem is multiplied in other areas of Africa, such as Uganda, Chad, Sierra Leone and recently in Zimbabwe (Rhodesia), which has started to stablize its refugee problem under the new "militant" Robert Mugabe government. Most of the African refugee problem results from liberation struggles on the continent, many of the isolated, high death rate camps of 35,000 to 40,000 families each result from internal and political struggles in some of the newly independent nations. But, these millions of African refugees, defined as exiles from neighboring countries, do not include several million more homeless residents who are classified as "displaced persons" in their own countries as a result of war, postilence, famine and "underdeveloped" land.

However, African nations are seeking to solve their own problems with the help of the United Nations High Commission on Refugees and the Unity . . . . "Africa, in fact, is being penalized (by world reaction) for generously accommodating its refugees whereas the obscene practice of expelling refugees in Southeast Asia brings the matter to 'America's' attention and touches our hearts," says *Dr. Kevin M. Cahill, M.D.*, who recently returned from the distraught area in Somalia.

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There is evidence of a growing Africa lobby in the United States as three separate organizations held national meetings recently in Washington to consider methods of pressuring the U.S. government to provide more support for indigenous developments. The white dominated Association of Concerned African Scholars, composed of academicians and students from major college campuses met at Howard U. to talk about mobilizing public opinion against South Africa's apartheid policies among the white communities of the nation . . . . The following week, the more militant African Heritage Studies Association convened at the Harambee House to emphasize the need for increased development of African culture in America. *Dr. Molefi Kete Asante* of Buffalo (N.Y.) State University, was coordinator of the session which included such historians as *Yosef Ben Jochannan, Ivan Van Sertima* and panelists *Kariamu Welsh, Toni Cade Bambara, John Henrik Clarke* and *Chancellor Williams*.

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While the Association of Black Social Workers was meeting at the Washington Hilton, the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, announced awards of nearly a half million dollars "for six research and demonstration projects to develop more effective services for families with special problems."

Three projects will develop alternative services to the traditional individual counseling offered by most social service agencies. They will emphasize parenthood education, day care, use of paraprofessional family workers and greater reliance on natural support available from relatives, neighbors, and church and community groups. The other three projects will study relationships among family members, coping abilities, stress and other factors in adoptive, step-parent and teenage parent families.

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NOTE: The fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education has awarded 13 grants to increase the use of successful programs for adult learners, but all of the funds were channeled through all white institutions throughout the nation. Officials said the grant totaled $500,327 and grantees were selected from 425 applicants. Projects receiving awards represent a broad range of improvement techniques for teaching adults and use a variety of innovative strategies. . . ."

And HEW's Office of Education recently announced the award of 70 grants totaling $5.3 million under the Women's Educational Equity Act Program, but not one cent went to black-controlled institutions among the 75 organizations receiving awards of $20,000 to a half million dollars each. "The grants will support model programs to eliminate sex discrimination, bias, and stereotyping in education," the announcement stated.

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Clyde Barrett, a career civil servant with the U.S. Department of Labor, has been assigned to the Federal Mart Corporation in San Diego under the president's Executive Exchange Program. *Wilbert F. Solomon*, who has been associated with the Job Corps program for the past decade, has been named deputy director by Assistant Secretary of Labor *Ernest G. Green*.

Labor Secretary *Ray Marshall* told the Labor-HEW appropriations subcommittee that the Labor Department's 1981 budget proposals "represent the Carter Administration's strong commitment to the needs and concerns of America's workers . . ." so the House voted to cut the heart out of the program by eliminating the Concentrated Employment Training Program funds for 2,000,000 workers.

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Less than a week after the celebrated Black Agenda Conference in Richmond, Va., leader *Andrew Young* was in California campaigning for *President Carter, Rev. Jesse Jackson* was hosting *Sen. Edward Kennedy* in Chicago, and other stalwarts were going through the motions in the presidential race despite the fact that none of the candidates showed up to ask for their vote. The National Black Political Assembly has scheduled another conference on the Black Agenda for the 80s in August . . . . The new national Black Pastors Association meets in October and the growing United Black Front has called for unification on a possible black political party for the 80s . . . . Maryland State Sen. *Clarence Mitchell III* led a delegation of state legislators calling on President Carter to "resist voices from his administration and the public that would have him sacrifice" cutbacks in social programs for increased military spending. . . ." Meeting at the White House, Carter said he "came for the purpose of listening, not talking" to the 24 representatives of the influential 337 member caucus.

Have you heard this? The president and secretary of treasury have signed Emergency Banking Regulations No. One which would provide for the following in a national emergency:" "Your bank accounts are immediately frozen, checking and savings; You ars henceforth prohibited from making any withdrawals of cash from any bank or savings or loan company, exept for "customary quantities of money." You are no longer allowed to write any more checks without the bank's approval . . . and no checks will be honored by the bank for any "unauthorized purpose . . ." Remember the president can judge any activity in the national interest, such as boycotting the Olympics. . . ." Check it out with your congressman.

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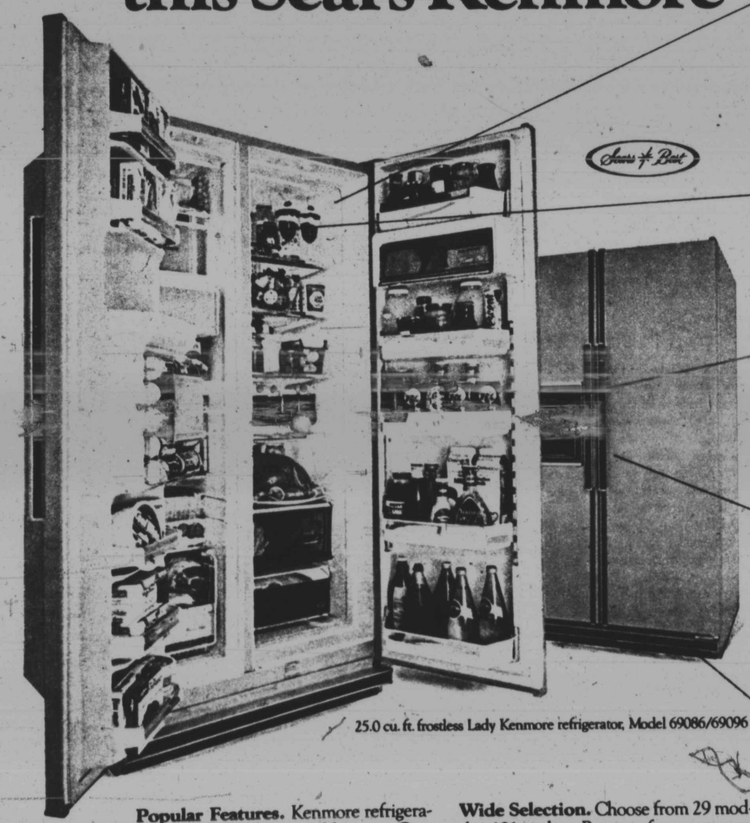

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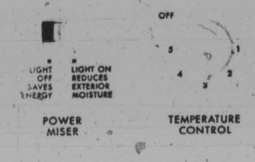
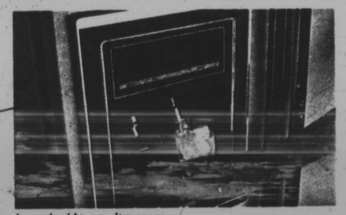
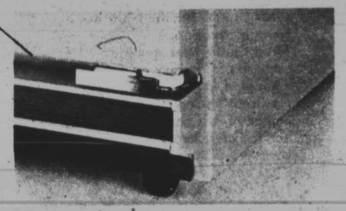


Power Miser saves up to 14% in energy



Ice and cold water dispensers

Textured steel hides smudges



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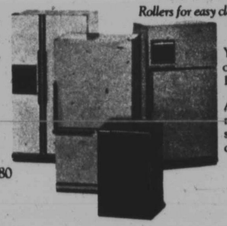

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*The efficiency improvement, as measured by U.S. Dept. of Energy test procedures, is a weighted average based on production volumes for 1972 line and that projected for 1980 line.