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It was a bright morning in February, 1949. The compound of our village school in Mbengui in the Cameroon was already bustling with activity. In Form III, the equivalent of your American third grade, my own history class was in session. The sparkling rays of the morning sun filtered through the eaves and reflected upon two pocket-size booklets in front of me. One was about George Washington Carver, the other about the life of Abraham Lincoln. The teacher, dressed as usual in immaculate white, was giving the morning lesson. We all repeated after him from the Declaration of Independence: "When in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one nation to dissolve the political bonds which have connected them with another -" here I'd better stop or my oration will have too many quoted words! But recall the rest for yourselves, viz., that all men are created equal, that governments are instituted to guard people's liberties and that when any government becomes oppressive, it is the people's right to overthrow it and to establish another.

As a boy, little did I realize the full significance of these words. But to older patriots yearning for freedom, these words from the Declaration of Independence were already stirring my people to throw off the yoke of colonialism. Their slogans were almost identical to those of your own Revolution: "No government without the consent of the governed," "No taxation without representation."

Cameroon is not the only country among the newly emergent African nations that American history and culture has influenced during the period of their greatest trial. In his book, A Call To Greatness, Adlai Stevenson expresses his surprise and pleasure at the reservoir of good built up in Africa toward the United States following World Wars I and II. The United States was at the height of her popularity. She stood as a symbol of hope for the millions suffering under colonial rule.

But this situation has tragically deteriorated today. Anti-American feelings, as we all know, have been sweeping the African continent with incredible speed. The American library in Cairo has been burned; in Ghana an angry surging mob sought to haul down the American flag; in Nairobi University, in Kenya, 300 angry University students marched through the streets carrying anti-American slogans. There is no need further to elaborate the obvious. The once optimistic Hon. G. Mennen Williams, who a few years ago hailed the freedom struggle as a healthy development, has recently acknowledged that United States prestige has sunk to an all time low.

We ask, Why? I wouldn't presume to analyze the complexity of these adverse developments. Historical forces are involved beyond the grasp of any of us. But this is no time to sit idly by with an air of massive unconcern while the vile passions of hatred are unleashed. For if allowed to take seed and grow, they will become great obstacles to peace. So I humbly submit three measures that the United States should take without delay before conditions deteriorate further.

First, I suggest that the United States should strongly support the independence movements that are sweeping the entire African continent. They are the result of 300 years of oppression and exploitation. They have been and nursed from the spirit of men like your Lincoln and Jefferson. When these movements are suppressed by the

superior military might of the European colonial powers, the Africans have no alternative but to turn to anyone, including the Eastern powers, for help. It was so during the 7-year Algerian War for Independence. It was so in my own country. Today, the same situation prevails in territories like Angola and Mozambique. Sis you know that the young man leading the freedom movement in Mozambique is an African student who studied here, was influenced by your history and revolution, and in fact, taught for a time at Syracuse University? His attachment to the United States is deep. But even he in his frustration has turned to the Communists because Western nations, including the United States, are cool to his request for aid and moral support against the Portuguese.

Second, I suggest that we revise our present concept of communism as it applies to Africa. The United States has allowed itself to be victimized by dictators who commit the most fascist crimes in the name of anti-Communism. The just aspirations of people for freedom are ruthlessly suppressed. For example, in Angola and Mozambique, and particularly in South Africa with its heinous "apartheid" policy, policies of massive extermination and ruthless suppression of freedom are being carried out. And all in the name of anti-Communism! The result is that Western powers, unwittingly perhaps, are handing over the keys of freedom to the Communists, making them appear to be the champions of liberation, which we all know they are not.

But I submit that this need not be the case. In 1861, Abraham Lincoln said that the Declaration of Independence "gave hope to the world for all future time ... it gave promise that in due time, the weight should be lifted off the shoulders of all men." This American spirit and support is precisely what we most need in Africa today. In a speech entitled "Developing Leadership in New Countries," Dr. Charles Malik of Lebanon, at one time President of the United Nations General Assembly, declared that the West must "rediscover and reaffirm what is genuinely human and universal in its own soul." He then proceeds to affirm that this means not only economic sharing, but intellectual and spiritual sharing. Man can live without some goods and gadgets but he cannot live without something human and universal which binds him to his fellow man.

Third and last, I strongly urge that the United States move as fast as possible to eliminate every vestige of racial prejudice within her own boundaries. African leaders are reluctant to trust American leadership when they read that not all your citizens are treated with the dignity due each human being. Every violent racial incident gains fresh converts for the radicals in the African camp.

The United States and Africa as partners could lay the solid foundations of inter-racial cooperation upon which the world of tomorrow must build. In an age when man is already striving to reach the moon and when international cooperation has become accepted practice, surely it would be tragical to enter upon another season of distrust and suspicion. We have had enough. Let us learn a simple lesson from the little sea creature, the oyster. When an irritant such as a piece of sand enters its shell, it secretes a shiny liquid around it and converts this intrusion into a valuable jewel, a pearl. We too, through cooperation, determination, and faith similarly can secrete a jeweled shell around our past differences and convert them into valuable experience for future generations of mankind. And peace, in these days with the ever-present threat of atomic annihilation, is truly a pearl of great price.