

SENEGAL

SENGHOR REVIEWS FOREIGN, HOME POLICIES

Dakar Senegal Domestic Service in French at 2000 GMT 3 April 1964--N

(President Senghor's speech in Dakar on the eve of independence day, recorded)

(Summary) "Senegalese sons and daughters: We shall celebrate the fourth anniversary of our national independence tomorrow, 4 April 1964. However, on the eve of this great day, I invite you to spend a few moments with me to meditate on the current world situation."

And what is this present situation? "The developed and rich countries are getting richer, while the underdeveloped and poor countries are getting poorer. This, indeed, is the 20th century drama." What is serious is that the very principle of foreign aid is now being contested. The two world powers seem to show a lack of interest in Africa's achievements, especially in Black Africa, while they increasingly prefer increasing their foreign aid to Latin America and Asia.

"What is more serious is that Britain and France, which carved out the biggest share of influence for themselves in Africa, now seem to hesitate to continue in a new form the aid they granted at our independence."

We have tried to make African realities understood to our brothers of (Asia?) and the third world group, then to our friends of Europe, first of all to France--the former African colonial master--which, thanks to the courage of General de Gaulle, still remains the country whose assistance is the most outstanding to the third world group.

We must learn first of all to help ourselves. There are only two means whereby we can solve the problem of underdevelopment, and these are: democratic rationalization of our planning and adherence to our policy of austerity. "I have had the opportunity to explain to you the working system of our four-year development plan. Today, I would like to discuss my government's austerity policy. First of all balance will be maintained in the 1964-65 budget, as in that of 1963-64, without inflation." There is no need for me to say that taxes will not be increased. The new investment code will be liberal.

"As far as the policy of austerity is concerned, it will be pursued firmly and justly. A new series of laws just voted by Parliament will be promulgated before the end of the month to deal severely with public embezzlement.

In this connection, since the sovereign people have given me their complete confidence, the national recovery will (be achieved?)." I wish to repeat it that I shall stop at nothing until justice is done to everyone.

"Be reassured that I have not forgotten that our national day is at the same time as that of the army and the youth. The Senegalese Army has been an example of unity, austerity, discipline, and work." Our future, which is embodied in our youth, cannot be neglected either. It is my aim to continue each year to establish a national school for middle-class training. I inaugurated two such schools last year. I hope to inaugurate a third one this year and the fourth next year. I am not ignorant of the problems arising from unemployment, and, in order to solve these problems, farm schools will be increased and more vocational centers will be opened.