

SENEGAL

SENGHOR ASKS FOR FAITH IN BLACK RACE

Dakar, Senegal Home Service in French, Jan. 22, 1961, 2000 GMT--E

(President Senghor's Speech at /Katrine?/)

(Summary) The union of hearts and minds for national construction is true independence. The remedies and solutions we need must not be imported from Russia or America or even France. Their solutions are not our solutions. The Americans are Americans and whites first, and then for free enterprise; the Russians are Russians and whites first, and then communists. Senegalese independence will not be forged without pride in our national values and in our Negro race: that is, in the permanent values of our civilization. It is well to borrow techniques from Europe and America, but techniques are just tools, and they must be adapted to our national realities.

Soon Senegal's public administration will have been reorganized, but salaries will not be lowered. They will even be adjusted to the benefit of some groups. But while the pay of the average public employee here is similar to that of employees of like rating in continental France, the income of the French peasant is some 20 times that of the Senegalese peasant. That is why the Senegalese Government practices a policy of austerity, which has enabled us to devote 4 billions this year out of a budget of 32 billions to promoting agriculture and animal husbandry and the like, including the development of cooperatives, That is the Senegal of tomorrow; abundance through an increase in everyone's standard of living.

The proletariat is not what some labor unions guided from abroad say. Here in Senegal the peasants and fishermen are the proletariat. That is independence. It is not important to be free to vituperate Peter or Paul: The essential thing is doing what we have done. The government has doubled the price of millet paid to the farmer and maintained peanut prices which were falling elsewhere. Farming equipment has been multiplied. Improved methods are being introduced. Modern farming must be introduced.

I see I have been **talking** too long. I just wanted to say that "we will not achieve independence for Senegal with slogans, by repeating excerpts from Marx or Lenin or George Washington, or, what is more deplorable, by repeating pages from this or that newspaper, allegedly revolutionary. I say that the true revolution is the revolution carried out here in Senegal by the government of Mamadou Dia, surrounded by the ministers you know." I have never felt so fraternal toward Europeans, and the French in particular, and toward the Arabs as since I discovered the values of the black race. As you know, our relations with France are better since our independence. "But I say this country's independence will not be carried out **unless** we have faith in the values of the black race. I say we will not achieve this country's independence if we believe the solutions to our problems have to be imported from Russia, America, or even continental France." It is this faith in our own virtues that I would like to transmit to you. We will not achieve our real independence without sacrifice, effort, and tolerance."