

Jones, Padmore Schuyler-- Lackeys of U. S. Imperialism

Jones and Padmore Seek To Share in Plundering African Masses

By HARRY HAYWOOD
Part III.

What do Mr. Jones and the group he represents expect to get out of their "noble and humane" efforts? The plan, in fact, includes a proposal for an alliance between the Liberian government and Negro middle-class groups in the U. S. for the establishment of a business partnership between them, for the joint promotion of business enterprises and interests in Liberia and in the United States. In other words, the Liberian governing classes agree to let its American Negro class-brothers in on part of the spoils accruing from the plunder of the Liberian masses. This is the secret of Mr. Jones' interest in Liberia, of his "concern" for the Liberian people.

The prospectus calls for the organization of a "Liberian-American Trading Company." Mr. Jones assures us that the "Liberian government will cooperate with such a company in establishing a banking and insurance business and agencies in both countries which would promote trade between the two countries." This is the juicy morsel which President Barclay extends as bait to the American Negro middle-class for its support in his reactionary dealings.

Negro Middle-Class in Despair

This fully coincides with the cherished ideals of the Negro middle-class leaders, for industrial expansion. The American Negro middle classes, driven to despair, their economic basis in the Jim-Crow districts shattered by the ravages of the crisis and the ruthless encroachments of the American white ruling class, are seeking an escape from their plight.

But the only way out for the masses of Negro petty-bourgeois in this country—the shopkeepers, the professionals, the intellectuals—ruined by the crisis and sharpening imperialist oppression, is the path of revolutionary struggle in alliance with the black and white workers, and under their leadership. The only way out is in uncompromising fight against the imperialist ruling class, for the land and right of self-determination in the Black Belt, and for complete social and economic equality throughout the country.

This is the path advocated by the Communist Party and the revolutionary organizations. And increasingly large sections of the Negro petty-bourgeoisie are coming to see that is the only way out for them and are joining in the revolutionary struggle.

But still other sections of the petty-bourgeoisie, loath to accept this inevitable road, still tied to the strings of capital, reconciled to Jim-Crowism and even seeking to benefit from it—these still hope against hope for an easier way out, a way more compatible with their petty-bourgeois "ideals." These, falling under the leadership of petty-bourgeois Utopians of the type of Mr. Jones and other proponents of "Back-to-Africa," turn in desperation to Africa as a way to the fulfillment of their hopeless but long-cherished desires for industrial expansion, their dream of becoming a full-fledged industrial bourgeois, of coming "into their own."

This is the path of Mr. Jones, imperialist world who threaten the peaceful labor of the U.S.S.R. look upon the march of the Soviet youth! If they still can perceive that which their eyes see they will understand then that this youth will not bend its back, will not go under anybody's yoke, that it will crush any force attempting its Socialist fatherland which it is trying to transform into the richest, the most beautiful in the whole world."

Mr. Padmore and their friends. Mr. Jones says:

"We are beating our hearts and souls trying to break through the thick walls of prejudice which bar us from the higher brackets of big industry here in America, when there is a virgin field which we could develop in Africa." [My emphasis—H. H.]

This Utopian dream, it is believed by Mr. Jones and his friends, can be fulfilled under the protecting wings of the white ruling-class masters—the American imperialists. Here again, the Negro middle-class reveals its parasitic nature, its dependence, its utter subservience to American imperialism. This scheme of Mr. Jones for industrial advancement in the dark continent is inevitably bound up with the expansion of American imperialism. Even in this sphere, the Negro bourgeoisie cannot rid itself of its sycophancy, its lackey role. Thus Mr. Jones says:

"...if own 'brain trust' in Washington is alert, it will make a strenuous effort to see that our government takes enough interest in the keeping of an open trade door in Africa." [My emphasis—H. H.]

Thus Mr. Jones calls for an "open door" for American imperialism in Africa, an open door for robbery and exploitation of the Liberian and African people. Is it not clear that the Jones-Padmore Plan is an active instrument of Wall Street for the further enslavement of the Liberian and African masses? It is equivalent to a plea to the American imperialist masters to take a more active part in the rope of Africa. In this reactionary scheme, Mr. Jones, Padmore et al. conceive their role as that of overseer, sub-exploiter, to the white master class in this "future expansion in Africa." Thus in glowing terms Mr. Jones says:

"Nothing would stimulate hope and effort on the part of our young men and women more than a place coming out of Washington in which they can get jobs selling cotton goods and steel implements to the Africans."

Thus a few upper-class Negroes are to get jobs as salesmen—at what cost? At the cost of increased imperialist expansion in Liberia, accompanied by increased oppression and exploitation of the native masses.

In addition to betraying the Negroes in the U. S., Mr. Jones would betray the African people by essaying the role of lackey in American imperialist expansion. This is the sinister meaning behind the Jones-Padmore plan of "Save Liberia."

A More "Subtle" Garveyism

Is not this whole reactionary scheme a refined and subtle edition of Garveyism? Like the Garvey movement, stripped of its false phrases of "freedom" and self-determination," the Jones-Padmore plan, stripped of its verbiage of "freedom of Liberia," is at bottom nothing more than the reactionary and hopeless strivings of the Negro petty-bourgeois leaders for industrial expansion.

Not a struggle against the white rulers at home, for equal rights, for the land of the Black Belt, for the right of self-determination, not a struggle for freedom of the African masses, by supporting the revolutionary movement of the African toilers for complete independence, for overthrow of the imperialist yoke. But rather a scheme to divert the masses of Negro people, both in Africa and in America, from the struggle against the oppressor, an attempt to tie them to the narrow, mercenary and selfish class aims of the Negro middle-class leaders and hence to their imperialist oppressors. This is the essence of Garveyism. This is the essence of the Jones-Padmore Plan of "Saving Liberia."

One of the outspoken enemies of the Communist Party—the Party which Mr. Jones claims to support—George Schuyler—has recently stated, in a column devoted chiefly

Schuyler Whitewashes Wall Street's Role in Slave Trade

to a lying attack upon the Scottsboro defense and upon Angelo Herndon, that the Communist Party has at last, after many vacillations, come around to his position on the question of Liberia. Mr. Schuyler tries to present the line-up as follows: on the one hand, his own stand on Liberia, with which the Communist Party at last "agrees." On the other side is Padmore. Padmore's position, it happens, is also that of Jones.

But the traitor Schuyler knows that his position is as far from the Communist position as the poles. The fact is that his position is identical with the stand taken by Padmore and Jones.

Schuyler—Advance Agent for Wall Street

At the time that the Barclay government was flirting with British and French imperialism, in a maneuver to force Wall Street and Firestone to modify their demands, Wall Street hired the prostitute pen of Schuyler to discredit the Barclay government and to place in power opposition elements more amenable to American interests. Schuyler, in a series of articles carried in the New York Post, and later reprinted in book form under the title "Slaves Today," raised the question of the prevailing slave trade in Liberia, completely whitewashing American imperialism, ignoring the horrible slavery of the serfs on Firestone's plantations, presenting the role of American imperialism as that of "civilizing influence."

Schuyler placed sole responsibility for the slave-trade and the bitter oppression of the Liberian masses upon the native Barclay government. He glosses over the fact that the Barclay government is the willing tool of Wall Street and Firestone. Thus the lackey Schuyler placed in the hands of American imperialism a sharp weapon against the Liberian masses, supplying it with a needed excuse for its predatory intervention, acting as advance agent for his imperialist masters.

And today, at a time when the Barclay government, spurned by the League of Nations, is forced once more to turn to Wall Street, Mr. Jones comes forward to offer his services as go-between, calling upon the U. S. to assume the role of "Big Brother."

Thus Schuyler, Jones, Padmore—one and all conceal the true role of the American slave-masters.

The Communist Program

Against these reactionary schemes what is the position of the Communist Party? The Party calls for uncompromising struggle against the white imperialists, and against their native hangers-on. The Party calls for abrogation of all oppressive treaties between Wall Street and Liberia, annulment of the loans, and complete and unconditional independence of the Liberian Republic.

Thus the "independent" Mr. Jones finds himself aligned with the worst enemies of the Negro people, with the Wall Street imperialist government, Harvey Firestone, the contemptible charlatan Schuyler—all against the revolutionary movement of the Negro toilers in Africa and in the United States. The "independent" Mr. Jones, who "will not be a slave to any Party," who refuses to accept the guidance of the Communist Party, now finds himself accepting the dictates of the Wall Street masters!

THE END.

(Note: Mr. Jones' other remarks, particularly his slanderous statement that the slogan of self-determination for the Black Belt means segregation, and also his attack on the Soviet Union, will be answered in a future article.)