

NYM/002/0010/2

*The First  
African-African  
American Summit*  
*"Leadership for a New Tomorrow"*

8.1.92

Reverend Leon H. Sullivan  
Summit Chairman and Convener

His Excellency Col. Moumouni A. Djermakoye  
Chairman of Planning Committee

C.T. Wright, Ph. D.  
Coordinator

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January 8, 1992

H.E. Mr. Tebogo Mafole  
African National Congress  
UN Mission  
801 2nd Avenue, #605  
New York, NY 10017

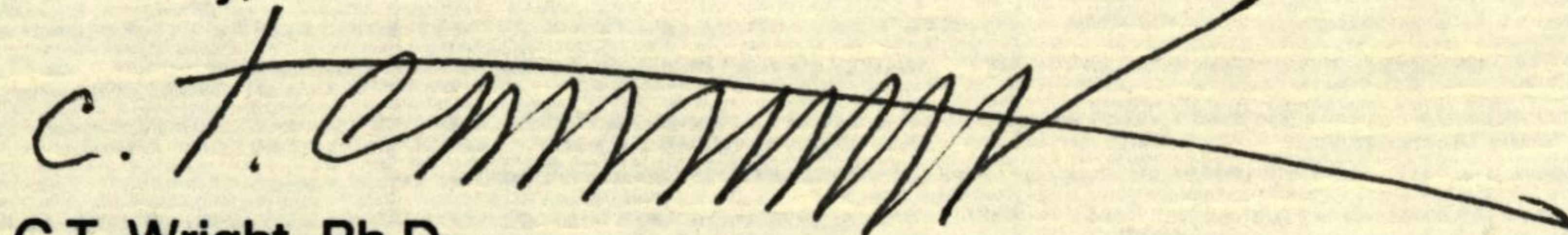
Excellency:

Just thought that you would want to know that the Honorable George Walker Bush, President of the United States of America, recently bestowed the highest civilian honor, the Medal of Freedom Award upon the Honorable Reverend Dr. Leon Howard Sullivan for the outstanding contributions that he has made to mankind, especially in Africa.

You may recall it was Reverend Sullivan who convened the First African-African American Summit in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire last Spring; initiated the First United Nations Day for Africa which was hosted by the Secretary General, His Excellency Javier Perez de Cuellar on October 28, 1991; founded the Opportunities Industrialization Centers International; and leads the International Foundation for Education and Self-Help, all designed to benefit the peoples of Africa.

Honorable Excellency Sir, we would welcome any acknowledgments from you regarding this high honor which was bestowed upon this eminent world leader and friend of Africa.

Sincerely,



C.T. Wright, Ph.D.  
Chief of Staff

CTW:prj





## NEWSMAKERS

*Rev. Leon Sullivan is congratulated by the President and first lady during White House ceremony.*

### Bush Awards Sullivan The Medal Of Freedom At White House Ceremony

Rev. Leon Howard Sullivan, who has spent his life trying to develop businesses and job opportunities for Blacks in America and Africa, was one of ten Americans honored by President Bush at a White House ceremony.

The 68-year-old retired Philadelphia minister was a recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom along with former first lady Betty Ford, former House Speaker Tip O'Neill and baseball legend Ted Williams.

Only recently returned from Africa after co-sponsoring the first African-American summit in Abidjan along with Ivory Coast President Felix H. Boigny, Rev. Sullivan long has been associated with causes on the continent. During the '70s, he mapped out a suc-

cessful Sullivan program to encourage American firms doing business in South Africa to hire Blacks and train them for upgraded positions.

At home, the cleric founded the Opportunities Industrialization Centers (OIC) and trained more than a million men and 800,000 women in upgraded jobs, earning, according to him, about \$15 billion a year in income. He also is credited with building and managing the largest shopping center owned and operated by Blacks. Retiring from the pastorate of Zion Baptist Church, which he led from 500 to 6,000 members, making it one of the largest Black churches in America, he moved to Phoenix, Ariz., where he founded a foundation for education and self-help. He has received over 30 honorary degrees from universities, including Princeton, Yale and the University of Penn.



## Sullivan demands African debt relief at United Nations

**N**EW YORK — In a passionate plea before an audience of over 1,500 diplomats, governmental officials, corporate executives, organizational leaders, ministers, educators, students and people from all walks of life assembled at the United Nations, Rev. Leon H. Sullivan enthusiastically declared that "Africa may have been alone before, but Africa will never be alone again."

Appealing for unity among Africans and African-Americans, the Philadelphia minister spoke in a dramatic tone, unaccustomed at the United Nations, when he stated "the world should know that from this day forward, African-Americans and friends of Africa will support Africa as never before . . . they will never do to us again what they have done before."

This statement was followed by a 10 minute standing ovation from the overflowing crowd at the United Nations. This is perhaps the first time that this type of reaction had been observed during an address at the United Nations Headquarters.

Sullivan was speaking at the First United Nations Day for Africa hosted by Javier Perez de Cuellar, secretary general of the United Nations, and co-chaired by Sullivan, Antoine Blanca, director general of the United Nations, and Issa Diallo, executive secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa.

Sullivan, who convened the first African-African-American Summit, noted that the most ominous problem facing sub-Saharan Africa is the debt burden that weighs so heavily on the shoulders of these struggling nations. In a prepared statement, he indicated that the debt had increased from \$8 billion 20 years ago to around \$150 billion today. He also cited the fact that the total debt of Africa equals 102.3 percent of its gross national product and more than 300 percent of its total exports. Based on these statistics and others, Sullivan appealed to the Group of Seven nations to develop an immediate strategy to forgive the government-to-government debt.

During the session, held in the

Trusteeship Council at the United Nations, the Sullivan Plan for debt relief for sub-Saharan African countries was unveiled. He called upon the industrialized nations of the world to immediately cancel 80 percent of all government-to-government debt, with the remaining 20 percent continuing on the books for 20 years with the interest in local currency being used to support human resource projects in the participating countries to help the children, the poor and the needy. At the end of the session, the Sullivan Plan was unanimously endorsed by those assembled. Sullivan noted that before Africa can successfully educate its people, create industries and businesses, treat and eradicate endemic diseases, and increase its food productivity, the debt burden must be removed. He pledged to lead a charge to ensure that this issue will be high on the agenda of the world leaders.

At the same setting, Perez de Cuellar declared that the debt crisis confronting Africa is of tragic proportions. He endorsed the concept that industrialized



Rev. Leon Sullivan at the United Nations in support for sub-Saharan Africa

countries should cancel sub-Saharan African debt as has been done for other countries. In fact, following a private session with Sullivan, he agreed to send a letter to the leaders of the Group of Seven nations informing them of the success of the First United Nations Day for Africa and requesting them to discuss the debt issue with Sullivan.

In the midst of enthusiastic shouts and even tears, the participants heard Sullivan decry the educational plight of the Africans. To help with this problem, Sullivan announced his Teachers for Africa program, which is designed to recruit and place 1,000 teachers from the United States

in Africa over a four-year period to help improve the quality of education on that continent. He also announced the Best and Brightest Program, which will provide for young African bankers to come to the United States and work in the banks, stock market, businesses and federal financial agencies. As the audience stood and cheered, Sullivan challenged the world, governments and businesses, "to lift the burden of African debt, assist with education, technical help and new investments, and Africa will match anyone anywhere and before the end of next century, will be competing industrially and educationally with

the industrialized powers of the world."

The first United Nations Day for Africa also resulted in an announcement of a new partnership involving the first African-African-American Summit which was convened by Sullivan in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire, last spring and the United Nations through its Economic Commission for Africa, Organization of African Unity and African Development Bank. This unprecedented partnership will insure the success of the movement started by Sullivan to create a closer relationship between Africans, African-Americans and other friends of Africa.