



MISSION TO AFRIKA

April 4, - June 2, 1961

SUMMARY: Fact Finding (excerpt from the minority report by Rastafari bredren)

The Back-to-Afrika Mission, which recently concluded a two month fact-finding tour of five Afrikan States, found that the Mission's purpose of repatriation to Afrika, people of Afrikan descent, from Jamaica and elsewhere, was agreed upon by the government of all the Afrikan countries visited i.e. Ethiopia (one week), Nigeria (two weeks), Ghana (one week), Liberia (one week), Sierra Leone (one week).

The Afrikan Governments were willing to co-operate in resettling people of Afrikan descent within their ancestral borders. The courtesy and attention afforded the Mission by all Afrikan states were excellent.

Foodstuff prices were low in the markets and streets; prices at hotels were high. Food was plenty and in variety. Cattle, goats and sheep were plentiful throughout Afrika especially in Ethiopia. Land was controlled by the Chiefs in all the States except Ethiopia, where it is controlled by H.I.M. Every citizen is entitled to land in Ethiopia by Constitution (about 10 acres) and in some other States.

Roads are good in every State but traveling towards the interior, smooth surfaces lessen.

In Ethiopia we find the people extremely courteous and loving and look upon all black people as their brothers. H.I.M. is held in the highest esteem by all Ethiopians citizens. In one instance we gave some photographs to an Ethiopian man and woman. She refused to show him although he wanted to see them. He spoke to in their language and instantly she showed him the photograph. He turned to and said in English that he had asked her to show him in the name of H.I.M. This incident shows the spiritual conception of the people of Ethiopia towards their Emperor.

Our meeting with H.I.M. Emperor Haile Selassie I is likened spiritually to the visit of the three wise men who journeyed from the West to the East to visit the Baby Jesus, bringing with them gold, frankincense and myrrh to offer H.I.M. When Herod heard of the new born King of Kings he gave orders to kill all the babies of the 3 years old and under.

When we presented our gifts to the Emperor before we could tell him who it was from, he said "Is it from the Rastafari Brethren"? We told him "Yes". That Shows H.I.M. knows of the Rastafari Brethren. H.I.M. also gave each member of the Mission a gold medal for our work, fulfilling biblically, equality cometh for all. Only the Rases presented gifts to H.I.M. and the rest of the Mission left us in the palace, fulfilling the parable of the ten virgins—five had oil in them and five had none.

At the Church Residence of the Arch-Bishop Abuna Basilius, 10 of us were presented with Ethiopian National Robes, although the tailor had measured 11 of us previously, 1 white man—Mr. Iless, 1 brown man—Mr. Lake and 9 black men; fulfilling biblically the Ethiopian cannot change the colour of his neither can the leopard change his spots.

All the Afrikan Governments were willing to negotiate in resettling people in Afrika. In every state that we visited, the Rastafarian Brethren expressed to each Government, our conception of His Imperial Majesty, as the Messiah. In Ethiopia and in some of the other states, this conception was not disputed; only in Liberia was there any opposition.

The Rases also gave each Afrikan Government written documents with formulas on how we saw repatriation in the U.N.O.

The Ethiopian Government paid all the Mission's expense in Ethiopia.

In Sierra Leone, the Newspaper carried an article extracted from a London paper under the caption, "Incredible deportations planned for Jamaica's fanatic" with photographs of the 3 Rastafarian under it. This was expressed by two Jamaican Government Officials, the paper said.

One of the Rases, Bro. Mortimer Planno presented H.H. the Abuna Basilius with a painting depicting H.I.M. in Psalm 2.

The climate in Ethiopia is the best throughout the world, comparing it to all other climates experienced during our tour.

*Filmore Alvaranga
Douglas Mack
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