Inpopular Essays

BASSEY EKPO BASSEY

I REMEMBER being at a meeting with an American Senator by the name of Dick Clark. There were a number of other Nigerians at that meeting, and some of them talked with en-thusiasm of what Jimmy Carter who had been elected US president might do for Southern Africa and the world.

They reasoned with child-like innocence that since Carter was a democrat; since he was reputed to be a dutiful parishoner; with excellent recommendations from his days as a provincial politician, his approach to the affairs of a troubled world as president of the world's only democracy, was going to be sanct monious. Nothing but sanctimonious.

I was not so sure. And my cynicism stemmed partly from a suspicion that Carter did not understand American politics as it affects the

In recent times, Carter has set about confirming that suspicion. Like his predecessor Woodrow Wilson, who lived at the turn of the century, Carter has made into a pet indulgence, the practice of declaring America a declaring America a moral giant that is prepared to use its power to create a world after its image.

Apart from countries like South Korea which are adjudged crucial to U.S. interests he has announced a reduction in aids to his country's appendages states for their violation of human rights at home. And he is always on about how human about rights are being viola-ted in the Soviet Union.

Is the Soviet Union guilty as charged? can America, by some stretch of the imagination be considered a moral society where human society where human rights are given a chance?

As the tirades grow in intensity and threaten to trigger off another round of cold war, it is important that we look beyond the blanket —term of "human rights" and probe for its meaning in more comprehensible

Our attention, swer the question raised shall ignore the botorical and non-Our attempt to an rhetorical and non-descript "Declaration of Human Rights" by the United Nations. Rather, we shall put the question to history and relate its verdict to contemporary prac-

tice.
The present day con-

ception of rights that are fundamental to man have their origins in the 16th and 17th centuries with the industrial revolution which swept through Europe

John Locke who emerged as the greatest defender of the "Glorious Revo!ution" in England lived in this period. And he

and became a political

equal, that they endowed by their Crea tor with certain ina-

It has already been observed that the American Declaration did not mention the right to property. But that "emission" can only be explained in terms of a determination Thomas Jefferson, the main author of the Declaration, not to appear claration, not to appear to be copying Locke. Historical practice has confirmed that Jeffer-son's "pursuit of hap-piness" was a euphemi-sm for "property". The change was in words, not on content.

With the concept of Rights, another "change, has since occurred. An attempt has been made to break the rights into "freedoms". And the list is rather extensive.

tor with certain ina-lienable Rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pur-suit of happinness."

Socialism starts offering realisable free-doms. Freedoms from hunger from ignorance, from disease and so on. It is only after these have been consolidated that society can move in realistic terms toward the acquisition of the other freedoms.

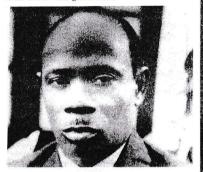
Some of these secon-dary freedoms are already being realised in the Soviet Union. Cheap, decent and available public transort gives meaning to the "Freedom of Movement". These victories for human rights are the correct foundation for democracy.

D Julius Nyerere testifies to this thought when he says :: "We (in Tanzania) are seriously trying to build a demo-cratic and socialist state. We seriously be-lieve that we cannot be democratic without being socialist."

Ray Ikmk Coloniu

In Memoriam

IN affectionate memory of our dearly beloved father and grandfather



CHIEF BASSEY ESSIEN UWATT who answered the great call two years ago on the 31st of March, 1975.

Yours was a worthy life and a shining example which shall ever be remembered

The Almighty God called you for an equally worthy reward which this material world was too poor to give.

May you rest in perfect peace! Amen-

A. R. UWATT (for the entire family).

NO FREEDOM FOR THE MAJORITY

supplied the creed that echoes till this day. Locke's main concern was with "natural rights" which he listed as the rights "to life, liberty and property". To Locke, these rights were fundamental to were fundamental to man and so, could not be abolished.

His emphasis on "property" was consistent with the passion of the nascent commercial /industrialist class. Locke became the prophet of the "clan". Later Adam Smith spelt out Locke in more

economic terms.

And by the time David Ricardo and Jeremy Bentham had finished with them, the so called "natural rights", especially their rights to property, had immuta-

ble truth.

The American Declaration of Independence adequately ack-nowledged this fact. "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created

Nigeria's majority draft constitution has a total of 12 such "freedoms".

And their class na-ture is revealed by the ture is revealed by the explanation offered by the Nigerian draft "Most of the fundamental rights are in a sense, natural rights vested in every individual and to which he is entitled without any obligation or duty on the part of the governthe part of the govern-

ment to provide."

What I am saying is that in Carter's America and every other such country, freedom of expression does not exist for a majority of the population. The the population. The Fundamental Rights that are daily sponted by these countries are class concepts that are designed to grant respectability to exploita-tion both at home and

In the Soviet Union and elsewhere, a new civilisation has since emerged, the civilisation of socialism.

1977 World Health Day

THEME: CHILDHOOD IMMUNIZATION SLOGAN: IMMUNIZE AND PROTECT YOUR CHILD

OUIZ.

THE below quiz is open to all primary and secondary school children throughout the Federation.

PLEASE TICK THE CORRECT STATEMENTS OR ANSWERS.

	The state of the s	
Ι.	The following diseases can be prevented by vaccination:-	
-	Tuberculosis)
*****	Measles Yes () No. ()	
-	Malaria	
*****	Poliomyelitis	0. ()
-	- D'arrhea Yes () No. ()	

Since 1970, no case of smallpox has been recorded in Nigeria.

- Yes () No. () Several vaccinations such as diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus or smallpox and BCG, can be given at the same time.
- Yes () No. () Yes () No. () (b) They are safe and effective 7th of April is World Health Day. It is the day when Nigeria became a
- member of World Health Organization. Yes () No. (Vaccinations are available at Health Centres, Maternal and Child Welfare Clinics, Chest Clinics and from Mobile Health Team. Yes () No. ()
- Once vaccinated against a disease, the person is protected 100% against Yes () No. ()

Ten winners (five from the Primary Schools and five from the Secondary Schools) will be selected and a prize of \$10 (Ten Naira) will be posted to each of the winners

All entries should be sent to :—

The Chief Federal Health Educator Federal Health Education Unit Onikan Health Centre

Lagos. not later than Friday April, 22nd 1977.

DR J. A. LAOYE
Chief Federal Health Educator
for Permanent Secretary
Federal Ministry of Health
Lagos