

U.S.S. GRAHAM COUNTY (LST 1176 )  
Care of Fleet Post Office  
New York, New York

PLAN OF THE DAY THURSDAY 23 MARCH 1961

UNIFORM

Of the Day

OFFICER/CPO

Tropical Khaki

ENLISTED

Tropical Dungarees

SHIP'S ROUTINE

CARRY OUT THE REGULAR UNDERWAY ROUTINE AS PRESCRIBED IN USSS GRAHAM COUNTY ORGANIZATION AND REGULATIONS MANUAL EXCEPT AS FOLLOWS:

0500 Reveille  
0515 Mess Gear  
0530 Breakfast  
0630 Set the Sea and Anchor Detail  
0700 Anchor in Bengo Bay - NE of Luanda, Angola  
1200 (Not Later Than) Underway

NOTES:

1. The following is an excerpt from a message received Tuesday:

Government controlled Ghanaian Times February 25 headlines on front page, "U.S. plans military Action in Congo." Article states "U.S. now appears ready to embark upon strong military intervention in Republic of Congo, leading up to major conflict of the type of last Korean War." Asserting the new administration's directed review of U.S strategic interests in Congo; the article says the analysis resulted in a plan to send 80,000 troops. It outlines plane and ship requirements for transport and supply of troops, and states that SOLANT AMITY vessels "alerted for emergency action." It is viewed by independent observers that U.S. reliance on world organization (U.N) would only be of the extent to which it helps them to install regime favorable to them in the Congo. They now see the Congo as battleground between western and Eastern interest and unless U.N. can be marshaled on their side, they will totally embark upon their planned intervention to assert their influence on Congolese people. The moves seem not only to be directed at preventing Eastern influence, but towards pitting Congo against other African countries such as Ghana, and forestalling African aspiration of unity of the African continent.

Editorial comment in the same issue headed "The War Clouds" says "peace of Africa in peril...and it is the intent of a hideous scheme by the U.S.A...not merely to prevent communist influence in Africa but to engineer conflicts among African countries and ruin our Pan-African aspirations.

"Since the Congo crisis began, we have never ceased to voice our concern over the role of the U.S. We have protested at their determination to use the U.N. to foster their ambitions of establishing, in the heart of Africa, puppet regime that will dance to the tune of his master's voice. But nothing we have seen or heard in the past has been of more concern than the latest Washington plans.

"Washington is angry because the USSR has recognized Gizenga as the legitimate PM of Congo. America is fretting because Ghana, along with other progressive African states, recognized Gizenga's government...their reply in military might against powerless Gizenga is to suppress expressions for a free Congo, independent of block association and removed from cold war...certainly no African country can stand by and watch blood-thirsty Yankee soldiers butcher and massacre Congolese. And certainly, no peace-loving country, least of all the USSR, will sit with her hands tide. Thus the Congo will become a battleground for serious conflict between America, the USSR and other African countries.

Claiming the cold war was coming to Africa after those of Europe and North America, editorialists appealed to African and world opinion makers to "stop the war-mongering Pentagon," concluding "as an initial step, we call

upon the West African countries who have allowed American vessels in their waters, for so-called good-will visits, to order their immediate withdrawal."

The preceding paragraphs are indicative of two points worthy of some deep thought by those of us who are mentioned in it: We know why we are here; we know our government has no such designs as set forth in this paper.

But ask yourself these two questions:

1. What reason is behind this attack on your country?
2. Do the people of a country whose newspapers are directed by the government have a chance to know the truth?

Analyze the statement word for word, statement for statement, sentence for sentence, and see how unfounded facts are propounded as truth, how things are misstated to mislead, how the Marxist imperialists use scare words and phrases to induce fear and anger. Then see if you can read the reasoning behind the lines and if you can understand the motives that prompted this irrational outburst. When you can pick a statement like this one apart and see it in a true perspective, knowing why false statements are false, and what makes a half truth out of a truth you will have become more effective than 95 percent of your countrymen.

  
R. H. SULLIVAN, LT, USN  
EXECUTIVE OFFICER