

Africans Shun Links With Reds, Americans

New York — During the Eisenhower administration, Vice-President Richard M. Nixon submitted to the president a report describing the coming struggle between East and West in Africa.

His was not an isolated view. Many people foresaw the development of Communist and capitalist spheres of influence in Africa, perhaps even the appearance of satellite states, and American policy was largely rooted in a fear of Soviet or Chinese domination.

Ten years later it is clear that no great power has been able to impose its will in Africa as fully as it might wish.

The former colonial powers — Britain, France, Belgium, and Spain — have retained considerable economic influence in the territories that were once their possessions. But the Belgians in the Congo, the British in Tanzania, the French in Mali, have had to accept political and economic developments that they did not like.

France has probably built the strongest position, with troops still stationed in several African countries. There are several reasons: The small size and economic feebleness of most of her former colonies, Gen. Charles de Gaulle's gift for personal relations with African leaders and the appeal of French culture for the African elite.

The British created a large corps of civil servants in their colonies; the French educated fewer people but turned out black Frenchmen who love Bordeaux and Baudeclaire.

But even France has had problems. To varying degrees countries like Mali, Guinea and The Congo Republic (Brazzaville) have veered off in directions that the French find uncomfortable, and there

is relatively little they can do about it.

In fact, one of the most surprising developments in post-independent black Africa has been the new countries' determination to find their own way, accepting help where they can get it but making manifest their unwillingness to accept domination.

One reason for Communism's failure to take hold is the character of traditional African society. The strength of tribal ties and teachings—including land - ownership patterns — presents a barrier to Marxist thought, as does the instinct of hundreds of thousands of Africans for trade. It is not easy, a Nigerian official once commented, to implant communism in a nation of petty merchants.

The biggest Soviet effort in black Africa is in Nigeria, where federal troops are fighting against Biafra with Soviet-built airplanes, truck and weapons, while the government in Lagos continues its

close political and economic ties with Britain.

The United States has its allies in Africa of course, such as Liberia and Ethiopia. There also remains a small number of countries whose leaders are rigorously anti-Communist (President H. Kamuzu Banda of Malawi likes to say that he would take help from the devil if it would help Malawi, but he always is careful to make it clear that "the devil" excludes China and the Soviet Union).

But American policy is no longer as activist as it was in the early years. The period of chaos in the Congo, when the United States involved itself deeply in trying to restore pro-western order, appears to have persuaded policy-makers to adopt a somewhat more passive stance. The cautious and tentative American efforts to alleviate the sufferings of the Nigerian civil war are an example of the new stance.



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t could have been Ellington all the way at the Royal Albert Hall. He had the including an organ, a new sound, ways up-to-date Ellington—plus Tony young singer who with the Duke for years.

The Duke himself everything from A Cootie Williams to the intricate Meditations from for a Sacred Concert appropriately conducted evening. Every so was the showman Ellington, unrivalled—a showmanship but also full of Ellington's trademark.

The important that the evening Ellington all the way was the London Orchestra by itself company," that is Duke on stage playing or conducting, some the band, at other out. The big renaissance orchestra held its own was its conductor Evens, who belonged to a completely different groove to Ellington the same kind of ship full of zing and They establish kind an audience in a moment though their music completely different they both have other musicians and want and try to showed throughout gram as they took other's conducting The symphony ways "swing" as have, but the sound strings was so often