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UPI-161

(MALCOLM X) LITTLE

WASHINGTON--CARL T. ROWAN, HEAD OF THE U.S. INFORMATION AGENCY, SAID TODAY THAT THERE HAVE BEEN "A HOST OF AFRICAN REACTIONS" TO THE SLAYING OF MALCOLM X THAT HAVE BEEN BASED ON "MISINFORMATION AND MISREPRESENTATIONS OF THE ISSUES INVOLVED."

AS ONE EXAMPLE, HE CITED THE COMMENT OF THE DAILY GRAPHIC, ACCRA, CAPITAL OF GHANA. THE PAPER SAID "THE ASSASSINATION OF MALCOLM X WILL GO DOWN IN HISTORY BOOKS AS THE GREATEST BLOW THE AMERICAN INTEGRATIONIST MOVEMENT HAS SUFFERED SINCE THE SHOCKING ASSASSINATIONS OF (MEDGAR) EVERS AND JOHN F. KENNEDY."

ROWAN DECLARED THAT "THIS WILL COME AS RATHER STARTLING NEWS TO THOSE NEGRO LEADERS WHO KNOW THAT MALCOLM X AND HIS FOLLOWERS PREACHED NOT INTEGRATION, BUT BLACK SUPREMACY AND THE SEPARATION OF THE NEGRO."

THE USIA DIRECTOR, A NEGRO HIMSELF, DISCUSSED THE EFFORTS OF HIS AGENCY TO PRESENT THE FACTS SURROUNDING SUNDAY'S KILLING OF THE 39-YEAR-OLD MILITANT BLACK NATIONALIST. HE SPOKE BEFORE THE AMERICAN FOREIGN SERVICE ASSOCIATION HERE.

ROWAN SAID "WHEN FIRST I HEARD OF MALCOLM X'S DEATH, I KNEW THAT THERE WAS REAL DANGER OF IT BEING GROSSLY MISCONSTRUED IN COUNTRIES WHERE THERE WAS A LACK OF INFORMATION ABOUT WHAT ACTUALLY HAD TAKEN PLACE, WHAT MALCOLM X WAS, WHAT HE STOOD FOR, OR WHAT WAS BEING ESPOUSED BY THOSE NEGROES WITH WHOM MALCOLM X WAS IN CONFLICT."

"THUS I ASKED MY COLLEAGUES IN THE AGENCY TO DO AN EXTRA-ZEALOUS JOB OF GETTING OUT THE FACTS, OF INFORMING THE WORLD IN ORDER THAT WE MIGHT MINIMIZE DAMAGING REACTIONS BASED ON EMOTION, PREJUDICE AND MISINFORMATION."

HE SAID THAT ALTHOUGH A ZEALOUS JOB WAS DONE "IT HAS NOT BEEN ENOUGH TO PREVENT A HOST OF AFRICAN REACTIONS BASED ON MISINFORMATION AND MISREPRESENTATIONS OF ISSUES INVOLVED."

"MIND YOU," HE SAID, "HERE WAS A NEGRO WHO PREACHED SEGREGATION AND RACE HATRED, KILLED BY ANOTHER NEGRO, PRESUMABLY FROM ANOTHER ORGANIZATION THAT PREACHES SEGREGATION AND RACE HATRED--AND NEITHER OF THEM REPRESENTATIVE OF MORE THAN A TINY MINORITY OF THE NEGRO POPULATION OF AMERICA."

HE QUOTED THE DAILY TIMES OF LAGOS, NIGERIA, AS SAYING "MALCOLM X HAS FOUGHT AND DIED FOR WHAT HE BELIEVED TO BE RIGHT. HE WILL HAVE A PLACE IN THE PALACE OF THE MARTYRED."

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