

LETTER

I am glad the Johnson-Cole Resolution has been defeated. The ASA has done the right thing by voting this out, and I do hope the Board of Directors does not develop cold feet over this! Firmness has to be shown in matters which affect the very life and purpose of the Association. I am a member of the sister body - the Association for Asian Studies, too. Hundreds of us Asians (I presume many more than the erstwhile Black membership of the ASA) participate in the work of the AAS. We do not protest because none of us are represented on the Board of Directors of the national body or on the various regional bodies or in the committees. Nor do we ask the AAS to contribute money to liberation struggles or to pass resolutions on political conflicts or struggles. We are a peaceful, orderly, mature lot. All of us - brown, black, yellow, white - know our limitations. Consequently, the AAS is prospering. Why can't we in the ASA function in the same manner? I think we can, if we are clear and purposeful enough and do not pander to the wishes of a determined minority whose motives I do not question, but whose methods I do. And my white American brothers - when would they stop nursing a guilt complex?

There are two important senses in human life: Commonsense and a Sense of Values. The Johnson Resolution ignores both. So does the Resolution on the Polaroid Corporation. What a private company does is not the business of an academic body. I know from personal knowledge that big countries, some of them well-known for their condemnation of South Africa in the U.N. (and this includes some Communist countries) carry on trade with that "apartheid" nation! So why pick on poor Polaroid? It has at least given us the wonder camera of the century!

Dr. N.V. Rajkumar

PERSONAL

Judging from the correspondence addressed to this office, we have noted that many of our members are just plain lonely. There is clearly a growing need among Africanists for partners of similar persuasion, and we'd like to help. Beginning with the next issue of the Newsletter, persons seeking persons will be listed anonymously, identified by a key number, with a brief description of interests and desired qualities. Letters in response to any of these numerical listings should be sent c/o the key number to the office of the Newsletter, which will forward them to the person concerned.

Based on the response to our August listing, we hope to prepare an appropriate get together at the Annual Meeting in Denver.

NEWS NOTES

This section of the Newsletter is devoted to news items which do not receive substantial coverage in the American press. It is culled from various periodicals which make their way into our office. We welcome suggestions or contributions from members.

Nigeria's Head of State, Major General Yakubu Gowon and President Ahmadou Ahidjo of Cameroun yesterday declared their opposition to a dialogue with South Africa, according to official sources.

The sources said the two Heads of State made the declaration in a joint