

Sékou Touré's Address at the Obathan House Nov. 13, 1959 (pub'd. Int. Affairs.)

London, April 1960 "Our country is backward & has gone through 3 distinct stages. 1st there was the stage of precolonialism in which our organization was communal. Each group had its customs, its own concepts of eco. org., its own philology. It had its own sketchy form of civilization.....They had few contacts with outside world."

2nd stage--colonial: "In my grandparents' time ethnic language & tribal divisions gave way to divisions on strictly racial basis....Individual Africans (intelligentsia) benefitted from education... * trade unions, student associations, ex-servicemen's org., & pol. parties were formed. They constituted like an affirmation of the African personality."

3rd stage--found "individual expressions of our personality was not enough. Man as a human being must fulfill himself. If we cannot create the necessary conditions for ourselves, we must create them for those who will come after us. THIS IS THE REAL MOVING FORCE OF AFR. NATIONALISM."

"Of course we in Guinea have our problems. Our country includes many tribes, speaking some 20 different languages....It is no good shutting our eyes to our internal divisions. It is better to tackle them head on....The 1st problem we have to tackle is the general one of organizing unified pol. action through trade unions....Formerly we were divided IOTFU, Christian...."

"Here are some examples of what we have done since we became independent. (1) we have got rid of antiquated customs in our villages. The tribal chiefs were exploiting them for their own ends and so they had ceased fulfill an useful function. People were no longer freed. What we have done appeal to the people themselves as against the chief. (2) we INSTITUTED ELECTED COUNCILS and so transformed the village. A 3rd of the seats on village council reserved for women. Many villages have women mayors. and we have set up District Councils elected by universal suffrage...District 200-300 villages. Peasants are allotted 6 seats in every 10....Before independence there were 12 parties in Guinea. Today there is a National Front, a single party, the Guinea Dem. Party...People said the system would not work. But it does & it works democratically. In the village all are equal & the maj. decides....Intellectuals have no privileges. All problems are discussed so that everybody can learn to feel that he belongs to one nation, that Guinea belongs to us all."

"If you think this is a dictatorship, come and see for yourselves. There have been no political trials since independence. There is opposition, but is expressed within the party and not from outside....91% voted for Party and 5% for opp and so it decided to return to the Party. There was a reconciliation & of their leaders were given responsible posts..(Our resources are human)...Gons 8,000 kil. of rds, built 500 schools, hundred dispensaries & nn. of bridges. Our chief capital is human."