

Traveler Sees Free Africa Growing Fast

By Dr. Leo P. McCallum

As a practicing dentist, the president of Specialty Promotions Co., Inc., importers of Akbar the African Coffee, Islamic literature and African wood carvings and a long-time follower of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad, I have often longed to travel and visit the countries of other people.

A few months ago, pressing business problems and potential business opportunities, stemming from my foreign contacts, made up my mind for me—and the decision to travel to Africa and Asia became a reality. My itinerary included Paris, Rome, Lagos, Nigeria; Nairobi, Kenya; Cairo, Egypt; Lahore, Pakistan; New Delhi, India; Hong Kong and Tokyo.

My first port of disembarkation, was Paris, the capital and largest city of France. In population it ranks tenth among the cities of the world. I spent three days there and then flew to Rome, Italy, which is host to portions of the Vatican City, the seat of Christianity.

THERE ARE many varied, interesting and beautiful sights to see in both Paris

and Rome, but, as a black man, my thoughts had been turned to Africa and Asia. Prior to my having accepted the teachings of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad, my tour probably would have been of Europe, the white man's land. But now a burning fire of impatience and curiosity to see the lands and people of my forefathers had been kindled in me.

As I left Rome and stepped into a jet to take me to Africa, I was filled with a great sense of expectation and elation as the plane roared into the sky, destination—Lagos, Nigeria.

When one thinks of Africa, more often than not a picture of half-naked natives, huts, wild animals and jungles come to mind. This is the



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picture that has been taught to the black man here in America. However, you need but take a trip to see how far from the truth such a pic-

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ture is. The old stereotyped picture of Africa was immediately broken the very moment the plane sat down in Nigeria.

My coffee exporter met me at the airport. I found him to be a capable, intelligent, educated man.

DURING my entire stay in Nigeria, he gave freely of his time and I became thoroughly conversant with the mood and general nature of the Nigerian through conversation with this native Nigerian, one of Benin extraction.

One of the most striking things about Nigeria was the general friendliness and hospitality of the people whom

I met there. On my very first day, I met a young Muslim, who, upon learning that I was a Muslim, came to my hotel every day to see if he could be of any help to me in showing me the sights and customs of Lagos.

Nigeria seems to be in a stage of rapid growth, and everywhere in the Yaba-Lagos area could be found the signs of industry and commerce coming into being. I also was impressed with the architectural structure as well as the general outline of instructions in some of the schools.

(To be continued.)