

END OF RACIAL 'INCIDENTS' IS DEMANDED

Tawes Deplores Insults To African Envoys In Restaurants

By JAMES S. KEAT
[Sun Staff Correspondent]

Annapolis, July 11 — Governor Tawes today condemned repeated incidents of discrimination against African diplomats in Maryland restaurants.

His strongly-worded statement was in response to protests from the White House and State Department, which reported five such incidents during the past six months. President Kennedy was described as being very distressed by them.

Mr. Tawes said he was informed upon his return last week from the National Governors Conference in Honolulu that the first ambassador from the Republic of Chad, Adam Malik Sow, had been refused service June 26 at a restaurant on U.S. 40 near Edgewood.

Sees Damage To U.S.

Condemning discrimination in general, the Governor said this particular incident and others like it damaged the United States in its relations with the new nations of Africa.

"Such a mistake must not occur again," Mr. Tawes declared.

"I call on every Marylander to think this matter through and place his nation's interest above his personal preferences.

"I know I speak for all Marylanders when I publicly express the deepest of apologies to his excellency, Adam Malik Sow, the Ambassador to the United States from Chad."

Officials in Washington described the refusal of restaurant service to African diplomats traveling through Maryland as "a recurring problem."

Thomas B. Finan, State attorney general, confirmed that he

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conferred recently with Pedro San Juan, a State Department protocol official, about the problem.

Mr. Finan said State officials would probably contact owners of restaurants, particularly along U.S. 40 north of Baltimore, and appeal for a change in their admission policies.

The stretch of U.S. 40 between Baltimore and the Delaware line was described as the "sensitive area" because many diplomats drive it between Washington and New York.

Had Identified Selves

Mr. San Juan said he could not give the identities of the diplomats involved in the incidents, but he did confirm a report here that in each instance the offended diplomat had identified himself but still was refused service.

Although the African diplomats customarily wear Western dress, he said, none of those involved in the incidents speak English and were forced to converse through interpreters.

Requests that diplomats identify themselves as such is no solution to the problem, Mr. San Juan said. "This is a free country, with freedom of travel, and sometimes internal affairs have a great effect on our foreign relations," he commented.

The only solution, Mr. San Juan said, is for the diplomats to be served wherever they travel, without claiming special privileges because of their status which are denied to some United States citizens.

In addition to the highly-publicized refusal to serve Dr. W. H. Fitzjohn, charge d'affaires of the Sierra Leone embassy last April at a Howard Johnson's restaurant in Hagerstown, State officials reported four incidents not previously disclosed.

Ambassadors Involved

They were the ones involving Mr. Sow, one May 15 at an undisclosed location involving a diplomat from Cameroon, another in Aberdeen June 14 involving a diplomat from Niger, and a fourth involving a diplomat from Togo somewhere along U.S. 40.

Details of these incidents could not be obtained today. Several were believed to have involved the ambassadors of those nations, and in one case an ambassador's chauffeur was reported to have been ejected from a restaurant.

In his statement, the Governor said Mr. Soo, who is also Ambassador to the United Nations, was en route from New York to Washington to present his credentials to President Kennedy.