

Trophies were few on Andrew Young's diplomatic safari



ANDREW YOUNG

By JACK FOISIE
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ZAMBIA, Lusaka — With a touch of corny humility and a large measure of his usual candor, American Ambassador Andrew Young has just completed his African diplomatic safari. It was a two-week *tour de force* in public relations, but whether Young made a lasting impression on the national leaders he talked with remains to be seen.

His informality, plus the portrayal of his own struggle as a civil rights leader in the American South, was effective at press conferences and in speaking to groups, but at the United Nations conference in Mozambique, that approach fell flat.

THE LEADERS of the insurgent movements in Rhodesia and Namibia (South-West Africa) were present, and they expected more, as one of them said, "than how blacks had overcome in Atlanta."

They wanted a stronger U.S. denunciation of the white majority governments of Rhodesia and South Africa. And they wanted from Young a specific pledge of more than "continued American pressure" on Rhodesia's Prime Minister Ian Smith and South Africa's John Vorster to end racial inequality in their countries.

Young seemed to realize the inadequacy of his remarks at the U.N. conference, and he toughened his talk in Johannesburg and here in Lusaka, his last stop in southern Africa.

VISITING A U.N.-FINANCED school here for Namibian students, Young was asked if his emphasis on finding a peaceful way of gaining their freedom was a stall on behalf of South Africa. Young said not at all, he was not advocating that "the armed struggle should stop" while negotiations were being conducted.

To newsmen traveling with the ambassador it sounded as if Young was departing from a previous U.S. position by condoning the black-white fighting, which is on the increase in Rhodesia but still at a low level in Namibia.

His attitude raised again a question often asked about Young during the trip: How much of what he says is style and how much is substance? Does it really reflect American policy?

YOUNG APPEARS to enjoy the enigmatic impression he creates, and he relishes deriding some of the conventional ways and attitudes of fellow diplomats.

Young, 45, seems wholly at ease most of the time and makes even formal speeches without a text. But the man who had made headlines by calling the English "chicken" and the South African government "illegitimate" curbed his tongue in South Africa. It was noticeable to President Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia, who teased Young: "You are being cautious on what you are saying."

Young smiles and replied, "I'm usually not, but I'm learning."