

REBELS WITH A CAUSE

Throughout the history of South Africa world events have allowed us to make our prior concern the solving of our problems, the furthering of our developments and the protecting of our way of life.

Now, however, the ideological pressures of the world force us to end this policy of self-concern as the awareness dawns that our future is dependent upon the future of the Continent as a whole.

Some wish to ignore this and to continue our traditional way of life. Others recognise the truth but falsely believe that strength of arms will keep foreign ideas at bay. I believe that patriotic South Africans must anticipate the movement of the times and match our national way of life and our degree of responsibility in the Continent to the needs of the hour.

Our generation is already playing a decisive role in setting the course for the Continent's future. In the Congo there are 14,000 teenagers between the ages of 14 and 18 giving the wrong lead as they terrorise their country under Pierre Mulele.

In this light I was grateful to attend a conference in the U.S.A. for TOMORROW'S AMERICA. . . .

"Rebellion is bred out of frustration."

Yet we face the greatest challenge and opportunity that history has given any generation. Nuclear war, massive inequality, division and dictatorship threaten the world. But at the same time, through scientific development, we could feed, house, clothe and give a satisfying purpose to every man and woman on the earth.

To meet this challenge in the United States of America, a group of young people who were deeply concerned with the future of their nation, decided to hold a conference entitled Tomorrow's America.

They wanted to learn if they didn't know already the problems which confront their nation — and the world — because of the lack of character, the slipping of moral standards. How scandals like the Bobby Baker incident, the increase in broken homes, juvenile delinquency endanger our society and how these affect their national and international affairs.

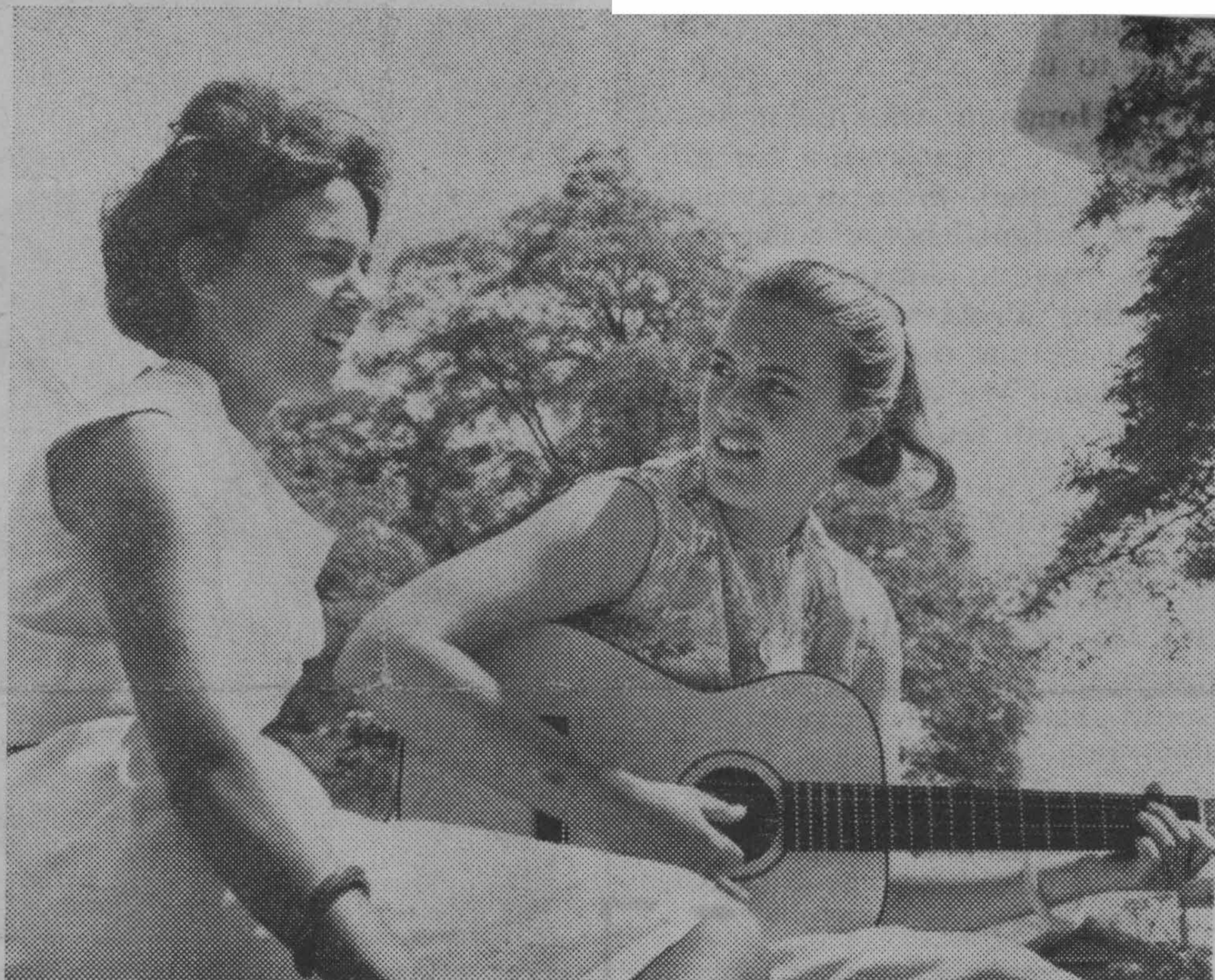
Sacrifices

They decided that to answer this they needed to raise a force of young Americans more disciplined, more revolutionary, more dedicated to building a world that works than any Communist is to Communism or any materialist to his materialistic way of life. They are prepared to make sacrifices in their own lives so that their children do not inherit the same world that has been handed to them.

Against this background and in election year they invited during their summer vacation two thousand young people to the Conference on Mackinac Island, Michigan, for six weeks.

There were college and high-school students of every race,

By
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● Conference delegates included the daughters of many film stars. Here are Cati Quinn (left), daughter of Anthony, and Kathe Green, daughter of the award-winning composer Johnny Green.

and background. Many were campus leaders. Many were distinguished in scholarship and athletics.

They included the sons and daughters of film stars, coal miners and industrialists; over a hundred Red Indian youth from the Southwest; Negro and white students from the South; a Florida delegation with Puerto Ricans, Peruvians and Cuban exiles; a delegation from California representing forty-eight high schools and universities; French and English-speaking Canadians.

Why did they come? Delegates said:

● "We students have sacrificed our summer jobs to come here because we felt this was the most

important thing happening in America."

● "We are here to think things through — what our principles will be and what the ramifications will be for the world."

● "Our modern world is coming closer and closer to a point of no return. A revolution is needed to change men's ideas from bitterness to hope."

Greater Understanding

Who did they invite to help them to study the problems of the world? Every day they had invited speakers to come and address them, to give the Assembly a greater understanding of what was happening in America and the world.

Senators, Mayors, State Department Officials, Authors, Publishers, Newspaper Editors, are a few of those who came from the United States. All left the conference shaken by the conviction of the delegates and what they expected from their leaders.

For example, Colonel Magnus L. Smith, Military Assistant to the Undersecretary of the Army, spoke on "The Role of the Army in the Atomic and Space Age". Afterwards the question many students wanted to know was, when the soldiers are sent to places like the Congo and Vietnam are they told how to deal with the hate and selfishness that causes the conflict in those countries besides knowing how to use a gun?



● Delegates are filmed by television cameras as they question author Peter Howard.