

## STATEMENT BY ASA PRESIDENT

I would like to take this opportunity to report on the implementation of the "Burke" resolution passed at the ASA Business Meeting, the text of which has already been distributed to members. (It appears also on p. 3 of this Newsletter.) The final communication from the African Heritage Studies Association delivered to me at Montreal (appears above on p. 13) laid down the condition that, prior to submission of fifteen names by the AHSA under the terms of the resolution, parity on the Board of the ASA must be achieved. Since this condition could not be met, in view of the first vote taken at the Business Meeting, the list of names has not been submitted. This, taken along with the administrative problem of selecting a group of fifteen from the widely disparate list of more than 170 names submitted for the Association's group on the committee, has meant that the terms of the Burke resolution have not been implemented.

However, it was clear that matters could not rest on dead center at this point. Conversations were held between Professor John H. Clarke, President of AHSA, and myself, which resulted in an agreement to implement the spirit, if not the letter, of the Burke resolution and to initiate further consultations which would lead to restructuring proposals to be submitted to the membership for any necessary action at a later point. These talks, initially between nominees of AHSA and members of the ASA Board, are expected to be under way very early in the new year.

I am most grateful to the many members who have expressed their support in the task of overseeing the affairs of the Association in the coming year. I should perhaps add that the only change in the Association's present structure to which I should be firmly opposed would be a revision of the clause which prevents the re-election of an incumbent president.

L. Gray Cowan  
President, African Studies Association

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