

# PEACE TORCH REACHES LIBERIA

By H. Dave Barrolle

"Unless men are prepared to resolve their differences on social, political and religious lines, and demonstrate a sense of respect and concern for other people's right to continuing existence, lasting peace can never be found."

This was the candid opinion of the Lord Mayor of the city of Monrovia, Hon. L. Kwia Johnson Jr., when he received the flaming torch of peace from an international team of athletes participating in the 27,000-mile Peace Run who arrived in Monrovia from Sierra Leone Wednesday.

Mayor Johnson said "the people of the world must be conscientized through programs such as the relaying of the flaming torch of peace from country to country and continent to continent."

The 9-man international team of athletes who had relayed the flaming torches across Sierra Leone were met on arrival at the Liberia-Sierra Leone border by an array of sports officials, athletes and journalists. The team included, among others, Bob Buncick, Sakshat

Flowers, Lenora Moses, Joelle Fifi, Rosemary Brown and Pierre Menard from Canada, New Jersey, New York, France, Jamaica and Rhodes Island, respectively.

Leading the team of runners was Mr. James A. Goodwill, an administrative officer at the Sierra Leone's Ministry of Education, Cultural Affairs and Sports, who delivered the torch in the men department to Lone Star's Track and Field captain Augustus Moulton. In the women department, Ms. Joelle Fifi from France passed the torch over to Marvina Weulah of the Lone Star Track Team.

Introducing the athletes to Liberian sports officials during a brief ceremony following their arrival at the border, Chairman of the African Peace Run Committee Dr. Hohn D. Coleman said the purpose of the global race was to encourage, promote and inspire a positive approach toward peace and to carry out a publicity campaign for African states that are least popular to the world.

Responding, Mr. Christian King, Director of Sports at the Ministry of Youth and Sports, welcomed the athletes to Liberia and assured

them of the warm friendship of Liberian everywhere in the country.

This was followed by a race from the Ducor Palace Hotel on Snipper Hill, Broad Street to the Monrovia City Hall where the symbolic torch of peace was delivered to Mayor Johnson.

The Sri Chinmoy oneness Peace Run which is named in honor of a powerful Indian religious leader respected by most political leaders around the world, is the longest race ever to be recorded in the history of sports, covering six continents and 55 countries around the globe.

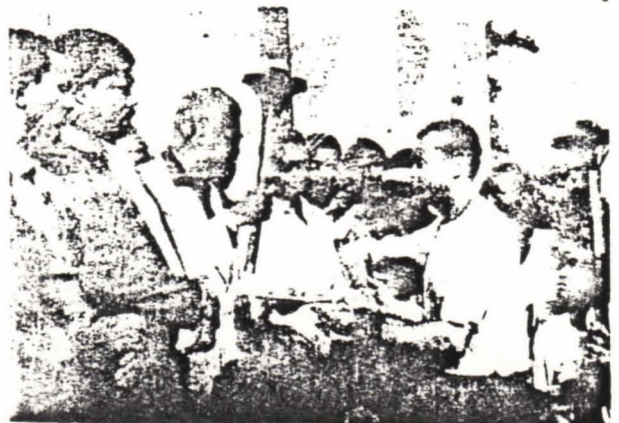
It was officially launched on April 27 this year at the Statue of Liberty in New York with Olympic

gold medalist Carl Lewis carrying the first torch. Then on May 1, the international team started from Senegal, carrying the flaming torch of peace across that country to The Gambia, and Liberia.

The team, now in the Ivory Coast, will be bearing the torch across that country on to Ghana, Togo, Benin and Nigeria to end its unique tour of West Africa.

The program is being supported by such notables as the Nobels Peace Prize Winner Desmond Tutu and Olympic medalist Carl Lewis.

The Monrovia Mayor proposed that May 20th be declared in Liberia as "World Peace Day" with appropriate programs executed



Mayor Johnson receiving the Peace Torch shortly after the arrival of the athletes.