VANCOUVER, BC: We are running a little behind other years with calls for flag designs and promotional material for NAVA 21 to be held 12-16 August, 1987. Remember, we have less than six months before we meet in San Francisco.

The new flag of Lesotho was officially introduced on 20th January, 1987, and is comprised of a field divided diagonally from lower hoist triangle bearing in brown silhouette a traditional Basotho shield with cross Knobkerrie, a barbed assegai, and a thyrsus of ostrich feathers with the fly triangle divided into a blue band separated from a green triangle along the parallel to the diagonal bisector of the flag. C 1987 by The Flag Research Centre; reproduced by permission.

Planning charges along for this summer’s joint Congress of NAVA and FIAV (the International Federation of Vexillological Associations). 55 conference and guests have registered so far – representing 9 countries and 12 US and Canadian states and provinces.

The organizing committee, “Flag Congress/San Francisco”, led by NAVA VP Jim Ferrigan, works closely with Whitney Smith of the Flag Research Center in Massachusetts (the Host for the Congress), and with William Crampton, of the Flag Institute of Chester, England, who is FIAV Secretary-General for Congresses.

The Schedule is now nearly final, fulfilling the requirements of both NAVA and FIAV. It promises a demanding yet rewarding program – filled with presentations, seminars, official meetings, informal moments, tours, ceremonies, meals and displays, all at the very attractive Lone Mountain Conference Center.

Now part of the University of San Francisco, Lone Mountain offers a peaceful, park-like, academic setting for the Congress while still quite near major San Francisco attractions.

NAVA members should be sure to register early to receive all pre-Congress materials in time, and to avoid the late fee incurred after 12 July. Those planning presentations should recognize that joint NAVA and FIAV needs will make the schedule tight. They should submit their preliminary summaries as soon as possible, and no later than 31 May, to Dr. Smith at 3 Edgehill Road, Winchester, MA 01890, USA.

Discount plane fares may still be available – another reason to register now. Book flights arriving in San Francisco no later than 5:00 pm on Wednesday, 12 August, and leaving no earlier than 1:00 pm on Sunday, 16 August. An optional tour may be scheduled for Sunday afternoon, and rooms will be available for those few who wish to stay Sunday night.

The organizing committee would appreciate suggestions and volunteers, for before and during the Congress. Write Flag Congress/San Francisco, 430 9th St., San Francisco, CA 94109, USA.

NORTH AMERICAN VEXILLOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

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Notes from Doreen Braverman
NAVA President

Update on San Francisco
12-16 Aug. ’87

Fishing for Japan’s Technology Data
In a flap over a flag
FROM OUR LISBON CORRESPONDENT

The Azores, for many Europeans, are simply the place fair-weather-breezing anticyclones come from. But this summer a political storm has broken over the group of small islands in the Atlantic (population: 220,000 people and 250,000 cows), which are an autonomous region of Portugal. On September 3rd the Portuguese president, Mr Mario Soares, vetoed the islands' revised autonomy statute, which the Lisbon parliament had approved unanimously in July, because of a dispute over the status of the Azorean flag and anthem. This was the first use of the presidential veto under Portugal's 1976 constitution, and Mr Soares got an unsurprisingly cool reception when, the next day, he arrived in the Azores to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the islands' autonomy.

The fuss is over a clause in the autonomy statute which would have given the Azores' flag and anthem equal status with the Portuguese ones in official ceremonies. The Portuguese army objected to the idea, saying it would be harmful to national unity.

"Colonialism", cried the Azoreans. "Separatism", screamed die-hard nationalists in Lisbon, some of whom still resent the autonomy given to the islands in 1976 and believe the Azores should have remained a backward outpost of Portugal which exported milk powder to Lisbon and manpower to America. Nor have these nationalists forgotten that, when Portugal went revolutionary in 1974-75, a group calling itself the Front for the Liberation of the Azores (FLA) demanded separate rule for the islands.

Was the FLA flapping behind the flag furor?
On his return from his summer holiday, Mr Soares decided to veto the revised autonomy statute on the ground that parliament had passed it in a rush; it needed more reflection, the president said. Parliament will now be asked to decide whether to approve the autonomy statute for a second time, or amend it. Enraged, the leader of the Azorean government, Mr Joao Bosco Mota Amaral, wore a black tie and a dark suit when he received Mr Soares last week, as a symbol of mourning for the archipelago's lost dignity.

Puzzled Azoreans may well wonder why the army has decided to raise objections now, since for the past seven years at ceremonies on the islands the Azorean flag has fluttered alongside the Portuguese one, and the Azorean anthem has been played. The answer seems to be that the army is retaliating for the icy reception given to General Rocha Vierra, who was appointed as Portugal's representative to the islands earlier this summer. The Azoreans had wanted the post to go to a civilian, not a military man, and preferably to an Azorean.

The 4" x 6" Corner

Here are some more flags to be on the lookout for when hunting down 4" x 6" "oldies" in limited quantities:

City of Alameda, Cal.
Ecology flag
NASA
Playboy Inc.
Port of San Francisco
POW/MIA flag
Rainbow/Gay Pride Flag
5 Gold Rings (Xmas Series)

You may also be able to find these flags:

Austria-Hungary
Empire of China
Kingdom of Italy
Kingdom of Portugal
Kingdom of Serbia
Montenegro

Thanks to everyone that wrote in response to the first appearance of this column. All your suggestions will be incorporated in future issues if they don't appear here.

I'm glad so many NAVA members found this idea so helpful, I will try to keep you up to date.

Don Healy
523 Center St.
Trenton NJ 08611

These have been reissued because of their popularity:

Kingdom of Cambodia
Kingdom of Laos
City of Pittsburgh, Pa.

Massachusetts Is Mulling Muffins

By MATTHEW L. WALD
Special to The New York Times
BOSTON, April 2 — The Massachusetts House of Representatives has voted to make corn muffins the official state muffin, but the proposal faces opposition in the Senate from Cape Cod lawmakers who think the cranberry muffin would better represent the state.
What! A small village with its own flying flag – Why not! What a colorful way to enhance a celebration.

Youngstown, N.Y. and environs (pop. about 3000) stands at the mouth of the Niagara River flowing into Lake Ontario. Its dramatic past and challenging present provide a basis for community pride and enthusiasm.

First: Its military history dates from the 17th Century. With its Old Fort Niagara, the strategic river mouth position in past centuries has constituted a “gateway to continent”.

Second: As the center of prime fruit growing country, the nation’s finest apple orchards embrace the Village of Youngstown.

Third: The mouth of the mighty Niagara boasts of some 400 sailboats moored both on the Canadian and U.S. sides.

Combining these three attributes; the military, the apples, and the sailboats; Howard Tower, an apple grower and local historian, designed the prize winning heraldic crest in connection with Youngstown’s 1976 celebration of the nation’s Bicentennial. This officially adopted crest, most elaborate and strikingly beautiful, is of 9 colors. Then, with a crest applique superimposed upon a light blue field with a gold fringe, Youngstown was provided with an official flag but one limited to indoor use.

Some months ago, Youngstown’s mayor, Carl Acome, expressed to Bob Coykendall, member of NAVA, the wish that they should have a flag that could be flown out of doors, in parades, on the village flag pole etc. This wish was passed on to the local historical society, a group laden with talent. A committee of three was appointed to create a flying flag: Howard Tower; Gretchen Greene, an artist; and Bob Coykendall.

The guidelines for a flying flag, as presented before NAVA were observed in so far as was practicable.

The design eventually was accepted and authorized by the village trustees in January, 1987.

The timing of such an undertaking with an event is of considerable importance to accomplish such a task. This year, 1987, Youngstown goes all out to celebrate the Bicentennial of the United States Constitution. (And is among the very few villages nationwide to so participate.) So one ambition for the celebration is to have the village and its waterfront bedecked by the new Flying Flag of Youngstown!!!
WEDDING BELLS: Congratulations and very best wishes are in order for Corine Deretz and David Oats who were married last fall.

WELCOME: A most hearty welcome to our two newest active overseas members. Philippe Wojkowski, Tourcoing, La France, and Arnim Baker, Arima, Trinidad, West Indies. We also extend a most cordial welcome to the following new members: Dale P. Johnson- Dallas, TX.; Roger N. King- Rockport, ME.; Thomas J. Richlec, Kansas City, KS.; Albert W. Laisy- Shaker, Shaker Heights, OH.; Brady L. Robinson- Hurt, VA.; G. Arnold- Gainsville, FL.; Michael L. Mustain- Kansas City, Kansas.; John and Pamela McGlynn- Daytona Beach, FL.; James Minahan- Lake Oswego, OR.; Geraldine A. Robinson- Oregon City, OR.; The Grand Army of the Republic Memorial Hall Museum, Madison, WI.; Edward J. Clark, Pocatello ID.; Cornelius Knox, Darien, CT.; Ronald B. Dowell, Towson, MD.; Mark S. Ritzenhein, Okemos, MI.; Cecil B. Smith, Jr., Columbia, MD.; Walton F. Stockwell, Sterling Junction, MA.; Tom Williams, Memphis, TN.; Gary Randall, Alameda, CA.; Ernest W. Howard, District Height, MD.; George L. Hostetter, San Diego, CA.; Gloria A. Krug, Arlington, VA.; Patrick Conway, San Francisco, CA.; The National Defense Headquarters, Ottawa, Canada.; Jan Mericle-St. Whittier, CA.; Steve Tyson, San Francisco, CA.;

P.S. Members who have not paid their 1987 dues, please forward to Gustavo Tracchia, Treasurer, 14 E. Sunrise Highway, Freeport, NY. 11520.-Active Member( $18 Residents of North America)
-Associate Member ( $5 available only to students, sponser of members, and residents of North America)
-Associate Member. NON-RESIDENTS of North America ($9 which includes overseas Postage)
-Organization Member ($35)