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**IN MEMORIAM**  
**JAMES SMOOT COLEMAN**  
**ASA PRESIDENT, 1963–64**

Jim Coleman died on Saturday, April 20th, at age 66. His passing is unutterably sad. For all of us who were his students, his colleagues, and his friends, there is the sense that he is absolutely irreplaceable. His unique combination of personal qualities and capacities enabled him to do the work of several and gave him a profoundly meaningful place in our lives. Jim touched us in special ways and even now we wonder what will become of the monumental assignments that he assumed as his final challenges: the creation of a multi-disciplinary program in international development studies at UCLA and the completion of a volume on the role of education in third world development.

So many of Jim's qualities stand out as larger than life that merely to inventory them is daunting. One calls to mind his pioneering theoretical contributions to political science and development studies; his legendary capacity for work; his uncanny administrative skills that combined meticulous attention to detail with a grand and sweeping vision; and a personal style that has been variously described as saintly, fatherly, incredibly self-effacing and touched with the quality of grace. All of us who came into contact with Jim brought away an enlarged sense of ourselves and our abilities.

Jim's intellectual contributions are enduring. The list of scholars who acknowledge an enduring debt just to his classic article "Nationalism in Tropical Africa" (*American Political Science Review*, 1954), is practically endless. A few years after its appearance, Thomas Hodgkin publicly stated that he was personally so moved by this article that he wrote his most famous book, *Nationalism in Colonial Africa*, as a response. The University of California Press has paid its own special tribute to Jim's first book, *Nigeria: Background to Nationalism*, by keeping that volume in print 27 years. It remains the essential starting point for understanding that country's contemporary political history.

Jim and Gabriel Almond co-edited and co-authored *The Politics of the Developing Areas*, the book that introduced functional analysis to the political study of the non-western world. Generations of political scientists have quoted it repeatedly ever since — in term papers, in field examinations, and in professional publications. As a member of the Social Science Research Council Committee on Comparative Politics from 1955 to 1965, Jim helped to forge the shape of a discipline for nearly two decades. What syllabus of basic contributions to the comparative study of the developing world would be complete without *Political Parties and National Integration in Tropical Africa*, co-edited and co-authored with Carl Rosberg in 1964, or *Education and Political Development* (1968). Being included in a volume that Jim Coleman edited was a little like an assurance of academic immortality, not because of the quality of one's own essay, but because it was a certainty that scholars would turn to that volume for generations hence to see what Jim had to say.

For a person whose published works are the required reading of the profession, Jim was less wedded to his ideas than most. He was constantly prepared to try something new, and sometimes immortalized a journal just by doing so. Few of us would seek out the library call number of the somewhat obscure Makerere University Journal, *Mawazo*, had Jim not published his timeless article, "The Resurrection of Political Economy" in it in 1967. As a reappraisal of what political scientists might be doing to study the development process more effectively, that article still can't be beat. Other ideas that Jim legitimized, just by

trying them out, include policy-oriented and policy-relevant research, the notion of the university as a developmental institution, and the importance of political capacity as an aspect of modernization.

Jim's writing style reflected his personal style: each piece was a rich bibliographical essay encyclopedically surveying the literature on the topic at hand. And Jim's treatment of others' contributions was consistently and inevitably appreciative. Intrinsic to Jim's writing style was the attribution of his ideas to others. Somehow, those ideas as he presented them sounded more profound, more persuasive and infinitely better-reasoned than in the original. Jim treated people the same way, always taking enormous pains to convey that what he did or said was the outgrowth of suggestions made by others.

Jim was a tireless booster of other people. How many of us, over the years, received early morning phone calls from Jim in which he would say, in one way or another, "you're not asking me to do enough for you." His supportiveness knew no ideological boundaries. If, as we all knew, Jim was an exemplar of liberal social science in development studies, he was also, with logical consistency and deep conviction, a constant patron of radical and revolutionary scholars. Indeed, Jim Coleman actively encouraged the work of those who were among his most severe intellectual critics as well as those with whom he shared a commonality of views.

He treated projects and programs that he was involved with identically, often calling in the early morning to ask what sort of resources he could provide. Jim had clear and strong ideas about academic administration and how to achieve institutional excellence. His ideas included "build on excellence" and "recognize differential merit and support it." Yet, such was Jim's personal style that he never revealed what he considered less than excellent or which persons he may have deemed less than supportable. It seemed that all areas of international studies had his attention and support and that all the scholars he dealt with had his esteem and commendation.

Institutions grew and developed under his touch. He was founder-director of UCLA's African Studies Center and its programmatic profile continues to reflect the momentum he imparted twenty-five years ago. Early in his academic career, Jim decided that building institutions in Africa was more important than doing so in this country, and in 1965 he accepted an invitation to join the Rockefeller Foundation, to head its University Development Program in eastern Africa. It is indicative of his remarkable organizational skills that he endowed such institutions as the Makerere Institute of Social Research and the University of Nairobi's Institute of Development Studies with a truly miraculous survivalism. There are few books written during the 60's and early 70's on development in East Africa that do not acknowledge his personal contribution.

When he returned to UCLA in the summer of 1978, it was to chair a small campus unit called the Chancellor's Committee on International and Comparative Studies (CCICS). CCICS' role was to advise the administration on international programs. By the Spring of 1984, CCICS had become ISOP, International Studies and Overseas Programs. Its role was no longer advisory, but allocative. For Jim had been entrusted with nearly a dozen faculty positions to distribute, basically according to his own best judgement as to how these might advance the field of comparative international studies.

Jim Coleman made it fun to be an administrative colleague because he was always there to laugh at the difficulties and straighten out the mistakes. He also made the job a good deal easier because he did a disproportionate share of the work. His constant attention to and unvarying respect for the work of others also made it appealing to be an academic colleague. His appreciation impelled all of us to exercise a little more of ourselves, partly because of the positive anticipation of being able to show him a new piece of work. In all

of this, he endowed university administration with a broader sense of purpose. And he believed in the strongest possible way that every person called upon could make a contribution to that purpose.

This bare outline of Jim's personal qualities and scholarly and administrative achievements barely begins to take the measure of the man. Nor do these accomplishments alone account for his extraordinary reputation in the milieu of African studies. For twenty years, he was the unofficial American ambassador for higher education in Africa. He knew Africa as well as any American of his time. The home and hearth that he and his wife, Ursula, made in Los Angeles were also home and hearth to African scholars.

The pain of Jim's sudden death is so much the greater because it left no opportunity to tell him how much he and his work meant. His generous praise of the work of others was matched by an almost resolute avoidance of reference to his own contributions. Jim was an implacably private person and the mere mention of these seemed to cause him embarrassment. News of Jim's death was couched in terms of a "massive" heart attack. Upon reflection, the phrase is meet: Jim was larger than life. No ordinary heart attack could possibly have felled him or prevented him from doing what he most wanted to do: involve himself with us in the search for excellence.

Claude Ake  
Joel Barkan  
Gerald Bender  
Larry Diamond  
Ilunga Kabongo  
Michael Lofchie  
Olusegun Oyekunle  
Carl Rosberg  
Richard Sklar  
Tidiane Sy  
Dunstan Wai  
C.S. Whitaker

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### SEVEN MINUTES OF WORLD PEACE

**NEW YORK, 27 MARCH, 1985** — A simultaneous global peace observance will be held at 1:00 p.m., 24 October, 1985, the day marking both the beginning of the International Year of Peace and the 40th anniversary of the United Nations. The event, called "Seven Minutes of World Peace" will join together individuals, groups and organizations around the world at the same moment for seven minutes of silence. Heads of state of all the world's governments are being urged to cease all hostile action during the seven minute period.

"Seven Minutes of World Peace" is sponsored by Sri Chinmoy: The Peace Meditation at the United Nations, in co-operation with United Nations Associations and religious, educational and peace-related organizations around the world. The Peace Meditation at the United Nations is an association of United Nations delegates, staff, non-governmental organizations and accredited press correspondents who believe that if inner peace can be established among all peoples — and especially those working at the United Nations — then