

Accent

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Multidistrict school plan for Atlanta struck down

Washington, D.C. —AP— By a 5-3 vote, the Supreme Court Monday struck down legal efforts to consolidate Atlanta's predominantly black school district with nine suburban districts.

It upheld two lower court rulings that there is no basis for multidistrict desegregation in the Atlanta area.

The consolidation sought by black parents in their 1972 lawsuit would have created a "superdistrict" stretching over an area as large as Delaware.

When the desegregation suit was filed, there was some disagreement over its proper forum. As a result, two parallel and identical cases emerged — one before a single federal trial judge and one before a three-judge panel.

Both courts reached identical rulings last Sept. 24.

The three-judge ruling was appealed to the Supreme Court. At the same time, they appealed the single judge's ruling to the 5th US Circuit Court of Appeals, which has held off any action on the case.

In an unusual twist, lawyer Margie Pitts Hames urged the Supreme Court to turn down the appeal she filed, thus freeing the 5th Circuit Court to act.

Nearly 90% of Atlanta's public school students are black. The suburban school populations are predominantly white.

The Carter administration told the justices it agrees with Hames that the three-judge court lacked the jurisdiction to rule in the case, and that the controversy should next be studied by the 5th Circuit.

In something of a surprise, the court neither agreed to hear the case nor sent it back to the 5th Circuit. Instead, it upheld the lower courts without waiting to hear oral arguments.

The government had sided with the black parents as to the possible appropriateness of a multidistrict remedy.

The court's one-line order — "The judgment is affirmed" — drew dissenting votes from Justices William J. Brennan Jr., Harry A. Blackmun and John Paul Stevens.

Justice Thurgood Marshall took no part in the case.

Report: Uganda oil find hidden

AP and UPI

London, England — A former United Nations official said Monday that he had evidence of a major oil find in troubled Uganda and claimed that "Mideastern interests" tried to get him to suppress it.

George Ivan Smith, who was special representative in Africa of two UN secretaries general, Dag Hammarskjöld and U Thant, said in an interview that he had discovered documents showing the existence of highly promising oil deposits near Lake Albert.

Former Uganda dictator Idi Amin started talks with British and American firms to develop those resources in 1972, but Libyan strongman Moammar Khadafy intervened and blocked any prospective deals, Ivan Smith said.

Ivan Smith, an Australian who has had access to Amin's private papers in Kampala, plans to publish a book on how Khadafy persuaded Amin to abandon ties with Britain and Israel and embrace Libya as an ally.

In the book, "The Ghosts of Kampala," he describes Amin's 1971 trip to a region about 150 miles northwest of Kampala where pools of oil had surfaced.

Poured oil on his head

"Amin found a tin, filled it with oil, then poured it over his head and uniform in excitement, believing he had found a way of extricating Uganda from its economic problems," Ivan Smith quotes an informant who said he was there.

Ivan Smith said Kirkwall Associates, a British company headed by Rear Adm. David Kirk, had told Amin earlier that year that there was evidence of oil deposits in the area.

The retired UN envoy said he had found among Amin's papers a draft agreement under Amin's name, dated Dec. 6, 1971, giving the sole concession to develop the oil deposits to Kirkwall Associates.

He said in February 1972 Amin arranged to meet with an oil drilling firm, Bown and Collins, in West Germany. Before the meeting could take place, Ivan Smith continued, Khadafy called Amin in West Germany and urged him not to conclude any deal before seeing him.

Amin stopped in Tripoli on his way home and on Feb. 13, 1972, issued a communique abandoning cooperation with the British and Israelis and agreeing to cooperate with Libya.

\$3 billion to invest

Ivan Smith said he had been approached several times recently by persons purporting to represent "certain Mideastern interests with \$3 billion to invest" in Uganda's oil, a railroad from Zaire to

Rights not violated

UPI and AP

The court ruled 6-3 Monday that a criminal suspect's Miranda rights are not violated when casual remarks by police draw incriminating statements from him.

The majority opinion said the requirements of the court's 1966 Miranda decision are triggered when "a person in custody is subjected to either express questioning or its functional equivalent."

"But," it said, "since police surely cannot be held accountable for the unforeseeable results of their words or actions, the definition of interrogation can extend only to the word or actions on the part of police officers that they should have known were reasonably likely to elicit an incriminating response."

The ruling reinstated a murder conviction against Thomas Innis which Rhode Island Supreme Court overturned in the kidnaping-murder of a cab driver. The Rhode Island court had ruled Innis was subtly coerced into making incriminating statements.

The court also refused to reinstate the murder conviction of a Eugene (Ore.) man who confessed