



The picture shows R.G. Casey (at right) and Lord Swinton, resident minister in West Africa (British Gold Coast), at Achimota College - when R.G.C. passed through by air from USA to Cairo in January 1943.

In a book by Andrew Stewart, entitled, *Empire Lost Britain, the Dominions and the Second World War*, this excerpt from page 108, illustrates how the American Airmen, billeted at Achimota, helped to influence the native Africans of the Gold Coast, towards an abhorrence for Colonial rule;

"Lord Swinton, the Resident Minister in West Africa, reported back to London that he was having considerable problems in the Gold Coast with the Americans. The Headmaster of the National School in Accra wrote to the Governor-General to complain about 'the most reprehensible conduct and hooliganism' being displayed by many of the visitors.

This did not at all 'reflect any credit on the Americans as cultured people' and there was a widespread rumour that they 'had come to be lords of the Africans, to exploit them and treat them as "hewers of wood and drawers of water"'. As the writer warned, there was a danger 'that the rude and bratish behaviour of the American may have a tendency to impair the whole structure and fabric of amity and

goodwill which have been built up with so much tact and patience by many generations of British men and women on the Gold Coast'.

Of greater concern for the British authorities in London, however, would undoubtedly have been reference to 'some stupid loose talk by irresponsible Americans to African about the desirability of Americans taking over the country'. Such 'anti-colonial whispering' and the message it contained had fortunately been quickly rejected out of hand by the African audience."