



The New African

Goa and Walvis Bay

THE UNCTUOUS EXPRESSIONS of injured indignation with which white South Africans reacted to the Indian conquest of Goa hardly deserve to be taken seriously, except as an indication of National schizophrenia. After all, if they were taken at face value, we would be forced to believe that Mr. Nehru's moral integrity is the primary interest of South African newspapers and politicians, that South Africa has paid strict attention to the resolutions of the United Nations on apartheid and the Indian question, that it had not incorporated South West Africa and that it had never expressed predatory territorial ambitions towards the protectorates.

As a colonial *enclave* in an independent state, Goa's continued presence was a constant source of irritation to the oldest and strongest opponent of colonialism. India has pressed for its incorporation ever since it gained its own independence fourteen years ago. Its failure to achieve any co-operation from the Portuguese led it to use force when it appeared that Portugal would continue to disregard the attitude of the U.N. What may be difficult to understand is why it chose the present time in which to act. No complete explanation is, of course, available, but Mr. Krishna Menon's comment on arrival in New York last month may provide a clue. He indicated that India does not discard the possible use of force in dealing with China if it continues to encroach on the Indian North-East boundary. Quite clearly it could not protect its territorial integrity against China, while continuing to tolerate a long-standing insult to it in Goa.

For South Africa, the whole episode may carry a significant warning if U.N. pressure results in an independent South West Africa in the future, as it may well do, the position of Walvis Bay as a South African enclave—and a vital one at that—may present an identical problem to the South African Government. And if agreement cannot be reached on its peaceful incorporation, the same methods may be used to acquire control of it.

Remote as this possibility may seem for the present, we believe that it has not been overlooked by the Nationalist Government. And this, together with the total rejection of South Africa's policies by the General Assembly, may be the explanation for Dr. Verwoerd's hysterical outburst against the U.N. as an agent of communism, in his New Year message. Perhaps it is meant to prepare the way for a withdrawal from the U.N., just as similar propaganda paved the way for our departure from the Commonwealth.

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