



The New African

The Clash Becomes Inevitable

JOHN REED, Salisbury, writes:

"WHEN Z.A.P.U. was declared an unlawful organisation on the morning of the 20 September, there was little surprise, yet before the day when one weighed up his alternatives it was sometimes hard to believe that Whitehead would ban Z.A.P.U. While Z.A.P.U. existed there was still the opportunity to go back and hold another conference under British chairmanship to find a satisfactory solution. There was still a chance of weakening Z.A.P.U. support by actually putting through legislation he has promised will remove racialism from Rhodesia. Indeed even Whitehead believes that the frustration which has driven Africans to bomb and burn up and down the country would be relieved rather than intensified by the removal of every political outlet, even the poor one of speaking or listening at political meetings.

THE DISASTER IS that Whitehead is not a politician. In a different situation, trying to get the best deal for the people he represented, he is a dedicated man absolutely convinced, as he often says in his speeches, that he is right. Ever since he came to power he has striven for a non-racial state. By this he means a state which is exactly the Southern Rhodesia of today, except that there are Africans inside the European structures instead of just outside. Africans are no longer interested in sharing in today's Rhodesia any more than they are interested in an entree to European hotels. Africans want to control their own destinies. They want Zimbabwe.

SIR EDGAR HAS never been able to see in those who oppose him anything but racist hooliganism bent to destroy everything to the orders of a criminal minority. He cannot come to terms with African nationalism because he cannot believe there was anything there to come to terms with. He could have made a bargain if he could have brought himself to work for a place for Europeans in the new Africa, instead of merely inviting Africans into the old Southern Rhodesia. In his speech to the nation on the Sunday evening after the ban, he bitterly attacked those of both races who believed the racial clash here was inevitable. On Wednesday the 19th, many believed it was not inevitable. Who believes it now?

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