



The New African

After Six Months

IN OUR FIRST SIX MONTHS, *The New African* has exceeded our expectations in the welcome it has received in Africa and abroad. Sales, subscriptions and favourable comment reflect this. In the same period, *The New African* has been accused of being anti-communist and pro-communist, anti-African Nationalist and pro-African Nationalist; it has been criticised for praising the Liberals and for blaming them, for being "all politics" and for having "too much culture", for being over committed and for having "no line".

We accept these accusations as pleasing proof that *The New African* is doing what it set out to do, to provide a meeting ground for the constructive ideas of all who know the New Africa as a fact and not a hope, or a bad dream. In our first announcement we said: "South Africa has not caught up with reality." We hope also that the diversity of radical views that we publish will continue and increase, for that way lies reality. And it is reality we seek, and not "a line."

How much has the pathetic, heroic failure of the democratic movement over the past twenty years not been due to the determined isolation of its constituent parts from one another. That isolation has been maintained by both ideological and racial exclusiveness, the latter on both sides of the colour line.

The New African denies to any of us a monopoly of virtue or political omniscience and we hope in its pages to pool the ideas of diverse groups for our common gain.

Rigours to Come

IN HIS "study of post-war insurrections". *The Rebels*, Brian Crozier wrote of Cuba, "the full rigours of official terrorism were imposed only after the rebellion had been launched, and as a method of suppressing it; before that the regime had been relatively mild." This is another lesson from the Cuban revolution, the single event that has most profoundly affected radical thinking in South Africa in the past five years. Radicals will continue to work for liberty in South Africa after democratic, constitutional means of change have been made impossible by the present Government. The actions of these radicals will bring upon the whole country the full rigours of official terrorism. The radicals themselves will be the first to suffer: they must accept this fact and not draw back when they see the effect of their work for liberty, on themselves and on others less committed than they. Somehow they must find ways of continuing their work in spite of the Government's attempts to stop them. *The New African* will aim to set an example in this respect.

THE RADICAL REVIEW

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