

# Come what may

AT TIMES IT MAY be permissible for a journal to say something of itself. As we end our fifth year of publication, our 47th issue, a word on our past, present and future seems due.

The past was the years of publication in South Africa, when we tried to show Africa and itself to a South Africa cut off from the continent to the north. Equally we tried to help plan change and the system to succeed it. We looked for writers — names like Ekwensi, Soyinka, Ngugi, U Tam' Si were still new in our early issues. We tried to dissociate from a Cold War that was and is irrelevant or harmful to Africa. Potekhin and A. B. Davidson appeared among British and American writers. We wrote as we pleased.

DISASTER WAS GRADUAL but inevitable. From tributes in *Cape Times* leaders and circulation by the all-powerful CNA newsstand chain we slid to police raids, confiscation of whole issues, a range of attacks to close us short of an image-harming ban. There was light relief, a touch of police-state humour such as when a Special Branch wag pinned on our door "Moved to Caledon Square" (Security Police HQ) after he and his men had emptied our office for a prolonged investigation. There was pain too — victimisation of writers and agents, sometimes isolated men in country areas. The grim techniques of censorship by threats and intimidation. Unhappy far-off things but the memory revived here should indicate why the problems of our present and future will not be allowed to stop *The New African* where Baas Vorster's hatchet-men failed.

WHAT ARE THESE PROBLEMS? Of the present, they have been reorientation to an independent African position, when all who could run the magazine had left South Africa, difficulties of publication in a new environment, personal problems in new lives that had to be made in exile, the struggle to reach South Africa, when *The New African* and two successors had been banned from importation into the country. These, even the last, are problems which time solves. Solid African bases in East, West and Central Africa have been built. Gaps in Francophone and North Africa may start to close in 1967. As Africa's need to find new directions becomes more pressing, the magazine grows strong enough to provide another place where they may be looked for. If the future allows.

THE PROBLEM OF OUR FUTURE is Africa's in microism — how to develop without aid that carries strings. We have been blessed since 1962 with financial support, mainly from the Congress for Cultural Freedom, which has on no occasion tried to influence our policy. For reasons that are, we accept, not connected with policy, this aid has dwindled and now ceased. Well-wishers have made survival possible thus far. But viability is not yet within our grasp. Small circulation means no advertising; no advertising means a deficit; a deficit means no money for development, which, to close the vicious circle, means small circulation. Money for development must be found without independence being forfeited. Every reader who believes in the value of an independent forum for ideas on African political and cultural development, for the creative writers and poets of Africa, for the freedom-fighters whose countries are still in slavery, for the spread of African non-racial ideas and values in the third world and beyond, can help to crack this vicious circle by introducing *The New African* to a wider circle — to bookshops and news-stands, libraries, colleges, governments, and to individuals. Supplies of order forms will be sent to all who write for them and commission paid. Help us in every way you can.

WE END 1966 WITH MORE than just this appeal for help. We write also to explain that the problem of 1967 is one of economic survival until the magazine can pay its way. And to pledge the continued independence of *The New African* come what may.

## Inside

Volume 5 closes with the first of an important three-part analysis of Ugandan politics by the pseudonymous ANDRE DE LA RUE. The series remedies the complaint by the late DR. CLEM GOODFELLOW, in a posthumously published review, that "accounts of modern Africa are too often content to describe spectacular politics personalities, with only fleeting references to their economic and social origins". Taxation in East Africa is also dealt with in depth by DR. R. H. GREEN, who is shortly to become Economic Adviser to the Tanzanian Treasury. Following November's Brasilia seminar reports, RAYMOND KUNENE of the African National Congress considers the UN's future role in the South African revolution. So to the world student movements and their meaning for the third world — ROBERT MCDONALD, an Australian teaching in Zambia, reports on ISC 12, held in Nairobi, September 1966. More is written of West African literature than politics — by MOFOLO BULANE, the French West Indian MARYSE CONDE, and in WILLFRIED FEUSER'S translation from Mali and Senegal poets. RONALD DATHORNE, of Unesco, Sierra Leone, outlines evidence of pre-colonial scripts in West Africa; in reviews EFFA OKUPA writes of religions old and new, and HOLLIS LYNCH, biographer of Edward Blyden, on the old empires. A personal view of Nigeria's human relationships, in the national hour of trial, is given by SUZANNE CRONJE. There are book reviews by the Kenyan KHADAMBI ASALACHE and South African MARTIN LEGASSICK.

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(Reading from top left to right)

Wole Soyinka — Benin bronze plaque — Etching by Twins Seven Seven — Dance School — Zakes Mokae in *The Bloodknot*

The quotation is from *Freedom and Unity—Uhuru na Umoja*, by Julius K. Nyerere, Oxford University Press, Nairobi and London 1966 and 1967

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