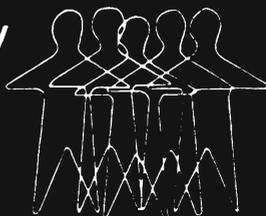


The New African



THE RADICAL REVIEW

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W. P. NYIRENDA

School Integration

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Negritude an evasion

REVIEWS

Julian Beinart — architecture

Richard Rive — Bloke Modisane

In this issue:

174 THE RECONCILIATION NEEDED: D. H. Craighead

176 SCHOOL INTEGRATION: W. P. Nyirenda

177 NIGERIA'S MYTHICAL INDEPENDENCE: Suzanne Cronje

181 "NOT ENOUGH NIGHT": Caroline de Crespigny

183 DEFENCE AND AID, LONDON: E. S. Sachs

186 GEZIRA—PLANNERS, ENTREPRENEURS, FARMERS: Francis Wilson

188 FRENCH CANADIANS AND AFRICANERS: T. R. H. Davenport

173 Leader, 179 Comment, 182 Africana, 184 Review of books on architecture in Africa (Julian Beinart), 190 Words Words Words, 191 Reviews (Richard Rive, Shula Marks, Martin Legassick, R. N. Nordau, David Welsh), 196 To the Editors.

All political comment, unless otherwise stated, is by Neville Rubin, 47 Parliament St., Cape Town.

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The Distraction of "Partition"

HERE THERE HAVE LONG been minds that have sought, in drawing imaginary "partition" frontiers on the maps of South Africa, distraction from the real problem of demolishing racial ones in our national consciousness. Abroad, until recently partition had been ignored in the belief that some better proposition might still turn up. "It has not done so," says the English liberal *Guardian*, "The principles which govern it deserve to be discussed."

Study will soon reveal that our problems can only be worsened by attempts at an impossible equal partition of South Africa into a black and a white state. Unwilling bisection into two perforce dissatisfied halves, each with a large minority of its neighbour's citizens at its mercy, could be fatal for South Africa's peoples. It could also bring the 20th century its first global race-war.

THE ALTERNATIVE CASE, which nimbler minds are making, is for a large multiracial state and a small white one. A century and a quarter after Blood River, is "equality in church and state" to be avoided by a Great Trek back to the old colony, now safe internally from the power of Dr. Philip and Lord Glenelg? Alas for the people who would draw this shorter line on the map, the white South African "Israel" in a greater Western Cape would *still* contain a fifth column of a million unequal nonwhites.

May the partition phase end soon lest it give Dr. Verwoerd a breathing space while it is argued out at home and abroad. Historical processes, or the Almighty, have integrated South Africa economically. Social and political integration—or what the emigrant Boers of the Great Trek called "equality in church and state"—must come next. The task of accelerating their coming must not suffer by the distraction of "partition". Every month's delay makes the peaceful accomplishment of that task more difficult.

Save "CONTACT"

SOUTH AFRICA'S FREE PRESS consists of three classes of newspapers: those that support apartheid, those that do not support apartheid measures but accept the status quo, and those that work for radical change in South Africa. The third group is fighting for its life. Lacking many forms of protection against the destroying hand of the Verwoerd regime, our freedom newspapers have dwindled to a tiny few. Now *Contact* (see page 183) is threatened with closure, unless immediate help comes from those individuals who value its continuance as a campaigner for "united nonracial action" in South Africa, as appears on its masthead. On page 183, Mr. "Solly" Sachs describes how the Defence and Aid fund has been built up on small donations from individuals in support of those who "stand up for human dignity in South Africa". We plead for support on the same grounds for *Contact*.