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## A Spur to Unity

NOVEMBER 11, 1965 was a day of humiliation for Africa. The seized independence of a white supremacist regime in unliberated Zimbabwe meant that, after so many years of struggle, apartheid had been extended to another part of Africa, far from being destroyed in its own breeding ground.

The Organisation of African Unity was meeting for its Accra Summit Conference as the crisis neared, and was able to demonstrate its solidarity with its brothers in Southern Rhodesia and "its determination that their fate shall not be bargained away". But that determination has not yet found the means of action, and as Osagyefo the President of Ghana, said in his farewell address to the Conference: "If our Assembly had not been in session at this time what could we have done about the serious situation in Southern Rhodesia? Could we have in our various capitals agreed on a common course of action? Could we have expressed our resolution to the world as we did...?"

At least the world was left in no doubt as to Africa's view, but the Conference is now over and the heads of state are back in their capitals. In Southern Rhodesia the white supremacists have finally rejected Britain's pleas and African solidarity on this issue is fragmented and weakened. Who knows what painful, bloody actions may take place before this new advance of apartheid is once more beaten back. Yet this chapter of the history of Africa's struggle for freedom and unity ends on one note of hope. The tragedy of November 11, 1965 makes it even more certain that decisive steps will be taken towards real African unity in 1966.

AT THE ACCRA SUMMIT, it was a considerable achievement for the proponents of an all-Africa Union Government that they won three-quarters of the votes cast on a motion calling for a Commission to examine the proposal that an Executive Council of the OAU be set up. They did not win the votes of two-thirds of all members, present and absent, so the resolution could not be adopted. But there is real hope that at Addis Ababa in 1966 such an Executive will be set up. 1965 has seen the matter thrashed out in the honest, frank discussion which characterised the Accra Summit, by happy contrast with its two speech-laden predecessors. The Southern Rhodesian crisis may have spurred some of the less enthusiastic members towards a realisation of the need for an Executive arm to the OAU. It will certainly have strengthened the resolve of all its proponents. The illegal white supremacist government may well still be in power in 1966, and a united African response to its challenge to human liberty and dignity may be achieved. The real achievement here will not be simply the wiping out of the humiliation of November 11, 1965, but the taking of the first resolute, combined step towards freeing the eight captive states of southern Africa from racist domination, direct or indirect.