

Common sense and South African freedom

"The Azanian people have decided to take up arms against Verwoerd, lackey of Wall Street and London, and his henchmen, tools of the imperialists and colonialists headed by the US. . . . We have learned through bitter lessons that the policy of 'peaceful' coexistence, of co-operation with the enemy, is a bankrupt, dangerous policy. . . . We have learned that only by meeting imperialism with force can we achieve victory."

Thus the Azanian (South African) delegate to the Afro-Asian Journalists Association plenary meeting in Peking, in April.

"The United States makes more than \$150 million a year in South Africa; Britain makes more than \$400 million a year there. Britain has a problem with the pound sterling and the United States has a war in Vietnam. [Verwoerd] says he is counting on 'the common sense and sane judgement of the United States and Britain to guarantee the safety of the whites in this country'. He is probably not miscalculating."

Thus the *New York Times* in June.

THE CONTINUING PANTOMIME in Rhodesia, where Britain seems anxious not to make sanctions work, had already reduced her reputation in Africa to its lowest point. Since then we have seen the refusal of the British Government to delay independence to Basutoland's collaborationist minority Government, the decision to hand over Bechuanaland virtually penniless to independence at Verwoerd's mercy, and the Hague fiasco, whereby Europe's judges at the World Court have allowed South-West Africa to remain legally under South Africa's heel.

THERE HAS BEEN NO ATTEMPT even to express regret at these events. *The Times* celebrated the avoidance of a clash between South Africa and the United Nations as a result of the Hague fiasco. United States diplomats in Pretoria and Cape Town, we learn on good authority, openly expressed relief at South Africa's reprieve from a legal reckoning over South-West Africa at the Hague.

There is nothing to be gained from bemoaning and condemnation. Southern Africans who expected more than words from the Government of the United States and Britain should only bewail their own lack of understanding. What must be done is to remedy the situation. Africa and her friends — Britons and Americans among them — must bring home to the United States and British governments the true meaning of the end of peaceful coexistence of enslaved southern Africa with Wall Street and London. The aftermath of physical insurgency in South Africa, without United States and British support or even opposed by these countries, may see an alienation of these countries from free southern Africa of an implacability unimaginable at this time. Alternatively, should such a struggle involve the United States and Britain in a conflict escalating into nuclear war, there would be no aftermath. ●

Inside

In 1963 *The New African* changed overnight from "the radical monthly" to "the radical review", thus dodging the South African Government's demand for a forfeitable £5,000 registration fee, aimed at crippling it financially. Safely out of Vorster's reach we now have to dodge another crippling financial blow in the form of soaring printing and mailing charges. So in 1966 — as in 1963, and in line with some of our contemporaries — we come out ten times, without a February or August issue.

September sees LEWIS NKOSI (now on his way to the UN seminar on apartheid in Brazil) examine South African student politics, while members of the University of Nigeria, Nsukka contribute verse and criticism from their forthcoming collection. These are in honour of the 12th International Students' Conference in Nairobi in August, to which page 143 is also addressed. Elsewhere regular contributors MATTHEW NKOANA and REGINALD HERBCLD GREEN write on South Africa's heroes and the Ghana and Nigeria plans, respectively. RONALD DATHORNE assesses the seminal nature of MOFOLO's Southern Sotho novels and WILLFRIED FEUSER's series of translations from French novelists continues with AKE LOBA. One of the reviewers is SUZANNE CRONJE, who contributes a controversial article in October — "How many Africans?" Another, A. B. NGCOBO queries the subtitle to MORRIS's *Washing of the Spears* — "the rise and fall of the Zulu nation" — fall no, transformation yes. ●

DR. R. H. GREEN's article "East African Economic Union — Breakup or Breakthrough" (May-June) represented the conclusions he drew from his academic research on this topic. While he has acted as a consultant to the Tanzanian Government on Economic Union questions, the article was neither based on confidential material nor necessarily representative of the Tanzanian Government's views.

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COVER PHOTO

Zimbabwean students at the University College, Salisbury, protest as deadlock with Smith's government draws near

EDITOR: Randolph Vigne

LITERARY EDITOR: Lewis Nkosi

DESIGNER: James Currey

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