

Southern African students
standing up to racist
tyranny must be supported

Salute
to defiance

a message
to the 12th
international
Students
Conference
Nairobi

THE 200 DELEGATES to the 12th International Students' Conference, meeting in Nairobi this month, will be in spirit with those fifty to sixty students of the University College of Rhodesia who, with some staff members, have focussed world attention on the opposition to the Smith regime of the African people in Southern Rhodesia. This has happened at a time when outsiders in their country are anxious to deny this unacceptability, and are helped to do so by the Smith regime's efficient censorship and its repression of protest. Many are paying a heavy price in the loss of their liberty and the ruin of their academic careers. The future of the university itself is threatened.

In the long story of the students' clash with authority one incident may be recalled. On 16 July a party of guilty men attending the graduation ceremony at Salisbury were mobbed by the students who, according to a London daily, "swarmed towards the dais screaming 'Rebels!'" (Why do Africans "scream" while others "shout" in Press reports — a subconscious statement of belief in African immaturity?) The guilty men included two of Smith's cabinet members, with Lord ("rider and horse") Malvern, and the guest of honour Dr J. P. Duminy, who mounted this platform with more ease than he had Bobby Kennedy's at his own university shortly before. (The Students' Academic Freedom Committee, Kennedy's hosts, had kept Rector Duminy off the platform until he had reluctantly and with much qualification associated himself with the their protest at the ban on the NUSAS president, Ian Robertson.) A more suitable host at Salisbury was Dr Walter Adams, the principal of the College, who is about to become director of the London School of Economics. In the police-state atmosphere around them their defiance is to be saluted.

IF THOSE FIFTY-ODD African students have for the outside world symbolised black rejection of the Rhodesian Front's seizure of power, Dr Adams has been to the overseas press the shining star of white liberal steadfastness. One London newspaper mused that his appointment to the LSE was highly suitable in view of its radical, multiracial tradition and his own record in Rhodesia. A different view is expressed in a Memorandum issued by some of his Salisbury staff members to supplement the Birley Report

on the March 1966 police-student clash at the College, a memorandum endorsed by 54 of the 111 members of the staff. It accuses Dr Adams of untruthfulness, identification with the forces of oppression, stopping legitimate protests, contempt for students' views and sensibilities, complete lack of contact with a gravely serious situation, failure to take a stand against police intervention and unwillingness to protest at encroachment on the freedom of the College. It tells a pathetic story of the betrayal not only of the principles of academic freedom and intellectual liberty, but of the students who had the courage to oppose Smith's ugly regime.

"We feel it is necessary to oppose with vigour every attempt by the regime to restrict the freedom of the College . . ." says the Memorandum. "By neglecting to defend our principles now we run the risk of becoming an object of contempt in the Rhodesia of the future and in the eyes of the world." Those who have so neglected are already an object of contempt.

FURTHER SOUTH HIS FELLOW HEADS of colleges have already sold the pass and are powerless to answer the South African government's latest attack with honour. It is a bill giving the Government "sweeping powers to ensure that there is no social mixing on campuses and prohibiting multi-racial membership of NUSAS and student representative councils. The Minister of Education is also authorised in effect to order the expulsion of any non-White student at a White university (a few remain doing courses not offered at the 'tribal colleges') 'if he considers such withdrawal to be in the public interest.'" (*The Star*, Johannesburg, 6 August, 1966.) The bill is characteristically named Extension of University Education Amendment Bill.

FAILED AS THEY HAVE BEEN by the Adamases and Duminys and by all but a few of their dons (most of the strong dissenters at Salisbury being now deported), the students of Southern Africa must rely on their own resources. It is more than ever necessary, therefore, that the International Students' Conference should find ways of acting on its resolution at its 11th conference calling on all National Unions to support the South African students' "strug-

gle for basic human rights and the destruction of apartheid in order to reorganise the society on democratic lines with a government based on the will of the people."

The Statement of the ISC secretariat in November 1965 must also be turned into action. It called on "students of all nations to support the students of Rhodesia in their struggle against the oppression which is openly invading the very halls of the university and in their struggle for liberty and democratic rule in their country." Even if the university in Salisbury is doomed, the students of Southern Rhodesia — some of them in Smith's detention camps — must be supported to the limit of the ability of the world's students.

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