

Committee on Southern Africa, National Student Christian Federation,  
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RHODESIA NEWS SUMMARY

Week of June 9 - 15, 1966

RAILROAD CRISIS

The Times, London

---June 9. The board of the Rhodesia Railways has been holding meetings which undoubtedly will move to break up the railroad into two separate units.

---June 11. Break up of the £100 million Rhodesian Railways appears imminent due to Rhodesia's demand for prepayment on all Zambian copper shipments from the copperbelt through Rhodesia. Though jointly owned by Zambia and Rhodesia, company headquarters, most employees and assets are located in Rhodesia. All Zambian payments to Rhodesian Railways are into blocked accounts in Lusaka. Zambia introduced new security measures to inhibit removal of R.R. rolling stock to Rhodesia.

Zambia is seeking new transport facilities for her 65,000 tons of copper exports each month.

1. Through the Bas Congo au Katanga (C.C.K.) owned by Belgian;

2. Through Angola to Port Lobito over British controlled Benguela Railroad, which is capable of transporting about 12,000 tons per month maximum.

Zambian copper companies have suspended shipments via Rhodesia pending clarification of Rhodesia's policy. Some estimate the copper being held to be worth £18 million.

INTERNAL RHODESIA

A. Guerilla Activity

Johannesburg Star - June 11

Police were justified in killing seven African guerillas in a gun battle near Sinoia in April, the senior magistrate at Sinoia ruled at an inquiry.

The three Europeans found dead in a cottage near Karoi were murdered with a blunt instrument, said Salisbury police. Police said also that there was no evidence that the murders were connected with guerilla activities.

B. Economic

The Times, London - June 11

A new crisis may be created by Rhodesia's demand for about £1,250,000 owed by Zambia for electrical power produced at Kariba Dam. Though jointly owned by the two governments, the hydroelectric generators were purposely located on the Rhodesian bank of the Zambezi Dam. The company headquarters are in Salisbury.

Zambia has blocked all payments to the hydroelectric and railway corporations in Lusaka bank accounts where they are available for expenditure only in Zambia.

Johannesburg Star - June 11

Rhodesia smashed its trading records last year (1965). Exports were worth £165 million, and there was a favorable balance on visible

trade of £45 million. After Zambia and Britain, South Africa and West Germany were Rhodesia's best customers. On the import side, the country bought most from Britain and South Africa.

Since the period covered by the trade statistics takes in only the first six weeks of the post-UDI situation-during which time export trade was continuing much as normal - the statistics do not reveal much one way or the other about the impact of sanctions.

Rhodesian Ministry of Labour officials this week denied reports from Lusaka that a decision had been taken to repatriate Zambian Africans working in Rhodesia.

### C. Political

The Times, London - June 10.

Rhodesian officials will celebrate the Queen's birthday June 11 with parties and a 21-gun salute, but without parades. It is understood that Rhodesian judges have rejected the invitation of Mr. DuPont, Rhodesian "Officer Adminstrering the Government."

Johannesburg Star - June 11

The Rhodesian Printing and Publising Company, represented by the Editor of the "Chronicle", was acquitted in the Bulawayo Magistrate Court of a charge of publising a false statement, rumour or report likely to create public alarm. The magistrate found that the paper has reported the dispatch originating from Reuters about two police deserters from Rhodesia in Nairobi, Kenya, with scepticism. Therefore, the report could not be said to have alarmed the ordinary reader.

### D. The University

The Times, London - June 11

President of the British National Union of Students arrived in Salisbury to investigate restriction and detention of University College of Rhodesia students.

## ZAMBIA

The Times, London - June 11

Government plans to begin £4 million in economic development, including surfacing of roads to Malawi and Tanzania and a state-backed iron and steel mining venture near Lusaka were announced today.

The Observer - June 12

"Three Presidents for talks on Zambia's copper," by Roy Perrott

President Kaunda is meeting with Presidents Nyerere and Mobutu in Dar-es-Salaam to discuss further outlets for Zambia's copper now that the Rhodesian rail route has been closed, and in particular, ways of opening a usable route from Zambia to the Tanzanian port of Mtwara.

Mtwara was abandoned after the ground nuts scheme failed, several years ago; but many of its facilities are intact, and it lacks only a good link with the interior. An airlift would be necessary at first; Zambia is purchasing three additional Hercules aircraft, and the resulting total of five might handle 8,000 tons of copper per month.

Dr. Kaunda is also likely to discuss the stand he will adopt on Britain's Rhodesia policy at the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference. Dr. Nyerere is planning to boycott it, and Zambia is

Zambia (Cont.)  
The Observer (Cont.)

is likely to miss his support.

"There is no doubt that Zambia is pursuing its reorientation towards towards the North and East with deadly seriousness and urgency and to an extent that even the emergence of an African majority Government in Rhodesia could not greatly alter. The Government still confidently expects to be able to ship out 28,000 tons of copper monthly for the next two months by all available routes -- roughly half the normal total."

### INTERNATIONAL REACTIONS

#### A. Tanzania

The Times, London - June 11

President Nyerere has said he will not attend the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference in London later this year. Some speculate this is linked to African disapproval of Britain's failure to intervene more forcibly in Rhodesia.

#### B. South Africa

Johannesburg Star - June 11

The South African Motor Racing Club of Johannesburg have presented 1,000 gallons of 103 octane racing fuel to Rhodesia.

The Sunday Mail, Salisbury - May 8

(What follows are excerpts from a letter which appeared in this Salisbury paper last month. It is from Die Beeld, a Johannesburg Afrikaans-language newspaper owned by the Cape-based Nasionale Pers whose main daily is Die Burger of Cape Town. The Sunday Mail noted that the views expressed are not its own.)

Dear Rhodesians, This week, on May 11, your declaration of independence will be six months old. We know that you are deeply interested in what we in South Africa think and feel about your future. Therefore, we publish this pen letter, in which we will try to be as frank as possible.

We owe much to you. You have shown what a relative handful of determined people can achieve against world-wide incited anger. You have withstood economic sanctions well above expectations. It is a weapon which our enemies were busy sharpening to use against us long before it was used against you. You have helped us to face dangers many of us thought were theoretical and distant.

The past six months we have, as a result of your actions, gained a new, living realisation of our own position in the world. We have received an insight into international realities which we did not have before. Also an insight into our country's power and the necessary limitations to that power.

You have brought us to a new self-knowledge. For that we thank you.

November 11, 1965, is an important date also in our history. The instinctive and sometimes fearful feeling we experienced that day, that in our fortunes nothing would ever be again the same, has been realised.

Some of us thought in those days that you should have waited, that you underestimated the dangers of your deed for yourselves and for us. And we communicated those views to you, also to show you that you should not presume that we felt, or could undertake, unlimited obligations towards you.

International Reactions (Cont.)  
The Sunday Mail, Salisbury (Cont.)

This is past. It is no good crying over spilt milk and we must live with the situation as it is, not as some of us would have wanted it to be at that time.

Your deed has in any case pulled us into events which we now consider essential for our own preparations for the future. You have contributed to our training in a field in which we, like you, lacked much real knowledge. You have given us a new understanding of the possibilities -- dangers as well as opportunities.

Above all you have made us understand anew, especially the nationalists among us, how solidly are the fundamental principles on which we have founded our own national existence in Africa.

Today the nationalists see South Africa's future not as that of one State, but rather as a white-controlled State with co-operating black States.

Your earlier leaders placed you on another road--a road rejected here with increasing emphasis: that of integration and partnership which, with the population ratios as they are at present, must logically end in a black majority government. Those leaders have thus helped plant in black minds a thought of tremendous moral power. We wonder whether and how you are ever going to remove it again.

The more evident the progress of the black man becomes, the stronger will become the resistance of the whites. The nearer the momenta comes when you have to proceed to black majority rule, the more violent you will become in your opposition.

You have already walked along that road. Was not your increasing and eventually overwhelming support for the Rhodesian Front opposition against the same process? Was UDI not an attempt at least to escape the tempo of that force? What else, then, can come from negotiations with Britain other than new undertakings, new efforts, to make possible what has been proved to be impossible? Must the entire tragedy be enacted all over again with some new actors but with the same inevitable ending?

These are our misgivings about you. We think your State is built on erroneous concepts. We believe that the gradual assimilation of the black majority in the white power structure is self-defeating. It must inevitably lead to a white reaction and attempts to maintain white rule permanently and at all costs. And this we know, just as you do too, we suppose, is a road of complete despair and self-destruction.

At best it is a policy for five, 10 or 15 years, if as long as that. Then: the flood.

It is possible that you and Britain--with a measure of difficulty that will break hearts and parties -- will be able to patch together a formula which can temporarily remove the urgency from your problem. We hope it can happen, because a resumption of the struggle of the past six months is threatening already to become a general Southern Africa crisis which will also endanger our ability to be your friend.

We do not know whether you will ever want to make your solution part of our solution, but the alternative seems to be that we shall eventually become more and more part of your misfortune.

Forgive the straight talk, but it is time for you and for us to think deeply, otherwise we may stumble together from one crisis into another to the advantage of those who are seeking our joint downfall.

With greetings and good wishes,

DIE BEELD.

(298) Johannesburg  
Sunday.