

RHODESIAN NEWS SUMMARY

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Rhodesia is suffering more from the economic sanctions than was expected by Britain. Drought has caused severe suffering and death in Rhodesia. Oil supplies are down and the future looks dark for Smith's government.

Zambia is faring well with the oil air lift on United States and British planes through Congo and Tanzania.

The Lagos Commonwealth Conference may issue stricter sanctions on Rhodesia and may propose a plan for return to constitutional, and eventually, majority, government.

South Africa still does not recognize Smith's regime, but continues normal trade. She is afraid of open support for white Rhodesia because of the possibility of her being next in line for economic sanctions.

December 26:

New York Times: Soviets vow help against Rhodesia

A communique issued after a meeting of Soviet officials and a Zambian delegation said that the Soviet Union is prepared to assist Zambia and other African nations in an effort against Smith's white government. This assistance was undefined. Reportedly, Zambia asked for troops to protect Kariba Dam.

December 28, New York Times:

South Africa and Portugal cautious

Because South Africa recognizes Britain as the legal ruler of Rhodesia, Prime Minister Vermond has frozen Rhodesian gold and currency reserves in South Africa. South Africa and the Portuguese African territories risk having sanctions applied to them if they break the oil embargo on Rhodesia.

Both South Africa and Portugal are cautious in their attitude toward Prime Minister Smith of Rhodesia.

Rhodesia rations gasoline

Gasoline and diesel fuel were rationed today. Doctors, diplomats, disabled persons and the government departments: railways, brocasting corporation, Central African Airways and the Central African Power Corporation are exempted.

Cars have been rationed to 3.6 to 6 U.S. gallons a week, depending on the weight of the vehicle. Commercial vehicles will receive 5 to 20 gallons a week.

Prime Minister Smith says Rhodesia has a 6 month oil and gasoline supply.

Oil lift to Zambia

This week the United States and Canada are to begin air lifting oil to Zambia via Congolese air ports. The oil air lift from Dar Es Salaam, already in progress, amounts to 20,000 gallons a day. Additional supplies are coming by road from Dar to help Zambia meet her 14,000 ton monthly minimum requirement.

The Royal Air Force Transport Command has flown the oil from Dar Es Salaam - a total of 100,000 gallons to date.

Secretary of State Dean Rush said the United States would begin helping in the air lift during the first week in January. United States officials indicate a willingness to help develop a new land route to Dar Es Salaam to alleviate Zambia's vulnerability to oil shortages.

Secretary Rush and a Zambian delegation met and issued a statement which called the white Rhodesian government a "threat to human rights."

London Times:

Tobacco Sale Price

It appears that, with 90% of last years buyers joining in the ban on Rhodesian tobacco. The Smith regime will have to buy the Rhodesian producers' tobacco - and presumably at well below the world price. Mr. Smith, on the contrary, waid that Rhodesia could sell her 1966 crop and was negotiation for the best prices.

December 29:

New York Times: United States bars oil sales to Rhodesia

United States prohibited the export of gasoline, kerosene and other petroleum products to Rhodesia today. Shotguns and shells are also in a category of exports requiring special licenses.

The United States move supports Britains sanctions.

United States total petroleum products exports to Rhodesia, Malawi, and Zambia were worth about \$380,000 last year.

American companies have been requested not to ship crude oil to the Rhodesian refinery. These shipments are not covered by the United States action because they concern oil produced in the Middle East. Mobil, Coltex, and Aminoil are cooperating. Two tankers, one of Shell and one of Aminoil have turned back from Beira.

Gasoline was rationed today in Rhodesia. Local petrol dealers were to administer the rationing, but few had organized any system yet. Bicycles and motor scooters sold fast. \$2800 worth of dicycles were sold in two houses by one dealer.

The Rhodesia Herald, the Salisbury newspaper said harsher restrictions would be imposed later.

Most of the Beira storage tanks have been emptied of oil, although the pipeline to Urntali was opened again today after a four day lull.

London Times:

Zambian delegation to Tanzania

Vice President Kamanga and Mr. Mundia, Labour minister, flew to see President Nyerere today to discuss contingency plans against any Rhodesian blockade of Zambia.

Workers assured:

Zambia ordered that noone is to work overtime and workers cannot be dismissed without government approval. The mining industries, government employees, and firms of less than 5 people are excluded.

December 30, 1965

New York Times:

Rhodesia near end of oil supply:

The last of the crude oil to be pumped from Beira to Umtali will run out tomorrow. This has bolstered Britain's confidence in the effectiveness of the embargo. British interests own a majority interest in the pipeline, but must negotiate with Portuguese authorities to decide whether the line will be shut down. The company is the Lonrho Company of London. Britain holds 45% of the shares directly and 17.5% through Portuguese subsidiaries. The decision to close or to remain open will be made next week in a meeting in Lisbon. Authorities in London believe Portugal will not join an open effort to break the embargo, but they are not certain how Portugal will react to the proposal to close the line.

Alternative sources of oil for Rhodesia would be taken by tanker to Beira from Angola, or by rail from South Africa.

Bishop Pike prohibited entry:

The California Episcopalian Bishop has been declared a prohibited immigrant and has been deported from Rhodesia. Pike went to Rhodesia to visit the Right Rev. Kenneth Shelton, Bishop of Matabeleland.

London Times:

Britain may pay surcharge:

The five pound/ton surcharge levied by Smith on coal to Zambia has been refuted by the United National Independence Party as a means of supporting Smith. If Zambia does not pay, Smith may cut off supplies. Whitehall fears the result of this and may pay the five pounds herself. The copper companies are afraid that if they lose the coal, the mines will slow down, and the skilled European staff, already restless, may leave.

RAF in Zambia

There are about 600 RAF men in Zambia.

December 31, 1965

New York Times:

Episcopal Bishop Pike predicts bloodless coup:

Bishop Pike of California, deported from Rhodesia, said today in Nairobi that a bloodless coup could soon be staged in Rhodesia. Bishop Pike said the coup would come from the businessmen of Salisbury and landowners who would suffer most. He said that Great Britain or the U.N. should send troops there if there is no coup. Pike contends that if the U.N. or Britain had sent or still would send troops to Rhodesia that there would be no firing on these troops.

He also said that the economic sanctions have hurt Rhodesia more than the outside world is aware of.

London Times:

Kaunda not hopeful on Lagos conference:

President Kaunda said Zambia would attend the commonwealth heads of states conference in Lagos on January 16, but he does not think anything will come of it.

London Times:

Reiterates use of force

Kaunda said force would have to be used when economic sanctions fail. He said it would be foolish for him to break relations with Britain as the O.A.U. has suggested.

Coal from Tanzania

In case of Smith's cutting Zambia's coal supply, some may be imported from Tanzania. Petrol supplies were coming in in greater quantity than Kaunda expected and rationing may soon be ended.

Wilson refuses time limit

Prime Minister Wilson said Britain has not agreed to a time limit on the Rhodesia question. She also has no plan for a naval blockade.

January 1, 1966

New York Times:

Cabinet changes in Rhodesia

The Duke of Montrose, whose title in Rhodesia is Lord Graham, leaves the Ministry of Agriculture to become Minister of External Affairs and Defense. These posts had been held by Clifford DuFont, who is now officer administering the Government.

George Rudland, Minister of Transport and Power, will assume the agricultural ministry and will relinquish his responsibility for roads and traffic. This post will be taken over by Basil T. Musset, Minister of Local Government and Housing.

Mr. Smith's New Year's speech said Rhodesia is "a model of peace and stability which is the envy of countries less fortunate than ours."

London Times:

Sir Humphrey's rent is up

Prime Minister Smith intends to charge Sir Humphrey Gibbs, Governor of Rhodesia, £250 a month rent and upkeep expenses of £1000 a month. Offers of assistance to Sir Humphrey have poured in to Government House in London. One business man gave £1000. About 250 Salisbury people are forming a "Friends of Sir Humphrey Gibbs Society" asking each member to give £1 a month.

Queen's New Year's Message

The message intended for Sir Humphrey Gibbs stated that the Queen "deeply regrets the events that have subjected the loyalties of the people of Rhodesia to uncertainty and strain. It is in the hope of a speedy ending of this unhappy situation and in an early return to constitutional rule that I send my good wishes for the coming year to all my loyal subjects in your country." This message was censored by the Rhodesian government and not sent to Sir Humphrey.

Parliament to sit earlier

The Rhodesian Parliament is to meet on February 2, three weeks earlier than planned. This change is to give the government its chance to ask Parliament to extend the emergency declared on November 5, which is due to expire soon.

London Times:

Verwoerd stands apart from sanctions

South African Prime Minister attacked the economic sanctions against Rhodesia and reiterated that his country would not follow them. He made no overt support of Smith, but said they would maintain "normal relations."

Interim government?

Mr. G.W. Brind, who resigned from Smith's Rhodesian Front party shortly before UDI, said there were men ready to form an interim government when Smith's collapses. Brind claimed access to Sir Humphrey Gibbs and hopes to serve as a mediator between him and Smith.

Force ruled out

Prime Minister Wilson reiterated that force would not be used in Rhodesia even if economic sanctions failed.

Kenya to seize goods

The Kenya government said today that all goods in transit through Nairobi bound for Rhodesia would be seized as of January 14. Cargoes on ships calling at Mombasa would be impounded as of February 2.

January 2, 1966

Rhodesia offers to send oil to Zambia

Prime Minister Smith offered to refine and ship the full amount of Zambia's oil needs if Britain would allow oil to be sent from Beira through the pipeline to the refinery at Untali. Smith also offered to suspend the coal and coke royalties he has recently demanded of Zambia. These amount to \$14 a ton, or an increase of 100 fold. This coal is essential for Zambia's copper belt mines.

The Beira pipeline has been shut down twice this week, evidently due to the lack of crude oil to pump through.

Verwoerd admonishes Rhodesia to "go slow"

In a speech on November 12, South Africa's Prime Minister Hendrik Verwoerd outlined a policy of noninterference for his country vis a vis Rhodesian affairs. He wants to avoid any action that would encourage international interference in his own affairs. He seemed to say he would let Smith fall if this meant preserving South Africa's position. South Africa has not yet recognized the Smith government.

South Africa's Central Bank was not directed to recognize Rhodesia's Reserve Bank, which had been suspended by Britain. South Africa has frozen Rhodesian foreign assets now in South Africa.

South Africa is equally cautious in her trade relations, making no sweeping promises to Smith, making no effort to come to Smith's aid, and not promising to insure the continuation of accepting Rhodesian pounds for South African rands. Any support from South Africa for Smith is not in the open.

Verwoerd is unwilling to try to encourage the South African private oil companies (90% of the South African supply) to send oil to Rhodesia. He could send oil from the state owned refinery. He could also allow pirate tankers to discharge oil for Rhodesia at South African ports. But this he could allow only as long as Smith has other sources, thus not singling out South Africa as the agent of breaking the sanctions. Verwoerd sees this as too great a risk; sanctions could be applied against her too.

Vervoerd's unwillingness to support Smith indicates his doubts that white Rhodesia can survive.

The Observer:

Oil running out

Beira's oil supply is quickly lessening. Granting a request to pump through the oil left in the pipeline would endanger the pipeline by exposure to water and corrosion which would have to be used to force the oil through.

The Rhodesian refinery has asked for an indemnity of £5 million - in cash - to cover the cost of the pipeline. No answer has been received.

The chairman of a refinery at Lorenzo Marques talked with Salisbury officials last week. Refined petroleum products could be trucked 1000 miles and ~~rail~~ railed 700 to Rhodesia, but the trip would be formidable.

January 3, 1966

New York Times:

Zambia turns down oil offer

Zambia scorned Rhodesia's offer to resotre oil supplies and talked of making the economic rift permanent. President Kaunda termed the offer a cheap propaganda move.

Kaunda also rejected the offer to repeal the \$14 a ton coal tax, saying Zambia could continue to operate her copper mines - though not at full capacity - even without Rhodesian coal. Kaunda welcomed South Africa's promise to continue to ship coal to Zambia.

Some observers thought Smith's offers were a genuine attempt to mend relationships with Zambia. Most thought he was concerned about extremist African elements coming from the economic chaos possible in Zambia.

U.S. help in the oil airlift seems to have given Kaunda considerable confidence in his decision to reject Rhodesia's offer.

Nyrere scorns Smith

The President of Tanzania said today that Smith's offer to lift the oil blockade to Zambia was "a cleverly disguised attempt to safeguard his own economic interests."

A Royal Air Force spokesman said today they were phasing out in the oil airlift to Zambia in favor of private chartered planes, but that they would back up the lift whenever need be. The oil airlift began December 15. Since then 154,000 gallons of fuel have been flown by the RAF to Zambia. More than 600,000 have gone in by road.

London Times:

Banda refutes force

Prime Minister Hastings Banda of Malawi said today that he would not sever relations with Britain and that the African states should not call for use of force because they do not have the strength to support their plea.

Illegality of Smith's royalties declared

President Kaunda's request that Britain declare Smith's coke and coal royalties illegal has evidently been honored. However, official announcement will not be made until other sources for Zambia can be found. Use of oil in place of coal for fuelling smelters is being experimented with in Mufielira. Kaunda will insist that the companies not pay the royalties.

January 4

New York Times

Rhodesia Facing a Drought Crisis

Drought has hit hard in the central and southern parts of Rhodesia. The government is attempting to move 200,000 head of cattle northward into the better watered areas of Mazonaland.

In Mazonaland the drought has threatened the corn crop. Sorghum has been planted where the corn has already died. Many families are threatened with starvation.

The Rhodesia cabinet appears to be more concerned about this situation than about the economic crisis.

The drought may cause Rhodesia to seek food imports which would be difficult to obtain on credit.

Portuguese to Admit Oil

Facilities for importing oil ~~will~~ into Rhodesia from Beira, Mozambique, will be kept open despite international pressure to the contrary. The embargo on oil is dependent on the suppliers and Portugal emphasized that she was not one.

The company controlling the pipeline to Ventali has not yet met to consider their action.

Christian Science Monitor:

Africans passive in Rhodesia

African nationalists have been restricted and at the moment the African people are playing a passive role. Many Africans are disillusioned with the nationalist leaders. Prior to DDI, ZAPU and ZANU leaders were at odds. Sabotage by Africans has so far been ineffective. Had there been widespread African opposition, other African states would have been more militant in calling for intervention.

The government has initiated a plan to develop small cottage industries in tribal areas--an inducement to Africans to accept the status quo. African housing is being increased; tribesmen's taxes are cut by half; \$1,400,000 has been set aside for special schemes of assistance and development in tribal areas; an additional \$20,000 has been appropriated for African education. Much of this money will bolster local chiefs--who have been the nationalists' opposition.

London Times:

Rationing extended

Petrol rationing has been extended to include diplomatic and consular personnel. Farms have been restricted to fifty per cent of their normal bulk supplies. Diesel fuel is unaffected by the rationing.

Commonwealth Conference

The January 11 meeting of commonwealth heads of states will be held in Lagos. The participation of Ghana, Tanzania, Australia and Trinidad is still doubtful. Dr. Hastings Banda of Malawi cannot attend, but will send his representatives. Mr. Shastri of India is sending Mr. Asoke Humae Sen, the Law Minister.

Copper price Up

Anglo American Corp. and the Roan Selection Trust will raise their prices per long ton of copper to 336 pounds, following a boost in the price of copper from Union miniere and from Chilean Copper Department.

Lower level talks called for

Labor MP, Mr. Reginald Paget is visiting Rhodesia and calls for lower level talks to iron out the crisis. He said this is the only hope for a solution.

January 5

New York Times:

Rhodesian Curbs on gasoline tightened

Rhodesia cut by half the gasoline supplies to commercial users who buy in bulk. Car rental agencies and taxis will be especially hit.

Supplies are sufficient to last six months, according to P.H. Smith. Rationing has been applied throughout the country. Oil experts estimate Rhodesia has enough supplies for two months, at normal rates of consumption. Rhodesian whites seem to be accepting the rationing cheerfully.

Acute cutbacks would not cripple industry, as only 27 per cent of the power is derived from oil; 67 per cent from coal and ten per cent from hydroelectric power, chiefly Kariba. Trains could also be kept up by these other sources.

US Oil Airlift Begun

G. McMurtrie Godley, The U.S. Ambassador to Congo today officially inaugurated the U.S. airlift of oil to Zambia. Twenty-six tons of oil were unloaded in Elizabethville to be taken by rail to Zambia.

Christian Science Monitor:

Commonwealth conference faces Rhodesian test

A meeting of Commonwealth heads of state is scheduled to meet in Lagos, Nigeria, January 11. Prime Minister Wilson will attend. The conference will try to see what steps can be taken to bring constitutional rule to Rhodesia and what should happen after that.

The OAU has scheduled a meeting immediately afterward. Members of the OAU have proposed armed invasion of Rhodesia.

Mr. Wilson says force must be avoided. Smith's recent offers to Zambia may be signs of his weakening position. Rhodesia wants to maintain her priority position in the Zambian consumer market.

Someone with authority and with police and army support has to ask Governor Gibbs to take over Rhodesia's government in order to end the crisis there. The Rhodesia Front party must first fall, and white confidence in a new leader be maintained.

January 5

London Times:

Loyalty Test of Rhodesian Christians

Soon after UDI the Christian Council of Rhodesia issued this resolution:

"We affirm our present loyalty to his Excellency the Governor of Rhodesia (Sir, H. Gibbs) as the Queen's lawful Governor according to the Constitution."

The proclamation of the new constitution was declared an unlawful act.

Any ensuing acts are considered unlawful unless confirmed by the lawful governor.

Another resolution "regretted the great blow" delivered by the UDI to the "concept of constitutional law brought to Africa by a western civilization nurtured in Christianity.

The council urged Christians to support the Governor. None of the Christian Council resolutions have appeared in Rhodesian newspapers. Bishop Alderson's sermon against UDI was so censored by the government that the resume in the church magazine hardly made sense.

The Catholics took a similar action. They suggested that such action as UDI would turn the Africans away from the Christian Church.

The Rhodesian Christians seem to be unconcerned about the clash between the church and state.

January 6

The Manchester Guardian:

Zambia pleased with sanction results

President Kaunda expressed pleasure at the success to date of the sanctions imposed on Rhodesia. He also complained of lack of action by Britain. He repeated his demand for the use of force when the "crunch" came, probably in early spring time. He and his cabinet are certain Rhodesian forces would not resist British troops.

Kaunda said that apart from rationing, the sanctions had not created a hardship for Zambia. He expressed concern about the racial harmony in Zambia should the Rhodesian crisis not be settled. The Zambian cabinet has made a unilateral decision to terminate commonwealth preference in order to enable their government to buy food in the cheapest markets and to facilitate trade with China and other Socialist countries.

More petrol cuts

The Rhodesian government cut commercial firms petrol allocations by fifty per cent.

The withdrawal of the tax on coke and royalty on coal was back dated to January 1. Smith evidently fears that the taxes would price Rhodesia out of her only coal market. The offer was refused by Kaunda.

London Times:

Pipeline to remain open

A British request to close the Beira--Umtali pipeline was rejected today by the Mozambique--Rhodesia pipeline company. No pumping has gone on since the 31st of Dec., and no crude oil has been taken into the storage tanks since,

according to a statement issued by the company. The company said the decision was a private one, without consultation with the Portugal government. It was estimated by the British members of the company that Rhodesia had a ten weeks oil supply when the embargo was introduced.

January 7

New York Times:

Wilson will go to Lagos

Prime Minister Wilson plans to attend the Commonwealth conference on Rhodesia. His earlier hesitation indicated a feeling that the conference would be used as a way for the African nations to criticize Britain. His acceptance is an encouraging note that economic sanctions are working better than expected and that the Rhodesian regime may be brought down by them.

The two commonwealth nations which have broken relations with Britain--Ghana and Tanzania--will not attend.

Prime Minister Menzies of Australia will not attend because he thinks commonwealth nations should not interfere in the affairs of member nations.

January 7

Christian Science Monitor:

Nyerere says force may be used.

President Nyerere of Tanzania said today that if Britain and the UN refuse to use force to bring down Smith's regime, Africans will have to do it themselves. He believes that sanctions will not work. Nyerere said he was willing to get arms from the West; if it refused, he would accept them from Moscow or Peking. Nyerere said he does not fear China and ~~its~~ its intentions in Africa and thinks they are honorable. He quickly added that he would evict the Chinese if they attempted a take-over.

January 8

New York Times:

Grain for Rhodesia

Britain, Canada and Australia agreed today on an emergency plan to send grain to areas of Central Africa which are suffering from drought.

Bechuanaland, Basutoland, Zambia and Rhodesia will receive the grain. Britain will work through Sir H. Gibbs whom she still recognizes as head of the government of Rhodesia. Smith may not be willing to work with Gibbs, and Smith may say he needs oil to transport the grain. Britain will not change her stand on the oil embargo.

January 9

New York Times

Drought worsens in Rhodesia

The southwestern region, in Matabeleland, continues to suffer under extreme drought. Cattle are dying daily from starvation and thirst. In parts of Matabeleland there has been no effective rain for three years.

The Government next week will buy as many of the remaining cattle as they can to take northward to better grazing or slaughter. The Government wants to curb any discouragement over the cattle losses, and fears arising from the effects of the economic sanctions. Some white cattle ranchers have left for the cities, adding to the soon expected unemployment problem in the urban centers.

The Government will have difficulty in convincing the Africans to sell their cattle, as they are a traditional symbol of wealth. Corn is the staple food, though it is supplemented with game, leaves of the mopani tree and pods from a thorn tree. One African farmer reported that the corn seeds did not ever come out of the ground this year.

Lagos Conference expected to offer plan

P.M. Wilson will go to the Commonwealth ministers' conference on Tuesday. He is expected to offer a plan whereby majority rule will come about over a period of time thereby reassuring white Rhodesians that a black government is not the immediate goal. This plan will be coupled with a threat to tighten economic sanctions should the Rhodesians continue to balk.

Zambia may discontinue her imports from Rhodesia- chiefly coal- but only after a sound plan for alternate sources is laid out. British and American officials have been working on such a plan to airlift and transport supplies to Zambia and it may be workable in the near future. The copper mines have a three months supply of coal.

Zambia doubled the gasoline rations to motorists in the Eastern region today. Lumba is said to have ample supplies,

NEWS SUMMARY ON RHODESIA, Jan. 10 and 11.

The Drought

The drought in Matabeleland (Southwestern Rhodesia) has destroyed virtually all of the grain crop and ruined the grazing conditions for cattle; the only harvests occur on a few irrigated farmlands belonging to white farmers. The Smith regime has now closed the drought-stricken African areas and there are signs that the Africans, in spite of their hunger, are refusing to accept the regime's supply of food. Mashonaland crops have recently received rain and will be sufficient for the Rhodesian population; consequently, the aid scheme proposed by Britian, Canada, and Australia will not take effect with regard to Rhodesia. Tobacco and cotton crops are doing fairly well.

Situation in Zambia

Air and road supplies of oil to Zambia are fast approaching that country's usual rate of consumption. When the normal level is reached, Zambia should be able to build up stocks and ease rationing. Portugal has agreed in principle to a civilian air-lift of oil from Beira, Mozambique, to Zambia.

Britain is exploring ways ~~for~~ of assuring Zambia's coal supply and her own supplies of Zambian copper; she has promised £ 3.5 million to improve the Zambia-Tanzania road and is investigating transportation possibilities through Malawi and the Bequela railway in Angola. She hopes that Zambia's economy can be shored up significantly before Lusaka makes any move to cut off Rhodesian imports.

Drought has ruined about half of Zambia's maize crop, especially in the southern province which serves as the country's grainary. Relief measures will strain the already overburdened transportation and commercial system.

Lusaka is proceeding with plans to modernize and expand her Army. Three battalions will grow to two brigades, Zambian officers and especially pilots should soon begin accelerated training, and anti-armor weapons, helicopters, and new radio equipment are to be obtained.

Lagos Commonwealth Conference

19 of 22 Commonwealth countries are meeting from Jan. 10-12, in the Nigerian capital troubled by its own domestic strife. Wilson reportedly will unveil a new plan of tighter economic sanctions, more Commonwealth aid to Zambia, and a program of transitional government after the "return to constitutional rule."

Ghana is not attending the conference and recently repeated her denunciation of economic sanctions as adequate. She feels that an African force must intervene militarily rather than a British one committed only to a different form of "settler rule."

U.S. Action

At the State Department's request, U.S. manufacturers have discontinued imports from Rhodesia of asbestos and lithium, products which constituted about 37% of total 1964 U.S. imports (\$10,470,000) from that country. The Government is seeking alternative sources of chrome, which constituted about 41% of 1964 Rhodesian imports, with the hope of suspending that source of that commodity. A second Boeing 707 jet has been chartered to fly oil to Zambia via Leopoldville.

Sources: N.Y. Times, Jan. 10 and 11.
The London Times, Jan. 10.
The Observer, Jan. 9.