

NOVEMBER 26:

Sabotage in Zambia has increased tension in the Rhodesian crisis. Attempts were made to blow up two power lines which supply Zambia's copper belt. One explosion at Luanshya failed to knock down the tower. The other south of Kitwe cut a 330-kilovolt transmission line. Local generators were used as the damage began to be repaired, but copper production was affected. The situation was worsened by the second day of strike by 400 white railwaymen. Some mail trains were running across the border but coal from Wankie and copper piled up at Thomson Junction and Livingstone. The white workers are dissatisfied with being moved to the north to work. Some white women and children were roughed up by a group of Zambian youth league members, and this was enough to touch off the strike.

Rhodesia's Ian Smith blamed the sabotage on the political refugees living in Zambia. He indicated that Chinese Communist and other anti-Rhodesian forces in Zambia were responsible and blamed Kaunda for letting them stay in Zambia.

President Kaunda of Zambia has asked for British troops to protect the Kariba dam and other vital installations. Britain is reported to be ready to do so. Zambia is in an extremely vulnerable position. She is dependent on Rhodesia for jointly owned Kariba power. She gets petrol and other supplies which come by rail through Rhodesia. Her vital copper is sent out through Rhodesia. 40% of her imports are from Rhodesia.

Zambia has followed Britain's line and removed Commonwealth preferences from Rhodesian goods and has excluded Rhodesia from the relevant schedule in the exchange control regulations. Rhodesia has not reacted negatively. Yet full sanctions on Rhodesia cannot help but affect Zambia. Goods which Rhodesia needs will hardly be allowed to pass on to Zambia.

Zambia has been exploring ways to lessen her dependence on Rhodesia. British and American air freight specialists visited Zambia to work out the problems of carrying copper by plane to Dar-es-Salaam. Plans have also been discussed with the Benguela Railway to send copper out by train through Angola. Malawi Railways has also been negotiated with. Long truck transport is involved here which would be difficult given the condition of the roads.

If copper production were slowed down greatly or stopped, there would be great unemployment added to an already serious unemployment problem. Zambia is just coming into its own and hardly needs these problems to complicate its development.

Kaunda has allowed Rhodesian African Nationalist groups to work in Zambia. However, in his first public statement following U.D.I., he bitterly attacked the nationalist leaders for shouting threats and doing nothing. He criticized them for their lack of initiative and charged that they were "betraying us all". Leaders of the Zimbabwe African Peoples Union in Lusaka contend that "we are lulling Smith into a false sense of security. When the time is ripe we will attack."

Rhodesia's neighbor to the south is being praised by Smith for her "responsible action". South Africa's official response to U.D.I. was threefold: (1) South Africa will not take part in the fight between Rhodesia and Britain, (2) South Africa will seek to retain normal relations with both countries, and (3) South Africa will not support any boycott because it has never believed in that weapon.

The Afrikaans Press sees the decisive question for Rhodesia as one of spirit. Do the whites have the spirit to accept the hardships their declaration of independence will necessitate? "If the Rhodesians remain determined the situation is, therefore, not without bright spots."

Bechuanaland has banned all shipments of arms and ammunition intended for Rhodesia. The railroad from South Africa to Rhodesia goes through 450 miles of Bechuanaland. The ban does not mean a great deal, however, as Rhodesia receives most of her arms and ammunition through the Mozambique ports of Beira and Lourenco Marques.

Smith has made a further move against the British Governor Sir Humphrey Gibbs by having all the typewriters removed from Government House. The Governor's presence is seen to be symbolically important as a means to persuade the Africans that Britain has not deserted them.

SOURCES: The New York Times, Nov. 27, Nov. 15; The Economist Nov. 20-26  
The Star, Johannesburg, Nov. 13, Nov. 20  
The Observer, London, Nov. 21.

News Summary on RhodesiaNOVEMBER 27:

Zambia's President Kaunda announced that he had written Britian asking for troops to protect the Kariba power complex. Britian is waiting the return of Malcolm MacDonald, special envoy to East and Central Africa, for first hand news on the situation in Zambia. Kaunda feels Britian is responsible for Rhodesia and thus must guard the dam against Rhodesian attack. If Britian fails to act, Kaunda will go for help elsewhere. Yet he is highly aware of the dimensions of racial or ideological war that would enter if he sought help from African or Communist states.

Sporadic outbursts are still taking place in Rhodesia. Bottles of flaming gasoline were thrown into a bus in Salisbury and a tobacco warehouse was set on fire. No serious damage was done.

The Organization of African Unity's special committee dealing with Rhodesia has drawn up a plan that will be presented before the foreign ministers of the member states next Friday in Addis Ababa. The plan is secret, but it is believed to involve the training of guerrillas at the refugee camp of the liberation committee in Tanzania. The countries represented on the special committee are the United Arab Republic, Kenya, Nigeria, Tanzania, and Zambia.

More than two weeks have passed since U.D.I. One of the most serious questions emerging is created by the lack of any strongly organized white opposition to Smith. If Wilson's action should be effective enough to bring disfavor on Smith, a more moderate government could take over. But where are the potential components of such a government? Who would be willing to take the responsibility of leading the country toward majority rule? The farmers are solidly behind Smith. Business seems to be falling into line in a very "patriotic" sort of way. The civil servants have not openly opposed Smith. Some of the most vocal opposition has come from churchmen and university professors who do not have much power and who are being more and more isolated. Thus the picture is grim.

The United States has committed itself verbally to take effective measures to end the "rebellion in Southern Rhodesia". Following Britian's initiative, rather than leading, The U.S. has taken some action: the U.S. Consul General has been recalled; the Rhodesian staff attached to the British embassy in Washington has lost its status; the sugar quota has been ended; Government loans and credit have been suspended; investors are being warned against involvement; and tourism is being discouraged. It is true that trade between the U.S. and Rhodesia is not great. However, this seems to have become an excuse for not cutting off what trade there is. Some discussion of cutting exports, which amounted to about \$24 million last year, has taken place. The State Department called a meeting with representatives of some 30 firms which trade with Rhodesia to discuss the implications of an embargo. The items involved are mainly aircraft parts, road-building and farm machinery, textile goods and wheat. Automobiles which are assembled in South Africa, but owned by U.S. money, enter Rhodesia. The Ford Motor Company of Canada, which is largely controlled by U.S. Ford has an assembly plant in Rhodesia. These exports could be stopped by invoking the Export Control Act.

Imports to the U.S. from Rhodesia amounted to \$11million last year. More than half of this was chrome and asbestos. 38% of U.S. chrome has come from Rhodesia, but the U.S. has an adequate chrome stockpile. Other imports include Turkish-type tobacco and lithium. In order to stop imports it would be necessary to invoke the Trading with the Enemy Act, which the U.S. follows with regard to China and Cuba. If Chapter VII of the U.N. Charter were invoked by the Security Council, the U.S. could use the United Nations Participation Act of 1947. But Britian is openly opposed to invoking Chapter VII.

In Britian and the U.S. critics of government policy are calling for a facing up to the fact that economic pressures may not be enough to destroy Smith. The London Observer is calling for British troops to enter Rhodesia as an essential condition to bring about negotiations. This may in fact be what is necessary. Yet the United States has not even begun to bring full economic pressure to bear.

SOURCES: The New York Times, Nov. 28

A Statement of American Policy Towards Rhodesia by George Houser, Executive Director, American Committee on Africa

The Economist, Nov. 20-26

The Observer, Nov 21.