



# RHODESIAN VIEWPOINT

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## ACCUSATIONS OF FOOTDRAGGING ON CONSTITUTIONAL TALKS REFUTED

### RHODESIAN SPOKESMAN DENIES GOVERNMENT RESPONSIBLE FOR DELAY

IN AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW MARCH 13 WITH ROBERT HAYNES OF THE *RHODESIAN FINANCIAL GAZETTE*, A SENIOR RHODESIAN GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN HAS DENIED THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN DRAGGING ITS FEET OVER THE CONSTITUTIONAL TALKS WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NATIONALIST ORGANIZATION, THE AFRICAN NATIONAL COUNCIL. THE SPOKESMAN REVEALED DETAILS OF THE TALKS TO HAYNES WHO WROTE, "THE FIRST MEETING BETWEEN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND THE NEW LEADERS OF THE NEWLY CONSTITUTED A.N.C. TOOK PLACE ON DECEMBER 19TH LAST YEAR. I UNDERSTAND THAT AT THIS MEETING THE A.N.C. REPRESENTATIVES WERE TOLD THAT THE PRIME MINISTER WAS READY TO START CONSTITUTIONAL DISCUSSIONS IMMEDIATELY AND HE HOPED THE FIRST FORMAL SESSION COULD TAKE PLACE BY MID-JANUARY. THE A.N.C. HOWEVER, WAS NOT READY FOR A FURTHER MEETING UNTIL JANUARY 20. AT THIS MEETING PROCEDURAL MATTERS WERE DEALT WITH.

"The next meeting took place on February 5. The A.N.C. leaders met the Prime Minister who, I understand, repeated that he was ready to commence constitutional discussions at once. Certain A.N.C. representatives, however, said that they were not prepared to discuss constitutional matters within Rhodesia.

Rhodesians Worldwide

### URGED TO RECONSIDER

"I understand", wrote Haynes, "that this is despite the fact that this was the basis on which they had been released from detention. The Prime Minister then urged them to reconsider the matter and a further meeting was arranged for the following week.

"At this meeting on February 12, the Prime Minister told the A.N.C. leaders that he was ready to convene the constitutional conference on the following day. It was the A.N.C. leaders who demurred, asked for more time and said they would need a further two weeks to discuss the matter of a venue for a constitutional conference.

"In due course, and the government spokesman assured me on the initiative of the government not the A.N.C., a meeting was arranged for Thursday, March 6. This was cancelled on the request of the A.N.C.

"There the matter rests."

### GOVERNMENT REPLIES TO BRITISH FOREIGN SECRETARY

The spokesman told Haynes that the Rhodesian government has also replied to the charge which the British Foreign Secretary, Mr. Callaghan, made in the House of Commons when he described as "intransigence" the decision of the Rhodesian government not to try the Rev. Ndabaningi Sithole in open court.



"The senior government spokesman", wrote Haynes, "first pointed out that this is precisely the procedure which the British government adopts in Ulster, where there is a need to protect witnesses who have the courage to give evidence against leaders or members of terrorist organizations.

#### NORTHERN IRELAND EMERGENCY PROVISIONS ACT 1973

"The Northern Ireland (Emergency Provisions) Act 1973 provides that proceedings before a Commissioner should take place in private; that the Commissioner may receive oral, documentary or other evidence which would be inadmissible in a court of law; may question any person. The Act also provides that, where the safety of a witness is in jeopardy, the person being held and his representatives shall be excluded from the hearing. Where he and his representatives are excluded, the Commissioner, 'as the needs of public security and the safety of persons permit', shall inform them of the substance of the matter dealt with."

#### INTIMIDATION A MATTER OF RECORD

Robert Haynes asked for evidence backing the Rhodesian government's statement issued on March 9 which claimed "that the intimidation of witnesses in trials of a similar nature is a matter of record."

He wrote: "I have been given details of cases involving prosecutions against terrorists and other persons charged with offenses under the Law and Order (Maintenance) Act where witnesses have made statements on oath to police officers, but have refused - when they subsequently appeared in the witness box - to give any evidence against the accused or else have given evidence in direct conflict with that made to the police in statements made under oath.

"On one occasion, of which I have been given details, an African nationalist leader was charged in the Magistrate's Court on 14 counts of contravening the Law and Order (Maintenance) Act. Most of these counts involved speeches made by the accused inciting persons to commit acts of violence. These charges were based on statements made on oath by more than 20 witnesses who had been present when the accused had addressed a public meeting.

"The trial was held in open court with numerous supporters of the accused present. Each witness as soon as he appeared in court denied having been present at any meeting, denied all knowledge of the accused and would not give any evidence in relation to the charges. As a result, the accused was acquitted.

#### ACTION AGAINST REV. N. SITHOLE

"Finally", wrote Haynes, "I questioned the senior government spokesman on the charge that by taking action against the Rev. Sithole the government has set back the cause of detente.

"His reply: 'If action had not been taken to frustrate the assassination plot and it had succeeded, there is little doubt that violence between rival factions would have erupted on a scale which would have ruled out the possibility of constitutional talks between the government and the A.N.C.'

"The spokesman referred to numerous reports in the overseas press and



the BBC (British Broadcasting Corporation) of unsuccessful attempts by the Presidents involved in the Lusaka Conference to 'discipline' the Reverend Sithole, who himself appears to have been the biggest stumbling block in the detente exercise.

"For the government to have sat back, the spokesman added, to have ignored the evidence of the assassination plot and to have let events take their course would have been highly irresponsible. Any government concerned for the safety of individuals and for the preservation of law and order must have taken this action."

## SPECIAL COURT ON SITHOLE DETENTION OPENS IN SALISBURY

### ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE INTENDS WHEREVER POSSIBLE TO HOLD PUBLIC HEARINGS

A STATEMENT BY THE RHODESIAN GOVERNMENT NOTED THE OPENING ON MARCH 24 OF THE SPECIAL COURT HEARING ON THE DETENTION OF REVEREND NDABANINGI SITHOLE IN SALISBURY. THE STATEMENT READ: "OPENING THE SPECIAL COURT HEARING THIS MORNING, MR. JUSTICE MACDONALD (ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE) SAID: 'WHILE DETENTION WITHOUT TRIAL IS UNIVERSALLY RESORTED TO IN TIMES OF EMERGENCY, FEW COUNTRIES PROVIDE FOR A REVIEW BY AN INDEPENDENT TRIBUNAL, AND TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE NO COUNTRY HAS PROVIDED THAT SUCH REVIEW PROCEEDINGS MAY IN THE DISCRETION OF THE PRESIDING OFFICER BE HELD IN PUBLIC.'"

The statement added that he hoped the proceedings would show the government had acted wisely in conferring this unique provision to receive information in public and he intended wherever possible to hear evidence from both sides in public.

## HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE VOTES TO BAN IMPORTS OF RHODESIAN CHROME

### STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL CONCEDES ADVERSE ECONOMIC EFFECT OF BAN

THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND MOVEMENTS OF THE HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE VOTED MARCH 18 FOUR TO ONE TO BAN THE IMPORTATION OF RHODESIAN CHROME AND RETURN THE UNITED STATES TO CONFORMITY WITH SANCTIONS IMPOSED BY THE UNITED NATIONS. AN AMENDMENT BY REP. EDWARD J. DERWINSKI (R-Ill.) TO MAKE THE IMPORT BAN CONTINGENT ON THE SOVIET UNION ALLOWING FREE EMIGRATION FOR ITS CITIZENS WAS DEFEATED BY VOICE VOTE. THE BILL WAS SENT TO THE FULL COMMITTEE. WRITING IN AMERICAN METAL MARKET, JEFF WOOD REPORTED THAT A SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL SAID UNDER QUESTIONING THAT THE RE-IMPOSITION OF THE UNITED STATES BAN ON RHODESIAN CHROME IMPORTS WOULD HAVE ADVERSE ECONOMIC IMPACT ON THIS COUNTRY AND ITS SPECIALTY STEEL INDUSTRY.

"Julius Katz (the official) also conceded in congressional hearings that American chrome trade with Rhodesia since 1972 hasn't harmed U.S. trade or investment relations with minerals/metals-rich black African nations, including Zambia and Zaire", wrote Wood.

"He and a State Department diplomatic official, James Blake of the Africa desk, said the Byrd amendment exempting chrome has been a diplomatic embarrassment.



### COULD KILL BILL

"And in a proposal which may generate controversy on both sides of the Rhodesian chrome issue, John J. Sheehan, legislative director of the United Steelworkers of America, said that an amendment should be attached to the chrome embargo bill that would block imports of finished steel products containing Rhodesian chrome alloys. Early industry reaction to Sheehan's proposal indicated that some domestic specialty steel firms could probably support his 'contained chromite' ban, but not for the reasons the U.S.W. official intended. There is some feeling that the amendment would kill the bill altogether and even if it didn't, it could seriously curb the inflow of foreign stainless steel imports."

### WARNINGS AGAINST INTERRUPTION

Jeff Wood reported that the State Department's Katz agreed that Rhodesian chromium prices were generally lower (than the Soviet Union) but predicted that as the world stainless steel market weakened further, the price picture would move more into line. He said that a 25 per cent cutback in Japanese stainless steel production at the end of last year reportedly will continue into the second half of 1975, creating an "exportable surplus" of Japanese ferrochromium.

"The State Department", concluded Wood, "continues to formally support the Rhodesian chrome embargo effort, principally for diplomatic reasons, despite several recent studies by U.S. government agencies warning against any interruption of chrome supply from major producing countries, including Rhodesia. The U.S. currently has no domestic source of metallurgical chromite except for the strategic stockpile. Releases from that stockpile require Congressional approval..."

### RHODESIANS SHOULD BE TREATED AS FRIENDS

#### POIGNANT LETTER FROM AMERICAN MISSIONARY IN RHODESIA

AN EDITORIAL IN THE *CHATANOOGA (TENNESSEE) NEWS-FREE PRESS* HAS DRAWN ATTENTION TO A LETTER TO AMERICANS. "AN AMERICAN MISSIONARY WORKING WITH BLACKS IN RHODESIA RECENTLY WROTE THIS INTERESTING MESSAGE TO AMERICANS", STATED THE EDITORIAL. "I AM BURDENED FOR YOU TO CONTINUE PRAYING FOR RHODESIA AND HER PEOPLE. PLEASE PRAY THAT THE UNITED STATES DOES NOT JOIN THE COMMUNISTS AND THE WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES IN SUPPORTING THE TERRORIST MOVEMENT WHICH IS DOING NOTHING FOR RHODESIA, BUT CAUSING THE NEEDLESS LOSS OF MANY LIVES.

"At this time the United States is refusing to accept packages mailed from Rhodesia. We do not know the reason for this action, but pray definitely that the United States will not cut off accepting letters also. This would result in severing communications with many missionaries and their families..."

"The Rhodesians, black and white, are our friends and should be treated as such, in their interest and in our own."

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