



RHODESIAN VIEWPOINT

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RHODESIA-SOUTH AFRICA RELATIONS ARE CLOSE AND CORDIAL

"BOTH COUNTRIES REALISE INTERESTS COINCIDE" - PRIME MINISTER

IN A WIDE RANGING INTERVIEW WITH DR. L. MEYSELS, SENIOR EDITOR OF *WOCHENPRESSE*, VIENNA, PRIME MINISTER SMITH SAID ON JUNE 4, "AS BEFITTING NEIGHBOURS, OUR RELATIONS WITH THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT ARE CLOSE AND CORDIAL. WE KEEP EACH OTHER INFORMED ON ISSUES OF IMPORTANCE, AND THE DEGREE OF SUCH CONTACT HAS INCREASED DURING THE DETENTE EXERCISE. I AM IN NO DOUBT WHATEVER THAT THIS HAPPENS BECAUSE BOTH COUNTRIES REALISE THAT OUR INTERESTS COINCIDE. IF THERE SHOULD BE A CHANGE FOR THE WORSE IN RHODESIA, THIS WOULD ALSO SPELL TROUBLE IN DUE COURSE FOR SOUTH AFRICA. IT SIMPLY WOULD NOT MAKE SENSE FOR SOUTH AFRICA TO MAKE CONCESSIONS AT OUR EXPENSE, BECAUSE THE CONCESSIONS WOULD EQUALLY BE AT HER OWN EXPENSE."

Prime Minister Smith went on to say: "The South African Prime Minister has spoken frequently of his country's desire to see a satisfactory settlement in Rhodesia. We share this desire and, as I have said, there has been regular consultation between South Africa and ourselves on all aspects of the detente exercise. This is of benefit to us, and we welcome it. But in the end, we are the ones who decide one way or the other what we should do. We take account of South Africa's views, and the views of other friends throughout the world, but the final decision is ours."

INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION AND THE A.N.C.

Answering a question regarding international recognition of Rhodesia's independence, the Prime Minister said: "As far as international recognition is concerned there is no doubt that Rhodesia satisfies in all respects the accepted criteria for an independent state. We have been virtually independent since 1923 and completely so since 1965", said Mr. Smith.

"The British government maintain the fiction that they are the legal Government of Rhodesia, which our own courts reject. We do accept, however, that formal recognition by Britain and the removal of sanctions will require legislation in the British Parliament.

"The British government have indicated that for this purpose they would accept an agreement reached by my government with the A.N.C., whom they regard as representative of the African people."

PRACTICAL AND PRAGMATIC

Mr. Smith continued: "I am still of the opinion that the A.N.C. do not represent the majority of Africans in Rhodesia, and in fact we have had approaches recently from large and influential groups of Africans expressing their disenchantment with these people. They have no confidence in the motives of the A.N.C. leaders, particularly in view of the continuing acts of terrorism, which in the main are perpetrated against innocent and helpless Africans.

"However, I have to be practical and pragmatic about this. Ultimately, as I say, it is up to the British government to pass a bill through the House of Commons to recognise our independence and remove sanctions. So we comply with their thinking, and hope that a responsible agreement can be reached.

ON THE FUTURE

"...What we want in Rhodesia", Prime Minister Smith told Dr. Meysels, "is responsible Government. The best possible Government regardless of whether the people are black or white. We have got to bring the African into politics, train him and advance him and give him a bigger part to play. We already have 16 African M.P.'s in a Parliament of 66. This has been our policy for some time, but there have been problems because some of those who claim to be the leaders of the African section of the population have not cooperated. They have preferred violence in the hope of getting absolute power." Asked whether he thought that any agreement could satisfy the radical forces at present dominating the U.N. and the O.A.U., Mr. Smith said: "Possibly not - but I am mainly concerned with what will satisfy the people who are directly concerned, the people of Rhodesia of all races.

"They have to live with the results of any agreement and I believe many of them see very clearly that what has happened in countries like Uganda could happen elsewhere if power was simply handed to irresponsible trouble-makers with only their own selfish interests at heart..."

RHODESIA MAY SUFFER LEAST OF ALL IF MOCAMBIQUE APPLIES SANCTIONS

LOSERS LIKELY TO BE OTHER POORER AFRICAN STATES

A REPORT FROM THE *RHODESIA HERALD'S* LONDON BUREAU SAYS THAT THOSE WHO BELIEVE THAT LOSS OF ACCESS TO MOCAMBIQUE PORTS WILL LEAD TO RHODESIA'S ECONOMIC COLLAPSE ARE CERTAIN TO BE DISAPPOINTED. "INSTEAD, REPORTS TONY HAWKINS IN THE *FINANCIAL TIMES* (LONDON), THE LOSERS ARE LIKELY TO BE POOR AFRICAN STATES SUCH AS MALAWI, BOTSWANA AND MOCAMBIQUE ITSELF, AS WELL AS ZAIRE.

"Writing from Salisbury, he (Hawkins) says the closure is likely to stiffen Rhodesian resolve, playing into the hands of the hawks rather than constituting an effective pressure for concessions at the bargaining table.

COMMONWEALTH STRATEGY SERIOUSLY MISCALCULATES

"The strategy mapped out by the Commonwealth Heads of State at Kingston, Jamaica, which argued that cutting of the routes to Beira and Mocambique would be disastrous for Rhodesia, suffers from three serious miscalculations, says Hawkins.

"The first is the belief that Rhodesia relies on Mocambique for from 80 to 85 per cent of its export and import traffic. This figure is clearly an exaggeration, he says.

"Secondly, there is the degree to which Rhodesia has already diversified away from the Mocambique routes, primarily because of congestion and inefficiency on the railways and at the ports. It is reliably estimated in

Salisbury, he says, that the volume of Rhodesian traffic using Mocambique has been halved.

"Thirdly, there is the under-estimation of the extent of practical transport coordination and economic integration that already exists in southern Africa, political differences, sanctions and the Rhodesia-Zambia border closure notwithstanding.

BREADBASKET OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

"South Africa and Rhodesia constitute the breadbasket of southern Africa, says Hawkins. Botswana, Malawi, Zaire, Zambia, Mocambique and Angola have all in recent years had to fall back on food imported from the two white ruled countries.

"To some extent this traffic would continue if Mocambique closed the border, but some countries would face severe food problems, not least Mocambique itself, as well as Malawi and Zaire.

"But the problems go beyond food alone and have important ramifications for industry, employment, and the balance of payments of the entire region, with the possible exception of South Africa itself.

"At present, for instance, despite the Zambian-Rhodesian border closure, Zaire is sending copper and zinc by rail through Rhodesia to Beira, Hawkins claims. The trucks used return via Rhodesia with imports picked up at Beira as well as foodstuffs and other items from Rhodesia itself.

ADVERSE IMPLICATIONS SERIOUS

"If Mocambique closed the border with Rhodesia, Zaire would have to switch her exports to Lobito (Angola), a port with 100 per cent surcharge and 100 day delay at present. The implications for Zambia, heavily reliant on Lobito for its export and import traffic, should not be overlooked.

"There are major adverse implications for Malawi, which would find itself denied essential supplies. It relies on imports from Rhodesia - including coal - which use the railway through Mocambique. Malawi would also lose its exports to Rhodesia.

"The adverse implications for Mocambique are more serious than frequently recognised. This year it seems that Mocambique is going to need food imports from Rhodesia and South Africa. In addition, she needs essential raw materials from Rhodesia.

"Botswana also used Lourenco Marques, and the closure would have adverse implications for her.

"Hawkins estimates that upwards of 80 per cent of Rhodesian exports will be successfully re-routed through South Africa, given the improved situation at the ports there, and that essential imports will be maintained."

(Mr. Anthony Hawkins is a senior lecturer in Economics and deputy Dean of the Faculty of Social Studies in the University of Rhodesia - Ed.)

AMENDMENT TO RHODESIAN CHROME BILL RISKS JEOPARDIZING U.S. FOREIGN TRADE

U.S. COMMERCE AND TREASURY DEPARTMENTS EXPRESS THEIR CONCERN

JEFF WOOD, WRITING IN *AMERICAN METAL MARKET*, REPORTS THAT THE DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE AND TREASURY HAVE EXPRESSED CONCERN TO THE HOUSE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE THAT THE STEEL IMPORTS CERTIFICATION AMENDMENT TO THE RHODESIAN CHROME EMBARGO BILL CAN ONLY BE ENFORCED AT THE RISK OF JEOPARDIZING U.S. TRADE RELATIONS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES. "IN A LETTER, OBTAINED BY THIS NEWSPAPER, TO THE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN, REP. THOMAS E. MORGAN", REPORTED WOOD, "THE COMMERCE DEPARTMENT SAYS THAT THE CERTIFICATION PROCEDURE REQUIRED BY THE AMENDMENT TO HR 1287 COULD PLACE THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY 'IN A DILEMMA'".

The amendment, which was attached to the bill in March, would require countries exporting chrome-bearing steel mill products to the U.S. to certify that the products do not contain Rhodesian chrome. "The Commerce Department letter to Morgan notes that it is 'not technically possible' to independently determine the country of origin of chrome contained in steel mill products at the point of import. It states that companies making chrome bearing steel may mix chrome from various sources and if they used purchased ferrochrome it would be 'impossible for them to determine the origin of the ores used in making ferrochrome'.

TREASURY SECRETARY'S DILEMMA

"Citing the dilemma that enforcing the trade amendment presents for the Treasury Secretary, Commerce says that if he accepted at face value any certification presented by importers of steel mill products he would have no objective way to determine whether the products contained chrome of Rhodesian origin. 'On the other hand', the Commerce letter declares, 'if he sought to look behind the certification and impose upon the importer the burden of proving that the imported steel products did not contain chrome of Rhodesian origin, it would place a burden on the importer which in most instances the importer would be unable to meet.

JEOPARDIZE TRADE RELATIONS

"The Commerce letter adds that this could result in denying entry of chrome-bearing steel mill products, irrespective of whether or not they contain Rhodesian chrome, 'and might well expose the U.S. to charges of erecting a non-tariff barrier'. A similar Treasury Department letter", wrote Wood, "commenting on the amendment to HR 1287 states that the certification would be 'unworkable since it could only be effectively enforced at the risk of jeopardizing our trade relations with other countries'..."

NOTICE TO READERS OF RHODESIAN COMMENTARY

Readers of *Rhodesian Commentary* will have noticed that the April edition was not mailed out. The reason was that the negatives for the publication, which are mailed from Rhodesia, failed to reach this office. After three attempts the negatives finally arrived and the April edition of *Rhodesian Commentary* is included with this mailing.
