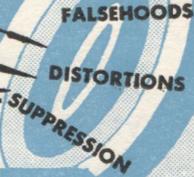


ON TARGET

A WEEKLY COMMENTARY ON THE COLD WAR

"We will bury you . . . your children will grow up under Communism . . ." Krushchev.

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Thought for the Week: "Liberty is really a simple thing, although difficult to come by. It consists in freedom to choose or refuse one thing at a time."

- C. H. Douglas.

MASS MEDIA'S REACTION TO VERWOERD MURDER: South Africa's Ambassador to Britain, Dr. Carel De Wet, has said something which badly needed saying by someone. Dr. De Wet blamed British newspapers and television for encouraging violence by their handling of the assassination of Dr. Verwoerd. The South African Ambassador's remarks are applicable to the press and television of the whole Western world. In a press statement commenting on the knife attack on a South African consular official, Mr. Johannes Van Der Poel, in London, Dr. De Wet said:

"The distasteful and, in many instances, the uncivilized way the tragedy of Dr. Verwoerd's brutal assassination was commented on by most of the press, including the British Broadcasting Corporation, television, and also the reaction of some individuals, invites violence of this kind. (the stabbing of Mr. Van Der Poel) To play up and whitewash the knifing of a statesman to death initiates and encourages violence such as we have witnessed at the South Africa House and elsewhere in Britain."

Dr. De Wet might have added that the almost uniform reaction of the world's mass media to the Verwoerd assassination suggests that many of those influential in press, television and radio are determined to foster the concept of violent murder as an acceptable political weapon. Former South African Communist Solly Sachs expressed the views of the agents of revolution everywhere when he said that he had no regrets about Verwoerd's assassination. Needless to say, the BBC saw to it that Sachs was given adequate publicity.

Whatever the real motives for the assassination of the South African Prime Minister, the deed acted like a signal to revolutionaries and their dupes all around the world. Press, television, and radio commentators followed the Communist lead that Dr. Verwoerd's policies had caused his death, and that now was the time to intensify the international campaign against South Africa. This campaign is now well under

way and there is no doubt that it will be intensified as part of the war against Rhodesia. International Communism is moving in on the vital strategic target of Africa.

AFRICAN SUPPORT FOR SOUTH AFRICA: One of the first messages of congratulations sent to the new South African Prime Minister, Mr. B. J. Vorster, came from an African Prime Minister, Chief Lebua Jonathan of Basutoland. The Basutoland Prime Minister expressed the hope that in the years ahead South Africa and Basutoland would be able to build fruitfully on the foundations laid in Chief Jonathan's recent talks with Dr. Verwoerd, despite their political differences. Contrary to the creators of "world opinion", Dr. Verwoerd was not the symbol of oppression for the great majority of the African people. He was in fact openly held in very high esteem by them. The Moderator of the Dutch Reformed Church, the Reverend J.S.Geriche, stressed in his oration at Dr. Verwoerd's funeral on September 10, that Dr. Verwoerd had been the victim of vicious and lying propaganda.

Evidence of the depths to which some creatures of the mass media will sink, was provided by the expulsion of three British independent television reporters from Basutoland after trying to bribe a Basuto African official to make a derogatory statement about Dr. Verwoerd in a film interview. The official told his departmental superior that he had been offered a bottle of whiskey to make the statement.

NASSER CONTINUES TO SERVE MOSCOW: Those with a superficial knowledge of Communism will take some heart from the recent news report that President Nasser of Egypt has gaoled the General Secretary of the Communist Party, Mustafa Agha, for plotting against him. This will now worry Moscow, which is always prepared to sacrifice (if indeed there is any real sacrifice) a few troops to advance its general strategy. On September 12, President Nasser appointed Mr. Sidgi Solaiman to the position of Premier of the United Arab Republic. Mr. Solaiman holds the Soviet Order of Lenin and has been chosen to head a thirty-two man Cabinet of planners to steer the Republic through its 7-year plan. Anyone doubting the political complexion of the Nasser regime should remember that the "honor" conferred on Mr. Solaiman is one which has also been conferred on political leaders like the deposed Nkrumah of Ghana and the self-confessed Marxist, Dr. Sukarno of Indonesia.

The progress of Egypt and its satellites down the road of increasing Sovietisation is assured with the assistance of Mr. Solaiman.

MR. DOUGLAS WILKIE'S POISONOUS RUBBISH: Mr. "As-I-See-It" Douglas Wilkie is presented by a section of the Australian press as a great oracle on international affairs. On September 14 Mr. Wilkie devoted

his column to pontificating on the Rhodesian question. He has dealt with this question in the past, but has never been very strong on facts. And most of his predictions have not been justified by subsequent events. Mr. Wilkie states the obvious when he says the key to the Rhodesian problem lies with South Africa. But then he makes a number of comments which can only be described as poisonous rubbish. Of course, "There was an understanding between Wilson and Verwoerd." But the understanding was forced on Harold Wilson by a political leader who was not prepared to yield to threats. Mr. Wilkie no doubt recalls what happened when Wilson threatened that Britain under his Socialist Government would not supply South Africa with promised Buccaneer planes. So his snide suggestion that Verwoerd was similar to Wilson in not allowing "ideals to interfere with practical politics", is merely a sophisticated form of smearing. We can inform Mr. Wilkie that Wilson also attempted to put pressure on Verwoerd concerning the flow of oil to Rhodesia through South Africa, and that it was made clear to the British Socialist leader that South Africa had no intention of changing its policies to help the war against Rhodesia.

Mr. Wilkie comments that "there's good evidence that Verwoerd wrote off Smith as an unreliable upstart." There is no such evidence. The South African Nationalist Government recognised the historic significance of the Rhodesian stand. But mind-reader Douglas Wilkie claims that "Wilson recognised that Verwoerd must appease his extremists by letting some oil and financial aid seep into Rhodesia." This statement is typical Wilkie rubbish. The Verwoerd Government's attitude towards the Smith Government was clear and unequivocal. It was "business as usual."

The really purple patch of the Wilkie article is the claim that Wilson sent Verwoerd a message a few days before his death, stressing that Britain and South Africa had common interests, that there was a danger of mandatory sanctions being imposed against Rhodesia through the UN, that this would be dangerous for South Africa and "Would Verwoerd therefore bear with Wilson telling the black African States that Britain was ready to impose a tough oil rationing plan, based on the voluntary co-operation of Verwoerd and the major oil companies - so as to stop supplies reaching Rhodesia?". Mr. Wilkie then makes the comment, "perhaps Verwoerd was on the brink of such an assurance to Wilson." This is real filth. Even if there were any truth in the Wilkie story about Wilson's approach to Verwoerd, there is no evidence whatever that Verwoerd would consider for one minute supporting a policy which would destroy South Africa's front line defence.

Mr. Wilkie ends his piece by suggesting that new South African Prime Minister might see economic sense in supporting Wilson. "If so, Mr. Smith will be forced into isolation. He will have no option but to

couple Rhodesia's claims to independence with a constitution that guarantees his Africans a growing share in government." It would appear that Mr. Wilkie's research activities have not taken him as far as the Rhodesian Constitution, which in fact provides the Africans with the very avenue for political advancement which he mentions. But we have a feeling that Mr. Wilkie is not over-concerned about facts. Biassed propaganda, camouflaged as objective commentary, is his speciality.

RHODESIAN HIGH COURT RULING: The press headlined the fact that two Judges of the Rhodesian High Court ruled last week that the Smith Government was not a legal government. There was nothing surprising about the High Court ruling, as the attitude of the Wilson Government forced the Rhodesian Government to declare independence unilaterally. From a strictly legal point of view, the High Court could hardly rule other than it did. But, much more important from the Smith Government's point of view, the High Court ruled that it was the only effective Government of Rhodesia and that those detained under the emergency legislation must remain in detention. The decision followed an appeal against detention by African nationalist Mr. Daniel Madzimbatu and the well known lawyer, Mr. Leo Baron. It is not surprising that the Rhodesian Prime Minister, Mr. Ian Smith, said he was pleased with the High Court's finding. The very fact that the African nationalist and Mr. Baron were able to appeal to the High Court, and that the Court ruled that the Smith Government was not legal, proves there is no "Police State" in Rhodesia.

PRESS PUBLICITY FOR DR. J.F. CAIRNS, M.P.: Left-wing Labor MP.

Dr. Cairns can hardly claim that as a Socialist he has been victimised by the "capitalist" press. He received continued favourable publicity, the latest being a featured article in "The Herald", Melbourne, of September 14, on the Vietnam issue. The question is being asked: "Is Dr. Cairns being carefully built up for the future?"

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