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FOR POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC REALISM

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REDuctio Ad Absurdum

Mr. Henry Brandon, "of *The Sunday Times*", has published a little book, *In the Red*, which reads in a way like a synopsis of a novel by Alexandre Dumas. It tells the story of Mr. Harold Wilson and his brave men in their long-drawn-out struggle to save the heroine—the Pound Sterling. It tells of the risks they ran in avoiding overheating the British Economy; of credit squeezes and freezes in a period of maximum strain. They viewed a powerful new 'plateau' of expansion which would become self-generating, when the over-heating would cool. They indulged in a trick of self-confidence, and provided a tranquillizer for the nerves of the exchange markets. But they were beleaguered by an anaemic balance of payments. A crisis package was required to defend the Pound's Plimsoll Line from guerilla warfare.

We learn of the financial manipulators at the Bank of England, and of the mysterious network of central bankers, and of how the financial centre of gravity now lies between the United States and Europe. At one stage sterling seemed to react like a racehorse to dope. But then the Gnomes of Zurich became a winged phrase and Mr. Wilson and Mr. Callaghan adopted it almost as soon as Mr. Brown had launched it. At one stage hysteria seemed near in the desperate situation—the pressure on sterling had become immense, sterling's position was getting worse, and the Prime Minister gave full vent to his suspicions that behind it all was the conspiracy of the 'Gnomes of Zurich'.

Then there is the Basle Club—perhaps the most 'in-group' in the world today. It is exclusive, and has only a small technical but highly trained staff. It is a curious financial freemasonry which meets once a month informally at the week-ends, usually over a heavy dinner at one of the local Basle hotels. And now, after the rescue of sterling, Mr. Wilson learned that the Labour Government had to behave as any debtor; it had lost some of its freedom of action; every move was watched.

In this predicament, George Brown was the nanny responsible for the Pound, which had become the Government's principal problem child. But George had his own Magna Carta, and he believed in it with religious faith, and although it set what proved to be a collision course he was determined to pursue it with relentless vigour. He knew it would become a gruelling fight.

For a few months there was a quiet and dramatic struggle for the stability of the Pound, and Wilson vowed "his unalterable determination to maintain the value of the Pound and all the values that depend on it", and for this there had to be a plan covering the next four or five years which didn't involve a drastic cut-back in Britain's defence commitments. Yet Mr. Wilson was again haunted by the spectre of an international conspiracy to undermine sterling and

with it the Labour Party. However, in those days the United States played psychiatrist, patient and sofa at one and the same time.

The burden of giving Britain's incomes policy more 'teeth' fell on George Brown. He began by explaining that the time had come to put more *muscle* into his prices and incomes policy—other circumstances, he hinted mysteriously, now had to be taken into account. The July measures were biting too deeply. Persuasion was not enough. He needed weapons.

The problem was: Why was the struggle to save the Pound so far unwon? Mr. Woodcock said "it is impossible to inject into a voluntary long-run policy a quick-acting drug with temporary effects. In essence, the method must be long, slow and painful". Mr. Brown tried to put more heat on, and Mr. Callaghan had a better understanding of the intricacies of the psychology of the exchange market.

So another rescue operation was launched by telephone, and at its success a huge sigh of relief went up in London and Washington. The fears of devaluation had finally blown away.

Southern Africa

Dr. Franco Nogueira, the Portuguese Foreign Minister, gave a press conference on the 29th August, 1967, in Lisbon, shortly after his return from a visit to Southern Africa. The following is the text of his statement with a small deletion because of considerations of space:

"I think that some news and comments on the official visit I have just made to two countries in Southern Africa will be of interest. But first, it would be well to recall, as I have on more than one occasion emphasised, that Southern Africa consists of a vast area of the African continent wholly apart from the rest, and invested with a character all its own. It cannot be confused with North Africa, which comprises countries with their own structures, historic pasts, and a state of development which gives rise to specific problems requiring specific solutions; even less can it be confused with Africa south of the Sahara, where the countries, almost all of them recently created, and often on the basis of black racism, show their own characteristics regarding the serious economic, sociological, educational and political problems which face them.

"Southern Africa, in its turn, is the multiracial and many-cultured Africa, where there are countries and territories with different political, cultural and sociological systems. These distinctions have not been taken into account; and the great powers and international organisations have treated the African continent as if the political and economic factors

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FROM WEEK TO WEEK

The Conservative Party has not been out of office so long that its leaders can be presumed to have become ignorant of the economic realities of the British situation. In opposing British withdrawal from the Middle East they are implicitly opposing a political rather than an economic decision, since if the Conservatives would not withdraw, they must know that a British presence and commitment is economically feasible.

What is not feasible is a British return. There is no such thing as a power vacuum; there is a transformation from a balance of power to a disequilibrium. The USSR of course is incomparably better placed to maintain their position in the Middle East than the British ever were, because of their control of what Halford Mackinder called the "Heartland".

No other conclusion seems possible than that Mr. Wilson and his entourage is privy to all this. They are internationalists, looking for a One World Government which necessarily must have the sanctions of government, which implies the destruction of the sanctions to maintain national sovereignty and independence. The destruction accomplished becomes irreversible, and Britons, so long as they survive, slaves forever. In the face of the population 'explosion', survival in the coming world is obviously a matter of belonging to the power structure, from which, under Wilson, Britain is finally excluded. The Conservatives had and squandered their last chance.

Now that the USSR has secured its position as a, or perhaps *the*, Mediterranean naval power, the Egyptians are re-opening the Suez Canal.

Prior to the June Israeli-Arab 'war'—in reality, manoeuvre—the Middle East situation might be likened to a super-saturated chemical solution. The 'war' effected an immediate crystallization. This is a catastrophe for 'the West' far greater than any disaster in the 1939-1945 war, because the world's most important strategic area is now under the control of a Power which is determined on world conquest.

The mistake, if it was a mistake, of the West in the 1939 war was to have no clear post-war policy; and, unless it is complicity in a design for World Government, it has none now. The USSR, on the other hand, as the military arm of world conspiracy has pursued a long-term strategy which almost certainly included the rise and fall of Nazi Germany and the current embroilment of the U.S.A. in a no-win war in Asia.

• • •

As isolated events, the strikes and disorders fomented by Communists seem to appear to most people as self-defeating nuisances. In fact they are rehearsals for C-Day—World Conquest Day or World Crisis Day. Top Communists are the product of an educational and training process as thorough as a university course.* Marxian theory deduces the break-down of 'Capitalism', producing a universal economic crisis. International financial practice is *engineering* the break-down by persistence in a monetary system which in the long-run will not work, and which can be seen already not to be working. International Finance could at any time in the past fifty years have rectified the system, and did not do so because the *consequences* of the defects are the *policy* of the controllers, leading to C-Day when a small minority of trained and rehearsed Communist Party members will be able to paralyse all 'Capitalist' countries simultaneously.

Even the most superficial examination of the world situation makes it plain that the U.S.A.—the only Power that could—is not disposing its forces in such a way as to conquer the USSR; but it is equally plain that the USSR is disposing its forces in such a way as to conquer the world. Many Americans—but not nearly enough—now recognise that the Watts, Detroit and numerous other destructive riots have been planned rehearsals for something much more deadly serious. The amount of destruction entailed is of no more consequence to the World Planners than the massive destruction of the two World Wars, for this is intended to be final and irrevocable victory for World Government—a victory now so near as to be almost palpable.

We have frequently quoted Douglas's observation that the World Planners "care no more for the immolation of the peoples of a continent than for the death of a sparrow". Clearly this applies as much to the peoples of the U.S.A. as to any others. Equally clearly, most Americans do not recognise this: "It can't happen here". But how many Britons foresaw how much wreckage the Wilson Administration would achieve in a little more than three years?

Aid, Comfort, and Torture

The Bishop of Matabeleland preached at the beginning of December at the University Church, Cambridge, which might be called the Rendezvous, and announced that Rhodesia "has become the great moral issue of our times". I see that a terrorist has just surrendered himself on the Rhodesian border, but I suppose that in the bishop's views these thugs are the standard bearers of morality!

In November, the Rev. P. Oestreicher tried to persuade readers of *The Church Times* that Christians in Russia have no feelings against communism, while the suffering of minority churches in Rumania is due to the country's history and nationalism rather than to Marxism.

Such comfortable views receive the starkest refutation in

*See Benjamin Gitlow: *The Whole of Their Lives*. 9/3 posted.

Richard Wurmbrand's *Tortured for Christ**, for this pastor who was once an atheist Jew has nothing but hatred for communism and describes its barbarous cruelties realistically enough: he experienced them. The Nazi terror was great he said, but "only a taste of that to come under the communists". Yet he developed a love for the Russians and a horror of what communism was doing to them. The first Russian prisoner he met said that if he had an order he would believe in God, and the pastor saw with horror that he was a man "whose mind was dead".

A million Russians entered Rumania in 1944 "not without the co-operation of the American and British rulers of the time", and the nightmare had begun. For what communists did to Christians "surpasses any possibility of human understanding . . . we saw that communism is from the devil . . . the cruelty of atheism is hard to believe". And this pastor of the Underground Church gives a few details of the most revolting obscenities, without dwelling on them, his own body being branded and scored. No wonder he complains of Western Church leaders who "strengthen the communists in their infidelity", remarking that they have no mission to the communists, they do not love them.

After his fourteen years in prison, the pastor wished for a life of contemplation, but he found that officials of the church and pastors had turned into informers, and realised that he was seeing "the abomination of desolation in the most Holy Place". And he hated communism as he had not hated it under torture. The peasants who came to see him told him that under collectivisation they were now "hungry slaves" on their own former fields. Yet in the West the official leaders were received with honour as they gave assurances of full religious liberty "while the saints in prison ate cabbage with unwashed intestines", so the Underground Church decided that Pastor Wurmbrand should come and tell the West the truth. "I have decided to denounce 'communism' though I love the 'communists'," he declared. And since Christianity develops personality, which communism wishes to crush "there exists no possibility of compromise between us and communism".

The Orthodox too have suffered, and the author asks, "Who could say where the aged Archbishop Yergomen of Kaluga is now?". And as he appeals for support, he concludes with the plea, "Do not write us off". The Rev. Stuart Harris who introduces the book tells the exciting story of his meeting with Pastor Wurmbrand in Rumania, which called for no little courage, and a note informs the reader that the pastor was ransomed for £2,500, paid by Norwegian Christians, the usual selling price for political prisoners being £800.

The matter does not rest there as a group of Russian Baptist women whose husbands were imprisoned sent three appeals during 1967 to U Thant and to the UN Commission on Human Rights, and these are described by the Rev. Michael Bordeaux as "the most concrete, detailed and up-to-date account of religious persecution ever to come out of the USSR". (*Church Times*, Dec. 29, 1967.) Two-thirds of these prisoners are under forty-five. Even the British Council of Churches has pointed out, through its General Secretary, Bishop Sansbury, that an unregistered group, like the reform Baptists, "has no rights whatever", so that what is called Human Rights Year should have something to work on.

—H.S.

**Tortured for Christ* by Richard Wurmbrand, 5/9 posted.

Southern Africa

(continued from page 1)

were identical in the north and the south; as if the problems raised were everywhere analogous; and as if the same solutions, therefore, should be valid for the whole of the huge continent.

"For some time, we Portuguese and some others have pointed to the incongruity, the inviability, and the dangers of such an orientation; and it is useless, because it is all too obvious, to emphasise the tragedy Africa has been drawn into as a result of that policy. The civil war in Nigeria and the seven consecutive years of chaos and misery in the Congo—and these are the two largest and richest countries in Black Africa—are two episodes, among many others, illustrating beyond any doubt the spectacular vices of a policy which now encounters far greater difficulty in correcting the mistakes made than it would have done in not committing them.

"But the Africa which seeks to avoid the same situation is precisely Southern Africa. Little by little, the countries and territories of that enormous area are becoming aware of the realities governing their life in common. There are inland countries for whose communications with the sea the good collaboration of neighbouring maritime countries is vital. There are important natural resources, such as great lakes and rivers, the proper development of which can only be feasible if carried out in common. There are problems of transport and communications that can only be solved on a multilateral basis. There are technical matters, of trade and others, which without co-operation would be difficult to deal with satisfactorily. All this has nothing in common with the problems of the other two Africas; and all this imposes an increasing collaboration between all the interested parties in that area.

"In this context, and in accordance with the invitation extended to me, I had the honour and pleasure of visiting the Republic of South Africa. Indeed, we have the satisfaction of having maintained the closest and most cordial relations with South Africa for a long time. We share many similar points of view with her; mutual respect for the political order in each country, non-interference in the internal affairs of the other, abstention from any judgment whatever in approving or condoning the orientation of each of the two countries in the problems of their respective internal jurisdiction. But we have more. We share the same system of the basic values of Western civilisation; and the firm resolve to uphold them by all appropriate means. Neither of the countries will abandon its clear responsibilities in the matter. On the other hand, we have long frontiers with the Republic of South Africa, and on many interests and problems there is solidarity between us.

"Apart from trade and technical exchanges, and the natural common concern with security, I would mention the co-operation between the two countries in the regularisation and development of the River Cunene; the co-operation in the development of the Cabora-Bassa dam which will, without exaggeration, be an undertaking of world proportions and in ten years' time will transform the landscape and revolutionise life in the neighbouring areas to which the dam will supply power at low cost; and the collaboration in the sector of communications and transport, namely through Lourenço Marques, a port of direct and essential interest to the South Africans, as it is for Swaziland, where Portugal has granted and will continue to grant the facilities required by these neighbours of hers.

"Finally, I would also single out as an important common factor, the consciousness of the two governments of the really decisive role both countries can play in the development and progress of the whole of vast Southern Africa.

"I had the opportunity of dealing with all these matters with the appropriate members of the South African Government. Of course that Government holds no responsibility whatever for all I am saying. But it seems to me right to emphasise—and I do it with pleasure—the extreme cordiality of the conversations engaged in, the absolute frankness with which both sides approached matters, the complete mutual understanding, and, finally, the identity of opinions and outlook on problems which only strengthens and consolidates the collaboration between the two countries and lends it all its significance in the present situation of that area of the African continent.

"I should also like to examine two other aspects. Firstly: any observer who visits the Republic of South Africa cannot fail to be impressed by the progress, dynamism, vitality, economic strength, national vigour and power of that country. Secondly, I should like to reiterate here my thanks for the generous hospitality I received, particularly from the Prime Minister, Dr. Vorster, and from the Foreign Minister, Dr. Hilgard Muller, as also from the other South African authorities.

"In the same spirit of co-operation, and following another invitation, I was able to visit the Republic of Malawi. Everyone knows that Malawi is a neighbour of Mozambique, by whose territory the southern part of the former is surrounded. Apart from this, the whole of that vast area which consists of Lake Nyassa or Lake Malawi, is shared by the two countries, who are the only ones, within well-defined areas, holding legal title to exercise sovereignty over those waters, to the exclusion of any other neighbouring state. Malawi uses our province of Mozambique for all her imports and exports overland. As will be recalled, we have already with that country transport and communications agreements which are in the process of implementation.

"On all these problems, I had occasion to speak with the President of Malawi, Dr. Kamuzu Banda. And here I should like to pay tribute to the personality of this African leader, whose courage, lucidity and realistic mind are admired even by those who, in other countries, disagree with, or do not yet venture to adopt, a similar policy. Thanks to that attitude, it proved possible for Dr. Banda and myself to deal with problems of common interest in a very cordial atmosphere of mutual understanding and respect. The Malawi Government knows that the friendship and collaboration of Mozambique are indispensable and even vital to Malawi, and to its development and progress, and even to its security. On our side, we do not ignore the fact, and loyally recognise, that Malawi's co-operation is useful for Mozambique . . .

"The two cases of excellent international collaboration I have just singled out could, and should, be taken as an example by others. Above all, in the whole of the vast region of Southern Africa. The similarity of technical and economic problems; the interdependence existing between the various territories it comprises; the character of these problems which have nothing, or very little, in common with those in the rest of Africa—all this permits of and even imposes a multilateral co-operation in matters of general interest.

"This should not, nor can it, be taken as meaning or implying any form of political co-operation, nor does it in any way presuppose that each country must approve of, or condemn, or take up any position with regard to the political system and economic structure of the others.

"The adoption and pursuance of this practical policy will mean that the countries of Southern Africa reject the virulent and irresponsible extremism which has characterised politics in the other Africas and which has submerged them in chaos, in backwardness, and in war. It will mean that the governments of Southern Africa have taken the only responsible course that can bring peace and progress to their peoples, and that they have realised that a government's primary duty is properly to minister to the interests of its people, but not to concern itself with the way in which the interests of third parties are ministered to. It is thus that a zone of stability and progress in Southern Africa can be established, quite apart from considerations of a political order in respect of the internal problems of each country or territory.

"Those who claim to be greatly concerned with peace in Africa and with the interests of the African peoples, will perhaps not be indifferent to the possibilities which are becoming apparent, and doubtless the security of the southern continent cannot be considered a factor of minor importance for the West and for its defence. The war in the Middle East and the closure of the Suez Canal merely made clearer than ever the necessity for guaranteeing the freedom of the Indian Ocean and of the South Atlantic.

"But if these possibilities are hampered, or face opposition from third parties foreign to Africa, then we must conclude that these same third parties are not guided by legitimate aims and that they will attempt to frustrate a co-operation which is showing itself to be increasingly viable, and this only so that their national interests in that southern area may the better be served and protected.

"But it is above all in relation to Africa itself, as a whole, that such a co-operation should matter most. It is more than time to start something positive, constructive and durable in Africa. Too much has already been destroyed, too much has been negated, and too many assets and values have been rendered useless. Nobody has benefitted: neither those who expected to derive ideological gains from the confusion, nor those who attempted to obtain economic advantages, nor the African people themselves, who have merely seen their servitude increase and their opportunities for progress diminish.

"Africa is tired. And for her part, Portugal, which is African on many counts, is ready to give her loyal co-operation: such is our duty; and, as opposed to others who say they are always only motivated by an altruistic spirit of sacrifice, we have the courage to say that clearly such is also our well-founded interest. It is with these considerations in mind that we have made and renewed our appeal for the non-political co-operation of all the peoples of Southern Africa".

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