

A South African who lived through riot, robbery and arrest in the Congo underlines the need for a

Campaign to save Africa from Communism

I HAVE COME from the Congo. I have been through riot, robbery and arrest. Independence came with a flourish. Seven days later the army was in mutiny. Some of our party were at bayonet point. But there were men who leapt to protect them. They were former Mau-Mau leaders from Kenya who had found a greater ideology to which to give their lives.

My wife is from Kenya, too. Once these men had rejoiced at the news of her father's death. He was buried alive as a human sacrifice to the gods of Mau-Mau.

Now we stood shoulder to shoulder in the face of danger to save another nation. We were part of a force of Moral Re-Armament invited by Congolese leaders to give a sound basis for their independence.

Lumumba came to power. I do not believe he ever consciously chose Communism, but around him were some of the key Communists of Africa. A Guinean Communist woman became his chief of protocol. A renegade Frenchman, who was part of the Communist apparatus in Algeria, became Press secretary. The late Felix Moumie, terrorist leader from the Camerouns, was training Congolese in street fighting.

The Press was silenced. Assembly was forbidden. Our existence was illegal, as only five people could meet together. We had to plan our exits so that when there was a knock on the door all but five would scatter.

I was arrested by Lumumba's soldiers. I was robbed with two men round my neck and a knife at my throat. Our house was five times broken into. But we decided to stick it out and fight to save a nation.

The United Nations came in. Mr Dayal, of India, became its head. His top financial man said openly: "The policy of the United Nations in the Congo is the policy of Ghana, Guinea, the U.A.R., Yugoslavia and India."

We were placed under a curfew. After 6 o'clock nothing moved on the streets. It was like the end of the world. Unable to go out and meet the Congolese we decided to take on each evening the ideological training of the United Nations forces. They sent a military escort to fetch us.

This action produced a man who was to play a decisive part in the struggle. He was the colonel commanding the 2nd Battalion of the Ghana regiment. His life had been corrupted by compromise, but he got straight on basic things like women, liquor and personal ambition. He found a new direction.

President Kasavubu revoked the Lumumba government. In the ensuing struggle everyone wanted to get control of the radio. The U.N. and President Kasavubu agreed that nobody could go into the station without a pass signed by the President personally.

The Ghanaian colonel had to enforce the policy. One Saturday night he woke with a start and the insistent thought: "Is the radio station really defended?" He got out of bed and went to the station. Everything was quiet and his men were on duty.

But he realized he could not hold it against an attack in force. He got a company of men out of bed and worked right through the night digging trenches and laying barbed wire. When the sun rose on Sunday morning he had a real fortification.

We lunched with him that day at the officers' mess. There was an urgent call for him to go to the radio station. He raced up and found two lorry-loads of

by
Bremer Hofmeyr

soldiers under Communist leadership who had come to take the radio by force. They expected little opposition. Confronted with the colonel's defences they turned and left. The radio station was held.

Our force were asked to broadcast twice a day to give the nation a solid basis. In all we gave 488 broadcasts over the Congo national radio.

The Congo epitomized what is true for all Africa—that we are in the thick of ideological warfare. It showed the readiness of Communism to exploit any situation. It also showed the power of a determined group with an answering ideology and strategy to turn the tide.

I have worked in 18 African countries. Everywhere the ideological pot is boiling. South Africa is used as a focus to enlist all Africa in an anti-White pro-Marxist front.

It would be the sheerest folly for us in South Africa to sit waiting for the blow to fall and let Communist thinking and strategy run the continent. We must go on the offensive with a better idea and take on the whole continent.

The immediate question is "How?" There is at this moment a unique way to start that offensive.

Africa has been assigned to China to communise. In Guinea and Ghana you do not meet many Russians, but you find thousands of Chinese. Radio Peking broadcasts night and day.

But there is a Chinese ideological force with the answer of proven effectiveness. It is led by General Ho Ying-chin, who was Prime Minister of China before the Communist take-over of the mainland. He fought against the Communists. He says: "We had more men and more equipment. Yet they won. Why? Because they had an ideology—something to fight for. They used our moral weaknesses—our love of money, liquor and women." And China fell.

But from Taiwan General Ho is launching a counter strategy. As one step he brought 50 young Chinese, university graduates and military men, for a year's training in Moral Re-Armament. They found an ideology and put it in a play called "The Dragon." It has played in Switzerland, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, and at the moment it is being presented in Germany under the patronage of Chancellor Adenauer.

In Switzerland its effect in the industrial cities was so basic that the head of the Swiss Communist Party apologized at the 22nd Communist Party congress in Moscow for the deviation of the masses of workers from Communism.

South Africa is the one country in Africa with the drive, the vision and the means that could launch such a force for the whole continent. It would cost £100,000. But it could answer the colossal bid of Peking to take Africa, with the greatest ideological offensive yet seen on the African continent.