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.....PRETORIA NEWS.....

At last! Good news for Smithy

Own Correspondent

SALISBURY. — Rhodesia's beleaguered Mr Ian Smith has at last found something to be thankful for.

The former fighter-pilot Premier's "drop-out" son Alec (25), has dramatically reformed.

The last time the rebellious Alec was in the news was in March 1972 when he was fined R250 with a six-month suspended jail sentence for a drugs offence — a shattering blow to his father.

Bachelor Alec had admitted smuggling from Malawi enough dagga to make 562 cigarettes.

Now he is working in the Rhodesian capital for Moral Re-Armament and dedicated to a life of "honesty, purity, unselfishness and love."

Alec makes no secret of the drop-out days he has left behind.

He admits frankly:

"At university (Rhodes in South Africa) I studied law, but I spent most of my time breaking the law. I had long hair, a beard, and I wore crazy clothes, I drank a great deal, and took drugs all the time. I became involved in political demonstrations and was even warned by the police.

"My university career ended in disaster. I turned up for one exam paper dead drunk and wrote a letter to the professor telling him what a stupid exam I thought it was.

With the return of the prodigal, at least Ian Smith's own house is in order. — Daily Express News Service.