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for the past 25 years

# A moral reply to Communism in Africa

I WAS RECENTLY IN ETHIOPIA. There my brother-in-law lies in an unknown grave. He was posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross.

I travelled through Kenya. My father-in-law lies there. He died as a ritual sacrifice—buried alive by the Mau Mau.

I start on a personal note because for all of us Africa is no theoretical problem. Our loved ones lie here. Many of us would rather die here than live elsewhere.

But two hundred million Africans are on the march with a force that cannot be stemmed. What idea will capture their militant leaders? That will decide our future.

Communism represents itself as the ally of the Africans in their struggle for freedom.

For the Youth Festival in Moscow, the Polish ship "Batory" plied along the northern coast of Africa picking up the students and taking them to Russia.

## In Ethiopia

In Ethiopia the great Russian hospital and swollen Soviet Embassy are well known. But today these are being played down and Yugoslavia is the spearhead of Communist infiltration.

Marshal Tito has just been a guest there and in the Sudan. Yugoslavs are in charge of Ethiopia's national development programme. There are three hundred technical advisors to the Government. They are building a port at Assab.

## In the Sudan

While I was in the Sudan, the pro-Egyptian generals marched into Khartoum, occupied the key points and demanded a stronger voice in national affairs. It coincided with a Communist propaganda move.

Leaflets were scattered, shouting for the heads of the staunchest defenders of Sudanese independence, General Wahab and former Prime Minister Khalil. The leaflets were signed "The Sudanese Communist Party."

## At Accra

Last year the Accra conference co-ordinated the nationalist strategy. What had been a thrust here and a thrust there has become a concerted pressure throughout Africa.

The inspirer of the conference was not an African. He was a West Indian who had the vision, the skill and the application to become Dr. Nkrumah's confidant, and he sold the idea.

Yugoslavs, Russians, West Indians light fires throughout this continent, while we in South Africa do not yet accept it as our task to be responsible for the ideological destiny of the continent.

## A moral idea

Yet there is massive evidence that where Europeans live a great moral idea with absolute dedication, the leaders of Africa wholeheartedly embrace it.

I think of Masmoudi, Minister of Information in Tunisia, who lost his bitterness when he met a new type of Frenchman.

In his own words, "But for Moral Re-Armament, Tunisia would today be engaged in a war without mercy with France."

## In Nigeria

THERE is Dr. Azikiwe, Prime Minister of Eastern Nigeria. On the eve of going to Prague and Moscow, he dined in a London home. The way the family lived decided him to seek guidance from God instead of from Moscow for the destiny of his country.

by  
**Bremer Hofmeyr**

He returned home and brought peace to a desperately troubled situation. To this day he has not been behind the Iron Curtain.

Recently he welcomed Dr. Nkrumah as a State guest in his Parliament with these words: "I look forward eagerly to the day when Nigeria can join the people of Ghana to create a hate-free, fear-free and a greed-free continent."

At his side is the general secretary of his party, Fred McEwen, who was joint secretary of the Accra conference. With a group of national leaders he is in an all-out campaign to lay a sound moral basis for self-government in 1960.

## The Cameroons

IN the French Cameroons there is Charles Assale, Minister of Finance. Eighteen months ago he was in the bitterest opposition to the Government.

The country was rent with bloodshed. His change of heart and thinking brought reconciliation with the Government and unity between the parties. The country moves peacefully towards self-government next year.

## South Africans

WHITE South Africans who have accepted the challenge to live for the whole continent are at the heart of these moves. In February I was in the Sudan for three weeks as guest of the Mahdi, who has just died.

The occasion was the wedding of his son Ahmed. He had studied in Oxford. Western materialism had broken down his moral and spiritual convictions. The Communists capitalized on it, and he was about to lead the Sudanese students to Moscow.

Some of us got to know him. He poured out the story of the frustration and moral confusion of his life. He straightened it out and found a faith in God.

He cancelled his Moscow trip, went home and was reconciled with his father.

## Hatred

IT moved me deeply as a White South African, representative of a people bitterly hated throughout Africa, to be a guest of the family at this intimate occasion.

It is also a promise that if we South Africans will live an ideology big enough for every man in Africa, every door can be open to us and the apostles of hatred and division need not have the last word.

These and similar African leaders have created a remarkable ideological weapon in their battle, a film called "Freedom" at present being shown in South Africa and 42 countries around the world in 11 languages.

It is arresting Asian statesmen, it is penetrating the Iron Curtain, and has been acclaimed at world film festivals.

It may also be the voice of the future—Africa with a united voice, a bulwark of freedom in the world.