

Which Way Africa?

by Peter Hannon

A BRITISH radio commentator last week described the present position in Africa as one where everything hangs in the balance, awaiting decision. Rhodesia is the obvious, though not the only, case in point.

But a growing number in Africa are not content to wait and let events just happen. Last December a thousand and from fourteen African nations planned action at an MRA assembly in Nairobi. A strike group of a hundred young Africans was developed. They are now sweeping through ten major towns and cities in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda, at the invitation of mayors, administrators and national leaders. They bring with them a musical called *Harambee Africa*. Their aim: to make real across the continent the 'Harambee' (work as one) call of President Kenyatta. They do this in ninety minutes of song, dance and mime.

In a 12-page periodical *Aim for Africa*, published simultaneously with their musical presentation, Andrew Peppetta, fiery South African director of *Harambee Africa* writes, 'Our continent is going through difficult and trying times. We young men and women are determined to win the battle of making Africa free and stable, progressing the right way. It will take effort and sacrifice.' And a Colour Supplement spells out with wit, force and extreme realism their purpose and how to achieve it. Everyone interested in affecting the future of any continent or the policy of any cabinet should read this. The cartoons we publish give its sharp pungency. *Aim for Africa*, with its colour supplement, is available from MRA, 4 Hays Mews, London W1. Single copies 1s 9d (postage 5d), five copies 7s 6d (postage 10d).

This East African action is not isolated: it impinges on other issues

and situations on the continent.

The Rhodesian issue is clearly deadlocked. But it is also clear that in Kenya a bid is being made to create a society where man is judged by character, not colour. Operation *Harambee Africa* sets Kenya's example on the offensive with a force no frontier can stop. It offers a viable alternative to violence, corruption or the status quo. And in the east are men of Zambia, the country most closely involved with Rhodesia. Already they and men like them are in action at home. Over the Easter weekend showings of MRA films were given an enthusiastic welcome on the Copperbelt, the decisive area for President Kaunda's future, where in the past weeks strikes by European and African miners have threatened the country's economy even more sharply than the difficulties with Rhodesia.

Basutoland

Many today think of a white barrier stretching across Southern Africa from Mozambique in the East through Rhodesia to Angola in the West. But in the heart of South Africa an African nation, Basutoland, makes a formal request to Britain at the end of April for Independence. The Prime Minister, in a letter published in *Aim for Africa*, writes, 'I cannot resist quoting the words: "As Africans of all backgrounds and colours we start thinking how to reach the rest of the continent with an answer to fear and racialism." I wish to send you my best wishes for the sound progress of Africa on the basis of what is right and of responsible freedom.'

Basutoland may be a small country, economically dependent on her neighbour. But what a springboard she could be for her Prime Minister's



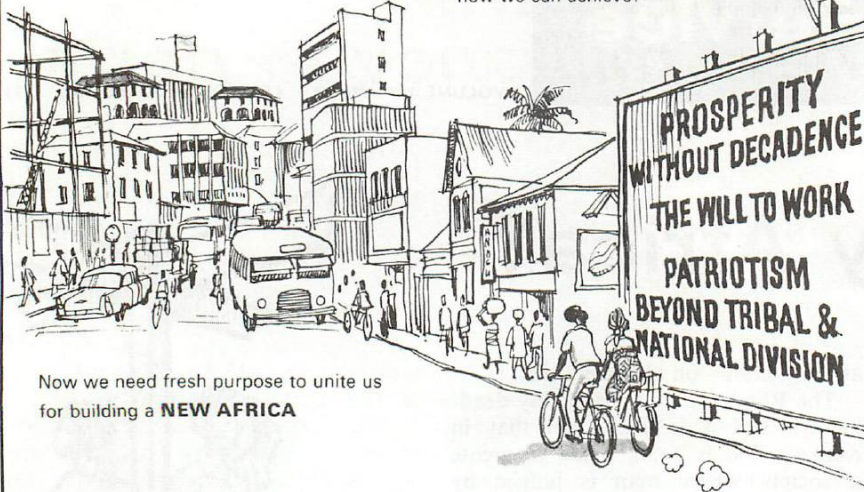
conception to reach all Southern Africa.

Kenya's neighbours

Kenya's closest neighbours are Uganda, troubled by tribal divisions and charges of top-level corruption, where Prime Minister Milton Obote has become President and taken power into his own hands; and Tanzania, where President Nyerere balances the Federation of Tanganyika and Zanzibar. This week *Harambee Africa* with Ugandans and Tanzanians to the fore, visited the Uganda capital, Kampala, and its industrial centre, Jinja, at the headwaters of the Nile. From there they went to Nairobi and then to Arusha and Moshi, administrative centres of Northern Tanzania. The Mayor of Eldoret, Kenya, who with his Council

The freedom struggle gave us UNITY

One African statesman asks how we can achieve:

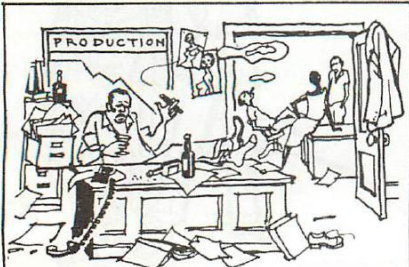


Now we need fresh purpose to unite us for building a **NEW AFRICA**

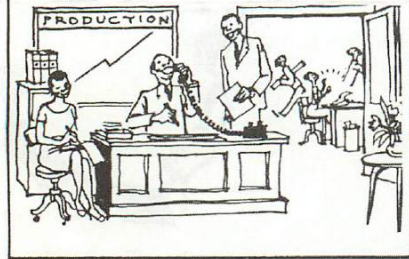
is financing it in his own town and recommending similar action to all his fellow Mayors, calls *Harambee Africa* 'the most hopeful experience since Independence.' Its spirit could mean the safeguarding of freedom for these countries.

The Sudan

Sudan is in the news for bitter civil war between Arab North and African South. Demonstrating the aim of *Harambee Africa* are six Sudanese from both North and South financed by members of their government. Their belief is that the Sudan must become a bridge, not a breaking-point, for Africa. Sudan Airways arranged to transport heavy stage equipment for the musical from London to Nairobi as their contribution. The Editor of *Rai El Amm*, Khar-



"But doesn't this sound rather like having to change my ways?"



We have learnt to master the forces of nature. Now we must master the forces of HUMAN NATURE.

Why do some grow fat



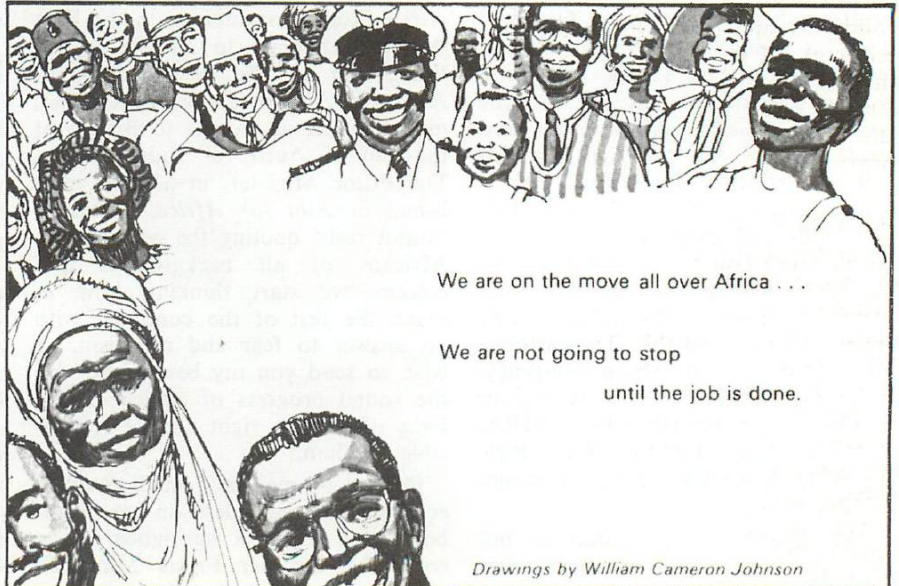
while the many stay thin?

We must answer the question. . . .



I KNOW THINGS ARE WRONG, BUT WHY SHOULD I RISK MY JOB, MY POSITION, MY FRIENDS, TO CHANGE ?

"IT ONLY REMAINS FOR GOOD MEN TO KEEP SILENT FOR EVIL MEN TO TRIUMPH"
— Edmund Burke



We are on the move all over Africa . . .

We are not going to stop until the job is done.

Drawings by William Cameron Johnson

toum's oldest Arabic daily, wrote on 8 April, 'Meetings and shows like this which Moral Re-Armament organises aim at implanting principles which are above tribe and race and are directed towards the uniting of the regions of Africa, and towards unselfishness, sacrifice, love and sincerity.' The paper then adds, 'It is probable that the national groups (which make up *Harambee Africa*) will visit the Sudan in the coming year.' In contributing personally to the delegates' fares the editor said, 'It would be worth it if even one Southerner and one Northerner were working together.'

West Africa

In the past months, six African countries, Congo, Nigeria, Central African Republic, Upper Volta, Dahomey and Ghana, have turned to military governments. The slogan of the new governments is: a national clean-up and new deal for their peoples. *Harambee Africa* could be very relevant to the work of the new governments in realising these aims. The cast, which includes West Africans, is ready to go to West Africa when invited.

British overseas aid

British aid to overseas countries for the coming year is estimated at £225 million. Many ask, 'How do we know that it is being put to the best use?' In this edition of *Aim for Africa*, Ya Dumbia, Ambassador to Paris, London, Rome and Berne for Mali, one of Africa's most militant states, writes, 'Aid must be put into the hands of men who are ready to receive it—politicians and technicians who will use it in the interest of the countries and the peoples who need it. That is our work all over the world, especially with our friends in Moral Re-Armament.'

Africa's world role

Finally, Africa seeks a decisive role in world affairs. *Harambee Africa* challenges most forcefully the weaknesses not only of Africa, but also of the Capitalist and Communist societies. They say, 'What we need is a revolution of character; the moral rearmament of men and nations. Across the world a mighty tide of men and women is rising to this challenge.'

'We are on the move all over Africa. We are not going to stop until the job is done.'

Dockers want new militancy in ports

TWO BRISTOL DOCKERS have called for a militant policy of 'what is right, not who is right' as the basis for settlement of dockland's problems. Previous attempts at bridging the bitterness and division in the docks had not worked, they said.

Bill Stone is Chairman of the Bristol and Avonmouth Liaison Committee and Jack Carroll is the Public Relations Officer of the Committee which was formed during the month-long strike last autumn.

In an interview this week Carroll said, 'The whole docking industry of

the country needs now a change of character from the boss down to the docker. We will only get this through MRA. Then we will get honesty between the employers, the union and the dockers. Decasualisation and modernisation can only get working through MRA.'

Last weekend Stone and Carroll attended an MRA industrial conference in Caux, Switzerland. About a hundred dockers contributed to their expenses. The news of their trip was on the BCC-TV programme 'Points West' and in the *Western Daily Press*.

The world wants greatness from Britain

LONDON may be the 'swinging city' (*Time*, 15 April) but which way is Britain going to swing the world? That is the question asked in newspaper editorials in America and India. They urge Britain to give a new greatness to the world.

The *New York Times* wrote on 4 April, 'Not since Winston Churchill in 1940 has a British Prime Minister had the opportunity for greatness that now confronts the Labour Party leader.' The *Christian Science Monitor* said on 11 April, 'It is just possible that a remarkable new opportunity for greatness has been thrust on Britain . . . yet the image of greatness stems from great endeavours.'

The Indian news magazine, *Himmat*, said in its 18 April issue, 'The Communist world, Europe, South America, Africa and Asia all seek a cure for corruption, division and hate among castes, tribes and races. If Britain under Harold Wilson gives evidence that she wants to grapple with these issues, Britain's new Prime Minister will draw towards himself the hopes and aspiration of millions.'

What is the response of the British people?

The best of Britain's youth want to meet this challenge to greatness.

This week nine young Britons leave for India on the invitation of Rajmohan Gandhi. They will participate in 'decisive, nation-saving work' in a country threatened with disintegration. Rob Pattison, former Rolls-Royce engineer and one of the party going to India, asked the Prime Minister at an election meeting what youth could do to build up the greatness of the Commonwealth. Said Pattison this week, 'I have found the answer to that question in this invitation from Gandhi.'

Industrial relations

A senior industrial figure last week urged that Britain concentrate on doing the one thing which she can do better than other nations—'the creation of the right relations in industry'. Every week there is fresh evidence that men with MRA experience are doing this.

Britain can lead the way, drawing on her experience in government, industry and law, in the modernisation of man, his character and relationships.

Britain, if she decides to, can yet swing world events. It is clear the world expects greatness yet from these Islands.

Brian Lightowler

'Sing-Out' on Australian TV

THE AUSTRALIAN Broadcasting Corporation last week made a 45-minute interview with members of the cast of *Sing-Out Australia*. In a continent-wide hookup the programme was broadcast from Adelaide to Darwin, a distance of 2,500 miles.

Four Adelaide TV stations also gave extensive coverage to *Sing-Out Australia*, which was performed in *Her Majesty's Theatre*, the most modern in the country.

Students from Adelaide University crammed the student dining room for a lunch-time selection of songs from the musical, which was arranged by the Student Representative Council of the university.

In a theatre of the Royal Australian Regiment officers and men roared choruses of the concluding songs, flung their "digger" hats in the air, stamped boots, cheered and whistled. The Commanding Officer, Colonel G J Leary, who had ordered all his men to see the show, presented the cast with a shield bearing the regimental coat of arms.

'Dynamite '66' ready for tour

BRAZILIAN industrial and military leaders attended an advance showing of the Latin American musical *Dynamite '66* in Rio de Janeiro last week.

Albert Kowarick, a Brazilian leader of MRA, said in an interview that Russian, Chinese and Cuban youth were making their ideas known across the world. The ninety-four youth in the musical—they come from eight Latin American countries—would go farther. They were demonstrating a new aim and character for their generation based on absolute moral standards. The musical will visit the major cities and universities of the continent.

As the curtain opened the audience were clapping to the hair-raising beat of the Sambistas—a group of thirty-five samba drummers and dancers. The musical also features Brazilian

and Uruguayan dockers. They dramatize on the stage their attack on bribery in the ports and the high level of efficiency and co-operation developed.

Muriel Smith, the world-renowned mezzosoprano, sang as a guest soloist a song for Brazil.

Volkswagen and Philips of Brazil contributed transportation and stage equipment for the production. Textile firms combined to make the costumes.

Buddhist Abbot says 'support MRA'

CEYLON's senior Buddhist Abbot last week urged the youth of his country 'to join MRA and help its action'. In a message to the opening of an MRA youth camp the Mahanayake Thero of Malwatta Chapter, the Venerable Amunagama Sri Vipassi, declared, 'The four standards, honesty, purity, unselfishness and love, which Buddhism also teaches, lead to great living. Organisations like Moral Re-Armament are very essential to a world rent by strife, controversy and the imminence of war. At a time when the rich and powerful are constantly oppressing the weak MRA is a great service to humanity.'

The Junior Minister of Finance, Nanedisri Wimalasena, said the Ceylon Government extended its fullest co-operation to MRA. The Government was attempting to unite the Sinhalese and Tamil races in the island. 'We are happy to see MRA fulfilling this task. It is not abstract but positive.'

Attending the camp are youth from the Buddhist, Christian and Muslim communities.

American Indians confer with member of cabinet

TO START A NEW ERA of progress for American Indians, US Secretary of the Interior, Stewart Udall, has been meeting in Santa Fé, New Mexico, with top officials of the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

The National Congress of American Indians at the same time called an emergency session there to discuss current Indian problems.

At the height of these sessions last week members of the cast of *Sing-Out New Mexico* were invited to perform at a banquet given by the National Congress of American Indians. Secretary Udall was guest of honour.

Washington officials were present with 300 American Indian leaders headed by Robert L Bennett, the new Commissioner for Indian Affairs. He is the first Indian in a hundred years to be appointed head of the Indian Affairs Bureau.

An American Indian Congressman, Ben Reifel, spoke after Secretary Udall. The Congressman is one of some forty national Indian leaders who have been luncheon guests at the MRA headquarters in New Mexico.

Popovi Da, Chairman of the All-Indian Pueblo Council, which runs Indian community affairs, said that MRA was giving a 'new positive purpose to our Indian people' and to the United States.

Indian leaders invited Secretary Udall to attend showings of *Sing-Out '66* in Constitution Hall, Washington DC, later this month.

'Ploughs for India' plan proposed

A 'PLOUGHS FOR INDIA' scheme has been proposed in Australia. Briefly the idea is that iron-ore rich Australia could provide cheaply two million ploughs for India, a country which urgently needs simple farming implements.

Payment would be in rupees which the Australians would re-invest in India. This proposed scheme would greatly help the development of Indian food production. Experts say that properly developed, India could be a food surplus country. Through the scheme each Indian village would have four ploughs on the average. The proposal was made in Australia's leading political weekly, *The Bulletin*, on 9 April, by Gordon Wise, who has worked extensively in India with Rajmohan Gandhi.
