

## THE AFRICAN SITUATION

It astonishes me to be flying the Atlantic, but here I am in a VC-10 doing it. The Vicar has asked me to write something on the vexed question of the supply of arms to South Africa, and I am trying to get some ideas down on paper before we get to New York, and I get swallowed up into the fascination of my first visit to the United States of America.

Since leaving Uganda at the end of April I have been fortunate in being able to travel quite a bit in free Africa; among other countries I have visited Zambia and Botswana, and have met Africans who are very concerned about their country's future welfare and security. The independence of a country is a very special thing. It is vital that the country becomes self-supporting as quickly as possible; that its economy can be stable and that it need not be dependent on financial support from other countries. It needs time for peaceful progress. It needs to encourage education for all its children and young people; good health services need to be available—in short, everything which Britain has been working up for the benefit of the British people for some time.

Britain has a proud record of independence granted to ex-colonies, and in fact it was to the credit of the Conservative Government prior to the Labour Government that most of the African independencies were negotiated. These mean much to their African inhabitants. If you were a Zambian or a Kenyan or a Ghanaian it would mean much to you.

A look at the map will immediately make you aware of the vulnerability of Zambia, and even more of Botswana. South Africa is very powerful and very near. South Africa and her allies, Rhodesia, Malawi, and Portugal, in Mozambique and Angola, completely surround Botswana and surround two-thirds of Zambia. At any moment Mr. Vorster could make considerable trouble for his young emergent neighbours. There is great anxiety over his attitude. South Africa spends £100 million a year on defence, and all know that this defence is largely directed towards keeping his own African people under strict police state control, and also he is out to intimidate free Africa. Let us take the Africans in South Africa first. There is no freedom or independence for the South African African, nor does Mr. Vorster intend that he should ever have any. The army of informers keeps the African people well under control. With regard to free Africa, the South African whites are only told in propaganda about the things which go wrong in free Africa. They are afraid of free Africa, and it is to Mr. Vorster's advantage to keep them afraid. The good constructive things that happen are not given publicity.

At this time South African police in camouflage uniforms and in motorized units are patrolling the northern borders of Rhodesia adjacent to Zambia; I have seen them. They are on the alert for infiltrations of freedom fighters. South Africans are

being exhorted by notices in the cities of the Republic to send "Comforts for the troops" to the front line to the north of South Africa. South Africa is building a new air base in Malawi, close to where she is building a new capital at Lilongwe for Malawi's Dr. Banda. South Africa is courting Portugal as a friend and is doubtless aiding her financially in strengthening her position in both Mozambique and Angola.

Can you wonder that free Africa is nervous? What will Mr. Vorster do next? He has already warned President Kaunda that if there is any trouble with freedom fighters he will hit Zambia so hard that she will not forget it. And it is at this point that the new Conservative Government in Britain chooses to raise the question of supplying arms to South Africa; and to those who have the welfare of the future of free Africa at heart this is most agitating. Confidence in Britain will be completely shaken, and protest from the coloured races in all countries will follow; for example, the recent Black Power demonstrations in London brought this very near home.

There are, of course, two main points which are brought forward in the discussion of "Arms for South Africa". The need, it is maintained, to keep the sea-route south of the Cape free for the West, and under the control of South Africa and the West; and second, how does France get away with supplying millions of pounds worth of arms to South Africa without criticism? With regard to the freedom of the sea-route: this is said to be essential for the upkeep of our oil supply from the Near East, but surely there are several other sources of supply independent of this route: Algeria, Libya, Nigeria, Canada, the United States and South America? Also, it is precisely the supplying of "Arms to South Africa" and free Africa's consequent turning away from the West and appealing for help to the East which could in course of time create a threat to the sea-route at all. Why should the Conservative Government immediately on entry into power pre-suppose a clash with the Communists? Why do everything in their power to make it more possible that it will come about? The Labour Government was making moves towards an understanding with Russia; surely understanding is a more valuable stepping-stone to the future than defence against antagonists?

The second point is France's attitude to supplying arms, and the absence of criticism from her ex-colonies in Africa. France's relationship with her ex-colonies is completely different from Britain's; most of them are dependent on her with bi-lateral defence agreements. There will probably not be much protest from the ex-French dependencies. I consider that Britain's attitude to her ex-colonies has been a more adult and more constructive one, with necessary financial help in the way of loans and grants still being negotiated through the Ministry of Overseas Development. But if the British Government persists at this moment in going against world opinion and supplying

arms to South Africa she will lose much respect and will arouse much antagonism in the realm of race relations.

I would very much like to have a discussion along these lines in Hampton Hill when I return from the U.S.A. at the end of October, and I hope very much that the Vicar will arrange this.

Hannah Stanton.

### AUTUMN STUDY COURSES

We have been asked to publicise details of two study courses which promise to be interesting and provocative and which should prove rewarding to those attending.

The first is organised by the London Borough of Richmond-upon-Thames at Whitton Evening Institute, Percy Road, Whitton, and is entitled:

A CHRISTIAN PHILOSOPHY—a course of lecture-discussions to be held on Wednesday evenings from 7.30–9.30 p.m., beginning on September 23rd. The course will be conducted by the Rev. P. G. Watkins, M.A., Vicar of St. Matthew's, Ealing Common, and will touch on several of the major issues in Christianity rather than attempt to give systematic coverage to every aspect of the subject. The topics to be covered will range from the fundamental tenets of religion to the more complex theological problems which arise from them, and the approach to each topic will be from out of our contemporary situation. The lectures will be as follows:

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|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. The Subject of Philosophy.       | 7. Ethics and Change.         |
| 2. Doubt and Conviction.            | 8. The Idea of Sin.           |
| 3. The Category and the Individual. | 9. What is Mysticism?         |
| 4. Concerning God.                  | 10. Jesus and Socrates.       |
| 5. Christology.                     | 11. Worship and Child's Play. |
| 6. What it means to be a Christian. | 12. Everlasting Life.         |

The Fee for the one-term course is £1 for adults and 10s. for those under eighteen years.

Whitton Evening Institute is situated behind St. Augustine's Church at the Hospital Bridge Road roundabout on the A.316, Great Chertsey Road, and is within walking distance of Whitton (Southern) Station. Buses Nos. 203 and 110 stop at the Institute. THE CHRISTIAN ETHIC. Western civilisation is founded on this, but many people at the present time are asking "What is the Christian Ethic?" This short course, not only for Christians, is an attempt in a short time to learn and to question Christianity and its relevance today. The TV screen has made most of the speakers known to you.

This second course is run by the LONDON BOROUGH OF HOUNSLOW EDUCATION COMMITTEE at Hounslow Centre for Adult Education, Hounslow Manor School, Holloway Street, Hounslow (Tel: 572 0698) and is to be on Thursdays at 7.30 p.m., starting October 1st, Fee 15s.

1. What is the Christian Ethic?  
Lecturer: Canon G. B. Bentley, St. George's Chapel, Windsor.  
Chairman: The Bishop of Kensington.
2. The Christian Ethic in Relation to Life and Death.  
Lecturer: Dr. David Waterson, Consultant Surgeon.  
Chairman: The Bishop of Kensington.
3. The Christian Ethic in Relation to Politics and the Community.  
Lecturer: The Rev. Ian Henderson, "Christian Action".  
Chairman: The Rt. Rev. C. J. Patterson, Assistant Bishop of London, formerly Archbishop of Central Africa.
4. The Christian Ethic in Relation to War.  
Lecturer: The Rev. Ian Henderson.  
Chairman: The Assistant Bishop of London.
5. The Christian Ethic in Relation to Punishment.  
Lecturer: Mr. Iain Scarlett, The Howard League of Penal Reform.  
Chairman: The Rev. G. Clarkson, Chaplain to Feltham Borstal.
6. The Christian Ethic in Relation to Work and Pleasure.  
Lecturer: Mr. R. J. Bocock, Brunel University.  
Chairman: The Rev. G. Clarkson.

### **THE CHURCHYARD**

The grass is growing overlong and the very few regular helpers, depleted by holidays, are losing the battle to keep our churchyard tidy.

A Mass Attack is being arranged for Saturday, October 3rd, and assistance is required to keep the churchyard in a reasonable state to match the lawn area alongside the Church.

The last Attack in early June was poorly supported, although a great deal of work was done by the few volunteers who struggled with the undergrowth all week, and cleared all but a small portion of the whole area.

Hope springs eternal in the Properties Committee, who rely on you to turn up on October 3rd, any time between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. and enjoy the fresh air whilst doing a worthwhile job for the amenity of Hampton Hill.

R.M.B.

### **BADMINTON CLUB**

The Badminton Club for beginners and young people will, we hope, start again on Saturday September 26th, and continue every following Saturday morning thereafter as the hall is available.

The main aim of this Club is both to teach the rules and to enjoy the game of Badminton, and is especially for young people over the age of eleven.

If you would like to come along, please 'phone 979 1954 (to enquire whether there are any vacancies).

## HARVEST SUPPER

### October 2nd

Tickets are now available from all members of the Social Committee, price 5s. The Hall will be open at 7.30 p.m. and supper will start at 8.00 p.m., followed by an entertainment by the Drama Group.

### TUESDAY CLUB

At our meeting on October 13th Mr. A. Woodward will be speaking on his work as Parks Manager. The evening of October 27th will be an open one—a theatre outing may be arranged.

### AROUND THE SPIRE

Many people must be happy and grateful that their prayers for Mr. Brunt were answered in that he was able to return home sooner than at one time seemed likely. After the worries of past months it was good to hear that the Vicar had been passed fit to go on his holiday in Switzerland, and we all hope that Mrs. Brunt and he will return home rested and strengthened.

As volunteers under the Voluntary Service Overseas scheme, Clare Brunt and Susan Howard will shortly be leaving to serve in different parts of Africa. Clare will be teaching rural science for two years in Zambia, and Susan is going to a hospital further south. We shall give you more news about all this later on.

### WALK FOR HHOCCA

The Hampton Junior Council of Churches is organising a sponsored walk on Sunday (unfortunately no other day seems possible) October 4th to raise money for the Hampton and Hampton Hill Older Citizens' Centre. The walk, which is an attractive one, starts at Boveney Lock above Eton and follows the course of the Thames as closely as possible back to Hampton Court. Walkers will be taken to the start by car. The target for the whole enterprise is £1,000. Anyone wanting to sponsor or walk (and walkers could start at a check-point nearer home) should contact Martin Edmonds, 7 Sherwood Road, 979 1599.

### A BRIEF NOTE FROM THE VICAR

Brief, because that is all there is room for—I would like to write at some length, because I have learnt a great deal in the last few weeks, and passed through many experiences. I have known what it is to be in darkness and come out into light. I am very grateful to many people: the other patients in my ward—some of whom had great ordeals to face; the devoted and highly-skilled staff of the hospital; those who wrote to me and sent messages of good cheer (including the children of the Sunday School, who sent me some delightful drawings and cards); those who upheld me in prayer when things did not look too good; those who visited me and arranged transport that others might also come—I could go on almost indefinitely.

I was greatly heartened by all the love and kindness shown, and by the way in which people rallied round and kept things going normally. The unstinting help so readily given by the

Vicar of St. Mary's, Hampton, and his staff, and later by the Vicar of St. Mary's, Twickenham, was greatly appreciated—and the Bishop of Kensington all through showed himself a real Father-in-God.

I was not allowed to go on holiday without a final check-up on the afternoon of the very day on which we were due to start: fortunately this proved satisfactory, and I have greatly benefitted from our stay in the delightful Bernese Oberland. It is not certain yet whether or not I shall have to go into hospital again for an operation on my other eye, but at the moment I feel fit and well and very thankful, and ready to give of my best in every way I can.

### **LOCAL CHEMISTS' OUT-OF-HOURS DISPENSING SERVICE**

Week beginning:

September

27 Martin, F. G. Ltd., 3 Station Approach, Hampton.

October

4 James, Eileen, 205 High Street, Hampton Hill.

11 Hall, H., 62 High Street, Hampton Hill.

18 Martin, F. G. Ltd., 28b Priory Road, Hampton.

25 Martin, F. G. Ltd., 3 Station Approach, Hampton.

### **SOME DATES TO NOTE**

September

27 Harvest Thanksgiving Services. At Evensong, offerings for S.P.C.K. "Feed the Minds".

28 9.00 a.m. onwards: Distribution of Harvest produce. 10.30 a.m. Editorial Board (30 St. James' Road).

29 St. Michael and All Angels. Holy Communion at 9.00 a.m. Tuesday Club at 8.00 p.m.—Mrs. R. Hines speaks on "The British Museum Library". (W)

October

1 8.00 p.m. Inaugural Service to mark the setting-up of the Kensington Episcopal Area (St. Mary Abbots, Kensington).

2 7.45 p.m. Harvest Supper and Entertainment (Hall).

3 10.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. Mass Attack in the Churchyard.

4 Sponsored Walk in support of the Older Citizens' Day Centre.

7 2.30 p.m. Mothers' Union: Open Meeting. Speaker, Mrs. Church: "M.U. Holidays for Needy Families". (W)

12 8.00 p.m. A.G.M. of the Hampton Council of Churches. (W)

13-14 Mothers' Union Overseas Sale: 11.00 a.m. to 9.00 p.m. on Tuesday; 11.00 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. on Wednesday (Hoare Memorial Hall, Church House).

13 8.00 p.m. Tuesday Club: Speaker—Mr. Woodward, Parks Manager. (W)

15 8.00 p.m. Discussion of Sunday evening's sermon. (W)

17 8.00 p.m. Deanery Synod (St. Mary's Hall, Hampton).

21 7.45 p.m. Newcomers' Party—by invitation. (W)