

B.G. Sat. Sept 25-1976  
How about Ireland?

# Rhodesian majority rule

pressed by a failing economy, a faltering anti-guerrilla campaign and world-wide criticism, Ian Smith's Rhodesian Front, representing the country's 5 percent white minority, has agreed to accept transition to majority rule within two years.

What seemed at first a naive plan to provide international financing for transition appears to have worked, if not because it was the best plan, then because it was the only plan. The future for a class of European descendants in Rhodesia remains uncertain; but uncertainty now with the new agreement is an improvement over the certain catastrophe that a small class of Rhodesians was facing as it fought against the odds to maintain the perquisites of power against the majority will.

The bargain which Mr. Smith made public yesterday in a televised speech from Salisbury extended unusually favorable terms to Rhodesian voters. International sanctions against the country would be lifted, development capital would be injected to stimulate the Rhodesian economy, an international trust fund to finance major projects would be established and guerilla warfare would be halted.

In turn, the minority party would establish an interim government in preparation for majority rule. The interim government would contain representatives of the country's 278,000 non-blacks and 6.4 million blacks and mulattoes.

There are troubling aspects to this agreement and obvious pitfalls. For instance, Mr. Smith implied that Britain and the United States have agreed to ensure a halt in guerilla activity. How? With ground troops or military

aid to the Rhodesian armed forces? That would be clearly unacceptable in America if not in England.

And who will be the beneficiary of development capital? To whom would flow the benefits of an improved Rhodesian economy? If the ruling minority class actually intends to surrender power, will it also loot the economy in the interim?

Will progress toward majority rule be monitored? If so, by whom? Who will lead the interim regime? What if the deal falls through, as has every other initiative towards majority rule since Rhodesia withdrew from British colonial domination 11 years ago?

On the face of it, the bargain struck by Mr. Smith and Sec. of State Kissinger appears to have bought majority rule at a high cost in dollars. The guarantees seem to be for a wealthy ruling elite whose privileges have been accumulated on the backs of the black poor majority. The guarantees to the majority class were not evident in anything said by Mr. Smith yesterday.

Still, the prospects look better than they have in many years for everyone inside and outside Rhodesia. The negative returns of that country's slide towards the race war could throw delicate inter-nation relations between the Western democracies and the Communist world into disarray and neighboring African nations, struggling for internal order and development, could have much of their progress suspended or destroyed.

For the ray of hope, Sec. Kissinger is due a full measure of praise. But it is for the Rhodesians themselves to make it work.

## The price of one's past

Vladimir Sokolov-Samarin, a literature professor, 63 years old and in failing health, hates the Bolsheviks who took over his native Russia. In recent years he has been writing for a Zionist newspaper, published in Russian in New York City, because he believes Zionism is the best way to fight Russian Communism.

Thirty-three years ago, when he was living in Nazi-occupied Orel in Russia, Sokolov-Samarin wrote for Rech, a Nazi newspaper that denounced Communists and Jews. "I would say to the censor, 'We have to write against Bolshevism,' and the censor would say, 'Yes, against Bolshevism and Jews.' I was under the control of the censor," Sokolov-Samarin recalls.

In Sokolov-Samarin's universe, any vehicle for fighting communism deserves his temporary support. "The enemy of my enemy is my friend," he says.

His colleagues in the Yale University department of Slavic language and literature did not agree. When Sokolov-Samarin's past was revealed this spring, by a Communist newspaper based in New York and allegedly aided by the KGB (Russia's secret

police), fellow faculty members tried to force him out.

The department chairman called the writings of Sokolov-Samarin's youth "Goebbels-like," but he and the university provost said there was no academic basis for removing Samarin. Then four teachers, two of them refugees from Nazi Germany, sent Samarin a letter reviling him, to pressure him to resign. He gave in, it was reported this week.

Mr. Sokokov-Samarin says he did not know the Nazis were murdering Jews. That does not matter. His writings, from the excerpts that were published, were repellent and contemptible.

But his colleagues, some of them the victims of past discrimination, seem to have forgotten the fundamental principle of academic freedom.

Whether a man is a Nazi or Communist, a proponent of racial superiority or eugenics or colonialism or religious oppression, his ideas can never be too dangerous to be heard. The history of Western civilization is proof of Plato's belief that human beings can discern good from evil and eventually choose the good. That is why democracy can work.

Thoughts about Freedom and  
Justice - How about Ireland  
83 Percent of the People of Ireland voted for  
Freedom and for the Irish Republic of  
Ireland Dec 14 - 1918 -

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