

Dismay in SA: the war goes on

THE SUNDAY TIMES

- 8 DEC 1974

By **STANLEY UYS**
SUNDAY TIMES Political Editor

NEWS of the failure of the Lusaka talks was received in South African political circles with total dismay.

The collapse of the talks means the terrorist war in Rhodesia will continue and possibly even be intensified. South Africa, which has up to 2 000 policemen in Rhodesia, will be drawn increasingly into that war.

All the fears that exist, and which led to the Lusaka talks, will now reappear.

Mozambique, too, could be drawn deeper into the terrorist war against Rhodesia, and pressure would be brought on the Frelimo Government to close the ports of Beira and Lourenco Marques to Rhodesian traffic.

Exposed

This would affect South Africa immediately. Its overloaded railway system would have to handle all Rhodesia's imports and exports, and it would stand exposed internationally as a sanctions breaker.

Not only will South Africa be unable to withdraw its police units from Rhodesia, but the continuation of the terrorist war there would prevent South Africa and Zambia coming to terms. This in turn will mean the continuation of the terrorist war in the Caprivi Strip.

Economically, the consequences of endemic terrorist warfare could be disastrous. Zambia's economy is suffering as a result of its border with Rhodesia being closed; Mozambique badly needs economic help and food supplies; and Rhodesia itself would have to go deeper into siege.

Alarming

The contrast between what could have been achieved if the Lusaka talks had been successful, and what may happen now, is alarming.

It is difficult to see what influence even Mr Vorster could bring to bear on the situation. It is not likely that he would try to persuade Rhodesia to accept immediate majority rule.

No solution seems possible unless the leaders of Black states can bring pressure on Zambia's leaders, and the terrorist leaders, to moderate their demands.

BOSS CHIEF'S KEY DETENTE ROLE

Schoeman speech ignored

By J. H. P. SERFONTEIN

THE RECENT controversial speech by Mr Ben Schoeman, the former Minister of Transport and Deputy Prime Minister, in which he criticised the Government's move to seek co-operation with Zambia, did not appear in a single newspaper of the Perskor group because of strong Cabinet pressures.

This intervention is part of an intense Press war between the two big Nationalist publishing companies, Perskor and Nasionale Pers.

It appears that Nasionale Pers newspapers either did not receive such a request or ignored it because they gave prominence to the speech. Beeld, the new rival of the Transvaler, carried it on the front page, but the Transvaler did not carry a word.

Apparently Dr Hilgard Muller, Minister of Foreign Affairs, a director of Perskor, spoke to the editors of the four Perskor dailies—the Vaderland, the Transvaler, the Hofstad and Oggendblad. They were asked to ignore the speech because it had come at a very delicate stage and could have done irreparable harm to the hush-hush diplomatic negotiations between South Africa and Zambia.

For the sake of national interest they agreed not to report the speech, under the impression that the Nasionale Pers newspapers would do the same.

I understand that Mr P. W. Botha, Minister of Defence and Cape leader of the Nationalist Party, was supposed to have conveyed the request to Nasionale Pers, of which he is a director. Newspapers in this group, the Burger, Beeld, Volksblad

and Oosterlig, deny having received such a request.

Transvaal Nationalist and Press sources now claim that Mr Botha's "omission" was part of a clever strategy to discredit the Perskor group. Mr Schoeman is still chairman of that group. The declared aim of Nasionale Pers is to force all Cabinet Ministers to resign from Perskor, which has six on its board.

This clash between the two Press groups should be seen against the bitter competition between the Transvaler and Beeld, the newly-launched Nasionale Pers daily.

At its launching Nasionale Pers boasted that it would have a circulation of at least 25 000 more than that of the Transvaler within three months. However, it is common knowledge that Beeld is far short of its target.

First round

Its circulation is estimated to be between 20 000 and 30 000; the Transvaler's is 55 000. It has apparently lost no readers and expects sales of 80 000 by the end of December. Thus nothing came of the expected walk-over and the confidently predicted collapse of the Transvaler within six months.

News by J. H. P. Serfontein, 171 Main Street, Johannesburg.

Forged links with Kaunda

THE SUNDAY TIMES

- 8 DEC 1974

By J. H. P. SERFONTEIN
SUNDAY TIMES Political
Correspondent

GENERAL Hendrik van den Bergh, the head of the Bureau for State Security (Boss), and his senior officers played a major role behind the scenes in master-minding and executing the plans which led to the dramatic breakthrough in South Africa's relations with Black Africa.



General Hendrik van den Bergh.

In particular, they played a crucial and direct role in pulling off what seemed the impossible — the reaching of an understanding with Zambia.

● Though all details of the top-level secret negotiations are not yet known, these facts clearly emerge:

● Several negotiations, involving people from Boss, the Foreign Affairs and Information departments and the private sector, took place.

● The crucial Boss operation was handled with the greatest diplomacy, tact and sophistication — which wiped out the tragic blunder of three years ago when the strategy was to "expose" President Kaunda of Zambia.

● Directly involved in all this strategy was the Prime Minister, Mr Vorster, who was the central figure in the entire diplomatic offensive.

I am told that the final unofficial understanding with Zambia was reached within weeks.

Of course, this was preceded by efforts over more than a year involving a wide spectrum of contacts, including influential American sources.

Apparently, at the end of September, one of General Van den Bergh's most senior men was sent to Zambia with a message. This was just after the Frelimo take-over in Mozambique, and talk in certain circles about a Zambia-Frelimo-ANC "agreement" concerning terrorist

activities against South Africa.

Mr Vorster made it clear in his personal message that South Africa desired peace, that it wanted to co-operate with Black Africa, and that it could offer a lot in terms of economic and other assistance.

However, he also made it clear that if Zambia backed a terrorist offensive, South Africa would defend itself with all its might — and Zambia would have to suffer the consequences.

The timing of the message was brilliant. It came when Zambia was facing several serious internal problems (see report on Page 15).

This began the chain of events which led to Mr Vorster's speech in the Senate on October 23, and the dramatic acceptance of his hand of friendship by President Kaunda three days later.

After that development, a high-ranking Zambian emissary immediately visited South Africa. More visits were subsequently exchanged.

Apparently, Mr Vorster finally received a message from President Kaunda, through General Van den Bergh's communications system, the day before he made his important policy speech on Africa in the Senate.

During the Zambian independence celebrations, three days later, President Kaunda informed Mr Vorster that he would respond directly to the speech.

Zambia is now wary of China

THE SUNDAY TIMES

- 8 DEC 1974

By J. H. P. SERFONTEIN

FEARS of Chinese political, military, and particularly economic strangleholds on Zambia seem to be her main motives for wanting a detente with South Africa and an active role in the search for a peaceful solution to the racial situation in Southern Africa.

President Kenneth Kaunda is deeply concerned about the penetration of the Chinese into Zambia through their role in the R286-million Tanzam railway line. The Chinese can virtually control Zambian copper exports — the backbone of the economy.

There is wide disillusionment over the role of the Chinese, whose motives are now deeply mistrusted. Because of this growing hostility, Dr Kaunda was receptive to private and public peace overtures in September and October by the Prime Minister, Mr Vorster.

The overtures emphasised what South Africa could offer African states in economic and technical assistance, particularly food, of which there is a serious shortage in Zambia.

Dr Kaunda, in turn, emphasised that South Africa should show her goodwill by moving at speed towards solving and removing the Rhodesian and South West African issues from the international political arena. This would enable Dr Kaunda to defend himself against attacks from the Organisation of African Unity and the United Nations.

A Rhodesian settlement would mean that Zambia could again use the rail links through Rhodesia, Mozambique and South Africa — and so reduce his almost complete dependence on the Tanzam railway.

I understand that there has been mention of the possibility of Western financial assistance, which would involve South Africa, to pay out the Chinese for building the railway.

Several matters are worrying the Zambians. Though it was said originally that Chinese workers on the Tanzam railway would not exceed 5 000, it is now estimated that there could be ten times that number in Tanzania and Zambia — working not only on the railway, but

on other projects.

It was also believed originally that the Chinese would return home after the line had been completed. Now it seems they will be responsible for maintaining the line for 25 years.

The Tanzam project also involved the export of Zambian copper in return for Chinese goods to Zambia and Tanzania — giving China a grip on the economies of both countries.

The quality of the Chinese goods is said to be poor.

More alarming is the standard of work on the railway. There have been reports of earthwork embankments being washed away and untreated wooden sleepers infected by white ants.

Last year mineral exports, mainly copper, earned Zambia R730-million — 98 per cent of it was foreign exchange earnings.

For economic reasons it is vital for Zambia to be able to export through Rhodesia and use harbour facilities in Mozambique and South Africa.

Homeland leaders—the end of a busy year

By Phil Mtimkulu
HOMELAND leaders were among the guests at the international multi-racial conference held this week at Jan Smuts Hall, at the University of the Witwatersrand.

The conference, the theme of which was "Strategy for Development", was sponsored by the South African Institute of International Affairs, the Rand Afrikaans University and the Foundation for Foreign Affairs of Chicago.

The homeland leaders

present were: Prof H W Ntsanwisi of Gazankulu, Mr L L Sebe of the Ciskei, Chief Patrick Mphahlele of Vendloland and Chief Vessels Motha of Basotho Qwa-Qwa, Chief Gatscha Buthelezi of KwaZulu and Chief Lucas Mangope of BophuthaTswana were also expected.

Among the people who presented papers was a Nigerian professor now based in America Prof Victor Uchendu, a Malawian, Dr Z D Kadamira who is at the University of Malawi, Mrs Constance Khoza of the Inter-

Church Aid of the South African Council of Churches and Chief T M Molahlela, the Minister of Interior in the BophuthaTswana Government.

This conference could mark the end of a busy programme for homeland leaders. Throughout the year they have been engaged in many conferences and some have been invited overseas.

Attention was also focused on a South African, now a citizen of America Prof Absalom Vilakazi.

Prof. Uchendu's paper was on "the motivation and incentive structure for planning rural development." Mr Khoza's paper was on "Human Development — a crucial factor for community develop-

ment," which dealt with her experience in Swaziland development programmes undertaken by the church in South Africa.

Some of the invited guests were Mr H M Chunga, First Secretary, Malawi Embassy, Mr B Dyantyi, Private Secretary to the Chief Minister of Ciskei, M A E Gao-mab, South West Africa, Mr N Mkele, marketing consultant and psychologist, Mrs Lucy Mvubelo and Mr S M Motsuenyane.

Mr M. T. Moerane (left), the president of ASSECA, chats with a fellow South African, who is now an American citizen, Prof. A. Vilakazi. This was during the multi-racial conference on development held at the University of the Witwatersrand, this week.

8 DEC 1974



'Fear, misconception' behind moves to muzzle papers

By RAY SMUTS

PIERRE SALINGER, White House Press Secretary during the Kennedy-Johnston administration, said in Durban this week that attempts by governments to muzzle the Press through restrictive legislation resulted from fear and a misconception of its role in a free democratic society.

Visiting South Africa for the first time, to make the annual Press award of the Stellenbosch Farmers' Winery, Mr Salinger, 49, now roving editor for the French weekly, *L'Express*, spoke of his deep concern at what he termed "a world-wide phenomenon" — growing hostility towards the Press in democratic societies

In an interview with the *SUNDAY TIMES* he spoke of a host of subjects, ranging from the necessity for a free Press to the Watergate scandal and the Middle East situation.

Mr Salinger told me it was apparent that the growing hostility towards the Press in democratic societies was coming from two sources, governments and a large body of public opinion which was developing an antipathy towards the Press.

"We have seen increasingly frequent efforts by democratic governments to muzzle the Press by restrictive legislation and open attacks on the Press in an effort to intimidate them."

"This results from a fear of the Press on the one hand, and, secondly, a misconception of the role of the Press in a free democratic adversary."

"If you are really going to have a democracy it is essential to have a free Press because a free Press guarantees a flow of information which is highly necessary for the judgments that people in democracies have to make."

"A free Press must of necessity be an adversary of the government. I don't

mean by that that it has to be hostile, but it cannot allow itself to become an adjunct to the government. The minute it does its freedom vanishes."

"All you have to do is look around the world today and see those countries where the Press is an arm of the government to realise that it is no longer free and that that government is no longer a democracy."

The attitude of the public towards the Press was "a more subtle but maybe more fascinating phenomenon."

"As we live in an increasingly complex world, problems appear terribly complex to people. In fact, to many they appear insoluble, and once it has been determined that a problem is insoluble many people don't want to hear about that problem any more."

"The Press, and this may be more true of radio and television, becomes an insistent reminder that the problem exists, and people then turn against the Press as if they were the instigator of the problem."

Mr Salinger, predicting that these combinations of attacks would become more insistent, stressed that any effort by any government to repress the freedom of the

Free Press essential — Salinger

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Press was "a blow at the very idea of democracy."

Asked for his views on the English Press in South Africa, he said it seemed that it was "quite insular". It was, not surprisingly, very wrapped up in its own problems.

On South Africa's racial policies, Mr Salinger said: "It would be most foolhardy for me to come down here and try to tell you the solution, but I make this judgment that the present system cannot survive."

"It is artificial, and even the most thoughtful South Africans who currently support the Government's policy have misgivings about the ability of that system to survive."

Mr Salinger, predicting that these combinations of attacks would become more insistent, stressed that any effort by any government to repress the freedom of the

Mr Vorster's recent "give South Africa six months" speech had been welcomed abroad, "but people are still sceptical and want to be shown that the Prime Minister intends to put into effect a number of policies which will carry out the spirit of that speech."

Mr Salinger also spoke of dialogue between South Africa and its Black neighbours, saying: "It seems to me the central question is that if South Africa is in fact seeking detente with its African neighbours what is the price these neighbours are going to ask for detente and what price is South Africa willing to pay?"

"These seem to be the essential questions. While it

is not an exact parallel, we have seen in the evolution of detente between the United States and the USSR the aggressive action by Congressional bodies, it has to include the whole community of nations."

"Now you can very well see a set of conditions being put on detente between South Africa and its neighbours."

Commenting on efforts to have South Africa expelled from the United Nations, Mr Salinger said he disagreed with such a move.

"The whole idea of throwing countries out of international bodies is a mistake."

You can completely despise a system in South Africa and at the same time you have to realise that if you are going to have real working international bodies, it has to include the whole community of nations."

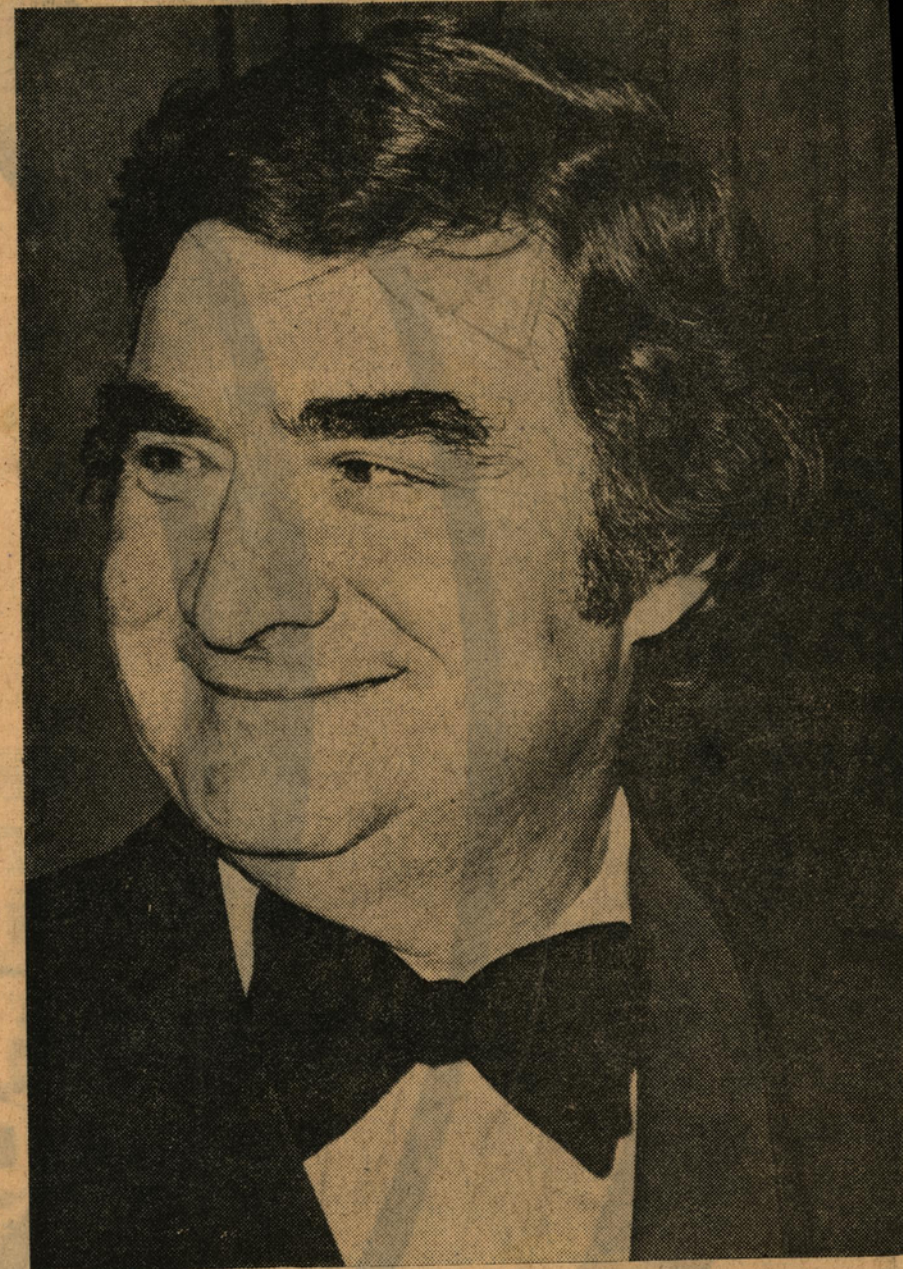
"If you are going to have any kind of dialogue at international level you have to accept your enemies as well as your friends."

Referring to the Watergate scandal and the man whose reputation went down the drain — Richard Nixon — Mr Salinger said he felt that the timing of President Ford's pardon of the former President had been "unfortunate" in that it came so soon after he had relinquished office.

"The pardon left people with the impression that they were witnessing another cover-up of the real facts in the Watergate case."

"I don't think there was any percentage of Americans who wanted to see Richard Nixon go to jail. I don't think there was any feeling of revenge but the general feeling was that the early pardon of Richard Nixon might shut off some avenues to finding out about parts of the Watergate story that we may not know."

It was too early to judge how Mr Nixon would go down in history — "but my own judgment is that Watergate will be the story finally written about Richard Nixon."



Mr Pierre Salinger . . . deep concern at growing hostility towards the Press in democratic societies. Picture: BARRY COMBE

THE SUNDAY TIMES.

Economic power — last bastion to fall

THE AVERAGE English-speaking adult in South Africa in 1974 is a city-dweller aged about 41. Taken as a group, half of them are under 37, two-thirds are married, a fifth have not been married and the rest are either widowed or divorced.

There are 1 487 250 Whites in South Africa today whose home language is English — 844 750 fewer than the Afrikaans-speaking community. Only 669 011 of them are economically inactive, compared with 1 175 063 Afrikaans-speaking people who are not economically active. The figures in both cases include housewives, school pupils and children.

These are some of the findings of Professor Hilstan Watts, Professor of Sociology at Natal University, in a fascinating "Social and Demographic Portrait of English-Speaking White South Africans."

Professor Watts' analysis is based on several surveys, especially by Market Research Africa into English-speaking South Africans and a parallel survey of Afrikaans-oriented South Africans both of which were organised by Professor Lawrence Schlemmer of the Institute of Social Research.

The average level of education, including post-school training, for English-speakers is 12 years — Standard 10 or its equivalent.

The Afrikaners differ only slightly. While they have about the same average age, they have more married people (three-quarters) and a slightly lower average level of education — 11.25 years of education, or about three-quarters of a standard less.

The vast majority of English-speaking White adults are South African citizens.

The survey showed that only 15 percent were not citizens; of this 15 percent five percent thought they would definitely not become citizens and a further two percent "probably not." The rest were either not too sure or felt they would become citizens.

There is a ratio of 94 men to 100 women in the English-speaking community, compared to 97 men to 100 women for Afrikaners.

Three-quarters of the English speakers — an estimated 909 000 — live in the cities, a fifth in the towns (218 000), and only five percent (64 000) in villages.

Cities were defined in the survey as communities with more than 20 000 Whites, towns had between 2 000 and 19 999 Whites, and villages had under 2 200 Whites.

Highest level

Historically the English-speaking Whites were mostly an urban population and today they are almost entirely so. About 95 percent are now living in urban areas. But the Afrikaner has experienced a dramatic rate of urbanisation — from 47.8 percent in 1936 to an estimated 88 percent in 1974.

Despite the evidence of the 1960 census — results of the 1970 census are still not available — the 1974 sample survey conducted by Market Research Africa "strongly suggests that English-speaking Whites are still predominant in the more urban areas."

Portrait of an English speaking South African

THE SUNDAY TRIBUNE

- 8 DEC 1974

By BRENDA ROBINSON

rapid: "The 1974 sample figures show a more rapid change than I had expected.

"This suggests that whereas until fairly recently the English-speaking Whites in South Africa held the almost virtual monopoly of economic power, they are now already having to share it, and the day is not far distant when not only will they have lost political power (which at the latest they lost in 1948 when the first entirely Afrikaans Cabinet took office), but they will lose control of important sections of economic power."

One in six English compared with more than half the Afrikaans blue-collar workers are in the civil service, and considerably fewer Afrikaans women work than English-speaking women.

About a quarter of the English-speaking South Africans belong to the Church of the Province of South Africa, one fifth are Methodist, and "over one-sixth" are Roman Catholics. The Jewish tradition accounts for about one in 12.

Asked how often they went to church, two-fifths said they hardly ever went, one in four said they went every week, a tenth said they went fortnightly, and 14 percent said monthly.

than Afrikaners.

Office-bearers in English-speaking institutions, and English community leaders come from many and varied backgrounds. But they tend to be Anglican or Jewish and are less likely to be Catholic or Dutch Reformed.

They are more likely to be fairly frequent churchgoers, better educated, more likely to have gone to a private school and to have come from an above-average status home. They will be older, married, and will have lived long in the community they lead or have been bred there. Their family is more likely to have come from Britain or Eastern Europe.

They are likely to be bilingual and have a fairly high socio-economic status. They are also likely to have lived in a big South African or British city before moving to their present residence.

Seventeen percent of English-speakers could not say when their ancestors arrived in South Africa, eight percent believed they had come before the start of the 19th Century, and 46 percent thought during the 19th Century. Fifteen percent thought their ancestors were 1820 settlers.

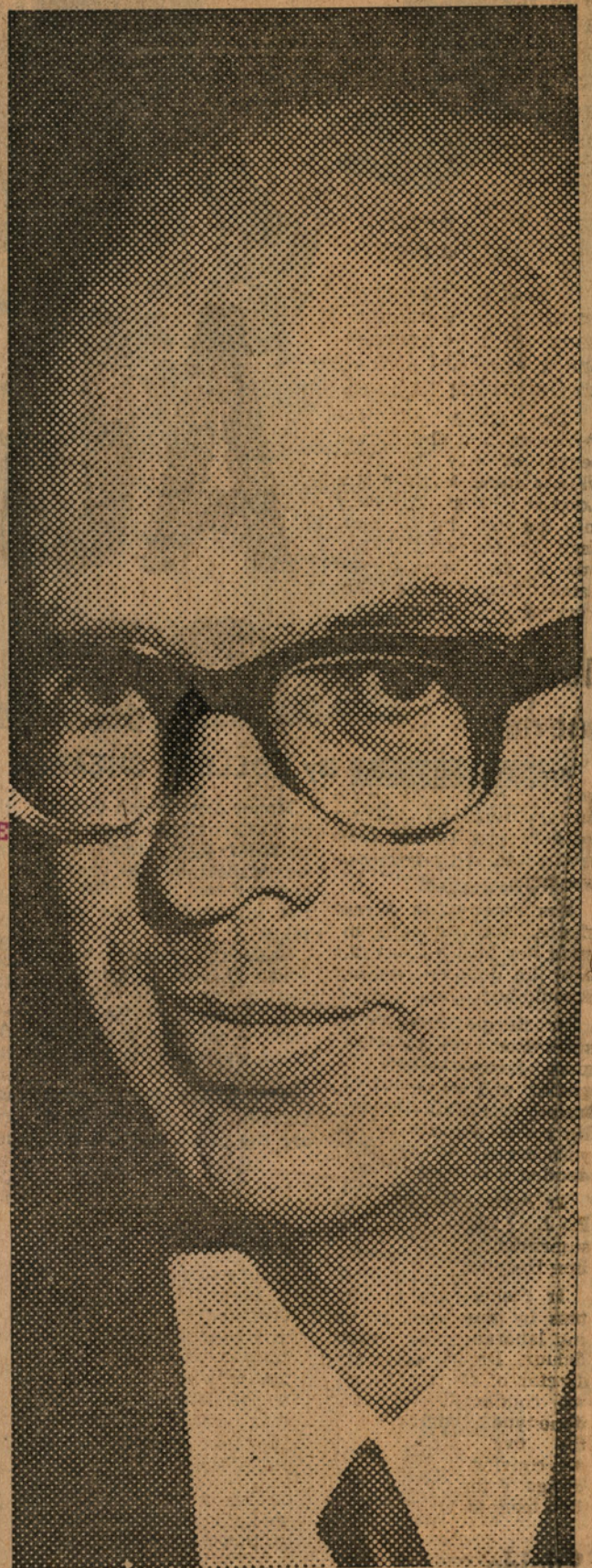
among Asians, English is spreading as a home language.

Professor Watts comes to the conclusion that the spread of ability to speak English among Whites, Coloureds and Asians is faster than the spread of Afrikaans. Only among Africans do census figures show a more rapid growth in the proportion able to speak Afrikaans.

Taken as a whole, concludes Professor Watts, English-speaking South Africans as a group come from the most culturally advantaged home background of any ethnic or sub-cultural group in South Africa.

Ever since psychological testing of abilities has been used in South Africa, English-speaking Whites, as a group, score higher on average than the Afrikaners or any other ethnic group — due, he believes, to the greater cultural advantages in the average English-speaking home rather than to any differences in basic innate ability.

The potential influence of English-speaking Whites is increasing because of the spread of the language to other ethnic groups — and this means they have a greater opportunity to spread ideas and values than ever before.



Professor Hilstan Watts ... "the men were not being entirely truthful"

QUOTE

... Whereas until fairly recently the English-speaking Whites in South Africa held almost virtual monopoly of economic power, they are now already having to share it, and the day is not far distant when not only will they have lost political power, but they will lose control of important sections of economic power

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At the highest level of independent and top professional workers there were 208 English speakers to 100 Afrikaners.

In the upper white-collar workers category there are 167 English-speakers to 100 Afrikaners, and in the lower white-collar and blue-collar categories the English-speakers are again numerically dominant. But in the lower blue-collar ranks the Afrikaner predominates.

But, says Professor Watts, the upward mobility of the Afrikaner in the post-war era has been very

But Professor Watts was suspicious. Men, on the whole, gave the same replies as women "and common observation suggests that in many denominations sometimes as many as three or four times as many women as men attend church". The men, he thought, were not being entirely truthful.

Civic affairs, religious bodies, politics, and to a lesser extent educational organisations are activities where Afrikaners outnumber English office-bearers and take up roles of community leadership.

Social clubs, welfare organisations, sports clubs, cultural associations and professional or business associations are spheres where there are more English-speaking office bearers

Fifty-two percent of the people questioned had Afrikaans-speaking close relatives, and 36 percent, many of whom would be included in the last figure, had Afrikaans-speaking ancestors.

English at home

Of English-speakers 88 percent speak only English at home, but a further six percent speak English and Afrikaans. The remaining six percent speak one or more foreign European languages.

But 58 percent of English-speakers speak Afrikaans freely and fluently, and about four-fifths altogether can understand it.

The percentage of Coloureds, Asians and Africans who can speak English is growing, and

But will they use it?

"Are they even aware of it at this time of darkening storm clouds over Southern Africa?" he asks. "History will have to tell the tale of how, if at all, this opportunity is used."

Although English-speaking South Africans still have some of their historical, social and economic advantages in South Africa, Professor Watts says they must take note of the rapid urbanisation of the Afrikaner and the modernising of the Blacks.

No longer can they be "bosses or leaders," he says — they must share the job of modernising South Africa as partners with others, thus making a contribution to the common urban society no less important, if perhaps less spectacular, than at earlier periods in South African history.

- 8 DEC 1974

Kaunda stunned as Smith rejects terms

THE LUSAKA "peace" talks between Rhodesia and her Black neighbours collapsed dramatically yesterday when Mr Ian Smith's Cabinet turned down demands for majority rule as a cease-fire condition.

The breakdown of the talks between Rhodesian Government officials and three Black heads of state dashed hopes for a summit conference of Black and White leaders to crack the nine-year-old constitutional deadlock.

And indications are that Mr Smith's rejection took Zambia by surprise as Rhodesian officials had said the terms would be acceptable.

It was believed that a date for a fully representative constitutional conference had been set for January 20. The only snag seen was which Black leader of Zapu or Zanu was to head the delegation.

'No cessation of terrorism'

The collapse of the talks is certain to come as a blow to President Kaunda, whose personal diplomacy initiated the historic meeting with the Rhodesian Government envoys after initial contacts with the South African Prime Minister, Mr Verster.

Late last night, final efforts to reconcile bitter differences between the rival nationalist movements, Zanu and Zapu, had succeeded and it is believed that Mr Joshua Nkomo was to lead the negotiations at a proposed Salisbury constitutional conference.

One of the departing Tanzanian delegates said unofficially that the compromise achieved between Mr Nkomo and Mr Sithole was the keystone of the talks. The Rhodesians, he said, were expected to accept the opportunity with alacrity.

A statement released by Mr Smith's office said the Government had rejected as "not acceptable" a demand that "there would be no cessation of terrorism unless it was agreed that a pre-condition to the constitutional conference . . . be on the basis of immediate majority rule."

It had been understood that:

- The Lusaka conference had indicated that the Black powers would consider suspending the principle of Nibmar — no independence before majority African rule — in exchange for a firm timetable of progression towards majority rule.



Mr Smith . . . a smile before the drama

● No summit between President Kaunda and Mr Vorster would have been possible before the successful conclusion for a Rhodesian constitutional conference.

The security clampdown on the talks this week was an index to the sincerity of purpose of the three Presidents in getting the guerilla-nationalist movements together with Mr Smith after years of failure by successive British Governments.

President Kaunda, President Nyerere of Tanzania and Sir Seretse Khama of Botswana flew home yesterday after a week of intense

From DEREK TAYLOR in LUSAKA JOHN EDLIN in SALISBURY

speculation of an imminent ceasefire.

The failure of the Rhodesian Government to secure an acceptable basis for an early constitutional conference has shattered growing optimism for an internal settlement.

The announcement of the collapse was unexpected. The Rhodesian Cabinet had gone into session yesterday morning. Mr Smith emerged about noon, smiling, and told reporters he was on his way to draft a communique.

But when the statement came, it said: "Consistent with detente which has developed recently in Southern Africa, discussions on the Rhodesia issue have taken place in Pretoria, Lusaka and Salisbury. Resulting from these discussions the Rhodesian Government agreed to mount a constitutional conference on certain conditions:

Standards

"Firstly, that there should be a cessation of terrorism in accordance with the Prime Minister's frequently stated principles that he would only be prepared to discuss constitutional issues with those who undertook to work constitutionally and within the law.

"Secondly, that any constitutional conference would have to accept that there would be no lowering of standards.

"Accordingly, and with the concurrence of the Rhodesian Government, discussions were held in Lusaka this week between 18 Rhodesian Africans — six from each of the banned African organisations (Zanu and Zapu) and six

from the ANC (African National Council) — and the presidents of Zambia, Tanzania and Botswana.

"Following on these discussions, a meeting was held yesterday . . . between the three presidents and representatives of the Rhodesian Government.

Majority

"At this meeting, our representatives were informed that there would be no cessation of terrorism unless it was agreed that a pre-condition of the constitutional conference was that it would be on the basis of immediate majority rule.

"These proposals are not acceptable to the Rhodesian Government."

The statement did not mention whether there were any further possibilities for talks with the three heads of state, but it did say: "The Rhodesian Government repeats its oft-stated policy of promoting co-operation and peaceful co-existence in Southern Africa and will continue to pursue this objective."

The statement did not name the negotiators, but they were believed to be Secretary to the Cabinet Jack Laylard, who was involved in earlier talks with Britain, and Attorney General Tony Smith.

Mr Joshua Nkomo, Zapu leader, and the Rev Ndabamingi Sithole, Zanu leader, were allowed out of detention for the talks by the Rhodesian Government and it is believed they were accompanied by Bishop Abel Muzorewa, the ANC leader.

Mr Vorster was unavailable for comment yesterday.

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