

## SOUTH AFRICA VOTES REPUBLICAN

South Africa has made the expected choice - to be a Republic. Indeed, despite lively opposition, especially in Johannesburg, it was the inevitable choice, so thoroughly did the government of Dr. Vervoerd organise the campaign, while allowing only white people to vote in the Referendum. Vervoerd declared before polling day that if he only had a majority of one, the Union would become a Republic. Women polled in strength while the men were at work.

By no means did Dr. Vervoerd have it all his own way. For days, in Jo'Burg and all places of pro-British leaning, the opposition was strong. Sir de Villiers Graaf vigorously fought the Republican idea. He has opposed the Premier in Parliament. Now he stumped the country, with great success wherever the majority were of British blood. But nothing less than a Republic would satisfy the Dutch-descended Africaners, who bitterly resent the defeat of their forebears, the Boers. That was at the beginning of the century, long before most of the voters were born.

Dr. Vervoerd was all along determined to end the monarchy in South Africa. He was born in Holland during the Boer War, raised in the smarting years of defeat, and nearly sixty years later he's restoring the Republic overthrown when he was a babe in arms.

Yet as the Referendum wore on, it was clear that it would be a very close thing. Early figures were against the Republic, but everybody - coloured folks included - knew that the later returns would swing it the other way. And as only the whites were allowed to vote, the coloured four-fifths of the population had no say in the choice. They were disconsolate when the result showed a Republican victory. What lies before her people, white and coloured.? What is South Africa's future in the Commonwealth?