

WEED MAKES DAM PROBLEM

There was mild alarm at Kariba Dam when they discovered that the upper rock structure, at the south end of the great wall, was crumbling. Work was begun without delay to buttress the cracks with 25,000 tons of rock and cement. Every day the weight of water behind the great dam increases, as the river is impounded. Experts are confident that the fault is being righted in good time.

There's trouble of another sort on the man-made lake formed by the dam: vast formations of weed. When it fills up the lake will be 150 miles long, 2,000 square miles in area. The Salvinia weed already covers 200 square miles, so unless man gets the upper hand before long the position will be serious. It may choke the hydro-electric workings, prevent lake transport and kill the plan to stock the lake with fish. The introduction of small fish, chemical weed-killers and dredging may stop the unwelcome growth.