

BROADCAST BY THE PRIME MINISTER OF SOUTHERN
RHODESIA, SIR EDGAR WHITEHEAD, ON SATURDAY,
9th DECEMBER, 1961, AT 7.10 P.M.

Good morning, everybody.

I am speaking to you this morning to give you certain information. His Excellency the Governor has to-day issued the following proclamation:-

"WHEREAS by subsection (1) of section 3 of the Unlawful Organisations Act, 1959, it is provided that the Governor may by proclamation in the Gazette declare any organisation to be an unlawful organisation if it appears to the Governor that the activities of such organisation or any of the members of such organisation are likely to endanger public safety, to disturb or interfere with public order, or to prejudice the tranquility or security of the Colony, or are dangerous or prejudicial to peace, good order or constitutional government, or are likely to raise disaffection among the inhabitants of the Colony or to promote feelings of ill will or hostility between or with different races of the population in the Colony :

"NOW, THEREFORE, under and by virtue of the powers vested in me as aforesaid, I do hereby proclaim, declare and make known that the organisation commonly known as the National Democratic Party shall be an unlawful organisation.

"GOD SAVE THE QUEEN".

I would like you to know why this proclamation has been issued. It is due to the fact that this Party, only two years old, has shown a steady deterioration from democratic standards and a steady drift into violent courses.

A year ago this month, during the course of the Constitutional Conference in London, news reached the delegates there of the attacks made upon the homes and families of some of those taking part in the Conference. On the 19th December, in London, Mr. Joshua Nkomo and I jointly signed a statement, expressly for publication, in these terms:-

"We have heard with distress of the attacks made on the homes and property of people in Southern Rhodesia during the Constitutional talks in London.

"Acts of violence are detrimental to the peace and progress of Southern Rhodesia and we condemn them. We call on any person who has information as to who is responsible to inform the authorities immediately."

The leaders of the National Democratic Party have failed to live up to the statements which their President signed. Acts of intimidation have increased continuously; intolerance and violence have grown; and their acts of violence against their fellow-Africans have resulted in very many members of the National Democratic Party being convicted before the courts.

The agreement to which the National Democratic Party subscribed in February, they repudiated in March. Since then, they have increasingly threatened in public statements, to destroy the stability of the country. In July, they said "the isolated disturbances which occurred last year will be minutely insignificant in comparison with, I dread to say, the catastrophe which might follow." By August the statement by the Party was "Industry - that is, white industry - must be cleared out." Intimidation increased in the African townships and spread to the rural areas. There is clear evidence that it was due to the National Democratic Party that there was refusal to dip cattle, despite the danger of cattle disease ruining the people, the breaking-down of contour ridges in the tribal areas - so essential for the conservation of soil for future generations - and opposition to all rules for improved farming practices.

In recent weeks, the Party's utterances have been increasingly violent. On 28th November, at a Press conference, "The President insisted they would have a popular government within twelve months," although he knew quite well that it could not be achieved by any Constitutional means. He had already advised the National

Democratic Party to prevent citizens from registering as voters, and had exhorted existing voters to return their voters' registration cards.

During the last few weeks, there have been clear indications that intimidation has been stepped up beyond all bounds. No African who disagrees openly with the tenets of the National Democratic Party is safe from molestation. They have attempted to impose a reign of terror against any opponent of the Party. Those who remember the rise of the Nazi Party in Germany will understand only too well the symptoms.

If the Government of Southern Rhodesia permit the continuance of the National Democratic Party as presently constituted, there can be no liberty or democratic life in the Colony under the new Constitution. Their history has been one of brutality and violence against anyone who disagrees with them. Their aim is a one-Party State. That is why the order that has been decided to-day has been put into force. They have been banned, not temporarily, but permanently. The Party is abolished for the sins ^{that} it has committed, after two years of very fair trial. Any person who remains a member, or attempts to resuscitate the Party is committing a criminal offence. Any person who fails to destroy or surrender his membership card becomes a criminal. Our new Constitution demands a spirit of tolerance and non-racialism which the late Party has never been prepared to accept. We are determined to have a society in which everybody can express his own views without fear of violence from those who disagree with him. We are determined to implement the new Constitution in the spirit in which it was founded before the leaders of the National Democratic Party took fright at the voice of their extremists and rattled at the orders of their overseas supporters. We are determined that the ordinary men and women in this country shall be able to express their political opinions free from the fear that one political Party will burn their homes, offer them physical violence, or injure them in their businesses, and demand that everybody should obey the dictates of a Party controlled financially outside the borders of Central Africa.

With the new Constitution that has been granted to us, we are determined to build a non-racial state in which people of all races can live in happiness together, able to disagree in politics and yet be friends, feeling secure in the rule of law and the protection against crime, building together a Southern Rhodesia of the future in which no man is superior to another, working together in their trade associations, whether farmers' unions, commercial unions, or trades unions, so that the great riches of our country can be developed for the benefit of all our peoples, and so that all the children now growing up in our country can look to a happy future.

There is nothing more horrible than bullying and intimidation, making life a misery for the benefit of a few ambitious leaders. We are determined to destroy it and to give the people of our country the opportunity of true freedom and happiness for the generations to come.

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