



*In the wake of the Portuguese coup d'état, demonstrations and rioting have marked life in Lourenço Marques, capital of Mozambique. In the above photograph blacks and whites are shown demonstrating their joint support in April for the new*

*Portuguese military junta. Later in the year, the black and white populations were involved in separate demonstrations and riots as fear of control by the other group seized the community.*

of Canadian policy towards southern Africa. There has been no full and open retreat by Canada but, on issue after issue, when the time came to move beyond the rhetoric of anti-racism and anti-colonialism, we saw our Government waver, hedge and procrastinate. This happened in 1971 over the UN reaffirmation of the "no independence before majority rule" policy in regard to Zimbabwe and in 1972 concerning the proposed constitutional settlement for that country. It was demonstrated, as well, in Canada's response to the advisory opinion on Namibia of the International Court of Justice calling on all nations "to refrain from any acts and particularly any dealings with the Government of South Africa implying recognition (of its rule in Namibia) or lending assistance" (to that rule) and to the several UN General Assembly resolutions about economic relations with South Africa and the Portuguese colonies.

We have come to see Canadian policy towards southern Africa not in terms of an absence of rhetoric and a quiet, determined pursuit of liberal and humanitarian objectives but rather in terms of a highly audible liberal rhetoric that is combined with a diplomacy that is either inactive or is quietly pursuing objectives that are narrowly self-seeking. I write this not to parade a self-righteousness that perhaps comes easily to those who carry no responsibility but to make it clear that in my

judgment the opposition that has developed is deeply felt, and is based on close study.

Why is it that the judgment about southern Africa of a centrist Government should diverge so sharply from the judgment of a substantial body of informed Canadians? I would identify two areas in which the disagreement is perhaps most profound.

The first disagreement concerns our attitude towards the liberation movements. A major historical process began in 1947 when India gained its independence. In the course of this process, hundreds of millions of people round the world have regained their right to live free of foreign rule. That process has faltered in southern Africa. There, alone among the colonial powers, Portugal sought to perpetuate its rule. There also, in Zimbabwe and South Africa, white minority communities continue their authoritarian and racist rule over the indigenous majorities. Gradually, as a result, armed African resistance developed. These liberation movements are not tiny bands of tribal warriors. They are major popular movements with the most powerful cause a movement can have in the contemporary world — the desire of people to be free of alien and unjust rule.

Canada has been slow to recognize the legitimacy of the struggle of the liberation movements and slower still to assist them in any way. Instead, Canadian policy has

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