

A continuing factor is the division among the Rhodesian Black nationalist leaders. The Patriotic Front (Messrs. Joshua Nkomo and Robert Mugabe) seem to be attempting to improve their internal cohesion. For their part, Bishop Muzorewa and the Rev. Sithole also seem to be drawing closer together. The basic problem of the nationalists remains, however, that the people who have the most influence with the guerrilla forces, e.g. Mugabe, are apparently much less popular within Rhodesia itself than those who have no military back-up, e.g. Muzorewa. Quite naturally Smith does what he can to exploit this disunity among the nationalists.

Dr. Owen's efforts may lead to renewed negotiations involving all factions and Canada certainly supports his efforts to that end. We are also somewhat encouraged by the indication of support to the British by the new U.S.A. Administration. We do not foresee any direct role for Canada in the actual negotiations leading to majority rule. However, we are prepared to give some help when and if an interim government is established. Such help could be through the proposed British/U.S.A.-sponsored international fund for Zimbabwe, or through the Commonwealth, although in the latter case the SSEA has made clear our strong reservations about any military involvement.