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Notes

Editorial Staff

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From the Editors Notebook

Staff Notes

2 Victory in Zimbabwe

Ninety years of foreign rule of one type or another has come to an end in one of Africa's most volatile regions.

The specter of a long and arduous armed conflict between the nationalists of Zimbabwe and the forces of an illegal regime has been averted as a result of the events that culminated in a general election last month.

Zimbabwe is now free, under the leadership of Robert Mugabe, who heads a coalition government of his Zimbabwe African National Union and the Patriotic Front.

For Mugabe, Joshua Nkomo, his co-revolutionary in the long struggle for independence, and for thousands of nationalists, the way to independence was a rough journey that took nearly 20 years — seven of which involved intense armed struggle. The sacrifices in human lives and property remain incalculable — all undertaken in the name of precious independence for Zimbabwe and freedom for the people.

At last, Zimbabwe has become an independent nation (April 18). The political domination by the minority white settlers, who constitute only 3 percent of the country's more than 7 million population, has come to an end.

In the sector of the national economy, the minority population and foreign corporations hold the purse strings. The hope is that they will now strive to work in the best interest of Zimbabwe, for the benefit of all.

Mugabe, who at one time was incarcerated for 10 years due to his political activities in what was then Rhodesia, is now the prime minister of free Zimbabwe. Soon after his party won a majority of 57 seats in the 100-seat General Assembly, he was quick to assure his people and the international community that the advent of African rule will not lead to the displacement of the minority population in Zimbabwe. Once more, the skeptics have been proven wrong.

There is a lesson here from which the apartheid regime of South Africa can benefit from.

Now that foreign rule is no longer the national burden, the people of Zimbabwe will have to start picking up the pieces and build the country under a system that will enhance all aspects of human and economic development.

The struggle continues.

For a historical perspective of Zimbabwe — from the early days of colonialism up to the recent election, read the story on Zimbabwe elsewhere in this issue.

Charter Day '80

The Charter Day Convocation, commemorating the 113th anniversary of Howard University, was celebrated March 3 during a formal ceremony on campus.

Dr. Charles H. Wesley, historian and educator, delivered this year's address.

At the off-campus Charter Day Dinner, the evening before, five alumni of the university who distinguished themselves in their respective fields were honored.

This year's recipients of Alumni Awards for Distinguished Postgraduate Achievement were:

LYDIA EUDORA ASHBURNE, for medicine and community service.

ROBERT LEE CARTER, for law and civil rights.

CHARLES EARL COBB, for religious and human rights.

JOHN ELIHUE CODWELL, for education and athletics.

WILLIAM DeBERRY McKISSACK, for architecture and planning.

Congratulations! . . . Bison basketball team for coming home with the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC) championship trophy, after winning 75-69 over South Carolina State.

Previously, the team tried for the MEAC championship four times unsuccessfully.

Etcetera . . .

The Howard University Press has initiated a unique educational project that stands to reap great benefits for all involved. We are talking about the new Book Publishing Institute that will run for five weeks starting May 27, 1980.

The project, made possible through a grant from Time, Inc., is intended for persons training to enter the publishing field.

We hope that this enterprise will be repeated in the years ahead. □

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