*ZIMBABWE*

## SMITH VISIT A PARTIAL SUCCESS

[AN] The first thing Rhodesian leader Ian Smith wanted to do upon his arrival in the United States last week was to place a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Washington's Arlington Cemetery.

Smith's plan was blocked by administration officials—an inauspicious start to a U.S. visit that has proven well worthwhile for the wily Rhodesian helmsman if not an unmixed success.

Although the news media gave ample play to the assertion of Smith and his black colleague, Ndabaningi Sithole, that American policy favors "Marxist terrorists," many newspapers treated Smith's story somewhat skeptically. And the Carter administration, almost regretful over having provided Smith his visa, apparently gave no ground. After a meeting with the Rhodesian leaders last week, Secretary of State Vance told reporters that little progress had been made in several hours of talks. In addition, President Carter refused a private meeting sought by Smith.

Demonstrators awaited Smith at several of the Washington receptions held in his honor. An anti-Rhodesian rally held outside the International Club Monday night delayed Smith's arrival by two hours, and the former prime minister was forced to sprint from his car to the building when marchers threw eggs. Waiting to greet Smith at the party inside were several hundred guests of the Rhodesian Information Office, the American Rhodesia Association and the American African Affairs Association, including author and self-appointed U.S. ambassador to Salisbury Robin Moore.

More troublesome for Smith and Sithole than the demonstrations were the concurrent lobbying efforts of 'internal settlement' opponents Garfield Todd and Allan Savory. A former Rhodesian prime minister himself, Todd has spent more than a week in the U.S. trying to persuade legislators, State Department officials and others that Smith cannot be trusted. On a similar mission, Savory and two other leaders of Rhodesia's left-of-center white opposition party, the National Unifying Force, have been pressing their case that, in Savory's words, "Smith's plan is a sham."

"It's an unrealistic attempt," Savory told the *Washington Post,* "to preserve white control behind a facade of black rule; and, as such, it can only lead to increased civil war and bloodshed."

The Rhodesian government, currently presided over by an Executive Council including Smith, Sithole and two other black politicians, attempted to bolster its image during the U.S. visit by announcing new relaxations of race laws. The new measures, however, got only a lukewarm reception both in Rhodesia and the U.S., since *racial* segregation in terms of institutions such as schools and hospitals, for example, has been replaced by what one Rhodesian official described as "monetary discrimination." With white incomes averaging eleven times greater than black incomes, such a transition is thought to hold little significance for most of the country's population.

Despite the political setbacks on Smith's American sojourn, however, Capitol Hill sources suggest that the Rhodesian envoys made considerable inroads with key Senators as well as with powerful conservative leaders.

Smith and Sithole know that Congress mandated President Carter to lift economic sanctions against Rhodesia if the internal settlement will both hold 'free and fair elections' and agree to meet with guerrilla leaders in an all-parties conference. And in a meeting with six members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee last week, Smith promised to deliver on both of those conditions. Despite the

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*TUNISIA*

## TEN-YEAR SENTENCE FOR ACHOUR

[AN] Early on October 10 Tunisia's special Court of State Security rendered the first of its verdicts in the current series of trade union trials.

The state prosecutor had asked death sentences for all 30 of the union leaders on trial, but the toughest sentences meted out were 16 prison terms ranging from six months to ten years. The remaining defendants were either acquitted or received suspended sentences.

Habib Achour, the former secretary general of the Tunisian Trade Union Federation (UGTT), was one of two who received sentences of ten years at hard labor.

The court accepted the charge that Achour and his closest colleagues had plotted to overthrow the government. They decided in favor of the relatively light sentences, however, in view of the "patriotic past" of some of the accused.

The government had charged the thirty union leaders with incitement to violence, murder, and looting in disturbances last January that surrounded a general strike. The UGTT has claimed it called a peaceful strike which became violent only because the demonstrators were provoked by troops and police.

Achour, who as head of the trade union federation had also been on the central committee of the ruling Destourian Socialist Party until January, has been a highly respected public figure. He and his fellow union leaders have commanded widespread popular sympathy during the trial.

European trade unions and a variety of international groups concerned with human rights have also taken a special interest in the Tunisian trial, sending observers to monitor the somewhat irregular proceedings.

The Court of State Security, which has convened for only two other cases in its ten-year history, is alleged by government opponents to be an essentially political institution. The most recent trial, according to European press accounts, resembled a political debate more than it resembled normal judicial proceedings, with the court representing Tunisia's ruling elite and the defendants and their battery of 76 lawyers representing a variety of left-wing opponents.

**Tunisia's Court of State Security. Its president has total authority over the conduct of the proceedings.** */Jeune Afrique*

Now that the sentencing is done, it appears that neither side has won a complete victory—