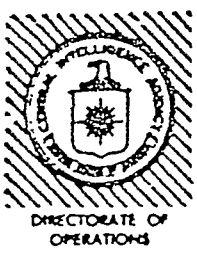


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[REDACTED]

THIS IS AN INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE

REPORT CLASS [REDACTED]

CITE [REDACTED]
DIST 29 JAN 79

COUNTRY: RHODESIA

SUBJECT: ASSESSMENT OF WHITE RHODESIAN MORALE ON THE EVE OF THE
30 JANUARY REFERENDUM (OOI: LATE JANUARY 1979)

SOURCE : [REDACTED]

1. MORALE AMONG THOSE WHITE RHODESIANS WHO INTEND TO REMAIN IN RHODESIA IS STILL GOOD, BUT THE SIGNS OF STRAIN ARE BECOMING APPARENT. ONE HEARS CONSIDERABLE TALK ABOUT EMIGRATION, BUT MOST OF THOSE WHO PLANNED TO LEAVE DID SO DURING THE DECEMBER 1978 SCHOOL HOLIDAYS. DECEMBER WAS A RECORD MONTH FOR EMIGRATION AND FOR BOOKINGS ON FLIGHTS OUT OF RHODESIA. THE SITUATION APPEARS TO HAVE LEVELED OFF NOW AND, ACCORDING TO AIRLINE AGENTS IN SALISBURY, THE NUMBER OF FLIGHT BOOKINGS HAS DECREASED SIGNIFICANTLY SINCE THE BEGINNING OF 1979. THERE HAS ALSO BEEN A SHARP DECLINE IN THE NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS TO THE RHODESIAN RESERVE BANK FOR EMIGRATION CLEARANCES. BANK PERSONNEL HAVE CAUGHT UP ON THE BACKLOG OF APPLICATIONS, AND THERE IS GENERALLY ONLY ABOUT A TWO WEEKS DELAY

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

HOW IN RECEIVING CLEARANCES FOR EMIGRATION. EMIGRATION WILL CONTINUE, BUT AT A LOWER MONTH THAN DURING NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER.

2. ACCORDING TO REAL ESTATE AGENTS, FEWER PEOPLE ARE GIVING NOTICE FOR TERMINATING THEIR HOUSING LEASES. HOUSING SALES ARE ACTIVE AS MORE PEOPLE SPECULATE WITH THEIR MONEY HELD IN RHODESIA, AND A GREATER NUMBER OF "RETURNEES" (EMIGRANTS WHO HAVE RETURNED TO RHODESIA) LOOK FOR HOUSES. THE RENTAL MARKET HAS BOTTOMED OUT WITH FEWER PEOPLE MOVING OUT AND MORE FARMERS RENTING URBAN UNITS FOR THEIR FAMILIES AND FOR USE ON WEEKENDS.

3. MORALE AMONG THE SECURITY FORCES VARIES FROM UNIT TO UNIT, BUT IS GENERALLY HIGH. THE STRAINS OF CONSTANT CALL-UPS FOR MILITARY SERVICE RATHER THAN THE ACTUAL FIGHTING AGAINST THE GUERRILLAS IS THE MORE NEGATIVE FACTOR AFFECTING MILITARY MORALE. TERRITORIAL UNITS RESENT THE CONTINUED PROSPECT OF LONG ANNUAL CALL-UPS WHICH DISRUPT THEIR NORMAL CIVILIAN LIFE STYLE. THE REGULAR UNITS BEAR THE BRUNT OF CONSTANT FIGHTING AND RECEIVE FEWER AND SHORTER PERIODS OF REST AND LEAVE. INTEGRATION OF THE SECURITY FORCES, WHICH IS NECESSARY BECAUSE OF WHITE EMIGRATION, IS HELPING TO KEEP THE TERRITORIAL UNITS UP TO FULL STRENGTH, BUT IS ADVERSELY AFFECTING THEIR FIGHTING ABILITY. AS THE SECURITY SITUATION BECOMES MORE CRITICAL, THE SECURITY FORCES CAN BE EXPECTED TO BECOME MORE AND MORE AGGRESSIVE IN MOUNTING OPERATIONS AGAINST GUERRILLA BASES IN NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES.

4. PRIME MINISTER IAN SMITH AND THE RHODESIAN FRONT (RF)

[REDACTED]

LEADERS, IN THEIR COUNTRY WIDE CAMPAIGN FOR A "YES" VOTE IN THE 30 JANUARY WHITE REFERENDUM ON THE PROPOSED CONSTITUTION, ARE STRESSING THAT THE CONSTITUTION, ALTHOUGH NOT PERFECT, IS THE BEST POSSIBLE SOLUTION, AND THAT THERE ARE NO VIABLE ALTERNATIVES WHICH HAVE ANY CHANCE OF RECEIVING INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION. IN ADDITION, A "NO" VOTE WILL ALIENATE EVEN THE MODERATE BLACK NATIONALISTS, ACCORDING TO THE RF LEADERS. THE LIBERAL NATIONAL UNIFYING FORCE IS CALLING FOR A RETURN TO LEGALITY, BUT IS MUSTERING LITTLE SUPPORT FOR A "NO" VOTE IN THE REFERENDUM BECAUSE OF THE WHITE POPULATION'S DISTRUST OF BRITISH INTENTIONS. CONSERVATIVE GROUPS ARE ACTIVELY CAMPAIGNING AGAINST ACCEPTANCE OF THE CONSTITUTION, BUT MOST WHITES REALIZE THAT THE CONSTITUTION IS THE ONLY HOPE AT THIS LATE DATE. MORE IMPORTANTLY, PRIME MINISTER SMITH REMAINS THE COUNTRY'S LEADER AND THE ELECTORATE WILL FOLLOW HIS BIDDING. ALTHOUGH HE IS BEING SEVERLY CRITICIZED BY RIGHT WING FIGURES, SMITH STILL COMMANDS THE OVERWHELMING LOYALTY OF THE WHITE ELECTORATE. HIS HINTS THAT HE WOULD RESIGN IF THERE WAS A "NO" VOTE HAVE MADE A GREAT IMPACT ON THE WHITES, AND SMITH, I.E., THE PROPOSED CONSTITUTION, WILL PROBABLY RECEIVE A 75 PERCENT AFFIRMATIVE VOTE IN THE REFERENDUM.

5. (HEADQUARTERS COMMENT: [REDACTED] PROVIDED LESS OPTIMISTIC ASSESSMENTS OF THE OUTCOME OF THE REFERENDUM, AND THE VIABILITY OF THE NEW CONSTITUTION AND THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT. THERE HAVE BEEN REPORTS OF INCREASING DISSATISFACTION AMONG GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND SENIOR CIVIL SERVANTS WITH SMITH'S LEADER-

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SHIP AND CONCERN OVER AN INEVITABLE SLIDE TO CHAOS IN RHODESIA IF SMITH IS NOT SOON REMOVED FROM OFFICE AND THE WAY OPENED FOR A RENEWED INITIATIVE ON ALL PARTIES CONFERENCE OR DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE PATRIOTIC FRONT. MANY GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS EXPECT ONLY A SMALL "YES" VOTE IN THE REFERENDUM AND A LOW VOTER TURN OUT.

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