



# THE OBSERVER

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## Zambia halts mission by MPs

by our Political Correspondent

AT BARELY 24 hours' notice a British parliamentary mission to Zambia, due to have left London last night, has been indefinitely postponed.

The cancellation by the Zambian authorities was thought in Government circles to be connected with recent racial disturbances reported from the copperbelt, which led to the sudden expulsion of 25 Europeans, 12 of them British.

The Commonwealth Office complained that they should have been given longer warning, but the case for the expulsions was not challenged. Private information reaching London suggested the people involved may have been concerned in racial provocation. President Kaunda has been actively campaigning against racialism in Zambia, and it was believed in London that he may have been right in thinking it would be better for these troubles to simmer down before the arrival of the British delegation.

### Main reason

The eight MPs in the intended mission, led by former Minister of Transport Mr Tom Fraser and including the former Conservative Attorney-General Sir John Hobson, QC, were told that because of the pressure of business it would be difficult to make appropriate arrangements for the distinguished visitors. There was no proposal for a later date.

The visit had been arranged several months ago by the Zambian branch of the Parliamentary Commonwealth Association and by the Speaker's Office at Lusaka, but it is understood in London these had inadvertently failed to inform their own Foreign Office until Thursday.

This may have been a contributory factor in deciding the Zambian authorities to call off the visit, though London believes the main reason was the recent disturbances.

### Not compromised

British officials were at pains to deny that relations with Zambia are seriously compromised. They point out that Zambia is still considering the offer of £14 million intended to help them compensate for trade losses with Rhodesia and that the High Commissioner has been given full authority to make the "best" deal as soon as President Kaunda decides to accept.

Nothing he has said so far indicates a rupture of relations and they believe he is waiting only for a decision on the Rhodesian issue before taking up the offer. They claim that the social contacts between the two countries have remained good and point out that under the aid programme there are more professionals and technicians sent out from Britain to Zambia than to any other country.

## 'Enough of this sorrow'

BANGKOK, 29 October — President Johnson appealed to North Vietnam's leaders today: "Let us lay aside our arms and sit down at the table of reason."

He promised that as soon as the Vietnam war ended it would be possible to devote substantially greater funds to the relief of human need. South-East Asia would have its full share. The President was speaking at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok on the second day of his visit to Thailand.

He said: "I say to the leaders in Hanoi: let us renounce the works of death and take up the tasks of the living. Enough of this sorrow..."

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## Human wave attack

SAIGON, 29 October.—North Vietnam troops came on in "human waves" in a new onslaught against United States infantrymen in the central Highlands of South Vietnam near the Cambodian border last night. The battle is still going on.

In one of five big attacks screaming troops hurled themselves against an American company to the sound of bugles, advancing from all sides at once, a military spokesman said. Moderate US casualties are reported.



Listening to a first-hand account of the Aberfan disaster.

GLYNNE JONES

## Queen visits the mourning valley

from ALAN ROAD, Aberfan, 29 October

THE MOURNING citizens of Aberfan gave the Queen a silent welcome when she visited their stricken village with the Duke of Edinburgh today.

There were no cheers. It was, after all, a royal occasion which everyone concerned was wishing had not been necessary.

But it was a visit of a mother, a visit which, in the words of Councillor Jim Williams, who lost seven relatives in last week's disaster, was beneficial to the mothers who lost their children.

It was outside Aelybryn (brow of the hill), the councillor's home, that three-year-old Karen Jones presented the Queen with a small posy inscribed 'From the remaining children of Aberfan.'

### Tea and Welsh cakes

For 20 minutes over tea and Welsh cakes in the front room of the green-and-yellow terraced house, Mr Williams and his 62-year-old wife, Beatrice, told the Queen and Prince Philip of the disaster morning when the great tip above Aberfan swept over the village school and 17 houses, killing 146 and robbing Mr Williams of three young nephews, two sisters-in-law, one brother-in-law and an aunt.

Earlier, from the other side of the narrow Merthyr Valley, the Queen and the Duke had viewed the monochrome landscape of disaster, the grey, terraced houses in tiers, culminated by the long black finger of slurry pointing at the heart of the village. The royal couple crossed the floor of the valley to inspect the scene of the disaster

at closer quarters and speak with rescuers and the bereaved.

At Bwthyn, the Welsh Congregational chapel—until a few days ago a temporary mortuary—the Queen talked to four nurses and St John workers who had tolled inside. In Moy Road, where only half an hour earlier giant lorries had been removing mountains of black mud, the Queen and the Duke stood on the site of Pantglas school, now no more than an 80-yard gap in the road.

Mr Williams introduced the Queen to half a dozen families who had been bereaved or had lost homes. "She was very sorry," he said, "there was nothing she could give them other than just sympathy."

For the Duke the two-and-a-half-hour visit was the second paid. In the village in eight days, and he chatted with men of the King's Own Borderers who have been helping in the cleaning up since the weekend.

In Aberfan Road, the Queen paused to speak to Mrs Margaret Harries, of Cotrell Road, and her two sons, Paul, aged six, and Robert, aged seven. She was told how Paul's life was saved by Mrs Nancy Williams, a dinner-money collector at Pantglas school, who covered Paul's body with her own and perished in his ruins.

### Wreath of pink carnations

Later, the royal couple paid an unscheduled visit to the village cemetery on the hillside overlooking Aberfan and only a quarter of a mile from the path of the sliding tip.

There, watched by a handful of villagers, the Queen and Duke together placed a wreath of pink carnations on the mass grave of the 81 victims buried on Thursday. For the moment,

the Queen, whose rust coat echoed the colour of the bracken on the surrounding hills, stood before the grave with head bowed.

Then, with the mayor of Merthyr, Alderman Stanley Davies, she climbed the steep hillside to visit the 150-foot cross of flowers sent to Aberfan from all parts of the world.

But today the rest of the world respected official requests to stay away and leave Aberfan to its grief. Almost as soon as the royal party left for the East Glamorgan hospital, where they saw more survivors, the giant lorries were back at work and Aberfan began to return to normal—or as normal as a village that has lost more than a hundred children can ever be again.

Mr Lee replied: "Spain can have the apes and we'll have the Rock."

## Jobs direction if prices and pay plan fails

by DAVID HAWORTH, our Industrial Reporter

A WARNING that the Government might consider directing labour if its present prices and incomes policy fails was given by Mr Douglas Houghton, Minister without Portfolio, yesterday.

He said in a speech at the Trades Hall, Dock Street: "The alternatives to present policies are either a direction of labour in order to get our essential industries properly manned, or to let inflation take its course, leading eventually and painfully to national bankruptcy."

His speech follows remarks made by the Selective Employment Tax and Control Commission in a report last Thursday that the Government was examining ways in which resources, freed as a result of the Government's measures could be used to provide stimulus to investment.

Some officials believe that this was a reference to the Government's growing awareness that skilled labour may have to be directed towards export manufacturing industries.

### Timely hints

These are timely hints because the Government's prices and incomes policy will this week face its most serious challenge so far—a double crisis of confidence.

It could mean an almost total breakdown in Government relations with the Trades Union Congress and the Confederation of British Industry concerning industrial conduct during the freeze and next year's six-month period of severe restraint.

Members of the TUC economic committee will hold a special meeting today which will give a decisive definition to TUC views about the criteria for allowing wage claims during the restraint—particularly those involving productivity bargains and the lowest-paid workers.

## Yard suspects Blake used two-way radio

by PETER DEELEY

### America accused of spy frame-up

Moscow, 29 October. THE United States was accused by the Soviet newspaper *Izvestia* tonight of framing a Soviet diplomat in Washington.

It said Mr John Humnik, a Maryland scientist, had worked as a double agent and had plotted classified material with Mr Valentin Kevlin, a third secretary at the Soviet Embassy.

The newspaper named Mr Humnik and a Mr Harry Barnett, whom it described as an American Government official, as "provocateurs". It said Mr Barnett tried to recruit Soviet officials as double agents for "intelligence" and attempted to compromise other Soviet officials by showing them official documents.

It said that Mr Humnik met a Soviet specialist in whom he identified, and left him a secret document containing information on US chemical and bacteriological weapons.

This led to his expulsion from the USSR. It also accused Mr Garsia Stulman, 50-year-old, Soviet director of Harvard's Russian Research Centre, with conspiring with the staff of Soviet students and using blackmail and threats to try to get the Soviet Embassy to accept Mr Stulman as a tourist.

They also accused the Central Intelligence Agency and the Federal Bureau of Investigation of using security and technical facilities for their activities.

### Spain can have the apes

Mr Fred Lee, the Colonial Secretary, flew to Gibraltar yesterday while MPs were still protesting that he had not been sufficiently firm in supporting Gibraltar against new threats from Spain.

He said at London Airport that the Government supported the people of Gibraltar. That was never in doubt.

Mr Lee was asked about newspaper reports that the Spanish ruler had threatened to "take the apes and leave" Gibraltarians was to take the apes and leave.

Mr Lee replied: "Spain can have the apes and we'll have the Rock."

SPECIAL BRANCH and Scotland Yard detectives carrying out investigations inside Wormwood Scrubs prison into the escape of master-spy George Blake believe that he may have been communicating with outside sources by a two-way, short-wave transmitter.

All work was stopped in the prison radio workshop last week after a search by the inquiry team. Prisoners working there were directed to other jobs, the section was sealed off and equipment was impounded.

The investigators believe that Blake was using the two-way radio to complete his escape arrangements during the 24 hours before he climbed to liberty.

A man with knowledge of the prison said yesterday: "It is not the first time that men inside have used radios to make contact with the world outside."

Scotland Yard officers were making inquiries in Dublin yesterday. They want to talk to an Irishman who completed a seven-year sentence in Wormwood Scrubs last April and is known to have been friendly with Blake.

Although the man is believed to be in Britain, police think the key to where he is may be in Ireland.

### 350 prisoners questioned

Every member of the prison staff and all the 350 long-term prisoners—those serving more than three years—have been questioned.

The prison authorities have drawn up a list of 70 potential escapees still housed within D-Block, the wing from which Blake escaped through a second-floor window. The men—they include murderers, others guilty of crimes of severe violence, and some sentenced for fraud—have been graded into maximum, medium and possible security risks.

Following the impromptu search to and from other prisons this week more transfers are likely to be made from D-Block in the Scrubs to other more secure prisons.

It is understood that the inmates of D-Block, almost to a man, declined to reveal any information—if they had it—about Blake. To them he was a popular figure. One man, describing the morning after the escape, said: "It was like Christmas Day after Father Christmas has been killed."

Despite the wall of silence put up by the prisoners, the investigation team have been quartered in an office in the main block of the prison. Every man in D-Block was taken before them by a prison officer. They were asked personal details about their life and sentenced. They were also questioned about their relationship with Blake.

One man serving a long sentence for fraud declined to meet the investigators unless his solicitor was present.

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GEORGE BLAKE — an Observer inquiry

IN COLOUR

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## MARSHALL & SNELGROVE

WOLSEY VANITY-FAIR LINGERIE laced with luxury



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Queen Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh talk to an Aberfan schoolgirl.

GLYNNE JONES

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