

PATRICE LUMUMBA

ONE OF THE GREAT MARTYRS OF THE STRUGGLE FOR AFRICAN LIBERATION

There was only one way in which the imperialists and their African stooges could get Patrice Lumumba down, and that was to kill him.

Last week the "Government" of the Belgian puppet in the Katanga, Moise Tshombe, announced that Lumumba and his two associates had escaped from imprisonment and were later killed by civilians. But nobody has taken this story seriously.

● In the first place, it is highly improbable that the escape could have been managed so easily.

● Secondly, the Katanga authorities have refused to allow the UN authorities to see Lumumba ever since he arrived last month beaten and bleeding at Elisabethville airport where he was handed over by the Mobutu regime to Tshombe's thugs.

● Thirdly, the Katanga authorities have refused to allow UN officials to carry out an enquiry into whether Lumumba did in fact make his escape. And they have refused to allow any investigation on the spot where Lumumba is alleged to have been killed.

PATRICE Lumumba could have been a rich man.

When he became Prime Minister of the independent Congo Republic on June 30th last year he would have been well rewarded if he had toadied to his former masters. He could have received fat presents, he could have become a director of several huge companies, he could have flown round the world and been feted in the capitals of the West. Furthermore, he could have pointed to many other African leaders who had chosen just that path to easy living.

But Lumumba refused. He chose instead the path of loyalty to his people, the path of hard struggle to consolidate his country's independence and to restore its abundant wealth to its rightful owners.

For this he has paid with his life.

Free Thinker

Patrice Lumumba was born in Wembonyama, a village of grass

and mud huts in the central Kasai province.

His peasant parents were Roman Catholics. He received his early education at a Protestant mission school, followed by a teacher's training at a Catholic seminary. That was the highest education any African could get under the Belgians.

Wide further reading on his own left the young Lumumba a free thinker in religion, with a growing sense of the injustice of the established colonialist order.

He did not want to take up teaching, became first a Government tax clerk, then transferred to the postal service and was made assistant postmaster at Stanleyville, capital of the Eastern Province.

He had been a keen student of political ideas since his school days, but his active political life really started at Stanleyville.

There he became president of the African Staff Association—one of the few kinds of organisations permitted for Africans by the Belgian colonial authorities. Political parties were banned. Lumumba increasingly chafed against these restrictions.

Their hope received a rude shock when Lumumba went to the first All-African People's Conference in Accra in December 1958 as the leader of the Congolese delegation. The conference pledged Africa-wide support for the Congo's freedom struggle.

When Congolese crowds early in 1959 assembled, despite all bans, to hear Lumumba's report and to acclaim the Accra decisions, the Belgians replied with a massacre: at least 49 Africans were killed by Belgian guns at Leopoldville.

Jailed

Congolese crowds were again shot down in October 1959—with at least 20 killed—and the next month the Belgian authorities arrested and jailed Lumumba for alleged incitement.

But so great was the independence pressure from all sides by this time that the Belgian Government was forced to call a conference with Congolese leaders in Brussels in January this year.

The conference met—but no Lumumba. The MNC delegation declared it would not take part unless he was present—so the Belgians were forced to free him from jail and fly him to Brussels.

★

When he arrived he still bore the marks of the manacles on his wrists.

Lumumba demanded immediate independence and the formation of a strong central Government—the only hope if tribalism and regionalism were not to deliver the country to Belgian rule under new forms.

With independence set for the end of June, elections were held in the Congo—the first in 75 years of Belgian rule. The MNC, led by Lumumba, won 35 seats out of 137 in the chamber of deputies—more than any other party.

Premier

Despite Belgian attempts to bypass him, in favour of Mr. Kasavubu, Lumumba's Government obtained the necessary majority after negotiations with other groups.

Still the Belgians hoped that the new Congo—with Belgian officers, administrators, bases—would stay a colony under another name, leaving the giant Union Miniere and the Societe

Generale dominating its economy.

The swift events that followed hardly need recalling.

● How Lumumba, in the presence of King Baudouin, roundly recalled the colonialist past: "We have experienced contempt, insults and blows endured morning and night."

● How the Force Publique, the 25,000-strong Congolese Army, rose up against its Belgian officers. How Belgium replied by pouring paratroopers into the Congo, and how the Congo appealed to the UN.

● How the UN came into the Congo at the request of the Lumumba Government and promptly proceeded to assist in the overthrow of that Government, the ending of parliamentary democracy and the setting up of the dictatorial and unpopular Mobutu-Kasavubu regime, with puppet Tshombe being allowed to carry on in the Katanga.

● How Lumumba was forced to seek refuge in the Ghanaian Embassy, how he later made a bid to get to the main base of his support in Stanleyville and how he was captured en route.

● How he was imprisoned with-

out trial or charge, and without protest from UN chief Dag, how he all but won over his guards to his side, and how he was sent, along with his colleagues Mpolo and Okito, to the Katanga where he bravely met the cruel public beating inflicted on him without flinching.

Now Lumumba has been killed. It may well be that he was murdered in cold blood weeks ago and that his body has been disposed of never to be found again.

But Lumumba will never be forgotten by the people of Africa. To the end he refused to flinch beneath the clubbings of the imperialists. His example of courage, of putting the welfare of his people before his own, of maintaining an inflexible opposition to imperialism will always serve as a source of inspiration for the peoples of Africa.

Nor will his murderers be forgotten.

PATRICE LUMUMBA JOINS THE EXALTED BAND OF MEN AND WOMEN WHO HAVE MADE THE FULLEST SACRIFICE IN THE CAUSE OF THE LIBERATION OF AFRICA.

AFRICA Mboya May Lose Kenya Election

TEMPERS are rising and political divisions coming out into the open as the elections for a new, African-majority legislature get under way in Kenya.

The Legislative Council will consist of 65 elected members, of whom 53 will be elected by voters on the common roll. Of these 53, 20 will come from seats reserved for minorities—10 for Europeans, 8 for Asians and 2 for Arabs, all of whom, however, will be chosen by voters of all races in each constituency.

As far as the seats reserved for whites are concerned, the reactionary KENYA COALITION emerged from the primary elections as clearly having more support than the middle-of-the-road NEW KENYA PARTY, which is led by Michael Blundell.

In only a few of the reserved seats did the candidates of the New Kenya Party secure the 25% of white votes needed for their candidature to go forward. Votes from Africans and Asians, however, might be sufficient to have them elected in the final poll.

When nominations for the 33 "open" constituencies closed recently the list of candidates stood at 88, only 3 of whom were unopposed. They are James Gichuru, president of the Kenya African National Union (KANU) and Masinde Muliro and John Keen of the more "moderate" Kenya African Democratic Union.

KANU SPLIT

The tensest and most interesting of all the contests will be that in Nairobi, where the general secretary of the KANU, Tom Mboya, is being opposed by 4 candidates, one of whom, Dr. Mumyua Waiyake, is the chairman of KANU's Nairobi branch. Mboya is backed on the KANU executive by Mr. Gichuru, while Dr. Waiyake has

the support of the party's vice-president, Oginga Odinga.

Mboya's opponents accuse him of being a political opportunist who is prepared to sell out Africa to the Americans, while the Mboya group in turn charge his accusers with pushing communism under the guise of KANU policy.

According to reports from



Kenya, Mboya, despite his great organising ability, is in great danger of being defeated by his opponent who, apart from other considerations, has the personal advantages of being very popular in the area. There are also many Africans who feel that Mboya was an ambitious young man who was allowed by the British to establish himself as a leader at a time when Jomo Kenyatta and other African leaders were suffering under the severe repression of the Kenya Emergency.

● Voting for the open seats takes place between February 20 and 27.

ANGOLA



HAROLD

"Oh no—just a little servant trouble . . . everybody's happy here!"

Black — White Boxing Affiliation A Trap

Will there be Mixed Fights to Choose the Best Boxers?

JOHANNESBURG. THE recent affiliation of the South African Non-European Amateur Boxing Association to the internationally recognised all-White South African Amateur Boxing Association is a stunt designed to prevent the International Amateur Boxing Association from expelling the White body because it practises racial discrimination.

At the last meeting of the International body during the Rome Olympics the question of apartheid was raised. The South African Association was told that it had to do something about its policies and there was a suggestion that action would be taken against it if nothing was done.

The Non-European Association has been inactive for many years now. For several years it has not had a tournament and it was surprising to many Non-Europeans to see that it had affiliated to the White group.

Their inactivity led to the formation of the South African Amateur Boxing Union two years ago. This Union has promoted several tournaments and attempted to meet the officials of the inactive association with a view to having one body running the sport among Non-Whites.

This attempt failed, however, because the members of the Association contended that they were the only rightful body despite their inactivity.

VAGUE

The conditions of the affiliation are vague. Apart from having a liaison committee of three members from each group and a chairman chosen by the White body, there are no indications that apartheid will be scrapped.

How will the Non-Whites be chosen to represent the country—if they are good enough? The only way of finding the best boxers is to have mixed fights between Whites and Non-Whites.

To have separate trials would be a farce. A White boxer might knock out all his White opponents in such trials; but his Non-White counterpart in the same weight division might not have an easy time. How then can comparisons be made if the opposition is of a different calibre? The only way to settle everything is to have the two fighters meet in the ring.

Without mixed fights, therefore, the affiliation would serve no purpose, except to hoodwink the international organisation. The White body would be able to say that Non-White fighters were members of the organisation but their stan-

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dard in the trials was not high enough to warrant selection for international events such as the Empire and Olympic Games.

CYCLING EXAMPLE

These sporting affiliations do not mean a thing, as was shown by that of the South African Bantu Athletic and Cycling Association which affiliated to the White body in 1959.

When the Olympic cycling trials were held last year the Africans had separate trials in Durban while the Whites held theirs in Cape Town.

The team eventually chosen was all-White. But it could not be said that it was the best team. Conditions in Durban and Cape Town were different and there was no gauge to say that the African cyclists would not have turned in better times if the trials had been held at the same place, same time and under the same conditions as the Whites.

TRANSKEI

(Continued from page 1)

—one of Matanzima's Bush Courts—have refused to pay fines and decided to serve imprisonment in jail.

Among those now in jail and against whom no charge has been laid are Messrs James Makiwane and Magqeshana Myeki of Lower and Upper Lufuta respectively, in Cala.

HUTS PULLED DOWN

In the last few weeks rehabilitation fences in widely separated areas have been destroyed. In the Tyinira location, Nqamakwe district, fences have been destroyed, and huts put up in the new areas to which people are being moved under the betterment scheme have been found pulled down overnight. Reports from the Tsolo district indicate that fences have been destroyed in Emabeleni Location under Chief Mabandla—a zealous supporter of the Bantu Authorities.

LATE NEWS FLASH

I have just heard by phone that a large party of police are combing the Emnxe location in Cala and arresting every man they come across.

Ex-Treason Trialist on Theft Charge

KIMBERLEY.

Mr. A. B. C. Seochoareng, a former treason trialist, appeared in the Kimberley Magistrate's Court recently charged with theft by conversion.

Mr. Seochoareng was sacked from the Kimberley ANC branch after allegations of being in "good connections" with the Special Branch.

South African Sports Association
(Transvaal Regional Committee)

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The Band of the future



Douglas Xaba, a 27-year-old African, has been chosen by Cecil Williams to play the part of a negro in his forthcoming production of "The Respectable Prostitute" by Jean Paul Sartre. (See New Age, last week.) This is the first play to be staged in South Africa with a mixed cast and will run for a week at Pietermaritzburg, beginning on February 22, and for ten days in Durban, from March 2. In the picture above, Douglas Xaba is seen discussing details of the play with (from the left) Valerie Philip, the leading lady; Dr. Peter Hey, founder of Phoenix Productions which is presenting the play, and who takes the part of a lecherous Senator in the play, and producer Cecil Williams.

Whites and Non-whites Play

An Entertaining Game of Cricket

From D. Bansda

CAPE TOWN.

EXACTLY a year ago, I had the good fortune of associating myself with two fine sportsmen, namely Basil D'Oliviera and Gerald Innes, both cricketers of fame amongst Whites and Non-Whites alike.

The occasion was the acceptance of D'Oliviera as a professional in the Lancashire League for Middleton. This began my association with Innes, who on request readily agreed to play a match to raise funds for Basil who had to be flown over. This match took place and over £150 was collected at the Claremont Grounds, Cape.

This year I was again approached to organise a game to raise funds for Cecil Abrahams, who has now also turned professional for Milnrow. Owing to pressure of business Innes, who would gladly have assisted, was not contactable, but in his stead Mr. Jimmy Potheary sympathetically rallied to our assistance. Thus, last week-end we had a memorable game between two sides, led by Potheary and Cecil Abrahams respectively.

FINE SPIRIT

The finest part of the game was the spirit in which it was played. It was an entertaining game of cricket between 22 players with no thought of colour or creed, played purely for the love of the game.

The match itself clearly displayed the superiority of Potheary's XI, who won decisively on the first innings by the handsome margin of 116 runs, and could have won outright if there was a minute or two to spare. Here I must mention the excellent sportsmanship of Potheary and Co., who never attempted to show up the deficiencies of Abrahams' XI in the second knock, but instead encouraged attractive cricket by throwing up much "loose stuff," to the spectators' enjoyment.

The big crowd, approximately 3,000, were somewhat disappointed in that their local hero, Basil D'Oliviera, failed to get going, scoring only one run in two innings. Troubled with an injured knee, he appeared to be completely out of touch.

"Tiney" Abed, however, showed his mettle with a masterly knock of 33 not out, in which he displayed a wide variety of strokes plus classical footwork.

On an unresponsive wicket, Eric Petersen was the only bowler who worried the batsmen with his fine variation and deceptive off-turns into the breeze.

BATTLING

At one stage Potheary's XI were battling for runs, having lost five wickets for 80 runs. But Gerald Innes, the Springbok, and V. McCullough retrieved the situation. When they went, the score slumped to 150/9, only for young McMeeking to slash the bowling mercilessly in a last wicket stand of 65 runs with H. Bromfield. McMeeking contributed 54 of those runs, in which he ran riot with a six and 5 fours, making Petersen look like a third-rater.

Following on, Abrahams' side fared a little better but after

D'Oliviera had gone, the sting went out of the game which thereafter became a picnic, with Cecil hitting a quick 36, whilst S. Bloomer played a patient innings of 50 not out.

The silver collection taken on the ground realised a sum of £95 for the fund.

Scores: Potheary's XI: 218 (McMeeking 54, G. Innes 41, S. Fox 39, V. McCullough 32, W. Smith 22, H. Bromfield 11 not out, E. Petersen 5/77, B. D'Oliviera 1/16, T. Abed 1/21); Abrahams' XI: 102 (T. Abed 33 n.o., A. Hattas 15, E. Petersen 11, H. Bromfield 5/45, McMeeking 3/33, P. v. d. Merwe 2/5) and 130/8 (S. Bloomer 50 n.o., C. Abrahams 36, A. Hattas 17, T. Abed 11, McMeeking 4/26, H. Bromfield 2/23, v. d. Merwe 1/21, G. Innes 1/27).

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Published by Real Printing and Publishing Co. (Pty.) Ltd., 6 Barrack Street, Cape Town and printed by Pioneer Press (Pty.) Ltd., Shelley Road, Salt River. This newspaper is a member of the Audit Bureau of Circulations. New Age offices: Johannesburg: 102 Progress Buildings, 154 Commissioner Street, Phone 22-4625. Durban: 602 Lodson House, 118 Grey Street, Phone 68897. Port Elizabeth: 20 Court Chambers, 129 Adderley Street, Phone 45796. Cape Town: Room 20, 6 Barrack St., Phone 2-5787, Telegraphic Address: Nuage, O.T.

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Collection Name: Publications, New Age, 1954-1962

PUBLISHER:

Publisher: Historical Papers Research Archive, University of the Witwatersrand

Location: Johannesburg

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