

# The Judgment of History

by Jack Woddis - (Author of "Africa, the Lion Awakes")

IN its well-known special supplement "The African Revolution," the *Economist* ended with a dramatic plea to "Western society" to act while it still held "the levers of policy" in its hands.

"The profoundest matter at stake in Africa," it declared, "is the quality and capacity of Western society itself." The danger was that the "judgment of history" would be that the West ploughed up Africa "for gold and minerals, transformed it for wealth and trade, destroyed the old tribal order, and drove away the old cruel gods, but in the end, put nothing stable in their place."

History has already passed its

judgment. The African people have already condemned what Western imperialism has done to Africa, not alone in words but in deeds, by their very revolt for freedom. Never before has imperialism had such a preponderance of armaments over oppressed peoples as it has today over the people of Africa. The West has all the most modern means of warfare, including nuclear weapons and germ warfare; the African people have but their tools and their simple hunting weapons. And yet Africa is winning the apparently unequal contest.

Only the most serious crisis of the colonial system, is social and political

disintegration, could explain this phenomenon. The establishment of a powerful socialist system embracing a thousand million people has weakened imperialism beyond repair. The achievement of political independence throughout nearly all Asia and by other former colonies has inspired the continent of Africa, which is winning increasing support from working people in the metropolitan countries. But decisive, above all else, has been the courageous and determined struggle of the lion-hearted African people.

The biggest battles are yet to come. Algeria, Angola, Congo, Cameroun—these continue their bitter struggle. Mozambique, Kenya, Northern and Southern Rhodesia, the Union of South Africa—here major explosions will shortly be heard. The tide of independence is sweeping rapidly southwards and eastwards and must eventually reach the Cape.

And with that, a new stage will open for Africa—a stage has already begun in the north and west—the stage of the building of a new glorious Africa for which so many have struggled and sacrificed.