

## BRIEF COMMUNICATIONS AND LETTERS

### CENSORSHIP IN RHODESIA

Sir:

In his paper "Colonial Rule in Africa: A Review Article" (African Studies Review, Vol. XIV, No. 1, April 1971), Professor K. Wylie discusses Colonialism in Africa (Cambridge University Press, 1970, Vol. 2). He states that we "neglect to mention the undeniable fact that the same [Rhodesian] government censors all newspapers;" hence "the careful reader is prone to reject all the other arguments [concerning Rhodesia], no matter how heavily documented, as propaganda" (p. 132).

We have since tried to do some more documenting. As far as we can see from our files, censorship of publications was instituted by Rhodesia Government Notice No. 737 K of 1965 under the title Emergency Powers (Censorship of Publications) Order 1965. This required all printed material to receive the approval of the Director of Information through powers delegated by him to censorship officers. The notice was dated November 10, 1965. It was designed, among other things, to control the leak of economic information. Rhodesia Government Notice No. 258 of 1968, published on April 6, 1968, repealed the regulation. No censorship has been imposed on Rhodesian publications since. Hence an anti-government publication such as Centrepont can be put out in Salisbury and can be ordered by American scholars interested in the area. Perhaps Professor Wylie might do some more checking.

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