

tion for weekendng South Africans. The spa's owners, a group of Italians and South Africans, are already building an additional sixty chalets.

When contrasted to its total disinheri- tance of the last century and the uncer- tainty and neglect of its more recent past, Swaziland today is a thriving country. The optimistic voices in the land boast of the sprawling plantations that spread over 86,000 acres; the treasure of timber amassed at Usutu in the world's largest man-made forest; the \$12,000,000 high- grade Ngwenya iron ore contract with Japan; the Havelock asbestos mine from which \$7,000,000 worth of the valuable mineral a year is hauled twelve miles through the sky on the world's longest cableway; the gold, tin, and coal deposits that rest in the earth's vault as collateral for future prosperity.

**I**N a more restrained tone, however, other voices in the land are earnestly concerned by the problems of paternal management in the "Industrial North" and soil erosion in the "Agricultural South." The big industries and mines, heavily dependent on Swazi labor, are moving too slowly, they say, in teaching Swazis skills for greater participation in these enterprises. The continued impor- tation of skilled workers, they add, post- pones ever further a Swazi economic declaration of independence. The prob- lem of erosion, sober-minded citizens point out, has reached serious propor- tions, with all available arable land so intensively cultivated. The pressure of people, crops, and livestock, particularly the overgrazing by cattle, has proved too great on the limited land. Somewhere between the cheerful and the rueful ob- servers of the economic scene stands the fact that Swaziland has experienced a healthy upsurge away from the old de- pendency on minerals as a single class

of export. Sugar is the main export com- modity now, but farm products, wood pulp, asbestos, cotton, rice, iron, and fruits all play an important part in keep- ing the economy on a sounder footing.

The uphill road to freedom, like the downhill path to another destination, though paved with the best of intentions —as the Swazis have learned—can yet be clogged with difficult problems. The framing of an acceptable constitution, ownership and control of mineral wealth, the administrative makeup of a multi- racial state, and governmental policy vis-à-vis South Africa are some of the hazards already plaguing the unborn nation. The interim constitution, in pre- paring the ground for self-government, has made parliamentary elections neces- sary this year. The Imbokodvo National Movement, the political party to which the majority of Swazis adhere, has won its fight for "one man—one vote" under the new constitution. The United Swazi Association, claiming to speak for 90 per cent of the country's 10,000 white citi- zens, lost out in its attempt to secure a number of "reserved white seats" in the parliament.

The British Government's White Paper on the new constitution, which detailed the rejection of the idea of separate white representation, reported that the Constitutional Committee maintained a staunch faith that the whites could ex- pect adequate representation in the Swazi parliament "because of their wide interests in the territory and their par- ticular experience and important role in its economic life." The *Ngwenyama* has gone on record many times saying, "All are Swazis in Swaziland," and the British have unequivocally committed them- selves to the concept of a multiracial state. Some of the diehards of the United Swazi group remain distrustful, however, haunted by the fear that the Imbokodvo

Movement will become infiltrated after independence by the influence of a mili- tant Pan-Africanism.

With a new chapter about to be writ- ten in Swaziland's relationship to its strong, affluent, and white supremacist neighbor, the Republic of South Africa, the two countries are taking new, hard looks at each other. In South Africa, for the past 100 years, no one really took Swaziland seriously except to view it as a link to the ports on the Indian Ocean. And, in fact, Swaziland always has been heavily dependent on South Africa geo- graphically and economically. Indeed, South African government leaders in re- cent years have requested, cajoled, and demanded that the administration of Swaziland be turned over to them; but, by gradually winning more self-govern- ment rights from Britain, the Swazis have pursued their trek up the high road to ultimate independence. There is talk in South Africa today that the Pretoria government would be interested in mak- ing "ethnically compatible" land deals, which by purchase or exchange would readjust the frontiers between the two countries. Swaziland is wary of such suggestions, however, since it is assumed that South Africa would want to be a kind of Big Brother in guiding the eco- nomic and political development of the new nation.

Across the recently tightened border, Big Brother is watching now. Passports and work passes are checked, and the movements of 10,000 Swazis who work in South African gold mines are con- trolled. There are rumors that the cus- toms agreement between the two coun- tries will be reviewed soon—rumors circulated perhaps to remind the Swazis how vulnerable they are to South African economic pressure.

Well aware of the world's attention sharply focused on southern Africa, where unresolved problems of self-deter- mination and race relations are flaring in Rhodesia, South Africa, South-West Africa, Angola, and Mozambique, the smallest of these lands in the tense re- gion modestly prepares for its "Day of the *Inde-pen-dance*." Swaziland, or Ng- wane, as it will probably be called, is scarcely intent on preaching any sermons to its richer and more powerful neigh- bors, but it most likely will emerge as the cornerstone for a democratic, non- racialist community of nations which will ultimately come into being in the lower half of the African continent.

—LEONARD NORMAN.

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#### LITERARY I. Q. ANSWERS

Column One should read: 4g, 3f, 9i, 8a, 7b, 10d, 6e, 5c, 1j, 2h.

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"We'll have to figure out something else. He's beginning to complain about my weight."