

Editorial

Her Majesty's bloodbath in South Africa

The Queen of England, for the first time since the abdication of Edward VIII, is now in open conflict with the British government's prime minister, over the matter of proposed economic sanctions against the Republic of South Africa. It is a situation unique in postwar British political affairs. So far, Parliament, in a vote on June 17, has sided with the prime minister in opposing the economic sanctions demanded by the Queen. Of the major newspapers, the *Times* of London has taken a stand strongly in favor of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, and against Queen Elizabeth II. The Archbishop of Canterbury, on the other hand, sided with the Queen against the government.

The strategic and institutional implications of this conflict are far reaching, both for the United Kingdom and for the world strategic situation.

In part, the far-reaching character of these implications is concealed behind what might appear an arcane formalism: Queen Elizabeth has decided to pick a confrontation with the prime minister, not in her capacity as the Sovereign of the United Kingdom, but, instead, in her capacity as the Head of the Commonwealth of Nations, popularly known as the "British Commonwealth."

Elizabeth's status, today, is the world's most extraordinary and convoluted legal tangle ever devised by man (or woman, for that matter). Legally, she is the Queen of England and Scotland and Northern Ireland; also the Queen of Canada, answerable to the Canadian Parliament rather than to Westminster; also the Queen of Australia, answerable to the Australian Parliament, rather than either Westminster or Ottawa.

She is similarly the Queen of New Zealand, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Mauritius, Grenada, Belize, Barbados, Bahamas, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, and such other places as Bermuda, Cayman Islands, Virgin Islands, Turks and Caicos Islands, Falkland Islands, and so forth. She is also the Head of the Commonwealth of Nations, consisting of some 42 nations, most of which are heavily, and some totally, dependent on Brit-

ish banking and commercial services for their survival.

Many of Elizabeth's legal titles and dignities are independent of each other. She could, for instance, stop being the Queen of the United Kingdom, say by act of revolution of Parliament and so forth, and still remain Queen of Canada and Head of the Commonwealth and so forth.

Not only is Elizabeth the most complex legal entity in the world today, but she is also the second (after Andrei Gromyko) longest serving public official today; her coronation was in 1953.

In this extraordinarily complex capacity, Queen Elizabeth is the world leader of the movement to destroy the Republic of South Africa. Her reasons for pursuing this objective, needless to say, have nothing to do with any, either real, or imagined, moral abhorrence to apartheid. In fact, it was her own British predecessors who, as rulers of South Africa, introduced and institutionalized apartheid. Elizabeth's belated discovery of a dubious sense of racial justice dates back to May 31, 1961, when South Africa, having had its fill of British colonialism, declared itself a Republic and unilaterally walked out of the British Commonwealth.

Now, one-quarter of a century later, Elizabeth, as head of the Commonwealth, is orchestrating her forces and her dupes in an assault to dismantle South Africa. Independently of what her dupes believe their purposes to be, the Queen's crafty hand is manipulating a very ugly strategic gambit, whose purpose is not merely the destruction of the Republic of South Africa, but, through the instrumentality of this destruction, the removal of the last hope for Africa's industrial, technological, and scientific development.

To understand the reason why, one must pay heed to the public utterings of her consort Phillip's philosophy of bewailing Africa's excessive human population, and the damage that this human population is causing to the great hunting reserves of Africa. The Queen is fulfilling the dream of the World Wildlife Fund, under the guise of "fighting apartheid."