

A DANGEROUS IMAGE OF AUSTRALIA

Sir Garfield Barwick's "embittering warfare." He went on to tell the Indonesians, almost in so many words, that if they could isolate Australia on any particular issue from "the countries of the West" the Australian Government would not have the will or the means to take independent action.

According to the Minister, Australia's only interest in the West New Guinea dispute was "the ultimate ability of the indigenous people to choose their own future"—an interest, it may be remarked, only quite recently discovered by the Menzies Government.

Yet even were this strange limitation of interest accepted—along with the even stranger corollary that its pursuit ruled out resistance to armed aggression—then Australia's interest has still not been met.

One of the most disturbing features of last night's statement, with its mixture of half-truths and evasions, was its reflection of the Government's satisfaction with the turn events have taken, its approval of an agreement imposed on the Dutch by armed force and its total failure to recognise that there is any danger in the situation for Australia.

Open Wound In Berlin

Last Friday two 18-year-old East Germans tried to climb over the Berlin wall into the American sector of West Berlin. One reached safety; the other, hit by machine-pistol shots from Communist guards, fell back and was allowed by the East Berlin police to bleed to death within a few feet of freedom.

The subsequent outbreaks of rioting on the western side of the wall—riots which on Monday reached critical proportions—were not all

authorities, the Americans on the spot could not easily judge the occasion to intervene. Clearly, if the threat of a calamitous explosion in Berlin is to be diminished, something has to be done to reduce the tension along the Berlin wall.

And in the whole range of provocation in this brave and isolated city is there anything more terrible, more demeaning to the human

Letters To The Editor

ABORIGINES AS CITIZENS Peril In Common Frontier

Doubts On Welfare Ordinance

SIR,—Following the sub-editorial "Aborigines as Citizens" ("Herald," August 21), I wish to draw attention to some aspects of decisions made by the Northern Territory Administrator's Council regarding the declaration of wards under the welfare ordinance.

Recently, the Director of Welfare put before the Administrator's Council a long list of names of persons, both young and old, whom he considered were in need of special care and assistance. The list included many children living on missions and settlements with their parents, who had already been declared to be wards.

This is completely in accord with the Government's own thinking, except that the Government would fix the limit at 21 years of age instead of 15 years.

Legal Interpretation

The difficulty arises from a legal interpretation of the welfare ordinance. The Director of Welfare takes the view that, unless the children are legally his wards, he is unable to extend to them the benefits of the welfare ordinance, including substantial expenditures of public money on their behalf.

The Administrator's Council had similar doubts and the most important of the resolutions the council carried—but the one that was ignored in most published reports—was to the effect that, if the terms of the ordinance prevented the Director of Welfare from extending benefits to children under 15 years of age unless the children were declared wards, then the ordinance should be amended.

The Government agrees with this view and is having the ordinance examined so that, if legal advice shows it to be necessary to do so, amendments can be made.

The question of declaring persons over the age of 65 is of a similar kind. All persons of aboriginal race, except those who are nomads, are entitled to social service benefits whether they are wards or not. Regardless of race, if a pensioner is living in an institution the pension can be paid in part to the institution and in part to the pensioner.

"Some Difficulty"

In the case of an aboriginal who is not living on a mission or settlement, the Administrator's Council saw some difficulty in the payment of the pension if the pensioner were a ward. I am not sure of the grounds for the council's doubts, but the whole question is primarily one for the Director-General of Social Services and is being closely examined.

It should be made clear that the Administrator's Council has not changed the law. It has carried a series of resolutions setting out the principles it wishes to observe in discharging its function in advising the Administrator on any proposal to declare a person a ward. If I may say so without disrespect to the council, I differ from it only in preferring to fix the critical age at 21 and not 15.

PAUL HASLUCK, M.P. Minister for Territories. Canberra, A.C.T.

Benefits From The

Sir,—In the editorial "Aggression Proclaimed Respectable" ("Herald," August 17), you state that the Government's policy "has left Australia today where Holland stood yesterday."

This is scarcely correct. From West New Guinea some few thousands of Dutch people will be returned to their homeland. It will mean financial ruin to many and cause much misery, but they have a refuge among their own kin in their own land.

Australians are in a different position. They now have a land frontier with an aggressive Asian Power with a powerful army. The border between the two is artificial, and will offer many chances for disputes. Peace may be kept by the present generation, but sooner or later differences will arise.

R. H. WOOD. Ingleburn.

Sir,—From your outspoken editorial and the article on the "transfer of West New Guinea" we see that rational thinking is still possible in some circles.

Recent citizens of Australia will mourn the loss of our good name among nations. Our miserable Government, with that of America, has branded us abject cowards and idiots.

The aboriginal people of New Guinea made known their wishes by word and action. Their land has now been handed to the aggressor by those who are avowed allies of the Dutch and by the United Nations which dispenses international "justice."

I ask you, please, to publish this letter, in which I wish to express my admiration of the Government and representatives of Holland in New Guinea for all that they have tried to do. As other correspondents have said earlier in more specific statements, "Our skies may soon be black with chickens coming home to roost."

(Mrs) B. I. BRAMSEN. Gosford.

Sir,—We put a Government in power and naturally expect it to run our country for us, but, when such vital incidents occur as this giveaway of Netherlands New Guinea, just how much is our present Federal Government in touch with the views and wishes of the man-in-the-street, his fears for our future and his criticism of the "wisdom of Government action?"

MARJORIE V. HAVEN. Neutral Bay.

Animal Diseases In Indonesia

Sir,—The satisfaction expressed by a senior Federal Cabinet Minister with the forthcoming handover of West New Guinea to Indonesia will not be shared by Australian primary producers in view of its grave threat by disease to our livestock industry.

Foot-and-mouth disease, rabies and Newcastle disease—three of the world's animal scourges—are widespread in Indonesia. Unless prompt action is taken, their extension to West New Guinea will be inevitable. Once introduced to the New Guinea mainland, they will inevitably spread to Papua-New Guinea because effective quarantine restrictions cannot be applied in underdeveloped countries.

Australia, therefore, is facing an extremely grave and dangerous situation which could spell ruin to our livestock industry. Only by acting quickly to control and eradicate, or at least to contain,

Plans For A Lead To

From COLIN JAMES

THE agreement reached last week on proposal into the Federation of South Arabia (n rate) will not be received in the colony with appear to hope for.

Indeed, it is more likely to create a difficult and dangerous situation in an area of vital strategic and economic importance—the only military base Britain has left in the Middle East.

The draft agreement was adopted in London at meetings of Ministers representing the colony and the federation, under the chairmanship of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, Mr Duncan Sandys.

The arguments in favour of the union put forward by the Ministers, and endorsed by Mr Sandys, were the common Arab race, Moslem religion and language of the areas concerned, the fact that the port of Aden was the main outlet for the surrounding territories, and that the economic interests of both were closely interwoven.

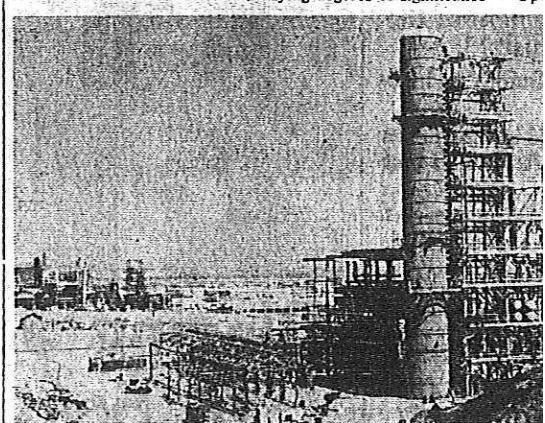
In a letter to Mr Sandys, summing up their views, the Ministers said that the ending of the unnatural division

between the colony and the federation, which "was due to an accident of history," would be in the true interests of all who lived in the area, and would contribute greatly to their prosperity and safety.

In reply, Mr Sandys said: "I am sure you are right in thinking that the added strength which will flow from the accession of Aden will help to advance the time when the federation will be able to assume full responsibilities of nationhood." Apart from this token reference, the agreement is not concerned with the independence of the area from Great Britain.

SUBSIDIES

Why then will this agreement, so sensible and sound on the face of it, cause such hostility in the colony of Aden? The reason is that the federation, or protectorate, a land of maritime plains and high plateaux broken by mountains, ravines and valleys, is ruled by 18 sheiks of varying degrees of significance



A section of the British oil refinery at Aden

AROUND THE GALLERY

Adamant Sincere In Victorian's

OVER 50 paintings by Victorian artist Roger Kemp spread their intensity and drama over the large walls of Farmer's Blaxland Galleries.

Sincerity—that belaboured word used by all insignificant, if well-meaning, artists as a justification for their dull, mediocre output—is the essence of these paintings.

It is a sincerity so forthright and direct, and so adamant in statement, that one cannot be other than impressed. Even the sense of drama created by the stressed shapes, turgid colours, and sombre moods does not detract from the artist's positive outlook. There is an abruptness of attacking, abstracted forms. A staccato declamation is forced harshly against the deep resonance of the richly orchestrated character of his painting.

Kemp immerses himself in many themes; indeed, the catalogue list is almost a description of his works. Titles such as "Doves of War,"

rather repetitious ranges of forms, movements and colours. Kemp, particularly in his largest and more recent canvases, shows that he can make a decided and telling statement in paint.

This exhibition will be opened by Dr John Swan at 1.15 this afternoon.

EVA KUBBOS, in a collection of excellent coloured drawings and prints, has thrown her previous European-based graphic art into a new turmoil of expansive freedoms.

There is a new evocation of forms and calligraphy. Rhythms are more insistent—strong, yet seductive, and like many of our leading local contemporary artists, she gets a quality almost of painting