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OUR OPINION

THE ZAPU-ZANU AFFAIR

RECENT developments in Southern Rhodesia have not only brought to the open the strategy of the white settler minority régime but also indicated the inevitable course open to the African nationalists.

For racist Ian Smith he has crowned his efforts to cripple the liberation movement in that colony by banning the People's Caretaker Council (although P.C.C. is not a party) and the Zimbabwe African National Union.

Of course, we did not expect him to do otherwise—being the racist he is.

For the majority African nationalists there is now only one open course, namely, a united front for a major and final offensive, backed by the Organisation of African Unity, against the settler régime.

It was in anticipation of this inevitability that the Bureau of African Affairs appealed for a reasoned patch-up of ZAPU after its emotional fissure a year ago.

And shortly before the African Summit in Cairo President Nkrumah personally invited both ZAPU and ZANU to Accra.

In all our efforts we have endeavoured, undiscouraged, to help provide a common platform for the African nationalists.

In Cairo the heads of state and Government endorsed the necessity and urgency for a united front in Southern Rhodesia by appointing a reconciliatory Committee to persuade ZAPU and ZANU to sink their differences—at least for the present—and form a common front.

In taking this step the O.A.U. have expressed not only concern over the explosive situation in the colony but also confidence in the four million oppressed Africans' ability to provide a united front against White domination.

We are interested in the immediate establishment of an African majority Government in Southern Rhodesia; and, for the present, any other consideration is of secondary importance.