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UCC President

Dear Avery--

Greetings to you, and to your secretary (a former excellent student of mine)!

"Post's Final Report...Zimbabwe" continues your amazingly perspicacious and courageous church-statesmanship on public issues....Permit a few remarks:

1. "Democracy" is a good war-chest word, but counterproductive for analytic and policy uses. Since the USA never has been "democratic" in the way you use the word in your statement [each person having equal decisional clout], are we Americans not hypocritical to press this on Zimbabwe-Rhodesia? Unless we are radical enough to press for unicameralism, the elimination of the U.S. Senate, whose structural function is precisely to *prevent* the arithmetic-egalitarian form of democracy. If we were to preach to the world our American Way of Government, which is the judicious balancing of powers and values, we would recommend (plan #1) that the Zimbabwe Senate be structured to protect the interest of whites and its House to serve the "common man" interests our House was designed to serve (though it's tending more and more to serve the interests of lobbies: p.1 of today's NYT). Plan #2, etc.!
2. I remember the million in India who quickly died with the too-rapid British pullout, the people not having really bought Ghandi's satyagraha. Among the Z. Popular Front, there is even less "nonviolence" than there was among the Indians. I'm suggesting that what's needed is a cooling-off, transition period in which whites can learn to yield some power (and learn that they can survive it) and blacks can learn the skills of parliamentary power (and not slip into the traditional tribal-chieftanism, which is not functional to a modern multiethnic state). That, in a defective but real way, is the present arrangement. The fact that the decade of transition frustrates purists at both ends of the political spectrum signals, it seems to me, that the arrangement does serve (to use an old favorite expression of Reinie Niebuhr) "the approximation of justice."
3. On a number of grounds, I'm happy that the \$85,000 went to the Patriotic Front (and said so, here at the seminary, to Keith Bridston, this afternoon); but I'm unhappy with church criticisms of the coalition-transition government.
3. I know it's unavoidable, but I plead for caution in using the phrase "majority rule." It was so hard to crush majority rule in the U.S.A., and it martyred M.L.King, Jr. It's so hypocritical for the U.S.A., now, to be pushing this principle on other peoples. Ditto with another fightin' term you use, the Wilsonian "self-determination."....But on the whole, your statement is magnificent!

The Chappaqua church wanted Loree and me to entertain you during installation time, but I must be in the Philadelphia area leading a Methodist pastors' weekend on pastoral counseling.

Grace and peace,