

NEW YEAR—NEW AIMS**STRANGE THINGS
IN AFRICA**

By Bremer Hofmeyr

A NEW YEAR needs new aims. 1964, our year of decision, will need aims for South Africa big enough and bold enough to break our deadlock with the world.

Strange things are going on in Africa. Chou En-Lai is moving up and down the continent. I learned from South African refugees in London that Peking has offered the African countries 50,000 veteran guerrilla fighters to pit against our country. No doubt, Chou En-Lai is discussing this offer with the African leaders. Perhaps he is offering a lot more.

Here is the hard fact we have to face—Africa is welcoming Communist China while she turns her back on "Christian" South Africa. Why is it?

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THE answer is simple. So far Peking's aims have been bigger than Pretoria's aims. Chou has elected to unite the lands of Africa and Asia under his banner. He may or may not succeed. It depends on what we choose as a national aim.

South Africa with its wealth and economic power, its education and religion, is in a unique position to help develop the whole African continent for the good of all men. If that becomes our sincere aim, it will give us new policies that will arrest and startle the world. It will outbid Chou En-Lai with his stone-age conception that colour is the ultimate division in the world.

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I HAVE seen the ideological struggle being waged in the hot-spots of Africa. I was in the Congo through the mutiny and all the chaos. I saw Lumumba at work. I do not believe Lumumba ever chose communism. But communism chose Lumumba. There gathered around him such determined world revolutionaries under the red banner as Madame Blouin from Guinea, Serge Michel from Algeria, Du Viviers from Belgium, Felix Moumie from Cameroun. They called the tune. The bitter speech of

Lumumba with the King of the Belgians sitting in front of him was written by Du Viviers, a White man. It was not race that was deciding. It was ideology.

I also saw a new man rise, a Congolese called Mobutu. He had to take on the superhuman tasks of re-building the army which was in mutiny. He discussed with the men of Moral Re-Armament, who were gathered in the Congo, how to tackle it. He began to understand ideology, and that he would never defeat the ideas that were dividing his country without a greater idea that united all men. He said: "My policy is to make the army the moral and ideological backbone of the nation."

I have recently again been in the Congo. Everyone spoke of the long, long row still to hoe. But they agreed on one thing: "The only force that may save the Congo is the Congolese army."

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AFRICA'S surprise man of 1963 has been Kenyatta. No one dreamed that, when he came out of detention, he would be anything but the spearhead of the division between black and white. But today he leads an independent Kenya. Independence has come with a remarkable spirit of goodwill. It began when Kenyatta stood before the farmers of the White Highlands, many of them Afrikaners, and said: "Where I have wronged anyone, forgive me. There is room for black and white and brown. Let us build the new Kenya together." He may prove that black, white, and brown can live together by choice, in equality, without bloodshed.

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THE remarkable group of African leaders who next week present the play *The Dictator's Slippers* at the Opera House have a key for our country for the new year. They believe that black South Africans and white South Africans must find one another as allies to give something new to the whole continent.