

The Queen's Commissioner, Mr. Peter Fawcus, who is answerable to the Secretary for State for Colonies, will retain responsibility for defence, external affairs, finance and other important matters. It is said to be largely due to his foresight and diplomacy that self-government is having so smooth a beginning.

Simultaneously, with independence at hand — and this applies to all the Protectorates — huge

development plans are afoot in every sphere of Bechuanaland's life to ensure that independence is coupled with prosperity. Money is flowing in from Britain and from international organizations, and naturally enough the material and the skills are provided by the great industrial neighbour, South Africa.

Bechuanaland plans to hold a general election late in 1964 or early in 1965 and independence should follow shortly.

SOUTH AFRICA IN THE AFRICAN REVOLUTION

(8) South West Africa

by MURIEL FISHER

SOUTH WEST AFRICA is one of the many problems which the African Revolution has brought to Dr. Verwoerd's Government. A German colony since the 1880's, it was mandated to South Africa by the League of Nations after 1918. Of the population of 600,000 there are 66,000 Whites — half Afrikaners, one-third Germans — while the African tribes consist of the Ovambo, the Herero, the Namaqua Hottentots and the Berg Damara. Karakul sheep, diamonds and some base minerals provide the country's very substantial income. Economically, South West Africa could afford to be independent.

Under the old League of Nations a mandatory country could administer, but not incorporate, the mandated territory, and had to report on its administration. The United Nations believe that the mandate should pass into the U.N. trusteeship, but this South Africa has refused to allow and no longer even reports on its administration of South West Africa.

Liberia and Ethiopia, former League members,

invoked the jurisdiction of the International Court. Firstly, the Court decided by a narrow majority that it had jurisdiction over the dispute. It then went on to consider whether U.N. was the heir to the League of Nations and this decision is still being awaited. Should it go against South Africa, the United Nations will probably demand a cancellation of the mandate and the independence of South West Africa. What will happen then is anybody's guess.

WRONG CHOICE

THE END OF 1963 sees the Republic of South Africa facing a hostile continent and an impatient world. For the first time the African Revolution has been brought to her very borders by events in Rhodesia, Angola, Mozambique, the Protectorates and South West Africa. The transformation of the Transkei into a Bantustan with very limited powers will not reconcile her with a world to which racial discrimination is anathema, as long as racial discrimination, enforced by harsh laws, is her official policy.

The many countries of Africa have achieved, or are about to achieve, independence. There are many people in South Africa who regret this fact, who strive to prevent the old order of racial domination from giving place to the new freedom, many who would halt history in its stride. But what is happening in Africa, the African Revolution itself, is only the logical outcome of events arising from the defeat of Fascist tyranny by the forces of freedom in the Second World War.

The pity of it is that South Africa, with her wealth and initiative, her mineral, industrial and human potential, has made the wrong choice. Instead of being a leader of and a model for the new African states, she has chosen to become the target of their hostility and the despair of the Western world. It is difficult to see how one country, however buoyant its economy, can long withstand the mounting pressures of a continent and a world. **The tree that will not bend before the storm must sooner or later break.**