

3. THE FOREIGN POLICY OF APARTHEID

Amry Vandenbosch: *South Africa and the World, the Foreign Policy of Apartheid*.
(University Press of Kentucky, 1973).

by Edgar Brookes

Amry Vandenbosch should be known to serious students of politics in South Africa as he has already written more than one book on our affairs. In his study of the foreign policy of the Republic he has contributed a text of considerable value, touching on the relation of South Africa to the rest of the world, particularly since 1948. Inevitably he has to make two points. The first is that the Government of South Africa has handled its foreign policy with very great skill. The second is that all its activity has been, in the words of a great Frenchman, "an agony in the impossible". Nationalist governments in South Africa have been in the position of a man playing bridge who holds a nine-high hand, but at the end of the game we may congratulate him on the exquisite skill with which he has played his unpromising cards, though we shall have to condone with him on losing the round.

As the book shows, South Africa has never been able to

get an ally except Portugal, which is also a target of international attack.

Professor Vandenbosch goes into the activities of the United Nations regarding the treatment of Indians in South Africa, the position of South-West Africa (Namibia) and apartheid generally. He is able to show that South Africa has handled with some skill and a modicum of success its relations with the former High Commission Territories. It has also been able to give Rhodesia considerable practical help without appearing before the world as Rhodesia's ally and supporter. As one tries to peer into the future, one cannot see any chance of the international hostility to South Africa diminishing unless the policy of apartheid is very drastically changed, so that we shall have to continue to play a losing hand.

Professor Vandenbosch's book is well documented and maintains the high level of accuracy and impartiality which his friends have learnt to expect from him.□

