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Eurocommunism, writes Cook, Paris correspondent for the *Los Angeles Times*.

The Russians had reason to fear that if the French Communists came to power with the Socialists, a Communist victory in Italy would inevitably have followed, thereby producing an end to détente and a return to the Cold War. Détente, contends Cook, permits the Russians to pursue other world ventures without risk and encourages the Western trade and credits essential to the economic well-being of Eastern Europe.

Since the election defeat, Cook writes, "Marchais has dropped all the cosmetics and returned to his true Stalinist colors—to the irritation and bitterness of comrades who really believed in Eurocommunism. . . ." The French Communist Party remains the most Moscow-oriented of all the parties in Western Europe.

The Italian Communists now seem to be as close to power as party leader Enrico Berlinguer and the Kremlin want them to be. And in Spain, Communist leader Santiago Carrillo continues to keep his distance from Moscow while building a party structure that can assure central control while gathering electoral support "among the wary, newly democratized Spaniards."

The "self-inflicted defeat" of the Left in the French election, says Cook, "has abruptly checked the concept of cooperative Eurocommunism cresting in some European wave of the future." The French political situation is frozen at least until the 1981 presidential election and perhaps until the National Assembly elections in 1983. Disillusionment with communism among leftist intellectuals, especially in France, is "complete," says Cook. In neither France nor Italy "does the Left seem to be going anywhere at all."

Loosening Ties

"COMECON Blues" by Nora Beloff, in *Foreign Policy* (Summer 1978), P.O. Box 984, Farmingdale, N.Y. 11737.

While members of the European Common Market move fitfully toward greater economic and political integration, the East European counterpart that calls itself COMECON (Council for Mutual Economic Assistance), with headquarters in Moscow, remains a group of six East European states (plus Cuba, Mongolia, and Vietnam) whose economic ties are so loose that the bloc cannot collectively negotiate on equal terms with the West.

COMECON countries, writes Beloff, former political correspondent for *The Observer* of London, remain so weakly integrated after almost 30 years (Joseph Stalin set up COMECON in 1949) that they will sell each other products for which there is an international market "only if payment is in convertible exchange." (As much as 10 percent of internal COMECON trade is settled in U.S. dollars.)

Today, recession in the West is promoting COMECON integration by

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making it difficult for the East European nations to diversify their trade or reduce their dependence on Moscow. Beloff argues that the West has ample reasons, both political and economic, to expand trade with Eastern Europe. The Soviet and U.S. economies are somewhat complementary, and Western Europe has surplus goods, including machinery and consumer items, that the East bloc countries want and need.

Obstacles to expanded trade are very real; most East European products are not competitive in world markets in terms of price or quality. Nevertheless, Beloff contends, the West can encourage trade by abandoning "sudden and brutal acts of protectionism" and preventing political or ideological disputes from disrupting economic cooperation.

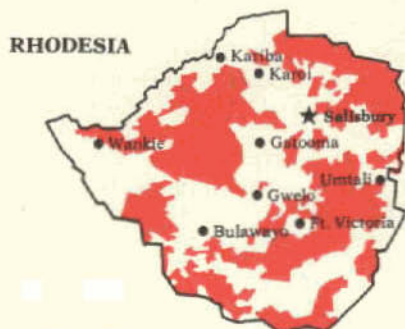
*The Options
for Zimbabwe*

"What Economic Road?" by Roger Riddell, in *Africa Reports* (May-June 1978), Transaction, Inc., Rutgers University, New Brunswick, N.J. 08903.

What is the economic future for an independent Zimbabwe? Supporters of Prime Minister Ian Smith's plan for an internal settlement of Rhodesia's racial conflict would continue the present export-oriented economic system while removing the more overt forms of racial discrimination. This strategy, says Riddell, a staff member of the Catholic Institute for International Relations, promises little to the black majority of 5.2 million. (More than 80 percent of urban black workers earn incomes below the urban poverty level of \$1,652 per year.)

The Rhodesian economy, during its recent boom (1969-75), failed to provide jobs for some 250,000 blacks entering the labor force in that prosperous period. Any plan to raise the incomes of rural blacks, Riddell argues, would require a tenfold increase in investment in traditional agriculture to upgrade the Tribal Trust Lands and to resettle blacks (some 500,000 families) on underutilized white-owned land.

Leaders of the Patriotic Front (Joshua Nkomo and Robert Mugabe) seek "a radical change away from settler-colonialism towards a more



Two-thirds of Rhodesia's 5.2 million blacks live in rural areas, most of them on 39.9 million acres of Tribal Trust Lands (shown in red). The 249,000 Europeans own 45 million acres—almost half the country's total area.