

# The Annual Register

**A Record  
of World Events**

**1977**

# THE ANNUAL REGISTER

*World Events in*  
1977

*Edited by*  
H. V. HODSON

*Assisted by*  
BISHAKHA BOSE

FIRST EDITED IN 1758  
BY EDMUND BURKE



LONGMAN  
1978

LONGMAN GROUP LIMITED  
London

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First published 1978

ISBN O 582 50225 X

British Library cataloguing data:  
The annual register.  
1977.

1. History – Yearbooks  
I. Hodson, Henry Vincent  
909.82'7'05 D410

ISBN O 582 50225 X

Set in Times Roman and  
PRINTED IN GREAT BRITAIN AT  
THE ABERDEEN UNIVERSITY PRESS  
ABERDEEN

After the Jubilee service of thanksgiving at St Paul's on 7 June, the Queen walked to Guildhall and talked with many people in the crowd who cheered her ecstatically. As Wimbledon celebrated its centenary in the Queen's Jubilee year, it was fitting that the women's singles title should have been won by the British player Virginia Wade, seen here with the trophy.

The three leaders of Western European Communist parties who met in Madrid on 5 March 1977 and issued a declaration on 'Eurocommunism': left to right, Santiago Carillo, secretary general of the Spanish CP, Georges Marchais, secretary general of the French CP, and Enrico Berlinguer, secretary general of the Italian CP *between pages 368-369*

Four elder statesmen, each of whom left a permanent mark on history, who died in 1977: top left, Anthony Eden, Earl of Avon, former British Foreign Secretary and Prime Minister; right, Dr Ludwig Erhard, former West German Federal Chancellor; bottom left, Archbishop Makarios, President of Cyprus; right, Sir Alexander Bustamante, first Prime Minister of independent Jamaica.

The world of music and entertainment lost a number of internationally famed figures in 1977, among them (top left) the operatic soprano Maria Callas, (right) the conductor Leopold Stokowski, (bottom left) the film comedian Sir Charles Chaplin and (right) the singer Bing Crosby.

Two contrasting events of 1977 in aviation: above, the craft designed by Paul McCready of California and pedal-manned by Bryan Allen which on 23 August completed the first man-powered flight of  $1\frac{1}{4}$  miles over a figure-8 course at a height of 18 ft or more and so claimed a prize of \$86,000; below, the remains of a KLM Boeing 747 which crashed into a similar Pan Am aeroplane on the runway of Tenerife airport on 27 March, with the loss of 582 lives.

## ABBREVIATIONS

AID	Agency for International Development
ASEAN	Association of South-East Asian Nations
AR	Annual Register
CENTO	Central Treaty Organization
CERN	European Organization for Nuclear Research
CFA	Communauté Française Africaine
COMECON	Council for Mutual Economic Assistance
EC	European Community
ECA	Economic Commission for Africa (UN)
ECE	Economic Commission for Europe (UN)
ECLA	Economic Commission for Latin America (UN)
ECOSOC	United Nations Economic and Social Council
ECSC	European Coal and Steel Community
EEC	European Economic Community (Common Market)
EFTA	European Free Trade Association
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN)
EURATOM	European Atomic Energy Community
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
GATT	General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
IBRD	International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
ICAO	International Civil Aviation Organization
ICBM	Inter-Continental Ballistic Missile
IDA	International Development Association
IFC	International Finance Corporation
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMF	International Monetary Fund
LAFTA	Latin American Free Trade Association
LDCs	Less Developed Countries
MBFR	Mutual and Balanced Force Reductions
MDCs	More Developed Countries
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
OAS	Organization of American States
OAU	Organization of African Unity
OECD	Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
OPEC	Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries
SALT	Strategic Arms Limitation Talks
SEATO	South East Asia Treaty Organization
TUC	Trades Union Congress
UN	United Nations
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFICYP	United Nations Peace-Keeping Force in Cyprus
UNRWA	United Nations Relief and Works Agency
VAT	Value Added Tax
WEU	Western European Union
WHO	World Health Organization

## CONTRIBUTORS

- Africa, East: Uganda, Tanzania, Kenya  
 Africa, North: Algeria, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia, Western Sahara  
 Africa: French-speaking West and Central Africa, Equatorial Guinea;  
 Africa: Ethiopia, Somalia, French Territory of the Afars and Issas  
 Africa; former Portuguese territories, Zaïre, Rwanda and Burundi  
 Albania  
 Arab States of the Middle East: Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Iraq  
 Saudi Arabia, Yemen and Gulf States  
 Australia  
 Bangladesh  
 Benelux countries  
 Botswana; Lesotho; Swaziland  
 Bulgaria  
 Canada  
 Caribbean (Commonwealth)  
 China  
 Cyprus  
 Czechoslovakia  
 France  
 Gambia, The  
 Germany, West and East
- WILLIAM TORDOFF, MA, PH.D  
 (Professor of Government, University of Manchester)  
 DR ROBIN BIDWELL  
 (Secretary, Middle East Centre, University of Cambridge)  
 O. E. WILTON-MARSHALL  
 (Writer on African affairs)  
 CHRISTOPHER CLAPHAM  
 (Senior Lecturer in Politics, University of Lancaster)  
 D. H. JONES, MA  
 (Senior Lecturer in African History, University of London)  
 ANTON LOGORECI, B.SC (ECON)  
 (Writer and broadcaster on communist affairs)  
 CHRISTOPHER GANDY  
 (Formerly UK Diplomatic Service, writer on Middle Eastern affairs)  
 R. M. BURRELL,  
 (Lecturer in the Contemporary History of the Near and Middle East School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London)  
 GEOFFREY SAWER, BA, LL.M  
 (Emeritus Professor of Law, Australian National University)  
 KEVIN RAFFERTY  
 (Journalist and expert on Asian affairs)  
 J. D. McLACHLAN  
 (Economic analyst and writer specializing in European countries)  
 GERALD SHAW  
 (Chief Assistant Editor, *The Cape Times*)  
 RADA NIKOLAEV  
 (Head of Bulgarian research section, *Radio Free Europe*)  
 BRUCE THORDARSON, BA, MA  
 (Writer on Canadian affairs)  
 SIR PHILIP SHERLOCK, KBE, LL.D, D.LITT, DCL  
 (Secretary-General, Association of Caribbean Universities and Research Institutes)  
 MICHAEL YAHUDA  
 (Lecturer in International Relations, London School of Economics and Political Science)  
 RICHARD SPEAREY  
 (Editor *Cyprus Mail*, and writer on Cyprus affairs)  
 VLADIMIR V. KUSIN, PH.D  
 (Director, International Information Centre for Soviet and East European Studies, University of Glasgow)  
 MARTIN HARRISON  
 (Professor of Politics, University of Keele)  
 ARNOLD HUGHES, BA  
 (Lecturer in Political Science, Centre of West African Studies, University of Birmingham)  
 H. N. CROSSLAND  
 (Freelance journalist, Bonn)

Ghana	D. G. AUSTIN (Professor of Government, University of Manchester)
Gibraltar	D. G. AUSTIN (see above)
Greece	RICHARD CLOGG, MA (King's College, University of London)
Hong Kong	A. S. B. OLVER, MA (Specialist in South East Asian affairs)
Hungary	GEORGE SCHÖPFLIN (Joint Lecturer in East European Political Institutions at the London School of Economics and the School of Slavonic and East European Studies)
India; Nepal; Afghanistan	KULDIP NAYAR (Editor, <i>The Indian Express</i> , New Delhi, and author)
Iran	KEITH McLACHLAN, BA, PH.D (Lecturer in Geography with reference to the Near and Middle East, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London)
Ireland, Northern	A. I. Q. STEWART, MA, PH.D (Reader in Irish History, Queen's University, Belfast)
Ireland, Republic of	LOUIS McREDMOND, MA, BL (Head of Information in Radio Telefis Eireann, the Irish broadcasting service)
Israel	The Hon. Terence Prittie, MBE, MA (Director, Britain and Israel)
Italy	MURIEL GRINDROD, OBE (Writer on Italian affairs; formerly Assistant Editor, <i>The Annual Register</i> )
Japan	REGINALD CUDLIPP (Director, Anglo-Japanese Economic Institute)
Korea	PETER FINCH (Hon. Editor, <i>Bulletin of the Anglo-Korean Society</i> and writer on Korean affairs)
Latin America	PETER CALVERT, AM, MA, PH.D (Reader in Politics, University of Southampton)
Liberia; Malagasy Republic	O. E. WILTON-MARSHALL (Writer on African affairs)
Malawi	RALPH A. YOUNG (Lecturer in Government, University of Manchester)
Malaysia; Singapore; Brunei	MICHAEL LEIFER, BA, PH.D (Reader in International Relations, London School of Economics and Political Science)
Malta	D. G. AUSTIN (Professor of Government, University of Manchester)
Mongolia	ALAN SANDERS, FIL (British Broadcasting Corporation)
New Zealand	DR RODERIC ALLEY (School of Political Science and Public Administra- tion, Victoria University of Wellington)
Nigeria	ARNOLD HUGHES, BA (Lecturer in Political Science, Centre of West African Studies, University of Birmingham)
Nordic States	T. K. DERRY, OBE, D. PHIL (Writer on Nordic history and current affairs)
Pakistan	P. T. ENSOR, B.SC(ECON), ICS (ret'd) (Writer on Pakistan affairs; Secretary, Overseas Investors Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Karachi)
Papua New Guinea	DAVID HEGARTY (Senior Lecturer Department of Political and Admini- strative Studies, University of Papua New Guinea)

Poland	Z. J. BLAZYNSKI (Writer and broadcaster on Polish and communist affairs)
Portugal	G. A. M. HILLS, BA, D.LIT (Writer and broadcaster on Iberian current affairs and history)
Rhodesia	R. W. BALDOCK (Editor-in-chief, Harvester Press; writer on African affairs).
Romania	SYLVIA M. FLORESCU (Specialist on Romanian affairs)
Rwanda and Burundi	D. H. JONES, MA (Senior Lecturer in African History, University of London)
Scandinavian States <i>see</i> Nordic States	
Scotland	PETER GOULDESBOUGH, MA, LL.B (An Assistant Keeper, Scottish Record Office)
Seychelles, BIOT, Mauritius	ROY LEWIS (Journalist and expert on African affairs)
Sierra Leone	ARNOLD HUGHES (see Nigeria)
South-East Asian States (except Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei)	A. S. B. OLVER, MA (Specialist in South-East Asian affairs)
South Africa	GERALD SHAW (Chief Assistant Editor, <i>The Cape Times</i> )
South Pacific	DR RODERIC ALLEY (see New Zealand)
Spain	G. A. M. HILLS (see Portugal)
Sri Lanka	JAMES JUPP, M.SC (ECON), PH.D (Visiting Professor in Political Science, University of Waterloo, Canada)
Sudan	DR AHMED AL-SHAHI (Lecturer in Social Anthropology, Department of Social Studies, University of Newcastle upon Tyne)
Switzerland	HERMANN BÖSCHENSTEIN, D.PH (Historian and Editor)
Taiwan	BRIAN HOOK, BA (Senior Lecturer in Chinese Studies, University of Leeds)
Turkey	A. J. A. MANGO, BA, PH.D (Orientalist and writer on current affairs in Turkey and the Near East)
United Kingdom	H. V. HODSON, MA (Formerly Editor, <i>The Sunday Times</i> )
USA	JAMES BISHOP (Editor, <i>The Illustrated London News</i> )
USSR	Dr PHILIP HANSON, MA, PH.D (Senior Lecturer, Centre for Russian and East European Studies, University of Birmingham)
Vietnam	A. S. B. OLVER, MA (Specialist in S.E. Asian affairs)
Wales	PETER STEAD (Lecturer in History, University College of Swansea)
Yugoslavia	F. B. SINGLETON, MA (Chairman, Post-Graduate School of Yugoslav Studies, University of Bradford)
Zambia	RALPH A. YOUNG (Lecturer in Government, University of Manchester)

## INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND CONFERENCES

African Conferences and Institutions	O. E. WILTON-MARSHALL (Writer on African affairs)
Caribbean Organizations	SIR PHILIP SHERLOCK, KBE, LL.D, D.LITT, DCL (Secretary-General, Association of Caribbean Universities and Research Institutes)



- Comecon** MICHAEL KASER, MA  
(Reader in Economics, Oxford, and Professorial Fellow of St Antony's College, Oxford)
- Commonwealth, The** ALEXANDER MACLEOD  
(Editor, *The Round Table*)
- Council of Europe; WEU;  
North Atlantic Assembly** DAVID BUCHAN  
(Brussels correspondent, *The Financial Times*)
- Defence Negotiations and  
Organizations** JOHN C. GARNETT, B.SC(ECON), M.SC(ECON)  
(Department of International Politics, The University College of Wales, Aberystwyth)
- European Community** DAVID BUCHAN (see above)
- Nordic Council** T. K. DERRY, OBE, D.PHIL  
(Writer on Nordic history and current affairs)
- South-East Asian Conferences and  
Institutions** A. S. B. OLVER, MA  
(Specialist in S.E. Asian affairs)
- United Nations** MARY ALLSEBROOK, MA  
(Writer on international and UN matters)

**THE ARTS**

- Architecture** GEORGE MANSELL, RIBA  
(Architectural writer)
- Art** LADY VAIZEY  
(Art Critic, *The Sunday Times*)
- Ballet** G. B. L. WILSON, MA  
(Ballet critic of *The Jewish Chronicle*, London, and *Dance News*, New York; author of the *Dictionary of Ballet*)
- Cinema** ROGER MANVELL, PH.D, D.LITT, LITT.D (HON)  
(Director, British Film Academy 1947-59; Visiting Fellow, University of Sussex; Visiting Professor of Film, Boston University; author and critic)
- Fashion** ANNE PRICE  
(Fashion Editor, *Country Life*)
- Literature** DAVID HOLLOWAY  
(Literary Editor, *The Daily Telegraph*)
- Music** FRANK GRANVILLE BARKER  
(Music critic and broadcaster)
- Opera** RODNEY MILNES  
(Writer and broadcaster on opera)
- Television and Radio** RICHARD LAST  
(Television critic, *The Daily Telegraph*)
- Theatre** ERIC SHORTER  
(Drama critic, *The Daily Telegraph*)
- New York Theatre** EDWARD G. GREER  
(Assistant Professor, Drama Department, Syracuse University, USA)

**ECONOMIC AFFAIRS**

- International, UK and USA** PETER RIDDELL  
(Economics correspondent, *The Financial Times*)
- Economic Developments** J. J. PRYOR  
(General Editor, *Financial Times Business News-letters*)
- Economic and Social Data**

**LAW**

- International Law** ROSALYN HIGGINS, MA, LL.B, JSD  
(Professor of International Law, University of Kent, Canterbury)
- European Community Law** N. MARCH HUNNINGS, LL.M, PH.D  
(Editor, *Common Market Law Reports*)

Law in the United Kingdom

W. A. McKEAN, PH.D  
(Fellow of St John's College Cambridge)

*RELIGION*

GEOFFREY PARRINDER, MA, PH.D, DD, D.LITT (HON)  
(Professor of the Comparative Study of Religions,  
University of London)

*SCIENCE*

Science, Medicine, and Technology  
Technology

JOHN NEWELL, B.SC  
(Assistant Editor, Science, Industry and Agriculture,  
BBC External Services)

Environment

GEOFFREY LEAN  
(Editorial Staff, *The Observer*)

*SPORT*

DOUG GARDNER  
(Sports journalist, *United Newspapers*)

## PREFACE

PERHAPS the most significant feature of the Annual Register for 1977 is the selection of documents. They include two massive texts, the new Constitution of the USSR and the constitution of the Chinese Communist Party, both promulgated during the year. It seemed to the Editor and his advisers important that readers outside Russia and China should know under what terms those two vast and powerful countries, exhibiting different brands of marxism, are governed, however far constitutional forms may diverge from political practice. To that divergence another document, Charter 77 of Czechoslovak protesters, bears eloquent witness. All these indications have to be borne in mind in judging the fourth text we print, the Madrid declaration of the Spanish, French and Italian Communist leaders. Clearly the advance of Eurocommunism has to be seen in a context of political and social ideologies, much wider than that of its possible repercussions upon Nato and upon United States attitudes.

The only major change in organization of the Contents is the separation of Equatorial Africa from the more southerly belt of that Continent, where problems and events centre particularly upon the still white-ruled countries. The Malagasy Republic has been shifted from Part VI (Equatorial Africa) to Part VIII (Indian Ocean). Part XV, on the Arts, has been re-ordered to bring the performing arts, visual arts and literature into distinct chapters.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Advisory Board again gratefully acknowledges its debt to the Royal Institute of International Affairs and other institutions for their advice and help with sources, references and the provision of documents, figures and maps. The Board, and the bodies which nominate its members, disclaim responsibility for any opinions expressed or the accuracy of any facts recorded in this volume.

## THE ANNUAL REGISTER

### 200 years ago

24 February 1777. *The Marquis of Pombal dismissed*. It is hardly possible to conceive the joy that ran through the whole kingdom (of Portugal) from this change in the administration; for more than twenty years have the people of this country been grievously oppressed and afflicted . . . What numbers of all ranks has he shut up in dungeons, without their being guilty of any other crime than standing in his way! Figure to yourself these feeding on scanty portions of rotten sardines (a fish resembling our sprat) and broa (an inferior kind of bread) without ever being indulged with physicians or confessor; without any social intercourse, without even seeing the chearful face of man.

### 150 years ago

8 August 1827. *The death of George Canning*. At the very moment when he reached the pinnacle of his fortunes, he found himself left almost alone by those whom he had hoped to use as coadjutors . . . His care-worn appearance betrayed that the mind was ill at ease within: mind and body panted equally for repose. Soon after the rising of parliament he was visited by an attack of illness, which seemed, however, to yield to medical treatment, and he went down to the duke of Devonshire's seat at Chiswick, to seek tranquillity and enjoy a purer air. The disease returned; inflammation had commenced; . . . and Mr. Canning expired at Chiswick (the same house in which Mr. Fox had breathed his last), on the morning of the 8th of August, after having been prime minister for only four months . . . His fancy was elegant and prolific; his taste was exquisite; . . . he was never inflated or inane; it would scarcely be possible to select from his speeches a single sample of bombast . . . He was the most unyielding opponent of all the schemes which, for more than thirty years, had thrown the world into confusion under the name of reform: and he had done his country much good service in maintaining the integrity of her existing institutions.

### 100 years ago

9-10 December 1877. *The Russo-Turkish War*. Several of the Russian armies of invasion had been placed in jeopardy from deficient numbers and incompetent generals, but now, by the fall of Plevna, 100,000 men were set at liberty for offensive purposes. Besides these, large reinforcements had been brought into the field, and in the latter policy of the Russian war-direction, talent, not favouritism, placed officers in important commands. The Russians having, in fact, completely recovered from the critical position in which their own shortcomings and the successes of the Turks at Plevna in July and September had placed them, were now prepared to prosecute their onward march.

### 50 years ago

21 December 1927. *Greyhound racing*. A deputation of members of Parliament of all parties, headed by Mr. J. H. Thomas, waited on the Home Secretary to urge him to take steps for dealing with the evils attendant on the sport of greyhound racing. Introduced early in the year, this practice had soon become amazingly popular, and new tracks were continually being opened. The popularity of the entertainment was confessedly due, not to its merits as a sport, but to the facilities it afforded for gambling, and many people were afraid that it was developing into a social evil of the first magnitude. Mr. Thomas laid especial stress on the urgent need of preventing betting by children.

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An historic meeting: President Anwar Sadat of Egypt shakes hands with Prime Minister Menachem Begin of Israel after addressing the Knesset on 20 November 1977	Frontispiece
South-east India was devastated by floods in the wake of a cyclone in November 1977: survivors gaze from their village's sole remaining, stone-built dwelling on the ruins of palm-thatched houses	<i>between pages 176-177</i>
In the gilt state coach escorted by the Household Cavalry, HM Queen Elizabeth II and her Consort Prince Philip leave Buckingham Palace for St Paul's to give thanks for 25 years of her reign on 7 June 1977	

# ANNUAL REGISTER

FOR THE YEAR 1977

## EDITORIAL

THE twelve months whose events are recorded in this volume might be dubbed by many a year of violence. Internationally, it witnessed continued war in the Horn of Africa and Spanish Morocco, fresh war in Indo-China, and ghastly atrocities in Cambodia and Uganda, to name only two of the worst of many countries where murder, torture and other physical violence by rulers against the ruled was the prevailing mode of life. The terrorism and counter-terrorism of the 'war of liberation' in Rhodesia were intensified. Peaceful Bermuda erupted in riots. The world's news was stained by assassinations, kidnappings (which afflicted Italy terribly) and aeroplane hijacks, among which the most notorious were the abduction and murder of a West German industrialist, the South Moluccan seizure of a Dutch school and train, and the hijacking of a Lufthansa plane—in aid of terrorists already behind bars. Domestically, in the United Kingdom, although violence in Northern Ireland slackened from its peak it was still nauseating in detail and intolerable in scale; and violence in schools, among football crowds and in street demonstrations shocked the public and strained the forces of law and order. Figures of violent crime, here and elsewhere in the West, continued to rise.

Before we conclude, however, that throughout the world some disease of violence is endemic and increasing in clinical frequency we must do two things: we must put these events in historical perspective, and we must classify them into distinct phenomena which have different causes and different cures—if cures there be. The main classes, which can nevertheless overlap, are open international war, governmental violence, terrorism whether national or international (including hijacking and threats to hostages), individual violent crime for gain or sexual lust or other motive, and crowd violence however motivated.

Such a sorting-out reminds us that none of these violent symptoms is new, nor even, *prima facie*, conspicuously worse than in the past, though they may be taking novel forms. Two theatres of open warfare in Africa in 1977 have been mentioned: in neither of these was there a state of war as recognized in classical international law. Morocco, Mauritania and Algeria (through its protégé Polisario) fought in the Sahara without any open declaration which would entail both obligations and rights; Ethiopia was threatened not by frank invasion but by armed revolts from north and south notoriously supported by outside countries; Cambodia and



Vietnam fought fiercely long before the existence of war was admitted; Rhodesia was not legally at war with any of its neighbours, from whose territory and with whose aid aggression against it was mounted. The fact that these wars were not legally respectable did not make them less real or less devastating. It merely reflects the sad truth that to outlaw war by multinational peace pledges or United Nations charters does not change the conditions that lead to violent international action. The maintenance of global peace by a balance of deterrence—for which we must be thankful—can actually enlarge the risks of war (or warlike strife) between non-nuclear countries well aware that the great powers will not intervene to stop it lest they perilously confront each other.

We used to talk wistfully, in League of Nations days, of 'peaceful change' as the necessary corollary of the outlawry of war. The regrettable fact is that peaceful change, in the sense of anaesthetized territorial or governmental surgery, has happened only in the rarest circumstances, where powerful external countries have an interest in it and no interest in quarrelling over it. The map of the world has indeed been radically altered in the last thirty years by the new independence of four-score countries; but where this was not accomplished by violence it was achieved by the resignation of the former imperial powers which had lost either their capacity or their will to resist it.

Had white-ruled Rhodesia not unilaterally declared its independence the same pattern of change to popular self-rule would probably have been followed there too over the past 15 years. As it was, the pseudo-independent regime demonstrated the inefficacy of sanctions short of war—the international strategem of non-violence—and incurred illegal war which began to prove a more effective lever.

The illegitimacy of the regime did not legalize the external violence against it, let alone the methods thereof. The regime was illegal only in the sense that it rejected a nominal sovereign incapable of enforcing its sovereignty—a not unusual situation in modern history—and that it was not recognized by any but a very few other countries, contrary to the usual practice of accepting de-facto regimes at their effective value. The external violence was and is as much an affront to international law and order as was, say, the Indonesian attempt to overthrow the British colonial regime in Sabah or the American attempt to overthrow the Castro regime in Cuba at the Bay of Pigs. Yet that violent assault in southern Africa, using methods of terrorism, has been not only tolerated but actually applauded by Western countries which should have been the first to deplore it. It was even endorsed by the World and British Councils of (Christian!) Churches. If we do not like violence in the world scene we cannot afford to make exceptions on political or racial grounds. Where would that lead us in our domestic affairs?

That brings up the next category, governmental violence, by which is