

Reginald Herbold Green

Professor Reginald Herbold Green, a development economist, produced an astonishing range and number of analytical and policy papers on African economic issues, especially those of Tanzania, Mozambique and Namibia and on what is now the Southern African Development Community (SADC). For 7 years he was economic adviser to President Julius Nyerere, in the years when Nyerere was the darling of the donor community. In the 1980s, Green was a key economic adviser to SWAPO and the UN Institute of Namibia during Namibia's run up to Independence in 1991. Green was also a committed Christian, highly conscious of the often-ignored ethical dimensions of debt, trade, aid, North-South relationships and political liberation more generally. He made many contributions to the World Council of Churches.

Combined with his prolific, professional output, Reg Green amply displayed the life style of a bizarre eccentric. While commanding respect and admiration, support and only occasional exasperation from his friends, he often generated offhand dismissal from those who didn't bother to read his articles. Strangers reacted instead to his whooping laugh, his head topped by long hair under a small Muslim cap, and his colourful neckerchiefs tied with a cowrie shell knot. In his later years, when he lived in Lewes, his gangly frame, hunched over and supported by Tanzanian walking sticks on either side was instantly recognizable – and widely recognized: his public image by then was more tramp than eccentric. A local jeweller by Cliffe Bridge in Lewes even displayed an oil painting showing Reg Green peering in the shop window.

Reginald Herbold Green wrote over 500 published professional articles, papers, book chapters and books. His first major academic paper was given in 1960 to the West African Institute of Social and Economic Research Conference in Ibadan. His early book, *Unity or Poverty: the economics of Pan Africanism*, published by Penguin in 1968, made the case for African countries to coordinate or join together as a key condition for development. But in the immediate aftermath of Independence, the message fell on deaf ideas - though the general point always motivated his work on trade and development within the regions of East and Southern Africa. He always maintained a broad perspective and range of interests – seeing himself as a servant of African goals and objectives but one willing to use every ounce of his talents and creative imagination to provide professional analysis of how best to achieve them.

One of his major and most creative contributions was commissioned by UNICEF. This was to estimate the cost of the destabilization policies of South Africa's apartheid regime in the 1980s, especially on children in Mozambique and Angola. Although often denounced in political terms, it was only when Reg Green turned his creative mind to serious accounting that the brutal costs were brought home to the world. The resulting publication, *Children on the Front Line* provided detailed estimates showing that more than two million under five children in Mozambique and Angola had died as a result of South Africa's destructive economic and military policies targeted on these countries. The study was cited with approval a number of times in the US Congress.

Reginald Herbold Green was born in Walla Walla, Washington the son of a clergyman and professor, Reginald James Green, and Marcia Herbold. He graduated summa cum laude from Whitman College which awarded him an honorary doctorate twenty years later. From Whitman College he went to Harvard where he gained his doctorate in 1961, thereafter joining the Economic Growth Centre in Yale University. This led to appointments in the universities of Ghana, Makerere University College in Uganda and in the Treasury of Tanzania from 1966-74, where he also served as adviser to President Nyerere and as Honorary Professor of Economics at the University of Dar Es Salaam. In 1975, he was made a Professorial Fellow of the Institute of Development

Studies at the University of Sussex which served as his main base until his retirement at the end of 2000.

His 26 years at the IDS gave him freedom and opportunity for a succession of continuing involvements mainly in Africa, though also in the Philippines. As advisor or consultant, his involvements covered most countries of East and Southern Africa, the Economic Commission of Africa, UNICEF, ILO, IFAD, WFP, UNCTAD and UNDP. For a number of years, he played a major economic role with SADCC, the Southern African Development Coordination Conference (which today continues as the Southern African Development Community). At times, he has also served on the Advisory Group on Economic Matters of the World Council of Churches, as a trustee of the International Center of Law in Development and on the Education Committee of the Catholic Institute for international Relations. He played a major role in the UN Institute for Namibia as well as serving as consultant to the ACP Secretariat, the Commonwealth Secretariat and to the African Centre for Monetary Studies.

Reg Green had a phenomenal memory, with apparently immediate recall of almost everything he had written, much of what he had read, as well as many other matters important and trivial. In the mid-1970s, the ODA, now DFID, was considering re-establishing aid relationships with Tanzania. Reg Green was invited for a consultation. This lasted for almost a day with two stenographers taking turns to capture Green's replies at breakneck speed—ending with some 125 pages of typewritten notes. In the 1980s, as African countries suffered under the enforced conditions of structural adjustment, Green became a trenchant critic of adjustment policies, but always careful to suggest positive alternatives. In the 1980s, as civil conflict beset many African countries in Africa and elsewhere, Green turned his mind to the political economy of conflict and post conflict rehabilitation, working with Professor Bayo Adedeji on an African led Project for Comprehending and Mastering Conflict. His concern with poverty reduction, liberation and broad based development were connecting threads through all his writings from the 1960s to 2000, when at the UN Millennium Summit, heads of state adopted the Millennium Development Goals for poverty reduction on a world wide scale.

Reginald Herbold Green, development
economist specializing in East and Southern Africa, born 4 May 1935