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## UROLINK in sub-Saharan Africa

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Reflections on my travels in Zimbabwe, Botswana, Kwazulu Natal, Mozambique, South-west Cameroon, Nigeria and Zambia: February–March 2000.

### Introduction

My love affair with Africa started 33 years ago when I went to Botswana for 2 years in the late 1960s. What is so magical? The laughing, smiling people, the warm weather, the singing (which is spontaneous, rhythmical, tuneful and very moving) and most of all the feeling

The telescopes available in Bulawayo were so fogged as to be virtually unusable, and there were no means of replacing them because hospital finances were scarce. In Gaborone (Botswana) they had an excellent selection of endoscopes, both rigid and flexible, and an Olympus flexible cystoscope and ureteroscope which had never been used. The surgeon had never received endoscopic urological training, although one of the nursing staff had been trained.

The anaesthetic equipment and expertise was variable; spinal anaesthesia was common and competent.