The African Scene

T always appreciate David Lamb's perceptive report-ing, and I enjoyed his informative travel article (March 15) on the opportunities and hazards of travel in con-temporary Africa. But I do have one disagreement - "cross Liberia, Nigeria and Zimbabwe off the list."

Why Zimbabwe? From what I have seen (my last visit was in 1980) and from letters and reports, this is unfair to Zimbabwe and to the valiant attempts of Prime Minister Mugabe to establish stability. Despite the long war, and despite recent violence between two factions in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe is remarkably calm and order-ly. Other contrasts include the spectacular tourist at-tractions-Victoria Falls, Great Zimbabwe, and some of the best game and bird viewing in Africa. Zimbabwe also has an efficient infrastructure of inexpensive ac-commodations, good road and air transport and a gener-al cheerful efficiency.

No one knows how long this will last, but for the present I certainly recommend visitors to Africa to in-clude Zimbabwe in their itineraries.

DAVID BROKENSHA

Santa Barbara