GENERAL

ZIMBABWE — 1992

NOV— DEC,

B/Day 2/11/92

Mugabe asks for help

ZIMBABWEAN President Robert Mugabe has appealed to investors to assist in the development of areas along Zimbabwe's borders, which he said were left behind when colonial governments developed other inland areas.

Mugabe said people in areas such as Chikombedzi, Chipinge, Binga and Omay were the worst affected by economic hardships and drought, Ziana news agency reports.

(362)

NEWS Mandela, Mugabe meeting 'without Makwetu' ● Tip-off leads cops to arms

Vital meeting in Harare

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Sowetan 3/11/92

■ **Mugabe in quest to find common ground between African National Congress, Pan Africanist Congress:**

By Themba Molefe
Political Reporter

AFRICAN National Congress president Mr Nelson Mandela and Pan Africanist Congress president Mr Clarence Makwetu meet Zimbabwean leader Mr Robert Mugabe in Harare tomorrow.

But the ANC insists it will be separately, according to spokesman Mr Saki Macozoma yesterday.

He said the meeting would be private, between Mugabe and Mandela only. Nor would the ANC leader meet Makwetu, Macozoma said.

Mugabe has invited the two leaders in terms of a resolution taken at the Organisation of African Unity summit in Senegal in June.

The OAU Ad Hoc Committee on Southern Africa, which met in Gaborone on October 15, endorsed the Senegal resolution after Mugabe cancelled, at the last hour, a meeting he had scheduled for September 9 in Bulawayo.

This was because Mandela would not attend following the Bisho massacre of September 7.

As chairman of the Frontline States, Mugabe's mandate is to discuss the reconvening of the Patriotic-United Front of liberation movements, specifically to urge them to find common ground in negotiating with the Government and formulate strategies to end the violence.

The ANC and PAC are officially recognised as observers by the OAU and United Nations and the OAU itself insists that the two's unity, albeit principled, is important in championing the total unity of South Africa's majority.

PAC secretary for foreign affairs Gora Ebrahim said Makwetu had been invited to a meeting with both Mugabe and Mandela.

"The invitation is in keeping with the OAU mandate for Mugabe to pursue the question of a united front of the liberation movements," said Ebrahim.

To add humour to your day, Sowetan cartoonist Len Sak uses his sharp pen to take a look at a slice of South African life

Arms in a vehicle

■ **53-year-old man held:**

Sowetan 3/11/92

A TIP-OFF from a member of the public led to the seizure of an arms cache in a car outside a hotel in Nelspruit on Sunday.

The police special investigation found eight AK-47 rifles, nine magazines, 256 rounds of 7,62 AK-47 ammunition, 27 rounds of VZ26 7,62 ammunition and one VZ26 magazine.

A 53-year-old man was detained.

Two more men were arrested. An AK-47 and two magazines were confiscated at a four-way stop in nearby Carino.

SAP Regional Commissioner Maj-Gen JJ van Zyl asked the public to give information to curtail arms smuggling - *Sapa.*

news

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362 Sowetan 3/11/92

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brief

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Islam recruiting

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HARARE - Zimbabwe's main semi-official newspaper, *The Herald*, has called on the government to put Iranian diplomats in their place and has warned of attempts by the Iranians to spread Iran's fanatical brand of Islam.

Sowetan 4/11/92

Sowetan 4/11/92

The editorial, which is certain to draw protests from the Iranian Embassy, said Zimbabwe had been targeted by Teheran which was recruiting youths and establishing splinter groups among the Muslim community.

BA jet threatened

ISLAMABAD - A British Airways jumbo jet carrying more than 400 passengers turned back to Islamabad airport early yesterday after an anonymous caller told the airport authori-

INTERNATIONAL NEWS Rebels slam Zimbabwe

Renamo pulls out of central town

Sowetan 4/11/92

[illegible]

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■ COUNTER ATTACK Rebel units pull out to avoid further civilian deaths:

MAPUTO - Rebel Mozambican forces have withdrawn from a town in central Mozambique they have occupied since October 17, Renamo leader Afonso Dhlakama has announced.

Dhlakama, in an interview with the Mozambican news agency *AIM*, also warned that Renamo was considering holding up implementation of a peace accord worked out last month because of planned Zimbabwean participation.

Rebel units - in the face of an army counter attack - abandoned Maganja da Costa in Zambezia province late on Monday "to avoid further civilian deaths".

Renamo had seized the town in violation of a ceasefire with government forces.

Dhlakama accused the army of killing civilians in outlying villages rather than confronting the rebels. He justified Renamo's breaches of the ceasefire on the grounds that after the Mozambican peace agreement of October 4, government forces had occupied "more than 25 towns" that had previously been in Renamo hands.

Dhlakama did not name the towns and the armed forces have denied carrying out any offensive actions since the peace accord.

Renamo in a mid-October operation occupied four northern and central towns, but only one - Lugela - still remains under rebel control.

Dhlakama also told *AIM* that Renamo is considering delaying establishment of monitoring commissions that should be established under terms of the peace agreement because it objects to a government proposal to invite Zimbabwe to take part.

The commissions, to be chaired by the United Nations, should consist of government and Renamo delegations as well as representatives from other countries, to be decided by consensus.

Dhlakama insisted that the countries participating must be "neutral" and that Renamo therefore rejected Zimbabwe, which sent troops to fight against the rebels and to defend rail corridors linking Zimbabwe to Mozambican ports.

The Zimbabwean troops are being withdrawn, a process that should be completed by this month. - *Sapa-AFP.*

SA tourists reassured

BDay

5/11/92

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GAVIN DU VENAGE

ZIMBABWE would be dropping its two-tier rate system for hotels, and would require them to quote all prices in US dollars from December 1, Zimbabwe Tourist Board SA and Namibia director Edward Chinori-Chininga said in a statement yesterday.

He assured SA visitors this would not mean a drastic increase in the price of a holiday in Zimbabwe, as a discount system for regional visitors was in place.

Regional and Zimbabwean visitors would pay only 50% of the rack rate — the dollar rate at which a hotel could expect a profitable return — from December 1 to the end of February, 40% less from March to May and 30% less from June to November.

The regional discount was to attract African tourists, although this had led to dissatisfaction among overseas visitors, who felt they were being taken advantage of, and also made it awkward for locals who travelled with foreigners.

Mugabe's efforts to bring ANC, PAC together fail

Sowetan 5/11/92

Sowetan Africa News Service

■ Problems must be sorted out:

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HARARE - Efforts by Zimbabwean president Mr Robert Mugabe to bring the ANC and the PAC together to form a common front failed yesterday.

Mugabe first met ANC leader Mr Nelson Mandela before PAC president Mr Clarence Makwetu joined them.

"The three of us met informally to look at the situation," Mugabe said.

He said he hoped the Patriotic Front would be revived after Mandela had consulted with his organisation.

Addressing journalists, Mandela said the PAC leader had joined him and Mugabe at the Zimbabwe leader's invitation for a briefing.

Mandela said for the two movements to speak with different voices was a weakness.

He added there were problems which had to be sorted out before they could address the question of their relationship.

Makwetu said he went to Harare with a mandate to see why the front was not working.

"I don't have any problem ... The PAC is always ready to meet the ANC at whatever level. If there are any problems between the two of us, it is exactly those problems which should compel the two organisations to sit down and talk," Makwetu said.

UN Zim troop request

HARARE - The United Nations has asked Zimbabwe to keep troops in Mozambique until February instead of withdrawing them this month under a ceasefire to end a 16-year civil war.

"We believe the government has agreed to the proposal and we expect a statement on this to be issued next week," a Zimbabwe government official said. Sowetan 6/11/92

The government had no immediate comment on the request, which another official said had come from Aldo Ajello, the UN's special envoy to Mozambique. (238) (362)

Zimbabwe had said its 5 000 troops would be back home by November 15.

Credibility crisis for Zimbabwe's reforms

BDM 6/11/92 (362)

HILARY GUSH

THE Zimbabwean government was fast losing credibility for failing to implement reform, said Zimbank in its latest Economic Review.

Trimming the number of civil servants and raising public sector efficiency should be a major priority. "The budget deficit is still a major contributor to money supply growth, and neither the recent Cabinet reshuffle nor the national budget gave adequate signals that restructuring had reached the public sector."

The report pointed to three major crises faced by the economy, which "threatened to bring to a total collapse the national infrastructure".

The prolonged drought, power rationing and delayed government approval of the seed pack distribution programme to rejuvenate small-scale agriculture, were areas of concern.

Tight credit policy to rein in inflation was the only way to recovery.

Growth in the broad money supply — which reached a year-on-year 27,7% in July — was at an "unacceptably high rate", and the report suggested a continuation of tight monetary policy for at least the next 12-15 months.

"Any arguments to reduce interest rates at the moment must be resisted as inflation (40% in July) would rise even further."

Market illiquidity was seen to be the major constraint in the third quarter, with commercial bank lending rates reaching 40%. The high cost of finance had made trading conditions more difficult.

"These conditions have been compounded by drought which necessitated massive food imports," the review said.

Rates were not expected to ease before the harvest in mid-1993. "Even then, that crop would need financing and market rates would be likely to remain firm."

The consumer had been under pressure as the rate of inflation outstripped wage increases. This translated into weaker consumer demand and a slow movement of finished goods.

"The time has come for companies to accept lower profit margins while attempting to increase sales."

Troops' return may be delayed

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S/Times 8/11/92

HARARE: Robert Mugabe's troops may not be home for Christmas — and a mixed reception awaits them when they eventually make it home from Mozambique's 17-year civil war.

Although the Rome ceasefire agreement signed between President Joaquim Chissano and Renamo leader Alfonso Dhlakama gives the 4 000 Zimbabweans only seven more days to pull out, UN monitors are urging that they stay until February.

Special envoy Aldo Ajello said UN peacekeepers could not possibly be deployed by the November 15 deadline and ensure security in the Beira and Chicualacuala trade corridors to the Indian Ocean.

Threat

Zimbabwean importers predict that starving Mozambicans may take withdrawal of forces as the signal to start looting the estimated 7 000 tons of maize coming in by rail each week from Beira.

The president of the Confederation of Zimbabwean Industries, Dr Bill Moore, applauded the end of the Mozambican war drain on the country's coffers, but feared that the demobilised troops would pose a grave political threat.

"It is difficult to put a lot of highly trained killers onto the streets when there is nothing for them to do — it is a recipe for fomenting civil unrest — but, nevertheless, we have to do it," he said.

He believed the war had cost Zimbabwe nearly R2-million a day. — *Michael Hartnack.*

Mugabe revives fears of land redistribution

B/Day 9/11/92.

MICHAEL HARTNACK

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HARARE — With planting about to begin in the wake of the calamitous drought, President Robert Mugabe has revived the anxieties of Zimbabwe's 4 500 white farmers about their future, with a renewed attack on "former oppressors".

Mugabe's bitter speech at the graveside of a veteran nationalist at the weekend came after four months of reviving optimism in the commercial farming sector following the replacement of the doctrinaire Agriculture Minister Witness Mangwende by a noted pragmatist, Kumbirai Kangai.

Kangai revoked a clutch of farm takeovers planned by Mangwende and pledged new ones would only be made in consultation with the Commercial Farmers' Union.

However, when he spoke at Heroes' Acre on Saturday at the burial of Lameck Chikanga, Mugabe attacked unnamed "government bureaucrats", accusing them of delaying the redistribution of white-owned land to blacks.

In 1990 Mugabe caused uproar in legal and commercial circles by declaring his intention to expropriate the six-million hectare "maize and tobacco belt", stretching north and east of Harare, for one-sixth its market value.

Speaking in the Shona vernacular at Heroes' Acre, Mugabe said: "Without land we will never get control of our economy. Land must go to the people first. That is the basis of economic power.

"(We) should not shy away from former oppressors nor feel embarrassed to grab land which was the basis of the liberation struggle, even if it meant being criticised abroad," he said.

Britain is among major international aid donors to freeze multimillion-rand assistance for peasant resettlement since Mugabe revoked the principle of "willing buyer-willing seller".

Farming sources predict that with long-awaited summer rains about to break, planting of essential food crops on commercial farms may be inadequate due to declining confidence in the industry, shortage of imported inputs and delays in the provision of essential finance.

Mugabe has promised free "crop packs" for each of the estimated 1-million peasant families to plant two hectares. However, his officials have contradicted him, saying only seed for half a hectare will be available — and some consignments may be late in distribution.

Zimbabwe has imported over 2-million tonnes of maize and other food crops to avert the threat of famine caused by the worst drought in a century. In 1991 a mountainous strategic food reserve was flattened due to bureaucratic bungling.

Lobster fishermen will continue strike — ANC

B/Day 9/11/92

WEST Coast fishermen will continue their strike because of the breakdown of talks between the SA Frozen Rock Lobster Packers (Safroc) and aggrieved fishermen, says the ANC's western Cape branch.

The strike, which started a week ago, was called by the fishermen to protest against their poor living and working conditions.

On Friday, a delegation from the ANC and the West Coast Fishermen's Union met representatives of Safroc, the industry's marketing organisation, and Oceana Fishing Group, largest employer in the crayfish industry.

Some smaller quotaholders were also present.

ANC western Cape assistant secretary Willie Hofmeyr said on Saturday the meeting ended in deadlock, with Safroc stating it was "unable and unwilling to negotiate with the fishermen about issues surrounding the strike".

Hofmeyr said Safroc "flatly refused to act as a facilitator in setting up a forum at which negotiations could take place on the grounds it would be difficult for them to assemble so many different players".

Hofmeyr said: "Safroc's attitude indicates a contempt and callousness towards a community whose demands are entirely reasonable and which has, moreover, made every attempt to negotiate — both before and after the strike."

Because of this intransigence, Hofmeyr said, the fishermen had no choice but to continue their strike. — Sapa.

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Apology for Nelson Mandela

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LUSAKA - The Zambian government has apologised to ANC leader Mr Nelson Mandela for officially linking him with a gun which had been used in criminal activities in Zambia.

Sowetan 13/11/92.

Last month Zambian Home Affairs Minister Newstead Zimba displayed an automatic weapon on national television which he said had been given to Mandela by Ugandan president Yoweri Museveni as a present.

■ ANC rifle was mislaid by Zambian army:

The gun, a Scorpion pistol, bore the inscription: "Presented to ANC leader Nelson Mandela by President Yoweri Museveni."

Zimba added that unnamed people had maliciously linked Mandela and Museveni to the criminal activities of ANC cadres in Zambia. - *Sowetan Africa News Service.*

Zimbabwe suspends taxi permits

HARARE — The Zimbabwean government had suspended all permits for minibus taxis travelling between Zimbabwe and SA, SA Black Taxi Association (Sabta) representative Keen-Marshall Charumbira said yesterday.

Charumbira told the Ziana news agency Zimbabwe's controller of road motor transportation, Vela Mupawose, informed him that the government would not issue new permits for minibus taxis travelling to SA and was suspending all those that had been issued already.

Mupawose confirmed the suspension yesterday but said she would comment further at a later date.

The government action follows months of appeals by the taxi operators for the government to restore permits for SA-registered minibuses suspended following violence at the Beit Bridge border post.

Zimbabwean commuter buses will still be allowed to travel to SA but Charumbira said the buses would probably become targets for violence from minibus operators inside SA following Harare's action.

He called upon Zimbabwean travellers to rather travel by train and implored Sabta members to refrain from violence while the association appealed to the Zimbabwean government to restore the permits.

(362)

The suspension of minibus taxi permits on the lucrative Harare-Johannesburg and Bulawayo-Johannesburg routes affects up to 40 minibuses, most them owned by Zimbabweans. — Sapa.

BDay 13/11/92

Zim economy in grim battle for survival

(362)

CT 10/11/92

HARARE — Zimbabwe's economy is still reeling from the effects of a recession fuelled by soaring interest rates, high government expenditure and negative consumption and investment patterns, the First Merchant Bank (FMB) said in its latest quarterly economic review.

Government was presently spending an estimated Z$35m a day and would have to play its part by cutting down on expenditure, the bank said.

"Now, more than ever before, is the time for careful resource management, and for a government that holds itself accountable, accepting in full the disciplines being imposed on the rest of the country," FMB said.

The current economic climate had caused companies to reduce debts through careful resource management, or risk liquidation.

"To protect our interests, both as individuals and as businesses, clearly this is a time to be particularly cautious about increasing our indebtedness," the bank cautioned.

It said debt incurred at current high interest rates could become a major embarrassment when incomes become static, or start falling.

Meanwhile, manufacturing output was falling due to the combined effects of tight money supply, declining consumer demand, power cuts and the shortage of raw materials, FMB diagnosed.

The financing of large stocks had become expensive due to the high interest rates, and those companies which had failed to secure export markets had been forced to scale-down production.

Wastage from power cuts

"Many manufacturing companies also lost production and suffered raw material wastage and damage to equipment due to electricity supply cuts, and have had to make plans to reduce output to accommodate scheduled future power cuts."

Mineral production also declined during the first six months of 1992 compared to the same period in 1991, largely due to the sudden increase in the cost of capital equipment and the effects of the drought, FMB said.

Despite the improved availability of foreign currency, the construction industry was still depressed.

"Another problem facing the industry is the scarcity of experienced engineers as construction project designs become more modern and complex."

FMB said the tourism sector was one of the few industries in Zimbabwe that was managing to cope with the current economic difficulties.

However, hotel occupancy rates were not keeping pace with earlier performance figures.

"According to figures supplied by the Zimbabwe tourism authorities, the average number of nights spent by tourists on each visit has been decreasing since 1980." — Sapa

Mugabe threat to white land

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Sowetan

12/11/92

■ Harare is owned by whites, says Nkomo:

Sowetan Africa News Service

HARARE - President Robert Mugabe has renewed his demand that more land held by whites in Zimbabwe be acquired for black resettlement.

"Without land we will never get control of our economy," he told mourners at the funeral on Tuesday of a veteran nationalist.

Mugabe urged ministers to speed up the process of designating land for resettlement to fulfil the wishes of living and fallen heroes. The funeral service for Mr Lameck Chikanga Makanda was held at the national Heroes' Acre shrine.

Recently vice-president Joshua Nkomo called for a review of legislation concerning urban land.

He told television viewers: "Harare is owned by white people. We want to change that."

Botswana revamps exchange controls

B/DAY 12/11/92.

GABORONE — The Bank of Botswana says the government has approved changes in exchange control policy and regulations governing internal portfolio investment and local borrowing by nonresident-controlled companies.

"These changes are intended to facilitate development of the financial sector and the stock market, and to encourage much needed inward foreign investment into Botswana," the central bank said.

Nonresident-controlled companies incorporated in Botswana could now invest in the securities of companies quoted in the Botswana share market without financing such acquisitions with nonresident-source funds. The authorities had ensured local investors would not be crowded out.

The aggregate of inward and internal portfolio investments by nonresidents and nonresident-controlled companies could-not exceed 49% of the "free stock", defined as total stock issued and paid up less stock held by direct investors.

Further, a nonresident or nonresident-controlled company could not hold more than 5% of the free stock of a company listed on the Botswana share market.

Because of the change, the eligibility of nonresident-controlled companies for local financial support would be determined by applying the 4:1 debt-to-equity limitation after deduction of internal portfolio investment holdings.

In addition, the limit for approvals by authorised dealers of the initial tranche of local financial support that could be afforded by residents to nonresident-controlled entities or unincorporated branches of nonresident-owned entities had been raised to 500 000 pula from 300 000.

The purpose for which local financial support might be used had also been extended to include working capital, construction of new plant and buildings, and purchase of machinery and equipment.

The use of local borrowing for acquisition of existing assets such as land, and the purchase of a going concern was not allowed, the central bank said. — Reuter.

Court rejects Namibian sea boundary

WINDHOEK — The Windhoek High Court has upheld an objection to Namibia's northern sea boundary lodged by three Spanish trawlermen charged with illegal fishing in Namibian waters.

Fisheries authorities arrested the Spanish Xeitesino for trawling inside Namibia's 200-mile exclusive econonomic zone, south of Angolan waters, on July 30.

When the case opened on Monday, defence counsel Andries Blignaut SC questioned the legality of the sea border.

He said, according to news reports, that neither a technical committee of the Namibian cabinet nor the cabinet itself had the authority to determine the northern sea border of the exclusive economic zone. He argued that the border determined by cabinet or a technical committee had never been promulgated.

Judge T Frank ruled on Tuesday, after argument, that the boundary line drawn on a map handed in to court had no legality.

B/DAY 12/11/92.

The State was given until today to amend the charge sheet. — Sapa.

Disabled rob food trucks

CHIMOIO — They are called "mutilados" — disabled veterans armed with huge rocks who sometimes block the Beira Corridor to rob food relief trucks.

Feeling abandoned by the Mozambican government, they do not pay much attention to a fragile ceasefire between the government and Renamo. (362)

The periodic looting on the Beira Corridor illustrates Mozambique's shaky security conditions and mounting tension despite the October 4 ceasefire agreement.

Security in the corridor is likely to deteriorate even further this month when Zimbabwe withdraws its troops.

Drought-stricken central Mozambique depends on the corridor for food deliveries, as does Zimbabwe. Each week about 20 000 tons of food passes through the central provincial capital of Chimoio.

The mutilados are mostly demobilised government soldiers who believe officers stole their disability pensions to buy into the transport businesses that have proliferated since improvements to the Beira Corridor by Western donors. B/DAY 12/11/92.

Zimbabwe is to withdraw its last 5 000 troops from Mozambique by Sunday. After that, police and army units will be left to patrol the Beira Corridor under the supervision of six unarmed UN observers. — Sapa-AP.

Advice for tourists

Sowetan — 12/11/92

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■ Zimbabwe expects many more visitors from SA:

THE Zimbabwe Tourist Office has advised all potential travellers to Zimbabwe during the Festive Season to book their hotel and touring services in advance.

A statement from the director of the Zimbabwe Tourist Office, Mr Edward Chindori-Chininga, said the country was expecting a large number of South African tourists at resorts and national parks over the festive time.

Travellers are also advised to secure their visas ahead of time to avoid delays at the border posts and airports. Those who do not make it in time could still get their visas at the border posts or airports.

"Zimbabwe still stands out as the cheapest tourist destination for South African tourists," he said.

Zimbabwe platinum project under scrutiny

JONO WATERS 362

AUSTRALIA-based Delta Gold would decide within a year whether to approve the Hartley platinum project in Zimbabwe, chairman Peter Vanderspuy said at a presentation yesterday. BDAY 12/11/92

He said Hartley would produce between 120 000oz and 130 000oz of platinum a year, about 2,8% of current world supply. Total production would be 300 000oz of platinum group metals and gold a year from 2-million tons of ore at an average grade of 4,7g/t of platinum group metals and gold.

Delta had been operating a trial mine at Hartley. Vanderspuy said commercial mining would depend on metal prices.

Costs a ton mined, milled, refined and marketed would amount to $30 — cheap when compared to SA's underground platinum mines where working costs were between R120 and R170 a ton milled — while revenue was projected at $60 a ton.

If Delta went ahead, the mine would reach full production by the end of 1996. It would be funded by Delta and joint venture partner, Australia-based Broken Hill.

The mine was expected to have a 20-year life. Platinum should contribute 45% of revenue, rhodium 20%, nickel 15% and copper, palladium and gold the balance.

AFRICA NEWS Focus on fate of five SA agents serving long jail terms in Zimbabwe

Mugabe to grant general amnesty

Sowetan 13/11/92.

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■ CHRISTMAS PRESENT Bid to reduce Zimbabwe's overcrowded prison for those serving light sentences:

Sowetan Africa News Service

HARARE- A general amnesty is to be granted by President Robert Mugabe around Christmas time to reduce the population in Zimbabwe's overcrowded prisons.

More than 21 000 people are being held in prisons designed to hold 16 000.

The planned amnesty announced by Justice Minister Emmerson Mnangagwa will be aimed at those serving light sentences.

But he declined to say what categories of prisoners would be affected.

Attention will once again focus on the fate of five South African agents serving long prison terms or facing the death penalty.

Mugabe has said their offences were serious but their cases would be kept under review.

Kevin Woods, Michael Smith and Philip Conjwayo have been on death row for four years. Barry Bawden is serving 40 years and Denis (Sammy) Beahan, who took part in an abortive raid to free them, is doing 20 years.

Meanwhile, Zimbabwean troops who were due to have completed their withdrawal from Mozambique by this Sunday will stay on indefinitely at the request of the United Nations.

Defence Minister Moven Mahachi said the withdrawal of the 5 000 soldiers had been suspended until the United Nations could make arrangements for the protection of the Beira and Limpopo corridors.

Under the Rome peace accord all foreign troops were to be out of Mozambique by November 15 and Zimbabwe immediately started to remove non-essential equipment.

A new timetable is now being drawn up.

Victory parades by Zimbabweans, due have been held this week, have been cancelled.

Concern has been expressed about the safety of food convoys bringing maize from Beira which up to now have been guarded by Zimbabwean troops.

FM 13/11/92 (362)

MAIZE RELIEF

Zimbabwe's concessions

Transport Minister Piet Welgemoed and Zimbabwean counterpart Denis Norman last week defused a situation that had the potential to interrupt relief maize shipments from SA ports to Zimbabwe and countries further north.

SA truckers were threatening to blockade the SA-Zimbabwe border post at Beit Bridge unless Zimbabwe lowered exorbitantly high fees for using its roads and ended other types of discrimination against hauliers.

Zimbabwe has, however, made concessions and the threat of a blockade — in a long-running dispute about SA trucks operating north of the border — is over for now.

Zimbabwe was charging SA truckers much more than its own and more than the trivial amounts that SA was charging Zimbabwe truckers.

In addition, SA hauliers could get only temporary permits in Zimbabwe, while Zimbabwean hauliers could get permits for an indefinite period in SA. SA hauliers also had to pay in US dollars or sterling to use Zimbabwean roads, while their Zimbabwean counterparts could pay in rands or Zimbabwean dollars to travel on SA roads.

"They were charging our hauliers US$650 per vehicle for a permit and a toll of US$8 per 100 km," says Hugh Sutherland, business development manager of SA's Road Freight Association. For operators regularly transporting goods to northern Zimbabwe, and across it to other countries, this worked out to more than R250 000 a year per vehicle.

These fees obviously increase the cost of relief maize, which reduces the amount that can be bought with the available aid funds. But this hasn't deterred Zimbabwe President Robert Mugabe from using the maize relief effort as a way to earn hard currency (*Business & Technology* June 5). For the most part, the people paying for the high fees are overseas taxpayers donating the relief.

Sutherland believes that the high charges levied on SA truckers also have a second aim — forcing truckers to switch their loads to Zimbabwe's government-owned rail system.

Maize deliveries

"The charges were not related to compensation for damage done to Zimbabwe's roads. No-one could have complained if they were, and if they were fair, but there is no truck in the world that can do R250 000 worth of damage to roads in a year."

Most of the relief maize shipped north of the Limpopo goes by rail, so a blockade would not have stopped all maize deliveries, except those to Malawi, which is landlocked and has no rail links with SA. But the fear that a blockade could drastically reduce the flow of maize spurred Welgemoed to fly to Harare and meet Norman.

He became the first SA Cabinet Minister to go to Zimbabwe officially since that country became independent.

Norman agreed to make the playing field less uneven from January 1, but Zimbabwean charges will still be more than twice that of SA's. A 14-day permit will cost R25 in SA and Z$110 in Zimbabwe. A permit for 12 months will cost R50 in SA and Z$260 in Zimbabwe.

Fees will be payable in either of the local currencies.

It was also agreed that, from November 1, Zimbabwe would stop levying road transit charges on SA hauliers. This reversed the situation in which Zimbabwe used its position straddling the road between SA and drought-stricken countries to the north.

The possibility of road traffic over Beit Bridge being halted also perturbed the ministers of transport and agriculture in Malawi, Namibia and Zambia. Late last month they sent senior representatives to SA to meet Welgemoed and identify the constraints affecting the delivery of relief maize, and hammer out a joint strategy to overcome them.

More concessions are expected from Zimbabwe. The SA meeting agreed that road fees should be reduced much further. ■

Bloated parastatals paralyse Zimbabwe

w/mail 13/11-19/11/92

Zimbabwe's state corporations are being blamed for the country's ecomic chaos.

By **IDEN WETHERELL**

(362)

ONCE self-sufficient in food and energy, Zimbabwe now imports maize and electricity. As explanations are sought for the country's economic malaise, state-owned corporations are in the firing line.

Known variously as state enterprises, public corporations, and quasi-autonomous non-governmental organisations, most people call them a mess. And there are growing demands for their disbandment.

They include agricultural marketing boards formed by settler governments to guarantee stable producer prices for essential commodities which, together with railways, aviation and iron and steel processing, provided an important agency for government regulation during UDI.

When President Robert Mugabe's Zanu (PF) came to power in 1980, an expanded government-owned sector was seen as the appropriate vehicle for redistributive strategies. Electricity generation, the media, minerals marketing, state trading and tourism were added to an already extensive state apparatus.

In all, 44 state-owned bodies constituted the government's commanding heights in Zimbabwe's mixed economy. Added to a fourfold increase in the civil service, this edifice of the new social order provided employment for the party faithful and legions of returning exiles.

Only when it became painfully evident in the late 1980s that the public sector was malfunctioning as losses mounted, were allegations of corruption, favouritism and ministerial intervention taken more seriously. Air Zimbabwe, from being a profitable little company, developed into an unwieldy, overstaffed liability. The minister responsible intervened to the extent of choosing new uniforms and designing the airline's livery. The national railways notched up record losses while the iron and steel company floundered in problems of price control and obsolete equipment.

Together, the public enterprises lost Z$600-million (R300-million) over the past three years — in addition to a further Z$600-million consumed in subsidies.

"The public enterprises," says Confederation of Zimbabwe Industries (CZI) chief economist Mehlokazulu Ndiweni, "are seen as being a drain on the fiscus, as crowding out investment from financial markets, as dampening individual initiative and enterprise (and) as contributing to low economic growth and promoting inefficiencies within the economy."

This view is not confined to the business community. As government spending of Z$1-billion a month fuels an inflation rate of 47 percent, there is a growing conviction that the country can no longer afford unprofitable state companies that provide little more than a vast network of political patronage.

Two events have recently underlined public concern. Despite urgent warnings from regional food security forecasters, the Grain Marketing Board exported maize while assuring the nation that it possessed sufficient stocks for domestic consumption. When they ran out, the government was slow for reasons of self-esteem to approve imports, a delay that cost the country over Z$50-million.

Other warnings that Zimbabwe's electricity generating infrastructure was in urgent need of repair went unheeded by the minister responsible. Taking his feud with the board of the Zimbabwe Electricity Supply Authority (Zesa) to extremes, the minister refused to approve the appointment of a general manager or corporate refurbishment plans. As experienced technicians were driven out or superseded by inexperienced but well-connected personnel, maintenance was neglected and demoralisation set in. The country was plunged into darkness as equipment broke down. Industry suffered severe production losses and economists have warned of a reduction of 20 percent in gross domestic product if power cuts continue.

Expatriates have been pulled in to run the stations, while Eskom makes up some of the energy shortfall.

Bureaucratic bungling is a common complaint. Zimbabwe Alloys, a subsidiary of Anglo American, is suing the Minerals Marketing Corporation of Zimbabwe for Z$3,8-million it says was lost in import duties because the parastatal was slow to prepare documentation.

Although some parastatals have reduced deficits, this is often the result of increased charges, not operational efficiency. The CZI has a hit list of candidates slated for privatisation including Air Zimbabwe, ZBC, the Cold Storage Commission, and Posts and Telecommunications.

Some economists continue to argue that in the absence of a developed economy, public monopolies compensate for market imperfections, limit social distortions and guarantee production stability. But this view doesn't travel well in Zimbabwe's situation where the escalating cost of living is spurred by price deregulation unaccompanied by reform of monopolies that determine supply conditions.

After 12 years of independence Zimbabwe is more dependent now upon external support and South African goodwill than it was in 1980.

ARG14/11/92 (362)

SA can learn from Zimbabwe

AFTER 12 years of independence, the land issue remains unresolved in Zimbabwe and has become a major headache for the government.

This is the view of Mr Eddie Cross, the general manager of the Zimbabwe Dairy Board.

He was speaking at the Rural Foundation conference in Stellenbosch where land reform and re-distribution were discussed.

Mr Cross said South Africa could learn much from the mistakes Zimbabwe had made.

White commercial farmers still produced the bulk of Zimbabwe's agricultural output, but peasant farmers were playing a significant role in producing cotton and maize, sorghums and groundnuts.

After independence, the government had "dealt" with the land problem by resettling large numbers on land bought from white farmers.

Peasant farmers, numbering about a million, occupied 20 million hectares of land while 5 000 commercial farmers had 13 million hectares.

Commercial farmers had four times the output and contributed about two-thirds of agricultural production.

Mr Cross said: "Poor farming techiques and population pressures have turned many peasant areas into deserts.

"Add to this a ravaging drought and you have the recipe for disaster. About 80 percent of the food requirements of these areas now have to be provided by the government."

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BDAY 16/11/92

Tobacco revenue falls

ZIMBABWE's tobacco auction season ended on Friday with the 201 100 tons sold the highest on record, but with export earnings expected to be hit hard as a result of drought-afflicted quality leaf.

The volume sold was 30 000 tons up on last year's vintage high-quality crop, and worth US$325m at an average price of $1,62/kg, well down on last year's $2,30/kg.

Mix-up over Zim troops

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CT 17/11/92

HARARE. — The withdrawal of some 5 000 Zimbabwean troops from Mozambique seems to be clouded in confusion after an announcement last week that it had been suspended indefinitely at the request of the UN.

Zimbabwe's Defence Minister, Mr Movem Mahachi, made the announcement.

Two days later, senior UN observer Lieutenant-Colonel Girish Sinha, denied the statement.

The team made a second denial at the weekend. "Somebody is trying to confuse the issue," Mr Mahachi warned last night.

UK group strikes Kimberlite in Zimbabwe

B/DAY 23/11/92. (362)

JONO WATERS

UK company Reunion Mining has found two clusters of kimberlite near the shores of Lake Kariba which it hopes might lead to a major gem find.

Diamonds have been found in the lower water courses, and this has heightened the prospects of a good find.

Reunion Mining (Zimbabwe) MD Nick Graham said samples of the kimberlite, located between Binga and Bumi Hills, had been sent to Cape Town for testing. Results should be known in four months.

"We still have a way to go before we know what we have got, but alluvial diamonds of gem quality have been reported from the streams draining the area."

Kimberlite QK1 covered about 6 ha while QK2 extended 11 ha and was slightly richer in kimberlite minerals than the first cluster, he said.

Graham said if Reunion did exploit the deposit, it might look for a joint venture partner.

Reunion's associate company, Quest Exploration, was carrying out further exploration work at Tsholotsho (north-west of Bulawayo), Chizarira and Binga in the Zambezi Valley, Inyathi, and in the Bembezi River north-east of Bulawayo. About Z$6m was budgeted for exploration work.

At one stage Reunion was prospecting over 12% of Zimbabwe's surface area, but had since relinquished some land.

Unlike SA, Graham said, Zimbabwe was experiencing an upsurge in exploration work, particularly for gold and diamonds, from local and foreign companies.

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World in brief

No nationalisation

GABORONE - The Pan Africanist Congress has come out against the nationalisation of South Africa's giant corporations. Sowetan

In a statement issued on Sunday at the end of a three-day economic seminar in the Botswana capital, the PAC said: "Due to a number of weaknesses of the traditional nationalisation measures, and as instruments of redistribution, nationalisation of existing corporations in private hands was not recommended." 24/11/92

Books confiscated

BANGKOK - Hundreds of locally produced copies of pop star Madonna's sizzling book *Sex* have been confiscated by police in the Thai capital.

But police appear uncertain over the legality of the raids on Sunday on several book shops selling more than 1 000 copies of the glossy picture book containing nude photos of Madonna, according to a Press report. The question apparently is not one of copyright, on which Thailand is notoriously lax, but whether the book - in its original version as well as in local copies - violates the country's anti-pornography legislation.

Drivers face 'Raids'

LAGOS - In Nigeria they call it "Raids" and, with some 10 000 road fatalities a year, it makes Africa's most populous country one of the world's deadliest for drivers.

"All categories of road users have been afflicted with Road Accidents Immunity Delusion Syndrome and general discipline," road safety chief Olu Agunloye said, drawing a comparison between the road carnage and the killer disease Aids.

Sowetan 24/11/92.

Sowetan 24/11/92

Officials say there are about 240 deaths a year for every 10 000 vehicles in Nigeria, compared with three for 10 000 in Japan and slightly more in the United States. The total comes to some 10 000 deaths a year - roughly equivalent to the number in France, which has far more vehicles.

7 die in train crash

NEW DELHI - At least seven passengers were killed and 15 injured when an express train collided with a derailed goods train in India's northern Uttar Pradesh state yesterday, domestic news agencies reported.

Talks on British aid

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HARARE - Britain yesterday held talks with Zimbabwe on future British aid to the country, which is facing a deepening economic crisis fuelled by a crippling drought and prolonged recession.

British High Commission officials said the one-day talks in Harare would map out priorities for Britain's aid programme for Zimbabwe over the coming year, one of the largest for any country in the world.

Sowetan 24/11/92

Ceasefire is ignored

SARAJEVO - Fighting was reported in besieged Sarajevo yesterday after the worst day in the capital since a ceasefire, virtually ignored, went into force 12 days ago.

The latest outbreak of fighting in the capital and elsewhere in Bosnia came a day after the West launched a full-scale naval blockade against Yugoslavia to try to bring the civil war to an end. The commander of UN peace troops in Sarajevo, General Philippe Morillon, said on Sunday he believed all combatants in the war - Muslims, Croats and Serbs - sincerely wanted peace. - *Sapa-Reuter-AP-AFP.*

Brisk trade in human organs

Sowetan 25/11/92 (362)

■ NEWSPAPER CLAIMS Children among victims killed in South African, Zim murders:

Sowetan Africa News Service

HARARE - A trade in human parts obtained from ritual murder victims is reportedly going on between Zimbabwe and South Africa.

A Bulawayo newspaper interviewed villagers in the Beit Bridge district who said children were among the victims killed both in Zimbabwe and in South Africa which they might have entered illegally.

The human organs are used in witchcraft and there is said to be a ready market in South Africa.

One villager said people were making a lot of money by murdering their countrymen in Zimbabwe and across the border.

Desperate job seekers would be told to go to a certain place and that would be the last heard of them. They said that whites were also involved in the trade.

With the onset of early rains in Matabeleland parents have been advising their children to be especially careful in forest areas. The killers are known by the local name of "Maviyani".

Two traditional healers associations have called on the government to revise provisions of the Witchcraft Suppression Act to make it easier to identify witches. The law exists to protect innocent people from being labelled witches.

But the Traditional Healers Associations, one of which is headed by former Cabinet Minister Dr Herbert Ushewokunze, say witches exist and the legislators know it.

The secretary-general of the new body Zitha, Mr Taurawi Mathanike, said the witches were doing as they pleased because the law protected them. Some traditional healers claim to be able to smell out witches. A number of healers have been fined for witch-hunting.

SA helps to store Zimbabwe grain shipment

B/Day 25/11/92 (362)

MICHAEL HARTNACK

HARARE — Zimbabwe's parastatal grain marketing board has leased two northern Transvaal silos for storage of congested grain shipments, the World Food Programme has reported.

In a statement released in Harare, the UN agency said: "SA ports are performing well" (in providing regional logistics for southern African famine relief) "in spite of heavy rainfall, with a record 55 300 tons discharged in one day and more than half a million tons discharged in the past two weeks alone.

"There are, however, signs of congestion due to an increased number of arrivals and train delays in Zimbabwe."

President Robert Mugabe's government is importing about 2-million tons of grain after the near total failure of harvests in 1991-92, and 5-million rural Zimbabweans are receiving handouts of 5kg per family of maize meal monthly, until harvests can be expected in May 1993.

The UN agency said waiting time for ships at SA ports could be expected to increase to five to seven days at the end of November.

"Technical problems in the offtake capacity of trains in Zimbabwe have resulted in 14 000 tons of food aid stuck at Machipanda border crossing (near Mutare), 6 000 tons at Chicualacuala (on the Gweru to Maputo rail line) and the bunching of 30 trains in Beitbridge," said the organisation.

The Beitbridge congestion was down from 60 trains last week after the Zimbabwe National Railways cleared 50 trains carrying 75 000 tons of grain via Beitbridge and the Plumtree post on the Zimbabwe-Botswana border.

☐ Sapa reports that nearly 300 tons of maize imported as drought relief aid for various African countries is lying rotting in Port Elizabeth's harbour.

Portnet liaison officer Liza Hayward said some of the maize had arrived in Port Elizabeth wet, while the rest had become wet as a result of the recent rain.

The maize was destined for Zimbabwe, Zambia and Botswana.

An investigation has been launched to find ways to dispose of the maize, which is not fit for human or animal consumption.

Two options being considered are dumping it at sea or burying it inland.

ANC 'unhappy' with

Britain pledges more support for Zimbabwe

Sowetan 26/11/92

■ High Commissioner promises technical and balance-of-payments support and drought relief aid:

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HARARE - Britain, one of the major donors of Zimbabwe's economic reform programme, this week said it would continue to support the programme provided it stayed on track.

After a meeting with officials to review British aid to Zimbabwe, the British High Commissioner to that country, Mr Richard Dales, told a news conference that the aid would be in the form of technical and balance-of-payments support.

Britain, which has given Zimbabwe grants amounting to about R80 million to support the economic reforms, said its pledge at the forthcoming Paris donors' conference would depend on Zimbabwe's requirements.

Because of the drought, Britain had responded with an additional R300 million in additional financial resources.

Last year, Zimbabwe received the largest share of British aid to Africa and the third largest in the world.- *Sapa-AFP.*

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SA morals too low

HARARE - Plans to transmit television programmes from South Africa to Zimbabwe have run into a snag - because Zimbabwe feels the SA censors may be too lax. Sowetan 26/11/92

Home Affairs Minister Dumiso Dabengwa said M-Net films were subject only to a South African certificate and the standard of acceptability frequently varied from Zimbabwe's. Dabengwa told parliament that people with satellite dishes were now tapping "offensive material" from the sky and feeding it into video clubs.

STAR 26/11/92.

SA censor board too slack for Zimbabwe

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By Robin Drew
Star Africa Service

HARARE — Plans to transmit South African television programmes in Zimbabwe have run into a snag: Zimbabwe feels the South African censors may be too lax.

Home Affairs Minister Dumiso Dabengwa said M-Net films were subject only to a South African certificate, and that the standard of acceptibility frequently varied from Zimbabwe's.

Discussions had been going on for the Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation to transmit M-Net programmes but this would require parliamentary approval.

The Minister called for more money for the censor board in Zimbabwe, which must vet 10.000 videos a month but has a staff of only two.

Ratepayers defiant on cash office

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Municipal Reporter

RATEPAYERS in Revolt has pledged not to let the controversy over the running of the city council cash office die.

A spokesman said the matter was discussed at the first meeting of the organisation's new "think tank" last night.

Reacting to newspaper reports that staff members had questioned the findings of a commission of inquiry, which found there was no maladministration and that loss of interest income was a lot less than originally estimated, Ratepayers in Revolt said the issue would be discussed at a special meeting next week.

The spokesman said there had been a "vigorous exchange of ideas" at the meeting, including discussion of a recruiting drive "and other unspecified action".

ARG 27/11/92

Crime wave in Zimbabwe

■AN unprecedented crime wave has swept Zimbabwe, fuelled by need. Everything from armed robbery to cattle rustling has increased sharply, and the police can't cope. W/Mail

In recent weeks in downtown Harare, an area once considered safe, a woman was raped in an alleyway, an Australian tourist was robbed at knifepoint, and a new pickup truck was hijacked by youths wielding iron bars. 27/11 - 3/12/92

Crime is up 33,5 percent in the first nine months of this year, according to a police report this week. Officials blame an economic austerity plan in place since last year.

Conditions are aggravated by the worst drought this century.

More than 400 armed robberies have occurred in the first three-quarters of the year, at least 50 more than in the same period of 1991, police say. — Sapa-AP, AFP, Reuter

Political tool ... Rural voters make up about 70 percent of the electorate Photo: SARAH-JANE POOLE

Zanu-PF trading food for votes

W/mail 27/11-3/12/92. (362)

Accusations are mounting that the Zimbabwean government is using drought-relief food to assure it victory in the 1995 elections.

By **ANDY MELDRUM**

27/11 - 3/12/92

FOOD is being used as a political tool by President Robert Mugabe's government to retain support in the drought-stricken rural areas, say health officials and rural Zimbabweans.

Though the first rains have sprinkled over Zimbabwe, the harsh effects of the drought remain and most rural Zimbabweans do not have enough food to reach 1993, let alone the next harvest in May. Chronic malnutrition is widespread in the worst-hit southern areas, where deaths are being recorded.

With insufficient grain stocks to feed all 4,5-million Zimbabweans registered for drought relief, those closest to the ruling Zanu-PF party structures get more than their fair share of aid, according to the complaints.

The accusations that Zimbabwean politics and corruption are hindering effective drought-relief distribution have reached such a high level that a parliamentary committee issued a critical report alleging "unscrupulous practices by some dishonest leaders including ourselves, MPs".

The current edition of the independent, crusading magazine, *Horizon*, features an exposé of how rural businessmen with close ties to the government are making a profit by cornering the market on commercially available maize.

"There is just not enough food to go around and those who are getting food are party officials, their families and friends," charged an angry Harare woman, Tendai Mudonda.

Mudonda said her mother, who lives in a rural area, has not received any relief food because she is not a member of Zanu-PF.

"We waited in the queue for drought relief for hours while the women of the Village Development Committee divided up the food for themselves and their friends. Then they told the rest of us in the queue that there was no food left."

Confronted by widespread unpopularity in the urban centres, the Mugabe government is counting on the less-sophisticated rural voters, who make up about 70 percent of the electorate, to assure it victory in the 1995 elections.

The Forum for Democratic Reform, the opposition pressure group which will soon become a bona fide political party, also charges that food aid is being used by Zanu-PF officials to win electoral support. Forum publicity officer Douglas Mwonzora said: "Our aim is to redress this. Zimbabweans must take heed that maize does not belong to Zanu-PF, but to the state."

Though Mugabe publicly promised that no Zimbabwean would starve during the drought, rural clinics are recording deaths due to malnutrition. Masvingo province recorded 41 deaths due to malnutrition in the first four months of 1992 alone, with many more hospitalised for hunger.

Hardest hit is Matabeleland, where many rural children are developing the swollen bellies, stick legs and reddish hair that denotes kwashiorkor.

The Children's Supplementary Feeding scheme gives full feeding to some 850 000 children under five years. Run by the ministry of health, it works relatively well.

The object of most complaints is the main drought-relief effort, administered by the social welfare ministry. Too many people are on the list for food relief, so the hungriest are not being effectively targeted. And because the nation's stocks of maize and other grains have become perilously low, drought-relief rations have been cut by two-thirds to just 5kg of maize meal per person per month.

Health experts agree this is not enough to sustain a person, but even that small amount is not getting to all the people.

Imported grains are arriving in Zimbabwe at a rate of 6 000 tons a day, from Mozambique's Beira port and from South African ports, according to the World Food Programme. But 8 000 tons a day are needed to bring in the amount of food the country needs by the end of the year.

So far, the government has largely been buying its own food needs on the international market, but it is running out of funds. International aid is now starting to arrive, but it accounts for only 15 percent of the total food to be imported.

Mugabe estate riddle

(362)

S/Times 29/11/92

HARARE: After a 10-month delay, executors have been appointed to wind up the estate of President Robert Mugabe's wife, Sally, who died in January.

Legal sources in Harare said the Master's Office at the Zimbabwean High Court at first fought shy of the controversial question of Mrs Mugabe's property, saying that as her husband had declared her a national heroine, her estate was exempted from all duty and the routine procedures of the Administration of Estates Act need not apply.

However, the Master of the High Court, Mr Jacob Moyo, last month disclosed that no valid will had been produced and, as a result, he would appoint executors.

The extent of Mrs Mugabe's property was not known.

Sources said a prominent Zimbabwean attorney, Mr Robert Stumbles, was acting for Mr Mugabe.

Mr Stumbles refused to confirm that a dispute had arisen over the estate between the president and Mrs Mugabe's relatives in Ghana.

He said the matter was "confidential". — *Michael Hartnack*

AFRICA NEWS Up to 40 000 in Zimbabwe may already have full-blown Aids

Ali Mahdi, whose troops control the northern parts of Mogadishu, at the weekend supported US troop deployment in Somalia.

Aids cases escalate

Sowetan 30/11/92

(362)

■ ALARMING FIGURES

Big increase in sufferers despite awareness campaigns:

HARARE - Despite the massive Aids/HIV awareness campaigns by various organisations in Zimbabwe over the last few years, more and more new cases are being diagnosed in the country's health institutions.

Alarming statistics were released during the HIV/Aids awareness week observed since last Monday.

The trend of full-blown Aids cases diagnosed and recorded since the first case was identified in 1985 has been as follows: 1987 - 119 cases, 1988 - 320, 1989 - 1 632, 1990 - 5 994, 1991 - 10 551 and by September 1992 the figure had risen to 16 882.

However, a co-ordinator of the National Aids Control Programme, Everisto Marowa, said in a recent report that this figure was an under-estimate and that there could be as many as 40 000 Aids cases.

Chitiyo believes that for every one Aids case reported, five others go unreported. - *Sapa-AFP*.

Report on Zim 'too optimistic'

(362)

cr 30/11/92

HARARE. — The World Bank has painted an upbeat picture of Zimbabwe's economic prospects — if promising early rains mean that the worst drought this century really is over.

But economic analysts say the bank's assessment is too optimistic, and agricultural industry sources say that despite the early rains in parts of the country, farmers urgently need heavy rain in the coming week to consolidate recently planted crops.

Details of the bank's report, in a paper to be presented at next week's meeting in Paris of aid donors backing Zimbabwe's economic reforms, were made available by business sources.

Debt

The bank forecast Zimbabwe's gross domestic product (GDP) growth for next year at 6%, if the country gets enough rain this season, compared with a drought-induced plunge of at least 10% in 1992.

It also predicted strong recovery in investment and exports but said the external debt had risen to $3,6bn from $2,9bn at the end of last year — about 73% of GDP. The debt would climb to $3,9bn in a year's time.

Private sector economists said the bank's assessment was too optimistic and pointed to a steep fall in investment intentions reported in two recent surveys and to warnings by industrialists that output would fall in the first half of next year.

Bank economists said they doubted economic growth would reach 3% in 1993, the third year of tough World Bank-led reforms seeking to breathe new life into the economy.

Bill Clarke, head of the Retail Association of Zimbabwe, warned that as many as 30% of employees in the retail sector could lose jobs in 1993 because of a 50% slump in sales compared with the same period last year.

Edgars Stores said it saw no improvement until 1994.

A spokesman for the construction sector said few contracts were coming forward and smaller contractors had no work.

While good early rain has fallen in the south and west in the past few weeks, rainfall has been patchy in the main cropping areas in the north and northeast.

Agricultural industry sources said unless heavy rain fell within the next week, many farmers would have to replant crops, which might be difficult because of a shortage of seed.

Agricultural output is estimated to have fallen by up to 40% this year because of the drought, which has left half Zimbabwe's population of 10 million in need of food aid.

Farmers

Both the staple maize sector and export important tobacco sector report a significant increase in plantings, though irrigated tobacco production will be sharply lower because water reservoirs are low or empty.

Commercial farmers will plant 20% less cotton than last year because prices are less attractive than those for maize and tobacco. Beef deliveries could fall by as much as two thirds, according to some farmers who say that next year ranchers will seek to rebuild their depleted herds.

Low-income housing milestones

[redacted] cr30/11/92

TWO significant milestones to make home ownership more affordable to low income families were reached in the past week.

Firstly, the last major legal obstacle to tap pension and provident fund money for housing was lifted and regulations governing how this can be done are expected to be gazetted shortly.

The first major initiative aimed at taking advantage of this has been developed by the Old Mutual and the Urban Foundation and is aimed at members of retirement funds earning between R800 and R1 500 a month.

Under this scheme, members will have immediate access to the money they have accumulated in the fund as a deposit for a mortgage bond and/or to top up the monthly mortgage bond repayments.

As such, if the monthly repayments exceed 25% to 30% of a homebuyer's monthly income, the extra amount can be borrowed from withdrawal benefits for a period of up to 10 years.

Property Perspectives

by MAGGIE ROWLEY

Since bond repayments generally decline over time in relation to income, a point is reached where the homeowner's income is high enought to allow him or her to service the bond repayment without a top-up from his or her withdrawal benfit and eventually to begin repaying the loan from the retirement fund.

A second boost to home ownership was announced on Friday by the Minister of Local Government, Housing and Agriculture in the House of Representatives.

Under the state initiative thousands of tenants in state financed homes built before 1983 with an historical value of less than R7500 can take transfer of their houses for free. Cases where the houses have an historical value of more than R7500 buyers will have to pay only the difference bewteen R7500 and the purchase price.

In all cases however, the current market value of these properties far exceeds the historical value.

Of the more than 745000 homes affected countrywide, about 70 000 are in the greater Cape Town area, concentrated in areas previously zoned for coloured and black housing.

The initiative will not only give many a first chance at acquiring a home but will also cut down on the vast administrative costs of these units by local authorities.

The concessions have been warmly welcomed from all quarters, not least of all by the housing department of the House of Representatives itself which appeared to have granted itself the rest of the day off following the announcement on Friday morning. All attempts to contact HoR housing representatives were unsuccessful and the telephone operator said "they have all gone off for the afternoon".

Abe Taylor of the recently formed National Property Forum, said while the move was to be welcomed it had to be followed up by a commitment from financial institutions to lend into this market.

"Many of these homes need upgrading but are in areas where the financial institutions are reluctant to grant home loans.

"It will also enable many new homeowners to consider upgrading to larger homes if not now but at a later stage. This in turn will allow others to enter the housing market. But unless financial institutions are prepeared to lend in to this sector any upward mobility will be curtailed and the possible wider spin-offs of this concession will not

NEWS IN BRIEF

B/DAY 30/11/92

World Bank warns Zimbabwe

HARARE — The World Bank has warned Zimbabwe's government to do everything possible to improve the economy in 1993, before public confidence in its economic reforms is eroded.

The bank urged Zimbabwe to move rapidly towards deregulating the economy, supporting exporters and improving the efficiency of parastatals. (362)

'IRA plotted to kill royal couple'

LONDON — IRA guerrillas planned to kill Prince Charles and Princess Diana with a bomb in a London theatre in 1983 but the bomber was a police informer and aborted the mission, London's Sunday Times said yesterday.

The claim was made by former MI5 security police informer Sean O'Callaghan and was confirmed by senior security sources in Ireland, the paper said.

Calls for Lamont's resignation

LONDON — British Chancellor of the Exchequer, Norman Lamont faced calls for his resignation on Saturday after the Treasury said it footed £4 000 of a £22 000 legal bill to evict a sex therapist who was a tenant in his London home.

Fire damages Hofburg palace

VIENNA — Fire swept through a wing of Vienna's elegant Hofburg palace, formerly the Habsburg family's imperial seat, on Saturday and caused damage estimated at £30m.

Fixed assets

has warned Zimbabwe to do everything possible to improve the economy in the coming year before public confidence in its economic reforms is eroded.

"Public confidence in and support for the programme could dissipate if benefits are not feasible in 1993," the bank said in a report made available at the weekend to the local Ziana news agency.

The bank, which is backing the reform programme, urged the government to move rapidly with the reforms by deregu- additional trade policies to support exporters and improve the efficiency of parastatals.

It also says the budget deficit must be reduced by cutting down on government expenditure.

The bank warned that the greatest risk in 1993 was the possibility that some of the policy reforms it recommended might not be implemented in full or on schedule, thereby eroding public confidence in the economic reforms. — Sapa-AFP.

A big knock for Hunyani

BDay

1/12/92

HARARE — Zimbabwe's largest pulp and paper producer, Hunyani Holdings Ltd, has notched up its worst performance, recording a large loss, but says things could brighten in the second half of 1992.

The state-run company, in results for the year ended September 30, said economic recession and drought turned a 1991 profit of Z$25m into a loss of Z$21m.

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"Obviously we would have expected better results, but the economy is in recession worsened by this year's drought," company secretary Stewart Jakarasi said.

"Improvements will be expected in the second half of the year if there are good rains this season."

The company said it would not declare a dividend. Last year's dividend was 3,3c.

Hunyani produces 100 000 tons of paper goods annually for the domestic market and export to South Africa, Malawi and Botswana.

Turnover rose 42% this year, but was hit by low demand and high interest rates which the government says are needed to combat a record annual inflation of 48%.

Hunyani's problems mirror those of most Zimbabwean companies, as the longest recession and the worst drought take their toll.

Market analysts say the poor company results, many of them still to be announced, will further depress Zimbabwe's crumbling industrial index which has plunged more than 60% since October last year. The index finished at 921,46 points on Friday, its lowest level since last year. — Sapa-Reuter.

Zim to double power supply

HARARE. — Zimbabwe, hit by power shortages threatening the economy, yesterday announced a R4,2 billion project to double the electricity supply within 15 years.

(362)

Energy Minister Mr Dennis Norman said power generators nationwide would be refurbished and new power lines from South Africa and Mozambique built.

CT 1/12/92

Most of the money will be provided by the World Bank and the EC. — Sapa-Reuter

Extra $35m needed for Portland plant expansion

EDWARD WEST 362

THE JSE-listed Zimbabwean cement parastatal Portland Holdings is to approach the market for an additional $35m to fund shortfalls on the expansion of the Colleen Bawn factory in southwest Zimbabwe.

The company's 1992 annual report said the development of the Colleen Bawn factory — the completion of which in April next year would make it the biggest cement factory in the southern hemisphere — was hit by massive price increases, especially steel prices, which had increased 400% over the past two years, and the devaluation of the Zimbabwean dollar.

Latest figures indicated a final cost of $250m for the project, and Portland would have to approach the market, mainly by way of a private placing of convertible debentures, to raise some $35m to finance the shortfall. B/Day 2/12/92

Portland expected its 1992/93 production to be less than 500 000 tons. The drought and a dramatic increase in interest rates had reduced building activity and cement sales in Zimbabwe had declined by more than 30% from peak demand in 1991.

However, power restrictions and the water crisis were likely to inhibit the company's short term ability to meet the reduced cement demand.

In the financial year to end-July 1992 cement sales amounted to 593 203 tons compared with 629 976 tons in 1991. This was caused mainly by breakdowns to major production units and not by a fall-off in demand. Group profit was forecast to be well below that achieved in the past year.

B Day 2/12/92

(362)

Zimbabwe protests

ZIMBABWEAN Defence Minister Moven Mahachi has confirmed that his government has lodged a protest with Pretoria over allegations SA military aircraft violated Zimbabwean air space in October.

Salt River centre's fate hangs on council vote

(362) CT 2/12/92

By JILYAN PITMAN

BETH URIEL, an organisation in Salt River involved with accommodation, vocational training and education for teenagers, is still battling with Cape Town City Council over its lease.

This matter has been unresolved for six years.

Mr Hudson McComb, head of Beth Uriel, said if agreement could not be reached the organisation would be forced to close down, and 30 teenagers would be left destitute.

The council will decide the future of the organisation in the next two weeks.

Security

Mr McComb said Beth Uriel had spent R150 000 on renovating the building and planned to spend another R250 000 on developing the project.

He said: "This is why specific clauses of the lease are so important.

"I am amazed by Cape Town City Council's attitude to our lease. Three major issues have been the period of the lease, security of tenure and insurance compensation.

"The council's proposed lease states that we pay the insurance premiums but we are not entitled to any compensation should they terminate our lease.

"This means that the R150 000 of public funds already spent on renovating a dilapidated building will be wasted.

Management

"The Estates Department at the council claims that the disputed clauses are council policy and cannot be changed. The department dealing with insurance and finance said this is not true and these clauses can be changed.

"The council should be an example of good financial management, but expects us to be otherwise," Mr McComb said.

A city council spokesman said Beth Uriel had asked for a meeting this week. The city council supported Beth Uriel's endeavours and would try to sort out the problem to everyone's advantage.

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neiro said on radio.

tial elections.

— Sapa-AFP-Reuter.

Zimbabwe's recovery plan under cross-examination

BDM 2/12/92 (362)

MICHAEL HARTNACK

HARARE — Donor organisations headed by the World Bank and the IMF will meet Zimbabwean Finance Minister Bernard Chidzero in Paris today to discuss the problems dogging his R42bn, five-year economic liberalisation programme.

Chidzero is likely to face accusations of lack of political will to cut Zimbabwe's 180 000 bureaucracy and accompanying public sector spending, which still absorbs over half the country's GDP.

The former UN economist is certain to blame the worst drought in a 100 years for many of the setbacks to the economic structural adjustment programme (Esap) agreed with the World Bank in 1990.

All Zimbabwe's food crops were written off last season and the country, normally a net food exporter, was burdened with the bill for importing over 2-million tons of grain. Mercifully, the money-spinning 201-million kg tobacco crop survived and is expected to net more than R100m in foreign currency.

Zimbabwean economists see no early relaxation of social spending, with 2-million unemployed and over 5-million rural people surviving on monthly 5kg per family maize meal handouts. President Robert Mugabe also appears reluctant to implement Chidzero's plans to prune the civil service by 8 000 a year, fearing dire political consequences.

Last week, however, Britain's high commissioner Richard Dales, announcing his country's aid plans for 1993, noted the progress Chidzero had made since the inception of Esap in removing regulations that had deterred investors, and opening the local market to foreign competition.

In a further breakthrough this week The Herald, which usually reflects government thinking, acknowledged that Mugabe's plan to nationalise the 6-million hectare "maize and tobacco" belt of farmland had been "put on ice".

A row with Supreme Court judges, business organisations and human rights activists threatened to destroy Zimbabwe's hopes of attracting international aid when Mugabe declared his intention to expropriate commercial famrland for peasant resettlement at one sixth its free-market value.

This week The Herald acknowledged that "serious, possibly irreversible policy mistakes" had been made since 1980 in resettling peasants on once-productive commercial farms.

"Less emphasis is expected in future on the vote-grabbing tactics which led to land being given to people unqualified to use it," said The Herald, in an assurance that will not be lost on World Bank and IMF representatives.

Ian Smith

Abel Muzorewa

Smith an 'adviser' to opposition coalition

STAR 3/12/92

By Robin Drew
Star Africa Service

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HARARE — Two former prime ministers, Ian Smith and Bishop Abel Muzorewa, are among the five trustees of a coalition of opposition parties in Zimbabwe, which last night launched its manifestos and called for an early election.

The United Front leaders also include the Reverend Ndabaningi Sithole, the veteran nationalist who once headed the party now lead by Robert Mugabe.

The grouping consists of Sithole's Zanu (Ndonga), the UANC (United African National Council), formerly headed by Bishop Muzorewa, the National Democratic Union and a break-away faction of the Zimbabwe Unity Movement led by Edgar Tekere.

Smith said he would play the role of an adviser with plenty of experience. The former Rhodesian premier, now 73, said it was essential to get the government of Mugabe out of power to save the country from ruin.

The aim is to end what the United Front calls the dead hand of communist one-party dictatorship.

World in

Smith is involved

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HARARE – Two former Prime ministers, Ian Smith and Bishop Abel Muzorewa, are among the five trustees of a coalition of opposition parties in Zimbabwe, which last night launched its manifestos and called for an early general election. Sowetan

The United Front leaders also include the Reverend Ndabaningi Sithole, the veteran nationalist who once headed the party now led by Prime Minister Robert Mugabe. 3/12/92

The grouping consists of Sithole's Zanu (Ndonga), the Conservative Alliance of Smith, the UANC (United African National Council), formerly headed by Bishop Muzorewa, the National Democratic Union and a faction of the Zimbabwe Unity Movement.

Unita troops seize another major town

[redacted] [redacted]

STAR 3/12/92

LUANDA — Angola's Unita opposition has set out to win on the battlefield what it lost at the ballot box in September, seizing control of the third provincial capital in a month.

Yesterday Jonas Savimbi's Unita was in control of Uige, 300 km north-west of Luanda, as well as Ndalatando, 200 km to the west, and Caxito, just 60 km north-west of the capital, Western diplomats said.

But the former guerilla chief appeared nevertheless to be aware of the negative international impact of the military campaign, as late on Tuesday he blamed his local field commanders for it.

Diplomats said Savimbi had proposed to the UN special envoy in Angola, Margaret Anstee, that he return Uige and the nearby air-base town of Negage to his rivals in Luanda.

The latest fighting breaches the May 1991 peace accords, to which both sides reaffirmed their commitment in UN-mediated talks at Namibe in the south-west of Angola last week, providing for the demobilisation of the rival armies.

Western military experts estimate that Savimbi, who controlled some 60 percent of Angolan territory before the capture of Uige, has between 25 000 and 30 000 well-equipped and highly trained troops, while the government has about 40 000 largely demoralised and badly paid soldiers.

Both the ruling People's Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) and the United Nations should take Savimbi's latest offer seriously if all-out war is to be avoided, several Western sources said.

Though he has grudgingly given the UN his written acceptance of the results of parliamentary elections which Unita lost to the MPLA in September, Unita deputies have not taken up their seats in the parliament first convened last Thursday and Savimbi has never actually admitted defeat.

Long backed during the civil war that followed independence in 1975 by the United States, South Africa, Zaire and Morocco, the Unita leader has paid some lip-service to co-operation with the government but also refused to transform his movement into a political party.

UN officials and the three guarantors of the May 1991 Estoril peace accords — Portugal, the US and Russia — are seeking to bring the two sides back to the negotiating table, but Savimbi has left President Jose Eduardo dos Santos and new Prime Minister Marcelino Moco little room for manoeuvre.

Fighting has stalled Moco's plan to announce a new Cabinet in which, according to government sources, Unita was to be offered at least four portfolios, and Western diplomats said the military and political situation would oblige the UN to increase its presence in Angola.

Savimbi has himself called on the United Nations to organise and closely monitor a second round of presidential elections, after losing September's first round with 40,7 percent of the votes to Dos Santos's 49,57 percent. — Sapa-AFP.

5562

SA backs coup plan, claims paper

[redacted] [redacted] [redacted]

By Robin Drew
Star Africa Service

STAR 3/12/92

HARARE — Zimbabwe's main newspaper, The Herald, carried as its main story yesterday an article claiming to expose South African backing for a plan by Unita to stage a coup in Angola.

The story by southern African analyst David Martin said top Western military intelligence officials believed that Jonas Savimbi's Unita had been given a deadline of January 20 by South Africa to seize power in Angola.

This is the date when United States President-elect Bill Clinton will take office.

The article claimed the operation by Unita was drawn up with South African advice.

The article said it was totally impossible for the government to pretend an operation as massive as this one was being carried out by uncontrolled elements in the security forces.

● South Africa's only tank, the Olifant, is too large to be carried in the SAAF's transport aircraft and the same may be true of the G5 gun.

The allegations were denied by an SADF spokesman.

The
(Mé

Stop hostilities, Mugabe tells SA

(362)

MICHAEL HARTNACK

HARARE — President Robert Mugabe has accused SA of resuming hostile actions against its neighbours and playing a part in Angola's slide back towards civil war.

In his state of the nation address to parliament yesterday, Mugabe urged Unita leader Jonas Savimbi to accept the outcome of the Angolan elections.

"At the same time we demand that SA immediately cease its role of destabilising Angola and put an end to its hostile manoeuvres in the region," said Mugabe.

This appeared to be a reference to the allegations in the media of numerous SA violations of Zimbabwean air space, said to involve fighter aircraft "covering" transports taking supplies to Unita.

A spokesman for the SA trade mission in Harare confirmed yesterday that complaints had been received about 20 alleged incursions in October, based solely on radar plots and not visual sightings.

No further communications had been received about five new radar sightings reported by the Herald at the weekend.

Sapa reports that the Foreign Affairs Department said yesterday it could not comment on media reports of a second series of violations; the Zimbabwean government would [illegible] have to lodge a formal complaint with Pretoria.

A department spokesman also said yesterday that SA officials had not yet had consular access to two of its citizens being held in Luanda. Manfred Rossouw and Dr D Gouws were forced to land at Luena, Moxiko, because of fuel problems. News reports said the Angolan government had alleged they were headed for a Unita base.

● See Page 4

BDay 3/11/92

Wienburg throws down the gauntlet

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ARG 4/12/92

CLIVE SAWYER
Municipal Reporter

CONTROVERSIAL city councillor Mr Arthur Wienburg has issued a challenge to anyone to disprove claims in an advertisement he placed in suburban newspapers.

The advert asked "how some councillors justified doing nothing".

It accused some councilors of being unwilling to govern, and hiding a history of incompetence and bad management behind a smokescreen of jargon and rhetoric.

Citing the failure to rationalise leisure and recreation services, the interest lost because of unbanked cheques in the cash office, failure to collect electricity arrears, and high spending on staff, Mr Wienburg challenged ratepayers to question their councillors on the issues.

Mr Wienburg ... challenged councillors to disprove claims.

He said the city council, through a firm of consultants, negotiated only with the African National Congress, and ignored the Democratic Party, National Party and others.

"Are you being consulted?" Mr Wienburg asked ratepayers.

The advert included a list of all 34 councillors and an invitation to "ask your councillors what they are doing about it".

Mr Wienburg said he had paid for the advert, which had so far brought a big response from angry ratepayers.

"Councillors will confirm that all the facts are correct, even though not palatable to some.

"If anyone challenges the facts, let them produce documentary evidence showing how the facts are wrong.

"Let them also acknowledge which facts are correct.

"Unfortunately the ratepayers know they are correct," he said.

Mr Wienburg said the advert was not aimed at individuals, but was an attempt to inspire debate on the issues.

SOWETAN Friday December 4 1992

disputed election

More raids into Zim

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■ SA planes violate neighbouring air space:

Sowetan 4/12/92.

Sowetan Africa News Service

HARARE - South African fighter aircraft have resumed violations of Zimbabwean airspace, the country's main newspaper, *The Herald*, reported yesterday.

The paper, claiming reliable government sources, said the latest violations began on Saturday and by Tuesday night five incursions had been recorded on radar.

The Herald said the latest violations coincided with a renewed offensive in northern Angola by Unita. It was assumed that the fighter planes were providing cover for higher-flying South African C-130 transport aircraft taking supplies to Unita.

The latest claims of airspace violations follow a formal protest made by Zimbabwe on October 22 about more than 20 violations that month.

The first incursions started on October 1 and continued to October 9. The aircraft were tracked on radar by the Thornhill air force base near Gweru and, in addition, SA fighters were seen flying over the base.

All the recorded violations occurred between 5.30am and 10.52am. Usually the South African planes operated in pairs.

One of the flights was recorded by radar at Harare airport as well as by Thornhill. The planes all approached from the SA border and returned in that direction.

Zimbabwe smuggling scam revealed

W/Mail 4/12 → 10/12/92

(362)

By PAUL STOBER

A SOPHISTICATED syndicate has been accused of swindling millions of rands from Zimbabwean expatriates who want to smuggle their money into South Africa.

Two of its alleged members were recently declared prohibited immigrants in Zimbabwe after their activities were brought to the attention of the Zimbabwe authorities.

Illegal currency trading between South Africa and Zimbabwe has been big business since Zimbabwe introduced exchange controls to prevent emigrants from draining the country's capital resources. Smuggling syndicates have sprung up and routinely — and illegally — transfer millions of Zimbabwean dollars to South Africa and other countries.

But many Zimbabweans have lost their savings in the syndicate's schemes. They include Jacobus "Kotie" Pepler, who tried to move Z$1,5-million from Zimbabwe to South Africa via England.

The elaborate plan hatched by the syndicate Pepler approached involved his lending a certain Robin van Rensburg and Johan Hendrik Nel Z$1,5-million in cash. Van Rensburg's plan, according to Pepler, was to use the money to buy gold, nickel and emeralds from Zimbabwean mines controlled by senior government officials. These would then be smuggled out of Zimbabwe and sold in Europe.

A bank account would be opened in Europe for Pepler and the equivalent of the Z$1,5-million he lent Van Rensburg would be paid into the account in US dollars. The syndicate would keep any profit made from the sale of the gold. Pepler would then move to South Africa using his foreign account and the dollars to buy cheap financial rands to establish himself.

As proof of his claims, Pepler has produced a contract signed in October 1990 between himself, Van Rensburg and Nel in which he agreed to lend them Z$ 1,5-million. Nel and Van Rensburg in return undertook to pay US$262 697 into a Credit Suisse account in Geneva within five weeks.

Pepler also has a pledge in which Nel and Van Rensburg pledged shares in a tennis ranch, Johrob (Pty) Ltd, as security for the loan. As additional security, Morgan Brown, Nel's brother-in-law and allegedly a syndicate member, signed surety for the loan to Nel and Van Rensburg. Pepler has a deed of suretyship signed by Brown.

Despite all these precautions, the deal went sour. Van Rensburg and Nel met the first instalment, and later made up to eight payments of R30 000, but then the payments dried up. Pepler tried to enforce the contract, but was advised that since the whole transaction was designed to break Zimbabwean exchange controls, South African courts would not uphold it. Pepler has placed Johrob in liquidation in an attempt to recover some of his money.

Approached for reaction, Nel denied being part of a syndicate. He acknowledged taking money from Pepler but said he had only passed it on to a syndicate which could get the money out of Zimbabwe. He insisted he had done his best to negotiate a settlement with Pepler and dismisse allegations of his involvement in go or emerald smuggling.

Pepler says after lengthy negoti tions with Van Rensburg, Nel an Brown, and a series of broken promis es and cancelled cheques, he gave up all hope of recovering his money.

In July this year, "in the public interest", he gave all the documents he had to the Zimbabwean authorities. On the strength of these, Van Rensburg and Morgan Brown were declared prohibited immigrants. The prohibition on Van Rensburg has since been overturned because he is a Zimbabwean citizen. But "investigations into their activities continue", said a Zimbabwean Central Intelligence Organisation source.

In a telephone interview, Brown admitted he had signed the suretyship for the agreement and said he was busy negotiating a settlement with Pepler. But he denied Pepler's claims that he was the syndicate mastermind.

Van Rensburg is in Zimbabwe an could not be contacted.

SA doctors aiding Zimbabwe's blind

S/Times 6/12/92

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By MICHAEL HARTNACK
Harare

FOUR South African doctors this week join Zimbabwean and American colleagues in an ambitious attempt to give 200 rural Zimbabweans the precious gift of restored sight for Christmas.

Dr Andries Stulting, from the Department of Opthalmology at the University of the Free State, and three colleagues fly in this weekend to the remote Sanyati Baptist mission hospital 160km west of Harare where a team of volunteers has been screening villagers for eye cataracts in a huge 80 000 sq km area of drought-devastated bush.

Tomorrow, they plan to begin a four-day round-the-clock "operating blitz" to heal 200 cataract sufferers, working with Zimbabwe's only eye surgeon, Dr Solomon Gurumutunhu, and two colleagues from California.

"I'm honoured to be involved in something so worthwhile," said British nursing sister Debbie Harding, from London's Tower Bridge hospital, whose 15-member team of Operation Raleigh volunteers screened 1 000 impoverished villagers to find cataract sufferers.

"This will not only give people their sight back but improve the quality of life of entire families," she said.

Dust and glaring sunlight make cataracts a common complaint in Zimbabwe.

"Patients will pay nothing for their operations," said Operation Raleigh spokesman Mike Verdin.

This is believed to be the first time since independence in 1980 that a team of South Africans has been involved in a goodwill gesture of this sort in Zimbabwe.

unpromising events.

This inversion of the social norm will immensely benefit the

competed for. Labour intensive systems will dominate the work place.

censed lasciviousness.

An interesting point might be that getting bored with having

If you've read this far, you are probably on antidepressants.

'Rhodesian' pensioners in SA 'broke'

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S/Times L Cape Metro

By EVE VOSLOO 6/12/92

PENSIONERS who used to work for Barclays Bank in Zimbabwe are facing hardship in South Africa as the devaluation of the Zimbabwe dollar drastically reduces their pensions "to penury".

This was said this week by a retired Barclays Bank senior manager in what was then Rhodesia, who now lives in Cape Town.

Mr A T Foord, who says he is not personally affected as he has investments which provide an adequate income, showed the Cape Metro correspondence between himself and the bank's head office in Britain telling of the plight of other pensioners, and the bank's response.

Mr Foord said that prior to Rhodesia becoming Zimbabwe, bank staff became increasingly concerned at the risk to their pensions but received repeated assurances from head office in Britain that the bank "would never let us down".

In 1959, Rhodesian staff of the bank, who had been on the London Pension Fund, were "summarily and without being asked", transferred to a newly created Rhodesian Pension Fund, he said.

Although the pensions have increased by reasonable percentages — 10 percent a year and 15 percent last year — the devaluation of Zimbabwe's currency has meant that the incomes of pensioners living in South Africa have been drastically reduced.

Mr Foord said they felt "betrayed" by the bank after years of service. Examples of pensions were:

● His own, which is R1 145 a month or about R14 000 a year. A friend who retired from First National Bank in South Africa at a comparable level, receives R68 000 a year, Mr Foord said.

● A former manager of the Fort Victoria branch of Barclays Bank receives R1 616 a month.

● The widow of a retired chief assayer in Salisbury receives R300 a month.

"Given the above examples, which involve senior staff members, what must be the position of retired tellers or even subaccountants?" Mr Foord asked.

Mr M P Mawdsley, pensions manager for Barclays head office in Britain, visited South Africa earlier this year to look into the problem.

In a letter to Mr Foord dated March 23, he said he had met pensioners living in SA in February and had submitted a report to his superiors.

"The bank is extremely concerned," Mr Maudsley wrote.

Mr Maudsley wrote again on June 1, saying the matter was "still receiving further research and consideration".

On June 18 Mr Foord wrote back saying he had been in touch with other pensioners "who remain very sceptical that the bank will take any action".

"May I remind you that it is now a year since our pensions were reduced to penury," Mr Foord wrote.

On August 4 Mr Maudsley replied, saying "the bank has carefully considered the problem" and felt "all pensioners of the Barclays Bank of Zimbabwe Pension Fund should be treated equally, regardless of race or country of residence".

"Accordingly, scope for improvements is limited to attempting to make good the accumulated shortfalls against inflation in the pensions increases which have been awarded in the past."

Mr Foord said pensioners did not know what action to take next.

Zimbabwe gets $1,4-bn

STM 7/12/92

Star Foreign Service 362

PARIS. — Western nations have agreed to provide $1,4 billion of grants, soft loans and commercial loans to Zimbabwe next year to help the country steer its economic reform programme through the worst drought in living memory.

The package was agreed to at a meeting of 15 donor countries organised by the World Bank, to which Finance Minister Bernard Chidzero outlined Zimbabwe's progress is slimming its bloated public sector, dismantling price controls and encouraging the growth of private enterprise.

Western donors had feared that Zimbabwe would be unable to stick to the programme because of the drought and recession, and were understood to have set strict conditions for their help.

The package meets all Zimbabwe's needs for outside finance for the next year. Eighty percent is made up of loans and 20 percent grants.

Within this, the government plans to borrow just under 15 percent or $200 million on normal commercial terms, bridging finance to cover the period between aid allocation and payment.

Zimbabweans hope for a wet Christmas to ease the struggle

BDAY 7/12/92.

MICHAEL HARTNACK in Harare

362

A BRITISH camera team enraged the Zimbabwean information ministry last month by asking people standing in the labour exchange queue to raise their hands if they felt they were better off before 1980 independence.

After the worst drought in a century, many have little to celebrate — unless they contemplate the plight of neighbouring Mozambicans, their country devastated by civil war, cholera, and the same climatic disaster afflicting Zimbabweans.

Social welfare authorities estimate 5,1-million Zimbabweans, plus the 110 000 Mozambican refugees in seven camps along the eastern border, are now surviving on monthly 5kg a family maize handouts. In town, there are 2-million unemployed and the 300 000 school leavers coming onto the labour market in January have scant prospect of jobs.

Out of a population of more than 10-million, just more than 1-million are in formal employment, and many will have to be content not to receive a Christmas bonus as their firms struggle to avoid bankruptcy.

Many parents are spending what Christmas bonus they get on kitting their children out for school in 1993.

A new blazer, shirts, trousers or skirts, shoes, sports kit and track suit costs the equivalent of R223. Second hand "thrift shops" are doing a roaring trade as schools break up.

Ironically, the liberalisation of import controls has filled Zimbabwe's "upmarket" shops with a wider range of imported luxuries this Christmas than we have seen since Ian Smith's 1965 UDI precipitated sanctions and 27 years of dire foreign currency shortages.

"Structural adjustment" has left the speculative businessman free to import luxuries — on sale at markups sometimes exceeding 2 000% — but these are far beyond the incomes of ordinary Zimbabweans earning the government-stipulated R89 a month minimum wage (or less in the growing "informal" sector).

Those Zimbabweans who still cherish dreams of closing the gap between rich and poor (now wider than ever) may wince at the sight of 12-year-old Scotch on sale at R103 for 750ml while a lean-to backyard shack in Mbare "high density suburb" costs R23 a month to rent.

Social workers believe there are up to 3 000 homeless "street people" in the capital, living by begging, while the domestic workers' union claims domestic slavery has secretly re-established itself in the plush "low density suburbs". Officials say an increasing number of black families expect menial services 24 hours a day, seven days a week, from a distant rural relative given only her keep. They are often exposed to sexual abuse, allege union officials.

There seems to have been a sudden doubling in the number of white beggars, from the familiar core of 10 faces. All are persons with addiction problems who have frustrated all attempts at rehabilitation by welfare organisations. With methylated spirits costing R4,58 a 750ml bottle they drink the less toxic local brew called "kachasu" which police say costs less than R1 a litre. The influx of Mozambican refugees has made dagga more freely available, with the desirable side-effect that "hard" drugs are driven off the market.

With the official exchange rate (R1 buys Z$1,79) heavily favouring the rand, Zimbabwean clothing still seems a good buy for visiting South Africans, who can be seen stocking up before heading for home.

Women's jeans are on display for R15,90 and children's dresses from R9,70. Men's top quality trousers are on special offer at R44,60 and suits reduced to R201.

Men's leather-soled shoes are priced from R117.

Toiletries cannot be considered as cheap "stocking fillers". Barbours, Harare's "smart set" store, is selling 100ml bottles of Fidji eau de toilette for R77,62. In the supermarkets, ordinary tins of spray-on deodorant are priced at R6,67.

Barbours is charging R72,62 for a 750g tin of imported chocolates and R28,21 for a 250g box of chocolates. Even a local brand 100g bar of chocolate costs R2,79.

Buying a Christmas cake is a major financial undertaking, not recommended with the bank overdraft rate at 43%. The smallest specimens are priced at about R34. SA dried fruit is on sale for R6,42 for 250g. Small 34g jars of imported spices are R3,08.

Turkeys can be ordered for R38 but most middle-income families will settle for a 1,9kg family size chicken for R12,64 or a 0,95kg bird for R6,22. Our chickens, like our cheese (R16,95/kg), always seem of far better quality than the SA supermarket equivalent.

Despite fears of a beef shortage in the new year in the wake of the drought, rump steak is still R12,84/kg and topside mince R7,25. Sea fish remains the ultimate Zimbabwean luxury, with 750g boxes of hake priced at R22,48. Mozambican prawns are tagged at R20,75 for 500g.

Vendors were last week selling bags of a dozen potatoes for R2,23, but many low-income Zimbabwean families save bags of white rice (R6,85 for 2kg) as a traditional Christmas treat.

Imported yellow maize meal is now in plentiful supply after the queues and riots that afflicted the country in March-May, with a 5kg bag costing R3,27. A loaf of white bread costs R0,91.

Tinned fruit is again limited, with peaches, pears and plums absent from many supermarkets. A city centre store was offering only 410g tins of strawberries priced at R3,36.

In the liquor department, bottles of SA brand name premier grand cru were ranged alongside 1987 Cape estate cabernets at a standard price of R19,55 a bottle. I leave it to the connoisseurs to determine how well the Cape vintages travelled, especially those that entered the country concealed in the corsets of the lady "shoppers" now besieging the SA trade mission for visas.

Excellent Zimbabwean white wines can be bought for R7,82 for 750ml, with a mandatory 85c deposit on the bottle because of the glass shortage. Beers are 95c a bottle, plus a 25c deposit. Local spirits are priced from R14 for 750ml.

The range of "consumer durables" seems more impossibly expensive than ever this year, with draylon lounge suites on sale for R4 468 and 50cm colour television sets from R2 850. An adult's 12-speed mountain bicycle was priced R1 284 and a child's BMX beside it R446.

Zimbabwe is famous for its emerald mines but an engagement ring with five small stones was marked R3 831. Next to it was an automatic watch for R385.

In the book stores, a range of best-sellers by authors such as Catherine Cookson were priced between R22,34 and R29,60.

If the Zimbabwe Electricity Supply Authority blows the circuits again on Christmas Eve and leaves us in Victorian darkness, we can tell ghost stories by candlelight (candles R2,34 for a packet of six).

The general increase in poverty and the influx into towns of destitute rural people has increased the incidence of petty crime against property but Zimbabwe remains a less fearful, less crime-ridden society than SA or Zambia. The millions raised for relief of distress this Christmas, despite the unprecedented economic crisis, bear testimony to a truly seasonal spirit of goodwill and to good race relations.

What we all want to see is Santa Claus riding not in a sleigh but upon the inter-tropical convergence zone, the bringer of heavy, persistent rain.

LETTERS

Mugabe still sitting pretty

STAR 9/12/92

(362)

Zimbabwe has many parties but none seriously threatens the government, reports ROBIN DREW of The Star Africa Service.

PRESIDENT Robert Mugabe has poured scorn on the emergence of opposition parties in Zimbabwe saying they don't stand a chance against the ruling Zanu (PF) party which he heads.

He is probably right. Were an election to be held in the next few months, Mugabe and Joshua Nkomo, the former Zapu leader, who merged their parties five years ago, would triumph, notwithstanding the failure of the government to put right years of mismanagement of the economy.

As matters stand at the moment there is no organisation capable of taking on the ruling party.

There are plenty of parties in existence, however, and others will no doubt be formed.

A recent addition to the ranks is a Bulawayo-based pressure group, the Open Forum Association, which has announced that it is becoming a fully fledged political party.

It will campaign for greeater powers to be granted to regional authorities including, naturally, Matebeleland.

On paper, the most viable opposition group at present is the United Front which this month launched its manifesto.

This was a reference to the role played by former Rhodesian prime minister Ian Smith who has been named as one of the trustees of the United Front, a grouping of five political parties opposed to Zanu (PF).

One of these parties is the Conservative Alliance. The ex-Rhodesian premier, now 73, is its honorary life president. Other trustees include other well-known names from the past such as Bishop Abel Muzorewa and the Rev Ndabaningi Sithole.

A main feature of the manifesto is a plan to restore the system of a titular president aloof from party politics, with a government headed by a prime minister.

There would be a return to the dual chambers of parliament with an upper house, or senate, having blocking powers to prevent ill-considered legislation.

The United Front says it wants an early election because if the country has to wait until 1995 when a general election is due, it will be too late to "save what's left" of Zimbabwe.

Market economy 'a must'

CT9/12/92

STOCKHOLM. — The winner of this year's nobel prize for economics, Gary Becker of the United States, said this week the only way African and Eastern European countries could survive was to adopt market-oriented policies.

He also said he believed the United States was currently emerging from a mild recession and did not require major investment in infrastructure to assist recovery.

Becker, 62, a faculty member of the University of Chicago's economics department, said that both in the former communist countries of Eastern Europe and in the Third World, governments had made the fatal mistake of ignoring economic wisdom which had more developed over the last 200 years.

"What went wrong was you had an experiment, that's what communism was, a disastrous economic experiment," Becker said in an interview in Stockholm, where he will receive the 6,5 million swedish crown prize tomorrow.

"Naturally, the world is very much concerned about many of the African countries...but it was not the West that grew at the expense of Africa. That is a mistake. It was African policies that prevented growth," he said.

"Government intervention, price-fixing and bribery had all taken their toll, and the best solution now was for African governments to model their economic policies on those of Malaysia and Taiwan.

"These were poor countries in the '50s, but they changed their outlook. the single most important thing that could happen to Africa is if they switched to a market-oriented policy," said Becker,

Earlier, Becker told a news conference why he believed he had won the prestigious award, which since its creation in 1968 has been dominated by economists from Chicago and other North American universities.

"I was trying to supply the economic way of thinking to broader, social questions...," he said. People respond to incentives, whether they go out to buy an orange in the grocery store, or if they are deciding to get married, how much education they should be getting."

He said these very different forms of behaviour were linked with a common theme — the systematic reponse to the benfits and costs of various decisions.

The Swedish Academy of Sciences cited Becker's work in extending the sphere of economic analysis to such areas as education, marriage, divorce and childbearing, family decisions, crime and punishment, and economic discrimination. — Reuter

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Zim mining shares remain lifeless

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CT9/12/92

HARARE. — Zimbabwe's mining index recorded its second unchanged position yesterday while the industrial index eased in thin trading.

Only one counter changed hands in industrials and the index lost 2,23 to close at 892,97. The mining index was unchanged at 170,96.

The Zimbabwe Stock Exchange has lost institutional investors to a high-yielding money market as the country grapples with a prolonged recession and a severe drought.

Analysts say the index has been weighed down by corporate results reflecting the poor shape of the economy. — Reuter

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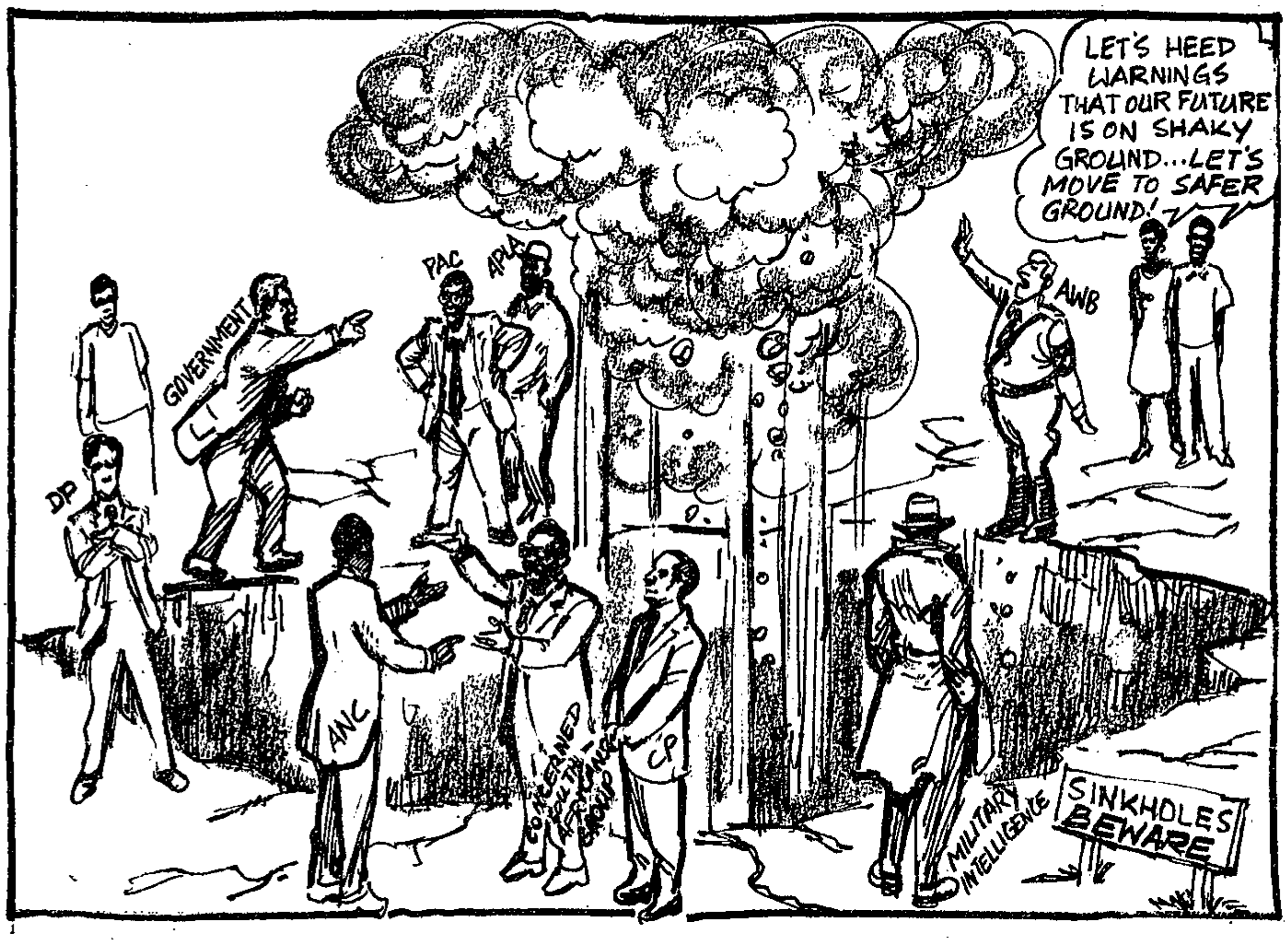
Dave Sharp has been appointed client service director for Hunt Lascaris TBWA (Cape).

esbank won't

FOCUS *Robert Mugabe pours scorn on emerging opposition parties*



focus on **Zimbabwe**

New groups opposed to the ruling Zanu (PF) - including former Rhodesian oppressor Ian Smith, the Reverend Ndabaningi Sithole and Abel Muzorewa - are calling for an early election, although their chances of victory are remote, reports **Sowetan Africa News Service:**

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Sowetan 9/12/92.

HARARE - Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe has poured scorn on the emergence of opposition parties in Zimbabwe, saying they don't stand a chance against the ruling Zanu (PF) Party which he heads.

He is probably right.

Were an election to be held in the next few months, Mugabe and Mr Joshua Nkomo, the former Zapu leader, who merged their parties five years ago, would triumph. This is despite the failure of the government to put right years of mismanagement of the economy which has led to a torrent of condemnation in independent publications.

For as matters stand, there is no organisation capable of taking on the ruling party.

There are plenty of parties in existence and others will no doubt be formed. A recent addition to the ranks is a Bulawayo-based pressure group, the Open Forum Association, which has announced that it is becoming a full-fledged political party.

It will campaign for greater powers to be granted to regional authorities, including, naturally, Matabeleland.

On paper the most viable opposition group at present is the United Front, which this month launched its manifesto, the first half a dozen pages of which were devoted to a catalogue of errors committed by the government.

The United Front drew special fire from President Mugabe this weekend when he said doom awaited those black politicians who had become so desperate that they had turned to their former racist oppressors for support.

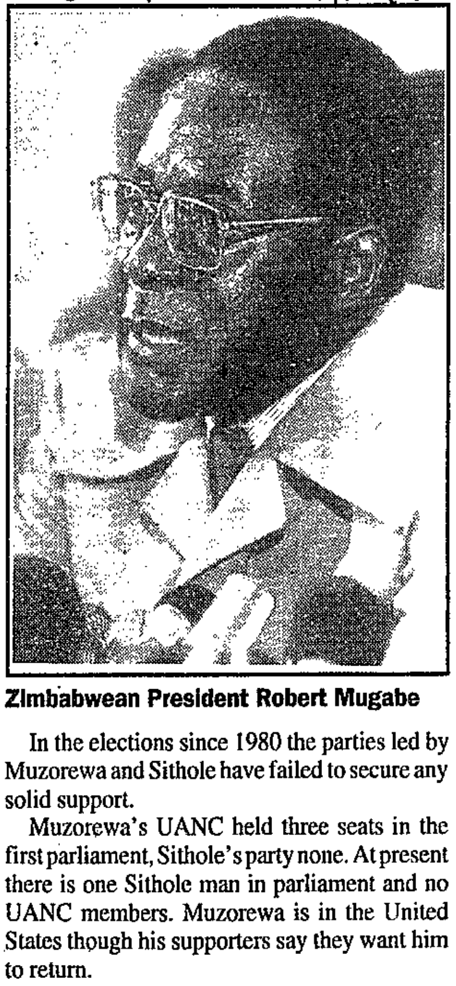
This was a reference to the role played by former Rhodesian prime minister Ian Smith, who has been named as one of the trustees of the United Front, a grouping of five political parties opposed to Zanu (PF).

One of these parties is the Conservative Alliance, the successor to the Rhodesian Front, led by another Smith, Gerald, no relation to Ian Douglas Smith.

The ex-Rhodesian premier, now 73, is honorary life president of the Conservative Alliance and as chirpy as ever.

At the launching of the United Front manifesto Ian Smith sat with reporters and diplomats invited to the occasion and took the opportunity to put some pointed questions to the executive committee such as: "So you are not in favour of a dictatorship?"

Other trustees of the United Front include other well-known names from the past such as Bishop Abel Muzorewa, who lasted little more than six months as prime minister of Zimbabwe-Rhodesia in 1979, and veteran black nationalist the Reverend Ndabaningi Sithole, who held office in the transitional government prior to Muzorewa's brief reign.



Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe

In the elections since 1980 the parties led by Muzorewa and Sithole have failed to secure any solid support.

Muzorewa's UANC held three seats in the first parliament, Sithole's party none. At present there is one Sithole man in parliament and no UANC members. Muzorewa is in the United States though his supporters say they want him to return.

A main feature of the United Front manifesto is its plan to restore the system of a titular president aloof from party politics, with a government headed by a prime minister.

There would be a return to the dual chambers of parliament with an Upper House, or Senate, having blocking powers to prevent the hasty passage of ill-considered legislation.

The Senate would include representatives of the chiefs, industry, commerce, the professions, charitable organisations, the trades union congress and the farming, mining and transport industries, all chosen by their own sectors.

The United Front says it wants an early election because if the country has to wait until 1995, when a general election is due, it will be too late to save what's left.

The present government, it says, is totally bankrupt, morally and physically, and the people are exhausted and disillusioned with the never-ending list of failures.

But if an early election were called, it is not clear how the United Front would contest it.

The Conservative Alliance member on the executive council, Mr Gerald Smith, says the five individual parties making up the front would put up their own candidates but would oppose other front members.

"We wouldn't spilt the opposition vote," he said.

However, the party spokesman, a former supporter of Mr Edgar Tekere, who remains aloof, said a single party would result from the coalition and a leader would "emerge".

For the time being the United Front remains a grouping of five parties who subscribe to the manifesto.

Mr Ian Smith says he wants to remain in the background as an adviser with experience of politics and parliament going back more than 40 years. But with a politician's eye to the future, he agrees that some people would like him to play a role up front and, uh, he will have to see.

Away from the United Front, another development awaited in Zimbabwean politics is the creation of a political party by the Forum for Democratic Reform which came into being earlier this year, helped by a number of white liberals with the aim of stimulating opposition to the governing party.

However, it seems apparent the forum has run into difficulties over its real identity and it will be some months before a new party emerges.

The best-known name associated with the forum is that of Judge Enoch Dumbutshena, the former chief justice, who is a trustee. But whether he will give up his judicial appointments in Namibia and the Transkei, which he currently holds, remains to be seen.

Meanwhile, Tekere's Zimbabwe Unity Movement is racked with dissension and cannot be considered a serious challenge to Zanu (PF).

Other smaller parties come and go and count for nothing. Mugabe, therefore, looks quite safe at the moment in dismissing the opposition as no real threat.

SA must be wary of misguided experts as it reshapes economy

B/DAY 10/12/92 **JIMMY GIRDLESTONE** 362

WHATEVER their own political persuasions, governments of virtually every other southern African country undoubtedly desire a negotiated end to SA's internal disagreements. Most African administrations would probably consider the more important issue not so much the form of SA's new political dispensation but the substance of its economic policies.

SA commentators have suggested that policy could result from a kind of international shopping trip to select the most suitable economic model. In practice, if experience in Zimbabwe — probably the closest precedent — is any guide, SA's future policies are more likely to emerge through consensus on the most desirable economic ends and the relevance, or otherwise, of existing means of achieving them. If so, the second phase of the settlement process could be as contentious and protracted as the first.

The controversy over the magnitude of capital flight from SA illustrates the wide gulf to be bridged before agreement can be reached, for example, on the foreign sector's place and future role in development. Against the substantial capital flight estimates advanced in certain academic studies has to be set the convincing challenge to the whole basis of their calculation recently mounted by Nedbank in Capital Flight: Myth, Reality or Political Means? — Nedbank Guide to the Economy, August 1992.

Unless such presumed "expert" opinions are rigorously tested there is a real possibility of their uncritical adoption as the basis for future decisions, with predictably disastrous consequences. Zimbabwe's experience provides a disturbing demonstration of the dangers in this respect.

The government assuming power in Harare following independence was already convinced of the desirability of reducing foreign capitalist, colonial and white influence throughout the economy and particularly in the foreign sector. Respectability for the political objective was willingly furnished by academic economists in Harare who estimated that, in the early '80s, Zimbabwe was losing annually Z$300m, or about one-fifth of its domestically generated investable surpluses, as a result of over- and underinvoicing and other forms of transfer pricing.

As with SA's capital flight figures, no firm statistical evidence existed to support such conclusions. However, academic backing for the presumption that the country's foreign sector constituted a kind of "crooks' corner" or refuge for multinationals, speculators, colonial renegades and other undesirable influences consorting with the common aim of stripping the country of its wealth and exporting it undoubtedly exercised a major influence over the formulation of official policy. The foreign sector was subjected to even tighter control of its activities and more marked indifference to its requirements.

Even at that time the only underinvoicing which could have been practised on any significant scale was in the export of metals and minerals. To bring these activities under control the government established the state Minerals Marketing Corporation. Yet, as in SA, metals were — and still are — exported essentially by a small number of reputable companies highly unlikely to engage in malpractice.

Paradoxically, the one area to escape the worst excesses of bureaucratic overregulation has been the trade in curios and the provision of safari and hunting trips undertaken by small-scale, fringe operators which have much less to lose by engaging in illicit foreign dealings. The panoply of controls on export sector activity has probably cost more in reduced generation of investable surpluses than any gains it has achieved in curbing illicit export practices.

To prevent the possible overinvoicing of imports, the government contracted an international agency to provide pre-shipment inspection in the country of supply of virtually all imports with an fob value of $10 000 or more. Again, while it is impossible to quantify any benefits accruing from this arrangement it has undoubtedly increased the cost of imports as importers are required to pay the equivalent in Zimbabwe dollars of 1% of the fob value of customs' "clean report of findings".

Academic justification for a policy which considered the foreign sector's claims for increased input requirements as basically invalid had even more disastrous consequences for export growth. Successive development plans accorded next to no priority to export sector import needs.

Indeed the influential 1981 Riddell commission went so far as to recommend that, as foreign trade was a constraint to income redistribution, measures should be taken to reduce the openness of the economy. Until 1987 import allocations to agriculture and mining which, excluding basic steel and ferroalloys, together provide about two-thirds of total export earnings, became progressively less adaquate in a situation of general inadequacy. As a result investment in agriculture and mining, which averaged more than 22% of total gross capital formation in the '70s, fell to half that level in the '80s.

Poor world commodity prices were partly to blame but the inability, particularly of the mining sector, to reap the benefits of the higher world prices ruling between 1987 and mid-1990 was also a factor. The consequent failure of total exports to rise more than marginally in real terms throughout the '80s and the country's current precarious balance of payments position — which was parlous even before the impact of the 1991-92 drought — were all in large measure due to a chronic lack of concrete support for the foreign sector.

Zimbabwe's experience in this respect also shows up a major oversight in the academics' consideration of what constitutes capital flight. With Draconian controls over foreign exchange expenditure and totally inadequate forex allocations a wide spectrum of producers was continually faced with the unenviable choice between substantially reduced activity — if not closure — and illegally acquiring foreign exchange.

While the latter practice clearly distorted trade prices it is doubtful whether it can reasonably be categorised as capital flight. Even more questionable is whether it damaged the economy. Bureaucrats would contend that it diverted foreign exchange away from other uses, or users, with higher priority.

But if such malpractices enabled businesses to continue producing and if firms were able to remain viable notwithstanding the higher cost of imports obtained by illicit means, this is more an indictment of price distortion and of the misallocation of resources resulting from over-extensive controls than evidence on capital flight. Indeed the practice raises the question of whether the state or the market is more efficient at allocating scarce, imported resources.

In opting, under its structural adjustment programme for, among other things, import liberalisation, greater availability of foreign exchange through retained export proceeds and increased export incentives, Zimbabwe's policy has now come down firmly on the side of the market. Regrettably, the damage caused to the foreign sector by policies based upon narrow chauvinism sanctioned by specious academic arguments will take years to rectify.

Too close an analogy between Zimbabwe's experience and the process of economic policy formulation which SA still has to undergo obviously cannot be drawn. But as SA seeks new economic policies more accommodating to the needs of all its peoples it could do worse than reflect upon the fact that not all advice given it, even by academics, will necessarily be sound and correct, still less altruistic.

☐ **Girdlestone is adviser to the Zimbabwe Banking Corporation CE. Views expressed in this article are personal and unattributable to ZBC.**

Renamo calls for UN aid in peace process

STAR 10/12/92

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HARARE — Renamo leader Afonso Dhlakama has called on the United Nations to speed up the Mozambique peace process, saying the Maputo government was dragging its feet in implementing the agreed programme.

Dhlakama, who is due to meet Zimbabwe President Robert Mugabe today to discuss the accord, said he was ready to move from his bush headquarters in central Mozambique to the capital Maputo as soon as the government found him suitable accommodation.

"It is important that the UN sends in troops and sets up the machinery to speed up the process," he told reporters yesterday on his first official visit to Zimbabwe.

Dhlakama, who flew in from Kenya, said he hoped his talks with Mugabe would consolidate the peace pact.

The plan agreed under a truce signed by Renamo and President Joaquim Chissano's government in October is running behind schedule on several issues, including the confinement of troops to designated points. — Sapa-Reuter.

Cash for Zimbabwe despi

W Mail 11/12-17/12/92

Zimbabwe's lack of progress with economic reform was criticised but donors still provided the money for another year of government expenditure. By **IDEN WETHERELL**

ALTHOUGH Zimbabwe's Finance Minister Bernard Chidzero walked away from a Paris donors' conference last week with aid pledges worth Z$6-billion (R3-billion), he did not escape criticism of his government's economic reform record.

This was the third donors' meeting to be held in Paris since Zimbabwe launched a five-year Z$18-billion (R9-billion) programme to establish a market economy two years ago. The major donors so far are the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, Britain, Sweden, the African Development Bank and the European Community.

When the current reform programme was introduced in 1990, the government committed itself to reducing the budget deficit by eliminating losses on public enterprises, reducing the bloated public service by 25 percent, and creating a more attractive trade and investment climate by deregulation of stifling controls.

While there has been some progress on trade liberalisation, many economists believe insufficient effort has been made to meet spending targets.

Donors in Paris were sharply critical about the size of the public service, the slow pace of parastatal reform, and lack of investment incentives.

The worst drought in living memory is undoubtedly to blame in part for derailing government's reform strategy. But political hesitancy and bureaucratic foot-dragging have also contributed. Persistently high levels of government expenditure, estimated at Z$35 million a day, fuel inflation running at 45 percent.

"The problem is not so much a shortage of money," says the First Merchant Bank quarterly review, "but too great a proportion of it going to the wrong place."

Much of the expenditure goes on an overstaffed bureaucracy that so far has only managed to shed 7 000 from a total payroll of 189 000, some contriving to find their way back through the revolving door of political patronage.

Similarly, three of the 11 ministers and deputy ministers removed from Mugabe's 57-strong administration in July have resurfaced as regional resident ministers. Other are likely to receive diplomatic postings.

The Reserve Bank's anti-inflation weapon of high interest rates has broken the backs of many businesses already brought down by the worst recession since 1931. The Confederation of Zimbabwe Industries argues that tight monetary policies which ignore state fiscal profligacy are proving disastrous for business.

The economic structural adjustment programme (Esap) has descended like a blight upon the poorest sectors of society. Esap has become a byword of

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n't cost a fortune

uppiedom

— an important consideration for consumers ho keep their pens clipped into their pockets. ere the Watermans fared badly, while the arkers did well.

Cartridges are convenient, but they are xpensive and the specialists will tell you that efilling a fountain pen with quality ink is the nly way to go.

Other advice on buying a fountain pen, proided by enthusiasts, *Consumer Reports* and amerons, a Johannesburg store which spealises in collectable fountain pens:

●Check on the service and guarantees. The igger name brands have service agents here, nd on some products give lifetime guarantees gainst defects. However, service can vary emendously and some of the agents are lousy.

●Though enthusiasts and specialist stores ill say a cheap and nasty fountain pen is a nob, this Critical Consumer owns an expensive, ncy Sheaffer and the R14 type. Both give

Enemies talk peace

■ EFFECT RECONCILIATION Mugabe and Renamo leader set aside their long-standing differences:

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Sowetan 11/12/92

HARARE - President Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe and Renamo leader Mr Afonso Dhlakama were holding talks in Harare yesterday that were expected to greatly strengthen the Mozambican peace process.

Diplomats here described the meeting as "a breakthrough - very important".

The meeting was the first between the two leaders - who were once implacable opponents - since the Mozambican peace accord was signed in Rome last October.

They had met to discuss a ceasefire during the negotiations that led to the accord and yesterday they were meeting to talk about ensuring its effectiveness.

When he flew into Harare from Nairobi in a private aircraft the guerilla leader, wearing a business suit, said the purpose of his visit was to implement the peace in Mozambique and effect a reconciliation with Zimbabwe.

During the Mozambican civil war, Zimbabwe sent troops to fight alongside the Frelimo government forces and Mugabe vowed not to withdraw them until Renamo was defeated.

Dhlakama for his part had "wanted" posters of Mugabe stuck up on trees in Renamo-held areas.

Since a preliminary ceasefire signed before the Rome accord, Zimbabwe's troops have been confined to the Beira and Limpopo transport corridors.

They were supposed to have been withdrawn in terms of the Rome pact but Harare said it had been asked by the UN to keep them there as there was no other force able to protect the corridors. This was challenged by Renamo at first, but last night Dhlakama said he had no objection to them remaining in the corridors.

The Security Council has not yet considered a proposal by UN secretary-general Boutros Boutros-Gali to station a UN monitoring force of 7 500 in Mozambique.

NEWS

Dhlakama discusses peace with Mugabe

(362)

Stm

11/12/92

HARARE — Mozambican former rebel leader Afonso Dhlakama met Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe in Harare yesterday and said they should bury the past and work together to promote the peace process in Mozambique.

Dhlakama said he came to discuss with Mugabe how the peace process in Mozambique, already two months behind schedule, could be speeded up.

He told journalists before meeting Mugabe that he was convinced things would go well after discussions with Mugabe, who played a major role in mediating the country's peace talks out of deadlock this year.

Once condemned in Zimbabwe as a bloody bandit leader, Dhlakama told newsmen after his 90-minute meeting with Mugabe: "We came to say that both sides, Zimbabwe and Renamo, must forget what happened in the past. We must build a relationship because the two countries are neighbours."

The local news agency Ziana said Mugabe and Dhlakama embraced each other at the start of the meeting.

It was the Renamo leader's fifth recorded meeting with Mugabe since January.

Zimbabwe has 5 000 troops stationed in Mozambique guarding its road and rail supply route to the Indian Ocean from Renamo attacks. This troop presence was one of the main topics of Dhlakama's discussions with Mugabe.

Dhlakama had already stated that since the UN troops expected in Mozambique to oversee the peace agreement had not yet arrived, he did not see any problems with the Zimbabweans as long as they were not involved in military activities.

Dhlakama is expected to meet other southern African leaders today in Harare during a one-day summit of the Frontline states about the situation in Angola, before going on to meet Mozambican President Joaquim Chissano in Maputo. — Sapa-AFP.

Mugabe's scholarship scam

ZIMBABWE President Robert Mugabe has used political leverage to obtain special government scholarships for two of his nieces to study in Canada, according to diplomatic sources in Harare.

The scholarships, created for Barbara and Sandra Mugabe, are each worth more than US$20 000 (about R60 000) a year over the next four years.

Mugabe reportedly told the Secretary for Higher Education, Dr Elijah Chanakira: "I don't want to pay for these studies. Let the Department of National Scholarships find the money."

(362)

[illegible] 13/11/92

Canadian aid and diplomatic officials are disturbed at the irregular methods used and the fact that they are to be funded by the Zimbabwean taxpayer to the tune of Z$1-million.

The Zimbabwe-Canada General Training Facility, who award scholarships to Zimbabwean students, initially turned down Mugabe's request on the grounds that neither of the girls had been through the selection process. The Mugabe girls are said to have achieved only "marginal passes".

Despite this, officials in the department of National Scholarships were instructed to make arrangements.

The girls left to study for bachelors' degrees.

STAR 14/12/92 .

Harare 'wants to discredit SA'

The Zimbabwean government's latest accusation that Pretoria was involved in cross-border violations was a "transparent manoeuvre to discredit South Africa", the Department of Foreign Affairs said yesterday.

At a meeting of the Frontline states in Harare on Friday, "grave concern" was expressed at South Africa's alleged violations of neighbouring countries' air space and the SADF's involvement in Angola. [redacted] 362

The department ~~said it~~ believed Zimbabwe had levelled the accusation. [redacted]

"It is declared policy of President de Klerk's Government to promote sound and constructive neighbourliness with all the countries in the region," the department said. — Political Staff.

Plane deals assurances sought

MICHAEL HARTNACK

HARARE — Zimbabwe Foreign Affairs Minister Nathan Shamuyarira reportedly plans to call in Russian diplomats this week to demand an explanation of alleged aircraft deals with SA.

David Martin, whose Southern African Research and Documentation Centre is close to Shamuyarira, reported in yesterday's Herald that the minister "will want to know whether the Russians sought or received assurances that their planes on lease to SA would not be used for military purposes".

Martin, who earlier this month leaked Zimbabwean allegations of widespread airspace violations by SA after the breakdown of the Angolan ceasefire, linked possible resupply missions to Unita with the hire of giant Antonov cargo jets by Safair, which he described as "a shadowy wing of the SA government".

Martin said SA was negotiating to buy sophisticated MiG-29 jet fighters.

Using hired Russian Mil-26 transport helicopters, SA could avoid violating Zimbabwean, Botswanan or Namibian airspace by airlifting supplies to Unita from ships off the Angolan coast.

STEPHANE BOTHMA reports that Safair yesterday denied the allegations.

"We are not and have not been involved in the leasing of any Antonov cargo jets from Russia," a spokesman said, adding that Safair acting MD Felix van der Merwe would meet SA Foreign Affairs officials today to discuss the allegations from Zimbabwe.

The SADF denied Martin's claim that SA was negotiating the purchase of MiG-29s, saying the allegations were so old and untrue that they hardly warranted any comment.

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B/DAY. 15/12/92

Zim maize farmers eager to remain friendly with SA

STAR 16/12/92 (362)

Rising tensions over alleged South African overflights are worrying Zimbabwean farmers, who say their country will again be reliant on Pretoria for maize imports. TREVOR GRUNDY reports from Harare.

ZIMBABWE will depend on South African co-operation next year if it is to feed its people and build a healthy maize stock, according to Zimbabwean farmers.

"Without South African co-operation, we will face major problems, even though the rains are looking quite good," says Richard Amyot, chief executive of the Commercial Grain Producers' Association.

Farmers point out that in addition to feeding its 10,4 million people, Zimbabwe must build up a healthy maize stock of about 500 000 tons after depleting its reserves during the long, severe drought.

Leading commercial farmers say they are nervous about the growing tension between the two countries following allegations that the SA Defence Force has recently entered the airspace of Zimbabwe, Angola, Botswana and Mozambique.

Last week, Frontline leaders met in Harare and condemned the alleged South African violations (which Pretoria has denied).

President Mugabe said that he was concerned that the days of SA "destablisation" could return.

A prominent white farmer remarked, however, that "if SA had really wanted to destabilise the region, it had every chance of doing that this year. Without the full support of the SA Government and the wonderful co-operation we received from that country's railways and ports, hundreds of thousands of people would have starved."

The Commercial Farmers' Union (CFU) and the Zimbabwe Tobacco Association (ZTA) believe allegations of airspace violations have come at an unfortunate time.

"We're certainly going to need their help again next year," says Amyot, "because we are almost definitely going to have to import about 400 000 tons of maize from the US, Latin America and some of the EC countries."

This year Zimbabwe imported about 2,4 million tons of food, most of it grade two yellow maize from the United States.

Imported maize costs 1 400 Zimdollars (about R800) a ton. Until January 1992, local farmers were paid only 525 Zimdollars (about R300) a ton for quality white maize and many farmers have switched from maize to tobacco, fruit, flowers, vegetables and wildlife.

"It will take time to get the farmers back to maize," predicts Swire Thompson, president of the CFU. "It won't happen overnight."

White commercial farmers plan to grow maize on only 150 000 hectares of land. This is expected to produce 735 000 tons but roughly half of that will be retained on farms to feed workers and animals.

Small-scale and peasant producers will grow maize on only 773 000 hectares of land. Yields from these sectors are low, less than one ton per hectare, and therefore the overall production of maize will be less than 700 000 tons.

The national requirement is 1,3 million tons and if a good stock is to be put into place there will be a national shortfall of 400 000.

The marketing executive of the Seed Co-op, Brien de Woronin, said at the weekend that there was plenty of maize seed in the country.

"But crooks have got their hands on a lot of it. The official price of a 10 kg bag of maize seed is 30,7 Zimdollars (about R17,50), but it's being sold to peasants for upwards of 70 Zimdollars (about R40) a bag. This is disgusting. It is criminal at this time of hunger."

Meanwhile, armed ex-soldiers are reported to be stealing from maize trains in the Midlands. Villagers have often joined in the looting between Sarauro and Chimbudzi, complaining bitterly that the government is not supplying enough food under its drought relief programme.

Some five million Zimbabweans have registered under the programme but many are receiving less than 3 kg of maize a month.

A Somalian situation is nowhere in sight in Zimbabwe, but economists say that agriculture must be given more consideration by the government.

"We have the seed, we have the infrastructure and we might have the rains," says De Woronin. "But we mustn't be smug. We mustn't alienate SA either. We're going to need its help once again in 1993." — Star Africa Service.□

25 die, hundreds ill in Zimbabwe cholera outbreak

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ARG 17/12/92

HARARE. — A rare cholera outbreak in south-east Zimbabwe has killed 25 people, mostly Mozambican refugees, and afflicted another 755, the health ministry said.

Health Minister Mr Timothy Stamps said all but one of the dead were from the Tongogara refugee camp near the Mozambique border.

The camp, housing 50 000 refugees, has been put under quarantine, Mr Stamps said.

Refugees crossing from Mozambique were believed to have brought the highly infectious disease to the camp.

Cholera is an intestinal infection caused by poor sanitation and hygiene and by eating contaminated food.

Mr Stamps said his ministry had been sent the first reports of cholera in Tongogara camp on November 26. It was the first outbreak for several years in Zimbabwe, where health and sanitary services were more advanced than in most neighbouring nations.

About 150 000 Mozambicans who fled the 16-year-old civil war in their homeland live as refugees in Zimbabwe. — Sapa-AP.

Zimbabwe media's curious role in diplomatic crises

BDay 18/12/92 (362)

MICHAEL HARTNACK in Harare

IS IT a coincidence that the attacks by the PAC's armed wing in the eastern Cape came just as Zimbabwe was alleging a spate of airspace violations by SA aircraft taking supplies to Unita? In an identical tone of pious outrage, the SA government rejected Zimbabwe's claim that it was helping Unita, and Zimbabwe rejected SA's claim that it was helping Apla by allowing its cadres to operate from Zimbabwe.

Before these incidents, the outlook for SA-Zimbabwe relations had looked more favourable. Diplomatic sources in Harare had been confident that an eventual meeting between presidents Robert Mugabe and F W de Klerk was in sight, following the increasing number of contacts in the wake of Transport Minister Denis Norman's visit to his counterpart in Cape Town.

Western embassies hoped the crisis caused by Unita's rejection of the Angolan election result might draw De Klerk and Mugabe closer together in a co-operative effort to eliminate this renewed threat to the region.

SA's enthusiasm for Angolan reconstruction, a potential godsend to the depressed manufacturing sectors of all its neighbours, made a breach of the non-interference pact seem unthinkable.

Eskom's plans for a giant electrical grid embracing all states south of the equator began making progress as Zimbabwe dropped its former reluctance to import power.

A blueprint for giant dams on the perennial rivers of Angola and Zaire, to feed all Zimbabwe's factories and mines to the south, was made public. Also, it seemed the 1992 drought crisis might bequeath a blessing to posterity in the form of an established, working, regional road and rail transport strategy, with Spoornet taking the lead.

Earlier this year, Zimbabwean and SA police publicly collaborated, for the first time, to break a mammoth drug smuggling plot implicating at least one PAC official.

Senior SAP officers received a courteous welcome when they made an unprecedented appearance to testify in the Zimbabwean High Court.

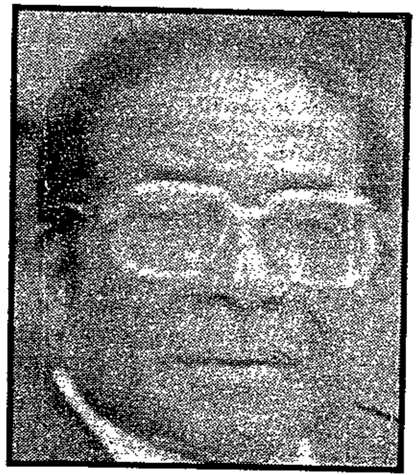
PAC officials alleged during the trial that materiel deemed to be destined for "the liberation struggle" had previously been able to pass through Zimbabwean customs subject only to a check by the Central Intelligence Organisation's "liberation desk" at State House.

Belated efforts were also noted by the Zimbabwean authorities to clamp down on racketeering in stolen SA cars by the PAC, once said to be "part of the PAC's way of waging the liberation struggle".

It is an open secret that Mugabe's government long favoured the PAC over the ANC. Didymus Mutasa, still at Mugabe's side as his senior party apparatchik, declared Zimbabwe would prefer a PAC government in a post-apartheid SA.

After the attacks in the eastern Cape, an Apla official claimed he was speaking from Harare when he telephoned the SA news media to acknowledge responsibility.

Finally, Law and Order Minister Hernus Kriel told a news conference on December 10 that the Cabinet would, as a last resort, consider cross-border action against Apla.



☐ MUGABE

This raised the spectre of SA commandos in action once again in the Frontline states (for the first time since De Klerk took office), possibly killing civilians in crossfire and bringing the subcontinent to the brink of war.

Zimbabwe's semi-official media has played a curious part in this diplomatic catastrophe, for nothing short of catastrophe it is.

When the leaders of the Frontline states met in Harare on December 11, their chairman, Mugabe, spoke of SA's "alleged" air incursions — as if, like ourselves, he had no information other than the inspired "leaks" from supposedly official sources that appeared in the Herald, which is controlled by his parastatal Mass Media Trust.

The SA trade mission here acknowledged receipt of complaints about unexplained radar plots, from which it was, said a spokesman, impossible to tell the type of aircraft involved.

Some radar plots could be errors, particularly during the electrical storms and atmospheric turbulence to be expected at the onset of the seasonal rains.

Yet, someone was able to leak to the Herald, with media-manipulation timing bettered only by the late US Senator Joe McCarthy, that the radar plots were definitely those of SA fighters, forcing Zimbabwean interceptors to stay grounded at their Thornhill base while slow, heavy transporters — possibly giant Antonovs hired from Russia — took weapons to Unita leader Dr Jonas Savimbi.

Are we expected to believe that De Klerk would risk having SA jets embroiled in a dogfight with Zimbabwean MIG-21s or Hawk fighters over Zimbabwean airspace? Did the Zimbabwean Air Force "chicken out" of an incident which would have totally discredited De Klerk internationally, and hastened the collapse of white rule?

Zimbabwean Foreign Minister Nathan Shamuyarira has not (as we might expect) announced that he is calling in the Russian ambassador and protesting to the UN Security Council over the supply of Antonov transporters and (possibly) MIG-29 interceptors to SA.

Nothing so straightforward.

No, the Herald has a "leak" that Shamuyarira plans to do these things, as if he were — for the first time in his 40-year political career — incapable of speaking for himself.

The Herald has been telling us for a long time that there are elements in the SA military establishment who yearn to wreck the peace process initiated by De Klerk and ANC president Nelson Mandela, and who are acting independently.

Dare we think there are similar elements in Zimbabwe who have a vested interest in maintaining or reviving confrontation?

The international stature of one man — Mandela — makes him uniquely qualified to take control of this dangerous situation before it becomes a nightmare playground for Apla, the unrepentant rightists in the SA military, the snug, salaried Afro-revolutionaries in Zimbabwe, and Unita.

Hence it is alarming that Mandela appeared to hang back respectfully while Mugabe pontificated at the Harare summit.

It is an old US State Department adage that "Zimbabwe has no policy except to make rhetoric, and its rhetoric leads it, blindly, into policies".

If the Western powers can send troops to Somalia, how much more easily and cheaply could they send technical experts to southern Africa, at Mandela's initiative?

Intelligence-gathering satellites and diplomatic muscle could surely stop this sinister drift back to confrontation.

LETTERS

60 shots marked day the Rhodesian war began

STAR 22/12/92 (362)

An attack on a farmhouse 20 years ago triggered the end of white domination in Rhodesia. ROBIN DREW reports.

WHITE Rhodesians were getting ready to celebrate Christmas 20 years ago when 60 rounds were fired from AK-47 rifles through the bedroom window of a farmhouse in the Centenary District, setting off the war that was to change their lifestyle forever.

The 20th anniversary of the start of the seven-year conflict was marked on December 21, without official commemoration but vividly recalled in the minds of many.

The agreement reached at Lancaster House in London in December 1979 saw an end to the war during which more than 30 000 people are estimated to have lost their lives in savage encounters in the bush and in devastating raids by security forces on camps in neighbouring territories.

The Rhodesians lost the war politically in the end, but there were very few whites in December of 1972 who thought that would be possible.

One of them who did not even contemplate defeat was Marc de Borchgrave, the British-born farmer whose Altena farm in Centenary District was the first to be attacked.

Today De Borchgrave, now 57, lives a semi-retired life in a well-protected house 15 km from Harare.

Despite the attack in which his daughter Jane (8) was injured and a second attack two days later on another farmhouse when a second daughter Anne (10) and De Borchgrave himself were injured, he carried on farming at Altena until he sold the property in 1978.

The family is now scattered. De Borchgrave is divorced from his wife Margaret, who lives in South Africa, as do the two daughters, now grown up. The elder son, Adrian, lives in America, the younger Hugh lives in Harare.

There had been isolated engagements with guerilla units before 1972 but the December 21 attack is generally taken as the beginning of the real offensive by "the terrorists" as they were quickly termed by the Rhodesian authorities.

Interviewed at his home this week, De Borchgrave recalled how he and other farmers felt let down by the government which had not warned them of the presence of guerillas.

"We were completely unprepared. We felt very sore. There was no warning but the security people must have known they were around. An army patrol in fact camped close to the group which attacked Altena. It came out later that four groups had infiltrated the area with orders to attack police stations.

"When they thought they were being hunted, they followed instructions to hit at any target and get out."

De Borchgrave said most of the members of the two groups which attacked his farm and the neighbouring Whistlefield farm two nights later were killed in follow-up operations.

Three were captured and sentenced to death, including the man who fired the rocket at Whistlefield farm, injuring De Borchgrave and Anne, who was hit by the tailfin.

At his trial he said he was sorry about the injuries to the children but he did not regret wounding De Borchgrave. He said if he were executed, his spirit would return.

"A year later I was run over by an elephant while hunting in the Zambezi valley," De Borchgrave recalled, "and many local people believed it was the spirit which had indeed returned to try once again to kill me.

"I remember it well, but I don't dwell on it. I don't believe in living in the past too much," he said.

Before hostilities ended seven years on, more than 200 white civilians had been killed and security force deaths totalled more than 500.

The official tally of guerillas killed in action inside Rhodesia in the first five and half years was just under 5 000. Nearly 4 000 black civilians were listed dead by mid-1978. □

[redacted]

Eskom's team at yesterday's media conference included, from left, corporate communications manager Bongani Khumalo, Johannesburg distribution manager John Bradbury, East Rand sales and customer service manager Laetitia van Staden and national electrification negotiations manager Martin Opperman.

Picture: ROBERT BOTHA

Rush for fuel as pumps run dry in Bulawayo

MICHAEL HARTNACK (362)

HARARE — Filling stations in Bulawayo were yesterday desperately seeking fresh supplies of petrol and diesel after the state-run national oil company failed to make deliveries to local depots of major commercial oil companies.

BDM 23/12/92

As word spread of pumps running dry, there was a rush by motorists, reminiscent of the nationwide 1982 crisis when overnight queues formed at garages.

Despite recent heavy rains breaking the worst drought in decades, there is still a water shortage in Zimbabwe's second city, with households rationed to 400*l* a day.

Meanwhile, hungry villagers surviving on the government's monthly 5kg maize meal handouts have braved armed police guards to attack maize shipments from SA near Mwenezi.

Hordes of villagers recently swarmed onto a train 140km south of Masvingo and made off with considerable amounts of the estimated 1 000 tons cargo.

Local Zanu (PF) leader Joel Machava blamed erratic delivery of government drought relief for the upsurge in theft from trains.

Sapa-Reuter reports that police in Harare confirmed the incident.

Zimbabwe has been in the grips of a drought which forced more than 5,4-million people, half the country's population, to depend on government food handouts.

Eskom seals Congo deal

PETER DELMAR

ESKOM said yesterday it had concluded a co-operation and technical assistance agreement with the government of Congo, the 17th African state to open its doors to the utility.

BDM 23/12/92

Eskom also announced that its CE Ian McRae would hold talks early next year with Uganda and Egypt.

In terms of an agreement to be signed early next year, Eskom and the Congolese government and its Societé National d'Electricité (SNE) will co-operate in a number of fields. These include training and development of staff, a technical study on the Congo's power systems, improving the reliability of SNE's power supply, assistance with protection against lightning, and rural and urban electrification.

Eskom said McRae had "expressed satisfaction with the latest milestone achieved in the establishment of an economically robust and socially stable southern Africa and indeed Africa, supported by effective and inexpensive electrical energy".

Eskom recently signed a similar co-operation agreement with Tanzania. It has started talks on co-operation with each of the 12 SADC states and has formal co-operation agreements with Zambia and the Ivory Coast.

Council resists takeover bid

THEO RAWANA
and STEPHEN COPLAN

ESKOM yesterday told the Vosloorus Town Council to hand over the running of electricity services to the utility before January 7, or face court action over the R40m it owed.

The council refused to restore the electricity supply to residents even after Eskom had offered to supply it free to the East Rand township until January 7 as a gesture of goodwill.

BDM 23/12/92

Eskom's Johannesburg sales and customer service manager John Bradbury told a news conference in Johannesburg yesterday the Vosloorus Civic Association members, who were staging sit-ins and threatening hunger strikes at Eskom's Germiston offices, were targeting the wrong people.

The council was to blame for the crisis, Bradbury said.

At another news conference, Vosloorus councillor Sidwell Mofokeng said his council had decided to restore electricity and services to the township for 10 days only.

The takeover issue was raised two years ago when it had become clear that the council was unable to pay Eskom. But up to now, the council had refused to sign the agreement, Bradbury said.

Eskom corporate communications manager Bongani Khumalo said: "Once the council signs the agreement, the legal action will be rescinded and the R40m debt put aside."

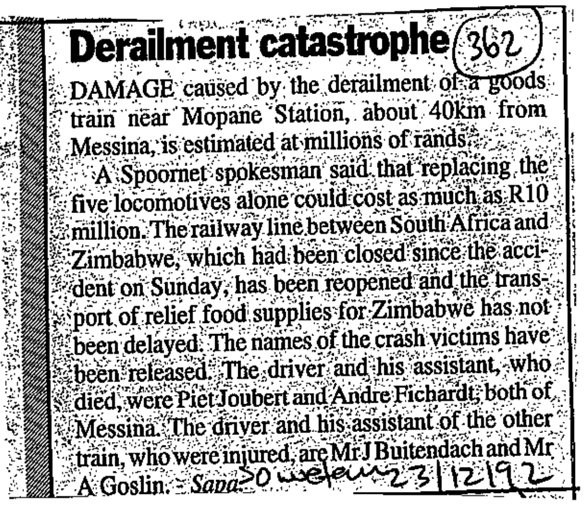
Sapa reports that Vosloorus Civic Association president Ali Maziya said it was unlikely that residents would pay the R100 service charge required as they had decided in November to pay only R20.

He said most residents had paid their electricity charges in accordance with a 1991 agreement between the civic association and the council.

He claimed the council cut off electricty supplies three weeks ago to force residents to pay for other services such as water and refuse removal.

Residents refused to be blackmailed by electricity cuts into paying for these services. They demanded the establishment of a commission of inquiry to investigate claims of corruption and maladministration in the council, Maziya said.

Vosloorus residents will picket the council's offices today, demanding the council sign an agreement allowing Eskom to supply electricity directly to residents and the immediate resignation of all councillors.



Derailment catastrophe

(362)

DAMAGE caused by the derailment of a goods train near Mopane Station, about 40km from Messina, is estimated at millions of rands.

A Spoornet spokesman said that replacing the five locomotives alone could cost as much as R10 million. The railway line between South Africa and Zimbabwe, which had been closed since the accident on Sunday, has been reopened and the transport of relief food supplies for Zimbabwe has not been delayed. The names of the crash victims have been released. The driver and his assistant, who died, were Piet Joubert and Andre Fichardt, both of Messina. The driver and his assistant of the other train, who were injured, are Mr J Buitendach and Mr A Goslin. – *Sapa*

Sowetan 23/12/92

362

Zimbabwe fuel shortage over

STAR 23/12/92

HARARE — South Africans planning to drive to Bulawayo for the holidays need not worry about the petrol shortage there.

The shortage arose this week because of the train crash in the northern Transvaal which interrupted the delivery of oil supplies from South Africa.

Bulawayo has been getting its petrol through Beitbridge while supplies for Harare come from Beira through a pipeline.

The National Oil Company said there were adequate supplies. Petrol and diesel are being sent to Bulawayo from Harare until supplies through Beitbridge are resumed. — Star Africa Service.

Rush for fuel as pumps run dry in Bulawayo

(362)

MICHAEL HARTNACK

HARARE — Filling stations in Bulawayo were yesterday desperately seeking fresh supplies of petrol and diesel after the state-run national oil company failed to make deliveries to local depots of major commercial oil companies.

B/Day 23/12/92

As word spread of pumps running dry, there was a rush by motorists, reminiscent of the nationwide 1982 crisis when overnight queues formed at garages.

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Meanwhile, hungry villagers surviving on the government's monthly 5kg maize meal handouts have braved armed police guards to attack maize shipments from SA near Mwenezi.

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Local Zanu (PF) leader Joel Machava blamed erratic delivery of government drought relief for the upsurge in theft from trains.

Sapa-Reuter reports that police in Harare confirmed the incident.

Zimbabwe has been in the grips of a drought which forced more than 5,4-million people, half the country's population, to depend on government food handouts.

Crash caused fuel crisis

362

MICHAEL HARTNACK

HARARE — A derailment near Messina and resulting congestion of traffic from SA was responsible for Tuesday's fuel crisis in Bulawayo, chairman of the state-owned National Oil Company of Zimbabwe Morgan Mpundu said yesterday.

Pleading with Zimbabwean motorists not to start a nationwide run on the pumps before the Christmas holidays, Mpundu said fuel imports through Beira and the Feruka refinery outside Mutare had not been affected.

There was no danger of filling stations running dry, as had happened in Bulawayo.

B/DAY 24/12/92

"Bulawayo gets supplied by SA, which is only four hours' drive from the border, and not Feruka which is at the other end of the country," he said.

Bulawayo was Being supplied temporarily through Harare. The railway congestion at Beit Bridge had been exacerbated by large volumes of drought relief maize imported by that route, said Mpundu.

FM 25/12/92 (362)

ZIMBABWE

On a tightrope (362)

FM 25/12/92

Western donors have rallied to Zimbabwe's cause with another US$1,4bn in grants and loans to see the country through the next 18 months of economic reform. Zimbabwe was lucky to meet the donors in Paris 10 days before a Zambian team arrived with a similar request for $1,4bn in new assistance. Lucky, because the Zambians have implemented their reforms with far greater commitment and enthusiasm than their southern neighbours, who continue to promise far more than they deliver.

But the donors, desperately in need of a structural adjustment success in Africa, will support Harare, though there was some blunt talking on the need for more progress, especially in cutting back the civil service and restructuring parastatals. No sooner had the World Bank and other Western donors publicly reaffirmed their support for Zimbabwe, than the Harare government thumbed its nose in their direction, suspending the school fee increases for 1993. This will have only a marginal impact on the country's US$400m budget deficit but it's a reminder that, when the chips are down, President Robert Mugabe's administration will invariably put short-term political considerations before economics.

As the Economic Structural Adjustment Programme (Esap) approaches its midway mark — completion date is December 1995 — it's clear none of the macroeconomic targets will be achieved. Growth of output, employment and exports will fall below target, while inflation and probably the public sector deficit will overshoot. The World Bank says real GDP fell by about 10% this year and, while it expects growth of 6% next year, almost no-one in the private sector shares this optimism. Some economists are warning of zero growth next year; but Standard Chartered Bank, in its December economic bulletin, predicts a modest upturn of 2%-3% in the latter half of the year.

The bank — and others — ask where the World Bank's 6% growth will come from? The simple answer is the expected rebound in agriculture, provided that the rains, which started both late and patchily, fall across the country. But Standard Chartered points out consumption spending will fall again in 1993 as real wages, now at their lowest levels since the Seventies, decline further, while effective tax rates are raised. Investment — which the World Bank says will rebound strongly in 1993 — is very obviously in the doldrums, reflected in the sharp fall in imports in the

committed to cutting its spending. This leaves inventory rebuilding and exports as the two sources of potential growth. Neither is likely to be strong enough to secure anything like 6% growth, especially now that the situation is deteriorating rapidly in the mining sector.

Mineral output was hit in the second half of this year when the two ferrochrome producers, Anglo American's Zimbabwe Alloys and Union Carbide's Zimasco, were forced to cut production. Further cutbacks are coming as the international price remains in the doldrums and Zimbabwe producers are undermined by rapidly rising costs, with electricity tariffs up 130% in the past eight months, being the main culprit.

Gold producers, too, are in trouble and the mining lobby is convinced devaluation is the only way out. Government officials, conscious that Zimbabwe has lost two-thirds of the benefit of the 1991 devaluation, argue there is no case for devaluing now when world and regional markets are depressed and when there is little to export.

Inflation is clearly on the decline from its 48% peak in August, to 46% in October. But it will average 40% over the year and 20%-25% next year. This means further devaluation is inevitable though the timing is uncertain. Much will depend on recovery in global markets and in the crucial SA market, on which Zimbabwean exporters of manufactures are heavily reliant; and also on the weather.

The conventional wisdom is devaluation by mid-1993, with the miners and some industrial exporters insisting it must come in the first quarter if redundancies are to be avoided; while tobacco growers would be happy to see devaluation before the leaf auctions start at the end of March. ■

Zim plan to clear slums

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ZIMBABWE plans a major slum-clearing operation next year.

Housing Minister Enos Chikowore said on Friday that the government would spend R3,3-million on demolishing squatter settlements and providing decent accommodation in Mutare and Kadoma.

S Times 27/12/92

Zimbabwe Sun plans upgrade

HARARE — Zimbabwe's largest hotel group has launched a multimillion-dollar development programme to upgrade its hotels in preparation for the expected increase in tourism next year. B/DAY 28/12/92

Zimbabwe Sun Hotels MD Alastair Wright said last week the group was expanding and refurbishing its hotels in the country. (362)

It was also embarking on a major training programme for its 3 000 employees. — Sapa.

STAR 31/12/92

Better times forecast for Zimbabwe

(362)

HARARE — Zimbabwean Finance Minister Bernard Chidzero expects the economy to pick up next year, particularly if the good rains continue and lead to a successful agricultural season.

He told reporters in Harare that the year had been a very difficult one because of the drought, the adverse effects of the economic reform programme called for by the IMF and the World Bank and the world recession.

These factors had manifested themselves in rising budgetary expenditure on food and drought-related projects in the face of a slowdown in revenue yields to the fiscus, Ziana news agency reported him as saying.

The country was now spending Z$43 million a month to distribute 30 000 tons of maize to feed more than 5 million people who had been affected by the drought.

The high import bill, amounting to nearly Z$3 billion to cover food and water-related imports, had not only worsened the budget deficit, but put the balance of payments under severe pressure at a time when the country's exports were not doing well.

"Consequently, economic growth declined, and fell disastrously in agriculture as the rains failed.

"Investment levels fell and inflationary pressures were generated, with severe consequences for many industries and for employment."

However, Chidzero was optimistic about the economy in the coming year, predicting that modest growth would arise from a good agricultural season.

He urged the rigorous continuation of the economic reform programme and the promotion of investment and exports to achieve a modest rate of real growth. — Sapa.

A technical perspective on prospects for shares

STAR 29/12/92

Outlook '93

Dee Campourogliou, technical and market researcher for Frankel Max Pollak Vinderine Inc, suggests technical analysis points to demand for JSE shares outstripping supply.

Just as 1990 was characterised by a strong downward corrective wave in the market, so was 1992, with the overall share index falling by nearly 22 percent.

It started off slowly enough in June, with the Dow Jones industrial index showing signs of flagging and the FTSE-100 entering a serious corrective wave. But then a series of exacerbating factors took over in the ensuing months.

Breakdown in political neogiations, violence in Boipatong and Bisho, mass action and the realisation of its effect on a deepening economic recession added further fuel to an already falling equity market.

De Beers' announcement of reduced expectations in August shattered confidence, causing the share to fall from around 7 500c to a low of 4 460c (−40 percent), with the concomitant ripple effect virtually across the board.

The gold price, after trying to rally beyond $350 during October, again continued to disappoint.

But what of the future?

The market ha been heavily oversold and buyers have been returning, particularly in the latter part of November.

In fact, our technical signals are pointing to much better prospects for 1993, although the current rally certainly cannot be sustained to much beyond current levels before a short-term corrective wave sets in.

Nonetheless, given the positive medium-term prospects (considering a six-to-nine-month time horizon), this potential downward move should provide tardy investors with yet another opportunity to accumulate selected stocks at technically cheap levels.

That is not to say we are forecasting a glorious bull market into the future — too many imponderables exist in our current socio-political and economic climate — but in terms of our technical research, demand seems to be outstripping supply, which is the stuff of which bull phases are made.

The London and New York markets have been helping of late, and technical signals here too reflect positive potential on a three- to-five-month view, although a short-term downward correction should materialise in the next few weeks.

It must be noted, however, that disturbing signals are present for the Dow in the latter part of 1993.

Dollar strength since early October put paid to an appreciation in the gold price, but at its recent high of Dm1,6055 the dollar has become overbought on a short-term view, suggesting a cycle of weakness is about to begin, providing some respite for gold.

Nonetheless, a stronger dollar (above Dm1,60) is expected in the course of 1993, which leaves us with beleaguered bullion.

A short-term upside ceiling appears to be in place between $343 and $345, and the medium-term signals do not encourage us to place our expectations on anything beyond that.

Long-term signals (six months plus) are starting to intrigue, but gold would need to penetrate the $350 level for us to be convinced of a sustainable turnaround.

The prospects for platinum look more promising.

The recent strong depreciation of the rand against the dollar also appears to have run its course for the present, as reflected in a heavily oversold short-term condition, but as the dollar strengthens next year, further weakness can be expected, if not at the recent rate.

Focus can then again be applied to rand hedge shares in the course of 1993.

Mining

The mining board is comprised of coal, diamond, gold and metals and minerals, which in broad terms have not been favoured since the beginning of the decade.

De Beers, in particular, at its recent low of 4 460c, has shed 55,5 percent of its value since its peak in November last year.

We expect a strong price performance from mining products and mining financials early next year, and this should be accompanied by a superior performance against the market as a whole.

This statement, however, needs qualification, and should not be regarded as a blanket one.

Price action on De Beers, in the recent rally to 5 800c, provides a clue. Short-term buying pressure is strong, but of more importance is the emergence of medium-term buying pressure, which implies that the current rally should be sustainable well into 1993.

In addition, the stock shows potential to beat the market average during this time. The share is highly tradeable, and should be bought into any short-term weakness for positive prospects, at least for the next six-to-nine-month time horizon.

Mining financials should also sparkle in the early part of next year, and the shares favoured within mining houses for recovery potential on a six-month view are JCI, Anglo American and Gencor, in that order.

Charter's recent strong performance has placed it in expensive territory on a short-term view, so some market under-performance is likely in the next couple of months.

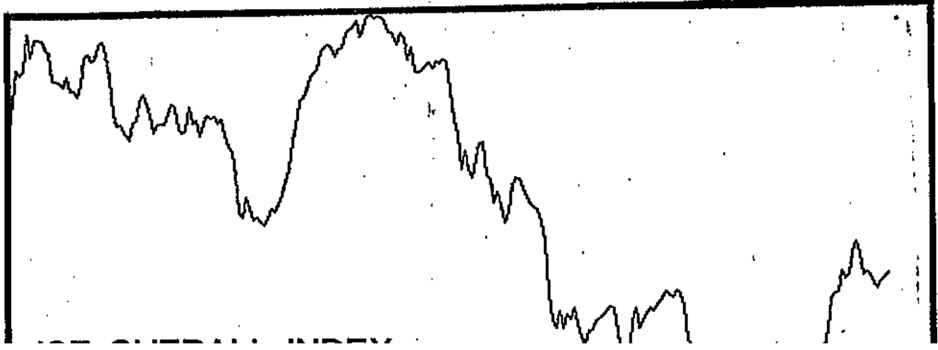
Minorco, within the mining holdings sector, also falls into this category, but superior prospects for 1993 suggest that the share should be accumulated, but only after some price retracement.

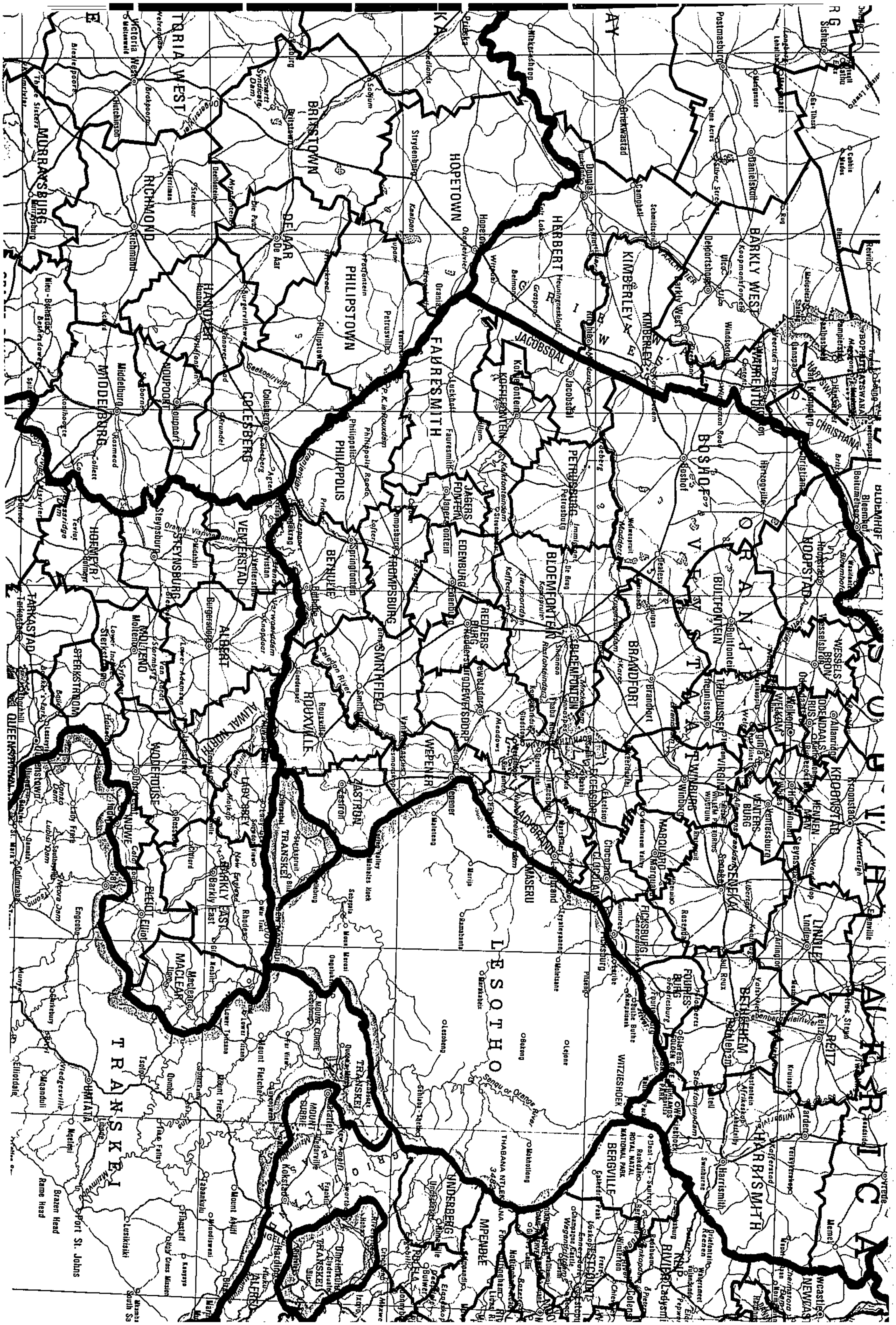
When looking for recovery potential within the holdings sector, it is Middle Wits that stands out.

Of technical interest, too, is Rustenburg Platinum, both for its potential price advance and re-rating ability against the overall share index.

Coal shares should continue to disappoint, and we would avoid the gold market, except for short-term trading opportunities, until such time as bullion achieves a sustained break beyond $345 an ounce.

● In a subsequent article the writer will discuss prospects for the industrial board.

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PHILIPSTOWN
HOPETOWN
BRITSTOWN
DE AAR
HANOVER
RICHMOND
MURRAYSBURG
VICTORIA WEST
MIDDELBURG
NOUPOORT
COLESBERG
STEYNSBURG
VENTERSTAD
HOFMEYR
TARKASTAD
STERKSTROOM
MOLTENO
ALBERT
ALIWAL NORTH
WODEHOUSE
LADY GREY
BARKLY EAST
ELLIOT
MACLEAR
QUEENSTOWN
BETHULIE
SPRINGFONTEIN
TROMPSBURG
EDENBURG
JAGERSFONTEIN
PETRUSBURG
REDDERSBURG
DEWETSDORP
SMITHFIELD
ROUXVILLE
ZASTRON
WEPENER
THABA NCHU
LADYBRAND
CLOCOLAN
FICKSBURG
FOURIESBURG
BETHLEHEM
HARRISMITH
WITZIESHOEK
REITZ
LINDLEY
SENEKAL
MARQUARD
WINBURG
VENTERSBURG
VIRGINIA
THEUNISSEN
BRANDFORT
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ZIMBABWE - GENERAL

1993

JAN. — JUNE

(362)

Reconsider, taxi owners urge Zim

OWNERS of minibus taxis operating between Zimbabwe and SA have appealed to the Zimbabwe Ministry of Transport to reconsider its decision to ban SA-registered minibuses from entering Zimbabwe. C/Press 3/1/93

The chief representative of Sabta in Zimbabwe, Keen-Marshall Charumbira, said this week that the ban on South Africans violated the spirit of an agreement entered into by Zimbabwean Transport and Energy Minister Denis Norman and his SA counterpart, Dr Piet Welgemoed.

Zimbabwean-registered minibuses may operate inside SA, because they have been issued with long-term permits by the SA government.

Selling horn to save the rhinos

This Namibian rhino was dehorned during a conservation project. Now Zimbabwe is suggesting legalising trade in rhino horn to stop poaching. JAN RAATH reports from Harare.

362

STAR 4/1/93

ZIMBABWE is about to strike horror into the hearts of conservationists by launching into the rhino horn trade and selling to the same markets that have been responsible for the species' headlong dive towards extinction.

Zimbabwe's Department of National Parks and Wildlife Management is convinced that international bans on wildlife trade have proved hopeless in stopping poaching and smuggling.

Poaching has brought the numbers of black rhino in Zimbabwe, where it exists as the last big wild population in Africa, to the brink of extinction. Zimbawe's answer is to take over the trade.

"We made it very clear in Japan at the meeting in March of the Convention on International trade in Endangered Species (Cites) that we would place the revival of our black rhino at a higher priority than any constraints that Cites sought to place on the trade," said Dr Rowan Martin, deputy director of the department in charge of research.

Zimbabwe is in its eighth year of Operation Stronghold, a paramilitary campaign against poachers crossing from neighbouring Zambia to blast rhinos with automatic weapons, hack off their horns and paddle back across the border to feed their booty into the chain of middlemen that takes horn to the Far East where it is sold as a powder to treat colds and fever.

Parks department game scouts have shot dead more than 60 poachers but it has not stopped them coming, even if they end up getting paid about $7,50 (R14)/ kg for a commodity that eventually fetches more than $2 000 (R3 800)/kg.

Teams of veterinarians in the last four months have been hunting black rhino to cut their horns off as a strategy to make the animal valueless to pochers.

From a population estimated at 2 000 they found only 127 black rhino. Wildlife researchers say the number can be doubled for rhinos the veterinarians failed to spot. There are another 160 on private game ranches, giving a total of only 450.

The Zambezi Valley, declared a World Heritage Site by the United Nations in the early 1980s for what was then a teeming wild rhino population, is now "a write-off", said Dr Mike Kock, head of the de-horning team.

In just over two decades, the black rhinoceros has been cut down from 65 000 to around 3 000. The major anxiety is that its numbers are dropping to the point where the genetic makeup of the survivors is drawn from a pool so small that inbreeding occurs and eventually the animal slips into extinction because it cannot breed strong, virile and fertile offspring.

South Africa's 750 black rhino comprise the largest surviving population, but it has been reared from a small breeding nucleus and research has found signs of skull deformities caused by inbreeding.

The Zimbabwean rhinos, however, are a wild population still brimming with genetic diversity that makes them resistant to an enormous range of diseases, an adaptability evolved over the ages in the harsh climate of the Zambezi Valley.

"We are still in a situation where we can stage a recovery", said Martin, estimating that it would take 20 years for the numbers to creep back to 1 500.

The department has a survival plan that consists mainly of dehorning all the rhino left, moving them out of the vulnerable areas, establishing breeding herds here and abroad and keeping the population inside "intensive protection zones".

But, said Martin, "money is the key to the whole thing, and our finances are low".

The department cannot even afford to pay its game scouts properly. With a budget of Z $20 million (about R36 million) for rhino survival, "we would be in the clear, but this is a sum no donor has ever come anywhere near meeting", Martin said.

The solution Zimbabwe seeks is to make the rhino pay for itself.

The idea is to regard them as livestock, buy them, sell them, exploit the market for their horns, hides and any other by-products and, like cows and sheep, their survival will be assured.

The rhino horn trade is controlled by illegal dealers whose manner of harvesting the horn is assuring the species' extinction, said Martin.

"We intend to get control of the stock of rhino horn ourselves by de-horning and ensuring the surviving rhinos multiply and continue to feed the market for horn theough a carefully regulated trade regime," he said.

The first step to making the rhino fund its survival, is the 2,4 tons of rhino horn in the department's strongrooms, collected from dead animals in the wild, captured from poachers and "harvested" from the de-horning operation.

That, said Martin, "would be enough to solve our short-term problems for the next couple of years". — DPA Features. □

Blow for Zimbabwe's textile industry

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STAR 5/1/93

Finance Staff and Sapa

Zimbabwe's clothing and textile industry has been dealt a severe blow by South Africa's decision not to extend the exemption period for import duties on textile products.

The exemption period lapsed at the end of last year, Sapa reports.

The re-imposition of the punitive import duties will further undermine the viability of Zimbabwe's clothing and textile industry, says Ziana news agency.

SA waived import duties of over 50 percent on textile exports last October.

An SA textile industry source said the duty was imposed primarily to protect the local industry from dumping by Far Eastern countries.

The local industry recently won support through protective policies from the Department of Trade and Industry, despite objections by the clothing industry which argued that it could get imported textiles at lower costs than locally produced goods.

Criticised

The protectionist policies have also been criticised by representatives of the General Agreement of Tariffs and Trade (Gatt).

The chairman of the Zimbabwe Clothing Council, Adrian Neely, said yesterday that despite efforts by industry executives and the national trade promotion organisation, Zimtrade, the exemption was not extended.

The duties, about four times higher than they were before, had resulted in orders drying up, prompting a number of factories to shut down some operations and retrench staff.

About 7 000 workers had already been retrenched in the clothing and textile industry, with about 6 000 others set to lose their jobs by mid-1993.

"The imposition of very high duties comes at a time when the economy is experiencing a severe recession and there is fear that the repercussions will be great," Neely said.

Depressed domestic demand was also aggravating the industry's cash flow problems.

Zimbabwe faces textile import duties

B/DAY 5/1/93 (362)

HARARE — SA's government has not extended the exemption period for import duties on Zimbabwean textile products which lapsed on December 31 1992.

The reimposition of the punitive import duties would further worsen the viability of Zimbabwe's clothing and textile industry, Ziana news agency reported yesterday.

SA waived import duties of more than 50% on Zimbabwean textile exports in October 1992.

However, despite efforts by industry executives and the national trade promotion organisation, Zimtrade, to extend the exemption period, the import duty was reimposed, Zimbabwe Clothing Council chairman Adrian Neely said yesterday.

He said the duties, about four times higher, had resulted in orders from Zimbabwe drying up, prompting a number of factories to shut down some operations and retrench more of their staff.

He said about 7 000 workers had already been retrenched in the clothing and textile industry, with about 6 000 others set to lose their jobs by mid-1993.

"The imposition of very high duties seems to come at a very bad time when the economy is experiencing one of the worst recessions and there is fear that the repercussions will be great," Neely said. Depressed domestic demand was also worsening the industry's cash flow problems.

In addition, the present worldwide recession meant the industry was relying more on the SA market, which was no longer viable because of the high import duties.

Neely said the industry was holding discussions with the Zimbabwean industry and commerce ministry on the matter. — Sapa.

SUNDAY TIMES, Business Times, January 10, 1993 3

SA and Zimbabwe in the same league of big State spenders

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S/Times (BUSST 10/1/93

Business Times Reporter

SOUTH Africa and Zimbabwe are on the same footing when it comes to government spending, says the Southern African Economist.

In drawing a number of parallels between the two economies, the Zimbabwean journal highlights the worst nightmare of many SA businessmen.

It says excessive government spending in both countries threatens to derail economic reform programmes and jeopardise their central banks' efforts to curb inflation.

The central banks in both countries have embraced a tight monetary policy with high interest rates to slow money-supply growth, but this has been thwarted by high levels of government spending, which is 35% to 40% of GDP in SA and 40% in Zimbabwe.

The magazine says the SA government's deficit before borrowing, which was originally estimated to be 4,5% of GDP, has been revised upwards to 6% (latest estimates are that it will be closer to 8%).

Zimbabwe has forecast a deficit of 9%, although food imports, necessitated by the drought, could push this even higher.

The magazine says that while the SA Reserve Bank blames the drought for costing the country 1,8% of GDP, analysts lay the inflation problem squarely at the government's doorstep.

Economists in Zimbabwe agree that their government has contributed significantly to inflation through borrowing to finance its debt. "It has been one of the major causal factors of high monetary growth," says Zimbabwe's First Merchant Bank assistant economist Danny Dube.

The magazine says the SA Reserve Bank has kept money supply growth at 7% to 10%, and this has brought down the inflation rate and prompted cuts in the Bank rate.

Familiar

The Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe's (RBZ) tight monetary policies seem to be slowing down money-supply growth, which is was estimated to be 23% in October. However, the CPI inflation is around 46% from an average 28% last year.

Zimbabwe's promise to slash the public service wage bill from Z$300-million a month will also sound familiar to many South Africans. At independence in 1980, the government committed itself to cutting back on the number of civil servants from 62 000 — it has since swelled to 200 000.

SA Finance Minister Derek Keys has announced plans to cut the number of civil servants by 30 000 to help reduce the budget deficit.

But it remains to be seen whether this can be successfully implemented and if it will prove sufficiently draconian, says the magazine.

A further similarity is that excessive current expenditure is damaging to both private sectors as the State saps up the nation's resources to finance its deficit.

Scant financial resources at higher prices have a debilitating influence on private sector investment.

In both countries, an increasing number of companies are going to the wall, workers are being retrenched in an effort to maintain profitability, and more individuals are becoming insolvent.

The prospects for the two economies to grow are diminishing as the two nations struggle to create jobs for hundreds of thousands of school-leavers.

Increased welfare spending for the poor and jobless to avoid intensified political discontent would send government expenditure spiraling, and with it inflation

Another bad omen would be another drought this year which would force both countries to import food creating further inflationary pressures.

The magazine says such a scenario would spell economic trouble for Zimbabwe and SA.

Zimbabwe rejects PAC base claims

ROBIN DREW 362

Argus Africa News Service

HARARE. — Zimbabwe has denied allegations that there are Pan Africanist Congress military bases on its soil.

Foreign Minister Dr Nathan Shamuyarira said last night that the charges were groundless. Zimbabwe trained its own militia at Bindura and Gwanda, he said, and no training of liberation movements took place there. ARG 11/1/93

He told questioners on television that the South African government had made the accusations as an excuse for cross-border raids that could be timed to coincide with South African support, directly and indirectly, for Unita in Angola.

He said Zimbabwe favoured peaceful and positive developments in South Africa and deplored the violence that had taken place.

But the time was not yet right for a meeting between President Mugabe and President De Klerk.

Dr Shamuyarira said he wanted to see the African National Congress, the PAC and Inkatha form a common front in talks with Mr De Klerk.

Zimbabwe survives its year of hunger with flying colours

STAR 11/1/93

(362)

The worst drought in living memory has put the resolve and resources of President Robert Mugabe's emerging nation to the stiffest test yet, writes ROBIN DREW of The Star Africa Service from Harare.

ZIMBABWEANS have entered 1993 with one resolution uppermost in their minds: never let food stocks run down again.

Indeed, 1992 was a year of hunger. The country which had held its head high as the black-led state that not only fed itself but helped its neighbours, had to rely on a massive food aid operation to keep its people from starving.

There have been droughts before and last year's was classed as the worst in living memory, with many towns forced to eke out fast-dwindling supplies of water to stay alive — never mind the food queues.

In the past food reserves had saved the day and imports were kept to a minimum. This time all the food had to be imported.

However, it was also a year which showed that the country had the resources and the maturity to overcome massive problems with a degree of efficiency that surprised many.

The food came in, thousands of tons every day by rail and road, and it was moved to the remotest areas. Expert forecasts that thousands of people would die because Zimbabwe would not be able to shift the huge quantities of maize proved wrong.

Regional co-operation took on a new meaning. The role played by the South African railways and ports was essential to success, as was the remarkably smooth movement through the ports of Beira and Maputo.

Commercial concerns, non-government organisations and a host of welfare bodies joined hands with the government. Ordinary people played their part, too. Schoolchildren gave their pocket money to help feed starving people and the animals in the worst of the drought-hit areas in the lowveld.

Farmers from the highveld sent lorryloads of hay to help keep hippo alive. A huge operation was mounted to rescue thousands of animals from warthogs to elephants.

Capture teams rounded up sable and zebra, kudu and hartebeest and built bomas in the bush where they could be fed.

But thousands of animals perished. More could have been saved if bureaucracy had been shoved aside, but such a tremendous effort was made by so many in Zimbabwe that even the creaking machinery of officialdom couldn't stop it.

In his New Year message President Robert Mugabe said the country had come through its most difficult year united.

"We have learned that when you have good years, take care of your bad years," he said, and part of the process of being better prepared will be to ensure that grain is held in reserve.

Zimbabwe will go on importing maize for many months yet. The prospects of a good harvest are promising. The rains have come this year, in some places bringing floods and tragedy in their wake.

But it will be April or May before substantial quantities of maize can be harvested and the next three months will determine the size of the crop.

Enough food has been ordered to see the country through and to help create reserve supplies.

The cost has been enormous and it came at a time when the economy was under strain from the reform programme aimed eventually at establishing free market conditions.

Finance Minister Dr Bernard Chidzero recently stressed the need to curtail government spending. The budget deficit was likely to rise to more than R1 billion, he warned, and food imports were costing more than R22 million a month.

The business sector has been hammered by inflation which peaked at 59 percent, a desperate shortage of cash and spiralling interest rates which threw company forecasts out of the window.

However the hope is that this year will see a sustained decline in the rate of inflation, which has already fallen substantially followed by a reduction in the levels of interest rates, which rose over the 40 percent level.

Chidzero said some people were worried by the debts Zimbabwe was incurring.

"Let me assure you," he said, "that we are by no means overborrowed and have not mortgaged our future.

"Our external debt, which was about US$3 billion (R9 billion) in 1991, is currently at about 60 percent of GDP and is projected to fall steadily to well below 60 percent in late 1993."

He regarded these figures and the debt service ratio of 23 percent as very manageable.

If his New Year resolution is to cut government spending, the hope of many Zimbabweans is that the coming year will see an improvement in the telephone service.

As the last days of 1992 flickered and went out, so did the telephones of thousands of subscribers as "unforeseen problems" arose in the switch to digital operation at the main Harare exchange.

For South Africans visiting Zimbabwe by road, the hope for 1993 must be for an improvement in the running of the Beitbridge border post and relief from long waits. □

Pentagon seminar heralds closer US-Zimbabwe ties

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MICHAEL HARTNACK

HARARE — President Robert Mugabe's government this week puts Zimbabwe's pro-eastern bloc past behind it when it hosts a military seminar sponsored by Washington.

The Pentagon is picking up the $100 000 bill for the two-week course starting today and scheduled to be attended by 40 officers from nine east and southern African countries, not including SA.

The seminar will be addressed by US military lecturers. The US embassy said the theme of the seminar would be "Making Best Use of Limited Defence Resources".

Zimbabwe's defence relations with Washington were soured for more than a decade by US support for Jonas Savimbi's Unita rebels in Angola, and alleged US covert aid to SA and the Mozambican rebel movement Renamo, although these claims were denied by the White House.

Washington in turn feared that Zimbabwe had become a Soviet staging post for anti-American "disinformation", and sent a special mission to Harare in an effort to counter claims that the AIDS virus had been created by Pentagon germ warfare scientists.

Diplomats here see the new US-Zimbabwe military co-operation as a significant realignment following Washington's support for the Angolan peace accord.

US troops came to Zimbabwe for the first time last year to take part in a simulated disaster relief exercise.

BDay 11/1/93

'No PAC bases in Zimbabwe'

By Robin Drew
Star Africa Service

362 ~~[illegible]~~

Star 11/1/93

HARARE — Zimbabwe last night categorically denied allegations that any PAC military bases existed on its soil.

Foreign Minister Dr Nathan Shamuyarira said charges like that were groundless. Zimbabwe trained its own militia at Bindura and Gwanda, he said, and no training of liberation movements took place there.

He said the South African Government had made these accusations as an excuse for cross-border raids which could be timed to coincide with SA support, directly and indirectly, for Unita in Angola.

Zimbabwe favoured peaceful and positive developments in South Africa and deplored the violence, Shamuyarira said.

But the time had not come for a meeting between President Robert Mugabe and President F W de Klerk because the political situation had not changed despite positive moves.

He said Zimbabwe wanted to see the ANC, the PAC and IFP form a common front in the negotiations with De Klerk.

Suggestions in South Africa that Zimbabwe was not helping the peace process indicated confusion on the part of those who said this, he added.

BDay 12/1/93

Railway upgrading

THE National Railways of Zimbabwe will spend more than Z$1,42bn over the next 10 years acquiring new locomotives and wagons and rehabilitating signal and telecommunications equipment. (362) ([illegible])

An SADC report said more than Z$32m in foreign funding and Z$30m in local funding had been secured.

Zim to upgrade railways

362

Star 12/1/93.

HARARE — The National Railways of Zimbabwe (NRZ) will spend over ZD1,42 billion during the next 10 years to acquire new locomotives and wagons, and rehabilitate signalling and telecommunications equipment, the Ziana national news agency reported yesterday.

About ZD100 million will finance the partial rehabilitation and upgrading of the telecommunications and signalling systems to improve operations over a four-year period, said a report on transport and communications released by the Southern African Development Community (SADC).

More than ZD234 million will be spent to acquire and rehabilitate locomotives to enable the railways to handle existing and anticipated domestic and regional traffic.

"To consolidate NRZ's ability to move traffic on offer, a programme to re-engine 43 diesel electric locomotives is required as an ongoing exercise to improve NRZ's motive power," the report said.— Sapa.

'High duties hit exports'

BDay
13/1/93

HARARE — High duties imposed on textile imports by SA had cut the Zimbabwe textile industry's export earnings by between 15% and 20%, Central African Textiles Manufacturers' Association chairman Alan Smith said yesterday. (362)

The SA government's refusal to extend the import duty exemption period on Zimbabwean textile products had resulted in companies such as Zimbabwe Spinners and Weavers closing down some of their operations as export orders were being cancelled, Smith said. ([illegible])

SA's Department of Trade and Industry last week defended its decision not to extend the exemption period , which lapsed on December 31. ([illegible])

The DTI said the high duties were not aimed specifically at Zimbabwe and a margin of preference in favour of SA's northern neighbour was still being maintained.

Smith said his organisation was negotiating with the SA Textile Federation to try to establish a basis for equitable trade in textiles. — Sapa.

FM 15/1/93.

A long haul to 1999

(362)

Good rains throughout Zimbabwe have lifted the business mood, especially in agriculture. But, in manufacturing and in particular, mining, businessmen expect the next six months to be tough. Virtually no-one, except the ever-optimistic donor community, including the World Bank, is forecasting a strong recovery this year. The consensus in the private sector is that the economy will bottom out around mid-year, with a modest and fragile upturn in the second half.

Standard Chartered Bank is forecasting growth of 2,5%-3% in 1993, after an 8% fall in real GDP last year. Others believe this to be too optimistic, suggesting the output fall last year was closer to 10% and recovery in 1993 is unlikely to exceed 2%.

The mining industry is in trouble, especially the gold and ferrochrome sectors. US multinational Union Carbide's Zimasco ferrochrome operations have closed for at least two months. It plans the phased re-opening of only three of its eight furnaces. As with its SA counterpart, the Zimbabwean ferrochrome sector has been devastated by the surge in low-priced exports from the Commonwealth of Independent States. In Zimbabwe's case, the problem has been exacerbated by 40% inflation in 1992 and swingeing increases in electricity tariffs, the most recent being a 41% raise in December.

Manufacturing is lagging the cycle. Output volumes rose 1,5% in the first half of 1992 but production has since fallen steeply. For the year, manufacturing production is likely to have fallen more than 5%. This decline will continue through the first half of 1993, especially as the State-owned steel company Zisco will be refurbishing one of its furnaces this year and operating at no more than 35% of capacity for most of 1993.

The clothing and textile sector is reeling from import duties of 35%-50% imposed by SA — its main market — and there are pleas for urgent renegotiation of the 1964 trade agreement with Pretoria, to restore preferential entry.

One-sided

This is a one-sided view of the problem since, if SA does grant Zimbabwean exporters preferential entry, there will have to be a *quid pro quo* for SA goods in the domestic market.

Industrialists expect output to recover somewhat in the third quarter but production will not regain its peak 1991 levels until the second half of 1994 — and even that could turn out to be optimistic.

There is little government can do. Its tight monetary policy — which looks to be easing — is curbing inflation, which plunged from last year's 40% to an annualised 20% in the final months of 1992. In December, the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe announced a one-percentage-point cut in its rediscount rate to 29%, proclaiming interest rates on the way down. The market thought otherwise and 90-day NCD rates remained at 38%.

Bankers and economists dismissed the interest rate reduction as political cosmetics, pointing to repeated statements by President Robert Mugabe that interest rates would soon come down. Money market conditions are likely to remain tight for the near future, considering the high and growing level of public sector borrowing as well as demand for credit to finance the much-larger 1993 maize crop. The signs are that Governor Kombo Moyana, whose appointment lapses soon, will seek to talk rates down over the next few weeks, despite tight liquidity.

Chidzero

Mugabe

Good rains notwithstanding, it's unlikely to be a bumper year for agriculture. Zimbabwe will continue to import maize this year — at least 300 000 t in the first half of 1993. But with expected deliveries to the Grain Marketing Board of around 1 Mt, that should be enough to see the country through until mid-1994. There will be no sugar, though heavy lowveld rains have improved the outlook for sugar production and exports in 1994-1995. Beef output will fall dramatically as farmers rebuild their herds, while cotton is likely to remain in the doldrums on price considerations.

As usual, there is a question mark over tobacco. Output is likely to be lower than last year — 185m kg compared with last year's 201m — but quality will be far better. Average prices should return to — and probably exceed — 1991 levels when tobacco earned 1 157 Zimbabwean cents a kg, against only 810c last year. Growers are hoping for around 1 250c, though, in real (ie US dollar) terms, this will be still be well below the US$3,25/kg earned in the glory days of 1991. At current exchange rates, a Z$12,5 price would be only US$2,3/kg and it is likely to be even lower given the probability of devaluation this year.

Much will depend on the exchange rate. This applies to mining and manufacturing as well as tobacco. Business believes the Zimbabwean dollar should be devalued, pointing out that, after a 35% real depreciation in 1991, the currency has appreciated by about 25% in real terms.

At a recent conference, Finance Minister Bernard Chidzero rejected devaluation while, at the same time, announcing a minor, partial devaluation of the currency. Chidzero said that, in future, half of Zimbabwe's invisible payments would be funded through the export retention market. The export retention system (ERS) allows exporters to keep 30% of their export earnings to finance essential imports. Retentions can be traded in the market, currently at a premium of 20%. So the decision to put half the country's invisible payments of about US$900m a year on the ERS is a small, effective devaluation.

Small wonder the business community is confused. Not only did this sensible move conflict with Chidzero's rejection of devaluation but, as usual, the bureaucracy was unprepared. So, 10 days later, the Reserve Bank was still unable to explain which invisible payments would go through the export retention market.

If Chidzero meant what he said — and this is far from clear — the implication is that all invisibles (including dividends), other than interest payments, will go through the export retention market. But officials have since said dividends will not be affected which, in turn, must mean that less than half the total cited by Chidzero will be transacted through the "free" market.

Minor devaluation

The implications for future policy are more important than the minor devaluation. The signs are that a growing volume of payments will be shifted into the export retention market, causing more devaluation, freeing the market and leaving the exchange rate to be determined by market forces rather than by bureaucratic *diktat.*

The greater the subsequent, inevitable devaluation, the greater the setback to government's anti-inflationary policy.

Sadly, the inflationary outlook threatens to worsen towards the end of 1993, not just because devaluation will push up costs and prices but because monetary policy will be relaxed as the April 1995 election date looms larger.

The budget deficit now looks likely to exceed 11% of GDP in 1992-1993, more than double the 5% target. Financing this without fuelling money supply growth is proving increasingly difficult, suggesting the combination of devaluation, the fiscal deficit and the politically inspired premature relaxation of monetary policy will reverse the slowdown in inflation before the end of 1993.

There is worse to come. One authoritative source suggests it will take until 1999 for living standards to return to their 1990 level. Even then, income per head will be lower than at the peak of Ian Smith's sanctions boom in 1974.

Zim 'backed off' hitting SA

(362) CT 16/1/93

Own Correspondent

HARARE. — Zimbabwe "deliberately restrained" itself from intercepting South African aircraft it claimed violated its airspace last year "because we did not want to start a war", Zimbabwe Defence Minister Mr Moven Mahachi says in an interview published here yesterday.

Zimbabwe said last month it had recorded over 20 radar plots of South African transport and fighter aircraft flying secret missions to Angola's Unita rebels.

Critics deplored Zimbabwe's failure to intercept with Hawk and MiG-21 jets, an action they said would have enjoyed world support and created a damaging incident for Pretoria.

"Reaction would have meant going to war and we did not want that," Mr Mahachi retorted to suggestions the Zimbabwe air force had shown cowardice or incompetence.

"We protested and ordered them to stop their illegal incursions and they have complied."

- The South African Ministry of Defence yesterday declined to react to Mr Mahachi's comments.
- Mr Mahachi and President Robert Mugabe yesterday saw off 162 Zimbabwe troops leaving on a giant US aircraft to join the Somalia peace-keeping force.

Pressure builds on Zimbabwe dollar

Star 18/1/93.

By Robin Drew
Star Africa Service

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HARARE — The Zimbabwe dollar has fallen sharply against major foreign currencies in the past week, rekindling speculation about a possible formal devaluation.

According to Business Herald, the currency depreciated by about four percent against the US dollar, the pound sterling, the rand and German and Swiss currencies last week.

These curencies weigh heavily in the basket of foreign exchange in which the Zimbabwe dollar is floated.

Today's exchange rates show the Zimbabwe dollar buying rate for the rand to be 1,8634 and the selling rate 1,8877.

There has been widespread speculation that the Zimbabwe dollar could be be devalued by between 20 and 25 percent.

Dealers say the decline in recent days could be the start of a managed devaluation.

But Zimbabwean business leaders have come out strongly against a further devaluation.

They told the Ziana news agency on Friday that such a move would further worsen the country's balance-of-payments position, severely hit the business sector through an escalation in input costs, and further fuel inflation.

The government last devalued the Zimbabwe dollar by around 45 percent in September last year.

In the past week it has fallen sharply against international currencies.

A devaluation of the Zimbabwe dollar to make exports competitive would not be welcome at this time as companies still needed more time to import machinery and tools to re-equip, increase production and generate more exports, business leaders said.

A devaluation would also result in a rise in imported inflation, thereby derailing the economic reform programme because of an increase in input costs.

"The country has to first of all make itself felt on the international market before we talk of any devaluation," said First Merchant Bank economist Danny Dube.

"A devaluation will push up the import bill in procuring maize, thereby upsetting the country's balance of payments position," National Chamber of Commerce deputy president Ted Makoni said.

Chamber of Mines chief executive Derek Bain said although devaluation would make mineral exports competitive, it would push up input costs, followed by a creeping imported inflation.

The Zimbabwean government has said there are no plans to devalue the currency.

Sowetan 19/1/92

1,5m infected with HIV virus

362

HARARE – At least 1,5 million people in Zimbabwe are infected with the Aids virus, according to an estimate by the Commercial Farmers Union (CFU).

The farming industry employs 127 000 workers of whom 17 percent are HIV positive, according to surveys carried out by the union. – *Sowetan Correspondents and Sapa-Reuter-AP-AFP.*

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AFRICA

AIDS threatening Zimbabwe farming

B/DAY 19/1/93.

MICHAEL HARTNACK

HARARE — At least 1,5-million people — almost one in seven Zimbabweans — are now infected with the AIDS virus, says a report prepared for the country's Commercial Farmers' Union.

(362)

With some of the 4 500 remaining commercial farmers moving out of labour-intensive crops because of fears for their workforce, the union's AIDS programme co-ordinator, John Frazer-Mackenzie, predicts a disastrous effect on the country's major industry — agriculture — if the epidemic is not stemmed.

He said the union's AIDS awareness programme was making slow progress among the commercial farms' 1-million inhabitants. Condoms were routinely distributed free with pay packets and clinics reported a decline in sexually transmitted diseases. But understanding of the epidemic was "clouded in myth and ignorance".

Frazer-Mackenzie criticised priorities in health spending which had resulted in "infrastructure for health delivery visibly deteriorating, particularly in rural areas".

Between 30% and 50% of all patients admitted to Zimbabwean hospitals are now reported to be HIV positive, and infection is reported to exceed 50% in the Zimbabwe national army. Official figures confirm only 13 000 AIDS cases.

Zimbabwe's health ministry declined to comment on the union's statements but Health Minister Timothy Stamps has previously estimated the incidence of HIV to exceed 28,5% in the employed working population.

Stamps aroused controversy among medical colleagues here last year when he claimed it was impossible for them to catch the virus when treating infected patients, ignoring the death in Britain of Zimbabwean surgeon David Collings, who accidentally cut himself during an operation at Marondera Hospital.

□ Meanwhile, Sapa reports that Zimbabwe's cholera epidemic, the worst in the country's history, last week struck at the heart of the authorities when a woman died of the disease at Stamps' home.

Stamps said his wife found an elderly woman — the mother of an employee on his farm near Harare — had severe diarrhoea and she died before she could be taken to hospital. An autopsy showed she had contracted cholera.

Stamps earned the ire of thousands of pavement food vendors and township restaurants after he closed them down because of unsanitary conditions, as part of his cholera control campaign.

B/DAY 20/1/93.

Illegal gold deals

362

ZIMBABWE lost about Z$34,2m worth of gold a month to illegal gold deals involving citizens of neighbouring countries, Ziana reported in Harare yesterday.

And some diplomats in Zimbabwe were involved in the illegal deals, claimed Small Scale Miners' Association of Zimbabwe president Giles Munyoro.

He said Zimbabwe received only 200kg of gold a month, only a quarter of the alluvial gold taken from the country's rivers.

Dealers allegedly exploited rural people by buying gold at a price below that offered by a local company and the Reserve Bank.

Offer to buy and burn Zimbabwe's ivory hoard

HARARE — The international community had offered to buy the 25 tons of elephant tusks worth Z$70m stocked in Zimbabwe and burn them, a government minister said yesterday.

B/DAY 20/1/93

Ziana reported that Deputy Environment and Tourism Minister Opah Rushesha said due to the international ban on the sale of ivory and wildlife products, government was stranded with elephant tusks collected from culled and problem animals.

Government could not legally find a market for the tusks, but there were offers from the international community to buy and burn them. Rushesha said the ivory ban also affected millions of dollars worth of rhino horns collected during the anti-poaching dehorning process.

(362)

"Our plan was to get the international community to allow us to sell the horns at cheaper prices and so discourage poachers with the low prices offered elsewhere." — Sapa.

Mugabe calls for faster PTA economic integration

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Star 21/11/93

LUSAKA — Member countries of the Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) had to overcome their difficulties and integrate their economies at a fast pace, Zimbabwe's President Robert Mugabe said yesterday.

Addressing heads of state of the regional economic grouping, Mr Mugabe said in Lusaka that as the organisation celebrated its 10th anniversary, the region was experiencing difficult times, including drought, armed conflicts, inadequate local and foreign investment and an unfavourable trading environment.

"These difficulties, no doubt, retard growth of our economies and progress towards achieving our stated goals of total regional integration," Zimbabwe's Ziana national news agency quoted him as saying.

"As the region, we have no choice but to overcome these difficulties and move forward to integrate our economies at a much more accelerated pace than before."

Member states should not underestimate the effects of armed conflicts which retarded collective efforts towards regional integration, he said.

"Many of the economies in this region are grinding to a halt because of armed conflicts.

"This saps the energy and reduces the progress of our organisation, not to mention the human suffering that ordinary people have to endure."

The PTA, he said, needed to take bold measures to feed the famine-stricken areas of the region.

He pledged Zimbabwe's continuing support for the PTA which, he said, had made significant strides in fostering development in the region.

Mr Mugabe is heading the Zimbabwean delegation to the Preferential Trade Agreement summit in Lusaka. — Sapa.

Zimbabwe waits for French team to study pipe dream

Argus Africa News Service ③⑥②

ARG 22/11/93

HARARE. — A team from France is expected in Zimbabwe next month to carry out an engineering study of an 80-year-old dream of a pipeline from the Zambezi to Bulawayo.

The 450km pipeline would put an end to the chronic water shortage problems which last year threatened the future of Bulawayo as Zimbabwe's second largest city, with a population of one million.

Strict water rationing and the sinking of scores of boreholes saved the day and plentiful rains have ensured water for another 18 months under existing rationing.

But many people in Matabeleland are convinced that the construction of a pipeline from the Zambezi would be the best answer to ensuring sufficient water, given the likelihood of more drought years.

France is providing about R4,5 million for the study, half in the form of a grant and the rest as a soft loan.

Fresh crisis stalls Zimbabwe's economy

HARARE. — Zimbabwe's economic recovery from a drought-induced crisis is threatened by punitive duties imposed on its textiles and clothing exports by South Africa, Zimbabwean business leaders said yesterday.

But they blamed Zimbabwe, the region's most vocal opponent of Pretoria's white-dominated government, for the duties slapped earlier this month after both states failed to renew an agreement on preferential trading of each other's goods.

The stalemate threatened to cripple Zimbabwe's vital exports and derail a modest economic recovery this year, they said.

Zimbabwe's gross domestic product plunged by more than 12% in 1992, drained by the worst drought this century.

"Someone from Zimbabwe has to go to Pretoria to talk to that government and sign the agreement for things to return to normal," industrialist Peter Dorward told Reuters.

CT 23/1/93

"But it appears no one at the moment wants to. The implications for the textiles industry employing more than 45 000 people are very serious. Our exports to South Africa have now been reduced to a trickle, threatening factories with closure and loss of thousands of jobs."

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Mugabe's 'tirades' frustrate trade pact

BDay 25/1/93

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MICHAEL HARTNACK

HARARE — President Robert Mugabe's continued attacks on the SA government frustrated the signing of a new trade agreement last year, an SA Trade and Industry Department official has told the Zimbabwean magazine Parade.

"His utterances denigrate the SA government and our businessmen read this in the Press," African trade promotion director Abraham Roodt complained to Parade magazine in a telephone interview from Pretoria.

"We, as a ministry, or the SA government, cannot move on the new agreement with Zimbabwe without the consent of our private sector, and so far they are not agreeable," Roodt told the magazine.

"They are the ones who would be asked to yield their market share to Zimbabwe if the requests of the Zimbabwe government for preferential treatment were granted.

"Of all African heads of state, he is the one who shouts the most and every time we ask businessmen for their comments on a possible agreement, they ask why we are so keen and suggest they wish to withdraw from the existing agreement."

At independence in 1980, Mugabe's government inherited a most favoured nation trade agreement. This, originally, was negotiated in 1964 with Rhodesia, and was sustained through Ian Smith's 14-year fight against UN sanctions.

The pact is now heavily out of date, both as regards products, because of changes in the SA and Zimbabwean economies, and rebate schedules set at 1964 price levels.

In 1991, Mugabe suffered a diplomatic humiliation when he made a passionate pro-sanctions speech to the UN on the same day it was disclosed he had approached Pretoria for renewal of the trade pact.

Zimbabwean Industry and Commerce Minister Chris Ushewokunze predicted at a business seminar in Nyanga last October that a new pact would be signed by October.

Parade says the resurgence of political trouble in southern Africa has delayed rather than frustrated signing of a new pact.

Much depended on what Mugabe did to improve the atmosphere, Roodt told Parade.

Ushewokunze acknowledged he had a standing invitation to talks with his counterpart Derek Keys in Pretoria and was still considering it.

Zimbabwe's textile industry is currently in dire trouble because of rising costs and shortage of locally-produced lint, following the drought, and has been further jeopardised by SA's refusal to extend a temporary waiver on duty, granted last year.

362 CT 27/1/93

Rates shock

Churches and charities may lose exemption

By PETER DENNEHY

CHURCHES, charitable institutions and sporting bodies with properties at present exempt from rates are likely to lose that privilege in the forthcoming council budget.

Private schools and hospitals may also have to pay rates if proposed changes to the relevant ordinance are approved.

This was disclosed last night in the council's answers to ratepayers' questions during a public meeting at the Civic Centre on the council's budget for its next financial year, which begins on July 1.

About 60 civic and ratepayers' association representatives attended the meeting.

City treasurer Mr Eddie Landsberg said the blow would be softened, at least in the transitional phase, by the council giving affected institutions "grants-in-aid" or financial assistance in deserving cases.

He said affordability remained the key issue in what he described as a "difficult budget".

All properties would be revalued with effect from July 1, which meant that some people would be paying much more in rates, apart from the annual rates increase.

He also disclosed that a substantial general increase in council-house rentals was likely and pointed out that the last major increase was three years ago.

During that time, only the portion of rentals going towards rates had been increased.

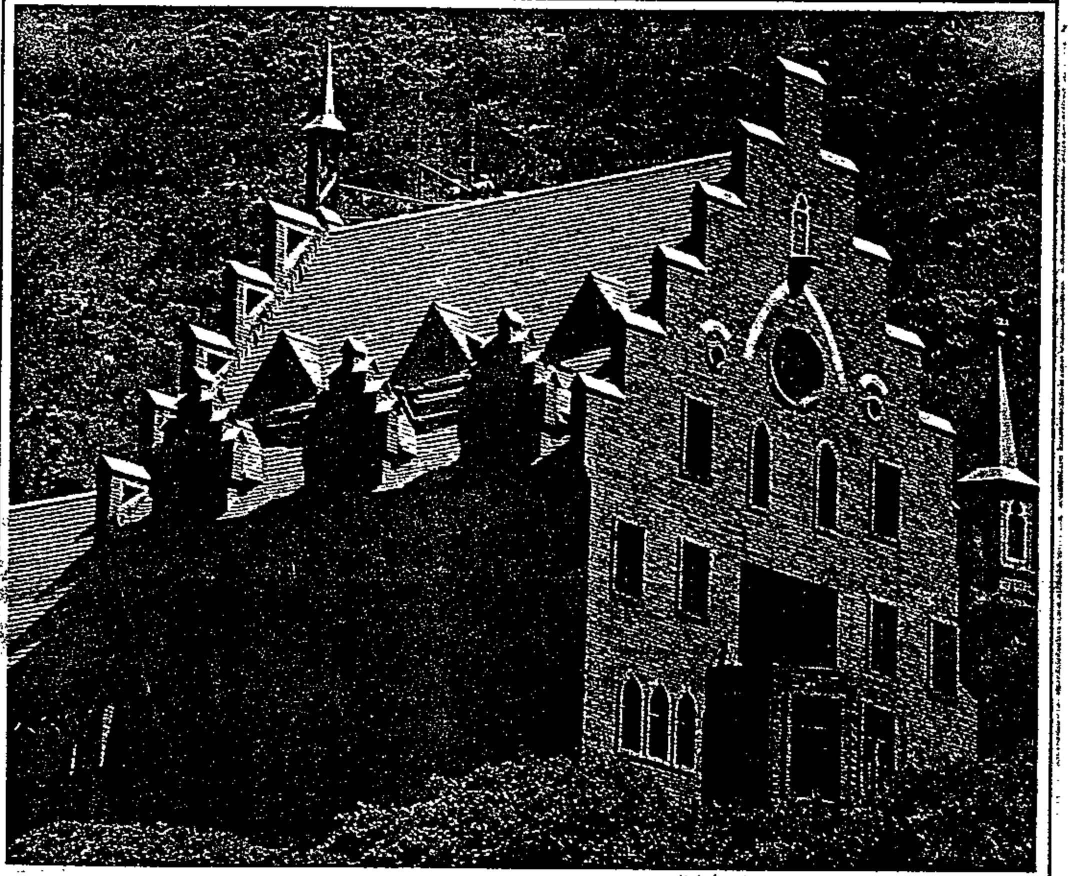
Housing committee chairman Mr Neil Ross said the council would improve the level of its maintenance of rented council houses.

Mrs Monica Sutherland, of Rondebosch, said the council should not make any grants-in-aid at all "as it is our money which is intended for the upkeep of our areas, not for organisations".

Mrs Theresa Solomons, of the Mitchells Plain Co-ordinating Committee, said that because coloured people had not been represented on the council, they lacked amenities like parks.

Civic organisations had filled some of the gaps and improved community life by setting up advice offices and other institutions, but now these found it difficult to get grants-in-aid from the council.

Several representatives of Cape Flats organisations indicated that their priorities were better housing, improved health services and education, even though the latter was not the council's responsibility.



MYSTERIOUS CASTLE . . . Owners of this imposing replica of a European castle which looms above Hout Bay are keeping mum on its future uses. It is apparently being built by a trust controlled by German businessmen.

Mugabe urges regional economic integration

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B/Day 29/1/93

MICHAEL HARTNACK

HARARE — Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe yesterday urged southern African states to press ahead with economic integration despite current setbacks to regional peace, when he opened the first consultative conference of the newly reconstituted Southern African Development Community (SADC).

"No one can say building a southern African community can be done overnight," warned Mugabe, voicing disappointment with political prospects in Angola and SA. "It will take hard work and a pragmatic approach."

Since SADC's forerunner, the Southern African Development Coordinating Conference, was formed in 1980, the world had been transformed almost beyond recognition Mugabe told leaders of the 10-nation grouping and Nordic aid donor states, their main financial backers.

"While we cannot say prospects for peace have gone away we must certainly register our disappointment," said Mugabe, who demanded the world community exert greater pressure on Jonas Savimbi's Unita to accept the September election result and stop the slide back to civil war in Angola.

"In SA we urge the government to take measures to end the violence in the country and move unequivocally towards the transfer of power to the disenfranchised majority," he said.

Mugabe made no direct reference to integrating SADC with a post-apartheid southern neighbour, a topic which has frequently arisen during this week's behind-the-scenes meetings of SADC working committees. Three SADC members, Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland, are already members of the SA Customs Union but economists foresee major difficulties negotiating compatibility for the other seven — Angola, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Mugabe said the international aid community had been worried and perplexed by the duplication of functions between SADC and the 23-nation east and central African Preferential Trade Area (PTA), to which most SADC members except Botswana belong. He believed plans could be adopted to resolve the anomalies, following the formation of a "high-powered commission" on SADC-PTA integration.

Mugabe predicted regional integration would be impelled by the formation of world trading blocs, coupled with the threat that past north-south economic co-operation would be transformed into east-west assistance in the wake of the Cold War.

The conference will discuss programmes for recovery from the worst drought in a century, which has required the importation of 12-million tons of grain and left a legacy of destroyed cattle herds and a potentially disastrous cholera epidemic spread by fugitives from famine.

Sapa-Reuter reports that Mugabe called for a leading role for the private sector in lifting the region out of its misery and poverty. He said one of the region's major weaknesses in the past had been its inability to mobilise the business community for economic development.

"Our new strategy is to empower these interest groups and others so that they assume leading roles in the (economic) integration process.

"The private sector should now rise to the challenge and help mobilise and create a vibrant economy for the region. We can only attract foreign investors if we develop and encourage dynamism in our local investors," said Mugabe.

Zimbabwe blacks angry over Indian competition

ARG 29/1/93 (362)

JAILED FOR LIFE: Kathryn Dawn Wilson looks towards her attorney in a North Carolina courtroom after she was found guilty of child abuse at Aday Care Centre. She was sentenced to life imprisonment.

HARARE. — The entry of Indian businessmen into the informal sector has aroused strong emotions, especially among the black population of Zimbabwe, the national news agency Ziana reports.

Some would call it acute business acumen on the part of the Indians by exploiting all available opportunities, while others argue fiercely that it is downright exploitation and further marginalisation of the already economically weak black man.

Ranging from emergency taxi operations to running shops in the second class shopping areas of the urban areas as well as in high density suburbs and even in the rural areas, the Indian has "smelt a dollar and is out to get it".

The black informal sector operators, who perhaps mistakenly regarded this area of enterprise as their exclusive preserve are furious, as they feel they pioneered the various economic activities and now the Indians are moving in to displace them using their much sounder financial base.

Things are not made easier by the fact that the Indian community in Zimbabwe is regarded as secretive, keeping very much to themselves and observing their own culture, thus maintaining minimal contact with the rest of the ethnic groups in the country.

In keeping with the perceived secretive nature of their community, the Indians are not going into the informal sector openly, but are using much more subtle means which are not easy to detect.

Zimbabwe Emergency Taxi Association (Zeta) vice-president Edward Mbedzi said his organisation was aware that some of its members were front men for Indian and other businessmen, but it was very difficult to prove who were front men and who were not.

"It's very difficult to know who these people are. It's like if I go and make a deal with an indian or some other businessmen and they agree to give me a car to operate as an ET (Emergency Taxi).

"It will be registered in my name but the whole deal is arranged through lawyers so that if the businessman wants to take his car away from me, he can do so," Mr Mbedzi said.

He added that when someone was accepted into membership of Zeta, he had to produce the registration book of the car as well as his national identity card, then he would be registered and assigned a rank from which to operate.

However, Zeta had no mechanism to establish the true owners of the vehicles driven by some of the ET operators, thus front men were sometimes admitted and given permits.

Other Indians were reported to have broken into the car repair business and set up shop in the high density suburbs, providing unfair competition to the hundreds of unemployed mechanics who crowd round every car which goes to the area.

It could be argued that the Indian businessmen have every right to exploit any business opportunity they sniff out, and that if the black informal sector operator cannot stand the competition, he should fold up, but it is a fact that resentment against this "intrusion" is spreading.

Argument could further be advanced that in times of economic difficulty, especially now in Zimbabwe which is implementing an economic reform programme, the have-nots will be jealous and resent the haves. — Sapa.

Former spy's 'hell' in Harare jail

S/Times 31/1/93,

BC1 **BY ROY RUDDEN** 362

EILEEN SMITH

THE wife of a former South African spy hit out at Zimbabwean prison authorities this week, accusing them of ill-treating her husband.

Durban beauty therapist Eileen Smith claims her husband, Michael Smith, 40, is being kept chained and naked in his solitary death row cell in Harare for 23½ hours a day.

And she says he is suffering from a skin disease caused by malnutrition.

Smith and two co-agents, Kevin Woods and Philip Conjwayo, were given the death penalty on January 19 1988 for bombing ANC properties in Harare in 1986 and killing a Zambian driver. They also received 70-year prison terms for terrorism and spying.

Smith was incarcerated just nine months after he married Eileen.

His five years in prison have been spent in conditions which are completely unacceptable by international standards, says Mrs Smith, who has appealed to Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe to release her husband on humanitarian grounds.

Smith is allowed only one 15-minute visit a month. But Mrs Smith, a Zimbabwean citizen, cannot visit him as she says she would be arrested if she tried to enter the country.

Mrs Smith has seen film of her husband, Woods and Conjwayo and says their physical deterioration is almost beyond belief. Smith has lost most of his hair and has shed 23kg.

Appeals to Amnesty International and the Red Cross to make representations about the onerous conditions failed because the organisations said they were denied access to Zimbabwean prisoners.

Star 2/2/93

SADC taken to task

([illegible]A) (362)

By Robin Drew
Star Africa Service

HARARE — Too much jaw-jaw and not enough action: that was the message given to the 10 member states of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) by major donor countries at their annual get-together in Harare last week.

Progress to regional integration needs a kick in the pants was the signal sent with vigour by the head of the US delegation, Ted Morse.

Morse said the SADC was a victim of its own bold vision.

"An action framework is still not there. We urge the SADC to act in a time frame with objectives that are realistic."

Earlier in the week, Canadian representative Walter McLean also hammered away at failings within the SADC.

There was too much bureaucracy, he said, and not enough accountability.

He found fault, too, with the running of the conference itself. Working groups were unfocused and there were too many people to get a good discussion going.

Some of this did not go down too well. Zimbabwean Foreign Minister Dr Nathan Shamuyarira denounced moves by donors to lay down conditions.

Chief executive Dr Simba Makoni said the community accepted the importance of democracy, but was making no linkage between democracy and development.

"I am aware that there is an opinion that you need democracy before you can develop. We don't share that analysis," he said.

Star 2/2/93

Zimbabwe's inflation at 48%

(362)

HARARE — Zimbabwe's inflation rate soared to 48 percent in December and there is little hope of the rate of price increases slowing soon.

Standard Chartered Bank's calculation of the inflation rate flies in the face of the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe's assertion it had dropped to 25 percent.

The commercial bank says higher rents, electricity charges and some fresh-food prices were the main factors fuelling the inflationary spiral. — Sapa

Star 3/2/93

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Zimbabwe's poor are worse off this year

HARARE — Central Statistical Office figures show that Zimbabwe's low-income urban families are now worse off than they were at this time in 1992, mainly due to the rapid increase in the price of foods.

The figures show that between November and December 1992, lower income urban families experienced an average 9,37 percent price increases on all items compared with 1,33 percent for the period October to November of the same year.

However, the higher income urban families experienced only a modest 2,26 percent price increase on all items for the 1992 period, against 2,21 percent for the 1991 period.

"This shows that the income differential between the two groups is widening rapidly and the trend is expected to continue for some time as price controls and subsidies are further lifted," a bank economist said.

It is feared that as trade liberalisation proceeds further, prices of many basic commodities will skyrocket beyond the reach of many consumers whose incomes have lagged behind the price increases. — Sapa

Cops killed by accident

Sowetan 4/2/93.

Unco-ordinated shooting is the problem, says govt:

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HARARE — The government said yesterday the fatal shooting by police of four rioters at a gold mine began accidentally.

Gunfire erupted at Dalny mine, 96km west of Harare, on Monday when rioters tried to disarm a policeman whose shotgun accidentally discharged, said Home Affairs minister Mr Dumiso Dabengwa in a statement.

Rioters scuffled with other armed officers, resulting in some "unco-ordinated shooting," Dabengwa said.

He said eight policemen were injured, one receiving serious stab wounds.

Star 4/2/93

2 Zimbabwe dollars for rand

(362)

HARARE — The Zimbabwe dollar is now worth less than 50 South African cents.

This week the downward slide continued and the exchange rate moved across the psychological barrier of two Zimbabwe dollars to one rand.

The falling dollar will hit the thousands of Zimbabwean pensioners living in South Africa. It will make Zimbabwe more attractive to South Africans as a holiday destination and make Zimbabwe exports more attractive.

The buying rate against the rand yesterday was quoted at 2,0158 and the selling rate at 2,0422. — Star Africa Service.

Interest bill wipes out Mhangura Copper profit

JONO WATERS

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ZIMBABWE's Mhangura Copper turned in a small operating profit of Z$209 000 in the six months ended December 31 1992, but this was wiped out by the company's heavy interest bill of Z$9,52m.

B/Day

An overall loss of R9,31m, compared to a profit of R16,8m in the same period last year, resulted in a loss of 46,6c a share and the company did not declare a dividend.

Copper sales fell 42% to 3 786 tons as a result of reduced production levels.

5/2/93

Turnover fell 38% to R55,1m (R88,6m), despite higher copper prices of Z$12 400/t (Z$9 936/t) as a result of the devaluation in the Zimbabwe dollar.

A spokesman for the company said the operating results had a negative impact on Mhangura's cash flow. Negotiations with major suppliers were conducted towards the end of last year to obtain their support until the company returned to its planned production levels.

Norah mine was closed at the end of September and the smelter was refurbished over a six week period.

Despite these problems, ore milled increased by 10% to 564 990 tons but at a lower grade, the spokesman said.

Smelter production decreased by a third to 7 103 tons and refinery production decreased by 35% to 3 942 tons.

Heavy rains boost Harare exchange

HARARE. — Zimbabwe's stock market, severely depressed for the whole of last year, is beginning to pick up because of the recent heavy rains which have boosted morale in the agricultural sector.

Stockbrokers said this week that confidence was beginning to creep into the equity market notably for agriculturally-based companies like Hippo Valley, David Whitehead Textiles and Tanganda, reported the Ziana national news agency.

"Clearly, there is now a bit more confidence due to the heavy rainfall. The rains have caused some investors to see some light at the end of the tunnel and they are beginning to see long-term in their investment decisions," said a broker with a securities firm.

ACG 6/2/93

Within a week, the industrial index gained a record 20 points to close the day at 903,06 on Tuesday, up from 880,02 a week previously.

The mining index also showed an upward trend to close the day at 197,47 on Tuesday this week up from 188,83 on last Tuesday.

The rapid rise in the indices contrasts sharply with the situation at the start of this year when the market remained static with most investors unwilling to raise the bid prices and few prepared to sell at the low levels.

Figures released by stockbroking firms showed the stock market had declined by over 60 percent by the end of 1992, topping the list of the worst performing equity market in the world that year. — Sapa.

Star 6/2/93

Rhinos sent chopper protection

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ROBIN DREW
Africa News Service

HARARE – Zimbabwe's battle to save its dwindling black rhino population – now thought to be down to about 500 animals – has been boosted with the arrival of a Bell 206 B Jet Ranger helicopter, a gift from the American and Australian branches of the International Black Rhino Foundation.

The R1,5 million helicopter was handed over yesterday to the minister in charge of national parks, Dr Herbert Murerwa, who said the Zimbabwe government was fully committed to the preservation of the black rhino, which was facing extinction in the wild.

"In spite of all we have done, armed incursions continue," he said, noting that 1 200 rhino have been killed since 1984 when Operation Stronghold was mounted. In that period 165 poachers, mostly from Zambia, have been killed, and four National Parks officers have lost their lives in anti-poaching operations.

About 250 of the remaining rhino have been dehorned in an attempt to deter poachers, and this operation is continuing.

Murerwa admitted that eventually all the rhino in the Zambezi Valley could be lost, and said those remaining would be in guarded conservancies n other parts of the country. Present strategy was to guard those still in their natural habitat. Translocated rhino in conservancies were also under threat from poaching gangs, he said.

Murerwa said the question of selling the horns from dehorned rhino to flood the market and undercut poaching rings was not an issue under discussion.

He said Zimbabwe still intended to sell its elephant tusk stock once a system was in place which would guarantee that no poached ivory could find its way into legitimately held stocks.

The angry country that won't let Ian Smith rest

S/Times 7/2/93

(362)

Award-winning author CHRISTOPHER HOPE returns to Zimbabwe and finds former prime minister Ian Smith fighting fit — and with many new friends

IT'S VERY strange to be in Harare today. Indeed, to be anywhere in Zimbabwe today. After all, you might be forgiven for thinking that since the bush war that brought Robert Mugabe's Zanu (PF) party to power, a whole new era would have been firmly set in place by now. In fact, what one increasingly finds is that nothing really much has changed, except the names of people and places.

Take Ian Smith's house, for instance. It's still there in the Harare suburb of Belgravia, right next door to the Cuban ambassador. The ambassador's place is ringed with razor wire and the ever-alert heads of close-circuit cameras peep from the high walls.

Mr Smith lives without wire or guards, or cameras. If he faces any difficulty, it is that when he walks into Harare these days, he is likely to be accosted not by attackers, but by black admirers, wishing to shake his hand.

"Mr Smith, Mr Smith, do you remember me?" they ask. And he shakes their hands with a kind of rueful exasperation: "Of course I don't. How can I remember you all?"

There is no doubt about the passionate nature of his convictions. His weapons are scorn, contempt and downright anger. He looks back to the old days with a furious nostalgia. The hand-over of power to black Zimbabwe has proved to be a colossal disaster. Mr Smith declines to say "I told you so". There is no need for it since his tone and manner say it for him.

Mr Smith is officially in retirement, but the affairs and the politicians of his country will not let him rest. "I spent last week on my farm; I'm a farmer," he says. "I don't look for political involvement. But what can I do? Everyone keeps saying I have to get involved."

He says that back in 1979, when the warring Rhodesian parties met in London at Lancaster House and agreed on the country's transition to independence, he did his best to calm the fears of his fellow whites, terrified at the prospect of "a bunch of gangsters" ruling over them.

AS IT happened, at the time of Zimbabwe's first black government in 1980, Ian Douglas Smith, patriot and traitor, farmer and fighter, found himself, rather to his own surprise, soothing the wilder fears of his political kith and kin.

"Mugabe asked me to come and see him. He was very excited and said to me that he had inherited this jewel of Africa, this bread basket of southern Africa, and he planned to keep it that way. I was very impressed. We spoke a couple of times a month after that, and he asked me for the benefit of my experience."

The honeymoon between the former rebel white settler leader and the former guerrilla leader was destined to be short-lived.

As the Mugabe government moved increasingly towards socialist, centralised planning, Mr Smith eventually went to tell him that investors were taking fright about the president's plans for a one-party state.

"I said, 'Look, what's all this talk about Marxist-Leninism? I haven't criticised you up until now. What you're doing now is going to damage our nation. I'm afraid if you go on like this, I'm going to have to oppose you in public'."

That was 12 years ago. Ever since then, Mr Mugabe's appointment book has been full, and the former prime minister of Rhodesia no longer talks to the President of Zimbabwe.

The flat voice swells and begins to throb when he considers the injustice and the stupidity of this. His words come out in machine-gun bursts. The Mugabe government is "a one-party machine", run by a politburo of which Mr Mugabe is merely the mouthpiece. "Complain that people are starving, and the politburo calls you a traitor."

There is a curiously familiar note to all of this. For that description would also seem to fit the government which Mr Smith led in the 60s and 70s. But tell him this, and it will bring on a furious denial.

So what is happening in Zimbabwe now? There is the Economic Structural Adjustment Programme, known to the planners as ESAP and to others as "Ever Suffering African People". This has forced Mr Mugabe to back down on his one-party ambitions, to start decentralising his economy, and even, it is said, to sell off his vital crops and grain stores for cash, thereby speeding up the dire effects of the drought throttling many parts of the country.

Mr Smith insists there has been a dramatic alteration in the minds of many in Zimbabwe over the past year. The no-longer docile citizens are attacking the escalating incompetence of the government.

SAYS Mr Smith: "Black people downtown tell me they have no food, and their position is desperate. They have no mielie meal, so they must eat potatoes. Then potatoes escalate from Z$8 to Z$36 a pocket. People are angry."

There is a change underway, perhaps even the beginnings of a revolution. Fear, brought about by massive intimidation, is turning now to anger, says Mr Smith.

He swings his ancient Golf out of his driveway and we set off for a political meeting in downtown Harare. Mr Smith drives in much the same way as he once piloted his Spitfire when he downed bridges and went train-busting in wartime Italy. This is not so much a drive as a raid on the forces of darkness.

The political meeting for which he is destined is interesting. For the last two years, the fragmented forces opposed to the Mugabe regime have been trying to form a united front, a kind of democratic forum. It comprises about seven parties, including Mr Smith's own Conservative Alliance of Zimbabwe, as well as a string of names belonging to people who were once only discredited black politicians.

Because this opposition is fragmented and small, Mr Smith has suggested they assume the chair in rotation. He wants no part of it. All he is, he keeps insisting, is a facilitator of the burgeoning opposition to the Mugabe government.

BUT HE is obsessed with a sense of urgency. He sketches the formidable forces which the government can summon to its aid, the Z$50-million he says they've purloined from state funds to support the governing party.

The police, army and the Central Intelligence Organisation are all in the service of the party. The government has at its disposal TV, radio and the press. Indeed, the newspapers in Zimbabwe today are so supine that they resemble the South African press in the bad old days of apartheid.

"They're all stooges. All of them are prepared to blame the problems of the country upon Smith and the white racists. But the reality is that Zimbabwe is the victim of one man, Mugabe, its president, and the one-party dictatorship."

The astonishing thing is that, travelling across the country today, one hears from every quarter a single refrain — life under the old colonial regime of Mr Smith was better. And this is not the sour nostalgia of white "Rhodies". It is black people who are speaking against Mr Mugabe.

Needless to say, Mr Smith appreciates the ironic reversal of fortune. He reads into it signs of change; indeed, intonations of revolt. "When I walk down the streets of Harare and I hear the people say, 'It was better with Mr Smith' ... well, I know they wouldn't say that a year ago. If they had, they would have had their throats slit."

Mr Smith has the morals, one feels, of a fighter pilot, and he is fighting another battle for his country.

THERE has never been any question of his courage. Even if, as he will tell you, he has never been able to take the good advice offered to Spitfire pilots when out strafing Italian trains. Recalling his great mistake as a pilot, which saw his plane in flames and him bailing out and spending five months behind enemy lines in the Ligurian Alps, he says he broke the rule then and paid for it. "Hit your target, but don't go back for a second time."

Today Mr Smith is doing the same thing. It is not enough that the target is in flames below him; he can't help going back for a second look. Once again, he is behind enemy lines. And, once again, he appears to be enjoying it.

IAN SMITH ... 'The reality is that Zimbabwe is the victim of one man, Robert Mugabe, its president, and the one-party dictatorship'

Star 9/2/93

Call for sanctions to stay

(362)

Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe, whose government is desperate to reach a new trade pact with South Africa, called on the international community yesterday to maintain its economic sanctions against Pretoria. In a joint statement with Iranian President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani at the end of a two-day visit to Tehran, Mugabe said sanctions must stay until the establishment of a multiracial democracy.

Robert Mugabe in the dock

ZIMBABWEAN president Robert Mugabe's call for continued sanctions against South Africa is out of touch with reality, the SA Foreign Trade Organisation said yesterday.

"Zimbabwe is South Africa's biggest trading partner in Africa," it said.

Business sources put the value of South Africa's trade exports to Zimbabwe at more than R1 billion last year, nearly a quarter of South Africa's exports to the rest of Africa.

(362) ([illegible]) ([illegible])

Sowetan 10/2/93

Star 10/2/93

Zimbabwe will free 6 000 from crowded prisons

(362)

By Robin Drew,
Star Africa Service

HARARE — About 6 000 prisoners in Zimbabwe will be released later this month under a general amnesty approved by the Cabinet in a move to reduce the prison population.

Zimbabwe's jails, designed to accommodate 16 000, are currently holding 21 000 prisoners, of whom 5 000 are on remand awaiting trial.

Those convicted of crimes of violence, repeated theft or fraud will not benefit under the general amnesty.

However, life term prisoners sentenced before independence in 1980 are to have their cases reviewed.

Justice Minister Emmerson Mnangagwa said the political situation before independence meant that almost every crime had political overtones.

He said there could also have been vindictiveness against blacks by the white regime.

The general remission will benefit those prisoners who have served at least a quarter of their sentence and have less than 12 months left to serve.

Zimbabwe 'border jumpers' increasing

[redacted] **MICHAEL HARTNACK** [redacted]

HARARE — Up to 400 illegal Zimbabwean immigrants in SA are repatriated on some days at Beitbridge as economic hardship increases in their home country.

"I see no reason to live here when there are jobs a few kilometres away," an illegal immigrant told a Harare Herald reporter yesterday after police had disclosed an average 200 "border jumpers" were being deported daily by the SAP.

Police in Beitbridge said there had been an alarming increase, and predicted the highest number of "economic refugees" would cross this year. (362) [redacted]

The Herald blamed the exodus on the drought and President Robert Mugabe's economic structural adjustment programme, which brought inflation to more than 44% on official figures. [redacted]

The Herald said secondary schools in the Beitbridge area had recorded steep falls in enrolment because most students had crossed the border to work on SA farms as general labourers. BDAY 11/2/93.

MP held in rhino horn case

HARARE — An MP has been arrested for alleged involvement in a scheme to buy and sell horns of endangered black rhinos, Harare police said yesterday.

The parliamentarian, who was not named, was arrested with four other people on Monday, said senior assistant police commissioner Pius Ndava.

Police said they were found with several rhino horns, which they had evidently bought from poachers.

The arrest was an embarrassment to President Robert Mugabe's government, which has long denied charges by conservationists that politicians are linked to the lucrative poaching of endangered wildlife. Zimbabwe politicians blamed the poaching on hunters from neighbouring Zambia.

Ndava said more arrests were likely.

He could not estimate the value of the rhino horns.

B/DAY 11/2/93

Zimbabwe has one of Africa's best conservation programmes. However, the country has been unable to keep poachers from its black rhinos, which have dwindled from more than 3 000 a decade ago to about 400 today.

(362)

Rhino horns, comprised of matted hair, are used for ornamental dagger handles in Yemen. In the Far East, they are used in traditional medicines and aphrodisiacs.

In 1984, state rangers reacted to the poaching by hunting the hunters. Since then, at least 150 poachers have been killed. Last year, conservationists began removing rhino horns with chain saws to drive off poachers, to no avail.

In the past six weeks, eight dehorned rhinos have been found killed, with the stumps of their horns removed.

Last year, three police officers, including an assistant commissioner, were convicted of poaching buffalo and are awaiting the outcome of an appeal. — Sapa-AP.

Star 1/12/93

Gold suspects held in Harare

(662)

HARARE — Four men believed to be South Africans have been arrested for trying to smuggle 6 kg of gold out of Zimbabwe on a chartered aircraft.

Two men were held at Harare international airport on Tuesday as they were about to board the plane. Two others were arrested yesterday.

Police said they would appear in court soon.

Two men in handcuffs were shown on television last night, being taken by police to the airport during investigations. — Star Africa Service.

Zimbabwe invites Keys to visit

362

MICHAEL HARTNACK

HARARE — Finance Minister Derek Keys is expected to visit Zimbabwe for talks on the countries' trade relations following an invitation from Industry and Commerce Minister Christopher Ushewokunze.

This would be the highest level official contact since 1980. Until last year Zimbabwe maintained a ban on contact with SA at ministerial level.

Zimbabwe's textile industry is in crisis because of the delay in updating its "most favoured nation" agreement with SA. Diplomatic sources say Ushewokunze wants SA to restore the waiver of duty on his country's textiles for five to nine months to give the industry time to recover from the effects of drought and economic downturn.

A spokesman for Keys told our political staff in Cape Town the Minister had received an invitation and would respond in due course. BDM 12/2/93.

It is understood that it is highly likely Keys will make the trip.

The Central African Textile Manufacturers Association warned in February that the Zimbabwean industry faced collapse if Ushewokunze was unable to negotiate a waiver on the 25% surcharge SA imposed on all textile imports last May.

Abraham Roodt, head of African trade promotion in the Trade and Industry Department, said recently only President Robert Mugabe's rhetoric had prevented the successful conclusion last year of negotiations on updating the 1964 trade treaty.

Zimbabwe copper company in trouble

HARARE — Zimbabwe's main copper mining company is close to collapse, the Business Herald newspaper reported yesterday. (362)

The paper said that Mhangura Copper Mines, which was 54,56% owned by the parastatal Zimbabwe Mining Development Corporation, was seeking an immediate injection of Z$80m to sustain the industry.

Unaudited results for the six months to December last year, which have just been released, show that Mhangura's operating profit has plunged to Z$209 000 from Z$24,9m in the half year to December 1991.

B 10Am 12/2/93.

Underfunded

After deducting interest and other charges the small profit turned into a Z$9,3m loss.

A stockbroker has warned that unless negotiations to arrange further financing are successful, the company could collapse.

He said the company had been underfunded since the state took control from foreign shareholders in the early 80s.

The company's management had failed to contain rapidly increasing production costs and, because of a lack of cash, had not been able to use the refinery to its full capacity, he said.

Mhangura's case has been referred to a special government committee formed to consider assistance for financially distressed companies. — Sapa-AFP.

Protea in deal with former revolutionary

B 10Am 12/2/93. (362)

MICHAEL HARTNACK

HARARE — Zimbabwe's minister of mines and one-time fiery revolutionary, Eddison Zvobgo, has done a deal putting his personal hotel empire under the management of the SA Protea hotel group.

Hotel industry sources confirm that Zvobgo has entered into a management agreement for the Chevron Hotel and Flamboyant Motel in his home town, Masvingo (formerly Fort Victoria) which will reap maximum profit from the increasing numbers of SA visitors travelling the main Harare-Beitbridge road.

Protea already had plans to offer South Africans 20% discounts at Zvobgo's hotels, the Herald reported this week.

Work on extensions at the Flamboyant Motel came to a halt last year but have since been resumed with the Protea group's assistance, the newspaper said.

Zvobgo, once one of the most uncompromising revolutionaries in President Robert Mugabe's government, was in breach of the ruling Zanu (PF) party's former austere leadership code when he entered the hotel industry 10 years ago.

The code, amended last year, forbade leading politicians from owning more than one house and 20ha of land, or from pursuing any private business interests.

In 1991 Zvobgo warned a PAC meeting here against having any truck with "the Boers" and said they should view the initiative made by President F W de Klerk with the same dread as when their guerrilla heroes "went to the gallows in Pretoria Central prison".

During the 1972-80 bush war preceding Zimbabwe's independence, he embarrassed the Patriotic Front alliance by telling the British Guardian newspaper: "Morality has nothing to do with it. The whites must be led up the garden path to the place of slaughter."

Once viewed as a potential successor to Mugabe, the 57-year-old lawyer fell out with his chief when he was excluded from the newly formed Soviet-style politburo in 1984, but he consolidated his leadership of the south-eastern Karanga section of the Shona people, in spite of Mugabe's efforts to replace him with Air Chief Marshal Josia Tungamirai, the most prominent Karanga among the many in the police and armed forces.

Keys invited to Zimbabwe

Star 12/2/93

(362)

By Robin Drew
Star Africa Service

HARARE — South African Finance Minister Derek Keys has been invited to visit Harare to discuss the stalled trade pact between Zimbabwe and South Africa and in particular the issue of relief for Zimbabwean textile exporters.

News of the invitation, from Zimbabwean Industry and Commerce Minister Chris Ushewokunze, broke in the independent Financial Gazette which said it would be the first Ministerial contact in Zimbabwe.

However, there was an unannounced visit by Transport Minister Dr Piet Welegemoed last October to discuss the movement of drought relief food.

His trip was the first to break the strict ban on Ministerial contact imposed by President Mugabe in 1980.

Trade missions have been maintained in both countries and South Africa has remained Zimbabwe's biggest single trading partner.

The delay in updating the trade agreement has caused deep concern among Zimbabwean exporters and the clothing industry has been hit hard by the duties imposed by South Africa.

A Pretoria official has been quoted as saying Zimbabwe will have to revise its hostile attitude to South Africa before it can expect progress over the trade agreement negotiations.

Zim invites Keys to visit

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CT 12/2/93

Political Staff

FINANCE MINISTER Mr Derek Keys is expected to visit Zimbabwe for talks on the countries' trade relations following an invitation from Zimbabwe's Industry and Commerce Minister Mr Christopher Ushewokunze.

It would be the highest level official contact since Zimbabwe's 1980 independence.

Until last year President Robert Mugabe maintained a total ban on government-to-government contact with South Africa at ministerial level.

Zimbabwe's textile industry is in a crisis due to the delay in updating its "most favoured nation" agreement with South Africa. Diplomatic sources say Mr Ushewokunze wants South Africa to restore the waiver of duty on his country's textiles for five to nine months.

A spokesman for Mr Keys would only say the minister "has received an invitation and will respond in due course". However, it is understood highly likely that Mr Keys will make the trip.

Zimbabwe's gold output still rising

362

HARARE — Zimbabwe, Africa's second-biggest gold miner, produced 18,62 tons in 1992, its highest in two decades of gradually rising output.

Production could have been higher last year had it not been for power rationing, Zimbabwe Chamber of Mines CE Derek Bain said.

Output was 800kg more than in 1991.However, earnings in 1992 almost doubled to Z$1,041bn, largely because of a 35% devaluation in Zimbabwe's currency late in 1991.

BD/M

Bain attributed the improved output to the higher rate of exploration and development, as well as to the use of improved technologies.

10/2/93

Power rationing and unscheduled power cuts in the middle of last year, when drought crippled hydroelectric power capacity, had meant that another 200-300kg had not been realised, he said.

The Zimbabwe Electricity Supply Authority two weeks ago increased its ration to the mining industry to 90% of normal consumption from the previous level of 80%.

Gold production peaked at 29 tons in 1916 with the arrival of the first white settlers taking advantage of existing mines developed by the Shona, but sank again until 1973 when it reached seven tons and began rising. — Sapa.

Star 15/2/93

Ministers stand to lose farms

362

Star Africa Service

HARARE — Some Zimbabwe Cabinet Ministers are in for a shock: their farms have been recommended for acquisition by the government for resettlement.

In a report this morning the Herald newspaper said farms belonging to six Ministers and officials had been listed by the Masvingo Provincial Land Committee for possible resettlement.

The report said 10 derelict farms had been earmarked under controversial legislation largely aimed at reducing the amount of land owned by white farmers.

No white-owned farms have been earmarked.

Star 15/2/93

Rhino horn: MP jailed

362

Star Africa Service

HARARE — A member of the Zimbabwe parliament representing the ruling Zanu (PF) party, Benjamin Moyo, has been sent to jail for five years for trying to sell a rhino horn.

Illegal possession of rhino horn carries a minimum mandatory sentence of five years and a maximum of 15 years unless special circumstances exist.

Moyo and five other men were each given the five-year jail term.

In an editorial this morning the Herald newspaper said Zimbabwe had been spending millions trying to save the black rhino from extinction, men had lost their lives in the battle and poachers were serving long sentences in prison. Few would sympathise with Moyo in these circumstances.

Moyo has already resigned from parliament.

Cafca bows to effects of Zimbabwe recession

B/DAY 16/2/93

362

DUMA GQUBULE

CENTRAL African Cables (Cafca), the Harare-based and JSE-listed company, reported a 35% decline in attributable earnings to Z$12,6m (Z$19,3m) for the year to end-December.

This was equivalent to 41c (63c) a share. The dividend payout for the year was 10,2c (15,7c) a share.

Cafca, which had been on a five-year winning streak which saw turnover and attributable profit increase more than five-fold, finally succumbed to Zimbabwe's worst recession in spite of a spectacular export performance.

Group secretary Alastair McFarlane said the group had budgeted for a similar performance this year.

The electrical cable manufacturer's turnover dropped marginally to Z$117,3m (Z$121,4m).

A breakdown of turnover showed exports more than doubling to Z$30,2m, (Z$13,9m) — just over a quarter of total turnover — while domestic sales declined 19% to Z$87,1m (Z$107,5m).

Operating profit was down a third to Z$20m (Z$30m). Operating margins had declined because of changes in the sales mix and fixed cost structure of the business, McFarlane said.

He said Cafca's overall thrust was to become more competitive internationally and continue cost reduction strategies.

Rates increase blow for societies

HARARE — Zimbabwe's three building societies, already facing a backlog of mortgage applications worth over Z$1bn, were expected to lose millions of dollars in investment funds following the increase in post office savings bank fixed deposits and savings account interest rates, Ziana news agency reports. BDay 16/2/93.

The state-owned savings bank has increased fixed deposit interest rates from 14,5% to 21,75%, and savings account rates from 14,25% to 19,75%.

Analysts and stockbrokers said yesterday the increase in savings bank rates would further crowd out the private sector from the money market, and make building societies and commercial banks less attractive for high-yielding investments.

The building societies have so far lost over Z$400m in investment funds since mid-1992 because of the widening gap in interest rates they offered to clients.

"It seems government is trying to attract funds to the POSB which can in turn apply for government stock issues," Zimbabwe National Chamber of Commerce president Jim Torond said. "This will crowd out the private sector, particularly commercial banks, who desperately need funds to put into the productive sector."

Torond said ideally, government should let market forces prevail so that banks and building societies could offer viable interest rates within acceptable limits.

Meanwhile, an International Finance Corporation survey last year rated the Zimbabwe Stock Exchange the world's worst performer among 54 stock market indices.

(362)

The Emerging Stock Markets: 1992 in Review report said the Zimbabwe Stock Exchange suffered the greatest decline in turnover last year of 62%, Ziana reports.

Its capitalisation was cut from Z$7bn to Z$3bn last year primarily due to high interest rates. This made other money market instruments more attractive, forcing small and large institutional investors to desert the equity market. — Sapa.

AFRICA

Harare launches economic reforms ... but the poor must pay

(362)

W/Mail

26/2-4/3/93

Zimbabwe's economic programme, designed by the World Bank, is meant to be the most effective in Africa. But the working class is bearing the brunt of the reforms.

By **ANDY MELDRUM**

AFTER seeing her husband off to work and her seven children off to school, Theresa Forget picks up her *badza* (hoe) and tills the soil of a plot near her home in Harare's Kambuzuma township.

"The rains have been good this year so we will have greens and beans to balance our diet," says the stout and hearty Forget, who is growing maize, sweet potatoes, beans and tsunga. Her neighbours have similar plots in the open municipal land.

Like most Kambuzuma residents, Forget is struggling to make ends meet as a result of the Mugabe government's Economic Structural Adjustment Plan (Esap). Wages have remained static while prices have rocketed by 45 percent. School and hospital fees have also gone up.

"Prices are going up every day," sighs Forget. "We no longer buy meat. We just have vegetables with our *sadza* (maize meal pap)." The family has tea and bread for breakfast, no lunch and then sadza with a vegetable relish for dinner.

The Forget family is relatively well off — the father is employed and the family is buying a four-roomed house. In addition to her gardening, Forget crochets doilies and tablecloths which she hopes a friend will sell in South Africa. She also makes cloth bags which are used to weigh infants at the local health clinic.

Despite this enterprise, the family has seen its standard of living fall as a direct consequence of Zimbabwe's Esap, designed by the World Bank.

Adjustment programmes have been familiar throughout Africa for 10 years, but have brought few, if any, successes. Zimbabwe's economic reforms are touted by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund as the most sophisticated in Africa with the best chance of bringing prosperity to the country. But many critics charge the World Bank plan has installed free enterprise policies at the expense of the African working class.

Zimbabwe's example is a worrying harbinger for South Africa. The World Bank and the IMF, the West's economic policemen, are already positioning themselves to negotiate similar structural adjustment policies in South Africa.

Everyone knows that times are tough in Zimbabwe, but the extent of people's economic hardships has been highlighted in a survey of the Kambuzuma "high-density suburb" (the government term for townships).

Families in Kambuzuma — a well-established community of about 40 000 mostly low-income earners — were interviewed in July 1991 when the structural adjustment programme was just getting under way, and again in July 1992, when its bite was really being felt.

Zimbabwe also suffered a severe drought in this period, but the study focused on areas affected by the economic reforms.

The survey, carried out by Zimbabwe's National Union of the Clothing Industry and the International Development and Research Centre, found a depressing list of ways families have coped with the hard economic situation: less nutritious meals, no purchases of furniture or clothing, reduced medical care and more tensions within the family.

The survey found that many women were shouldering the burden, and were feeling the pinch as household managers because money for food was diminishing.

"This is supposed to be an adjustment programme, but the men are not willing to adjust," said one woman, who complained that her husband kept drinking at the local beerhall while she could not afford meat.

Despite the increased school fees, which are an integral part of the reform package, most families have managed to keep their children in school, citing education as the best hope of improving their economic status. But school enrolments are dropping, despite a widely publicised exemption for poor families. Thirteen of the 100 Kambuzuma families studied were eligible for the exemptions, but none succeeded in claiming.

This illustrates the most damning criticism of Zimbabwe's structural adjustments: working people are suffering the brunt of the reforms, while the government is not doing its share.

The plan consists of currency devalutions to discourage imports and encourage exports, trade liberalisation to allow foreign and multinational companies to enter Zimbabwe's markets more freely, reduction of government expenditure in the social sectors and privatisation of state enterprises.

The government has neither succeeded in reducing its expenditure and bloated civil service, nor has it effectively implemented its much vaunted Social Dimensions of Adjustment plan which was designed to cushion the poorest from price hikes in food, rent, school and medical fees.

Economist Peter Robinson is one of many who charge the Mugabe government has failed to use funds set aside to soften the blow of structural adjustment on the urban low-income earners.

"Zimbabwe has chosen the path of structural adjustment and there would be a heavy price to pay if it were abandoned at this point," says Robinson. "But it is clear to see that the Zimbabwe government is not carrying out the reforms efficiently and that is causing tremendous problems for the urban working class."

Patience as hard times bite

360

The once entrenched party of Kenneth Kaunda concedes that "It'll take time before Zambians accept us again as their leaders". JASPER HATWIINDA reports.

LUSAKA — There is general political apathy among Zambians just over a year after President Frederick Chiluba came to power in democratic elections with about half the electorate boycotting last month's local polls.

Despite vigorous campaigning by Chiluba's Movement for Multi-Party Democracy (MMD) many Zambians stayed away in an apparent protest at the continuing high rate of inflation and frequent price increases on essential commodities.

Patience

The MMD still gained more than 1 000 of the 1 204 seats available, with the United National Independence Party (Unip) making a strong showing only in the western province.

Unip president Kebby Musokotwane conceded that "it will take a bit of time before the people can accept us again as their leaders".

While the 1991 general elections were a vote on the future of Unip rule, last week's polls measured the extent of people's patience with the MMD's harsh economic policies.

Since coming to power, the MMD has taken tough measures which have been unkind to the poorest sections of the Zambian community.

In response to a directive from the international donor community, Zambia removed the subsidies on consumption and increased the tax base by more than 1 000 percent.

"Taxes, prices, rates, unemployment and incidence of cholera and dysentery have shot up but the majority of those who voted decided to give the MMD another chance," explained Kelvin Chileshe, an MMD sympathiser.

The MMD government, realising the lack of a formidable opposition, has tried to bring about inter-party dialogue in what might be a groundbreaking consultative course to iron out thorny national issues that culminated in violence in recent weeks.

Following the inter-party liaison meeting, the Minister without Portfolio, General Godfrey Miyanda, said the reconciliatory meeting was intended for each party to explore "if there is a way to see eye to eye on matters of mutual interest".

Unip, still a major political party, boycotted the first inter-party meeting. Musokotwane said dialogue could only be "meaningful if undertaken in an atmosphere of respect for individual rights and mutual trust".

Unip has accused the MMD of denying it police permits to hold meetings countrywide and that their rallies are disrupted by MMD supporters.

The United Democratic Party (UDP), which split from Unip, has accused the former ruling party of fuelling violence.

Last month Minister of Local Government Michael Sata was beaten up by Unip supporters for allegedly trying to interrupt a rally.

In the Copperbelt town of Mufulira six houses were gutted by suspected Unip supporters after announcement of the MMD victory in the local government elections.

But the Congress for National Unity (CNU) interim president, Patrick Katyoka, once an MMD stalwart, continues to accuse the MMD of trying to form a "de facto one-party state".

STAR

Respected

18/2/93

"Opposition parties should come together and form a liaison committee, and if there are issues to be taken up to the government they should be related to the people who will then recommend that parliament resolve the matters," Katyoka said.

Chiluba, highlighting the need for his pro-democracy campaign to succeed, said Zambia's political culture has to change from a one-party institution to broader plural politics.

While freedom of expression had been generally respected, the MMD had to help create democratic institutions and assist in building opposition parties and a strong independent labour movement, he said. — DPA

Rhodesian-born lose return right

28 (362)

STAR ~~1st~~ 19/2/93

By Robin Drew
Star Africa Service

HARARE — The thousands of ex-Rhodesians who flocked to South Africa when black rule came to Zimbabwe have no automatic right to return, even if they were born in Zimbabwe.

This is the effect of a landmark judgment by the Supreme Court which ruled in favour of an appeal by the Ministry of Home Affairs against a High Court decision that immigration officers had to allow those who were born in Zimbabwe to return and work even if they had lost their citizenship.

Three judges — Mr Justice Manyarara, Mr Justice Korsah and Mr Justice Ebrahim — ruled that non-citizens who lost their domicile could not claim any right to live and work in Zimbabwe.

Non-citizens were aliens in this case and had no right in common or international law to enter the state except with express permission.

During the High Court hearings, immigration officers said many former Rhodesians who had gone to South Africas wanted to return.

Zimbabwe abolished dual citizenship in 1985.

The Supreme Court was giving judgment in a test case involving Terence O'Hara, who was born in Rhodesia in 1958 but who lost his Zimbabwean citizenship when he opted to keep British nationality.

He emigrated to South Africa in 1987 but when he returned in 1991, he was told he needed a temporary employment permit.

The three judges found that Parliament had given the Minister of Home Affairs wide discretion to determine the conditions on which former residents of Zimbabwe who had lost their domicile might return.

An immigration officer had power to refuse admission to an alien, to allow him to enter for a limited period or to impose other conditions.

It ruled that O'Hara was not a "returning resident" as he had lost his domicile in Zimbabwe. It ruled that an alien was a "person who is not a Zimbabwean citizen".

Desperate measure ... A rhino is dehorned in an attempt to save it from poachers

Rhino scandal tweaks Mugabe

W/Mail 19/2 - 25/2/93.

(362)

By ANDY MELDRUM

THE plight of Zimbabwe's rapidly diminishing rhinos became a political embarrassment to Robert Mugabe's government last week, when an MP was sentenced to five years in jail for possession of two poached rhino horns.

Amnesty International has already called on the Mugabe government to investigate the suspicious deaths of two army officers who were investigating top-level military involvement in rhino and elephant poaching.

For years Zimbabwe has blamed Zambian poachers, backed by international rings, for the decimation of its rhino population. But the conviction of MP Benjamin Moyo, a member of Mugabe's ruling Zanu-PF party, highlights the growing evidence of high-level involvement in the illegal killing of rhinos.

Moyo's was an open and shut case in which he and six other Zimbabweans were found guilty of trying to sell two rhino horns. It even took on a comic aspect when Moyo pleaded that he had been in "a state of forgetfulness'' about the illegality of the rhino horn trade.

But the cases of the mysterious deaths of Captain Edwin Nleya and Lieutenant Shepard Chisango are much more sinister. Nleya died in January 1989 after he collected evidence of an army ring of poachers in Zimbabwe's southern Gona re Zhou park. Nleya had warned his wife that he was being followed and that he believed his life was in danger. An army inquiry held behind closed doors attributed Nleya's death by hanging to suicide but a court inquest found that he had been murdered. Chisango died in police custody in June 1991 after he gathered evidence of Zimbabwe army poaching and smuggling in Mozambique.

Amnesty International and other human rights groups, such as Article 19, have urged the Mugabe government to probe the two deaths and the persistent allegations that top army officials are involved in a poaching and smuggling trade.

Amnesty further alleged that since 1987 a number of Zimbabweans have died in mysterious circumstances when they investigated rhino and elephant poaching.

This human rights uproar adds to the outcry by environmentalists worldwide over the rapid disappearance of Zimbabwe's black rhinoceros.

The figures speak for themselves. Twenty years ago there were 40 000 black rhinos in Africa. Last year it was estimated that there were less than 3 000 on the continent. Of that number, 2 000 were concentrated in Zimbabwe, making up the world's last remaining viable-breeding herd.

Alarm bells went off when a thorough count throughout Zimbabwe late last year found only 250 black rhinoceros left in the wild. Wildlife experts direly predict that at the current rate, poachers will finish off Zimbabwe's last rhino before the end of 1994.

By the year 2 000 the black rhinoceros could be extinct, except in captivity, ending the 60-million years that it has roamed the earth plucking leaves, twigs and branches with its hook-shaped upper lip.

The three-toed mammals can weigh up to 1 200kg, but it is the 10kg horns at the end of its snout that is causing it to be killed at such a calamitous rate. The rhino horn, made up of material much like our fingernails, is widely used throughout Asia in traditional medicine for reducing fevers and as an aphrodisiac. A further demand for rhino horns comes from North Yemen where they are coveted as dagger handles.

Despite an international ban on trade in rhino horn, it is widely available in markets in Hong Kong and Taiwan for prices of up to US$2 000 (R6 000) a kilogramme. It is this astronomical price that has fuelled the wave of internationally organised poaching that has swept through Africa.

There has been a grim battle against the poachers with Zimbabwean parks patrols killing 150 illegal hunters, mostly Zambians. Now with the suspicion that officers in the Zimbabwe National Army have been involved in poaching, it is not clear what can protect Zimbabwe's rhino.

362

Ex-Rhodesians may not return

HARARE. — The hopes of hundreds, possibly thousands, of ex-Rhodesians seeking to return to the country of their birth after acquiring foreign citizenship, have been dashed by a Supreme Court ruling yesterday which labels them as "aliens" who do not have automatic right of residence. CT 20/12/93

According to the judgment, non-citizens who forfeited their citizenship cannot claim any right to work or live in Zimbabwe. — Sapa

Keys asked to restore Zimbabwe deal

MICHAEL HARTNACK 362

HARARE — Finance Minister Derek Keys is to meet Zimbabwe's Industry and Commerce Minister Christopher Ushewokunze in SA this week in a bid to break the political logjam over updating the 1964 "most favoured nation" trade pact.

President Robert Mugabe's continued calls for the retention of sanctions, repeated a fortnight ago in Teheran, have caused SA to stall after two years of negotiations on the treaty inherited from Ian Smith's Rhodesian government.

Zimbabwe's textile industry, employing up to 30 000 people, is on the point of collapse due to SA's failure to extend a waiver — which expired on December 31 — on its 25% surcharge on foreign textile imports.

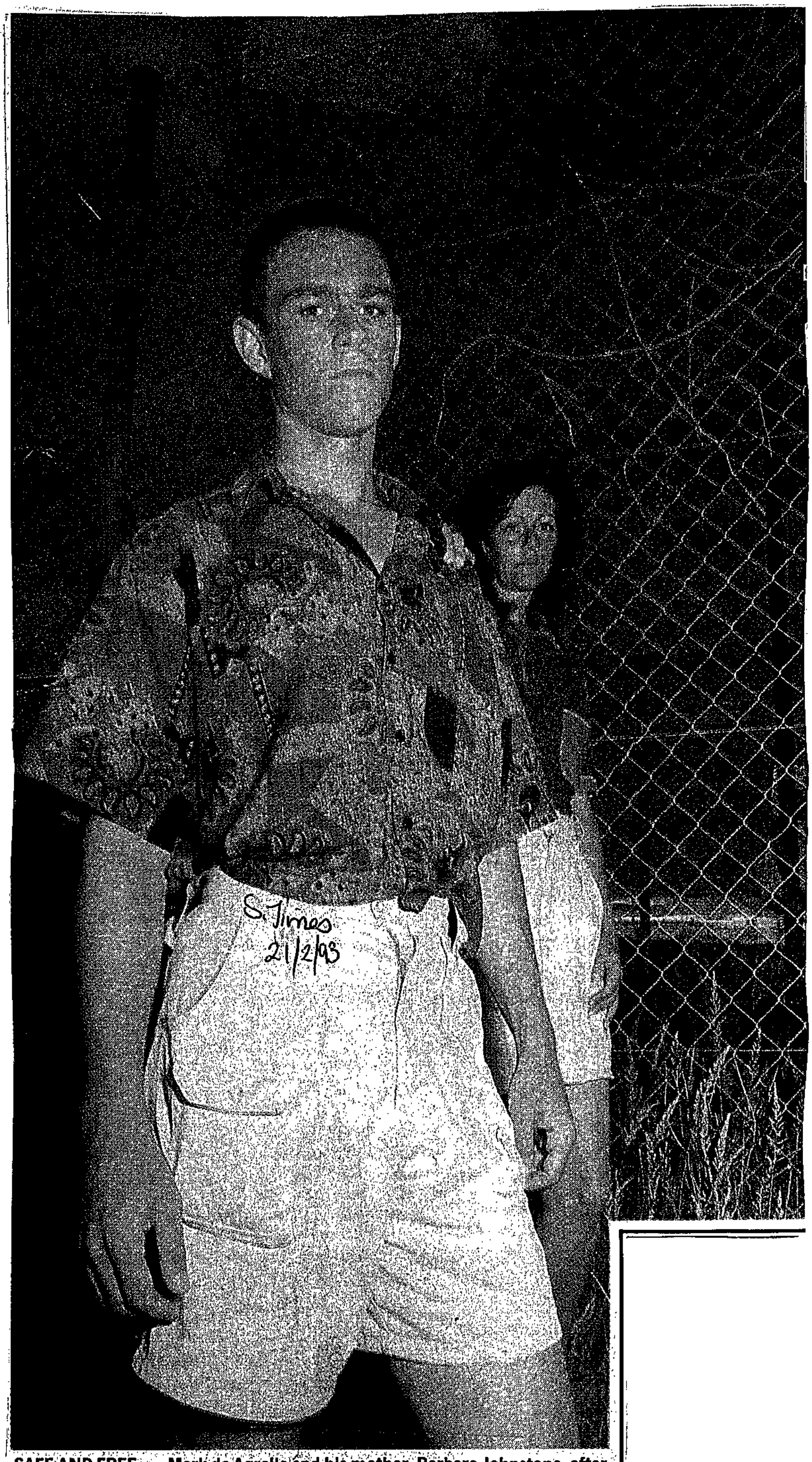
Earlier this month Ushewokunze paved the way for the highest level contact with SA since Zimbabwe's 1980 independence by inviting Keys to Harare for talks, but sources here say Ushewokunze will speed matters up by going to put his case to Keys, probably in Cape Town.

Until last year Mugabe maintained a total ban on ministerial contact with SA.

B/DAY 22/2/93

another promotable product

B/DAY 22/2/93



S.Times
21/2/93

SAFE AND FREE . . . Mark de Agrella and his mother, Barbara Johnstone, after their ordeal at the hands of prison authorities Picture: CHRISTINE NESBITT

Horror month in Zimbabwe jails

S Times 21/2/93.

(362)

Mother and son tell of brutality and suffering in filthy, infested cells

By JOCELYN MAKER

TWO South Africans are in a Northern Transvaal hospital this weekend after spending 29 harrowing days in five Zimbabwe jails.

Suffering from chronic malnutrition, Mrs Barbara Johnstone, 39, and her son, Mark de Agrella, 20, from Ladysmith in Natal, were admitted to the Pietersburg hospital on Thursday afternoon, four days after they were deported from Zimbabwe.

On January 19 in the Hwange (Wankie) magistrate's court, the pair were sentenced to three weeks hard labour or a fine of Z$150 for entering Zimbabwe illegally.

They had failed to get written permission to re-enter the country after they were deported two years earlier when Mr de Agrella had forged papers to get into Zimbabwe.

Vermin

Unable to pay their fines as their money had been stolen while they were at Victoria Falls, they were put into prison.

They claim they were forced to flee South Africa six weeks ago because of death threats and a family feud to separate mother and son.

Exhausted and hungry, they were handed over to South African immigration authorities at the Beit Bridge border post in Messina on Monday.

"The prisons we were thrown into in Zimbabwe are in chaos and we were treated like vermin," said Mrs Johnstone.

The ordeal has taken its toll on Mark, who is undergoing psychiatric treatment at the Pietersburg hospital.

The young man is unable to come to terms with what he witnessed in some of the "stinking, lice and cockroach infested jails. " in which the pair were held.

"We were transferred from one jail to the next. Each one was a cesspit of humanity where people lived on the brink of starvation in filth and squalor," said Mark.

"In one cell, an old oil tin was used as a toilet. It overflowed every morning and I was made to empty it before I took it to the kitchen, where it was used during the day. At night I put it back in the cell.

Maggots

"The water we had to drink was polluted with soggy old porridge and other filth which had maggots. We were only fed mielie meal, a slice of stale bread and one lumpy piece of meat or fat with black tea.

"I was always hungry. At the Grey Street Prison in Bulawayo, where 3 000 convicts are held, I saw warders brutally assault people with rubber batons. Blood flew everywhere, but no one complained.

"At night the men in my cells sodomised each other openly. I was so stunned by this that I felt as if I was losing my mind.

"I also shared a cell with 10 men who were dying of AIDS. They were very ill but no one cared as they walked around like skeletons."

Mrs Johnstone said her ordeal was not as bad as Mark's as there seemed to be a more reasonable attitude among the female inmates.

"I was also always hungry. At the Mdlozi prison, 25km outside Bulawayo, I shared a cell with 28 women and six children. We slept head to toe and the place stank."

An SA trade mission spokesman in Harare said relatives of the two had not responded quickly to Foreign Affairs suggestion that they raise funds to pay the fines.

When they contacted the department to say they could pay, Zimbabwe had already released and deported the pair.

A Pretoria Foreign Affairs spokesman said: "When the family alerted us that they were in jail, we immediately requested consular access from Zimbabwe. We received a reply from them this week giving us permission to see the two next week."

TEST CASE BLOW FOR WHITES

S/Times 21/2/93. (362)

By MICHAEL HARTNACK: Harare

ZIMBABWEAN wildlife pilot Terrence o'Hara and his American veterinary surgeon wife Dr Kylie-Marie Good last week packed their bags after a constitutional test ruling that although born here, he has no automatic right of residence.

The couple expected an immediate deportation order, said their Bulawayo lawyer, Mr Hugh Bisset.

The "O'Hara case" sets a precedent which could affect more than 100 000 South African whites who were born in Zimbabwe or Rhodesia. There are thought to be up to 50 000 ex-Rhodesians in Britain and another 50 000 in Australia, New Zealand and Canada.

Many former residents had been waiting for the O'Hara ruling in the hope of "coming home", say lawyers.

Supreme court judge John Manyarara ruled that legislation passed by President Robert Mugabe's government in 1984 gave immigration officers "absolute discretion" over would-be returnees.

Mr O'Hara, 35, a former game ranger born in Harare, opted to retain his British passport when Mr Mugabe rescinded dual citizenship in 1984.

Bulawayo High Court judge Feargus Blackie initially ruled that the O'Haras could not be barred from Zimbabwe, but immigration officials appealed to the supreme court.

With only 100 000 whites left in a country of 10-million people, Zimbabwe has since 1985 lost 16 000 skilled black professionals because of bureaucratic harassment and taxation above 62 percent on salaries higher than R2 000 a month.

Zim tourism plan eyes 'big spenders'

ต๒๒/๒/๓๖ 362

HARARE. — Campers and backpackers may get the cold shoulder at Zimbabwean resorts under a new policy favouring "big spenders" set out by President Robert Mugabe at the weekend.

Opening a new R100 million five-star hotel at Victoria Falls, Mr Mugabe said: "Our strategy is to cater for the upper end of the tourism market and encourage high value, low volume tourism.

"The advantage of this is that environmental costs would be minimised and our natural resources remain a valuable and sustainable national asset."

Charging up to R150 a night, the Elephant Hills complex is 4km from the falls on the site of the old Elephant Hills Country Club, burnt down in 1977 by Patriotic Front guerillas.

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Mugabe on women's rights

Own Correspondent

HARARE. — President Robert Mugabe had decided to by-pass his cabinet to break a longstanding deadlock over women's legal rights, Justice Minister Mr Emmerson Mnangagwa said yesterday at an international seminar on abuse of women.

CT 23/2/95

"The president has decided to go over the cabinet's head and ask women what they would like us to do," Mr Mnangagwa told delegates, who for the first time included a strong contingent from South Africa.

He said reformers wanted to see a single form of marriage recognised by Zimbabwean law.

STAR 23/2/93.

Staff quiet at Mugabe's party

HARARE — Staff of Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe (69) maintained a stony silence at a surprise birthday party for him yesterday, despite an order from their leader to mingle. Guests only began enjoying themselves once the president had left the room.

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Smuggling of arms to stop

Sowetan 24/2/93

■ With peace at last looming, Zimbabwe looks forward to the end of gunrunning from Mozambique:

(362)

HARARE — The smuggling of arms from Mozambique to Zimbabwe will only be effectively controlled once the demobilisation process in Mozambique is completed in about April, Zimbabwe's national news agency *Ziana* reported yesterday.

It was quoting Mozambican Foreign Minister Pascoal Mocumbi, who said that although his country had gun control laws, thanks to the war, the authorities could not determine who was authorised to possess the weapons.

Armed robberies

After a lengthy and brutal civil war between government troops and the Renamo rebel movement, Mozambique is slowly moving towards multiparty elections.It has been alleged firearms being used in the increasing number of armed robberies in Zimbabwe have been smuggled from Mozambique.

Mocumbi said on Monday evening that once demobilisation began in Mozambique, "we will know who is authorised to have a gun or not. The demobilisation process is starting in March".

Dumping firearms

Referring to South Africa, the Mozambican Foreign Minister said as long as there was conflict in the neighbouring state, weapons would be smuggled from South Africa into Zimbabwe.

He said it was unfortunate there were manufacturers who continued to dump their firearms in countries such as Mozambique which had already been torn apart by war. — *Sapa.*

Keys will meet Ushewokunze

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MICHAEL HARTNACK

HARARE — Finance Minister Derek Keys will today meet Zimbabwe's Industry and Commerce Minister Christopher Ushewokunze in Cape Town as President Robert Mugabe seeks to revive the stalled "most favoured nation" trade treaty talks with SA.

B|DAY 25|2|93

Sources say that Mugabe dispatched Ushewokunze to Cape Town in the hope of rescuing Zimbabwe's ailing textile industry, brought to the point of collapse by the need to import foreign lint.

A temporary waiver granted Zimbabwean textiles by SA expired on December 31 when two years of trade talks bogged down.

Meanwhile, Sapa reports Zimbabwe clothing manufacturers have welcomed the decision by the government to remove textile products from open general import licence requirements.

Chairman of the Zimbabwe Clothing Council, Adrian Neely, said yesterday the clothing and textile sector was still competing with highly subsidised goods from other countries and had not yet benefited much from the introduction of the economic reform programme.

US bank, Investec in Zambia deal

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GRETA STEYN

INVESTEC and the US bank that triggered SA's debt crisis in 1985, Chase Manhattan, have signed an $80m deal with the Zambian Central Bank to provide oil and trade finance to Zambia.

Investec and Chase are lead managers of the financing arrangement which also includes Société Générale, Générale Bank, Banque Belgolaise and Générale de Banque.

Bankers yesterday described the agreement as a landmark deal that underlined SA's return from the financial cold.

The London-based specialist banking magazine International Financial Review reported the deal was signed after seven difficult months of negotiations, during which Swiss bank UBS put up fierce competition. The magazine said Zambia would rely on Chase's $80m facility to pay for its total annual supply of crude oil and other essential imports.

BDAY 25/2/93

The manager of Investec's emerging markets division, Andrew Smith, yesterday confirmed the deal and explained it had significant benefits for SA exporters. While the main reason for the finance facility was oil imports, the deal was structured in such a way that available finance not used for oil could be used for other imports. The portion of the facility left

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Investec

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after oil imports had been financed would be used to confirm letters of credit for SA suppliers.

Investec would be providing finance only for SA exports. Smith expected the facility to finance trade totalling about $25m a year.

Investec executive chairman Bas Kardol said: "This deal flows from our memorandum of understanding that Investec signed with the Zambian authorities shortly after the new government was formed in October 1991."

The deal was attractive to international banks as Zambia provided copper as collateral, Smith said. The Review reported Chase was awarded the mandate in June last year, beating UBS in close competition, for refinancing an existing UBS-arranged facility which had matured in May. UBS put together the first deal after the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait upset existing arrangements. However, the Zambian authorities were slow to sign with Chase while UBS hoped to secure the contract for a second year. The contract will be renegotiated after a year.

Trade talks with Zim

ZIMBABWEAN Industry and Commerce Minister Christopher Ushewokunze is to hold talks with South African Finance Minister Derek Keys in Cape Town today 362

Sources said the meeting would probably deal with the updating of the 1964 trade agreement and treaty negotiations.

Sowetan 25/2/93

Sowetan 25/12/93

Africa in brief

22 more die of cholera

362

HARARE — Cholera killed 22 more people in the past week, raising the death toll to 275 since the disease broke out in late November along the Mozambican border.

Zimbabwean Health Minister Timothy Stamps said yesterday the disease — which has mainly hit northern Zimbabwe — had spread to southern Matabeleland province and there had been 6 043 cases of cholera in the country, 316 of them in the past week.

New local govt 'soon'

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CT 25/2/93

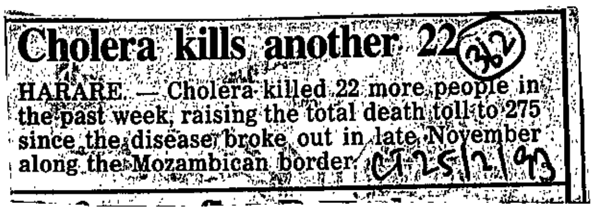
Political Staff

THE government will "in the near future" table a package of reform measures for negotiations on non-racial municipal by-elections, Local Government Minister Dr Tertius Delport revealed yesterday.

In reply to a question from Maritzburg South MP Mr Rob Haswell, he said such measures would require legislative amendments and in the absence of these the government "was not in a position" to give approval for non-racial by-elections.

Dr Delport said there were two anomalies — the system of management committees for coloureds and Indians and the Black Local Authorities Act.

He said an acceptable formula would have to be found, "in conjunction with all interested parties", to reconstitute local authorities as speedily as possible to allow for elections which would identify the truly legitimate leaders.



Cholera kills another 22

362

HARARE. — Cholera killed 22 more people in the past week, raising the total death toll to 275 since the disease broke out in late November along the Mozambican border.

CT 25/12/93

Ministers meet on Zimbabwe exports

TIM COHEN (362)

CAPE TOWN — At a "breakthrough" meeting yesterday, Finance Minister Derek Keys and Zimbabwean Industry and Commerce Minister Chris Ushewokunze agreed to seek an "early interim solution" to the problems of Zimbabwean textile exporters.

BDAY 26/2/93

The meeting — the first between the two countries' industry ministers since 1980 — is believed to have been encouraged by Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe.

In a joint statement, the parties said the visit was seen as historic. The talks, they said, were held in a friendly and constructive atmosphere.

Regarding Zimbabwe's most favoured nation status — left over from pre-independence days — the ministers agreed to meet again in June to review progress made in negotiations.

Special attention was paid in the discussions to trade in textiles and clothing, to Zimbabwe's tax on imports and to trade expansion strategies, including a common approach on tourism. Talks also focused on key policy considerations relating to the renegotiation of the 1964 trade agreement between SA and Zimbabwe.

On textiles, an undertaking was given to Zimbabwe that an early interim solution would be sought to the problems faced by Zimbabwean exporters. It is possible that discussions on this issue will be referred to the joint labour, public and private sector working group.

Zimbabwe and SA to meet again soon

BDay 2/3/93.

(362)

MICHAEL HARTNACK

HARARE — Zimbabwean and SA officials are expected to meet again soon now the political logjam has been broken over the two countries' "most favoured nation" trade treaty.

Sources in Harare said officials would be discussing all bilateral and regional trade issues, and not just the long overdue updating of the 1964 trade pact which President Robert Mugabe inherited from Ian Smith's Rhodesian government at Zimbabwe's independence in 1980.

Textile industry chiefs were holding urgent consultations yesterday about the implications of Thursday's Cape Town talks between Zimbabwe's Industry and Commerce Minister Christopher Ushewokunze and SA Minister of Finance, Trade and Industry Derek Keys.

Manufacturers are understood to have heaved a collective sigh of relief for an industry facing collapse because of the combined effects of the 1991-92 drought, which forced importation of foreign lint, and the 23% blanket surcharge imposed by SA on all foreign textiles.

Mugabe's continuing pro-sanctions rhetoric last year caused SA to stonewall two years of trade treaty talks, and Pretoria's special waiver on Zimbabwean textile exports fell away on December 31, Ushewokunze had hoped to have the updated trade pact signed by the year-end.

"On the specific issue of textiles, an undertaking was given to Zimbabwe that an early interim solution would be sought to the problems faced by Zimbabwean exporters," said a joint statement issued by Keys and Ushewokunze.

The two ministers agreed to meet again in June to review progress made on trade pact negotiations, which Zimbabwean sources believe will now settle down to a detailed analysis on the changes in the two countries' economies and manufactures since 1964, and revision of the outdated tariff rebate scales.

It was expected that Keys would visit Zimbabwe for the next round of talks.

Central African Textile Manufacturers Association (Catma) vice-chairman Ray Woolley warmly welcomed the results of Thursday's meeting.

BDay 2/3/93

Power costs problem

THE Chamber of Mines of Zimbabwe said in Harare yesterday the viability of producing base metals and gold was being eroded by high electricity costs, Ziana news agency reports.

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Chamber chief executive Derek Bain said that while the chamber welcomed the recent increase in power supplies to the productive sector from 90% to 100%, it was worried about the high cost of electricity.

STAR 3/3/93 -

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New war looms as armies demobbed

South Africa is braced for a new border war — against ivory and rhino horn poachers, writes JAMES CLARKE.

AS southern Africa begins to stabilise and Zimbabwe and Mozambique prepare to demobilise thousands of soldiers, so South Africa is bracing itself for another border war — cross-border raids and even deep incursions by AK47-wielding ivory and rhino horn poachers.

At the recent conference of the Game Rangers' Association of Africa, held at Itala Game Reserve in Natal, rangers spent many hours discussing how to prepare for this new wave.

As rhino numbers slump throughout Africa north of the Limpopo, so South Africa has become a prime target, with 28 percent of all known rhino in the world.

Kruger Park, which holds more than 2 000 rhino, shares a 350 km border with Mozambique and Zimbabwe.

Chief ranger Bruce Bryden says there are thousands of Mozambican troops near Kruger Park who will be demobilised and who have starving families.

Rhinos provide meat and horn.

In Natal and kwaZulu the reserves hold about 2 500 rhino and are on the alert.

Since 1990 the Natal reserves have lost 11 rhino to poachers. Kruger lost eight.

Major Piet Lategan, head of the SAP's 20-strong endangered species squad, told the conference the game departments were prepared for the "onslaught" which he sees coming — a suggestion vigorously denied.

Lategan's squad has had enormous successes. In February, a 23-year-old unarmed policewoman rounded up a gang and their cache of horns and ivory in Randburg. She and a black undercover policeman fooled the gang into thinking they were selling horn. One of those arrested had called to the policeman: "Hey, boy! Help load."

The policeman replied: "Ja, my baas."

When the handcuffs were snapped on, the leader said: "I don't believe this."

Dr George Hughes, chief executive of Natal Parks, said Taiwan has 10 000 chemist shops selling ground rhino horn. Rhino horn has been sold as a fever cure for 4 000 years and, said Hughes, it works.

Taiwan consumes 200 kg a year but considers African rhino horn inferior to the almost unobtainable Asian horn, which sells at 40 times more.

The Taiwanese say they would welcome a legal and reliable source and told Hughes they do not want to go down in history as the people who extinguished the rhino.

A debate on whether it would be wise for South Africa, Namibia and Zimbabwe to put their huge stockpiles of rhino horn — confiscated from poachers or cut from rhino found dead from natural causes — on to the market went on inconclusively for two hours.

The world ban on rhino horn has singularly failed to stop poaching and, annually, the price goes up and the gangsters get rougher.

The law is also getting rougher: when, last year, a senior Kruger Park ranger was given eight years for poaching rhino horns he appealed. He was then given 12 years. □

Zimbabwean building societies to lift interest rates

BDAY 3/3/93

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HARARE — Zimbabwe's cash-strapped building societies are expected to raise deposit and mortgage rates this week after months of delicate negotiations with the government, local money market sources said yesterday.

The societies, which have been losing funds for 18 months and unable to make new loans, were prevented from raising interest rates in line with other financial institutions in 1991 and 1992.

But last month, the government-owned Post Office Savings Bank (POSB), which competes directly with building societies for savers' funds, was given permission to raise rates for savings accounts to 19,75% from 14,25%.

This further undermined the building societies' position and industry sources said the government had agreed that they should raise their rates to be able to compete with the POSB.

"After months of talks the government has now realised the building societies' predicament," a market source said.

The societies are expected to raise deposit rates to over 19% from 14%, while the main mortgage rate paid by individual homebuyers is forecast to rise to 21,5 or 22% from 17,25%.

Money market sources said the hikes would add to the already tight market conditions driving other rates still higher.

"I think we should be looking at months of higher rates," a source said. — Reuter.

Doctor held in row over ‘experiments’

Star 4/3/93

(362)

Star Africa Service

HARARE — Police last night arrested a white doctor who is at the centre of a furious row over allegations by a parliamentary select committee that he conducted experiments on black patients without their knowledge, and that at least six of them died.

After MPs had likened the alleged actions of Dr Richard McGown to the experiments carried out on Jews in Nazi Germany and demanded his arrest, the head of Zimbabwe's Health Professions Council yesterday called on politicians and others to beware of making accusations they cannot sustain.

There were emotional scenes in parliament yesterday after the select committee's report was tabled and a Deputy Minister suggested that other white doctors might be conducting a silent war against black people by injecting them with Aids.

The select committee's report was given splash treatment today on the front page of the country's leading newspaper, The Herald, which in an editorial comment echoed the MPs' comparisons of the doctor's alleged actions with Nazi doctors' experiments on Jews.

McGown, a highly respected graduate of Edinburgh University's medical school, last night refused to talk to journalists.

He was taken from his home by police and locked in a cell at the Central Police Station.

According to the select committee report, McGown had undertaken experiments on his own authority to discover new ways of managing pain. He had carried out experiments on more than 500 patients without their knowledge. Some had died — two after undergoing appendix removals, one after the removal of gallstones and one after a circumcision.

The Zimbabwe Human Rights Association yesterday called on Health Minister Timothy Stamps to make a statement in parliament on the select committee's allegations of "unethical experiments which appear to have a racist and sexist bias".

public pharmaceutical

and held it for the full three

Zimbabwean MPs accuse doctor of 'Nazi death camp' experiments

BDAY 4/3/93 (362)

MICHAEL HARTNACK

HARARE — There has been a furious outcry in the Zimbabwean parliament over claims that a white doctor allegedly conducted unauthorised drug dosage experiments on black children, some of whom later died.

Leading independent legal and medical sources in Harare have voiced grave doubts about the allegations by cabinet ministers and MPs, which they say border on the hysterical and may be based on hearsay.

Lawyers acting for the doctor yesterday denied a claim by a parliamentary select committee that he was due to appear before Zimbabwe's Medical, Dental and Allied Professions' Council tomorrow on charges of misconduct. They also denied a suggestion that he was planning to emigrate to SA.

Proceedings of the Zimbabwean parliament enjoy no legal privilege outside the country. Last year, the doctor named by the select committee obtained undisclosed legal damages in an out of court settlement with a Zimbabwean weekly newspaper which reported the deaths of three of his white patients following operations.

During an emotional debate after the select committee report was released on Tuesday, former cabinet minister Victoria Chitepo compared the alleged experiments, on the effect of morphine on black children and women, to the work of Nazi death camp doctors.

Deputy Labour and Social Welfare Minister Florence Chitauro urged "national vigilance" against a genocidal conspiracy aimed at exterminating black people through injections of the AIDS virus and other fatal substances.

Yesterday police confirmed that an investigation had been opened into an unspecified number of possible charges of culpable homicide.

Lawyers acting for the doctor said that as the matter was sub judice,, they could not respond to the allegations.

The allegations could potentially damage confidence in the medical profession at a time when about 660 000 to 1,5-million Zimbabweans are believed to have contracted the HIV virus.

‘Guinea pig’ patients: Doctor arrested

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ARGT 4/3/93

Argus Africa News Service

HARARE. — Police have arrested a white doctor after allegations by a parliamentary committee that he had experimented on black patients without their knowledge and that at least six had died.

Dr Richard McGown's experiments have been compared by MPs to those carried out on Jews in nazi Germany. However, the head of Zimbabwe's Health Professions Council has called on politicians and others to beware of making accusations they cannot sustain.

Dr McGown, a highly respected graduate of Edinburgh University's medical school, last night refused to comment on the allegations before police arrived to arrest him.

His 16-year-old daughter, Macushla, said she and her mother had visited him in prison today. She said her father had spent the night on a concrete slab.

The select committee report alleges Dr McGown had experimented without authority on more than 500 patients without their knowledge. Some had died, including two after having their appendix removed, one who died after removal of gallstones and one after a circumcision.

Dr McGown is said to have admitted that he had been especially interested in finding out the effects on pain sensitivity in black females of epidural injections of morphine.

President of the Health Profession's Council, Dr Roberts-Gray Choto, called on MPs, journalists, judges and members of the public “to refrain from making accusations that they cannot sustain”.

Star 4/3/93

[redacted]

The men of the future

Economic realities are forcing together formerly staunch enemies, reports TREVOR GRUNDY from Harare for the Star Africa Service.

A NEW generation of southern African businessmen and politicians are bringing about an improvement in relations between South Africa and Zimbabwe that the old-guard hardliners had been unable or unwilling to achieve.

The establishment of full diplomatic relations will still have to await the installation of an interim government in South Africa, which is expected next year. But in the meantime important advances are being made under the pressure of hard economic reality.

According to one Zimbabwe ruling party official who asked not to be named, "the days of the hardliners in both countries are coming to an end".

Last week Derek Keys, South Africa's Minister of Finance and Trade and Industry met Zimbabwe's Minister of Industry and Commerce, Christopher Ushewokunze, in Cape Town.

Ushewokunze's trip to South Africa — the first by a black Zimbabwean cabinet minister and the first which enjoyed the support of President Robert Mugabe — was prompted largely by pressure from the domestic textile industry.

"The industry could collapse," a Midlands mill owner said during the Cape Town talks.

(362)

[redacted]

A communique, issued after the meeting, said the two leaders had paid special attention to textiles and clothing, to Zimbabwe's surcharge tax on imports, and to trade expansion, including a common approach to tourism.

South Africa undertook to seek an early interim solution for the problems facing Zimbabwean textile exporters. Higher import duties have crippled the Zimbabwean textile industry and Pretoria's refusal to renegotiate an earlier trade agreement — largely because of Harare's militant support for sanctions against South Africa — is causing anxiety among Zimbabwean businessmen.

Ushewokunze asked for a waiver of duties for the next six to nine months. But, informed sources say, the Zimbabwean Minister was told in no uncertain terms that now is the time for Mugabe and some of his more militant Ministers to cool their language when they talk about the South African Government.

A highly placed official who attended the Cape Town talks said the now obsolete 1964 Trade Agreement would be renegotiated within the next few weeks. "Believe me, the atmosphere was good in Cape Town. Keys and Ushewokunze are men of the future. They are almost post-apartheid people and they want to see the region work," the official said.

South Africa's trade representative in Harare, Andre Brink, described the meeting as one which would establish a basis for better economic relations between the two countries. He was enthusiastic about an indaba on tourism scheduled for May in Durban and said he hoped the Zimbabwean Minister of Tourism would accept an invitation to attend. □

Top cops charged in rhino horn case

Sowetan 4/3/93.

Sowetan Africa News Service

■ REAL CULPRITS One is a member of Zimbabwe's feared Central Intelligence Organisation: 362

HARARE — Two senior policemen, one of them attached to the much-feared Central Intelligence Organisation (CIO), are among a ring of 13 people arrested in Zimbabwe for allegedly selling poached rhino horns.

Some conservationists believe the arrests indicate that the horn racket, which has seen Zimbabwe's rhino population drop from 3 000 in 1894 to only 400 today, was inspired locally and not only by foreign interests.

According to conservationists, the racket involves not only policemen but also some members of parliament and even Cabinet Ministers. They think the pointing of fingers at poachers from Zambia has turned attention away from the real culprits in Zimbabwe itself.

These culprits, the conservationists allege, are working closely with an international organisation whose operations stretch from Zimbabwe through Lusaka, West Africa, Europe, the Middle East and Far East.

A Bulawayo court heard on Tuesday how Ganwell Chipfurutse, a member of the CIO, and another policeman, Nyikadzino Mpofu, were arrested on Monday for possession of two rhino horns valued at thousands of rands. They were released on bail, together with eight other accused, until their trial resumes on March 15.

The 10 have all pleaded not guilty to the charge of illegal possession of rhino horns but three others arrested in the same case have admitted guilt and been sentenced to eight-year prison terms.

Last month an MP of the ruling Zanu (PF) party, Ben Moyo, was jailed for five years for possession of a rhino horn.

Star 5/3/93

Doctor in court

HARARE — Dr Richard Gladwell McGown, the anaesthetist arrested yesterday after a parliamentary select committee accused him of conducting unauthorised experiments on patients, was to appear in court today charged with five counts of murder. (362)

McGown, a graduate of Edinburgh University's medical school, was said by the select committee to have given black patients experimental injections of morphine without their knowledge. — Star Africa Service.

Clemency order frees 6 000 (362)

■HARARE — Six thousand prisoners will be released from Zimbabwean jails following the gazetting of a clemency order outlining conditions for the granting of an amnesty. The general amnesty, being granted by President Robert Mugabe in accordance with provisions of the consitution, "will be in the form of a remission of sentences of life imprisonment and a general remission of sentences of imprisonment", Ziana news agency reported this week. According to an extraordinary government gazette, a remission of the remainder of sentence is granted to every person serving a life imprisonment imposed on or before March 31 1980, following approval by the Ministry of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs. — Sapa

W/Mail 5/3-11/3/93

w\mail 5/3-11/3/93 (362)

A lesson SA firms can learn from Zimbabwe

362

w/Mail 5/3-11/3/93

At a recent seminar corporate social investment consultant **ANTOINETTE LERESCHE** *presented the results of research she had undertaken into trends in Zimbabwe. South African companies should take note*

OF the lessons South African companies can learn from Zimbabwe about the challenge of development in a society in transition the greatest lies in what not to do.

At independence the new Zimbabwean government regarded business with overwhelming mistrust, based on historic experience as well an overtly socialist ideology. Hence it decided not to entrust business with upliftment and development, and instead implemented its own programmes, focusing mostly on education, housing and health care.

Business response to development challenges at transition can at best be described as lethargic. The level of employee participation in social spending was poor to zero. Many companies did not even have social budgets. Most companies were content to let government get on with the job of development as best it could. They have paid the price for their neglect financially as well as developmentally.

The Zimbabwean government's programmes were mainly funded in three ways: paid-up premiums; foreign aid; and increased personal and company taxes.

Also, mandatory minimum wage and affirmative action legislation was introduced in the public sector.

These strategies have, to a lesser or greater extent, failed. And each failure has contributed to Zimbabwe's economic crisis. Massive lay-offs followed attempts to regulate minimum wages, particularly for domestic workers, as people could not or would not pay those wages. The resultant increase in unemployment created yet another problem for the new government. Affirmative action in the public sector took place according to a set time-table which did not take into consideration the upgrading of peoples' skills or abilities at the same rate, if at all.

Over-promotion brought with it a whole set of incompetencies and problems.

Foreign aid brought with it high interest repayments which further drained the declining economy.

South African companies should take heed of the tendency of the government to increase tax to fund its social investment programmes. Pre-independence company taxes during 1978 were at a high already due to UDI — at 48,3 percent. Immediately after independence and the period following effective tax rates increased to 56,3 percent. Since then taxes have been gradually decreasing, to 44,6 percent for the 1993 tax year. These figures for the effective company tax rate include additional tax levied for drought relief.

South Africa on the brink of "independence" and certainly well into transition has a company tax rate of 48 percent. The tax rate spiral Zimbabwean companies suffered has led to a decline in economic growth. It has also acted as a significant disincentive to foreign investment at a time when it was sorely needed.

Now, the increased level of unionisation coupled with the government's inability to deliver on pre-election promises has again laid the development burden at the feet of business. Will business rise to the challenge this time? Hopefully Zimbabwean firms will be able to turn to their South African counterparts for some pointers in how it should and can be done.

South Africa has a few advantages over Zimbabwe. We already have a highly developed union environment which has gone a long way to achieving basic improvements for workers. Active union participation and industrial action over the past decade have resulted in South African managers having good exposure to and awareness of the socio-political environment. The ratio of whites to blacks in South Africa is higher than it was in Zimbabwe and together with various other factors means any "mass exodus" of skilled labour after "independence" won't be as damaging. Finally we have the experience of our neighbours to reflect upon.

In common with Zimbabwe, we must deal with the challenges of transition to a possibly hostile new government. South Africa must also undo the harm of generations of educationally disadvantaged blacks due to the bias of educational policy. A high level of political turbulence during transition is unlikely to abate. Furthermore, the dominant ideology of the strongest contender for power, the African National Congress, is socialist.

Four separate yet interdependent strategic actions should be undertaken by South African companies: internal social policy, participation, disclosure and increased spending.

Internal social policy must address the needs of the workers as a priority. This includes such aspects as minimum wages, voluntarism, family benefits, on or near-site creche facilities, employee share ownership schemes and affirmative action. Affirmative action must embrace gender as well as race.

Participation is vital at all levels of the economy. At national level interaction in the form of a national forum on social policy is vital. This must filter down to the lowest rung of the working ladder. The Congress of South African Trade Unions recommends discussions at both union-management level and worker-supervisor level. Interaction is the operative word and participation must therefore extend to decision making as well as implementing programmes in a joint initiative to solve social problems.

Disclosure must be aimed at participation rather than publicity. For meaningful participation there must be trust, openness and honesty. If voluntary disclosure is not forthcoming it may be legislatively enforced.

Increased spending is essential. If it is not done voluntarily government may impose a compulsory percentage. Worse, it may simply raise taxes and conduct upliftment programmes itself. If these are as unsuccessful as in Zimbabwe, business will still be saddled with the problem, but with fewer resources to solve it. Opportunities for increased spending are abundant.

Time to prepare for the inevitable transition is limited. The challenge for business in South Africa is whether we will bury our heads in the sand or face up to reality and grasp the nettle.

Mugabe cash under wraps

S/Times 7/3/93

From
Michael Hartnack
in Harare

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THE Master of Zimbabwe's High Court fought grimly this week to keep the details of Mrs Sally Mugabe's estate secret from The Sunday Times.

President Robert Mugabe's wife died in January 1992 after a long illness, leaving many unanswered questions about her financial affairs.

President Mugabe declared his wife a "national heroine" and she was given a state funeral at the national shrine.

Under the 1988 Finance Act, the estates of all national heroes and heroines are exempt from duty.

● The Sunday Times is taking advice on further legal steps to gain access to the statement of account and so end speculation about Mrs Mugabe's financial affairs.

● Zimbabwe's state-controlled media have been warned not to report anything about Mrs Mugabe's estate, sources said yesterday.

As a member of the "Politburo", she was prohibited from owning more than one house or 20 hectares of land in terms of her husband's socialist "Leadership Code". She was also theoretically banned from having any private business interests.

Govt poised to sign pact with Harare

ADRIAN HADLAND

PRETORIA — SA might sign a new trade pact with Zimbabwe in the near future, government sources said at the weekend.

Zimbabwe's proposed amendments to the 1964 trade agreement with SA are being scrutinised by officials and representatives of organised trade and industry.

Trade and Industry director-general Stef Naude said it was not possible to give an exact date for the signing of a new agreement. But Zimbabwean Industry and Commerce Minister Christopher Ushewokunze would meet Finance Minister Derek Keys in June to review progress on negotiations towards a new pact.

At the ministers' first meeting last month, special attention was paid to trade in textiles and clothing, Zimbabwe's surcharge on imports, trade expansion strategies and tourism.

Regarding textiles, an undertaking was given to Zimbabwe that an early interim solution would be sought to the problems faced by Zimbabwean exporters.

Last month's meeting between Keys and Ushewokunze was the first meeting between SA and Zimbabwean trade ministers since Zimbabwe's independence in 1980.

B/DAY 8/3/93

(362)

Mrs Mugabe's estate under scrutiny

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CT 8/3/93

Own Correspondent

HARARE. — The Zimbabwean authorities face a new challenge today to their efforts to keep secret the estate and heirs of the late Mrs Sally Mugabe, the Ghanaian wife of President Robert Mugabe who died in January 1992.

On Friday, the Harare legal firm of Gollop and Blank advertised in the Herald that the first and final account of Mrs Mugabe's estate would lie open for public inspection for 14 days at the office of the master of the High Court.

However, the master, Mr Jacob Moyo, blocked attempts by a foreign correspondent and by lawyers acting for him to obtain sight of the accounts, claiming they had to prove a direct financial interest to be allowed this.

Zimbabwe's Administration of Estates Act designates the Master of the High Court's office as one of public record, stipulating that any person shall be entitled to inspect documents such as liquidation accounts.

Since Mrs Mugabe was declared a "national heroine" by her husband, her estate is exempt from all duty in terms of Zimbabwe's 1988 Finance Act. As head of state, Mr Mugabe is exempt from all taxation, so only Mrs Mugabe's other heirs stand to benefit from the concession.

Lawyers are expected to take further advice today on steps to obtain compliance with the Administration of Estates Act, through a possible approach to a judge in chambers for an interdict on the High Court master.

Prospects brighter for Zimbabwe

Star 9/3/93

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HARARE — Zimbabwean Finance Minister Bernard Chidzero said yesterday his country's economy could achieve a nominal seven percent gross domestic product growth rate this year.

This would help offset the eight percent decline experienced by Zimbabwe last year when the drought took its toll on the country's agriculturally dependent economy.

In an upbeat speech at a function in Harare, Dr Chidzero said the reversal in the country's economic fortune was mainly due to the onset of the rainy season, which strengthened prospects of a good agricultural season.

Other encouraging factors expected this year were:

- An increase in exports;
- Inflation falling to below 30 percent from a peak of 45 percent in late 1992;
- The continuation of the economic reform programme resulting in sustained growth in gross domestic product (GDP), employment, consumption and private-sector investment.

Dr Chidzero said the rapid expansion of exports this year would reverse nearly all of the sharp drought-related current account contractions experienced last year. — Sapa.

Zimbabwe doctors exodus

Star 9/3/93

Star Africa Service

HARARE — Zimbabwe's health services are reported to be in danger of collapse, with shortages of equipment hampering proper medical care and doctors leaving the country in large numbers for better jobs.

(362)

Last week the president of the Hospital Doctors' Association, Dr Max Matonhodze, warned the health sector was in danger of a total collapse.

He said there was a huge medical brain-drain as young doctors left for South Africa and Botswana. Some of the smaller provincial hospitals had no full-time doctors.

Yesterday Health Minister Timothy Stamps warned that doctors must be adequately rewarded and given what they asked for in facilities if their services were to be retained.

Dr Stamps was commenting on an embarrassing acceleration of the brain-drain: the sudden departure, without giving notice, of two doctors recently recruited from Pakistan for better jobs in South Africa.

Government doctors were given a 40 percent pay increase last year but it was overtaken by an inflation rate that has risen to 47 percent.

Some Harare hospitals have no x-ray machines. Others do not even have sterile gloves for operations — at a time when there is a massive increase in the incidence of Aids.

The state of Zimbabwe's affairs is making people unhappy, reports **Trevor Grundy**

Star 9/3/93

'Second revolution' over land?

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TALK of a "second revolution" is becoming common in Zimbabwe as dissatisfaction grows among people who have been disappointed in their expectations of what independence would bring.

In tandem with this, fears are growing among whites and Indians in Zimbabwe that they will be used as scapegoats for the Mugabe government's failures during the run-up to the election, which must be held before 1995.

In recent weeks white farmers and Indian traders have been depicted by government politicians as exploiters of the blacks.

A recent study by the University of Harare showed that blacks are now worse off than they were shortly before independence. Unemployment figures have reached two million and the inflation rate is approaching 50 percent.

In this situation a refrain that is increasingly being heard from blacks is: "Thirteen years after independence, Zimbabwe is still run by foreigners."

Tied in with this sentiment is the dispute over land ownership, which centres on black complaints that whites are still in possession of most of the best farmland.

President Robert Mugabe could call an election any time between now and 1995. He would probably win easily if he called it now, with the opposition in a shambles, but the situation was very different a few months ago.

Then Zimbabwe was in the worst drought in memory and was forced to import 2,5 million tons of grain because government bungling had depleted the grain reserves. The threat of famine was averted, but at great cost.

"Never again do we want to be beggars for food," the president of the Farmers' Union, Gary Magadzire, said at the weekend.

Good rains this summer promise a good maize harvest, but Zimbabwe will have to import up to 400 000 tons to form the nucleus of a 500 000-ton stockpile to avoid repeating last year's emergency.

One result of that emergency is that pressure for the acquisition of white farmland has increased. Since 1980 only 52 000 black families have been resettled on former white farmland despite expectations that the war that led to independence would result in widespread land redistribution. Another 110 000 families are still demanding land, while only 4 500 white farmers still own 40 percent of the best arable land.

Recently, eyes have been cast on black-owned land as well, not only by land-hungry peasants but by politicians who see opportunity in the issue. Opposition politician Ndabaninge Sithole said: "There are many Ministers with hundreds of acres of land. If they had the wishes of the people at heart they would put aside part of their land for the benefit of underprivileged members of society."

Last week the leader of the Indigenous Commercial Farmers' Association, Davidson Mugabe, said indigenous farmers must not be included in land redistribution exercises.

At the same rally John Mapondera, a black businessman, said it was time the Mugabe government assisted black commercial farmers to become the mainstay of Zimbabwe's economy.

Vice-President Joshua Nkomo has spoken of the possibility of a "second revolution" unless the land issue is settled to meet the aspirations of black people.

"To avoid a conflict between the blacks and the well-to-do, who are mainly whites, government has to deliberately assist the disadvantaged blacks," he said.

"As long as the economy remains in the hands of a few individuals, there will be unemployment and an upsurge in street kids and subsequently there will be a marked rise in crime and thus a revolution begins."

Some Zimbabweans feel this sort of talk is more than just another round of pre-election rhetoric that will be put aside once the ruling party has been returned to power.

"If Mugabe promises blacks land before 1995 and then lets things slide again there really will be a second revolution," said one prominent politician.

The latest edition of the weekly Financial Gazette says land redistribution fears are deliberately being rekindled in advance of the election. The paper said there were suspicions that while white farmers were needed now to grow crops to overcome the effects of the 1992 drought, their position might not be secure in the future.

"Farmers in Banket heard during a meeting last week that land could be used by (the ruling) Zanu (PF) to win votes in the coming elections," the newspaper said. "The Minister of Land, Kumbirai Kangai, who is working well with commercial and communal farmers, could be removed if he does not designate land in 1995."

The Gazette said the government's popularity had sagged in recent years and as 1995 drew nearer, it was faced with an enormous task to redeem itself.

Commenting on the growing debate about land ownership and the election build-up, Anthony Swire-Thompson, president of the Commercial Farmers' Union, said the 1992 Land Acquisition Act, which empowered the government to expropriate land, was a negative aspect of Zimbabwe's economy.

Both he and the CFU director, David Hasluck, have said the Act should be repealed immediately.

But a leading member of the Zimbabwe Farmers' Union said in reaction : "That really would cause a second revolution." — Star Africa Service. □

focus on **Zimbabwe**

Rising discontent among impoverished Zimbabweans and a general election to be held in 1995 are putting pressure on the Mugabe government and thence on white and Indian "scapegoats".

Sowetan 9/3/93.

Trevor Grundy reports from Harare for the *Sowetan* Africa News Service:

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TALK of a "second revolution" is becoming common in Zimbabwe as dissatisfaction grows among people who have been disappointed in their expectations of what independence would bring.

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In recent weeks white farmers and Indian traders have been depicted by government politicians as exploiters of the blacks.

A recent study by the University of Zimbabwe showed that blacks are now worse off than they were shortly before independence.

Unemployment figures have reached two million and 300 000 pupils graduate from secondary school every year with little hope of finding jobs. And the inflation rate is approaching 50 percent.

In this situation a refrain that is increasingly being heard from blacks is: "Thirteen years after independence, Zimbabwe is still run by foreigners."

Tied in with this sentiment is the dispute over land ownership which centres on black complaints that whites are still in possession of most of the country's best farmland.

President Robert Mugabe could call an election any time between now and 1995. He would probably win easily if he called it now with the opposition in a state of shambles but the situation was very different a few months ago.

Then Zimbabwe was in the worst drought in memory and was forced to import 2,5 million tons of grain to feed its people because government bungling had depleted the country's grain reserves. The threat of famine was averted but at great financial — and psychological — cost.

"Never again do we want to be beggars for food," the president of the million-member Zimbabwe Farmers Union, Gary Magadzire, said last weekend.

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President Robert Mugabe.

Recently, eyes have been cast on black-owned land as well, not only by land-hungry peasants but by politicians who see opportunity in the issue. Veteran opposition politician Ndabaningi Sithole said: "There are many Ministers with hundreds of acres of land. If they had the wishes of the people at heart they would have put aside part of their land for the benefit of under-privileged members of society."

Last week the leader of the Indigenous Commercial Farmers Association, Davidson Mugabe, said at a field day at Darwendale that indigenous farmers must not be included in land redistribution exercises.

At the same rally John Mapondera, one of the most outspoken black businessmen, said it was high time the Mugabe government assisted black commercial farmers to become the mainstay of the economy, rather than leaving the white farmers in this role.

"We are calling on the government to nurture this baby and give it sustenance so that it may grow to become the backbone of commercial agriculture in Zimbabwe," he said.

Vice-President Joshua Nkomo has spoken of the possibility of a "second revolution" unless the land issue is settled to meet black aspirations.

"In order to avoid a conflict between the blacks and the well-to-do, who are mainly whites, government has to deliberately assist the disadvantaged blacks," he said.

"As long as the economy of this country remains in the hands of a few individuals, there will be unemployment and an upsurge in street kids and subsequently there will be a marked rise in crime and thus a revolution begins," he added.

Some Zimbabweans feel that this sort of talk is more than just another round of pre-election rhetoric that will be put aside once the ruling party has been returned to power.

"If Mugabe promises blacks land before 1995 and then lets things slide again there really will be a second revolution," said one prominent politician, speaking "off the record".

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Both he and the CFU director, David Hasluck, have said the Act should be repealed immediately.

9 1993

SAAF goes ahead with its Pilatus deal

B/Dny 9/3/93.

STEPHANE BOTHMA

THE SA Air Force will go ahead with the R520m Pilatus aircraft deal despite the Swiss government's banning of special features which could give the trainer aircraft military capabilities.

Six special underwing armament hardpoints, applicable wiring and ejector seats would have been built into the 60 Pilatus PC 7MK II aircraft at the request of the SAAF, but Swiss authorities yesterday ordered manufacturers Oerlikon-Beuhrle Holding to modify the design so that the aircraft cannot be armed.

Sapa-Reuter reported Swiss Defence Minister Kaspar Villiger as saying that if Oerlikon could not guarantee that subsequent arming was ruled out by technical modifications, the government would ban the export of PC7s and PC9s under the federal constitution.

He said Oerlikon must make the change to any Pilatus PC7 and PC9 aircraft it wanted to sell to countries barred from purchases of war equipment under Swiss law.

An SAAF spokesman said yesterday that there had never been, nor ever would be, any intention whatsoever to use the Pilatus in an armed role.

"To endorse this expressed intention, the SAAF has declared that the Pilatus company may supply the aircraft without any provision for armament," he said. The SAAF previously said it requested these special features for training purposes.

Armscor, which procured the deal, said it supported the request to Oerlikon because there was no intention to use the aircraft for anything other than training.

Villiger said problems over the Pilatus aircraft deal with SA showed Switzerland's law curbing arms exports to areas of conflict needed to be toughened, and a draft revision would be presented to parliament later this year, Sapa-Reuter reported.

Villiger confirmed reports that the PC9 Pilatus aircraft had been tested for weapons-use in Burma in 1987, and that his government had received reports that armed action with Pilatus aircraft had taken place in some Third World countries including Iraq and Angola.

The UN Security Council, which monitors a mandatory arms embargo against SA, last week called on Switzerland to prevent the sale, saying it would be contrary to the embargo.

Lawyers in battle to check Mugabe will

MICHAEL HARTNACK 362

HARARE — Lawyers for Times Media Limited yesterday sought access to a judge in chambers to lift the veil of secrecy thrown over the estate and heirs of the late Sally Mugabe. B/DAY 9/3/93.

President Robert Mugabe's Ghanaian-born wife died on January 27 1992, and on March 5 a Zimbabwean legal firm, Gollop and Blank, announced that the first and final distribution account of her estate would lie open for public inspection until March 19 at the Harare office of the master of the high court.

However, the master, Jacob Moyo, has blocked three attempts by Times Media and its lawyers to inspect the accounts, claiming they may only be seen by persons who can prove a financial interest in Mugabe's estate.

Under her husband's socialist "leadership code", Mugabe was theoretically forbidden to have any private business interests, to own more than one house, or 20 ha of land.

Zimbabwe's news media have been instructed not to report any matters concerning Mugabe's estate, say sources here.

Lawyers hope that a high court judge will be able to force Moyo to comply with Zimbabwe's Administration of Estates Act, which establishes his office as one of public record, where any member of the public may inspect and obtain copies of documents such as wills, distribution accounts and liquidation orders.

Moyo last year hinted Mugabe died without leaving a valid will, or that her will had been set aside, when he announced he would appoint executors.

Harare lawyer Robert Stumbles, who has previously acted as President Mugabe's personal lawyer, said the matter was "confidential between attorney and client".

Born Sarah Hayfron, 59-year-old Mugabe died of a chronic kidney complaint. Her only son died during infancy.

President Mugabe appointed her to his politburo as

Row on rates hikes heats up

CT 11/3/93 [illegible] 362

Council 'won't spell out details'

By PETER DENNEHY

AS ratepayers reacted angrily yesterday, the council refused to spell out exactly what rates increases they could expect in various suburbs from July 1 when the new general municipal revaluation comes into effect.

Mr Frank Helm, the chairman of Ratepayers in Revolt, said the council seemed out of control as it was spending money "like a drunken sailor". The sooner the councillors were "booted out of office" the better it would be for everyone, he said.

City treasurer Mr Eddie Landsberg said his figures were not ready yet, but he had made rough estimates on specific properties in Camps Bay, Plumstead, Claremont and Bishopscourt.

In those cases, the increases occasioned by the revaluation were likely to be: Camps Bay 60%, Claremont 40%, Plumstead 20%, Bishopscourt 60%.

This means that from July 1, the owners will be paying those percentages extra, plus another 12% or so on the original amount which will be required as the normal annual increase in rates.

Mr Landsberg said that not all properties in Cape Town had yet been assigned a provisional new municipal valuation, so he could not release detailed figures at this stage.

However, the Cape Times was able to work out the rate in the rand that he was assuming when he gave an example of a house in Camps Bay valued at R63 000 in 1979 and R560 000 in the latest revaluation.

Since that property faces a 60% increase in rates payable, its present R3 667 a year payment on 5,822 cents in the rand must rise to R5 868. The owner must pay 1,04796 cents in the rand from July 1 to get to that figure from a valuation of R560 000.

The new rate is 5,5 times higher than the present one. This could mean that in the present revaluation, the average property has risen to 5,5 times its 1979 valuation.

Any owner whose property has risen more than that will have to pay more in rates, while those that have risen less will pay less.

It is reliably understood that the values of residential land from Observatory through Sybrand Park, Rondebosch East, Southfield and Plumstead have generally risen to six times their 1979 valuations, while the upmarket parts of Rondebosch have gone up to eight times what they were, Camps Bay to nine times, and Bergvliet to seven times.

According to preliminary figures available to the Cape Times based on just the land component of valuations (rather than land and buildings combined), areas in which rates could fall include Muizenberg, Retreat, parts of Southfield, Brooklyn, Rugby and Mitchells Plain. Salt River remains roughly the same.

There may be surprises in store for some lower-income owners, as not all of them will pay less. Taking an example based on land value alone, a property in Bonteheuwel with a 1979 valuation of just R1 260 now faces a revaluation to R27 710, nearly 22 times the previous one.

This would lead to a rates increase from R73 a year to R290 a year — close to 300%. Yet this is an atypical case.

expanding global exploration projects.

Devaluation helps Zimbabwean mines

Star 11/3/93

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HARARE — Zimbabwe's mining industry produced minerals worth over Z$2,35 billion ($356 million) in 1992 compared with Z$1,76 billion ($266 million) the previous year despite a slight fall in output, the local Chamber of Mines says.

The national news agency Ziana quoted a chamber spokesman as saying in an interview that the total volume of major minerals produced last year, excluding gold, was 6 246 257 tons compared with 7 364 953 tons in 1991.

The spokesman attributed the rise in earnings to the devaluation of the Zimbabwe dollar against its main trading currencies.

He said about 18,4 tons of gold worth Z$1,031 billion ($156 million) were produced in 1992, compared with 17,8 tons for Z$753 million ($114 million) the previous year.

Last year was a bad year because of production problems caused by power shortages, tight liquidity, the drought and a depressed international market.

Local economists expect the mining sector to improve slightly in 1993. — Sapa-Reuter.

INVESTI

Export incentive delay

ZIMBABWE could lose exports worth millions of dollars in foreign currency because of government delays in implementing a recently introduced export incentive facility.

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Confederation of Zimbabwe Industries CE Mike Boyd-Clark said in Harare yesterday morale in industry was low because manufacturers were frantic to utilise funds under the Export Support Facility, introduced last month to replace the Export Revolving Fund.

BDAY 11/3/93

REPORTS: Sapa, Business Day Reporter, Own Correspondent.

Cholera spreads in Zimbabwe

HARARE. — Since November last year 6 323 cholera cases and 287 deaths from the disease have been reported throughout Zimbabwe.

Health and Child Welfare Minister Mr Timothy Stamps said four people had died and 37 new cholera cases had been reported in the past week.

Cholera had now spread from places such as the Tongogara refugee camp to the Mashonaland, Manicaland and Masvingo provinces, Mr Stamps said. — Sapa. (362) ARG 3/3/93

Cholera hits 6 323 in Zim

362

HARARE — A total of 6 323 cholera cases and 287 subsequent deaths from the disease have been reported throughout Zimbabwe since November.

CT 15/3/93

Dearer bread for Zimbabwe

Star 17/8/93

Star Africa Service

362

HARARE — Zimbabwe is expected to announce an increase in the bread price within the next two weeks as it pushes ahead with its Economic Structural Adjustment Programme (Esap).

The decision has serious political implications in a country where bread has virtually replaced mealie meal as the staple food and where the inflation rate is nearing 50 percent.

The government is spending billions every year on food subsidies, but will withdraw most of them between now and 1996, when the World Bank-supported Esap ends.

Bread subsidies alone amount to Z$113 million, says Industry and Commerce Minister Christopher Ushewokunze. Maize is being subsidised at a rate of Z$560 a ton.

Last year's drought temporarily derailed the Esap but the World Bank and its sister organisations have praised the Zimbabwe government for sticking with the programme, despite the hardships placed on consumers.

Legal eyes wait to see will

HARARE. — Judgment is expected today after lawyers' attempts to force the Master of the High Court in Harare to disclose publicly the contents of the will of the late Mrs Sally Mugabe, Zimbabwe President Robert Mugabe's wife. (362)

Mrs Mugabe died in January last year and her will has since been concealed from public scrutiny by court master Mr Jacob Moyo, who has denied he is treating Mrs Mugabe's will as a special case because she was the wife of the president. CT 18/3/93

Lawyers were told yesterday that Mr Justice George Smith would issue his ruling on public access to Mrs Mugabe's will this morning. — Sapa

(362) ST 18/3/93

Malaria makes 'vicious return'

HARARE. — While the world's attention is focused on Aids, another disease is killing millions of people throughout the world every year.

Zimbabwe's Ziana news agency reported this week malaria has made a vicious comeback. According to the World Health Organisation, it infects 270 million people and kills two million every year — more than Aids.

Health officials fear the situation could get worse as the disease is growing more resistant to drugs. — Sap[illegible]

Access to Mugabe's will denied

HARARE: — The Times Media Limited newspaper group yesterday initiated an appeal to Zimbabwe's Supreme Court after High Court judge Mr George Smith said it was "clearly" entitled to inspect the accounts of Mrs Sally Mugabe's estate, but refused to issue an order enforcing access.

Mr Justice Smith dismissed the morning newspaper group's application for an urgent rule nisi against the Master of the High Court, Mr Jacob Moyo, who has blocked attempts to see the first and final distribution accounts of the Mugabe estate since it was advertised as "lying open for inspection " for 21 days from March 5.

CT 19/3/93

After Judge Smith delivered his judgment yesterday Mr Moyo again refused Times Media staff and lawyers sight of the accounts.

Confronted with the judge's remarks on the right of the press and public to inspect documents lodged with his office, Mr Moyo said: "That is just the judge's opinion."

(362)

Mrs Mugabe, the Ghanaian-born wife of President Robert Mugabe, died of a chronic kidney complaint in January 1992 and was declared a national heroine.

Zim dollar downward trend brought to halt

Star 19/3/93

HARARE — The downward slide of the Zimbabwe dollar has been halted and major adjustments are not expected for the rest of the year, according to the governor of the Reserve Bank, Dr Kombo Moyana. (362)

He told reporters that the dollar would fluctuate only marginally against other currencies on a day-to-day basis.

A depreciation of about 15 percent against European currencies had become necessary because local exporters had become less competitive after European currencies were devalued.

A return to lower interest rates could be achieved only if government spending were contained, he said. — Star Africa Service.

Executions stayed

(362)

■HARARE — The hanging of four murderers, due to take place on Tuesday morning, did not materialise after a stay of execution was granted by the Harare High Court on Monday. W/Mail 19/3-25/3/93

A representative of the Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace in Zimbabwe said authorities had complied with a last-minute injunction not to execute the four, in what would have been Zimbabwe's first hangings since 1988.

The stay of execution will last until the court rules on a challenge being mounted by the commission that hanging the four, all of whose victims were elderly and defenceless, would be "inhuman". — Sapa

Unity bid against Mugabe collapses

B/DAY 23/3/93

(362)

HARARE — A move to unite Zimbabwe's splintered opposition to challenge President Robert Mugabe collapsed amid acrimony at the weekend.

But the opposition, trying to play down the setback, said it would forge ahead despite the National Democratic Union (NDU) and the Zimbabwe African National Union (Ndoga) having quit the six-party alliance.

Senior United Front official Kingdom Sithole said the split was only a teething problem. "I can assure you that we are growing from strength to strength," he said.

The front, which included former Rhodesian prime minister Ian Smith, was set up last year and was billed as the most serious challenge to the government which has ruled with little opposition since independence in 1980.

Political analysts said the front, grouping mostly right wing parties headed by Zimbabwe's old-guard politicians, lacked a common agenda on economic problems.

"These parties had no common denominator upon which to build a viable programme of action," Zimbabwe University political scientist Eliphas Mukono said.

A new and broader political party, expected to be led by Zimbabwe's first black chief justice Enoch Dumbutshena, was due to be launched at the end of the month.

The NDU and Ndonga pulled out of the alliance after clashes over whether the front should field only one candidate in upcoming by-elections.

The two parties also accused some front officials of trying to turn the group into a political party instead of it remaining as a loose alliance as originally envisaged.

Other analysts said the front collapsed because it lacked new ideas and a credible national leader.

"The political atmosphere in the country now is one which should have helped the front, but they have nothing to show in the way of policies and new leaders," a Western analyst said.

The popularity of Mugabe's government took a big knock last year over its handling of the recession-hit economy and the worst drought this century that left half the population in need of imported food aid.

"But because the front has not offered alternatives, Mugabe has been able to convince ... the bulk of the population that the government did a good job offering people drought aid," one analyst said. — Sapa-Reuter.

Zimbabwe shuts the door on ex-Rhodesians

MICHAEL HARTNACK

HARARE — Zimbabwe's Supreme Court has finally closed the door on more than 200 000 former white Rhodesians who may have wanted to return to the land of their birth.

In a landmark judgment former Supreme Court Judge John Manyarara ruled they had no automatic right to resume residence if they had lost Zimbabwean citizenship. Chief Justice Anthony Gubbay yesterday handed down a second judgement validating Manyarara's ruling.

It had been challenged on the grounds Manyarara resigned from the Supreme Court bench on December 31, hence his court was not properly constituted when he delivered his judgment on February 18.

Gubbay acknowledged the judgement should have been handed down in the names of Supreme Court judges Ahmed Ibrahim and John Korsah who sat with Manyarara.

The three judges upheld the appeal of immigration officers against a 1991 decision by the Bulawayo High Court that wildlife pilot Terence "Barney" O'Hara and his American-born wife Dr Kyle-Marie Good did not need residence and work permits to return to Zimbabwe because O'Hara was born in Harare in 1958.

O'Hara had opted to retain his British passport when President Robert Mugabe banned the holding of dual citizenship in 1984. He formally emigrated in order to obtain funds for an advanced helicopter flying course.

There are believed to be more than 100 000 former Rhodesians in SA and another 100,000 settled elsewhere.

Returnees now require work and residence permits.

B/Day 24/3/93

(362)

Iron and steel firm in dire financial straits

BDay 24/3/93 362

HARARE — The Zimbabwe Iron and Steel Company (Zisco) is in dire straits because of its inability to raise Z$1,3bn in local funding to implement a vital rehabilitation and expansion programme.

Zisco directors said in a report to the Zimbabwean government yesterday that because of high borrowing costs the parastatal did not have the financial ability to raise and service rehabilitation and expansion funds of this magnitude.

The Redcliff-based iron and steel company would be crippled by high borrowing costs and the directors said Zisco was now facing a survival crisis.

Zisco's rehabilitation programme has been on the drawing board for more than 10 years, and had been deferred for some time because of financial constraints, Ziana news agency reports.

"Unfortunately, the long delays have resulted in sustained increases in project costs," the directors said.

The company had major projects worth Z$1,342bn which were essential to Zisco's viability, and therefore needed to be implemented in the near future.

These projects included the relining and rebuilding of a blast furnace at an estimated cost of Z$650m, iron ore restructuring costing nearly Z$600m and construction of a new power station at a cost of more than Z$390m.

The directors said Zisco required more than Z$400m during the current financial year to enable it to meet progress payments for core survival projects.

"To sustain the implementation of the rehabilitation programme, the company will have to continue to rely on the major shareholder, the Zimbabwe government, to provide the necessary local finance," the directors said.

The government has already indicated that Zisco will have to source the funds it needs from the local money market.

"However, indications from the local money market are that it will be very difficult to raise the necessary local finance," said the directors.

Zisco made a profit of Z$23m in the year to end-June 1992, but is now predicting a substantial loss for the current financial year. — Sapa

Mugabe estate bid 'insulting'

Star 25/3/93

(362)

By Robin Drew, Star Africa Service

HARARE — Most Zimbabweans feel insulted by the actions of the South African Times Media group, whose correspondent here has instituted court action to make public the contents of the estate of President Mugabe's wife Sally, who died last year, the semi-official newspaper, The Herald said today.

The matter is still before the Supreme Court.

The Herald said in an editorial that tradition dictated that the estate of the deceased was the business of close members of the family.

It asked what interest the South African public had in this matter to the extent of putting up money for the court action.

If the South African newspapers had brought the action in their own name, it said, they would have been required to pay large amounts in foreign currency in deposits.

"By hiding behind the apron of a Zimbabwean willing to act on their behalf they have avoided the huge costs they certainly would have incurred.

"Such loopholes need to be plugged so that we cannot again be subjected to such stupidity."

The action against the Master of the High Court was brought by the newspaper group's correspondent, Michael Hartnack, whose application to the High Court through a judge in chambers was rejected on technical grounds.

Lawyers took the matter to the Supreme Court as a matter or urgency because the accounts, which have been open for inspection by interested parties, are due to be closed tomorrow.

Three M & R concrete companies to merge

Star 25/3/93

Finance Staff

Three concrete masonry companies in the Murray & Roberts stable — Cape-based Calsica Bricks, Tricrete Transvaal and Border Concrete — have been merged to form a new company, Inca.

Bob Low, chief executive of the new company, says the decision to merge was a difficult one.

"All of the entities are major players in their own regions and are fiercely protective of their names, reputations and product lines."

Although autonomous managements within a region have been the key to each of the companies' successes, national cohesion would allow pooling of knowledge and resources.

"The new structure will allow us to retain the benefits of the individual operations while taking advantage of shared technology and improved ranges," he said.

The three founding companies will trade under the INCA logo in their various regions, where they are among the market leaders.

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tems, the converter-canning operation in the Delta Group, received the General Motors supplier of the year award.

Because catalytic converters are not yet used in SA, Algorax's output ends up in the export market.

After the implementation of Phase VI of the local content programme in 1989 and in order to boost export opportunities for the local car industry, the German company Degussa set up Algorax as a joint venture with the Industrial Development Corporation.

It was constructed to a large extent by local contractors, although they conformed to Degussa standards.

Algorax supplies coated monoliths to Mercedes, Volkswagen and Delta.

Star 25/3/93

Joint venture in Zimbabwe strikes gold

HARARE — A Zimbabwean mining company exploring for gold in conjunction with a Canadian firm is expected to commission a new mine which will create 600 jobs, Ziana news agency reports.

The exploration by Antares of Canada and Forbes and Thompson of Zimbabwe has been successful and drilling is expected to begin within six months.

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Forbes and Thompson MD Morris Thompson said yesterday exploration had cost Z$4 million so far.

Thompson said results of the exploration had been promising and there was potential for a mine at the southern end of Vumbachikwe mine, where the drilling would begin. — Sapa.

Star 25/3/93

Zimbabwe's steel producer in trouble

362

HARARE — Zimbabwe Iron & Steel Company (Zisco) is in dire straits because of its inability to raise Z$1,3 billion in local funding to implement a vital rehabilitation and expansion programme.

The Zisco directors say in a report to the Zimbabwean government that the parastatal has no financial ability to raise and service the rehabilitation and expansion funds because of the high borrowing costs.

The Redcliff-based iron and steel company would be crippled by high borrowing costs and the directors say it is facing a survival crisis.

Zisco's rehabilitation programme has been on the drawing board for more than 10 years and has been deferred for some time because of financial constraints, Ziana news agency reports.

"Unfortunately, the long delays have resulted in sustained increases in project costs," the directors say.

The company has major projects worth Z$1,34 billion, which are essential to its viability and therefore need to be implemented in the near future.

These projects include the relining and rebuilding of a blast furnace at an estimated cost of Z$650 million, iron ore restructuring costing nearly Z$600 million and construction of a new power station at a cost of more than Z$390 million.

Zisco requires more than Z$400 million in the current financial year to enable it to meet progress payments covering the implementation of the core survival projects.

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Zisco made a profit of Z$23 million in the year to end-June 1992, but is now predicting a substantial loss for the current financial year. — Sapa.

Component makers win awards

By Stephen Cranston

Two Port Elizabeth-based motor component companies have been given quality awards by international car companies.

Algorax has been awarded the export supplier of the year award by Volkswagen, in recognition of the quality of its coated monoliths used in catalytic converters.

Precision Exhaust Systems, the converter-canning operation in the Delta Group, received the General Motors supplier of the year award.

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After the implementation of Phase VI of the local content programme in 1989 and in order to boost export opportunities for the local car industry, the German company Degussa set up Algorax as a joint venture with the Industrial Development Corporation.

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Star 26/3/93

Sally Mugabe's estate opened to press after court order

Sally Mugabe . . . "secret" estate now revealed to all.

By Robin Drew
Star Africa Service

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HARARE — The estate of the late Sally Mugabe, wife of Zimbabwe's president, was worth about R72 000 in Zimbabwean dollars as well as £2 000 (about R10 000), it was disclosed yesterday.

This followed a successful challenge in the Supreme Court to efforts to keep the contents of the final accounts secret.

High Court Master Jacob Moyo and estate executor Abdullah Kassim revealed the details to local journalists.

The Harare correspondent of the South African Morning Newspaper Group, Michael Hartnack, had appealed to the Supreme Court after the Master had previously refused to allow reporters to see the accounts.

Kassim said he hoped the disclosure of the amounts would put an end to malicious rumours about Mugabe's estate, many of which had emanated from South Africa.

The pound sterling amount was accrued during her stay in Britain before independence when her husband was in detention.

The order to allow the accounts to be made public came from Chief Justice Gubbay, Mr Justice McNally and Mr Justice Korsah. Costs were awarded against the Master of the High Court and the executor.

Mugabe died just more than a year ago after a long kidney illness. She left no will. President Mugabe will inherit the estate. As a national heroine her estate does not attract death duties.

When the Master of the High Court refused reporters access to the accounts he said only those with an interest in the estate would be allowed to examine the documents.

In an editorial yesterday morning, the semi-official newspaper The Herald said privacy for those in leadership was a tradition. Mugabe's estate was her family's business.

ZIMBABWE FM 26/3/93

Sleight of hand

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The Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe cut its rediscount rate by one percentage point to 29% in December. This signalled to the markets that inflation had peaked and rates would start to come down. Since then, however, it has all gone wrong.

Money market rates for 90-day NCDs, which peaked at over 40% last year and had slipped back to 37% in December/January, are now back over 40%.

After the central bank, confident that inflation had peaked, cut its rates, inflation rose sharply again in December to a record 48%, since revised to 46,4%. Over the year as a whole, the average inflation rate has been revised from 40% to 42%. This follows the publication of a new composite consumer price index, based on 1990, replacing the two-tier index that sought to measure inflation for lower- and higher-income groups separately.

On the new index, inflation slowed from more than 46% in December to 45% in January, but hopes that inflation will fall sharply this year have been set back by the new increase in interest rates, including mortgage bonds, and the 13% devaluation of the Zimbabwean dollar so far this year.

As usual, government overspending lies at the heart of the problem. Economists believe the country's budget deficit could reach 14% of GDP this year, though bankers argue that creative public sector accounting will enable the authorities to present a less disturbing picture at budget time in July.

However the authorities present their financial situation, the facts speak for themselves. Bankers say that in the latter half of last year central bank lending to government rose from Z$400m to Z$1,9bn (US$350m). This during a period when government was supposed to be repaying short-term borrowings and taking a net Z$94m out of the capital markets during the 1993/1994 fiscal year ending in June.

In fact, the authorities have borrowed well over Z$400m in the markets since last year's budget and when their interest costs are brought to account — the most recent one-year government stock was floated at more than 37% — the impact on the budget deficit will be severe.

continue

FM 26/3/93 362

An economist at the University of Zimbabwe says: "We are on track not for the structural reform that the World Bank claims but for a debt trap." Government's urgent need to get its lending off the central bank's balance sheet resulted in a number of measures which have raised interest rates, culminating in the recent announcement of higher mortgage rates.

The Post Office Savings Bank — a major lender to government — has been losing deposits to the more attractive options in the banks and money market. So, in mid-February, rates were raised sharply from 14,25% to 19,75% for tax-free savings deposits. This left the building societies, also hit by the drain of deposits to higher-yielding investment, in an even worse position than before.

So last week they followed suit, raising savings deposits rates to 18% and pushing up the mortgage loan rate for new loans to 22%. Few economists believe these rate increases will help the Post Office and building societies rebuild market shares. "All that's happening," says one money market dealer, "is that the market is chasing its own tail and pushing up rates across the board."

The resources are not available and will not be unless government abandons its restrictive monetary policy and increases money supply. But, if it does this, it torpedoes the structural adjustment loan from the IMF — which it cannot afford to sacrifice.

Yet some Ministers, including President Robert Mugabe, are muttering about the need to get rates down. One obvious way would be to cut public spending and raise taxes, but with provisional figures suggesting that real GDP fell 10% last year and that per capita incomes are now at their lowest point — in real terms — since Ian Smith's Unilateral Declaration of Independence in the mid-Sixties, this is not a feasible option for a government that has to face the electorate within the next two years.

Every sleight of pen available will be used to convince the business community at home and the donor community abroad that "the programme" is on track. Meanwhile, high nominal interest rates will continue to depress the economy and more corporate casualties can be expected, as Nkosana Moyo, MD of Standard Chartered Merchant Bank, warned recently.

Press group wins right to see Mugabe will

(362)

B/DAY 26/3/93

MICHAEL HARTNACK

HARARE — Zimbabwe's Supreme Court has ordered that the Morning Newspaper Group correspondent be allowed to inspect the final distribution accounts of Sally Mugabe's estate today.

Chief Justice Anthony Gubbay, sitting with Judge Nicholas McNally and Ghanaian-born John Korsah, yesterday unanimously upheld the newspaper group's appeal against last week's refusal of an urgent inspection order by High Court Judge George Smith.

In a landmark judgment on freedom of information, the judges ordered costs to be shared by the estate's executor Abdullah Kassim and the Master of the High Court, Jacob Moyo, who had unsuccessfully claimed a discretion to refuse access.

Legal authorities believe the judgment will greatly reduce the authority of Zimbabwe's bureaucracy to keep secret many categories of public documents.

"By depriving him (the Morning Group correspondent) of his right to inspect, the Master was depriving him of his right to object," Gubbay observed yesterday when the appeal was argued in open court for the first time.

McNally said the correspondent had a legitimate "freedom of information interest" in the estate of President Robert Mugabe's wife, who died in January 1992, apparently without leaving a valid will. Lawyers acting for President Mugabe last year refused to confirm or deny that there was a dispute over the will with his wife's relatives in Ghana.

Gubbay will hand down a detailed judgment later.

☐ To Page 2

Will

B/DAY 26/3/93

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☐ From Page 1

The account, which should disclose "who gets what" of Mugabe's property, was opened for inspection for 21 days from March 5. Smith had held that since the newspaper group gave no notice of planning to object, it had no right to an urgent order to inspect before today's deadline.

Because Mugabe designated his wife a "national heroine", her estate was exempt from all duty in terms of Zimbabwe's 1988 Finance act. As women's affairs secretary in the politburo she was barred by the "leadership code" from owning private business interests, more than one house, or more than 20ha of land.

Morning Group advocate Anthony Dyke said Smith had erred by trying to divorce the right to inspect and to object. Dyke said the group had sought urgent access to the accounts to end international speculation about Mugabe's estate.

Judge lifts veil on Sally Mugabe's will

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CT 26/3/93

HARARE. — In an apparent final bid to spite the Morning Newspaper Group, High Court Master Mr Jacob Moyo late yesterday summoned Zimbabwe's state-controlled news media and released to them what purported to be the details of Mrs Sally Mugabe's estate.

The Supreme Court had earlier thwarted Mr Moyo's attempt to keep the estate secret, ordering him to permit inspection by the Morning Group's correspondent today.

The order has been seen as a landmark judgment on freedom of information. The precedent may also be cited in South Africa's courts, since the countries share the Roman Dutch legal system.

According to the Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation Mrs Mugabe left her husband, President Robert Mugabe, the equivalent of some R90 000 in local Zimbabwean assets and £2 000 (about R9 000).

If the reports are correct, her estate was modest by international standards, although representing considerable wealth in a country where the minimum wage is a mere R72 a month.

The Morning Group correspondent and lawyers still plan to inspect the original accounts of the estate.

Mr Moyo reportedly said the affair showed the need for legislation to forestall any future access to the estates of deceased Zimbabwean politicians.

Zimbabwe in credit squeeze

W|Mail 26/3 - 1/4/93. (362)

Weekly Mail Correspondent: Harare

LARGE and small corporate and individual clients of Zimbabwe's finance houses are defaulting on loans due to the current tight credit squeeze facing the economy.

According to one of the largest finance houses here, UDC, there had been a substantial increase in the number of clients defaulting on hire purchase loans which they could no longer afford to pay.

Zimbabwe is undergoing a painful economic structural adjustment process, largely financed and backed by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, and is implementing a tight monetary policy to curb demand for credit and reduce a high inflation rate of over 35 percent.

As a result, many companies and individuals are faced with a serious shortage of money.

Several companies have been liquidated with huge losses in employment, while hundreds of Zimbabweans in the low, middle and upper-income brackets have had their houses repossessed after failing to pay mortgage loans.

Many commercial banks and other financial institutions have now adopted more cautious lending policies, following the high rate of defaults, an economist said here.

Building societies, already facing a shortage of mortgage loans, have suspended approving loan applications until the economic climate improves.

A model export plan

By REG RUMNEY W|Mail 26/3 - 1/4/93.

PROPOSALS in the government's Normative Economic Model to boost exports strongly resemble those in a recently released draft document emanating from the southern Africa department of the World Bank.

The document on South African trade, drafted by World Bank economists Pedro Belli, Michael Finger and Amparo Ballivan, was disseminated last month for discussion.

Both the document and model:

●Find an anti-export bias inherent in South Africa's trade policy. They both reckon this anti-export bias arises from the handicap on exporters of higher input costs from domestic suppliers than are available internationally.

●Come out against export processing zones.

●Suggest rationalising the plethora of complex and widely differing tariffs on imported goods.

●Recommend a gradual approach to trade liberalisation, starting with giving exporters access to inputs at more competitive prices, whether the goods are obtained domestically or abroad. Domestic industries would continue to be protected for the time being. Eventually import surcharges would be scrapped and duties scaled down.

However, the economists' document is much more explicit and detailed. The World Bank economists note that for the manufacturing sector as a whole protection on inputs raises their cost by 12,6 percent compared to a free trade regime. The burden is not equally spread.

They also note the South African manufacturing sector is a close-knit microcosm of big companies and exporters mostly do not pay domestic prices for their inputs, but buy them at producers' export prices.

This does not apply to smaller companies, who cannot bargain down the domestic price of inputs and have to pay the full domestic price.

According to the economists' calculations, the combined effect of the General Export Incentive Scheme (GEIS) and free-trade equivalent prices on inputs produces, on average, a pro-export trade regime.

However, there is no guarantee inputs will be available at world prices, so these calculations only give an idea of what could be achieved if, in addition to GEIS, South Africa had a more effective system whereby duties paid on imports could be reclaimed by them.

As in the Normative Model, the economists note GEIS clashes with General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade rules and so has to go. Hence, in addition to competitive inputs they recommend a strongly interventionist role for the government. They say the key to switching from an anti-export bias in other countries has been access to government support, particularly capital, being made conditional on export performance. They mention Korea as an example.

The economists do not go into the possibly painful political and other implications of this policy. Neither half of Korea is known to be a pardigm of democracy.

New party set to give Mugabe a run for his money

Star 27/3/93

(362)

ROBIN DREW
Africa News Service

HARARE — After nearly a year of preparation, supporters of the Forum for Democratic Reform Trust are meeting in Bulawayo this weekend to launch a new political party to be known as the Forum Party of Zimbabwe.

It is expected that it will be led by the former Chief Justice, Enoch Dumbutshena, who this week attacked the present system under which Zimbabwe is ruled.

He slammed President Robert Mugabe's government for running the economy into the ground and said a Forum government would make fundamental social, political and economic changes to provide checks and balances in government and to encourage investment.

Democracy

The Forum was formed in May to promote democracy in Zimbabwe and to make people more conscious of their rights. It accepted at the outset that it could be the source of a new party.

The launching of the party comes at a time when opposition bodies are going through yet another period of division. The United Front of opposition parties — including Ian Smith's Conservative Alliance and the UANC, formerly led by Bishop Abel Muzorewa — is in disarray. Several groups, including that led by the Rev Ndabaningi Sithole, have pulled out.

The new party is likely to draw its main support at this stage from Bulawayo, where it is expected there will be a merger with a pressure group known as the Open Forum.

The Forum, whose founders included a number of white liberals, has produced a lengthy constitution and manifesto for adoption at the weekend convention.

Star 29/8/93

Ex-chief justice heads new Zimbabwe party

(362)

By Robin Drew
Star Africa Service

HARARE — Former Chief Justice of Zimbabwe Enoch Dumbutshena was yesterday elected president of the new Forum Party at its launch, which he described as the birth of an alternative government.

"We are determined to replace dictatorial tendencies with democracy, corruption with transparency and an open society, and the denial of human rights with respect for human rights and the rule of law," he told 400 delegates and 150 observers at the inaugural convention in Bulawayo.

Dumbutshena (72) will head a 20-member provisional national executive until a party congress is held in October.

The vice-president is another former judge, Washington Sansole, and the secretary-general is Dr Temba Dlolo, whose Open Forum organisation has merged with the new party.

Dumbutshena, who retired as chief justice in 1990, said Zimbabwe had never before been in such trouble. Zanu (PF) led by President Robert Mugabe had been in power far too long. Its leaders believed in socialism which had brought nothing and driven away investors. They were now bankrupt of ideas.

Zimbabwe needed a change in government style. The Forum Party would reduce the size of the government to 14 ministries and devolve power to the provinces.

It would follow policies consistent with a market economy, get rid of bureaucratic practices and create an environment attractive to investors.

"Once again we must liberate ourselves, this time from the despair of economic stagnation and decline. It is time for real democracy," he said.

There was uproar during the weekend deliberations when a delegate discovered a bugging device in the ceiling of the hall.

Dumbutshena said the police and security services were welcome to attend. "We have nothing to hide," he said.

Observers believe the Forum Party has the potential to challenge the ruling party because of the solid preparation which went into drawing up its constitution and manifesto.

Many of the existing opposition parties are in disarray and appear to present no real threat to Zanu (PF).

The new party is likely to draw strong support in Bulawayo where there is already significant opposition to Mugabe's government. The provisional national executive includes two white members.

BDAY 29/3/93

New Zimbabwe party

BULAWAYO — Zimbabwe's first black chief justice, assuming leadership of a new opposition party, the Forum Party, pledged yesterday to end what he called the ruling party's politics of fear 362

Enoch Dumbutshena said he would continue working as a judge in Namibia and in Transkei.

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Dumbutshena to oppose Zanu

■ Multitudes will abandon Zimbabwe's ruling party, predicts former chief justice:

Sowetan 29/3/93

BULAWAYO — Zimbabwe's first black chief justice, assuming leadership of a new opposition party, pledged yesterday to end what he called the ruling party's politics of fear.

Mr Enoch Dumbutshena said there was widespread discontent over President Robert Mugabe's government, which has ruled with little opposition for the past 13 years.

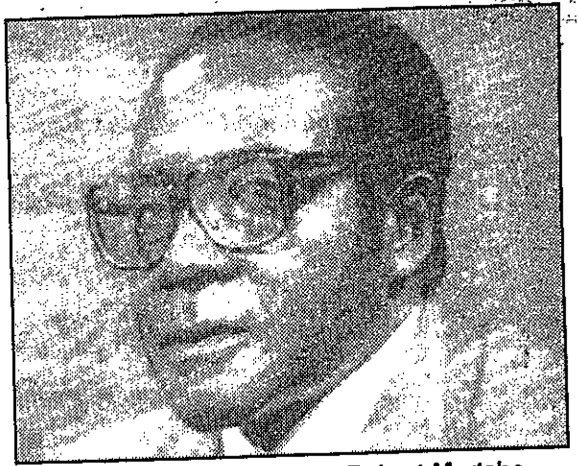
He predicted Zimbabweans would abandon the ruling Zanu-PF party in droves because of its failed socialist policies.

"But enough is enough," he said. "The people will change and desert Zanu-PF because they are tired and disgruntled by its performance. They can see no bright future for them." - *Sapa-Reuter.*

New party aims to remove controls

Star 1/4/93

No controls . . . Enoch Dumbutshena.



A "virtual monarch" . . . Robert Mugabe.

(362)

By Robin Drew
Star Africa Service

HARARE — One reason why Zimbabwe is in trouble is that it has been suffering from too much government.

That is the view of the latest opposition party to emerge, the Forum, led by former Chief Justice Enoch Dumbutshena.

In its manifesto, approved at the weekend launch of the party, the Forum says that at the next general election, which must be held within two years, a vote for it will mean a fundamental shift away from large government and all its controls.

To help bring about open government, the party would dispose of government's interest in the Mass Media Trust through sales to the private sector; ensure the main newspaper group operated without government interference; and allow private concerns to operate radio and television services.

As Chief Justice until 1990, when he retired at the age of 70, Dumbutshena acquired an international reputation for his defence of human rights.

Now, as leader of a political party aiming to overthrow the ruling Zanu (PF) Party, his call is for genuine democracy, respect for human rights and respect for the rule of law.

"For the first time in our young country's history, you, the electorate, face clear alternatives as far as policy is concerned. Thankfully, our fledgling democracy has matured and we are no longer divided along tribal, racial or ethnic lines: the present government is composed of people of all tribes and races, and so is the Forum. What distinguishes us is policy," he says in an introduction to the manifesto.

Zimbabwe, he says, has never been in such trouble as it is now. Thousands of school-leavers have no hope of getting a job. Businesses are going into liquidation. Thousands in employment face retrenchment. The health and education systems are breaking down. So is the moral fibre of the nation. Increasing numbers are guilty of corruption.

But in the midst of despair and decay the elite in government had prospered, said Dumbutshena. They were the ones with vast tracts of land who spent much of their time overseas and who had business empires.

The manifesto lays stress on the need for immediate action on the economy. Public spending must be reduced and there must be genuine dialogue between business and political leaders to turn the economy around quickly.

To encourage investment the Forum would reduce corporate tax to 35 percent, remove limits on dividend remittances, grant a three-year tax holiday to new productive sector companies, dispose of government's equity holdings, abolish taxes on dividends and reduce import duties.

Its taxation system would ensure that everyone, including the President, paid tax if he or she were in the tax-paying bracket.

Other proposals include a land tax on all unused commercial land and the abolition of the use of taxpayers' money to fund political parties.

The manifesto sets out principles to govern a land redistribution policy which would have as an overriding consideration the need to ensure food security and to generate adequate economic activity by linking land distribution not merely to ownership but to agriculture and industry.

It says there must be land redistribution because of past imbalances and injustices and there must be an agreed limit to the amount of land owned by individuals or companies.

On foreign policy it says it would consider applying to join the South African Customs Union and would maintain embassies only in countries likely to invest in, trade with or send tourists to Zimbabwe.

A Forum government would change the Constitution to return to the system of a non-executive president and a prime minister.

The manifesto says that at present the president can do almost anything he wishes without being held accountable.

"This has led to an authoritarian government which survives upon deception, a climate of fear, control of the media and manipulation of the general population. Parliament has become little more than a joke," says the manifesto.

"The Presidency has been transformed into a virtual monarchy."

The Forum Party intends holding a congress in October.

Cluff affected by mineral slump

BDay 7/4/93

HARARE — Zimbabwean gold producing company Cluff Resources said yesterday the worldwide slump in mineral prices had adversely affected its operations.

However, devaluation of the Zimbabwe dollar had helped sustain operations, and the organisation had begun a cost-cutting programme, MD Roy Pitchford said yesterday.

Cluff Resources was developing an underground mine at Freda Rebeca in Bindura to maintain gold output at about two tons a year.

The project needed about Z$72m, which would be sourced from internal and external sources.

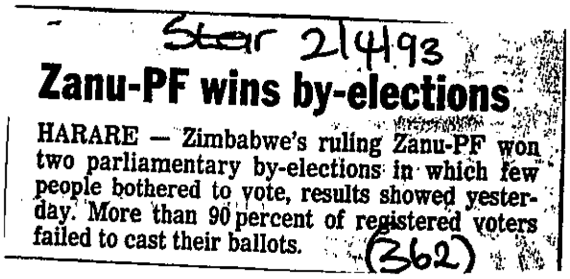
The underground project would extend the operations at Freda Rebeca, where an open cast mine would stop operating late in 1995.

(362)

The mining sector's hardships were being felt more by base metal mining companies, Pitchford said.

As a result, the company was not intending carrying out any retrenchments, although it had been predicted that 5 000 people would be retrenched in the mining sector this year.

The company, which had diamond claims in the Lowveld and Bulawayo areas, would start exploration for diamonds if the international market improved. — Sapa.



Star 2|4|93

Zanu-PF wins by-elections

HARARE — Zimbabwe's ruling Zanu-PF won two parliamentary by-elections in which few people bothered to vote, results showed yesterday. More than 90 percent of registered voters failed to cast their ballots.

(362)

The judge flying on the winds of change

WMail 2/4-7/4/93 (362)

Zimbabwe is ripe for change — and highly respected former chief justice Enoch Dumbutshena is determined to lead the way.

By **ANDY MELDRUM**

Too polite for politics? ... Enoch Dumbutshena will have to grapple with hard political realities to beat Zanu-PF Photo: SARAH-JANE POOLE

WITH a striking set of alternative policies, the Forum Party has taken the lead as the most serious opposition party to challenge the 13-year rule of Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe's government.

Urging free-enterprise economics, a drastic reduction in the size of government and new respect for human rights, the party was launched in Bulawayo last weekend with the election of highly respected former chief justice, Enoch Dumbutshena, as its chairman.

"We are determined to replace dictatorial tendencies with democracy, corruption with transparency and an open society, denial of human rights with respect for human rights and the rule of law," said Dumbutshena to cheers from the 800 founding members.

"We want to replace a government that condones violence and intimidation with one that loves peace," he continued in a broadside against the Mugabe government. "There are deep divisions in our country, but there has been no peaceful and democratic way of expressing even ordinary discontent. The Forum Party will correct this imbalance. We will bring our people and country together."

The party's core, consisting of intellectuals and businessmen, both Shona and Ndebele, as well as white liberals, brings together the country's major ethnic groups as no other political party has done.

Its organisers expect to find eager support in the urban areas, where dissatisfaction with Mugabe's Zanu-PF government is high. But the rural areas, where some 70 percent of Zimbabwe's 10-million people live, may prove more difficult.

The rural population is not quick to change allegiances and Zanu-PF's machinery is well entrenched in every village. Zanu-PF officials dole out drought relief, for instance, and the tentacles of the much-feared Central Intelligence Organisation (CIO) reach into the rural areas.

After the Forum's launch, Dumbutshena explained that the party hoped to win rural votes with popular measures such as restoring power to traditional chiefs, improved land reform and agricultural education efforts.

"Our rural people have already thrown off the yoke of colonialism. When they see and discuss our policies, I think they will decide it is time for another change.

"On weekends and holidays, the city dwellers flock back to the rural areas and the families talk about everything. I think this will be an important way to build up support in the rural areas."

With flecked grey hair and a carefully articulate manner, Dumbutshena (72) is every bit a distinguished barrister. The son of a trade unionist, he was educated at Methodist mission schools and completed a degree in history and politics through the University of South Africa as well as a diploma in education at Fort Hare University. He qualified as a lawyer in Britain in 1963.

Dumbutshena's nationalist credentials are impressive, dating back to the 1940s. He was a key member of the main nationalist parties and when Zanu split from Joshua Nkomo's Zapu, he unsuccessfully tried to reconcile the two groups.

Concentrating on a thriving law practice in Zambia in the 1970s, he assumed a lesser profile in politics. He became legal adviser to Bishop Abel Muzorewa's United African National Congress, but his reputation was not tainted by Muzorewa's ill-fated alliance with former Rhodesian prime minister Ian Smith.

Dumbutshena became Zimbabwe's first black high court judge in 1980 and served as the first Zimbabwean chief justice from 1984 until 1990. He established a judicial system proudly independent of the country's politics, with his courts handing down many judgments that were unpopular with Zanu-PF.

He currently serves as acting supreme court judge in Namibia and as judge of appeals in Transkei's supreme court.

Some observers have queried whether this noteworthy judge will become a successful politician, pointing out that the balanced reasoning of judicial decision-making is far removed from the ruthless cut and thrust of politics.

Dumbutshena speaks intelligently on all issues, but his answers are deliberate, even ponderous. Politicians generally sum things up, or trivialise issues, in catch phrases and 30-second sound bites.

It remains to be seen if the forum, consisting at this stage of well-meaning, well-educated Zimbabweans, will succeed in the business of winning votes.

Dumbutshena and his party will have to grapple with hard political realities to beat the solidly entrenched Zanu-PF government in the next general election, due in 1995.

Despite the existence of more than seven parties, Zimbabwe still operates very much as a one-party state. The government recently paid Z$20-million directly to Zanu-PF. The civil service, the army, police force and especially the CIO are loyal to the ruling party.

"We know that Zanu-PF has tremendous advantages. The CIO will probably be used to intimidate us. But we are determined and we will prevail," Dumbutshena said.

He showed some of the requisite rhetorical fire when asked why his party had been launched now: "We don't want to be in a country where there are two sectors, the privileged political leaders and the less privileged.

"We don't want to be in a country where the sons of cabinet ministers can commit crimes and not be punished. We don't want to live in a country where people disappear and nothing is done to apprehend the culprit, or where nothing is done to prosecute the culprit. Our people fought too hard for our independence to put up with that kind of shoddy government."

With its support for private enterprise, multi-party democracy and liberalism, the forum may well emulate the success of Zambia's Movement for Multi-party Democracy.

"I like Dumbutshena and I like what he says," commented a Zimbabwean woman who said she would join the new party. "Maybe he is too polite for politics. By now we Zimbabweans know that all politicians are tsotsis. But why shouldn't we try to get something better?"

BDay 7/4/93

Zimbabwe trade fair

MORE than 10 SA companies will exhibit at the Zimbabwe International Trade Fair in Bulawayo this month. BMW and Dorbyl will be among the expected 1 200 exhibitors at the fair.

Safto and the SA Trade and Industry Department also support the fair.

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ing a World Health Organisation meeting in Brazzaville, Congo.

About 275-million Africans, or more than half the continent's 500-million people, were infected. The disease was responsible for 1-million deaths a year, he said.

Beit Bridge warning

ZIMBABWE could lose a substantial volume of tourist business over the Easter holidays if facilities at the Beit Bridge border post were not adequate for the large number of tourists expected from SA, Hotel and Restaurant Association of Zimbabwe president Charles Tawenga said.

He said problems at the border post during the December/January holidays caused much unfavourable comment about Zimbabwe in SA. (362)

REPORTS: Business Day Reporter, Sapa-AFP.

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of the year were 9% lower for clothing and 5% for textiles. On the other hand retail sales of clothing rose by 4% in real terms in the first 10 months of last year.

Werbeloff attributed this anomaly to the larger share of the market being taken up by second hand and imported clothing and the rise of the homeland and informal manufacturing sectors.

Foreign interest in investing in SA clothing and textile industries had surged in recent months, particularly among US, Belgian and British importers, Werbeloff said.

"The possibilities for exports of clothing and textiles from SA into the EC, eastern Europe, the North Atlantic Free Trade Area and even the Far East are very attractive and these opportunities are enhanced by a variety of export inquiries from these markets," Werbeloff said.

clothing and textile industries.

Van Zyl noted that SA labour costs were competitive with those of Far Eastern clothing manufacturers and the clothing industry also had a well developed infrastructure and a highly demanding retail sector.


Clothing industry employment

Billionaire pledges riches for enrichment

LINDA ENSOR

CAPE TOWN — Since US billionaire and philanthropist George Soros made £1bn on the Black Wednesday' sterling crisis last year he has been repeatedly questioned by the aspirant rich for tips as to how he did it.

"I have spent more time talking about Black Wednesday than I took to do it," Soros said in reply to questions at a Cape Town Press Club function yesterday. He was fairly nonchalant about the whole affair, saying that taking a substantial position on sterling was a reasonable risk assumed in the normal course of business.

Soros took substantial short positions in the anticipation of a decline in the value of sterling when it departed from the ERM — the currency was effectively devalued by 15% when this happened.

"It was an unusual bet with limited risk. If nothing happened we could have lost between 1% and 2%, or the difference between the buying and selling price."

Soros is more interested in talking about his philanthropic work. He has just donated $15m to the newly established Open Society Foundation of SA which will assist in building the institutions for an open society in SA. This amount would be increased if the foundation was successful.

Soros has established 19 foundations in eastern Europe since embarking on the open society project in 1979. Born a Jew in Hungary, he lived through the Nazi occupation and the beginnings of communism, experiences which inculcated the value he attaches to an open society.

Soros felt a need to intervene in the former Soviet Union as the West had not been willing to assist in the transition to an open society. He lauded US President Bill Clinton's recently announced aid package as a belated recognition of that need.

"The key contribution the West could make to the former Soviet Union would be to introduce a stable monetary system."

He felt the great lesson to be learnt from the collapse of eastern Europe was that after the breakdown of an oppressive system without constructive evolution the society was more likely to fall back into anarchy or another form of tyranny. It was this fate which SA had to avoid.

Minister.

Comair fares go up by 8%

B/DAY 8/4/93

STEPHANE BOTHMA

COMAIR has increased its air fares by 8% — making the carrier 33% cheaper on the popular Johannesburg-Cape Town route than competitors Flitestar and SAA.

The move followed earlier announcements by SAA and Flitestar of an 11% across the board increase on their domestic services effective from yesterday.

Comair commercial director Bert van der Linden said yesterday fares offered by the carrier on the Johannesburg-Cape Town route had always been substantially lower than on other carriers.

Since the start of operations on the route on August 3 last year Comair charged 25% less than its competitors, he said.

A Johannesburg-Cape Town return fare on Comair will now cost R768, compared to SAA's R1 130. Flitestar charges R1 118.

The domestic fare increases coincided with increases in VAT, passenger service charges, navigational charges and fuel, and followed a recent recommendation by the Competition Board that fares needed to be increased by all players.

B/DAY 8/4/93

Beit Bridge warning

ZIMBABWE could lose a substantial volume of tourist business over the Easter holidays if facilities at the Beit Bridge border post were not adequate for the large number of tourists expected from SA, Hotel and Restaurant Association of Zimbabwe president Charles Tawenga said.

He said problems at the border post during the December/January holidays caused much unfavourable comment about Zimbabwe in SA.

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REPORTS: Business Day Reporter, Sapa-AFP.

Spending undercuts reforms

W/Mail 8/4-15/4/93.

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Weekly Mail Reporter: Harare

DESPITE measures already taken by the Zimbabwe government to reform an economy used to nearly three decades of controls, economists and businessmen here are not convinced that the government has done enough to show that it is serious about introducing a market economy.

Since the launch of the reform being financed by the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and other major Western donors, Robert Mugabe's government has managed to liberalise the import licencing and foreign exchange system and abolished more than 8 000 civil service posts.

Tentative steps have been started to reform and improve the efficiency of state-run enterprises, but one major area of concern still threatens the success of the reform programme — high government expenditure.

Zimbabwe has a current account deficit of US$760-million and a budget deficit of US$450-million, which the government blames on drought-related expenditure, but which businessmen and economists believe is due to uncontrolled spending by the government itself.

The Confederation of Zimbabwe Industries (CZI), representing the major industrial companies, has warned the government that it risks running down the economy if it continues spending more than it is earning, particularly at a time when its revenue base has shrunk.

"Very soon the government will run out of money to pay its huge civil service," said CZI president Bill Moore.

End-of-year statements being released by major companies blame the government for worsening the crisis, saying they are being squeezed out from the already depressed money market.

Even the World Bank, which has given cautious approval to reforms made so far, said it was concerned that government's huge appetite for funds could delay the implementation of some monetary reforms.

Zimbabwe Finance Minister Tichaendepi Masaya said recently a lot of progress has been made in implementing the reform programme. He admitted that some targets had been missed, but said this was not unusual in any structural adjustment process.

Despite the minister's upbeat mood, businessmen are still gloomy about rapid economic recovery.

Star 10/4/93

Politician's farm seized

HARARE — The Zimbabwe Government has designated a farm near Harare owned by an opposition leader, the Rev Ndabaningi Sithole, for compulsory acquisition, saying it wanted to prevent the outbreak of diseases on the farm where more than 2 000 people have been resettled. — Sapa

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Star 12/4/93

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Zimbabwe in for another hard year

HARARE — High interest rates which were blamed for crippling business operations in Zimbabwe last year, will rise even further during the second half of 1993, while fuel and electricity prices are also expected to go up.

Zimbabwean economists and business leaders said the private sector was bracing itself for another round of price hikes as the effect of the recent devaluation of the Zimbabwe dollar worked it way through the system.

The 17 percent devaluation of the national currency since mid-December last year increased fuel procurement costs and the National Oil Company of Zimbabwe (Noczim) was expected to review its prices this year to recoup losses.

The national power authority, Zesa, intends to increase power tariffs later this year as part of strategy to operate on a commercial basis and wipe out a deficit largely caused by subeconomic tariffs.

Commercial Farmers Union director Dave Hasluck said the union had been told that Zesa intended to increase tariffs by as much as 41 percent in July.

Zimbabwe National Chamber of Commerce president Jim Torond said the Chamber expected fuel prices to be increased this year.

"Prices are going to harden as the devaluation works it way through and there is a possible increase in fuel prices whose procurement has been made expensive by exchange rate movements," Torond said.

An economist with a major bank said that the Zd5 billion needed to finance this year's agricultural crops would further reduce money supply and force interest rates to rise as competition for scarce funds intensifies.

"We are in for another hard time, both for business and individuals," he said.

Interest rates

One of the country's largest merchant banks, First Merchant Bank, in its latest quarterly guide to the economy, also dampened hopes for an early reduction in high interest rates.

"Prospects for a fall were diminished by the exchange rate moves as well as by a government decision to allow Post Office savings bank interest rates to rise sharply," the bank said.

"With inflation now expected to come down more slowly, home-owners and businesses will be burdened by the problems it causes, and money and capital market interest rates are likely to remain at close to their current levels for most of the second quarter of the year," FMB said.

Torond also said interest rates would rise even further this year because of pressures to raise funds to purchase this year's crop intake.

"High interest rates are going to make life even more difficult for the business community," he added.

We believe that 1993 is going to be very tough until the government is able to reduce interest rates," he said. — Sapa.

Star 12/4/93

Harare expected to sign new trade pact

(362)

A new trade agreement between Zimbabwe and South Africa, due to be signed shortly, would herald a significant improvement in relations between the two countries, the latest issue of Engineering News reports in a special feature on Zimbabwe.

Engineering News quotes Zimbabwean Trade Mission Head in Johannesburg, John Chigwedere, as saying the new trade agreement would boost his country's current efforts to liberalise and strengthen its economy.

The agreement is expected to be signed by June and will replace the 1964 trade agreement presently in force.

Chigwedere said a multi-lateral agreement would replace the present bi-lateral one. Major benefits flowing from this would include increased two-way trade.

"Barriers such as duties and surcharges need to be minimised," he said.

He added that the new agreement, besides improving trade options, could encourage cross-border investments as a means of promoting co-operation. — Sapa

Zimbabwe troops end war with Renamo

Star 13/4/93

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By Robin Drew
Star Africa Service

HARARE — Victory parades this week will mark the end of a decade-long campaign in which Zimbabwean troops have been engaged against Renamo forces in Mozambique.

The remaining 5 000 soldiers are due to return home this week under the peace agreement between President Joaquim Chissano and Renamo leader Afonso Dhlakama, which requires United Nations-led troops to keep the peace.

The Zimbabweans first went into Mozambique to guard the transport routes to Beira, and in particular the oil pipeline which was a target for saboteurs.

But in 1985, following an appeal from Chissano's predecessor, the late Samora Machel, the Zimbabwean role increased.

Spearheaded by airborne commando units they took the war to Renamo and were involved in major clashes in the re-occupation of settlements under Renamo control.

The Zimbabwean troops along with helicopters and strike aircraft fought alongside Frelimo units when the Renamo headquarters at Casa Banana in the foothills of the Gorongoza Mountains was taken.

The extent of Zimbabwean casualties has never been disclosed, but up to 12 000 troops are estimated to have been deployed in Mozambique.

In response, Renamo declared "war" on Zimbabwe and hundreds of civilians living along the eastern border perished in Renamo raids. In the four years up to 1990 more than 400 civilians were killed and hundreds more were abducted, according to official Zimbabwean figures.

Troops and para-military police were stationed along the 1 200 km border but faced an impossible task. Protected villages, similar to those erected by the Rhodesian forces in the guerilla war of the 1970s, were built and still exist today. Thousands of people fled their homes to escape the conflict.

The victory parades have been scheduled for Chimoio in Mozambique and the Zimbabwean border city of Mutare.

Zimbabwe to spend $1,5bn

HARARE. — Zimbabwe's Industrial Development Corporation is considering investing with other partners in projects worth more than Zim $1,5 billion.

(362) ARG 13/4/93

IDC deputy general manager, business development, Mr L Munyawarara, said in Harare today the largest project involved the manufacture of ammonia from coal to replace imports and save about 80 megawatts of power.

Other partners in the project, spanning several years, included TA Holdings and the Commonwealth Development Corporation.

Ammonia was being produced using the expensive electrolysis method at Sable Chemicals in KweKwe and the intention was to change the technology and use coal gasification instead. About 120 000 tons of ammonia, enough to satisfy national demand, would be produced.

He said the Chisumbanje sugar and ethanol project, postponed several times, was still being considered by the IDC and the Agricultural Development Authority. It would begin as soon as the multi-million dollar Osborne Dam was completed in 1994. — Sapa.

Outlook bleak for Zimbabwe exchange

Star 14/4/93

(362)

BULAWAYO — Crippling high interest rates will prevent the Zimbabwe Stock Exchange (ZSE) from recovering this year, Ziana national news agency reports.

Last year the ZSE was the world's worst performer among 54 stock market indices surveyed by the international finance corporation.

A ZSE member said in Bulawayo yesterday the local stock market would either move sideways or slide downwards, although the country had enjoyed good rains.

"Unless interest rates do come down, the good rainfall pattern received will not have any positive effect on the stock market.

"If anything, there might be a slight decline in activity," said the official.

He said institutional investment was needed on the ZSE in order to have an upward trend.

He noted that as the recession deepened because of the drought, coupled with the negative effects of the economic reform programme, investors deserted the equity market and there was a flight of funds to short-term money market where yields were higher.

The official said the envisaged increase in interest rates, power and fuel costs this year would drastically impact on activity on the local stock market.

The ZSE was currently reviewing the 20-year-old legislation governing the operations of the local stock market in view of the changing world economic environment.

"The current piece of legislation on the ZSE is out-dated as there have been tremendous advances in the last 20 years.

"In the UK, they reviewed legislation on their stock market in 1986, while South Africa is currently reviewing legislation on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange," the official said. — Sapa.

Star 16/4/93

(362)

All Zimbabwe left in dark

HARARE — Zimbabwe was plunged into darkness for nearly 10 hours until early this morning due to a breakdown.

A switch fault on a generator at the northern Kariba hydro-electric station had reduced the feed.

Zimbabwe limps from cholera to malaria

South 17/4-21/4/93.

By Ray Choto

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AFTER coping with a cholera outbreak which left almost 300 people dead, Zimbabwe's troubled medical services are now being challenged to contain a malaria epidemic.

Severe outbreaks have been recorded, mainly along the borders with Zambia and Mozambique, forcing thousands of people to seek medical attention.

More than 80 people died from malaria in January and February. By the end of March, 76 000 cases had been diagnosed, according to the Department of Epidemiology and Disease Control.

Dr Stephen Chandiwana, director of the Blair Research Institute of the Ministry of Health, said more than 500 000 Zimbabweans were treated for malaria last year, putting pressure on already overstretched health services.

Malaria is a seasonal disease which, unfortunately, coincides with the growing season. Many agricultural production hours are lost to malaria in an economy largely dependent on agriculture.

Said Chandiwana: "The malaria epidemic has serious implications for our economy because half the country's population is at risk of being afflicted by the disease."

He said malaria is the most serious parasitic disease in Zimbabwe and the major cause of death among children under the age of five. About five million Zimbabweans risk contracting the disease during the rainy season from late October to May.

Ms Lucia Tapfuma, who works in Harare, lost her seven-year-old son and two other close relatives early this year. "My son died of cerebral malaria in Gokwe, despite being on chloroquine drugs. I don't think the drugs are effective enough to kill the parasites that cause the disease."

"Cerebral malaria is the most dangerous because one falls into a coma when the disease affects the brain," explained Dr Alf Mugeni, malaria expert and consultant with the Ministry of Health and Child Welfare.

Mugeni said the government spends about Z$12 million (about R3 million) a year on malaria research and control but is failing to contain the epidemic.

Health Minister Mr Timothy Stamps said the situation is serious. The ministry's intensive house-to-house spraying exercise has proved ineffective. Stamps said Zimbabwe's recent heavy rains have created more breeding places for mosquitoes and he has urged people to cover any stagnant pools near their homes.

Zimbabwe's two main control strategies are chemical spraying of the mosquitoes and anti-malaria drug treatment. The campaign is hampered by increases in the costs of insecticides and drugs. Because of insecticide shortages, some areas are not sprayed and become good breeding grounds for the mosquitoes.

However, recent studies showed that mosquitoes and parasites are resistant to the chemicals and drugs used against them.

Over the past 40 years, the World Health Organisation (WHO) believed malaria could be wiped out through the use of pesticides to control mosquitoes. But they have been fighting a losing battle.

Today WHO has changed its global strategy on malaria. Their new approach is directed at people and not the mosquitoes.

WHO now advises people to wear long-sleeved shirts and long skirts or long trousers and to use mosquito nets after sunset in all high-risk zones. — AIA

In Zimbabwe it's a sad case of adapt AND die

THE number of women dying in childbirth has doubled in Harare in two years since Zimbabwe introduced the Economic Structural Adjustment Programme demanded by the International Monetary Fund and World Bank.

The alarming trend coincides with cuts in the health budget, the introduction of fees for maternity services, a decrease in qualified nursing staff and reduced availability of drugs.

The statistic, contained in a United Nations Children's Fund report, is one of many showing the damaging impact of the Esap on Zimbabwe's health care – one of the country's greatest successes since independence in 1980.

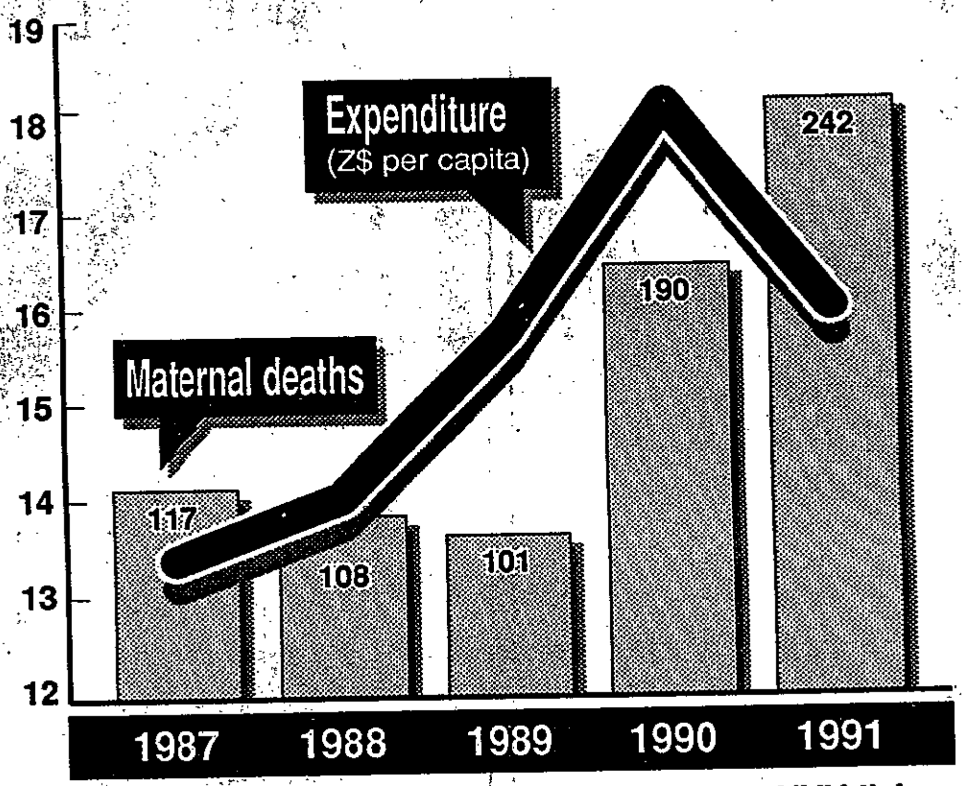
If the cuts continue in line with budget targets, it is predicted that all the health gains of the past decade will be reversed within two years.

Until the introduction of the adjustment programme in October 1990, Zimbabwe's health achievements were held up as a model for the region. Mortality fell from 140 in each 1 000 live births in 1980 to 50 in 1989, largely as a result of a massive government commitment to improving primary health care.

Priority was given to providing clean water and public sanitation, inoculating children and raising the standard of living in what the government termed "growth with equity". Free health and education were provided for those earning less than $US26 (approximately R81,90) a month, which at the time was close to the poverty line.

Rural areas, long neglected before independence, saw the rebuilding of 450 health centres destroyed during the war and 321 new ones constructed. Zimbabwe achieved the highest rate of contraceptive use in Africa: 43 percent against five percent for the rest of the continent.

But since the introduction of fees in 1991, people are making fewer visits to hospitals and clinics. At Harare Central Hospital, for example, bed occupancy fell from 5 766 in December 1990 to 4 795 in December 1991, a drop of almost 17 percent.



HELD TO RANSOM . . . The number of women dying in childbirth has doubled in Harare, thanks to "economic adjustment". ■ Pic: PANOS

C/Press 18/4/93

With, for instance, a routine ultrasound scan now costing pregnant women $US14 (approximately R44,15), it is little wonder that the number of babies delivered outside hospitals has risen sharply. And, for the first time since independence, there are no guaranteed jobs for new nursing graduates, despite an acute shortage of qualified staff at almost every health centre.

According to a Harare doctor: "The cost-recovery exercise as applied to maternal and child health is likely to reverse all the achievements made in this area since independence."

Dr Anne Renfrew sees a similar pattern emerging in the rural area served by her hospital at St Paul's Mission, 75 km from the capital. Since the introduction of fees, the number of maternity cases at her hospital has fallen by a third, she says.

"During 1991, we frequently had all the beds in the adult ward full, with extra patients lying on the floor on mattresses. Now the wards are half full." X-rays are down by more than 40 percent, laboratory tests by almost 28 percent.

Under its social development fund, introduced as a safety net to alleviate the harsh effects of the Esap, the government says those earning below $US26 a month can receive free medical attention. But there is a catch.

Those seeking to benefit must provide a certificate issued by a social worker or employer showing income level – but these are difficult for the rural poor to obtain because social workers are usually based in cities.

(362)

And the level at which entitlement has been set is low: $US26 is no longer close to the poverty line in a land where inflation has rocketed by more then 45 percent since the Esap was introduced and an estimated 70 percent of the population now lives in poverty.

The severe drought, removal of price controls and minimum wage regulations in many sectors of the economy, along with rising unemployment and the impact of HIV infection, all render the poor more vulnerable to hunger and illness.

Increases have been recorded in malnutrition and diseases such as tuberculosis, which had all but been eradicated.

Eight years after the last cholera outbreak claimed 39 lives, 109 people died of the disease last year.

Increasingly unsanitary conditions make a further outbreak more likely and potentially more devastating.

Zimbabweans are suffering terribly for the economic orthodoxies imposed by the IMF and World Bank. For many of them, the real cost of "adjustment" is death. – Panos

Battered Mugabe licks his wounds

STimes 18/4/93 (362)

ZIMBABWE

Ten years of operations inside Mozambique came to an end for the Zimbabwe Army this week when the last soldier was withdrawn, reports

MICHAEL HARTNACK

from Harare

AS THE thirteenth anniversary of independence dawns today, Zimbabweans are celebrating two goalless draws.

One was in Zimbabwe's World Cup soccer replay against Egypt and the other, say political wits, was in Mozambique, where the final whistle blew last week on President Robert Mugabe's 12-year attempt to crush Afonso Dhlakama's right-wing Renamo rebels.

A 15km convoy of Zimbabwe national army trucks snaked across the Mozambican frontier on Thursday to be welcomed by President Mugabe for a "victory parade" in Mutare.

"Thanks for a job well done," he told veterans of a force which numbered over 14 000 at the 1986-1988 height of his unsuccessful bid to annihilate Renamo. President Mugabe focused on his troops' success in keeping open the 270km "Beira corridor" for much of the past decade, landlocked Zimbabwe's only outlet to the sea independent of South Africa.

At the height of confrontation with former President PW Botha's government, President Mugabe's leadership of the international campaign for tougher sanctions was undermined by Zimbabwe's reliance on SA routes for 90 percent of its imports and exports.

"Go ahead and cut your throat, but don't come crying to me for bandages," British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher warned Mr Mugabe when he wanted to set a world example by sealing his southern borders.

Today over 30 percent of Zimbabwean trade goes through Mozambican lines but South Africa remains Zimbabwe's major trade partner and Pretoria's membership is the key issue looming for the 10-nation Southern African Development Community, described as failure, and whose foundation aim of self-reliance has been the cornerstone of Mr Mugabe's foreign policy.

The semi-official Herald, which is controlled by the para-statal mass media trust, warned that Zimbabweans would not sanction redeployment of troops in Mozambique if the UN peace process broke down as in Angola.

Human costs of the bitter fighting in Mozambique's malaria-ridden bush remain Mr Mugabe's closest secret. Shadowy Zimbabwean casualty figures were only hinted at by bulk orders for military tombstones.

Good rains fall in nick of time for Mugabe

Star 19/4/93

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Despite the growing economic hardships facing Zimbabweans, President Robert Mugabe has little to fear from a divided opposition as his country enters its 14th year of independence, reports ROBIN DREW of The Star's Africa Service in Harare.

Mugabe . . . may decide to call an early election.

ZIMBABWEANS have entered the 14th year of their independence, grateful that the rains came to end the worst drought in living memory but extremely anxious about the conduct of the economy.

On April 18 1980 Zimbabwe embarked on its socialist course under Robert Mugabe, who preached socialism with the fervour of a missionary.

A decade later the country changed course and headed for a free-market economy under the Economic Structural Adjustment Programme whose acronym, ESAP, has drawn biting comments — such as it really stands for Ever Suffering African People.

Certainly the people have suffered and are suffering from punishing rises in the cost of living which never seem to stop. The removal of controls has seen the inflation rate rise to more than 40 percent.

Bread is the latest victim. Some bakeries have experienced a 50 percent drop in demand because people cannot afford to buy the amount they used to. Meat and milk are luxuries for many.

Businesses are still reeling under interest rates which soared to keep pace with the inflation rate.

The latest report of the First Merchant Bank of Zimbabwe takes the government to task for failing to reduce its own spending and warns reforms will not work if the government continues to hold itself exempt from the need for discipline.

"While banks continue to face daily and sometimes hourly difficulties as they try to sustain the economic viability of many clients and the free flow of Zimbabwe's exports and imports, government is causing further interest rate increases and further economic distortions to suit its own purposes."

The bank sees new anxieties about the hopes for an early recovery and an end to what it called "the extraordinarily severe inflationary pressures that came to dominate events in the economy in 1992".

Thousands of workers have lost their jobs in recent months as businesses are forced to retrench to keep going. So far, despite promises, little substantial has been done to encourage investment to create new jobs.

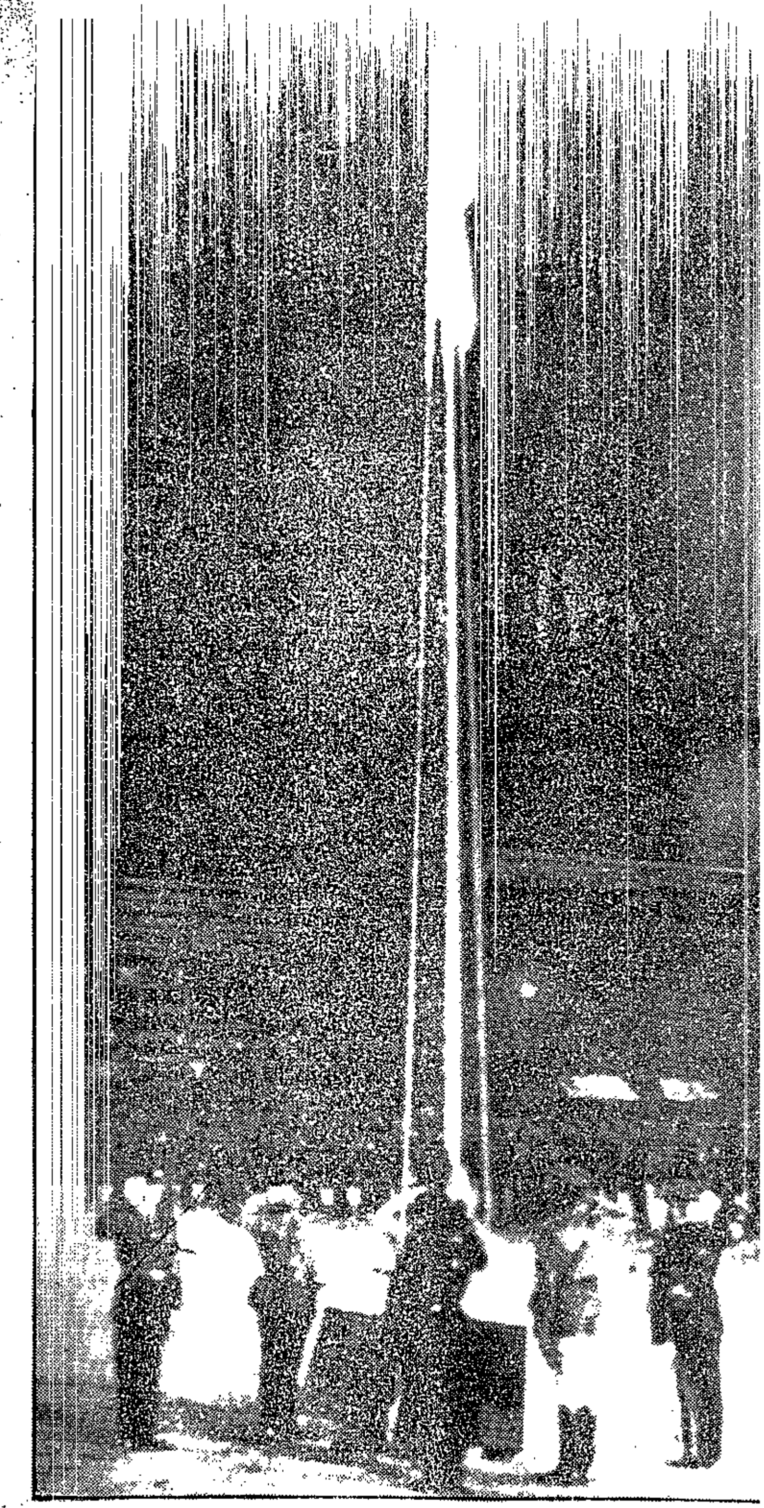
The hardships that this has brought, and the burden borne by those lucky enough to keep their jobs, have been worsened by the spiralling cost of living which saw food prices rise 71,8 percent from January 1992 to January this year.

The government has the drought to blame in part. Efforts to combat its effects have added to the budget deficit which will reach new heights this year.

If the rains had failed again, it is difficult to see how the government could have survived. However, with almost three quarters of the population still largely rural, the benefits of a good harvest and the flow to the peasant farmers of millions of dollars as a result of increases in producer prices will mean continuing support for the ruling party.

Political opposition remains divided and unless the new Forum Party, led by ex-Chief Justice Enoch Dumbutshena, shows better ability than its rivals, Mugabe has little to worry about on the election front.

A general election is due in 1995. There is speculation that one could be called earlier, particularly in view of the buoyancy caused by the rains. □



Hoisting the colours [illegible] new **flag** at independence in **April** 1980 was a landmark on **Zimbabwe**'s path to socialism. Today it has embraced **a free-market economy.**

BDAY 19/4/93

Z$346m for projects

THE International Finance Corporation last year committed Z$346,2m to development projects in Zimbabwe, southern Africa regional representative Thomas Milton said. The organisation, an arm of the World Bank, provides finance and policy advice to public sectors and governments.

REPORTS: Business Day Reporters
Own Correspondent and Sapa.

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Circle Cement has Z$80m programme

HARARE — Harare-based Circle Cement has embarked on a phased Z$80m expansion and rehabilitation programme to meet demand for cement and improve viability, Ziana news agency reports.

Company chairman John Morley said yesterday the project was being financed by a foreign currency loan from the Commonwealth Development Corporation and a syndicated loan obtained on the local money market.

BDay

Morley said in the company's annual report the project had been approved by the government, and major contracts had already been signed.

2/4/93.

"Now that the rehabilitation and refurbishment project has been approved, its implementation has begun in earnest and, since the year-end, the larger of our two cement mills has undergone a major overhaul," he said.

The overhaul had taken longer than expected, largely because of the extensive engineering work required.

"The top priority for the company remains the satisfactory completion of this phased project over the next two to three years as major maintenance shutdowns permit," Morley said.

(362)

He said demand for cement was expected to continue rising this year, although output would be affected by the rehabilitation project.

Cement sales during the year under review totalled 329 000 tons, a marginal increase over the previous year, Morley said. — Sapa.

Interest rates under review in Zimbabwe

B/DAY 21/4/93

HARARE — Registered Zimbabwean financial institutions would be allowed a "limited" increase in interest rates on hire purchase accounts once legislation to amend the Hire Purchase Act had been approved, Ziana news agency reported yesterday.

Negotiations to amend the Act had reached an advanced stage, Griffith Malaba, chairman of the largest financial institution, UDC Ltd, said.

Amendment of the Act would "enable a limited escalation of interest rates" on hire purchase accounts, he said.

(362)

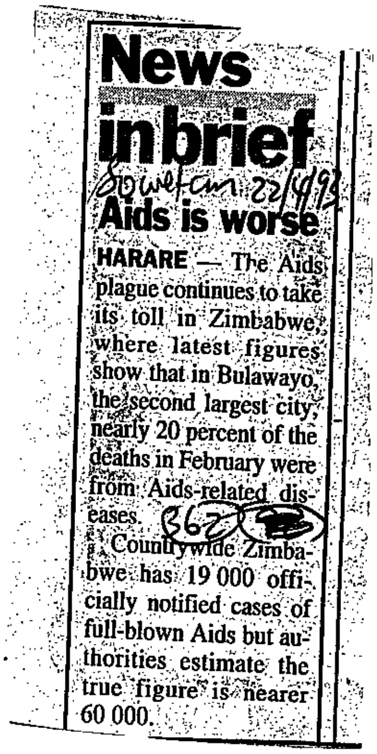
Malaba said in the company's annual report that registered financial institutions had been unable to increase interest rates in response to similar action by commercial banks because of the current restrictions of the Act.

"This is an inequity since other banking institutions on their lendings have been able to escalate and respond speedily to each bank rate increase," he said.

The Finance House Association had entered into negotiations with the government to amend the Act so that it could reflect market realities.

Malaba said the most critical problem facing financial institutions, such as UDC, was the shortage of funding.

"Institutional investors had directed their deposits into the extreme short-end of the money market where, with an inverted interest rate structure, they were able to maximise profits, he said. — Sapa.



News in brief

Sowetan 22/4/93

Aids is worse

HARARE — The Aids plague continues to take its toll in Zimbabwe, where latest figures show that in Bulawayo, the second largest city, nearly 20 percent of the deaths in February were from Aids-related diseases. 362

Countrywide Zimbabwe has 19 000 officially notified cases of full-blown Aids but authorities estimate the true figure is nearer 60 000.

NEWS FEATURE *Nkomo still trying to wrest control of wealth from whites and Indians*

Nkomo fights old battle over land

Sowetan 22/4/93

WAR DRUMS *Former guerilla leader becomes an uncompromising negotiator:*

362

HARARE — Veteran political fighter Joshua Nkomo is again beating the war drums, more than a decade after leading Zimbabwe's guerilla campaign for black majority rule.

Nkomo is still fighting for the cause that drew him into nationalist politics 50 years ago by trying to wrest control of the land and wealth from whites and Indians and place it in the hands of the black majority.

"We are not bringing the whites down or being racist but we want our people to be like them, up there," he told reporters.

The former guerilla leader conducts his latest battles clad in tailored three-piece suits in boardrooms and conferences across the land, where he has a reputation as an uncompromising negotiator, especially on land deals.

ourselves plunged into a pit far greater than the one that ended in 1979," Nkomo said in reference to a bloody seven-year guerilla war that ended white minority rule in then Rhodesia, and ushered in an independent Zimbabwe in 1980.

Nkomo and Zimbabwe President Robert Mugabe were co-leaders of a 40 000-strong guerilla army that fought for independence.

"In order to avoid a conflict between the blacks and the well-to-do, who are mainly whites, government has to deliberately assist disadvantaged blacks," Nkomo said.

Zimbabwe's Independent *Financial Gazette* says Nkomo's views should be taken seriously.

"It is tempting and easy to dismiss these

Joshua Nkomo ... beating the war drums again.

"Land and farming is his first love," a government colleague said.

The grand old man of Zimbabwean politics, a burly figure from the warrior Matebele tribe and one of Zimbabwe's two vice-presidents, has become the most radical voice in a post-independence campaign by blacks to own businesses.

The 75-year-old Nkomo — commonly known as "the old man" or "the bull" for his abrasive style — recently raised the stakes by warning the government of a possible race war if blacks continued to have no major stake in the economy.

Nkomo has thrown his political weight behind a new business lobby which has been trying to steer blacks from their current major interests in township bottle stores, village grinding mills and small grocery shops into big industries.

With Nkomo's help, the Indigenous Business Development Centre managed in the 1992-93 financial year to squeeze Z$100 million ($15,6 million) in loans from a cash-strapped government to prop up its members.

But Nkomo, who says his political career spanning more than half a century would be unfulfilled if blacks remained poor, is demanding more concessions for his cause.

He said local authorities should introduce special long-term leases for blacks to acquire business property in towns, arguing that more prosperous whites and Indians had an unfair advantage.

"If we do not do this we shall find as political posturing but there is a message in all this," said the paper, which is often critical of government policies.

In an editorial, the weekly said blacks, who comprise 98 percent of Zimbabwe's 10 million people, had control of only two per cent of the economy.

Financial institutions, it said, had exploited a lack of clear government policy on black advancement to perpetuate traditional ownership patterns.

"It is time both for established white businesses and government to realise that there has been no change in the status of the black person in the economy," it said.

"We cannot go on pretending that everything is okay when it is apparent that there is some silent apartheid."

Nkomo has led a development trust he formed with several other prominent politicians four years ago to encourage Zimbabweans, mainly blacks, to participate in commercial agriculture, industry, mining and other occupations.

It has used hundreds of millions of dollars from local and international donors to buy business interests across the country, including Zimbabwe's biggest cattle ranch, 349 000 hectares, in southern Masvingo province.

Nkomo argues that Zimbabwe's ailing agriculture-based economy can only be revived by involving the majority in commerce and industry, particularly large-scale farming. — *Sapa-Reuter.*

Sowetan

'We cannot go on pretending that everything is okay when it's apparent that there is some silent apartheid'

22/4/93

2 sent to jail for wounding candidate

Star 24 4 1993

ROBIN DREW
Africa News Service

HARARE — Violence in Zimbabwe's 1990 elections had its sequel in court this week when two men, one a former senior officer in the Central Intelligence Organisation, were sent to jail for shooting and seriously wounding opposition candidate Patrick Kombayi.

Kombayi, Edgar Tekere's senior lieutenant, was standing against Zimbabwe Vice-President Simon Muzenda in Gweru.

The magistrate, sentencing Elias Kanengoni (40) and Kizito Chivamba (35) to an effective six years' each, said others may also have taken part in the shooting. He called for "the political will and resolve" to investigate the matter further.

Witnesses said Muzenda's bodyguards had shot Kombayi.

The magistrate, Wilbert Mapombere, said there was a mistaken belief in Zimbabwe that opposition parties were enemies of the nation.

The people should be taught to accept that opposition parties were organs that made the nation see the other point of view and debate it.

Kombayi said afterwards that the judgment was a victory for democracy.

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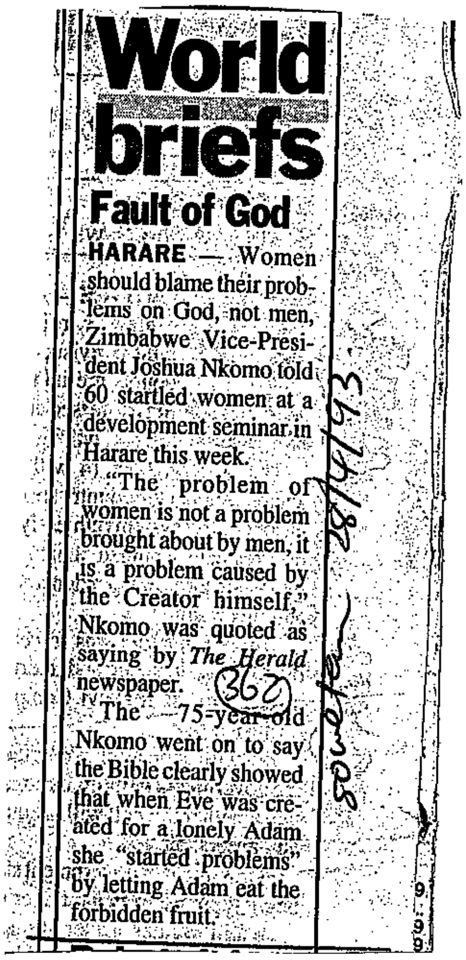


World briefs

Fault of God

HARARE — Women should blame their problems on God, not men, Zimbabwe Vice-President Joshua Nkomo told 60 startled women at a development seminar in Harare this week.

"The problem of women is not a problem brought about by men, it is a problem caused by the Creator himself," Nkomo was quoted as saying by *The Herald* newspaper.

The 75-year-old Nkomo went on to say the Bible clearly showed that when Eve was created for a lonely Adam she "started problems" by letting Adam eat the forbidden fruit.

Sowetan — 28/4/93

362

Sentences cut for 3 SA agents

Star 28/4/93

HARARE — Three South African agents have had 15 years trimmed from their 40-year jail sentences imposed for the bombing of ANC properties in 1986, but they have lost their appeals against conviction.

Two of the agents — Kevin Woods and Michael Smith — are under sentence of death for another anti-ANC bombing operation in which a man died. Appeals against the death sentence handed down in 1988 have still to be heard.

The Zimbabwe Supreme Court yesterday ordered that Woods, Smith and Barry Bawden serve an effective 25 years in jail for the roles they played in an SADF commando raid on ANC properties in Harare seven years ago.

No one was injured in the raid.

(362)

The South African commandos flew to a remote airstrip in Zimbabwe and drove hired cars to their targets.

The three agents were each sentenced to 40 years' jail at their trial in 1989. — Star Africa Service.

Govt urged to implement deregulation

S/Day
28/6/93

HARARE — The Confederation of Zimbabwe Industries had urged government to remove with haste controls inherent in the economy, and enable small-scale enterprises to play a meaningful role in wealth creation, Ziana news agency reported yesterday.

Confederation president Bill Moore said although deregulation had been stated as government policy, it had not yet been implemented or communicated to people, particularly public servants.

(362)

"Wealth creation on the larger scale needs to be done at the micro-enterprise level and small enterprise end of the spectrum. The government can help by literally putting into practise its policy of deregulation," Moore said in the latest issue of the confederation's Industrial Review.

He added that the evolution of production and the encouragement of micro and small enterprises was a wealth-creating activity which would benefit the economy as a whole.

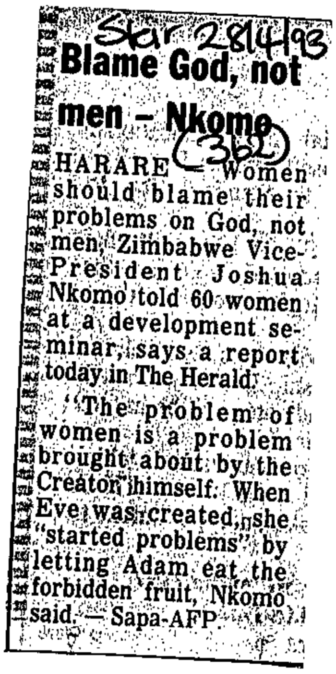
Big firms could help smaller ones grow by subcontracting.

He warned of an "economic disaster" if the government failed to reduce its expenditure.

The downturn in economic activity with a consequent fall in sales receipts and tax receipts had resulted in a shrinkage in the government revenue base.

Unfortunately, he said, the reaction by government had not been to reduce expenditure.

Government needed to cut expenditure by about 50% as most of it was of a recurrent nature.— Sapa.



Star 28/4/93

Blame God, not men – Nkomo

(362)

HARARE — Women should blame their problems on God, not men, Zimbabwe Vice-President Joshua Nkomo told 60 women at a development seminar, says a report today in The Herald.

"The problem of women is a problem brought about by the Creator himself. When Eve was created, she "started problems" by letting Adam eat the forbidden fruit, Nkomo said. — Sapa-AFP

5-million saved

362

ZIMBABWE said yesterday it would end next month a drought relief programme which saved half its 10-million people from starvation last year. There was now plenty of food, Vice-President Simon Muzenda told reporters in Harare.

BDAY

REPORTS: Business Day Reporters, Sapa-Reuter

29/4/93

World's aid a trap, economist warns

BIOTY 30/4/93. (362)

A SENIOR Zimbabwean economist warned South Africans against falling into a foreign aid trap and advised them instead to rely on investment.

"Many countries in southern Africa still appear to have a national conviction that foreign investment is inherently bad because it limits national sovereignty and leads to outflows of foreign excahnge," John Robertson, chief economist at First Merchant Bank, Zimbabwe, said.

"Thinking of this kind is so basically flawed that it has been difficult to argue effectively with those who hold such views."

The trend to rely on aid by most countries in southern Africa upon independence weakened their competitive edge and damaged economic prospects, he said. But by attracting foreign investors, they could build a reliable tax base.

He said the problem with lenders was that they often handed out money with greater concern about repayments than of how it was spent.

Soft loans were often damaging because they encouraged spending. Credit did not automatically translate into development and foreign aid could make a local currency firmer than it should be, while making foreign currencies and imports cheaper.

He advised as policy objectives in SA abolishing taxes on dividends and capital gains, simplifying investment procedures and using import duties to direct investment into local industrial capacity. — Reuter.

FM 30/4/93 (362)

ZIMBABWE FM 30/4/93 (362)

A long tail

After an 11% fall in GDP last year — the second largest in the country's history — the Zimbabwe economy is set to stabilise in the second half of 1993. But, despite good rains, a bumper maize crop and sharply increased cotton production, there will be little, if any, real economic growth this year.

Hopes that buoyant tobacco sales would lead the recovery are receding, with the price at the flue-cured auction sales in Harare averaging less than US$1/kg in the first two weeks of the selling season, compared with US168c in the same period last year. Growers are at a loss to understand how this year's superb quality leaf is earning 42% less than the poor quality drought-stressed tobacco a year ago. It now seems that tobacco, which earned some US$325m in 1992, down more than 40% from the 1991 record of $550m, will make only a marginal contribution to GDP growth this year. Optimists believe the crop of some 210m kg could sell for around $350m, adding less than 10% to monetary GDP.

There is a tendency to exaggerate the impact of good rains on the economy. True, maize deliveries, currently forecast at 1,3 Mt and the biggest crop for five years, could exceed 1,5 Mt, compared with last year's negligible intake. Cotton production will top the 200 000 t level though this is still way below the average for recent years of 250 000 t, while there will also be a much larger soyabean crop.

But the rest of agriculture will still be feeling the aftermath of drought. Beef output will fall steeply as ranchers rebuild their herds. It will take three to four years for output to return to pre-drought levels. There will be no sugar production until the end of the year and only marginal exports until 1994. Coffee and tea output will be lower, while horticultural exports are finding international and regional competition — especially from SA — increasingly intense.

Outside agriculture there are no signs yet of recovery. Indeed, the latest official figures show manufacturing production down 27% in January from a year earlier. This is something of a freak figure, since many firms extended their normal seasonal shutdowns this year because of weak demand. But it's clear industrial output will fall sharply through the first half of 1993 and that this decline is very unlikely to be recouped in the latter half of the year, when consumer-based industries should see a recovery.

Clothing and textiles are in trouble due to fierce competition in export markets, punitive protective tariffs in SA — the industry's main market — and the slump in domestic demand. The State-owned steel industry, Zisco, reportedly losing more than US$3m monthly, is due to shut down its furnace for rebuilding soon. As a result, steel output will fall by two-thirds for at least nine months, while the plant is refurbished. With exports — and investment — at low levels, most other sectors are living with reduced turnovers at a time when inflation averaged 43% — in the year to February.

Mining is in the doldrums. Ferrochrome and nickel have been hit by weak demand and the flood of CIS metal in foreign markets, while gold mining margins have been squeezed, despite the further 25% devaluation of the Zimbabwe dollar against the US currency over the past six months.

Devaluation has now stopped and the currency is being held at around Z$6,4 to the US$ or R2. While retiring Reserve Bank governor Kombo Moyana insists there will be no further devaluation this year, very few businessmen believe him. The market certainly doesn't either, since export retentions — the nearest to a free forex market in Zimbabwe — are trading at a premium of some 28%.

A relatively tight monetary stance is also exerting downward pressure on economic activity. Last year, money supply grew at about half the inflation rate and, with inflation forecast to average 30% this year, while money supply grows at 20%, the real money supply will continue to fall. It's hard to see how the government and the World Bank — forecasting real growth of 6%-7% — reconcile these optimistic projections with what is happening in the money markets. Seldom can an economy grow when the real money supply is falling.

Interest rates, which Moyana tried to talk down last year, have moved higher, with the Treasury paying 39% for one-year money at one point this month, while negotiable certificates of deposit are yielding more than 40%. Financing the maize and tobacco crops is likely to push rates still higher, further crimping economic growth. Inflation will continue to fall but the average for the year is unlikely to drop below 30%. Huge increases in electricity and maizemeal prices are now in the pipeline, along with the impact of devaluation in the first quarter and the anticipated hike in the petrol price.

Hopes of a strong export rebound are evaporating, with the dismal tobacco prices and the poor performance of mining. The current account deficit should be lower than last year's estimated record US$1bn, mainly because of lower food imports, but it will be in the region of $800m. ■

Expensive Zimbabwe pipe dream

Star 1/5/93

362

POLITICAL pressure is on for Zimbabwe to undertake the Matabeleland Zambezi water pipeline project, despite the costs and against advice from experts.

HARARE — Government experts consider the ZD1,6 billion Matabeleland Zambezi water pipeline project too expensive under prevailing economic circumstances, reports Ziana news agency.

They say the water could prove too expensive for the intended beneficiaries at a time when cheaper water could be brought to the semi-arid region.

However, the Zambezi pipeline project has assumed much political significance for Matabeleland with some politicians in the area staking their careers on it.

The government is still to make a concrete statement on the proposed scheme but the political support garnered so far could overwhelm it.

Reluctant to be stampeded into the venture which it had planned for the year 2002, assuming no cheaper sources of water could be found for Bulawayo by then, the government has so far defended its noncommittal position by suggesting that other countries sharing the Zambezi River are still to be consulted and could actually block the project.

Threaten

Rules governing the use of waters of international rivers indicate there is little that those countries can do to stop Zimbabwe if the government decides to implement the scheme.

According to David Durham, deputy director (planning) in the Department of Hydrological Services, the only countries that could really threaten the project are Zambia and Mozambique, but even they are expected to co-operate.

Quoting from the Helsinki rules, the Global Convention on the Use of Waters of International Rivers, Durham said in a recent interview that each country sharing the river was entitled to a "reasonable and equitable share in the beneficial uses of the waters of an international drainage basin".

The contribution of water by each basin state, the climate affecting the basin, past and current use of the waters, and the social and economic needs of each country also come into play in determining what should be reasonable and equitable. Rules may, however, be overridden by a convention, an agreement or a binding custom among basin countries.

Countries such as Angola, Zaire and Botswana will not be immediately affected if Zimbabwe goes ahead with the project now.

However, an all-clear signal from the countries sharing the Zambezi River for Zimbabwe to undertake the pipeline project leaves the government vulnerable to political pressure to undertake the project immediately despite the adverse economic factors involved.

Durham said that even if the ZD1,6 billion needed for laying the 450 km pipeline was raised, the landed cost of the water, at ZD7/cu m of raw water, would be uneconomical to intended beneficiaries. — Sapa.

St Times 2/5/93

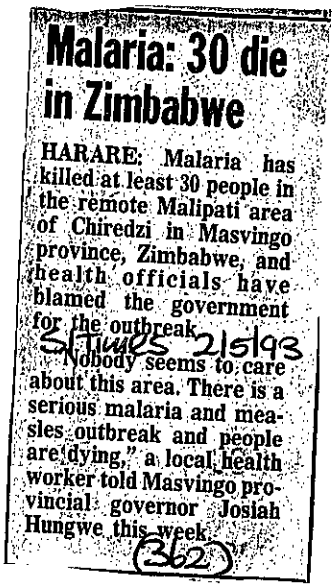
Farms snatch

THE Zimbabwean government has earmarked 70 commercial farms, most of them productive, white-owned holdings, for resettlement.

The plan apparently goes back on promises that only derelict and under-used land would be seized.

(362)

Friday's Government Gazette lists the 70 properties which cover 190,000ha throughout the country and include some of the most productive.



Malaria: 30 die in Zimbabwe

HARARE: Malaria has killed at least 30 people in the remote Malipati area of Chiredzi in Masvingo province, Zimbabwe, and health officials have blamed the government for the outbreak.

S/Times 2/5/93

"Nobody seems to care about this area. There is a serious malaria and measles outbreak and people are dying," a local health worker told Masvingo provincial governor Josiah Hungwe this week.

(362)

Star 3/5/93

SA firms laud Zimbabwe fair

(362)

BULAWAYO — The South African Trade Mission in Zimbabwe intends to campaign for more participation by South African companies at the Zimbabwe International Trade Fair (ZITF) next year.

A South African Trade Mission representative, Henning Visser, said yesterday that due to "exceptionally" satisfactory business deals by SA companies at the fair, the SA Foreign Trade Organisation (Safto) had plans to mobilise enough companies to fill one of the foreign exhibition halls at the ZITF grounds from next year.

Visser said most of the 25 Safto companies had signed deals with Zimbabwean businessmen.

"Other companies have also reported that they received interesting inquiries and trade offers which they were sure would be confirmed soon," he said, adding that the deals could be worth millions of rands.

"We want to market the ZITF in South Africa. It has already proved to be our gateway not only to African trade, but we have also met interested business people from overseas." — Sapa.

Sowetan

Zim govt slammed

3/5/93

HARARE — The Zimbabwe government was criticised at the weekend for not attending May Day celebrations in Harare's Rufaro Stadium, the first it did not participate in since 1980, *Ziana* news agency reports. (362)

Zimbabwe National Students Union representative Mr Tendai Chikweche described the failure by the government to attend the celebrations as "gross neglect of the workers by a government running on workers' taxes". Addressing the Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions, Chikweche said if the government did not want to talk to the labour body, it should have come and talked directly to the workers. — *Sapa-Reuter*.

Africa in brief

Sowetan 3/6/93

Whites warned

BULAWAYO — Zimbabwean Vice-President Mr Joshua Nkomo warned whites at the weekend that if they persistently refused to share the means of production with blacks, the government could soon demand a share on behalf of the black people.

Nkomo, who spoke at the Zimbabwe International Trade Fair presidential reception in Bulawayo, said if whites remained in control of the economy, there was a danger that racial divisions would remain since the master and servant relationship that blacks fought against during the liberation war would still favour whites.

362

Star 4/5/93

362

Zimbabwe seizure of land clarified

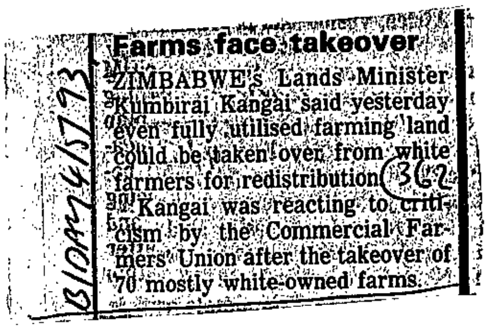
HARARE — Even fully utilised land could be taken over by the government for redistribution, Zimbabwe Minister of Lands, Agriculture and Water Development Kumbirai Kangai said yesterday.

He was reacting to bitter criticism by the country's Commercial Farmers' Union (CFU) after the takeover of 70 mostly white-owned and productive farms.

Kangai said while there were criteria on whether farms were to be considered under-utilised, derelict or abandoned, "there is nothing that stops the Minister from acquiring even fully utilised land if it is deemed necessary that the property is needed in the national interest".

He said he would consider written objections from individual farmers but not from the CFU, which was represented on a committee which assessed properties to be designated.

"There may be cases where the procedure is not fully followed but that is no reason for the CFU making accusations against the government." — Sapa.



B/DAY 4/5/93

Farms face takeover

ZIMBABWE's Lands Minister Kumbirai Kangai said yesterday even fully utilised farming land could be taken over from white farmers for redistribution. 362

Kangai was reacting to criticism by the Commercial Farmers' Union after the takeover of 70 mostly white-owned farms.

Sowetan 11/5/93

BCMA doubts claim

A SPOKESMAN for the Harare-based Black Consciousness Movement of Azania yesterday cast doubt on a claim that the organisation's military wing, Azanla, had carried out the weekend attack on the Highgate Hotel in which five people were killed.

He said the Harare office "has no information about this". They would expect to have been informed of the attack. — *Sapa-AFP*

([illegible]) (362)

BUSINESS DAY, Wednesday, May 5 1993 5

Thaw in SA-Zimbabwe links

B/DAY 5/5/93

[illegible] 362

HARARE — Zimbabwe's policy of holding SA at arm's length appears closer than ever to being abandoned following a meeting at the weekend between hardline Zimbabwean Foreign Minister Nathan Shamuyarira and his South African counterpart, Pik Botha.

News reports yesterday said Shamuyarira met Botha at an ANC reception in Johannesburg on Sunday where they held informal talks.

Shamuyarira said: "Botha was very friendly and positive in his attitude towards SA," and had expressed the wish that a transitional government be established.

Since independence in 1980, President Robert Mugabe's government has maintained a policy of "no political contact" with SA — in effect banning members of his cabinet from meeting officially with Pretoria ministers while at the same time maintaining the status quo in trade.

SA is Zimbabwe's largest trading partner, exporting goods worth R239m south of the border in 1991, and importing R936m worth from what was officially termed until recently "the racist republic".

In the last year, however, the policy has weakened significantly, with a visit by Zimbabwean Transport Minister Denis Norman to Cape Town a year ago for official talks with his counterpart Piet Welgemoed.

Mugabe still maintains, however, that full diplomatic recognition of SA can take place only once a transitional government is in place.

Mugabe last year in Rome met Botha at the signing of the Mozambique peace agreement, and in February Zimbabwean Trade Minister Chris Ushewokunze held formal talks with South African Finance Minister Derek Keys in Cape Town.

Shamuyarira affirmed that the policy of "non-collaboration" would continue.

The policy would remain in force "until there is a new constitution, an interim government and changes have taken place at the top", he said. — Sapa.

SOWETAN Wednesday May 5 1993

INTERNATIONAL NEWS Minister accused of breaking promise ● Rebels

Sowetan 5/5/93

Govt won't budge

(362)

■ PRODUCTIVE LAND Row in Zimbabwe over resettlement

Sowetan Africa News Service

HARARE — The row over the Zimbabwe government's plans to take productive farms away from their owners for resettlement hardened yesterday with a new statement by Agriculture Minister Kumbirai Kangai.

Kangai said there was nothing to stop him from acquiring even fully utilised land if it was in the national interest.

At the weekend the Commercial Farmers Union accused the Minister of going back on categorical and public assurances that productive farms would not be interfered with. The government last week designated 70 farms for resettlement.

Kangai hit back at the union saying it was wrong for someone to think that because their land was fully used, the government could not acquire it.

Star 6/5/93

Pilot flies into trouble with Mugabe

(362)

HARARE — An air force pilot who aborted a flypast for President Robert Mugabe, faces a court martial and possible dismissal, officers said yesterday.

The flypast was to have coincided with the playing of the national anthem at the official opening of the Zimbabwe International Trade Fair on Friday.

But Lieutenant Alois Nyandoro, called off the flypast when he realised it would not coincide with the anthem.

Mugabe stood for several minutes waiting for the planes. News reports said he was humiliated before a crowd of about 50 000 people.

Fellow officers said a case was being prepared for a court martial and the pilot could be charged with aborting a mission without authority. — Sapa-AP.

SOWETAN Thursday May 6 1993

role ● Cash strapped borrowers can breathe again

Pik has peace plan

Sowetan 6/5/93

■ EMINENT PERSON Nathan Shamuyarira to sound out Zimbabwean president on promoting negotiations 12:

362

HARARE — Foreign Minister Mr Pik Botha is reported to have expressed an interest in a role for President Mugabe of Zimbabwe in promoting peaceful negotiations in South Africa.

Botha is said to have told this to his Zimbabwean counterpart, Mr Nathan Shamuyarira, when they met for the first time at an ANC reception in Johannesburg on Sunday after the funeral of Mr Oliver Tambo.

It was their first meeting and has been interpreted in some quarters in South Africa as a further relaxation of the Zimbabwean government's policy of refusing to have ministerial-level dealings with Pretoria.

Shamuyarira said on his return to Harare that Botha had expressed an interest in a role for Mugabe in peaceful negotiations in South Africa. In Johannesburg Shamuyarira also met IFP leader Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi. He said Buthelezi expressed an interest in meeting Mugabe to talk about the situation. - *Sowetan Africa News Service.*

Star 7/5/93

362

Zimbabwe land grab 'threatens investment'

HARARE — The Zimbabwean government's decision to press ahead with plans to nationalise at least 70 private farms threatens to undo the benefits of new investment incentives, economic analysts said today.

Three days after Finance Minister Bernard Chidzero unveiled a package of investment and export incentives last week, the Ministry of Agriculture published a list of 70 farms, mostly owned by whites, designated for compulsory state acquisition.

The president of the Commercial Farmers' Union, Anthony Swire-Thompson, accused the government of going back on a promise not to acquire productive farms, and of ignoring agreed procedures for selecting the land to be nationalised.

Business leaders had welcomed the relaxation of some of the country's tight exchange controls, but they were dismayed by the decision on land.

"It will get far greater publicity than the new investment incentives," said one.

Agriculture Minister Kumbirai Kangai, with whom the country's 4 500 white commercial farmers say they have a good rapport, said there was no law to stop him from buying fully utilised land if this was in the national interest.

But he said he would listen to "sustainable objections".

That could mean that some of the 70 farms will be quietly dropped from the designation list.

Even if the government does back away from taking all over all 70 farms, businessmen say there is little doubt that the country's investment image has been damaged.

"Coming so soon after the investment package, the farm designation move sent all the wrong signals to potential foreign investors," a bank economist said.

The independent Financial Gazette condemned the move yesterday, saying the plan to resettle thousands of peasants from congested rural districts on the fertile land would cripple the vital agricultural sector, which was sustained by white farmers.

In a hard-hitting editorial the outspoken weekly said the peasants' questionable farming skills would turn productive farms into wasteland.

"If the situation is not reversed immediately, efforts by Dr Bernard Chidzero to woo foreign investors into Zimbabwe will remain a mirage,"

Under Chidzero's new investment package, foreigners will be able to invest in the local share market and investors will be able to remit most of their profits out of the country.

The government passed the controversial land law in early 1992 against fierce opposition from the country's commercial farmers, who hold more than 60 percent of Zimbabwe's most fertile land.

They said it was racially motivated.

The law enables the government to nationalise the farms and prevents the farmers contesting in court the prices offered them.

During the seven years of guerilla war which led to independence and black majority rule in 1980, President Robert Mugabe's ruling ZANU-PF party promised peasants a greater share of the rich farmlands.

The 70 farms selected have a total area of more than 190 000 hectares, about 4 percent of the 5 million hectares the government plans to acquire in the next five years. — Sapa-Reuter.

FM 7/5/93. (362)

ZIMBABWE FM 7/5/93

One small step

(362)

No sooner had Zimbabwe's new investment and export incentives package been unveiled by Finance Minister Bernard Chidzero than government announced that 70 mainly white-owned farms are to be taken over. Commercial Farmers' Union president Tony Swire-Thompson accused government of going back on its word to take over only unproductive or under-utilised land and of ignoring agreed procedures for land designation.

Business leaders who welcomed last week's package warn government that potential foreign investors will pay more attention to its land policy than measures to relax exchange controls. Nevertheless, the Robert Mugabe government's approach to foreign investors is changing.

(*) Cont-d

The new measures shift some dividend payments out of the official foreign currency market and into the export retentions market, where foreign currency is selling at a premium of 28%. Since April 1 exporters have (retroactively) been allowed to retain 50% of export earnings with the other half being paid into the Reserve Bank. The first half may be used to import essential inputs and, since May 1, to pay dividends subject to complicated rules. Furthermore, for the first time, companies and individuals will be allowed to maintain hard currency accounts at commercial banks into which export retentions and returning flight capital can be paid. Officials insist that no questions will be asked of individuals bringing back funds from abroad.

Dividend regulations have not been freed altogether but that clearly is the medium-term aim. For the moment, foreign firms who invested in Zimbabwe before September 1979 — the start of the independence constitutional conference — which are currently restricted to remitting no more than 25% of after-tax profits, will now be allowed to remit up to 100% if they invest locally in expansion or new projects. A formula, still to be disclosed, links dividend payments to the net asset value of any new investment after May 1. The greater the new net asset value, as a proportion of the firm's total asset value, the higher the level of dividends it will be allowed to remit.

The object is to encourage reinvestment in new projects. The same rules will apply to the post-1979 companies whose dividend remittances were pegged at 50% of after-tax earnings. These dividends will, however, have to be remitted through the export retentions fund, meaning it will cost more than Z$8 to buy US$1 rather than the official rate of Z$6,4. Any new foreign firms investing after May 1 will be allowed unrestricted dividend remittances provided the dividends use the export retentions' route.

To encourage exports, foreign-owned firms that export at least a quarter of their turnover will also be allowed to remit up to 50% of after-tax profits through the export retentions market. Future dividend remittances will also be tied to export growth so that, if exports rise 10% this year, dividends will be allowed to increase by half that amount next year.

Repatriation controls over capital brought into Zimbabwe before September 1979 are being relaxed to allow firms to disinvest without incurring steep discount penalties. Such repatriation will however be restricted to the export retention market with its discount — though Chidzero says this will depend on balance-of-payments constraints. He has widened the scope for firms to use blocked funds to reinvest.

For the first time in more than 30 years, foreigners will be able to invest on the Zimbabwe Stock Exchange with a guarantee of free remittability of dividends and disinvestment funds. No foreign shareholder will be allowed to hold more than 5% of a ZSE-quoted company and foreign shareholdings will not be allowed to exceed 25% of issued capital. All but a handful of listed companies are 25% foreign-owned but officials hope the relaxation will encourage foreign institutions to look at the Zimbabwe market and entice some local firms to go public with foreign backing.

FM 7/5/93.

No-one is suggesting that the Chidzero package makes Zimbabwe competitive in the field of international investment, but it is a step forward, albeit a smaller one than expected. The next phase will be further increases in export retentions from 50% to 85%, probably within two-and-a-half years. Once this happens, virtually all restrictions on imports will have been liberalised except for items such as prestige cars and other luxury items.

Non-exporters are unhappy at the direction of a policy that will phase out direct import allocations and force importers to pay the free-market, or export-retention, premium. This, of course, is merely accepting the reality of an overvalued official exchange rate and should the export retention premium go above 30% pressure will build up for further devaluation by early next year. ■

Zimbabwe's land policy 'tantamount to suicide'

BDay 7/5/93

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HARARE — The Zimbabwean government's decision to press ahead with plans to nationalise at least 70 private farms threatens to undo the benefits of new investment incentives, economic analysts said.

Three days after Finance Minister Bernard Chidzero unveiled a package of investment and export incentives, the Agriculture Ministry published a list of 70 mostly white-owned farms designated for compulsory acquisition.

Commercial Farmers' Union president Anthony Swire-Thompson accused the government of going back on a promise not to acquire productive farms and of ignoring agreed procedures for selecting the land to be nationalised.

Business leaders welcomed the relaxation of some exchange controls but they were dismayed at the decision on land. "It will get far greater publicity than the new investment incentives," said one.

Agriculture Minister Kumbirai Kangai, with whom the country's 4 500 white commercial farmers say they have a good rapport, said there was no law to stop him from buying fully utilised land if this was in the national interest.

But he said he would listen to "sustainable objections". That could mean that some of the 70 farms will be quietly dropped from the designation list.

Even if the government does back away from taking over all 70 farms, businessmen say there is little doubt Zimbabwe's investment image has been hurt.

The independent Financial Gazette yesterday condemned the move, saying the plan to resettle thousands of peasants from congested rural districts on the fertile land would cripple the vital agricultural sector, which is currently sustained by white farmers.

The outspoken weekly said the peasants' questionable farming skills would turn productive farms into wasteland. "To tamper with the agricultural industry, which is the mainstay of our economy, is tantamount to suicide."

The 70 farms selected have a total area of more than 190 000ha, about 4% of the 5-million ha the government plans to acquire in the next five years. — Reuters.

Zimbabwe's growing pains

WMail 7/5 – 13/5/93.

(362)

Zimbabwe's controversial land redistribution is trying to redress past grievances and ensure successful harvests.

By **ANDREW MELDRUM**

SMALL and wiry, Ephraim Nyakujara (76) surveys his field of wilted maize and complains about the sparse rainfall in the Chiendambuya communal lands, 230km north-east of Harare.

Nyakujara fondly recalls the place where he grew up: "It was beautiful there. We could grow everything. There were wet spots where we could even grow rice. But after the Rhodesians moved us, many of our crops failed. Even now it is hard to grow things here."

Nyakujara's hair and beard are grey and his face is deeply creased, but his eyes are sharp, his speech decisive. In 1945, the then-Rhodesian authorities moved his family and hundreds of others from their traditional land.

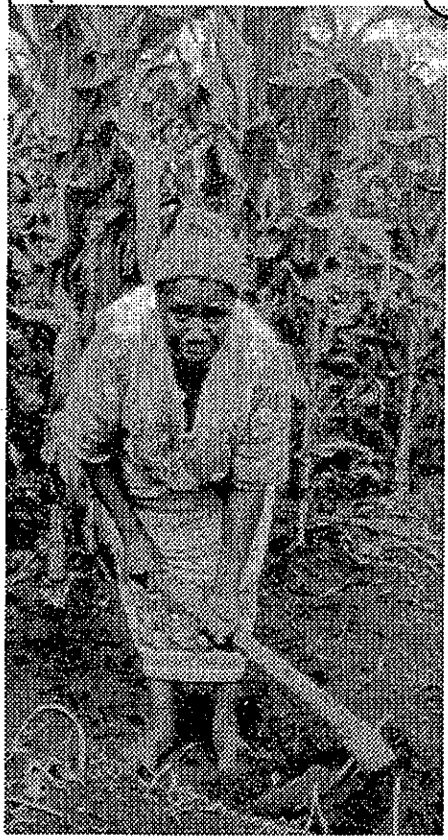
Asked if people were paid compensation, Nyakujara laughs bitterly. "Not a shilling, not a penny," he says. "They just dumped us here and we had to develop everything from scratch."

Nyakujara has a markedly more sympathetic view of the Zimbabwe government's land-redistribution policy than white farmers and businessmen. They raised an outcry last week when the government designated 70 farms, totalling 190 000 hectares, for mandatory purchase for the resettlement of black peasants.

"The resettlement lands are good. Many farmers are getting good harvests, although some are lazy," Nyakujara says.

Under the Land Acquisition Bill of 1991, the government has the power to set its own price for the farms and the farmers have no right to appeal to the courts if they believe the prices are unfair.

They have criticised as unjust and uneconomic President Robert Mugabe's plans to purchase half the current 11-million hectares of white-owned land for redistribution to black peasant farmers.



Industrious peasant farmers boast maize yields comparable to commercial farms **Photo: SARAH-JANE POOLE**

But in the country's rural areas, home to 75 percent of the population, there is widespread agreement that the plan will redress longstanding grievances over the loss of ancestral land during the 90 years of white minority rule.

Zimbabwe's 4 300 large-scale farmers, all but a handful of them white, own half of the country's arable land, while some seven million peasants are crowded on to the remaining half, much of it with poor soil and low rainfall.

Politically, President Robert Mugabe has no option but to redistribute.

But Western diplomats warn that mandatory land purchases could cost Zimbabwe foreign aid. "It is totally against the standards o international law. Any compulsory purchase must at least have judicial arbitration of the price," says one diplomat.

White farmers charge that large-scale resettlement will be an economic disaster for the country. But a visit to the Musengezi resettlement scheme shows that many industrious peasant farmers boast cotton and maize yields nearly as high as those of commercial farmers

Maxwell Jarijari strides through his cotton field checking the knee-high plants for pests and weeds. "The soil here is much better and we get much better yields," he says. "I used to get less than 50 bags of maize on the old land now I get more than 100, plus 50 bales of cotton. We have great opportunity here."

Across the road, the cotton field is dramatically different: the plants are only ankle hig and are being strangled by weeds. This miserable field is part of one of the government' collective co-operatives, and Jarijari shakes hi head at the evidence of poor farming.

Government resettlement officials conced that the co-operatives have been a dismal failure. Many participants have deserted the ventures, despite the good soil and rainfall.

As the Mugabe government embarks on new land redistribution, it is assessing its efforts since 1980, in which 416 000 people have been resettled on formerly white-owned land. Many resettlement projects were expensive failures.

Planners have recommended scrapping th co-operatives, and that resettled farmers b allowed to purchase their plots. Currently th resettled farmers are only granted 10-year permits to the land.

"I like the idea of ownership," Jarijari says "Then my family would benefit from my work."

Measures to help small business

BDAY 13/8/93

HARARE — The Zimbabwean cabinet has agreed on far-reaching measures to help the small business sector which include directing financial institutions to give preferential treatment to indigenous businessmen, reducing tax levels and issuing of freehold and title deeds at rural centres.

Purchases of goods and services by the government, local authorities and parastatals would be contracted to competent indigenous small and medium-scale businesses, while each financial institution would be required to direct at least 30% of its total lending to the indigenous sector.

Ziana national news agency reported yesterday a source in the National Economic Planning Commission said government would overhaul the operations of the Small Enterprises Development Corporation by upgrading its status so that it could receive a capital injection of Z$500m.

Among other things, the funds would be used to form a venture capital facility within the corporation, assist indigenous businessmen acquire shares in companies government and foreign companies would be disinvesting from, and also provide start-up loans to small and medium-scale businessmen.

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He said the ministry of finance would be asked to speed up the review of the reduction of current high tax levels.

The ministry of higher education would be required to implement a comprehensive entrepreneurship development programme in colleges and universities, he said. — Sapa.

BUSINESS

Fraud squad investigates Zimpapers

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MICHAEL HARTNACK

HARARE — Senior Zimbabwean newspaper executives at the country's leading dailies, The Herald and the Bulawayo Chronicle, have been sent on forced leave while fraud squad detectives probe alleged milking of millions of rands by front companies. BDay

Editor-in-chief Tommy Sithole has reportedly taken temporary charge of the company, a former SA Argus group subsidiary until President Robert Mugabe's government acquired a controlling interest after independence in 1980.

The group CE, the senior GM and the chief mechanic were reportedly sent on forced indefinite leave following a crisis board meeting at Harare's Herald House on Tuesday. The Herald, the Bulawayo Chronicle, and Zimpapers' other titles The Sunday Mail and Sunday News are involved in a circulation war with Zimbabwe's first independent morning newspaper, the Daily Gazette, and other Modus group publications the Financial Gazette and Sunday Gazette.

Fraud squad detectives are investigating allegations that Zimpapers had sold overpriced or unnecessary supplies through briefcase front companies for its own senior employees. 13/5/93

Business sources say the last Argus group MD of the former Rhodesian Printing and Publishing company, George Capon, has been aproached to resume temporary charge of management, although he is now in his 70s.

Capon, who is still on the Zimpapers board, established a reputation for absolute integrity and strict financial discipline during his ten years at the helm.

Wits/Vaal violence reduced – Gildenhuys

Star 14/5/93

(274)

CAPE TOWN — There has been a general reduction in violence in the Witwatersrand and Vaal areas, which has permitted increased emphasis on violence prevention and social reconstruction, according to National Peace Secretariat (NPS) chairman Dr Antonie Gildenhuys.

"There is generally a significant drop in political violence, particularly in the number of deaths," he said in the NPS annual report tabled in Parliament yesterday.

Peace rallies could be a successful instrument in promoting peace. Efforts were being made to get parties at loggerheads to meet on a grassroots basis as a first step towards reconciliation.

"Joint rallies are the next step in the progress towards peace," the report said.

Peace structures in these areas had been severely tested by the political activities which followed the assassination of Chris Hani.

Negotiations between the ANC and SAP on steps to keep marches and gatherings peaceful had prevented the Wits/Vaal region being declared an unrest area.

Tension still remained high in the Natal region, where the regional peace committee had focused on mediation and the resolution of disputes on a reactive, rather than preventive, basis.

"The regional peace committee has been unable to establish local peace committees in a number of key areas. Political parties laying down preconditions for the formation of committees was a major obstacle."

Workshops had established the three major stumbling blocks as the political climate, shortcomings in the security and judicial systems, and shortcomings in NPA structures.

Problem areas included the Midlands, Mooi River, Bruntville and Estcourt, which were extremely tense and militant. There was cautious optimism about progress after valuable co-operation from party representatives, it said.

There had been an improvement in the Port Shepstone area where, six months ago, there were more than 70 killings a month.

Bilateral talks between the ANC and IFP in northern Natal had heralded a change of atmosphere at committee meetings. The two parties had also proposed the implementation of a number of resolutions to strengthen the peace process after the tragic killings in the Table Mountain area between Maritzburg and Durban. — Sapa.

Broeders praise 'open' selection

Star 14/5/93

Grilled ... former Azapo chairman Saths Cooper.

Interviewed ... Methodist Bishop Peter Storey.

By Jacqueline Myburgh

Two former Broederbonders said yesterday they welcomed the "transparent" process of selecting a new board for the SABC, saying they had rejected the secret nature of the Afrikaner organisation.

A seven-member panel yesterday continued to delve into the personal and political background of nominees.

Hendrik Sloet, former Broederbonder and chairman of Saambou, who is a member of the SABC board, said he had never "seen on paper" the news policy barring extra-parliamentary organisations from the airwaves. Board chairman Professor Christo Viljoen admitted on Wednesday there had been such a policy.

Sloet said: "I made the deduction when they were not allowed to have their say on TV. In hindsight it was a wrong decision."

The panel, chaired by Mr Justice I Mahomed and Mr Justice P J Schabort, has interviewed 33 nominees during the past two days. More than 50 interviews remain.

A former Radio Moscow reporter for almost 30 years, Dr Phila Ndlovu, was asked to describe conditions in the Soviet broadcasting corporation.

"Did you not find it utterly suffocating to be told by the party what could be permitted?" asked Mr Justice Mahomed.

"I did," said Ndlovu.

Others interviewed yesterday included: Moeletsi Mbeki, a consultant to the ANC/Cosatu media department; social anthropologist Dr Caroline White; former Azapo chairman Dr Saths Cooper; Methodist Bishop Peter Storey; Sunday Times journalist Carmel Rickard; former Sunday Tribune editor Ian Wyllie; and former NGK moderator Johan Heyns.

● The National Party strongly condemned the hostile style which marked Wednesday's board selection hearings, NP media liaison director Marthinus van Schalkwyk said yesterday, according to Sapa.

● The spectacle on television of Mr Justice Mahomed questioning board chairman Viljoen reminded Afrikaner Volksunie MP for Bethal Chris de Jager of Hitler's SS generals, he said yesterday, according to Sapa.

"We know about the Spanish Inquisition and we saw what kind of inquisition is waiting for South Africa," he said during debate on the Home Affairs budget vote.

Immunity for observers

Star 14/5/93

By Helen Grange (259)

International observers have been granted immunity and privileges similar to those enjoyed by diplomats.

The announcement was made yesterday in an extraordinary Government Gazette.

In terms of the announcement, international observers have been exempted from all forms of taxation and have been granted legal immunity as far as their official duties are concerned.

Visas are also to be issued to them free of charge.

James Canu, spokesman for the UN Observer Mission, said yesterday that foreign observers had been waiting for the announcement.

"It is welcome news. It comes in the wake of communication between the observer missions and the Government on the matter," he said.

Canu said such immunities and privileges were common practice in other countries around the world where international observers were operating.

Foreign observers, he said, would be especially pleased with the news that they would no longer have to pay double tax — both in South Africa and their countries of origin.

Other privileges would not make much difference to the way observers had been operating. "We have had no problems moving around, but it is good to have that right recorded on paper."

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86 pc of voters have their IDs

Star 14/5/93

CAPE TOWN — Abou 7 000 polling stations will be set up for the coming general election.

Issuing of identity documents is going well and about 86 percent of the 22 million elegible voters already have these.

Minister of Home Affairs Danie Schutte said more than 90 percent would have ID documents by early next year.

These would be virtually impossible to forge as a special lamination process and laser printing had been used.

Schutte would not comment, but it seems little is being done in the TBVC states about the election. — Political Staff.

Dawie breaks the ice

Star 14/5/93

By Gerald L'Ange
Star Africa Service (362)

Zimbabwe's crumbling policy of refusing contact with South Africa at ministerial level will be virtually abandoned today when Dr Dawie de Villiers, Minister of Public Enterprises, goes to Harare to sign an agreement to build a power line to Bulawayo from Matimba power station in the western Transvaal.

The policy, which was to have been enforced until apartheid was irreversibly abandoned, has been made impracticable by Zimbabwe's dependence on South Africa for transport and power.

The signing will represent a big advance in Eskom's plans for a power grid across southern Africa.

The Matimba-Bulawayo project has been pushed forward earlier than planned to give Zimbabwe access to South African power if drought again cuts generation in Zimbabwe, as it did last year.

The line will act as a back-up until another line is built to Zimbabwe from the Cahora Bassa Dam in Mozambique. It will also enable Zambia to draw power through its link with the Zimbabwean grid.

Botswana will also sign the agreement in Harare because, although it will not initially draw power from Matimba, the line to Bulawayo passes through its territory.

Zimbabwe govt rehires white CE

BDay 14/5/93

(362)

HARARE — A white Zimbabwean publisher, retired a decade ago to make way for black advancement, has been rehired to head the government Press conglomerate after disclosures of top-level corruption.

Millions of dollars reportedly were defrauded from Zimbabwe Newspapers (1980) Ltd, the latest alleged scandal involving loss-making state businesses run by political appointees.

George Capon, 76, returned yesterday as CE after the board suspended four managers for allegedly fleecing the corporation. CE Davis Midzi, appointed in a drive to replace white public servants with blacks, was suspended.

The executives allegedly used front companies to sell cars, computers and printing equipment at bloated prices to group newspapers. — Sapa-AP.

[redacted]

Farmers still smoking

Wmail 14/5 - 20/5/93.

(362)

The drought's over but Zimbabwe's tobacco farmers are still under the weather, reports

IDEN WETHERELL

TWO blows in quick succession have demoralised Zimbabwean farmers in recent weeks just when prospects were beginning to brighten after last year's devastating drought.

Good rains this year had buoyed hopes of a bumper harvest. In particular, the tobacco crop was expected to fetch record prices on the Harare auction floors. But competition from hitherto cheaper tobacco in Brazil and China has dashed those hopes while government's land acquisition programme poses new problems for Zimbabwean agriculture in general.

When the tobacco auction floors opened on April 14 growers withdrew over half the bales they had offered for sale, expressing disappointment with exceptionally low prices. The average price on the opening day was 819,85Zc/kg or 126USc/kg. Growers had been hoping for US$2/kg.

Worse was to come. The average price plunged the following week to 659,17Zc/kg (104,72USc/kg) and again half the sellers withdrew their bales. On Friday April 16 over 722 000kg were sold at an average price of 624,20Zc/kg (98,95USc/kg), a benchmark low.

International buyers who had been expected to prefer Zimbabwe's high quality flue-cured tobacco stayed away as prices fell to half last year's fixings.

Prices recovered marginally at the beginning of this week to stabilise at 625,31Zc/kg (99,5USc/kg) but the Zimbabwe Tobacco Association (ZTA) claims the crop remains seriously undervalued, fetching 66,5USc/kg less than its Brazilian competitor. "We know that there is a soft world market for tobacco but we do not believe that the prices we are getting on the local auction floors are reflective of the value of our crop," said ZTA president Ian Alcock.

And ZTA chief executive Chris Molam has warned that the current price situation could affect the morale of producers and the viability of the industry. It would appear that better grade tobacco is still being held back as golden leaf growers hope for a price improvement later this month.

Everything had seemed set for a good year with soaking rains, a sympathetic minister at the helm of agriculture, and Z$3-billion from commercial banks to finance this year's tobacco crop. But hard on the heels of falling prices has come news that the government is to expropriate 70 commercial farms in terms of the controversial Land Acquisition Act, 15 of which are involved in tobacco production.

The move is bound to undermine agricultural property prices and further alarm farmers. It may also vitiate the bond of confidence between commercial farmers and government that new Agriculture Minister Kumbirai Kangai had done so much to cultivate. With the government's popularity under pressure and elections on the horizon, political needs appear to have outweighed considerations of viability on the land.

The Commercial Farmers Union does not oppose planned redistribution. But it is profoundly concerned about government's haphazard and arbitrary approach to the question. Promises that productive farms would not be affected appear to have been ignored as have recommendations of government's own Agritex officials and provincial land committees which include farmers. Derelict farms belonging to cabinet ministers that were investigated by land committees have mysteriously escaped designation. "Surprisingly, these unproductive farms have not been designated and, instead, the government has decided to designate productive farms," said a Masvingo farmer.

With the collapse of the tobacco market, a demoralised agricultural sector, and minerals such as chrome piling up overseas, Zimbabwe's prospects of recovery in 1993 now appear bleak.

Whitehead passes interim dividend

Star 14/5/93

HARARE — Zimbabwe's David Whitehead Textiles' textile company suspended dividends for the half year ended March 31, Ziana news agency reports.

The company said in a statement to shareholders turnover had declined by 16 percent from Z$121 540 the previous half year to Z$78 480 during the period under review.

This was as a result of the Z$43 million reduction in local sales.

The return on sales only increased by 0,1 per cent and the return on capital employed by 0,6 per cent compared with 18 percent and 15 percent respectively in the previous half year, the company said.

"In the local market, the vast majority of consumers have had little or no income for disposal on anything other than basic essentials . . .," the company said.

"The situation has been aggravated by illegal trading in imported second-hand clothing on the local market and what is, in effect, a virtual embargo from January 1993 on clothing exports from Zimbabwe to South Africa," the company added.

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Exports

It said although exports to United States and Europe showed a marked increase compared with the previous half-year, the sales consisted mainly of loom-state fabrics which realised very minimal margins.

The high cost of cotton lint of Z$6,70 per kg against an average of Z$4,80 per kg the previous year, resulted in a direct loss of over Z$10 million to gross profit.— Sapa.

WEEK

Bid to uncover swindle

STimes 16/5/93

#61

By MICHAEL HARTNACK
Harare

A FORMER South African Argus company executive, George Capon, 76, last week moved back into his office at Zimbabwe Newspapers in the wake of a reported R2,4-million swindle of the state-controlled company by employees.

Directors recalled Mr Capon, whose close financial discipline was legendary, after fraud squad detectives raided the offices of the national daily Herald and Bulawayo Chronicle, seeking evidence of briefcase front companies through which Zimbabwe Newspapers was reportedly sold goods at inflated prices.

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Three executives were forced to leave their jobs during the probe.

Farmers still smoking

Wmail 14/5-20/5/93.

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Nkomo's sexist clanger opens closet on women's oppression

C Press 16/5/93

WHEN Zimbabwe vice-president Joshua Nkomo recently told women to blame their problems on God, not men, he was expressing a cavalier attitude to feminism widespread in Zimbabwe 13 years after a revolutionary government took power and preached sex equality.

"When a man goes into marriage he's being granted the legal right to do whatever he reckons necessary with his wife so long as it is in the interests of keeping the couple jolly happy," said a recent letter on the subject of marital rape in a daily newspaper.

"Unfortunately our women now talk about sex lives in the press, even to the extent of formulating projects just to discuss sex," said another.

The debate over marital rape follows hard on the heels of a debate on wife-beating where the practice was defended as "traditional" and beneficial to marital harmony.

Harping back to "tradition" by men was one of the biggest hurdles faced by Zimbabwean women, according to Everjoice Win of the non-governmental organisation Women in Law and Development in Africa.

She said the remarks by Nkomo to 60 women at a development seminar last month reflected "the sort of attitudes we have to deal with".

[redacted]

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Nkomo, 75, had said: "The problem of women is not a problem brought about by men. It is a problem by the creator Himself."

He said the Bible clearly showed that when woman was created for a lonely Adam she "started problems" by letting Adam eat forbidden fruit, and that these problems continued today.

"Part of the problem for people like him — and there are many more like him — is that they just cannot cope with what is happening," said Win.

And it is not just ageing politicians such as Nkomo, or the peasants who make up some 80 percent of the population, who fall back on traditional attitudes to women, insists Win.

Even men who return from universities abroad espousing women's rights soon revert to type and enjoy the privileges available to them through tradition.

"In fact," says Win, "they're the worst." — Sapa-AFP

(262

Power for Zimbabwe

S Times (Buss]

THE governments of South Africa, Zimbabwe and Botswana have signed an agreement allowing Eskom and the Zimbabwe Electricity Supply Authority (Zesa) to build connecting power lines through Botswana. 16/5/93

It provides for the construction, operation and maintenance of a line between Matimba power station in the Transvaal and Insukamini near Bulawayo. The 410km line will cost R380-million and should be operational by the end of 1995 [redacted]

SA, Harare talk extradition

Star 17/5/93

HARARE — South Africa and Zimbabwe have begun negotiations to conclude an extradition treaty, it is reported in Harare.

(362)

Colonel N Venter of the South African Police Narcotics Bureau told the Sunday Mail the absence of a treaty had led to many criminals lying low in the neighbouring countries.

(25[illegible])

He has been in Harare attending an Interpol meeting as an observer.

Colonel Venter said he was confident South Africa's application to rejoin Interpol would succeed. — Star Africa Service.

Power grid deal forges closer ties

BDAY 17/5/93

[illegible] 362 [illegible]

MICHAEL HARTNACK

HARARE — The Zimbabwean and SA flags were flown side by side for the first time in Harare on Friday at the public signing of an agreement to link Zimbabwe and SA in a subcontinental electricity grid.

"It means light, it means life, it means work," Public Enterprises Minister Dawie de Villiers told Zimbabwean Transport Minister Denis Norman and Botswana Energy Minister Archie Mogwe.

De Villiers, Norman and Mogwe signed a memorandum of agreement to establish a 410km electricity grid network from Matimba power station near Ellisras in the northern Transvaal, through Botswana, to Insukamini outside Bulawayo.

Norman said that barring technical hitches, when the R315m project was complete in 1995 it should mark the end of Zimbabwe's electricity crisis which had caused massive production losses in commerce and industry.

Eskom CE Ian McRae described yesterday's ceremony as "the fulfilment of a personal vision" and the first step in building a sub-continental grid linking Cape Town with Kinshasa, enabling eventual power imports to SA from new co-operation projects north of the Limpopo.

Mogwe heralded the signing as indicative of SA's eventual accession to the Southern African Development Community, while Norman and De Villiers believed it presaged warmer ties between Pretoria and Harare.

Asked about possible diplomatic ties, De Villiers said: "I think it is mandatory that the states of southern Africa move closer together."

Norman agreed, but said full diplomatic relations would have to wait until SA had a new constitution.

Last April Norman broke President Robert Mugabe's ban on ministerial contact with SA when he met his opposite number Piet Welgemoed on co-operation on maize imports.

SA will bear the R30m cost of constructing the link through Botswana as far as the Zimbabwean border.

Zimbabwe and SA are negotiating the next stage of the regional grid with Mozambique. And Zimbabwe and Zambia plan to build a third giant hydroelectric dam on the Zambezi at Batoka Gorge, 70km downstream of Victoria Falls, by 2003.

Ebb and flow of pipeline proposal

Star 20/5/93

ROBIN DREW reports from Harare on the politics of the proposed pipeline from the Zambezi River to Bulawayo for The Star's Africa News Service.

THE hopes of those involved in the proposed 450 km pipeline from the Zambezi River to Bulawayo rise and fall like a yo-yo.

(362)

Right now they are in a trough. For once again the government appears to be unhappy about the whole R900 million idea.

The latest blow to the supporters of the Matabeleland Zambezi Water Project came a few weeks ago when a senior Zimbabwe government official spoke out in favour of damming tributaries flowing to the Zambezi instead of building a pipeline.

The headlines in local newspapers tell the story: "Zambezi River water pipeline project sunk deep in politics", "Bulawayo water plan faces derailment" and, more ominously, "Let's resign".

The call for Matabeleland members of parliament to quit if the government did not respond positively to the cries of the people for water came from the Minister of Home Affairs himself, Dumiso Dabengwa, a prominent Ndebele politician.

Last month, he said he had held a meeting with 1 000 war veterans who had told him that if the government was unable to solve their problems, they would settle themselves along the banks of the Zambezi.

The confusion over the government's lukewarm attitude to the pipeline project has prevailed for the past few years.

At one stage, the people of Bulawayo formed a trust fund, of which Dabengwa is co-chairman, and raised R4 million.

But the government then said it had formed its own trust to take over the functions of the Bulawayo-initiated body.

Members of the original trust said their organisation was still in full force and nothing had changed. And that is where the matter seems to rest.

The good rains enjoyed by Bulawayo recently have stilled the note of urgency in calls for a start on the Zambezi pipeline. Last year, when the survival of Bulawayo was at stake, far more was heard about the pipeline project.

But unless there is a dramatic change of heart by the government, the dream of a pipeline looks like remaining just that. Far more likely will be an announcement about the construction of dams, including a major one at the confluence of the Gwayi and Shangani rivers.

Meanwhile, it seems that more studies will be undertaken to answer the question posed by the government spokesman: "Is it worth considering a pipeline from the Zambezi instead of constructing more dams?" □

R3-m for 27 years in prison

Star 21/5/98

HARARE — A Malawian high court has ordered Life President Kamuzu Banda's government to pay a former political prisoner US $1 million (about R3 million) in damages after it jailed him for 27 years, 20 of them illegally.

Martin Machipisa Munthali (68) was in court in Blantyre on Wednesday when Judge Dempster Mwaungulu ruled that his imprisonment for two decades had been "unlawful detention," his lawyer, Bazuka Mhango, said.

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The action is unprecedented in the country's history. Human rights activists say that although thousands have been illegally jailed and brutally treated, fear of the oppressive regime has prevented any demand for compensation. However, as the government steadily yields to international pressure to introduce democratic reform, it may face a flood of legal suits.

Munthali was arrested in 1965, just over a year after independence, when Banda was conducting a ruthless plurge against dissenters in the ruling Malawi Congress Party, and was sentenced to five years' jail for illegal possession of weapons. He was freed in June last year with several other detainees after pressure on the government from Western nations.

Mhango said the judge had taken note of Munthali's ordeal. He still suffered pain from having the skin on the soles of his feet burnt off. — Sapa.

Mugabe 'disgusted' by white farmers

NYABIRA (Zimbabwe). — President Robert Mugabe has expressed disgust with a section of the white population in Zimbabwe, especially farmers who, he said, saw the policy of reconciliation as a sign of weakness on the part of government.

Mr Mugabe said he was surprised that there were still some whites who harboured hostility towards the government when it was widely believed that the "bad patch" of hostility between blacks and whites had passed.

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The Zimbabwe leader, who was addressing a rally attended mostly by commercial farm workers at Nyabira yesterday, said Zimbabwe had adopted a policy of reconciliation which should be a two-way process.

Mr Mugabe warned that it would be a grave mistake to regard the hand of reconciliation as a sign of weakness, and said such attitudes could upset the harmonious conditions which had been established in the country.

[illegible] 21/5/93

"I feel disgusted that there is this discrimination towards us who have done so much to bring about harmonious living," he said. — Sapa.

Zimbabwe battles to jack up economy

362 ARG 22/5/93

ROBIN DREW
Argus Africa News Service

HARARE. — Zimbabwe is pressing ahead slowly with its reforms to open up the economy and has announced new measures to encourage foreign investors and to boost exports, the key to the structural adjustment programme.

Finance minister Dr Bernard Chidzero has said he still hopes to meet the targets set for 1995 in the programme adopted in 1990 aimed at turning the economy around to a free market system.

The relaxations announced this week include moves to allow foreigners to invest in the stock exchange, an increase in dividends which can be remitted outside the country and increases in the proportion of foreign currency earnings which exporters can retain for sale or for their own use.

However, no mention was made in the statement of the proposed export processing zones which the government has accepted in principle.

An economist said the business community had been awaiting the announcement for some months and the deregulation moves had been expected.

Commentators have given the minister a pat on the back but the welcome accorded the new measures also contains a warning that there will be no quick solutions to Zimbabwe's economic woes and the delay has caused damage.

Even the staunchly pro-government Herald newspaper said much would depend on the promise to end bureaucratic delays and cautioned that investment would not be forthcoming if the promises failed to materialise.

The independent Financial Gazette said the incentives for investment, export promotion and trade liberalisation were positive and encouraging but the government needed to do much more to win the confidence of foreign investors. However the government had shown it was committed to the reform programme.

And less than 24 hours after Dr Chidzero said the government was committed to reducing its local borrowing to free funds for the productive sector, two more government stock issues were floated to raise about R25 million required because of a sharp fall in revenue receipts in the past 10 months.

S Times (Buss) 23/6/93

SA 'damages' neighbour

SOUTH AFRICA has refused to temporarily remove duties on Zimbabwean textile products, damaging that country's troubled industry, says Industry and Commerce Minister Chris Ushewokunze.

Mr Ushewokunze says the Zimbabwean Government has for some time been negotiating with SA for temporary relief before an update of the 1964 trade agreement.

Duties and a depressed Zimbabwean market have hit clothing and textiles and led to the retrenchment of about 7 000 workers in the past year. ([illegible]) (362)

Zim's healers are heroes

Cpress 23/5/93.

(362)

In Zimbabwe, traditional healers and spiritual mediums are held in high esteem.They are recognised and protected in the law books. In fact, it is said spiritual mediums helped win the war in Zimbabwe. Through their guidance guerrillas would know where and when to strike. Our Harere correspondent reports.

ROADS and buildings are named after them; they are mentioned, almost routinely, in every Zimbabwean revolutionary song from the wars of liberation which ended with the country's independence in 1980.

Yet they are not buried at Heroes Acre in Harare, the hallowed piece of ground which the North Koreans built at the request of the government of Robert Mugabe shortly after independence.

Mbuya Nehanda and Sekuru Kaguvi were hanged by the Rhodesian settlers towards the end of the 19th century for their role in the First Chimurenga (Liberation) War and were buried in the then Salisbury prison. The liberation war which began in the 1960s and ended with independence in 1980 is thus known as the Second Chimurenga War.

Nehanda and Kaguvi, who were said to have been related, were spirit mediums without whose help the First Chimurenga War might not have gone on for as long as it did (1893-1896). Their contribution was not only to inspire the people to fight against the settlers, but also to predict where they would strike next.

Nehanda lived in the Mashonaland central province near Mazowe. She was never married and by the time the settlers hanged her in what was then Salisbury, she was only in her mid-30's. Kaguvi was older and there were no records of his having married either.

Their glorious role in the first revolt against the white settlers in southern Rhodesia was revived during the liberation war led by Mugabe's Zanla (Zimbabwe African National Liberation Army) from Mozambique.

Zanla placed much reliance on the influence of spirit mediums during the struggle. Tsheunesu Valentine Mazorodze, an ex-combatant with Zanla, wrote of this in his 1980 novel, *Silent Journey From The East*, one of the first novels of the war to be written by one who was himself a guerrilla.

Since independence, Mugabe's government has tried to give respect and recognition to both spirit mediums and traditional healers. The Zimbabwe National Traditional Healers' Association (Zinatha) was formed under an Act of Parliament. One of it's prime movers was the then Minister of Health, the mercurial Dr Herbert Ushewokunze, now out of government.

For years the traditional healers' organisation has been led by Prof Gordon Chavunduka, now vice-chancellor of the University of Zimbabwe. Chavunduka is a distinguished sociologist whose papers on traditional healing, witchcraft and spirit mediums have been widely published.

When there were upheavals in Zinatha, an attempt was made to oust Chavanduka from the leadership. his main challenger was Dr Ushewokunze himself. The professor won an overwhelming vote of confidence and Dr Ushewokunze's bid was reduced to an attempt to form a splinter group.

Traditional healers (N'angas) in Zimbabwe have gained much respect since independence, largely through the efforts of Zinatha which monitors its members' activities. Miscreants are denounced publicly and those who swindle clients are blacklisted either for a specified period or for good.

Traditional healers quite often double as spritual mediums, prescribing not only herbs for the treatment of physiological disorders, but also counselling clients to perform rituals to appease the ancestral spirits.

Traditional healers are not to be confused with witchdoctors, some of whose practices have recently featured in court cases in Zimbabwe. Under the laws of Zimbabwe, labelling any person as a witch is almost as serious a crime as the practice of witchcraft itself.

The 1899 Witchcraft Suppression Act was passed by the settler regime and, according to Zinatha senior member Peter Sibanda, may have come about as a result of the anti-settler activities of Nehanda Nyakasikana. He said that the colonialists – who accused Nehanda of being a witch – could not understand some of her feats such as her reported ability to "disappear".

Sibanda – who is Zinatha's secretary for research and education – was dismayed that the law still pretends that "witchcraft does not exist". The 1899 Act stipulates heavy fines for people caught practising witchcraft, but also provides for punishment for anyone accusing a person of being a witch.

The act prohibits "the throwing of bones", the use of charms, "and other means and devices adopted in the practice of sorcery".

Sibanda described the anti-witchcraft law as "stupid".

The anti-witchcraft law remains on the statute books, while Mbuya Nehanda continues to be lionised as a hero of the First Chimurenga, without whose inspiration, the Second Chimurenga might not have succeeded.

Fanciful Zimbabwe forecast

ZIMBABWE's largest bank says prospects for economic growth this year have receded because of a disappointing start to tobacco sales, the deteriorating fiscal outlook and continued global recession.

S/Times [Buss] 23/5/93

Standard Chartered Bank says the government forecast of a growth of 7,1% is fanciful. The bank expects growth of less than 1%.

(362)

Star 24/5/93

Duties on Zimbabwe textile exports stay

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HARARE — The SA Government has refused to lift duties temporarily on Zimbabwean textile exports, damaging prospects of Zimbabwe's troubled textile and clothing industry, says Industry and Commerce Minister Chris Ushewokunze.

Ziana news agency reports that Ushewokunze said on Friday that Zimbabwe had for some time been negotiating with South Africa to give its industry temporary relief before a decision on a proposal to update a 1964 trade agreement was made.

"The South Africans have refused to give temporary relief and now we are awaiting their response on proposals we submitted to improve trade between the two countries," Ushewokunze said.

Duties on textile exports to South Africa, coupled with a depressed local market, have severely eroded the viability of the industry and led to the retrenchment of about 7 000 workers in the past year.

● Zimbabwe's largest commercial bank says prospects for meaningful economic growth this year have receded because of a disappointing start to tobacco sales, the deteriorating fiscal outlook and continued global recession.

Standard Chartered Bank says in its Business Trends survey that the government forecast of growth of 7,1 percent is "fanciful", Ziana reports.

The bank expects growth of less than one percent.

"Indeed, another year of decline is a very real possibility, given the preponderance of downside risks in both the domestic and global economic situations," it says.

Both manufacturing and mining output will fall, while consumer spending will continue to be depressed.

"Real government spending will fall too, meaning that if there is to be any growth at all, it will have to come from increased net exports.

"The best hope here is of reduced imports, mainly food, but also of consumer and capital goods, reflecting sluggish domestic demand and investment."

Exports are unlikely to increase this year while tobacco earnings will be depressed because the leaf exported in the first half of 1993 will be the previous year's low-priced, poor quality tobacco. — Sapa.

NEWS The Star Monday May 24 1993 1

Expected tobacco price boost goes up in smoke

Star 24/5/93. (362)

By Robin Drew
Star Africa Service

HARARE — Gloom hangs over the largest tobacco auction floor in the world, where the annual sales of Zimbabwean tobacco are taking place.

One month into the selling season, prices have not improved and the talk is of how many growers will be forced out of business, not of the expected boost for the battered economy which had been counting on a revival of fortunes for the tobacco farmers after last year's drought.

It now seems apparent that even with the appearance of better quality tobacco, prices which are down by nearly 40 percent are not likely to show much improvement. The annual congress of the Zimbabwe Tobacco Association, which represents the 1 500 growers, takes place in mid-June and fireworks are expected.

The association, which encouraged its members to produce a record crop of 190 million kg, is being accused of failing to read the international signs correctly. The world has a glut of tobacco.

The average price being paid of less than $1 a kg has led to an unprecedented number of bales being withdrawn by farmers. But under pressure from the banks, other growers have been forced to accept the prices to repay expensive loans.

Tobacco is Zimbabwe's biggest single foreign exchange earner and the repercussions of the crash in prices will be widespread.

Finance Minister Dr Bernard Chidzero said last week that the government would review its economic reform programme to fine-tune it and re-assess targets.

Gloomy forecast for Zimbabwe

BDay 24/5/93

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HARARE — Zimbabwe's largest commercial bank said prospects for meaningful economic growth this year had receded with the poor start to tobacco sales, the deteriorating fiscal outlook and continued global recession, Ziana news agency reported.

Standard Chartered Bank said in its latest Business Trends survey on Friday that a government forecast of 7,1% growth was "fanciful".

The bank expected growth of less than 1%.

"Indeed, another year of decline is a very real possibility," the bank said.

Manufacturing and mining output would fall, while consumer spending would continue to be depressed this year. "Real government spending will fall too, meaning that if there is to be any growth at all, it will have to come from increased net exports."

It said exports were unlikely to increase this year, while tobacco earnings would be depressed.

Domestic monetary policy would retard economic growth, it said. — Sapa.

B/DAY 24/5/93.

Talking to 'puppet'

PRESIDENT Robert Mugabe was considering a request from Inkatha leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi for talks on ways of ending political violence in SA, Foreign Minister Nathan Shamuyarira said at the weekend. (362)

Such a meeting would be the first between Buthelezi and Mugabe, who previously called Buthelezi a puppet of Pretoria.

REPORTS: AP-DJ, Sapa-AFP-Reuter, Business Day Reporter.

‘SA move hurts Zimbabwe textile industry’

BDAY 24/5/93

HARARE — The SA government had refused to remove duties temporarily on Zimbabwean textile products, damaging the prospects of Zimbabwe's troubled textile and clothing industry, Industry and Commerce Minister ~~Chris~~ Ushewokunze said on Friday.

Ziana reported Ushewokunze said the Zimbabwe government had been negotiating with SA to give its industry temporary relief before making a decision on a proposal to update a 1964 trade agreement.

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Duties on textile exports to SA, coupled with a depressed local market, had eroded the viability of the industry and had led to the retrenchment of about 7 000 workers in the past year, Ushewokunze said. — Sapa.

EC to be flexible over timetable

B/DAY 24/5/93.

KOLDING — The timetable for European monetary union set out in the Maastricht treaty should be extended if member states could not meet its stiff economic criteria in time, German finance ministry State Secretary Horst Koehler said at the weekend.

"The schedule was never the main goal," Koehler said during an informal one-day meeting of EC economics and finance ministers in Denmark. "The criteria take priority and must be adhered to."

This view had been accepted at the meeting as a general conclusion, he said.

If the criteria were not fulfilled on time, he said, it would take a correspondingly longer period before the next decision for monetary integration could be taken.

According to the Maastricht treaty, the decision to embark on monetary union should be taken in 1996 at the earliest and 1998 at the latest.

Koehler said the timetable had never been more than "the elegant solution to make steps towards monetary integration without political discrimination, but also without having to wait" for the last EC member to meet the criteria.

These pertained to a country's inflation rate, budget deficit and outstanding government debt, among other indicators.

Koehler said Germany had no disagreement with the UK that it would not return to Europe's exchange-rate mechanism (ERM) until its economies had converged more closely.

British Chancellor of the Exchequer Norman Lamont said the re-entry of the British pound into the ERM could take "two years, three years or even longer".

Because of the long-term effects of Germany's 1990 unification, especially in terms of high German interest rates, Lamont said the pound's re-entry was unlikely in the near-term.

The main message from the meeting was that there would be no great changes to Europe's ERM, despite the turmoil which rocked the system last September.

The ministers agreed that the currency grid's rules were essentially sound, but should be used more effectively to head off the types of crises that nearly toppled it last year.

"There are no great changes in the pipeline," Danish Economics Minister Marianne Jelved said.

The ministers had agreed that the policy instruments available to ERM members — interest rates changes, currency realignments and central bank intervention — were sufficient to manage the system.

She said EC members accepted that when economic fundamentals slipped out of line, the burden of adjustments had to be placed on countries with weaker currencies.

"That is the responsibility of individual member states, but we all have responsibility for the system as a whole," she said.

In separate reports, the EC's monetary committee — a panel of central bank and finance ministry officials who manage the ERM — and its central bank governors attributed last year's crises to the failure by EC members to more closely align their economies, and not to the ERM's rules. AP-DJ.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Joining Russia

MOSCOW — Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin said on Friday that some former Soviet republics had expressed interest in becoming part of Russia. Vice-Premier Alexander Shokhin said one of those states was Tajikistan.

B/DAY 24/5/93

State bank to retrench

DAR ES SALAAM — National Bank of Commerce, a state firm which for 26 years has offered the only banking services available to ordinary Tanzanians, plans a slim-down to face a new era of competition. MD Idriss Rashidi said on Friday staff would be cut by 4 000 by September and by 6 000 more later on. Five of its 400 branches would be closed.

Pacific co-operation

SEOUL — More than 700 delegates from 24 nations would discuss ways to foster economic and trade co-operation among Pacific Rim nations during the 26th general meeting of the Pacific Basin Economic Council in Seoul, starting today, organisers said.

Smith keeps his farm

HARARE — Ian Smith has survived Zimbabwe's latest round of compulsory farm acquisitions, this time in the former Rhodesian prime minister's backyard, Midlands province. B/DAY 24/5/93

Twelve Midlands farms would be acquired for the resettlement of landless farmers crowded in communal areas, a Rural Settlement Department official in Gweru said. Smith's Shurugwi Farm was not likely to be designated because it was situated in an area with dams supplying Gweru with water, he added.

REPORTS: AP-DJ, Sapa-Reuter

No SA recognition yet for MPLA govt

LINDA ENSOR

CAPE TOWN — SA's government would not follow the example of the White House in recognising Angola's MPLA government, a Foreign Affairs spokesman said at the weekend. BDM 24/5/93.

Government supported the UN peace process, which required that a second election be held. SA would recognise only a "permanent government", he said.

Unita has disputed the validity of the election last September in which the MPLA won a majority vote in a poll foreign observers accepted as free and fair. Unita leader Jonas Savimbi declined to take part in the second election for the presidency and resumed the civil war.

Sapa reports that ANC president Nelson Mandela on Saturday called on government to follow the lead of the US and recognise Angola's government.

Speaking in Ladysmith, Mandela congratulated President Bill Clinton on recognising the MPLA government's legitimacy and said he hoped other nations would do the same. "In particular, we hope the government of SA will without delay recognise the Angolan government."

An SA government spokesman said: "We feel it is not appropriate at this point to recognise one party over another prior to the conclusion of the peace process and the holding of a second election."

Foreign Minister Pik Botha's meeting with Angolan Foreign Minister Venancio de Moura on June 4 had been scheduled for some time. The talks were intended to support the UN peace process and were not geared towards normalising relations between SA and Angola.

The US policy shift towards Angola — Unita had the backing of previous US administrations for about 15 years — was announced by Clinton last week, a move hailed by the ANC as a positive step.

Clinton said he was using US recognition as a lever in promoting an end to the civil war, and had taken his decision after Unita refused to accept the peace plan.

Sapa-AFP reports from Abidjan, Ivory Coast, that Unita called for new peace talks with the Angolan government on Saturday, the day after six weeks of negotiations ended in failure. But Unita, which controlled about 70% of Angola, stuck to its demand to remain in the cities and towns under its command.

Farmers fancy redistribution

HARARE — The Namibian National Farmers' Union is pushing government to adopt land acquisition measures similar Zimbabwe's to correct imbalances in land ownership created by colonialism, says union director Hudson N'embongi.

N'embongi was in Zimbabwe with 16 Namibian farmers to study the Zimbabwean experience, national news agency Ziana reported. (362)

Ziana quoted him as saying on Saturday that his organisation would lobby the Swapo government to act decisively on the "burning" land question which, he stressed, was central to the armed struggle that led to Namibia's independence from SA in 1990.

"Our view, based on the profiles from Zimbabwe, is that land must be acquired and must be redistributed. We urge the government to do it now while the cake is hot," he said. — Sapa. BDM 24/5/93

Defiant Zimbabwean editor faces jailing

[illegible]

Star 25/5/93

By Robin Drew
Star Africa Service

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HARARE — Geoffrey Nyarota, the Zimbabwean newspaper editor who exposed corruption in top government circles in what came to be known as the Willowgate scandal concerning new cars for Ministers, faces the possibility of jail for refusing to disclose his sources.

Nyarota and his former employers, Zimbabwe Newspapers, are being sued for R25 000 by Foreign Affairs Minister Dr Nathan Shamuyarira over a report in the Chronicle newspaper, edited at the time by Nyarota.

Shamuyarira's alleged involvement was ruled out when a commission of inquiry investigated the claims in 1989. Five Ministers quit or resigned and one of them, Maurice Nyagumbo, a close associate of President Robert Mugabe, committed suicide.

In the High Court action yesterday Mr Justice Robinson warned Nyarota that he would be in contempt if he did not disclose his sources. Nyarota said they were confidential.

The judge gave him until tomorrow to reveal the names.

Nyarota was earlier removed from his post as Chronicle editor.

Army to be reduced by 10 000 men

Star 25/5/93

[illegible]

HARARE — The Zimbabwe National Army (ZNA) is to be reduced by 10 000 men.

[illegible]

Ziana news agency quoted Defence Minister Moven Mahachi as saying the retrenchment would be effected over five years and would entail merging the army and the Air Force of Zimbabwe (AFZ).

The AFZ would, however, not be affected by the retrenchment as it needed more men.

The strength of the ZNA is believed to be no more than 50 000. The army has not recruited new members for the past four years. — Sapa.

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Harare runs out of burial space

BDay 25/5/93,

MICHAEL HARTNACK

HARARE — A crisis is looming for African traditional culture following the Harare City Council's warning that it is running out of graveyard space and cremations may soon become compulsory.

(362)

"We fear what might happen later. The spirit of the dead person may come back and punish us for cremating the body," a traditional healer from the Nkayi area of central Zimbabwe, Rosemary Mazorodze, said in reaction to the council's announcement yesterday.

Four of the capital's seven cemeteries are full and three others are close to capacity, while the government delays acting on city council demands for commercial farms to be expropriated in the Mount Hampden area for new burial plots.

Deliberately burning the body of a relative is "unheard of" in African culture, said Mazorodze.

"There are some rituals which have to be carried out on a person's grave. We cannot perform such rituals on a tiny grave, or over ashes."

Two years ago the city's medical chief warned that a crisis was inevitable in the late '90s due to the projected death toll from AIDS.

Farmers bitter at the compulsory purchase of their land for peasant resettlement are even more resistant to seeing flourishing fields of maize and tobacco turned into a sterile area of mounds and tombstones.

Burial plots cost up to R205 each.

Cafca aims for exports

BDay 25/5/93.

MZIWAKHE HLANGANI

HARARE-based copper electric cable producer Central African Cables (Cafca) had redoubled its efforts to become more competitive internationally, chairman John Magowan said in the company's 1992 annual report.

Magowan said a key issue in the coming year would be cost reduction.

Cafca, a JSE-listed company, had undergone fundamental changes since the introduction of Zimbabwe's economic structural adjustment programme, he said.

(362)

There were signs that the programme could achieve success in the long term.

Factors which had had a negative effect on economic activity included the drought and Zimbabwe's tight monetary policy.

The resulting high interest rates had affected demand.

Inflation, which had risen to unprecedented levels, had led to a significant erosion of disposable income, Magowan said.

Cafca reported a 35% decline in attributable earnings to Z$12,6m (Z$19,3m) for the year ended December. This was equivalent to 41c (61c) a share. Dividend payout for the year was 10,2c a share (15,7c).

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(362)

"We fear what might happen later. The spirit of the dead person may come back and punish us for cremating the body," a traditional healer from the Nkayi area of central Zimbabwe, Rosemary Mazorodze, said in reaction to the council's announcement yesterday.

Four of the capital's seven cemeteries are full and three others are close to capacity, while the government delays acting on city council demands for commercial farms to be expropriated in the Mount Hampden area for new burial plots.

Deliberately burning the body of a relative is "unheard of" in African culture, said Mazorodze.

"There are some rituals which have to be carried out on a person's grave. We cannot perform such rituals on a tiny grave, or over ashes."

Two years ago the city's medical chief warned that a crisis was inevitable in the late '90s due to the projected death toll from AIDS.

Farmers bitter at the compulsory purchase of their land for peasant resettlement are even more resistant to seeing flourishing fields of maize and tobacco turned into a sterile area of mounds and tombstones.

Burial plots cost up to R205 each.

Delay 'likely' in oil deregulation

BIDM 25/5/93

CAPE TOWN — As SA waits for the release of a government study on the merits of deregulating the oil industry, analysts predict no major action is likely until 1996.

Mineral and Energy Affairs Minister George Bartlett said recently the report had been completed and would be released shortly. Industry sources expect it within a week.

Analysts did not expect any major changes until at least January 1996, when warranties on the tariff protection given to Sasol 3 lapse.

"But what we can expect is some relaxation of the secrecy surrounding the whole industry because of the UN oil embargo," said one.

This could be eased as early as June, depending on when the proposed transitional executive council was set up, he said.

Although the ANC has said it would accept the lifting of most financial sanctions on SA once the transitional council system was established and a date for elections was announced, it wanted embargoes on oil and arms supplies to be retained until a democratic government was installed.

The Petroleum Products Act restricts publication of information on the source and price of SA oil supplies. However, oil companies believe amendments to the Act could lead to better-informed public debate on the whole issue of deregulation.

Deregulation in respect of oil supplies was a "somewhat trickier issue", said an analyst. "The main considerations are likely to be the effect on the synthetic fuel producer, Sasol, and on the already strained balance of payments, of allowing a free-for-all on oil imports."

The regulations governing the industry have come under increasing attack from businessmen such as Pick 'n Pay chairman Raymond Ackerman, who has said that if retail pump prices were deregulated, he would be able to cut fuel prices by 6c/l-7c/l at his hypermarkets.

But analysts warned that the ensuing price war could lead to the loss of up to 50 000 jobs at petrol stations around the country.

Small operators would not be able to cross-subsidise their fuel sales with non-fuel sales and would be forced to cut back on staff or close.

There was also a fear, said one, that deregulating fuel prices could prompt some service station owners, especially in rural areas with no access to hypermarkets, to "charge what the market can bear, thus pushing up fuel prices in less developed areas". — Reuter.

Pact reinforces links with Zambia

BIDM 25/5/93.

DURBAN — The signing of the "twinning" agreement between Umgeni Water and Lusaka Water & Sewerage yesterday was the latest sign of increasing contact between SA and Zambia.

Umgeni Water CE Graham Atkinson said the twinning "signals the start of an agreement between the two undertakings to exchange information and staff".

The agreement preceded the opening of the Water Institute of Southern Africa conference, which attracted a number of international experts.

"The staff from the Zambian company will be receiving in-house training at some of Umgeni's plants, and some of Umgeni's staff will be contracted to the Zambian company to lend expertise while training staff," Atkinson said.

The pact also involved development of laboratory services, computerised billing and customer service.

Atkinson believed Umgeni Water would be able to contribute to Lusaka Water because Umgeni had been recognised as "a leader in the field of water management and especially the supply of water to rural areas, where the drought has been severe".

Lusaka Water MD Jeff Hendrich said he hoped this would be the first of many mutual agreements. — Sapa.

Kitchen fraud burning buyers

BIDM 25/5/93.

TRACY SCHNEIDER

GULLIBLE home owners were losing up to R6m a year to fly-by-night kitchen manufacturers, industry sources said recently.

Kitchen Specialist Association (KSA) chairman Martin Macphail said the incidence of fraud among kitchen manufacturers had reached "epidemic proportions". Losses to unsuspecting customers were estimated at R500 000 a month.

"The situation is difficult to control. All we can do is make customers aware that they should deal with a reputable company," said Macphail.

He said one trader had opened under five different names, taking R100 000 in deposits with him each time. Individual customers had lost up to R30 000.

Many incidents were not brought to the KSA's attention and deregulation of the industry had allowed the problem to grow to the point "of disaster".

However, the KSA was considering asking the Business Practices Committee to approve its code of conduct, thereby making any contravention of the code a harmful business practice.

Under the new constitution, members were bound to conform to a strict code of ethics governing design, manufacturing, installation and service standards.

Macphail said the total market turnover was estimated at R175m a year, with 80% of this from the PWV region.

The industry had done better than expected for the first quarter because there had been a move towards home improvement and renovations.

Star 26/5/93

Smith unlikely to lose Zimbabwe farm

By Robin Drew
Star Africa Service

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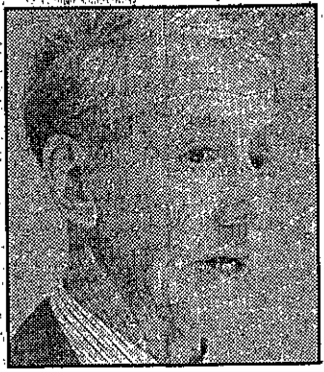
HARARE — Former Rhodesian Prime Minister Ian Smith is not likely to lose his farm in the Zimbabwe government exercise to acquire farms for resettlement by blacks.

A local newspaper in the Midlands said Smith's cattle farm near Shurugwi had not been earmarked for resettlement and was not likely to be taken in the future.

The paper quoted a Department for Rural Resettlement official as saying the Smith property was in a catchment area for dams supplying water for human consumption and was not suitable for resettlement. The report said acquisition of Smith's farm could easily have been interpreted as vengeance.

Twelve more farms covering 28 000 ha in the Midlands have been designated and another four properties have been declared derelict, which means they revert to the State.


Ian Smith . . . his cattle farm lies in a catchment area.

At the end of April, 70 farms, mostly white-owned, were designated, an action which prompted an angry response from the Commercial Farmers' Union which said many were productive properties. The union said the action negated agreed consultation procedures.

Agriculture Minister Kumbirai Kangai countered by saying the farmers should not think consultation meant agreement. The farmers had been invited to sit on committees which examined properties but the decision whether to take them for resettlement rested with the Minister, he said.

He told an interviewer that it was possible agreed procedures had not been followed in all cases and he suggested one or two properties might have the orders revoked.

Farmers whose properties have been designated under the Land Acquisitioin Act have a month in which to lodge objections in writing.

The independent Financial Gazette has described the designation exercise involving productive farms as an action that can only spell disaster for the country. It said Kangai was under immense political pressure to designate land, regardless of productivity.

Smith's farm likely to be safe from resettlement

ROBIN DREW
Argus Africa News Service

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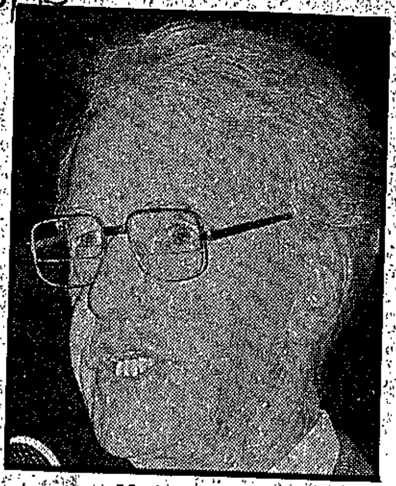

Mr Ian Smith

HARARE. — Former Rhodesian prime minister Ian Smith is not likely to lose his farm in the current exercise by the government to acquire farms for resettlement by blacks.

According to a local newspaper in the Midlands province of Zimbabwe, Mr Smith's cattle farm near Shurugwi has not been earmarked for resettlement and is not likely to be taken in the future.

The paper quoted an official of the Department for Rural Resettlement as saying the Smith property was in a catchment area for dams supplying water for human consumption and was not suitable for resettlement.

The report said acquisition of Mr Smith's farm could easily have been interpreted as vengeance.

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SA tariffs 'jeopardising co-operation'

Star 27/5/93

(362)

By Bruce Cameron

CAPE TOWN — South Africa is jeopardising future co-operation with Zimbabwe by maintaining tariff barriers against Zimbabwean textiles, the governor of the Zimbabwe central bank, Dr K J Moyana, has warned.

In an interview Dr Moyana, who is attending a conference of southern African bankers in Somerset West, said Zimbabwe had invested heavily in the textile and travel goods industries and now that the investment was starting to pay off South Africa had closed the door.

"Now we are told, no. This is difficult as over the past two years South Africa has become the major supplier to Zimbabwe.

"We have shifted away from Europe and Japan. Now we are being given a slap in the face. This is jeopardising future co-operation in other areas."

Dr Moyana said Zimbabwe was prepared to sit down and resolve the problems. South Africans should remember the strength of the Eurupean community came not from trade with other areas but from trade between the member states.

In a speech earlier to the conference, Finance Minister Derek Keys said he was aware the countries such as Zimbabwe saw South Africa as a threat.

Zimbabwe's way to get investment

Star 27/5/98

Star Africa Service

HARARE — Zimbabwean Cabinet Minister Kumbirai Kangai is in Cape Town to attend a two-day meeting of the World Economic Forum of Southern Africa. ([illegible]) (362)

He is to speak on policies for attracting investment in southern Africa. Economists say Zimbabwe has been unsuccessful in attracting investment.

Kangai is responsible for implementing the Land Acquisitiom Act under which the government can compulsorily take farms for resettlement.

The legislation has been criticised as one which could deter investors because of the provision which bars the courts from adjudicating on the compensation to be paid.

Star 27/5/93

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Ruling reserved on naming of scandal informants

HARARE — A Harare High Court judge reserved judgment indefinitely yesterday on whether a former Zimbabwean newspaper editor, whose reports exposed high level government corruption, should be forced to name the people who gave him information or go to jail.

Geoff Nyarota (42), renowned for his determined crusade in Bulawayo's daily newspaper, The Chronicle, on the 1988 "Willowgate scandal" which told readers how Cabinet Ministers, MPs and top civil servants profiteered from a vehicle trading racket — is being sued with his then-employer, Zimbabwe Newspapers, by Foreign Affairs Minister Nathan Shamuyarira for libel.

As a result of The Chronicle's exposure, a judicial commission was set up.

It corroborated most of the paper's reports.

Several of the ruling Zanu (PF) party's most influential figures resigned in shame, and one committed suicide.

In the High Court before Mr Justice Dennis Robinson, Nyarota refused again yesterday to name the people who had provided him with the names of government officials who were being allocated cars from the state-owned Willowvale Motor Industries plant and then selling them to the vehicle-starved Zimbabwean public for enormous profits.

Mr Justic Robinson postponed the case which is expected to resume in August. — Sapa.

MOSCOW — Three soldiers on the Tajik-Afghan border were killed when their Moskovski base was attacked by Afghan mujahedeen and Tajik opposition fighters at the weekend. Four soldiers were wounded when a grenade exploded.

Star 31/5/93

Zimbabwe short of power

HARARE — Zimbabwe needs about Z$2 billion within the next two years to avert a crippling power shortage. An electricity spokesman says power demand is burgeoning and current supplies will be inadequate by 1995.

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● Reports by Star Foreign Service, Sapa, Reuter, Financial Times, Associated Press and AFP.

Mugabe plays peace broker

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CT 1/6/93

Own Correspondent

HARARE. — Zimbabwe's President Robert Mugabe yesterday pledged to broker a meeting between Inkatha leader Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi and the ANC's Mr Nelson Mandela to try and end violence in South Africa.

Mr Mugabe vowed to throw the weight of the seven-nation frontline states grouping, which he chairs, behind speedy convention of a face-to-face meeting between Chief Buthelezi and Mr Mandela.

Chief Buthelezi said he was prepared to remain as Mr Mugabe's guest in Zimbabwe "looking at the Victoria Falls" if Mr Mandela could be brought at once.

Mugabe speaks to the IFP's Buthelezi

Sowetan 1/6/93

■ Zimbabwean leader asked to effect peace among groups:

IFB 362

HARARE — Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe and the leader of Inkatha Freedom Party, Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, yesterday began their first direct talks on the situation in South Africa.

The closed-door meeting at State House is at the invitation of Mugabe, who as chairman of the Frontline States and who was asked by the Organisation of African Unity to try and bring South Africa's anti-apartheid movements together to speed up moves towards majority rule.

Buthelezi, who is also Chief Minister of the KwaZulu homeland, flew into Harare on Sunday with a six-man delegation on his first official visit to Zimbabwe.

The delegation includes Inkatha national chairman Dr Frank Mdlalose, deputy secretary-general Simon Gumede, central committee members Denis Madide, Lionel Mtshali and Dr Ben Ngubane and Buthelezi's legal adviser, Mr Joseph Matthews.

The meeting is also being attended by Zimbabwean Vice President Simon Muzenda, Foreign Affairs Minister Nathan Shamuyarira and National Security Minister Sidney Sekeramyi. — *Sapa.*

'No poll date this week'

Star 11/6/93.

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Star Africa Service

HARARE — Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi yesterday ruled out the likelihood of an announcement this week of an election date, saying that this was simply unrealistic.

The Inkatha Freedom Party leader who had day-long talks with President Robert Mugabe in the Zimbabwe capital, said agreement in the negotiating forum had to be by consensus.

"I am saying that though I am not there in person I doubt that consensus can be reached ... in the next two days. It seems to me an impossibility however much we desire it," he said.

Buthelezi said he would like to emphasise that an election date would not be a magic wand to solve problems. It did not mean everything would blossom and fall into place and end all the violence.

The IFP leader said a very important stage had been reached in the talks. But there first had to be discussion and agreement on constitutional principles and this had not taken place.

He spoke of the low-intensity civil war going on in South Africa and said it was imperative this be addressed now.

His meeting with Mugabe had advanced the prospects of a meeting with ANC leader Nelson Mandela which he believed was quite vital to help end the violence.

It would be childish to think a face-to-face meeting would end the violence but it would contribute towards ending it. For the leaders to meet and address peace rallies would be an example for their followers.

Mugabe told newsmen he would be in touch with Mandela and with the PAC. He saw his job as that of a broker trying to bring the parties together but he could not say if he would be successful.

Star 11/6/93

Zimbabwe likely to buy more SA power

(362)

HARARE — Zimbabwe can expect to import more electricity from South Africa by year-end, Eskom chief executive Ian McRae said in Victoria Falls at the weekend.

Addressing delegates at the 54th congress of Zimbabwe's Chamber of Mines, McRae said the survey for the construction of the 400 megaWatt line using the Matimba-Bulawayo link had reached an advanced stage.

Zimbabwe already imports a small amount of electricity from South Africa following its severe energy crisis last year when hyrdo-electric generation was scaled back because of the drought and problems were experienced at its thermal power stations.

"However, you should not be reliant on anything that comes from outside because you have the ability to generate enough power to meet your own needs," McRae said.

He said there were considerable primary energy resources in Southern African which could be used for economic development individually and collectively, Ziana news agency reports.

He said all countries in the region should work towards establishing common grids to help each other with power deficits.

South Africa, by far the largest and most industrialised economy in the region, is expected to have exhausted its current power supplies by the turn of the century.

Eskom has led the formation of a Southern African power grid, which should enable SA to import power from its potentially energy-rich neighbours. — Sapa.

Bus Day 11/6/93

Buthelezi in Harare [redacted]

ZIMBABWEAN President Robert Mugabe and Inkatha leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi held their first direct talks in Harare yesterday. They were expected to dicuss the violence in SA. The meeting was held at Mugabe's invitation [redacted]

SA soldier appears in Bulawayo courtroom

Star 2/6/93

BULAWAYO — A South African Defence Force member attached to the 5th Reconnaissance Regiment at Phalaborwa appeared briefly under tight security in the Bulawayo Regional Court yesterday.

Sergeant Lindelani Miya (38), who has pleaded not guilty to contravening Zimbabwe's Law and Order Maintenance Act, was brought to court in leg-irons and escorted by heavily armed members of the paramilitary Police Support Unit.

Cross-examined by defence counsel Sibusiso Ndlovu, he denied being in Zimbabwe to gather intelligence information on ANC establishments.

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Forced

Miya also denied being found in possession of arms of war and explosives when he was arrested by security agents in January.

He told the court that Central Intelligence Organisation (CIO) agents had forced him to admit intentions of bombing ANC establishments in Bulawayo.

"I confessed to committing the offence when one of the CIO agents entered my cell with an AK-47 rifle. I feared they would kill me," he said.

Miya claimed to have been tortured by Zimbabwean agents while in custody.

He was arrested by agents at Mbembesi, a Xhosa-speaking area north of Bulawayo, where residents are known supporters of the ANC.

The trial continues today. — Sapa

Large maize price rise expected in Zimbabwe

Buss. day 2/6/93

MICHAEL HARTNACK

HARARE — President Robert Mugabe's government faces a potentially explosive reaction from Zimbabweans this week with maize prices set to rise up to 56% in reaction to the removal of R261m in annual subsidies to millers.

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Shops yesterday strove to clear old stocks of unpopular yellow roller meal priced at 51c/kg, but reports from milling sources indicated an average increase from 14c to 28c/kg might hit consumers.

Millers' Association chairman Keith Watt predicted low income groups might turn to traditional small-scale grinding millers who sell coarse "mugaiwa".

The ending of maize subsidies under Zimbabwe's controversial structural adjustment programme, agreed with the World Bank, comes in the wake of last week's "Africa Day" speech by Mugabe in which he hinted that his government would shortly decree across the board pay rises for the 1,1-million in formal employment, to prevent a further drop in living standards.

~~maize~~

Employers say with the effects of last year's drought, compounded by the current disastrous tobacco sales season, an increase in the R72 a month basic minimum wage would lead to further redundancies and business closures, adding to the 2-million unemployed. Inflation last year hit 44% on official figures.

Tobacco, Zimbabwe's major foreign currency earner, is fetching prices 50% of last year's as a result of an unexpected glut on the world market. The removal of bread subsidies last year led to a consumer boycott.

Zim brain-drain fears

HARARE. — A local industrialist has warned of a serious exodus of experienced Zimbabweans to South Africa as soon as peace is established there.

TA Holdings chairman Mr Ariston Chambati told the Zimbabwe Institute of Management 5th National Convention yesterday that is was only a matter of time before South Africa's economy grew.

(362) CT 3/6/93

"We must assume that they would have no hesitation in taking active steps to recruit our skills by offering attractive terms and conditions of employment. Because of the strictures imposed upon us, we would be unable to match their offers," he said.

A substantial number of skilled personnel have increasingly migrated to Botswana and South Africa, citing deplorable conditions of service locally.

Mr Chambati said it was high time the government and the private sector seriously considered improving the conditions of service. — Sapa

Sowetan 3/6/93

ANC on peace moves

K

■ INITIATIVE WELCOMED Mugabe's attempts to bring factions together are appreciated:

By Themba Molefe
Political Reporter

THE AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS has welcomed initiatives by Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe to bring an end to violence in South Africa.

At the same time it dismissed "insinuations" that its president, Mr Nelson Mandela, was not keen on meeting Inkatha leader Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi.

"The insinuation is incorrect and misleading," the ANC said yesterday.

Buthelezi met Mugabe officially for the first time in Harare this week. Among issues discussed was violence in this country.

"The ANC welcomes President Mugabe's initiative to bring an end to violence, which has stalked our country and its people for many years."

It said Mugabe's move followed a decision by the Organisation of African Unity's ad-hoc committee to assist in bringing the carnage in South Africa to an end.

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Concern of Africa's leaders

The organisation believed Mugabe and the OAU ad hoc committee could help accelerate a Buthelezi-Mandela meeting.

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"This initiative indicates the concern of Africa's leaders about the senseless bloodletting which has left many of our compatriots dead, maimed or displaced," it said.

The organisation felt, however, that all initiatives taken to end violence should be influenced by present programmes within the country.

The ANC's national executive committee had, therefore, decided that Mandela and Buthelezi should meet to discuss the issue of violence only after thorough preparations had been made to ensure the success of the meeting.

R½-m loan claim in Zimbabwe press row

Star 4/6/93

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By Robin Drew
Star Africa Service

HARARE — An executive with Zimbabwe Newspapers granted himself a loan of R500 000 at 5 percent interest, says a report here today in connection with the financial scandal which has rocked the country's main newspaper group.

According to the rival independent Financial Gazette the same executive gave himself allowances of about the same amount in one year.

The paper said a document in its possession addressed to the chairman of the company, Dr Davidson Sadza, from employees said: "We have been shocked by many revelations of the perfidy of our senior management."

Police are investigating allegations of fraud and an internal investigation is also under way. Three executives have been sent on forced leave and a former chairman, George Capon (76), has been brought out of retirement to oversee the affairs of the group.

Reveal

Police declined to reveal any details, saying this would prejudice investigations.

The Financial Gazette report said R4 million had been drawn out of the pension fund to support the company's bank overdraft. It said the fund was being manipulated in an attempt to double the pensions of certain senior executives.

Star 5/6/93

Zimbabwe's whites take tilt at Mugabe

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TIRED of being perceived as the 'colonial whipping boys' of President Mugabe and a scapegoat for his government's failures, the whites are speaking up.

HARARE — Zimbabwe's white minority, under renewed attack from President Robert Mugabe, has begun to hit back.

Political and economic commentators from the white community are complaining that he is using them as the whipping boys for his own failures.

During a "meet-the-people" tour in recent weeks, Mugabe, who led a seven-year guerilla war to overthrow white-minority rule, has accused whites of continued racism.

He has told rallies that white farmers and businessmen treat their workers badly and have spurned the hand of reconciliation which he extended after winning independence in 1980.

Some 100 000 whites live in Zimbabwe out of a population of 10 million — another 150 000 or so having emigrated rather than face black majority rule — and they still wield disproportionate economic power despite Mugabe's Marxist rhetoric during 13 years of rule.

In Thursday's issue of the Financial Gazette, a black-owned and edited newspaper which gives space to the views of whites, columnists and letter writers attacked what one of them called the government's "habit of blaming the results of its own mismanagement on the colonial settlers".

The writer, who signed himself "Settler Descendant", said this was an "infuriating" trait of many post-colonial African countries but that whites had nothing to do with "the shambolic economy", inefficiency, corruption, rising crime and crumbling health services.

Columnist Brian Latham wrote: "White wealth is easy to see. It is highly visible because whites are a voluble, successful ethnic minority.

"Historical events gave them certain advantages, but if those have not all disappeared, the fault lies with the government and the ruling party."

High-profile economic commentator Eric Bloch weighed in with another look at the government's controversial land reform plans.

Under the programme, the government has pledged to nationalise about 5 million hectares of commercial farm land, mainly owned by whites, to resettle blacks from overcrowded communal lands.

Bloch acknowledged the "historical, moral, emotive and political" motivations for reform where just 4 000 whites own nearly 30 percent of the land.

But he said the government's plans were dictatorial and economically destructive, pointing out that over the past 10 years the government has already acquired 390 000 ha of arable land on which there has been no effective resettlement.

There is no doubt, however, that the government has huge support for its plans and no moral doubts about the justification for redistribution of land acquired over nearly a century of colonisation.

What is puzzling whites is why Mugabe has chosen to raise the racial issue so strongly during his current "meet-the-people" tour.

Some admit that his charges of racism are still valid, while to others it is the classic politician's ploy of finding a scapegoat when economic times get hard — as they are now in Zimbabwe — and an early warm-up for general elections in 1995. — Sapa-AFP.

Zimbabwe tobacco farmers fuming

ROBIN DREW
Argus Africa News Service

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ARG 5/6/93

HARARE. — Zimbabwean tobacco farmers battling against the crash in prices at this year's auctions have been told the over-supply of tobacco in the world has turned into a glut because of larger than expected crops in Brazil, India and Zimbabwe.

In a message to growers, the president of their association, Mr Ian Alcock, said the list of negative factors affecting the industry was endless and depressing.

On top of the glut there was the price war in America where Philip Morris had cut the price of premium brands by 20 percent. This was followed by a threat from "Hilary Clinton" to impose a US$2 a pack tax on cigarettes.

"The immediate reaction from American growers was to lobby Congress to ban all offshore imports of tobacco. This would have a catastrophic effect on Brazil and ourselves if implemented. This uncertainty and chaos was spilling into Europe," said Mr Alcock.

The association had discarded as counter-productive suggestions to close the auction floors, to advise growers not to deliver tobacco or to raise the money to take 50 million kilograms off the floors.

But it was working on proposals to raise more internal money for the tobacco trade.

SI Times 6/6/93

Cheap holiday

THE Zimbabwean tourism industry is expected to be boosted by the results of a survey that found the capital city, Harare, to be the cheapest major city in Africa.

The survey, which was based on 151 products — including food, clothing and transport — also rated the city as the third-cheapest in the world after Bombay and Bogota. Tokyo was rated the most expensive. (362)

Slump omens for Zimbabwe

ST (WESC BUSS)

ZIMBABWE'S biggest bank warns that the country's economy, which slumped 10% last year, could decline again in 1993 because of unfavourable conditions at home and abroad.

Standard Chartered Bank says a price crash for Zimbabwe's tobacco, its largest export earner, and the hesitant recovery of industrialised nations from recession suggest that the economy could shrink by 1%.

(362) 6/6/93

Court case sours SA, Zimbabwe relations

St Times 6/6/93

By MICHAEL HARTNACK and DE WET POTGIETER

A CHILL has crept into relations between South Africa and Zimbabwe with the trial of an SA Reconnaissance sergeant accused of smuggling explosives into Zimbabwe.

This weekend Bulawayo magistrate Sandra Mungwira will decide the fate of SADF Number Five Reconnaissance battalion Sergeant Lendelani Headson Miya.

Sergeant Miya, a Zimbabwean from the Mbembezi area, was arrested when he crossed back into Zimbabwe to visit his family last Christmas.

(362)

Intimidated

[illegible] 6/6/93

Now an SA citizen, based with a reconnaissance unit in Phalaborwa, he is alleged to have been an accomplice in smuggling two explosive devices to convicted South African saboteur Kenneth Nzima.

Nzima was jailed after the devices were found in a raid on a Bulawayo township house last year.

Sergeant Miya has pleaded not guilty. He claims he was intimidated into confessing by one of Zimbabwe's Central Intelligence Organisation agents, who was brandishing an AK-47.

He faces up to 20 years imprisonment if convicted.

Arye Mizrahi as saying the plan anticipated Middle East peace developing from US-backed negotiations.

Armed women

LONDON — Britain would deploy armed women soldiers in Northern Ireland for the first time in October, the defence ministry said at the weekend.

For the first time women would drive armoured personnel carriers into the most dangerous parts of the British-ruled province.

Contraceptives

GENEVA — The World Health Organisation has approved the use of two new injectable contraceptive drugs, Cyclofem and Mesigyna, which it said were as effective as Depo Provera.

REPORTS: Sapa-Reuter-AP-AFP, AP-DJ.

Tory officials want Major out

B/Day 7/6/93

LONDON — Prime Minister John Major suffered a bitter blow to his authority on Saturday when a newspaper survey of local Conservative Party officials suggested nearly a third wanted him ousted.

The survey by the Sunday Times newspaper underlined Major's crumbling stature even within his own party after a national opinion poll on Friday labelled him Britain's most unpopular prime minister for more than half a century.

The Sunday Times contacted a random sample of 52 Conservative constituency chairmen — regarded as some of the most loyal government supporters in the land — and found that nearly one third (15) wanted Major replaced as leader.

The newspaper interpreted the figures as showing that a Conservative "grassroots revolt has begun against John Major's leadership".

Major sacked Chancellor of the Exchequer Norman Lamont and reshuffled his cabinet last week in an attempt to brighten the appeal of his government.

But a Gallup poll for Friday's Daily Telegraph suggested the shakeup had not done the trick.

Major's personal approval rating sank to just 21%, the lowest for a British prime minister since such polls began more than 50 years ago.

On Friday Major felt the need to tell his detractors he would stay on, telling a conference of Conservative women in London: "I have some bad news for some people. I'm fit, I'm well, I'm here and I'm staying."

Major came to power in November 1990 after Margaret Thatcher was toppled in a Conservative Party revolt.

The Sunday Times, whose survey was published in advance editions on Saturday, said many of the 37 constituency chairmen who backed Major conceded they did so because there was no one to replace him.

Another opinion poll published on Saturday also made grim reading for Major. The Mail on Sunday said the poll had shown the Conservatives were heading for a second by-election defeat after losing the constituency of Newbury last month. It said the Liberal Democrats would win next month's by-election for Christchurch, called after the death of the Conservative incumbent Robert Adley. — Sapa-Reuter.

'Cheap' Harare expected to boost tourism

Buss. Day 7/6/93

HARARE — The Zimbabwean tourism industry is expected to be boosted by a recent survey which found Harare to be the cheapest major city in Africa, Ziana news agency reports.

The survey, being distributed in Europe and the US, also rated Harare as the third cheapest city in the world after Bombay and Bogota.

Tokyo was rated the most expensive city.

A report by local stockbroking firm Edwards & Co said results of the survey, based on 151 products including food, clothing and transport, were expected to enhance the local tourism image.

(362)

Tourism is one of Zimbabwe's major forex earners, but the country was affected severely by the drought and world recession last year.

Immediate past president of the Hotel and Restaurant Association of Zimbabwe Graham Dickens said Harare could have been rated the cheapest city because the survey was carried out after devaluation of the Zimbabwe dollar against convertible currencies.

He said hotel accommodation was also relatively cheaper in Zimbabwe than in other countries because of the depreciation of the local currency.

He warned that it would take a long time for the tourism sector to enjoy a boom in business, because of the depressed local and international economy.

"I do not see a significant recovery of the local economy until early next year. As a result, the hotel and restaurant sector will not experience a quick recovery from the slump,"

Although flickers of recovery had been detected, with some major hotels reporting an improvement in occupancy rate, industry watchers were not optimistic, he said. — Sapa.

Star 8/6/93

Accused ex-MP to lose his farm

HARARE — A white former MP accused of forcing 14 women and 10 children to strip naked after he found them collecting firewood on his farm will lose the farm to the state.

Ziana national news agency reports that Henry Elsworth (63) has been charged with crimen injuria. The trial has not yet been concluded.

But an Extraordinary Government Gazette published yesterday ordered his 9 500 ha farm "compulsorily acquired by the state".

(362)

AFP reported that a party official has asked President Mugabe to deport Elsworth, who was an MP in Ian Smith's Rhodesian government. — Sapa.

We can't live in past, says Smith as UDI party folds

Star 9/6/93

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By Robin Drew
Star Africa Service

HARARE — Thirteen years after Zimbabwe became independent, the political party once led by Ian Smith — the Rhodesian Front — is finally winding up.

The RF, the party of UDI, became the Republican Front soon after Zimbabwe was born, so keeping its initials. In 1984 it changed its name again, this time to the Conservative Alliance of Zimbabwe.

Smith (74) stood down as leader in 1988 but remained active and held the post of honorary life president.

Smith yesterday confirmed in an interview that the decision had been taken to dissolve the party and to back the new United Front party formed out of a loose alliance of some opposition parties.

"It is no use living in the past," said Smith. "It is painful to have to do this but we have given an undertaking to dissolve in the interests of a united opposition aimed at ousting the present government, which is ruining the country."

The United Front came into being last year as a coalition but ran into trouble during recent by-elections when member parties stood against each other.

The Rev Ndabaningi Sithole took his Zanu (Ndonga) party out of the grouping. His former secretary general, Ephraim Tsvaringe, will head the executive until a congress is held, now that the decision has been taken to turn the coalition into a party.

Bishop Abel Muzorewa's UANC is holding consultations on whether to dissolve.

Zimbabwe game and parks threat

Star 9/6/93

HARARE — Zimbabwean conservationists attacked the government yesterday for its continued inaction in the protection of the threatened black rhinos and elephants from poachers.

"Continued government inaction could lead to the loss of both the rhino and elephant in Zimbabwe's wildlife areas," warned a spokesman for the Zambezi Society. (362)

Despite repeated assurances, most vital wildlife areas had not been reinforced with extra manpower. — AFP.

week alone the state borrowed

BIDAY 9/6/93

NEWS IN BRIEF

AIDS heads south

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BERLIN — More than 600 000 people in Zimbabwe had been infected with the HIV virus, World Health Organisation AIDS programme director Dr M Merson told the international AIDS conference yesterday.

922

Merson said the AIDS epidemic, previously focused on eastern and central Africa, was extending southward and westward.

Tourists attacked

CAIRO — Two Egyptians were killed yesterday and eight foreign tourists injured when a man threw a bomb at a bus on the Pyramids Road in Cairo, police said.

Ostriches take off

WINDHOEK — The world's first ostrich exchange is up and running in Windhoek with 60 chicks on the market and plans to centralise the global ostrich industry.

The World Ostrich Exchange planned to establish an international database of breeding stock and commodities and to initiate quality control and market protection for buyers and suppliers, vice president Jan Behr said.

Behr said the exchange planned to set up quarantine stations at Walvis Bay and Windhoek airport and negotiate a change in US import laws.

REPORTS: Reuter, Sapa.

Bid to ease Russian tension

BIDAY 9/6/93

MOSCOW — President Boris Yeltsin met the leaders of Russia's autonomous republics yesterday to help defuse tension over a Kremlin meeting on the adoption of a new constitution.

Presidential adviser Sergei Stankevich told journalists the leaders of the 20 republics were unhappy that some of their suggested alterations to Yeltsin's draft constitution had apparently been ignored.

The assembly, which completed its first full day of work on Monday, is due at some stage to discuss the tricky question of how much autonomy to give the republics and the 66 regions, which currently have less power than the republics.

Stankevich said most of the 700 delegates favoured giving all constituent parts of Russia equal rights. This, he said, could spark protests from the republics.

Yeltsin's senior aides said the assembly would work out a draft document despite a walk-out of opponents led by parliamentary chairman and arch foe Ruslan Khasbulatov.

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Khasbulatov, who has already seen his deputy defect to the Yeltsin camp, suffered another blow late on Monday when a closed meeting of top deputies did not unanimously back his decision to leave the assembly on Saturday with some supporters.

Khasbulatov stormed out of the assembly on Saturday after Yeltsin refused to let him address the opening session. But Stankevich said there would be another session of all delegates on Thursday at which Khasbulatov would be given the floor.

Yeltsin has complained that his attempts to transform Russia and propel its ailing economy to a free market system are hamstrung by a constitution written for the disbanded Soviet Union. — Sapa-Reuter.

BIDay 9/6/93

Namibian exchange records small move

WINDHOEK — Namibia's stock exchange moved offices yesterday and all that was needed was one car.

The entire exchange consists of a locally developed programme, running on a personal computer. It is linked by telephone to banks and other companies.

The move came shortly after the number of broking firms in Namibia doubled — to two.

Simpson McKie Inc opened a Windhoek office, which employs the country's only qualified broker Wikus Hanekom, while his former employer George Huysamer and Partners employs Werner Oehl who is expected to qualify soon.

The Namibia Stock Exchange Association consists of 36 private companies.

Deals on the exchange have been slow with the companies tightly owned. Nobody has yet tried to trade government loan stock, preferring to hold it until redemption. — Reuter.

Unpopular decisions ahead says UK chancellor

Zimbabwe recovery no longer expected

B|Day 9|6|93

HARARE — Zimbabwe, driven to near collapse last year by drought and recession, could see its economy decline again this year in the face of high interest rates, inflation and controversial government policies.

Economists and market analysts, who had predicted a modest economic recovery after heavy rains broke the crippling drought, are now saying negative growth of at least 1% is likely.

The Zimbabwe Stock Exchange has stayed depressed since the start of the year, and analysts blame the high cost of money in particular.

"High interest rates are killing businesses. Businesses cannot borrow to buy capital equipment nor service their debts. They have halted or postponed all expansion projects," a stock market analyst said.

Interest rates are hovering around 40% and annual inflation, which soared to a record 50% in 1992, is 30% in spite of government efforts to talk it down.

Economist blame the high rates on an unrelenting spending spree by the government, which has repeatedly invaded the money market to borrow for its development projects.

Government expenditure already eats up half the country's annual GDP, one of the highest such rates in the world. Last week alone the state borrowed Z$151m from the market at interest rates of nearly 40%, in the latest of its forays.

Zimbabwe's economy shrank by a record 12% last year when a withering drought sent its key agriculture sector plunging by 70%. At least 20 000 workers — or 2% of the national workforce — lost their jobs.

(362)

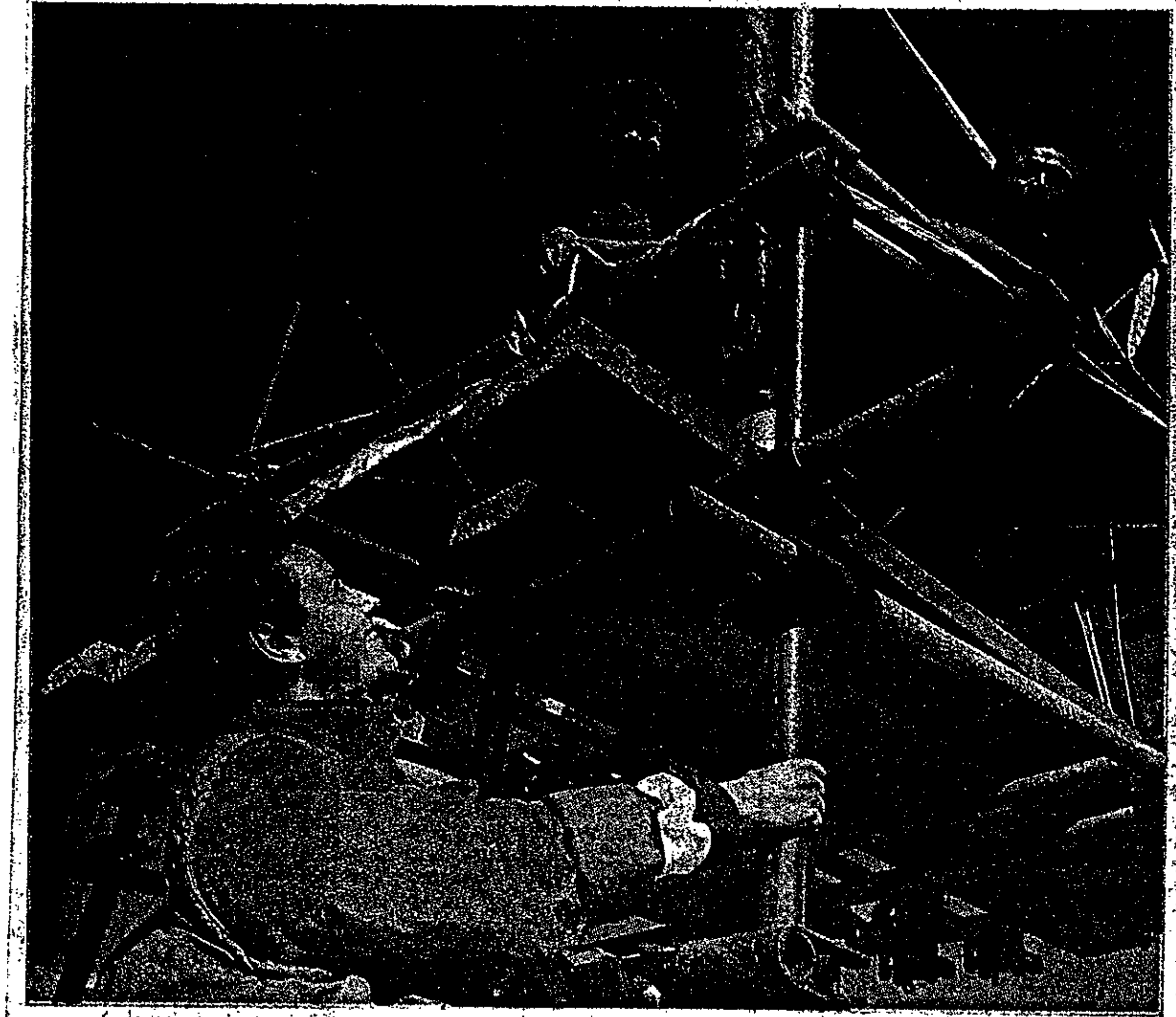
Zimbabwe's largest bank, Standard Chartered, echoed the view of several economists when it said this week: "Another year of decline is a very real possibility, given the preponderance of downward risks in both the domestic and global economic situations."

The bank noted that industrialised nations, which buy Zimbabwe's main exports of tobacco, cotton and minerals such as gold, were recovering slowly from last year's recession, thus curtailing an export-driven recovery.

In addition, the prices for Zimbabwe's biggest single export earner, flue-cured tobacco, had crashed since the beginning of the year, largely because of an oversupply in world markets and high state taxes levied on cigarettes worldwide.

Other analysts noted that in spite of a government drive to improve the country's investment climate, some policies such as the forced state takeover of farms to resettle landless blacks were apparently giving a negative image among foreign investors. — Sapa-Reuter.

Pete Townsend, left, ar
breaking ceremonies fc
Museum in Cleveland or
ground. In 1952, Clevel
term 'rock and roll'.



On the lookout [illegible] security guards Wald[illegible] Samuel Davids and Market Theatre operations manager Karen Cutt[illegible] Picture: Stephen Davimes.

Safe as houses down Market Theatre way

Star 9/6/93.

By Michael Shafto

There is, the Market Theatre management fears, a bad misconception that this cultural end of town is becoming the dangerous end of town.

In these times of increasing violence it is understandable but ...

"It really isn't so," says Karen Cutts, operations manager of the Market Theatre and wife of the actor Dale Cutts, "you're as safe as can be down here any time of the day or night."

Part of Cutts's brief as operations manager is security. While the area has always been reasonably safe, says this cheery mother of two, she has made it her business to step up security.

"When people come to enjoy themselves, the last thing they want is to worry about their personal safety and the security of their vehicles."

"Part of that initiative in increasing security has been to establish a temporary "lookout tower" in the middle of the parking lot and an increased security presence, the guards working in shifts. At all performances, one guard is on the main door for the personal security of patrons, and never fewer than two are on duty at the lookout post and to patrol the car park.

The guards are even equipped with discreet slips, with Market Theatre letterheads. These are placed under a windscreen wiper, informing patrons that windows were left open, articles were visible, the vehicle was left unlocked or the lights left on. Such vehicles are given high priority attention.

Zimbabwe game and parks threat

Star 9/6/93

HARARE — Zimbabwean conservationists attacked the government yesterday for its continued inaction in the protection of the threatened black rhinos and elephants from poachers.

"Continued government inaction could lead to the loss of both the rhino and elephant in Zimbabwe's wildlife areas," warned a spokesman for the Zambezi Society. (362)

Despite repeated assurances, most vital wildlife areas had not been reinforced with extra manpower. — AFP.

Profit falls at scandal-hit papers

B/Day 10/6/93

HARARE — The scandal-stricken Zimbabwe Newspapers group saw after-tax profit plummet nearly 70% to R776 000 last year, and chairman Davidson Sadza warned this year might be even worse than the last, according to the group's report for the year ending December 31.

(362)

Published yesterday, about two months behind schedule, the statement says there will be no dividend in spite of a 35,5% higher turnover against the previous year to R94m. Income on trading operations rose 30% to R7,6m.

Sadza made no mention of the recent scandal involving top managers who had allegedly milked the company for the past three years.

Group CE Davis Midzi and two senior managers are on forced leave while the fraud squad investigates the allegations.

The group is controlled by the government-appointed Mass Media Trust.

Sadza said a R2m profit had been earned in the first half of last year but this had been wiped out in the second half by trebled interest charges of R6,5m. But even after interest, pre-tax profit was down 51% to R4,3m. — Sapa.

B/Day

Tobacco growers warned

HARARE — Zimbabwe Tobacco Association president Ian Alcock last night warned the 400 growers of the country's major export earner to slash production plans for next year by 30%-35%, as the industry faces the worst crisis in its 80-year history. 11/6/93

Alcock told members to put only their top quality leaf on this year's auctions, which have seen prices slump to half the hoped-for US$1,83c/kg growers say they need to break even in the face of soaring production costs.

(362)

Star 12/6/98

Zimbabwe set on seizure

BULAWAYO — A Zimbabwean Cabinet Minister said on Thursday the government would not bow to mounting pressure from commercial farmers against the designation of under-utilised land. (362)

Lands, Agriculture and Water Development Minister Kumbirai Kangai, in an interview with the Ziana news agency, dismissed protests by commercial farmers against the designation of eight productive farms in Matabeleland South province. He said the government would buy the farms and would not be persuaded otherwise.

It has designated 16 farms in Matabeleland North and South, and farmers in Matabeleland South have lodged a formal protest, saying the selection of eight of the farms had been motivated by hidden political reasons, because the government already owned some 228 000 hectares of under-utilised land in the region.

The farmers also want to know why the government failed to consult the provincial designation committee before selecting the Matabeleland South farms.

This committee comprises members of the Commercial Farmers' Union (CFU), the Zimbabwe Farmers' Union and the Department of Agricultural Extension Services.

"From our assessment, no farm should have been designated in Matabeleland South because they are all highly productive," said CFU Matabeleland branch chairman Mac Crawford.

"We have no complaints about the designation of eight farms in Matabeleland North."

In response, the Minister said there was no requirement in the Land Acquisition Act that farm owners be consulted before designation. — Sapa.

Dire warning sounded on stagnancy

Business Staff

A LEADING economist yesterday outlined a package including a moderate relaxation of monetary policy, to power SA out of a four-year recession.

Sanlam's chief economist Johan Louw, in the latest Sanlam economic report, said that a limited depreciation of the rand and selected projects to create jobs should form part of a package "to put the economy on the road to growth".

Louw says that these short term government measures to check the downward spiral were "urgently needed.

"It appears that positive growth will elude SA — for the fourth consecutive year."

He mentioned that there was also increasing doubt as to whether 1994 would have "meaningful growth."

Louw warned that the country "can no longer afford negative or even poor economic growth".

"In fact the prolonged downswing could have such destructive consequences that even a long-term restructuring programme may be impaired."

Sanlam forecasts the rand to weaken against the US dollar and the yen and predicts that the Reserve Bank will reduce the bank rate, in the third or fourth quarter, to 15,25%.

Sanlam also expects the discount on the financial rand to remain at similar levels with the commercial rand.

All going up in smoke . . .

HARARE. — Zimbabwe, one of the world's three biggest tobacco exporters, has announced plans to cut production because of a glut on the market and falling prices.

(362)

Farmers have been urged to cut their area under tobacco by between 30 and 35%.

President of the Zimbabwe Tobacco Association Ian Alcock said that the tobacco industry was "in a state of turmoil worldwide

CT 14/6/93

Major producers had experienced good growing conditions last season, resulting in a glut on a market. — Sapa-AP

Star 16/6/93

Land taken away as punishment

HARARE — A Zimbabwean Minister admitted yesterday that the government had taken over a white farmer's land to punish him for allegedly mistreating labourers, the Ziana news agency reported. (362)

Land, Agriculture and Water Development Minister Kumbirai Kangai said the government had compensated prominent farmer and former MP Henry Elsworth when it took over part of his farm in terms of the Land Acquisition Act.

He said the government later decided to take over the entire farm after a public outcry over allegations that the farmer ordered women and children, whom he found stealing firewood, to strip and walk naked to a police station. — Sapa.

Tobacco prices fall

B/Day 17/6/98

MICHAEL HARTNACK

HARARE — The Zimbabwean government was considering the abolition of traditional tobacco auctions in the face of this year's disastrous collapse of prices, Agriculture Minister Kumbirai Kangai said yesterday.

(362)

Kangai told the annual congress of the Zimbabwe Tobacco Association, representing about 900 large-scale, mostly white, growers and 2 000 emergent black cultivators, that President Robert Mugabe's government wondered whether current open auction floor prices were set in advance by a "ring" of international buyers.

He hinted at adopting a Brazilian-style system of advance grading of the crop — currently 201-million kg — with fixed prices in each grade, but ruled out a possible return to government minimum price support.

To date 56,65-million kg of Zimbabwe's record size crop has been sold, but at prices averaging $0,93/kg.

This is about half the figure growers say they need to break even in the face of 30% inflation.

Zimbabwe press chief facing fraud charges

Star 18/6/93

(362)

HARARE — Zimbabwe Newspapers managing director Davies Midzi appeared in court yesterday to face allegations of fraud arising from his sale of motor vehicles to the company at inflated prices, prejudicing Zimpapers to the extent of 1,5 million Zimbabwe dollars (about R750 000).

Midzi (36) appeared with Elizabeth Motsi, Virginia Munzeiwa and William Mutizwa. He is facing allegations of fraud or contravention of sections of the Prevention of Corruption Act. He was granted bail of Z$50 000 (R25 000).

The bail conditions include providing Z$360 000 (R180 000) surety, surrender of his travel documents and reporting to the police three times a week.

The three others were each granted Z$10 000 (R5 000) bail.

They were also required to hand in their travel documents and report to the police three times a week.

Allegations are that Midzi used his authority to sell motor vehicles to Zimpapers, through the other three accused, at "grossly inflated prices".

As the chief executive at Zimpapers, Midzi had the power and capacity to make final decisions, the State argued.

He had abused his authority by directing that the vehicles be bought by Zimpapers at an inflated price secretly determined by him, the State said. — Sapa.

Investor confidence down

HARARE — Many companies quoted on the Zimbabwe Stock Exchange recently passed dividends, raising concern that this poor corporate performance would further subdue investor confidence in the economy, Ziana news agency reported from Harare yesterday. (362)

Many recently released annual reports said no dividends would be declared as the companies had experienced financial problems.

Current shortages and the high cost of money, the decline in disposable incomes and the world recession were given as the major reasons for the poor financial performance.

Some companies, which recently released their annual results, failed to declare dividends.

Others, attempting to restore shareholder confidence, maintained dividends at their previous levels. B/Day

Stockbrokers said the absence of dividends had resulted in many investors shunning the stock market in favour of short-term money market instruments with a higher yield.

22/6/93

"Investors are still not interested in the stock market and there is a significant flight of capital to the money market," a stockbroker said. — Sapa.

23/6/93

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‘Exchange control over’ for Zimbabwe?

HARARE. — With President Robert Mugabe away in London to drum up foreign investment, Zimbabwe's banking and business community was yesterday startled by a Reserve Bank announcement which the state-run radio interpreted as “the end of exchange control”.

Late on Monday the controversial governor of Zimbabwe's Reserve Bank, Dr Kombo Moyana, summoned local (but not foreign) journalists to announce a new system which may, it appears, allow private individuals to do as they please with any foreign exchange that comes into their hands.

Corporations will still, at least for the time being, be subject to the old controls.

Dr Moyona, whose retirement is rumoured to be imminent, reportedly unveiled a new facility for private persons to establish “foreign currency denominated accounts” or FCDA's.

The new accounts would work on a “no questions asked” basis and would not be subject to Zimbabwean tax, according to the Herald.

“This appears to be the beginning of a field day for Zimbabwe's briefcase businessmen,” said one financial commentator who was yesterday striving, along with all commercial bankers, to glean details of Dr Moyana's scheme.

Africa in

Sowetan 25/6/93

Racket smashed

HARARE — A police raid on a house in Harare led to the discovery of 66 foreign passports and the arrest of three Ghanaians and several Zimbabweans. The passport racket is believed to be linked to drug trafficking and smuggling.

A senior police officer said the passports were from Ghana, Zambia, Malawi, Portugal, Australia, Liberia, Britain, Canada and Northern Ireland. Counterfeit official stamps, ink pads and passport-sized photographs were also seized in the bust which followed a tip-off.

(362)

Court spares lives of ‘living dead’

362

ROBIN DREW
Weekend Argus
Africa Service

HARARE. — In a landmark judgment the Zimbabwe Supreme Court has spared the lives of four murderers whose execution was stayed hours before the men were due to go to the gallows in March.

The court agreed with the Catholic Justice and Peace Commission that the long delay between the passing of the death sentence and the execution of it amounted to inhuman or degrading treatment in violation of the Declaration of Rights in the Constitution.

The convicted murderers had been on death row for between four to six years.

Chief Justice Mr Justice Gubbay said that death was as lingering if a person spent several years in a death cell as if the mode of execution took an unacceptably long time to kill him.

“The pain of mental lingering can be as intense as the agony of physical lingering,” he said.

ARG 26/6/93

The death sentences, passed for brutal murders, were reduced to life imprisonment.

The chief justice said it was imperative that the process of hearing appeals against the death sentence and the consideration by the cabinet whether to exercise the prerogative of mercy be speeded up.

The misery of life on death row in Harare’s Central Prison has been vividly told in the judgment.

The prisoners convicted of brutal murders including in one instance the rape and beating to death of a 70-year-old woman had been in the condemned section for periods ranging from four to six years.

The “living dead” as the judgment called condemned prisoners are in virtual solitary confinement kept in cells 3,5 metres long by two metres wide with a single window very high up from which only the sky is visible.

At 3pm the prisoner is required to leave all clothing outside his cell. “Thereupon he is incarcerated, naked, until the following morning. The cell is very cold in the winter months,” said the judgment.

According to affidavits which were not challenged, the death row inmates were taunted by prison officers with impending death by hanging.

Chief Justice Mr Justice Gubbay said: “From the moment he enters the condemned cell, the prisoner is enmeshed in a dehumanising environment of near hopelessness. He is in a place where the sole object is to preserve his life so that he may be executed. The condemned prisoner is the ‘living dead’.”

The landmark judgment held that the delay in carrying out the executions amounted to a contravention of the Constitution which states that no person shall be subjected to torture or to inhuman or degrading punishment.

It contained an affidavit by a man who was on death row for three years before he was granted a free pardon under a clemency order to mark the 10th anniversary of independence.

The four men whose sentences have been reduced to life imprisonment were to have been hanged in March but the Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace obtained a stay of execution hours before the first man was to go to the gallows.

The executions would have been the first in Zimbabwe since 1988.

Under sentence of death imposed in 1988 and still awaiting appeal are three South African agents, Kevin Woods, Michael Smith and Philip Conjwayo.