

January 1984

Wed 4

Headline – *Mugabe trims cabinet to save cash* – and unseats the controversial minister Herbert Ushewokunze; one time home affairs minister to head the transport portfolio, a government department does not need a seat in cabinet. Thus the prime ministers 'clear out' reduces the size of the administration from 57 to 49 ministers and their deputies. A reshuffle motivated by the needs of the government for 'financial and economic restraint.'

At the next cabinet meeting in attendance there will be only 30 ministers and 19 deputy ministers. Left unchanged were the number of cabinet posts held by the official opposition; Zapu. As before the Joshua Nkomo led political group maintain the control of four government departments and one deputy minister. The Rhodesian Front will still send two ministers and one deputy to cabinet meetings.- **The Guardian** -

Thurs 5

Headline – *Whites find a good life in the sun* – as a seemingly bright future, for the small white population and the emerging black middle class, bring their holiday period celebrating to the opening of the countries newest building; a new Holiday Inn hotel in the centre of Harare.

While built along the lines of all others in the American owned hotel chain to the residents of the Zimbabwean capital it oozes new and exiting features. Elements of the leisure industry, the night club or cocktail bar, not seen since before the international community turned its back on the Smith regime of the mid 1960's. With the coming of settlement, four years ago, the new Zimbabwe was ripe for redevelopment.

Such seems the confidence of those whites that left the country during the period of unrest, many to avoid conscription into the military, that increasing numbers have returned back to the land of their birth over the last 13 years away. One, who left 13 years ago, comments "I can 't help but think how it was then. It was so tense, so bitter between the races. Almost all of that has gone now; it is such an improvement. Things are freer and there is a great feeling of creativity."

Commenting, on the countries politics; the wife of a civil servant, noted one of low points as the vast differences of the points of view between the coalition government; noted by the treatment metered out to Joshua Nkomo's Zapu by the majority Zanu party. Noting that the prime ministers governing party were "still a very immature party"the wife hoped that with time the party will 'find its role.' There is hope that at only the second Zanu annual congress, due before 30/12, there will be a consensus of opinion that delegates votes in favour policies acceptable to the mass of the population. - **The Guardian** -

Tues 10

Headline – *'Unfair' trial in Harare* – was the major point made by acting chief justice Enock Dumbutshena, as the beginning of the legal year was celebrated in Harare. The reason; noted the judge, was the lack of legal representation that the accused had from the start of their dealings with the legal process.

The nations first black judge to be appointed chief justice, noted in his speech that an accused first

contact with the courts system; dealt with by a magistrate where he would make legal decisions that were in line with the prosecutions hopes. It was only the 'good choice' of the countries legal system that the upper courts were able to review the decisions of the lower court.

Wed 11

Headline – ***Zimbabwe atrocity inquiry opens*** – in Bulawayo the capital of the troubled province of Matabeleland; where much, if not all, of the the alleged army violence against the rural community occurred as the hunt for dissident guerillas continued from 1 – 3/83.

Much of the evidence to be presented to the inquiry will come from Church and international charitable organisations who monitored the military 's actions while they carried out there hunt for supposed supporters of Zapu.

Much of the evidence concerns the actions national armies 5th Battalion, the North Korean trained, and mainly Shona speaking troops who show a first loyalty to the Zanu party. According to witness statements, collected from both male and female residents of rural villages these troops were especially vigilant in forcing out alleged misdeeds of residents.

Much evidence was gathered of rapes of teenage women and old women. Indiscriminate killings of male and female adults along with children. After forced marches into the bush villagers, of all ages and genders, were beaten, shot or stabbed with a soldiers bayonet before being hurriedly buried. Those that survived such alleged treatment had their village huts burned to the ground. - **The Guardian page 5 C 8** -

Mon 16

Headline – ***Nkomo Book*** Thee Zimbabwe Opposition leader, Mr Joshua Nkomo, left Harare at the weekend to put the finishing touches to his auto biography, the publicity secretary of his Zimbabwe African Peoples Union said Mr Nkomo who wrote the book when he fled to London for 6 months exile last year. - **AP** -

Thurs 19

Headline – ***Trade Deal*** – Zimbabwe and the Soviet Union signed their first bi lateral trade agreement in Harare yesterday. Two way trade between Zimbabwe and the Soviet Union is about £3m per year. - **AP** -

Sat 21

Headline – ***Zimbabwe rebels still a menace*** – thus the state of emergency regulations, kept on the statute book since the UDI era, have been renewed by the Mugabe government after a vote in parliament by 67 : 8. Only the white, RF members, were opposed to its renewal.

Proposing their renewal home affairs minister, Simbi Mubako, noted the increase in activity of these dissident guerillas as they continue to roam throughout the rural lands. He noted that in the last six months 75 people had died in the reported 175 'contacts' between them and the military. During this period there had been at least 500 sightings of dissidents. - **The Guardian** -

Tues 24

Headline - *Protesters ask mayor to resign* – after he, Davidson Jahwi; civic leader of the eastern border town of Mutare, had faced three days of demonstrations by women and a call from an ex government minister Edgar Tekere for the town council to vote its self out of office.

The women led street demonstrations were in protest at the local authorities decision to raise the rents of their homes in the townships. At the same time it seems that the mayor had insulted the deputy prime minister Simon Muzenda according to the disgraced former minister. - **The Guardian** -

Wed 25

Headline – *Council tumbles to Zanu radical* – along with the three days of female inspired unrest in the town of Mutare and the urging of the renegade Zanu dissident Edgar Tekere.

The resignation, of the full city council, was the outcome of local government minister Enos Chikowore 's end solution of the three days of street demonstrations. Addressing those gathered outside the councils headquarters building the minister said that the removal of the whole council was unusual. They, the masses, should not be of the opinion that recent events indicate that the government will bend to the will of the people at very occasion. In Mutare he said “machinery”to run city affairs would be set up until new elections can be held.

Those in the know are of the opinion that this victory, along with an election win; in 1982, to head the Zanu central committee of the eastern Manciland province, is the former ministers attempt at a political come back after his sacking from the cabinet in 1981 after standing trial for the murder of a white farmer. - **The Guardian page 7 C 7** -

Thurs 26

Headline – *One year on, Mugabe 's fifth pulls is horns* – reportedly responsible for many of the extra judicial deaths in the troubled province of Matebeleland, as the North Korean, but staffed by Shona speaking loyalist, trained troops swept through the province in search of dissident fighters, have been sent back as a control measure. Meanwhile the four man inquiry, which has been collecting witness statements since 11/1, has extended its statement gathering for another two weeks.

Speaking of the actual benefits of such a government inquiry, despite it being composed of those only appointed by the government; who are unlikely to criticise the actions of the government or the military benefits may come from the exercise.

A church leader, in Bulawayo, doubts legal sanctions against those found to have acted 'outside the law' will be the end result. However for the rural community, not used to the ways of government or the legal system, their giving of evidence should make each person “feel they are getting their day in court to describe their horrors.” One aspect of the past two years, that will be carried by those same people will be their hatred of the brutal 5th Brigade of the ZNA, which outside opinion notes have had their sphere of actions reined in. - **The Guardian page 7 C 3** -

Sat 28

Headline - *Court Order* – the opposition United African National Council Party, of the detained former Prime Minister Bishop Abel Muzarawa, has been placed under provisional sequestration by the Zimbabwe High Court for the alleged non payment of debts of £9, 000 according to the latest government gazette. - **AP** -

February 1984

Sat 4

Headline – *Mugabe launches offensive against rebels* – who, according to the home affairs minister, S Mubake, will be in such numbers as to whatever is needed “to deal with increased infiltration” into Matabeleland province. However there was no indications, to the assembled members of the press, if the military would be deployed to the areas of the province in which villagers suffered at the hands of the ZNA 's 5th Brigade.

The prime minister, speaking before his home affairs minister, reiterated his strong belief that the government of the apartheid state; across Zimbabwe 's southern border, was training those dissidents who would see the overthrow of the democratically elected Zanu led government. He was speaking at the passing out parade of military officers

Security forces announce the death of a captured rebel, who was involved in the abduction of six foreign tourists in 7/'82. The self confessed dissident Jeffrey Siwela, who was being held in detention in the Inyathi district of the troubled province, was gunned down as he tried to make his escape. - **The Guardian** -

Headline – Pilots Apology – a white Zimbabwe pilot dismissed for publicly celebrating the release of two senior white air force officers from detention has got his job back after apologising to the government. The Zimbabwe Information Department said that Captain Tony Thomas said he sincerely apologised for any embarrassment to the national carrier, Air Zimbabwe and the government. - AP -

Sun 5

Headline – *Red berets seal off Bulawayo* – thus dismissing the belief that the 5th Brigade of the national army; Shona speaking loyalists trained by North Korean instructors, will once again impose their terror to a large part of Matabeleland.

The prime minister/party loyalists have orders to seal off the southern province, impose a dusk to dawn curfew, householders are not allowed to move 50 yards from their homes during curfew, shops outside Bulawayo will remain closed “until the job is done” residents were warned.

Media reports note the large number of troops were observed moving through the streets as day time shoppers scattered and rushed out of the way of the patrolling soldiers who are to be housed in a base to the north of the provincial capital.

A response from Joshua Nkomo, Ndbele speaker; and leading politician in the province, when asked for his reaction noted that the “mad people” those deemed dissidents by the government would not be controlled by the curfew. “I am puzzled. I just don't know where we are going.”- **The Sunday Times** page 1? -

Wed 8

Headline – *Front poll concession* – not to contest the vacant Lundi constituency seat in a coming bye election is seen as a 'sign of the times.' The parliamentary seat, deep within good farming lands would be a shoe in victory for the old style Rhodesian Front party.

Times change; the two recent replacement elections, saw the both constituency representative take up their seats showing no alliance to any political party. As Independents, when their voting records were checked, it would seem that the, usually white MP, backed the government rather than vote down its proposal.

The new MP who is a farmer, Peter Field, and according to the Republican Fronts chairman Geoffrey Kluckow, notes that the next constituency MP best represents the views of the farming community; who feel and appreciate the problems in the district and will give voice to the concerns and which we currently share. - **The Guardian** -

Sat 11

Headline – ***Fears grow as extra troops move into Matabeleland*** – as military vehicles span out from the provincial capital 90 miles south towards the border with Botswana. Within this vast area as many as 500, 000 people make their living.

Speaking of his fears Joshua Nkomo highlights the hope that the people of the south will not suffer the same fate as those that suffered in the north almost 12 months ago. Even though the bulk of the troops, mobilised in the affected region are members of the 5th Brigade. The former cabinet minister also reiterated that the Zapu political movement were in no way supporting the activities of the dissidents.

Outside the country, in Botswana foreign diplomats note that there is evidence, despite denials from elements within Zimbabwe, that agents of the apartheid state have infiltrated refugee camps close to the Zimbabwe border inside Botswana. The camp outside Dukwe and one close to Francistown are still home to many people who refuse to return to the land of their birth.

Many thousands of ZNA troops are being deployed across the eastern nations border in Mozambique. Their purpose; to defend the countries vital oil supply that is delivered through an oil pipe line from the Indian Ocean port of Beira.

In recent times, 29/1, one of the many pumping stations; Maforga was severely damaged by an explosion caused by a bomb planted by members of the MNR. During the attack the rebels killed five troops. However the rebels, though the MNR leadership in Portugal, put the death toll as between 30 and 40. - **The Guardian** -

Sat 25

Headline – ***Water Ration Cut*** – *Water supplies in Harare, rationed since New Years Day, are to be cut further in the face of a third year of drought in Zimbabwe. Home owners will have their monthly ration cut back from 20, 000 litres to 15, 000 litres, while flat dwellers ration of 15, 000 litres has been cut to 10, 000 litres. Rationing will also be extended from March 1 to foreign embassies, government offices, hospitals, clinics and schools.* - **AP** -

March 1984

Thurs 1

Headline – ***Rebels mutilate Zimbabwean teachers*** – who taught at the Mulezi mission school in the Mwenezi district of Masvingo province; close to the border town of Beit Bridge in the south east of the country.

According to the Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace the four victims, who were subject to acts of body mutilation before they died, on 21/2, were shot dead at the hands of the five dissidents who came to the church mission school. The attackers seemingly targeted their victims because they did not speak Ndebele and there for presumed to be government supporters.

This attack, the first reported dissident outside the Matabeleland province indicates that the dissident; identified as supporting the aspirations of Joshua Nkomo, seem to be widening their campaign taking their violence campaign into areas of the country that its residents identify with the politics espoused by the prime minister and Shona speaking people. - **The Guardian** -

Sat 3

Headline - ***Harare MP tells of 'army beating'*** – during a three day detention ordeal by Zapu 's Matabeleland South representative Sikwill Moyo. His crime; breaking the curfew restrictions imposed by the government authorities and policed by soldiers from the national armies 5th Brigade.

The sixty one year old 's beating, the results of which; large bruises on his back and legs, were metered out during his time among the crowds gathered at the public stadium in the town of Gwanda. Here he addressed the crowd and spoke out against the curfew and the closed shops that greatly affected the lives of the 400, 000 to 500, 000 people who lived in the curfew region. - **The Guardian** page 6 C 1 -

Headline – ***Twenty Thousand Quit Zimbabwe*** – Zimbabwe lost 19067, emigrants last year - the second biggest exodus since Independence in 1980 – according to figures published yesterday. A total of 74, 781 people left Zimbabwe between 1/12/80 and 12/12/83 the Central Statistical Office said in its monthly migration bulletin. - **AP** -

Headline – ***Drought Aid*** – Britain announced yesterday that it would give 10, 000 of maize to Zimbabwe for drought relief. The maize, worth £1. 5m, will be bought from stocks in Malawi. A Meldrum; Harare **GDN**

Wed 7

Headline – ***Smith derides war graves discovery*** – that is said to contain the bodies of 4, 000 black nationalist guerillas that died at the hands of the white regime during the liberation war that ended in 1979. The unmarked grave was located on a rifle range in the small country town of Rusape 100 miles east of Harare.

Evidence, which comes from a former prisoner of the white military regime, who was forced to dig graves, noted that helicopters ferried in victims, some seen not to be dead; but finished off with a single shot, before they were dumped in the mass grave. Not only did guerillas bodies find their way into the site. The grave also contained the bodies of children and others who took no part in the fighting. They died because of the assistance, food or shelter, they gave to 'the boys'.

The site was visited by government ministers, who are tasked to locate sites for national monuments; to remember the war dead, were by what they say. The chairman of the parliamentary body, minister of information Nathan Shamuyarira, noted that the site consisted of 2 graves. Divide by gender, one held 160 male bodies while the second contained 180 female bodies

There was no denial, from the former Rhodesian Front prime minister Ian Smith, that the graves were as described by the minister, however he brushed the present governments criticism. “At the time Rhodesia was at war and tragically terrible things happen in war time”he said.

As for the actions of this present government he thought the highlighting of the mass graves, from a bygone age, was Mugabe 's attempt to divert the ongoing criticism of the ZNA 's military actions in the troubled province. - **The Guardian** -

Thurs 8

Headline – *Zimbabwe curfew 'cuts off' food to drought hit areas'* – thus impacting on the health of at least 450, 000 people trapped in their local area. Seven days after the reported beating of the Zapu MP S Moyo there seems to be no let up in reported brutal actions of the campaigning elements of the Zimbabwe military. Justifying their presence an army spokesman noted the continued violence of the dissidents; the hacking off of the ears of four mission school teachers on 1/3.

On site reports, from clerics who live and work among the people suffering as the drought continues, dispute earlier words in parliament by the home affairs minister. Simbi Mubako informed the Harare parliament that “food was flowing easily” into the areas of the province where the curfew looms. What maize meal, the countries staple diet, there is stored in the grain silos of the town of Plumtree is not being distributed to the hungry residents of southern Matabeleland note the cities health workers.

Pressure for on investigation, both from members of the house of assembly and the senate have brought an assurance of an investigation from deputy prime minister Simon Mudenza.

Coming alongside the shortage of food in the troubled province the residents are now being faced with a campaign of enforced political indoctrination from elements of the ZNA with the strongest political loyalty to the prime minister and the Zanu party.

Metering out the party of governments political views not only involves the communist trained 5th Brigade but also members of the Mounted Grey Scouts, the ultra loyal; to Robert Mugabe, Presidential Guard and One Brigade Commandos. Reports, of such political gatherings, have involved beatings of those not wishing to attend gatherings in towns such as Gwanda. Here residents were forced to political attend meetings inside the towns stadium. They were forced to run the violence of the military as the crowd was herded towards the meeting point.

The mass grave, containing the remains of an estimated 4, 000 dead supporters of the black nationalist cause, who lost their lives during the civil war, recently uncovered outside the town of Rusape 90 miles south east of Harare, are to be re interred in a purpose built £6.5m shrine in Heroes Acre. - **The Guardian** -

Fri 9

Headline – *Mugabe to relax food supply curb* – after the concern shown , by members of the house of assembly and senate, as the shortage of food in the troubled province escalates. Making an announcement, to parliament the minister of home affairs that food stores in rural areas will be allowed to open twice a week. Alongside this move other 'essential' food supplies will be available at local distribution centres.

When members of the media sought the thoughts of Members there was wholehearted support shown; “delighted by the governments response ... I welcome the government 's response ... just hope the food gets here in her in a hurry because the people are desperate” said independent senator Max Rosenfels

The last white prime minister, Ian Smith, has asked the government to verify that the bodies located

in a mass grave outside Rusape are in fact bodies of those that died during the recent civil war. Is it not possible that the dead belong to times past when other black nationalist fought with those who would wish to conquer them? "They may have been there for a century or more" he noted. - **The Guardian** -

Mon 12

Headline – *Troops starved children to death, says Nkomo* – as well as their mothers as a consequence of the inaction of the authorities to implement the promise of recent times by the prime minister. Following from a plea, from both houses of assembly, there was a government intention to open the rural food stores two days a week in the areas of the troubled province that has been under curfew.

The former cabinet minister was speaking to 50, 000 Zapu supporters in the soccer stadium in Bulawayo. Such a political gathering of his supporters continues to show, at his first public rally for three years since the politician was refused permission to speak in public, there is still much support for him.

Speaking to the crowd he told of the continued atrocities carried out by members of the military and his attempts to bring the guilty to the authorities; the execution of six men, allegedly by members of the 5th Brigade in the town of Kezi on 5/2. Those that dug the graves have already presented their evidence to members of the government in Harare. Also evidence, from two teenage girls that they were raped by soldiers from the Zanu staffed brigade.

"I have done my bit to tell the government about these things. It is up to the government to discover what has happened. You cannot have a one party state when people are torn apart by hatred, tribalism and racism.- **The Guardian** -

Tues 13

Headline – *Mass grave uncovered* – before the eyes of the foreign media as overseas journalists were brought to the town of Rusape, and five cabinet ministers, to view the remains of as many as 4, 000 black nationalists who died at the hands of the white military during the liberation war.

On view was the work of members of the ZNA as they continues to uncovered the bones of the dead from two separate graves spread over the five acre site. This was followed by members of the military continuing to uncover the three mass graves already seen by local journalists. There were more than twelve skulls on show.

Food aid workers were able to distribute much needed foodstuffs throughout the curfew area of southern Matabeleland as the promised opening of the rural shops came about. Many hundreds of peasants were able to benefit. - **The Guardian** -

Fri 16

Headline – *Mugabe presses for one party state* – as he addresses the Zanu sponsored women 's conference which opened in the capital. Speaking to the 3, 000 female delegates he appealed for their support in bringing his dream to fruition. He asked for their support the the 8/84 party congress.

His speech highlighted the chaos that the 'gifted' political system, an outcome of the Lancaster House Agreement, had caused. The continuing struggle against the Zapu dissidents, threats of

invasion from the apartheid state who back the renegades of the UNAC political party whose leader, Bishop Musorewa, lost power after the end of the civil war. He also tagged the all white Republican Front as “subversive and criminal.”

“We cannot continue to hesitate on this matter as this creates a mixture of destabilisation and plans for more disunity by other forces. Time has surely now come for us to start laying the foundation on which the one party state will be structured.”

Thurs 22

*Headline – **Zimbabwe Aid** – Britain is sending £550, 000 to Zimbabwe to enable voluntary agencies to buy food and other necessities for victims of a three year drought. The money will come from the British governments disaster fund and is in addition to the £1.5m worth of food allocated to Zimbabwe earlier this month. - un sourced -*

Wed 28

*Headline – **Currency Curbs** – The Zimbabwe government yesterday announced drastic measures aimed at reducing the outflow of foreign currency resources. These include the temporary suspension of dividends and profit payments to most foreign investors, the acquisition of a pool of externally quoted shares and reduction in emigrants allowances. - K Thomas; GDN -*