

JANUARY 2007

Thurs 4

Headline - *Mugabe lets white farmers back in bid to ease food crisis* as one of the white farmers allowed to return to his land (qv 17/12) - now standing at an initial 19, with a possibility of 300 by the end of 2007 - Jim Boethe one of the few is ready and able to describe his feelings.

With a 99 year lease granted for just 100 acres in the town of Kadoma, 74 miles south of the capital Harare he describes himself 'happy to be back' even if it is only to a farm much reduced in size since his expulsion in 2005. - Gdn page 16 C 1 -

Sun 7

Headline - *Victoria Falls 'at risk', UN warns* of loosing its status as a World Heritage Site. The decision, if confirmed, is in part due to a row between two government departments in Harare. Both the National Museums and Monuments of Zimbabwe and the department of Wildlife Management are in verbal battles to control Mosi oa Tunya, the 420 ft high waterfall that forms part of Zimbabwe's northern border with Zambia. The second consideration for the international body is does the Mugabe regime deserve the high profile status - and the tourist dollar - that the falls bring - to such a corrupt regime?

Figures show that tourist revenues have plunged by more than 70% to £51./\$98m in 2006 from \$340min 1999. - IOS page 48 C1 -

Thurs 11

Headline - *Zimbabwe hospitals hit by doctors' strike* - as of this time 14 days long. This industrial dispute, which may from 15/1 draw in the hospital consultants, is pay related. With the official inflation rate standing at 1280% these lowly paid medics are demanding a pay rise of approximately 9. 000% to their Z\$56, 000/£116 monthly salary.

The striking junior doctors also face the harsh economic facts of current life in Zimbabwe where a loaf of bread costs Z\$900 - see Zimbabwe Diary page 274 for comparison - Room to rent cost Z\$10,000 per month. In addition to the demand of a Z\$5m monthly wage the striking junior doctors are calling for a car allowance. - GDN page 17 C 5 -

Mon 22

Letter, **S Chase Action for Southern Africa [Actsa]** plea to the EU member states, who on 20/2 must decide whether or not the sanctions imposed on the Mugabe regime are renewed. The letter writer cites numerous incidents - the brutal treatment of trade unionists, the relaunch of Operation Murambatsvini that should indicate that the situation should continue as it is. **GDN page 29 C 1 -**

FEBRUARY

Fri 2

Headline - *EU split looms over summit invitations to Mugabe regime* - by the French and Portuguese governments who would be, if the invites are actually sent, breaking a five year travel agreement on the 'notables' of the ruling Zanu PF in Harare.

If an invitation were to be offered, to the Franco/African summit in Niece on 20/2 and to Lisbon in 11/07 to the Euro/African meeting, it would be seen by Britain and other international bodies, as support for the autocratic Mugabe regime. - **GDN page 21 C 5** -

Sat 3

Headline - *19 contract cholera in areas without clean water* - in eastern districts of the capital, Harare, state radio has reported. The outbreak is concentrated in the Mabvuku and Tafara suburbs, locations where it is known where residents have been without clean running water for a time.

It has emerged that some 350 families have been living in a tented village since the 2005 slum clearance programme (qv) have had to draw their water from polluted wells. The infected were taken to an infectious disease hospital, and officials were handing out water purification tablets in the areas concerned. - **GDN page 20 C 5** -

Thurs 8

Headline - *Zimbabwe heads for economic meltdown* - as the month long doctors and hospital consultants strike (qv 11/1) begins to bite, they have been joined by hospital nurses, all intent on securing a living wage as the high rates of inflation (qv) continue to make life difficult for all Zimbabwean's.

Discontent within the police and security bodies are becoming apparent as their rates of pay have not kept pace with the high cost of living and with an announcement of a forthcoming call for general strike, called by the Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Union, prospects in the country are not favourable.

On the economic front, finance minister, H Murerwa was sacked by Mugabe after he had criticised the policy of G Gono, the central bank governor, for refusing to devalue the Zimbabwean dollar.

The official exchange rate: \$Z250:1US\$. The street exchange rate \$Z4,000:US\$1.- **GDN page 19 C3** -

Mon 19

Headline - *Three cholera deaths confirmed as unrest grows in Zimbabwe* - as more than 180,000 civil servants prepare to strike after rejecting the government's offer of a 250% pay rise. This economic unrest comes at the same time as a political rally, called by the Movement for

Democratic Change was broken up by the police.

The rally, declared a legal by the courts, and due to take place in the Harare township of Highfield, was called off as 10 loads of police moved in and surrounded the stadium. The cholera deaths, the first officially recognised, are spread throughout the Madvuku township east of the capital. There is a claim that the 24 hour strike by the government officials is a protest at the amount of money - £600, 000 - being lavished on the forthcoming party called to celebrate Mugabe's 83rd birthday. - **GDN page 24 C 4** -

Thurs 22

Headline - ***Zimbabwe bans political rallies as unrest grows*** - the attempted Movement for Democratic Change gathering (qv 19/2) in the townships of Harare was the last one, for three months, after the police served notice on any group opposed to rule by Mugabe holding protest meetings till 5/07 in the Zimbabwean capital. The order, which covers Harare's southern townships, is - in the words of the police - "to prevent pandemonium, looting and destruction" in the described area.

As to the up and coming 83rd birthday of the president he, himself, said in a television broadcast that they should not attempt to push him out "there are no vacancies because I am still here. **GDN page 17 C 3**

MARCH

Thurs 1

Headline - ***Zimbabwe is broke and hungry admits bank chief*** - as he gives evidence before the defence and home affairs committee in parliament. Giving his assessment, usually an upbeat one, the head of the Reserve Bank, Gideon Gono, told members of the desperate conditions within the country.

Facts emerging from the committee's inquiry showed that the police needed more than 15, 000 vehicles but has only 1, 500. There was also a need, by the air force of US\$2m/£1m just to keep their planes in the air. Inflation 1, 594% [expected 12/07 4, 000%]. Tobacco production 2006 fell from 2mkg in 2000 to 60, 000.- **GDN page 20 C1** -

As the situation, both economically and civilly, worsens there are signs that the people have 'had enough.' Filmed has been a peoples demonstration in Harare. There seemed little evidence of a police presence to act as a deterrent as there has been on previous occasions. On camera, to the banned media, on a clandestine visit from across the border in South Africa, two named members of the opposition said that they - and others - were ready to give up their lives if it would see the end of Mugabe. - **ITN 18. 30** -

Fri 9

*Diarists caption - **A bishops encounter** - an encounter between Archbishop 's Williams, of Canterbury and Kunonga of Harare - an appointee of Mugabe - will have left those who deplore the conditions in Zimbabwe with disgust.*

The black prelate, who has been accused by his parishioners of inciting murder against his opponents, embezzlement, seizing a white farm for his own use and demanding that Zimbabwe's starving churchgoers should contribute to a wedding anniversary present for him and his wife, has only been asked by the head of the Anglican church to "encourage the development of an independent voice in Zimbabwe." - **Diary, GDN page 10 C1 -**

Sun 11

News item During an attempt to attend a prayer meeting, in the Zimbabwean capital, the leader of the Movement For Democratic Change was arrested. Giving reasons for Mr Tsvangaria's arrest the police spokesman indicated that all political rallies had been banned in Harare (qv 22/2). - **Radio 2 17. 00 -**

Mon 12

Headline - ***Opposition leader is beaten and jailed while Mugabe unveils bid to be president till 2014*** - as a result of the 'Save Zimbabwe' prayer meeting in the Highfield township of Harare (qv 11/3) the leader of the MDC is the subject of a submission from Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights for an early release from the cells because of injuries he sustained at the hands of the heavily armed police who broke up meeting.

During the prolonged battle Mr Tsvangaria sustained a head injury and suffered from dizzy spells in detention. There was also one death, G Tandare, as the police opened fire on the assembled 110 protesters.

Away from public street demonstrations against Mugabe, and implicitly his position at the head of Zanu PF, there are moves to force him to stand down before the 2008 presidential elections, otherwise he will remain in power till the year 2014. By that time, academics believe the country will be in a ruinous state.

Headline - ***Children born with HIV survive into teens*** - in a soon to be published academic paper medical doctors have noted that a number of older children, who have carried the Aids since birth have arrived at a Harare clinic seeking anti retroviral drugs. Previous assumptions have been that mother to child infection, as these were, would result in an early death for the children.

Researchers from the Wellcome Trust working at the Connaught Clinic in the Zimbabwean capital will publish their findings in the journal Clinical Infectious Diseases. The study covered 32 children aged eight to 19 who were badly in need of life saving medication. - **GDN page 17 C 1-**

Tues 13

News item - a battered and bruised, and barely able to walk, Morgan Tsvangaria the leader of the Movement for Democratic Change has appeared in a Harare court following his arrest in the Zimbabwean capital (qv). - **Radio 2 14. 00 -**

Leader Comment, **Collapse of a regime** "the end has been nigh for at least seven years," however recent events - over the last 72 hours - having taken their predicted course, riot police,

tear gas and arrests something is different. Whether it is the continuing decline of the country and its people or the Mugabe determination to 'stay beyond his time' it is hard to know.

What is known is that there is within the Zanu PF party factions that would see the president unable to keep his recent pledge on his next presidential term. The party is divided into three. Those that want things to run as predicted, and two 'Mugabe go' groups. These anti Mugabe groups are led by presidential aspirant E Mnangagwe and a retired general S Mujuru "who is the husband of vice president J Mujuru

"It is not written in stone that Zimbabwe's sufferings are destined to continue ... but he has to go first, and the sooner the better. - **GDN page 36, C1** -

Wed 14

Headline - Battered Zimbabwe protesters sent to court from hospital - to face the charge, according to Beatrice Mtetwa, of incitement to violence. As at least 51 activists, including M Tsvangaria were led - or carried into court because of their injuries - it could be seen that the injuries of the leader of the parliamentary opposition included a sutured deep gash on his head.

To those observing the court proceedings, including the American ambassador C Dell, it was obvious that the MDC had received a severe beating. At this time he was alert and in charge of his supporters. Other 'notables' who were seen to be injured was L Madhuku the leader of the National Constitutional Assembly and activist G Kwinjeh. Their injuries were received at the Harare demonstration - police version or some distance from it. - **GDN page 21 C 1** -

Thurs 15

Headline - *Battered Tsvangaria defiant as Mugabe raises stakes* - even as the MDC's leader is transferred from the hospital ward to intensive care as Mr Tsvangaria is suspected of suffering from a fractured skull. Of the 50 opposition supporters hospitalised 12 remain under medical care as of this time.

As to the scenes in the Harare court house (qv 14/3) there were no state prosecutor, magistrate or no court officials present. In the words of B Mtwetwe, president of Zimbabwe Lawyers For Human Rights the lack of court officials and only police "it shows we are a police state." - **GDN page 22 C1**

In praise of Morgan Tsvangaria despite his known lapses, falling into a 'spy trap set by the Mugabe regime, unable to stop his party splitting along ethnic lines, prevarication over the parties participation in elections for the senate, no street demonstrations backed over rigged election results, he is "plucky and enormously popular and has remained a democrat. " - **Ditto page 40 C1**

Sat 17

Headline - *The wasteland - inside Mugabe's crumbling state* - as the source for this diarist makes a clandestine visit, the British journalist is 'banned from Zimbabwe' to the countries second city Bulawayo and its environs.

An example - the sons of S Nakomo from the village of Mandlunsha along with other members of the clan have somehow found their way across the Limpopo river and some semblance of life in South Africa. Their only motive is to have a better life and to be able to send money [R50 - R100] or staple needs, sugar or rice back across the border. This will enable the remaining family members to - at least survive - the rigours of life that is now 'life in Zimbabwe.'

Further news, Doctors and nurses, who have been on strike (qv 11/1) have returned to work as their salaries have been increased to £110 per month. This is just short of their demands. **GDN page 1 C1 -**

Sun 18

Headline - *Zimbabwe nears state of emergency as anti - Mugabe rebellion grows* - a move that will have not been used since the 1980's. This current move has been agreed, in principal, if 'current moves in place do not bring the country to order.'

As Morgan Tsvangirwa leaves hospital it was announced that member of the SADC (qv) with responsibility for security in Southern Africa will meet on 26 -27/3 in the Tanzanian capital Dar es Salaam to discuss the crisis. - **IOS page 47 C1 -**

Mon 19

Headline - *Mugabe opponent beaten again while trying to leave the country* - was the fate of member of parliament Nelson Chamisa as he neared the departure gate for the flight to Brussels. Witnesses, who backed the account of the MP who may lose an eye, say that a number of men began hitting him with iron bars. As the attack continues one of the men seized the passport and lap top from Mr Chamisa and left the area. There is speculation that his attackers were members of the security forces or the military.

Twenty four hours previously, also at Harare airport, three MDC activists were stopped from leaving the country after their passports were impounded by the authorities. Two of the three, G Kwinjah, Ms Holland were trying to leave for medical treatment in South Africa. A Mutambara, the leader of the MDC break-away faction, was in police custody awaiting legal moves for his freedom.

In a bid to prevent a public mourning, aka political funeral, the body of G Tandare, (qv 12/3) has been taken by the police from the funeral parlour by police. - **GDN page 19 C 1 -**

Wed 21

Headline - *The politics of impotent hand - wringing* - was well in evidence among government ministers as parliament debated recent events in Zimbabwe. In essence that which emerged, in the words of foreign secretary, was that "there is not much we can do." - **GDN page 12 C 5 -**

Thurs 22

Letter, **K Olaniyan Amnesty International Africa** with much recent evidence before it the question is asked why has not the African Union not stepped up its condemnation, beyond the

call for “human rights to be respected,” position.

G C Carmen - Benskin Manchester current blame should not be attributed solely to Mugabe. Rather with the 1979 Lancaster House Agreement. With the ‘setting in stone’ of the reserve 20 seats in parliament for white MP’s the newly bestowed authority of the majority was once again diminished by the minority population.

Fri 23

Headline - *Britain prepares for life after Mugabe* - With the country in turmoil the British government are keeping their options open and are prepared to work on a strategy that would see London and Harare with Mugabe gone from government, working together.

For this a close relationship to resume, in which even a ‘new style’ Zanu PF government still ran the country, conditions would have to be met. These include an end to the printing of money that finances government spending: the restoration of the rule of law and order - making the police accountable and not just a ‘tool of the state’ and an end of violence against civilian and opposition people.

As to possible successors E Mangagwa, S Mujuru or S Makoni all have the necessary political experience and a limited fall out with the present president. - **GDN page 27 C 1** -

Leader Comment, **Turning up the volume** as the situation goes from bad to worse in the eyes of regional governments to issue warnings, call meetings and urging Zimbabwe’s president to “leave peacefully by retiring,” as many other African leaders have done.

...”it must be obvious both inside and outside the country that Mr Mugabe is running out of political road. He has treaded on his legacy in Africa’s anti - colonial struggle long enough, and dragged to many former comrades down with him.” - **ditto page 40 C 1** -

Sat 24

Headline - *authors caption Press warning* - from the minister of information naming Petra Thornycroft of the Daily Telegraph and J Raath of the Times and other media people not to be found “peddling false stories” about the government and security issues. The minister warned journalists found working without permits would be hunted down. - **GDN page 30 C 3** -

Sun 25

Headline - *Mugabe seeks party’s backing as feud grow.* - if the Zanu - PF ‘notables’, who have declared that for the good of Zimbabwe the president must go, next year - 2008 - will be the year he leaves the political scene.

It is no more a secret that there has been secret talks between officials of the MDC and Zanu members both who want Mugabe to leave the political field. What is not certain is the manner of his leaving. Should he choose the ‘dignified’ exit, as practised by the disgraced leader of Zaire who went into exile with all his millions. Alternatively there is, in Zimbabwe, a real threat of ‘blood on the streets’ scenario. - **IOS page 46 C 3** -

Headline - ***Madam deputy takes the fight to Mugabe*** - With the tacit agreement of Zanu PF's central committee to allow Mugabe to run for president in the 2008 election there is still one final hurdle to face he still needs the approval of the party congress in 7/07. Even if he passes this final stage the growing force of the dissidents will have to be faced down.

Already known are the vice presidential talks in South Africa. What may not be appreciated is the power of her some time husband Solomon Mujuru, a big shot in the army as well as a powerful businessman in his own right. Such is the feared perceived threat from this diamond mine owning military man that the president tried nationalise Mujuru's mine at Marange. The attempt failed as troops loyal to Mugabe were beaten back by the mine guards.

Another player in the succession stakes is the former head of the secret police, E Mnangagwa, who with the once loyal military man could launch a pre 7/07 bid for power.

Economic facts Average wage Z\$200, 000[£11] per month. Carton of milk Z\$48, 000 [£2. 50]. Litre of petrol Z\$19, 000 [£1. 05]. Bread Z\$7, 000 [0. 38]. - **S Times page 24 C 1** -

APRIL

Mon 2

Headline - ***Corrupt, greedy and violent: Mugabe attacked by Catholic bishop after years of silence*** - from Bishop Pios Ncube. Speaking to the nations Roman Catholics, through a pastoral letter, the bishop of Bulawayo verbally attacked the rule of Mugabe and the condition of ordinary people. This attack comes on the eve of a 48 hour general strike call.

While having nothing good to say about the sitting president the prelate has little of encouragement to say of those who aspire to his crown. Of the leader of the Movement for Democratic Change, Morgan Tsvangaria Bishop Ncube say "Morgan as been useless ... he seems to have little backbone ... he could be as bad as Mugabe ... power hungry." There was a warning for the leader of the opposition, if he is as bad as Mugabe, "then we will kick him out. - **GDN page 15 C1** -

Tues 3

Headline - ***Mugabe opponents fear hope is already crushed before ... general strike*** - as they have 'been here so many times before.' As so many times before, either the leaders of the parliamentary opposition, or - as in this case - the leaders of the Congress of Trade Unions, have called for a county wide protest which has been ruthlessly crushed by forces loyal to Mugabe.

In the opinion of the head of one of the emerging civic protest groups. the Harare Combined Residents Association, 'change of government will not come solely through mass protest on the streets because there are not enough radicalised youth still in Zimbabwe. They have gone across the border, into South Africa or to Namibia, where a job is easier to find and enables them to send money home to support the family.

Mike Davis, head of the HCRA, thinks that change will come only when the economy, which is already in decline, spins further out of control. - **GDN page 14 C1** -

Wed 4

Headline - *general strike fails in face of police action* - to have any significant impact throughout the country. This apparent unconcerned approach to the strike call, by the ZTUC (qv 3/4) and its the demand of a basic wage of Z\$1m/£25 per month, it is more to do with the fact that workers want to keep their jobs - what with unemployment in Zimbabwe being put at 80%. The success, of the police and security forces, in keeping order as the demands for Mugabe to go is no fully guaranteed if the words of a member of those same forces are to be believed.

Unnamed corporal, with 15 years service, and a trained electrical technician, has plans to leave the military and the country to better himself in Botswana or Namibia. According to him many other skilled personnel, and many of the officers, are doing the same. Although the authorities will find many people to make up the numbers in the military there are not enough skilled people to service the day to day equipment serviceable when it breaks down. - **GDN page 18 C 1** -

Fri 6

Headline - *US reveals its efforts to topple Mugabe regime* - despite an official policy of non intervention in another countries internal affairs. The revelation was made as the state department published its Supporting Human Rights and Democracy Report.

The HRDC report, the fifth that Washington has produced, admitted that it had sponsored events aimed at ‘discrediting’ statements made by the president of Zimbabwe. Going further the report says that the aim of the governments action was “to encourage greater public debate on restoring good governance and strengthen pro democracy elements.” - **GDN page 22 C 1** -

Mon 9

Headline - *Bishop’s Easter letter tells Mugabe to step down* - to prevent his overthrow by ‘mass revolt’. The message calling for the president to resign had been read from the pulpit with the agreement of the Zimbabwe Catholic Bishops Conference. Likening the current range of human and democratic abuses under Mugabe to the oppression of the biblical pharaohs and their Egyptian slave masters.

“Oppression is sin and cannot be compromised with.” - **GDN page 15 C 1** -

Tues 10

Headline - *Orphaned in the 80’s. persecuted today: Mugabe’s victim twice over* - is George B, as the son of parents who were killed in the ‘ethnic cleansing’ in the province of Matebeleland. Aged 27, and a resident of Bulawayo this one time street trader has been brought up many people and sent out on the streets, at the age of eight, to earn a living. At this moment in time, as a victim of Operation Murbatsvini (qv) he finds himself an outcast and living the ruins of his former market stall.

According to Felix Matha director of the Post Independence Survivors Trust, who provide care and support for the orphans of the mass killings of the 1980's, when the president sent his Korean officered 5th Battalion into Matebeleland to kill supporters of Joshua Nkomo (qv), there are at least 100, 000 that need the Trusts help. - **GDN page 23 C 1 -**

Fri 13

News report - 'Tanyas story' married at 19 to an opposition activist, who subsequently disappeared, has now to appear before a home office tribunal to plea her case to be allowed to stay in the country. - **ITN 18. 30 -**

Wed 18

Headline - ***Mugabe defies 'evil - doers' of the west*** - as he attends a pre independence day children's party. The presidents thinking was that the evil doers were the western nations, and chiefly those that have run Britain, during his 27 year rule.

According to Mugabe the intervening years, since 1980, were ones of struggle that enabled his administration to "over ride the little storm" which was blown up by those that were against him. "We resisted the little manoeuvres that he and his government regarded as the final push to get Zimbabwe to collapse." - **GDN page 18 C 4 -**

MAY

Wed 2

Headline - ***Grim holiday as price of staple food is raised 680%*** - May Day, usually a celebration day for the workers, will be remembered in Harare as the day that the authorities raised the price of maize flour.

The agricultural minister, R Gumbo, said that the new price in the shops was to back a 70% rise in the producer price awarded to farmers to encourage food production. This season farmers will receive Z\$3m/£100 a tonne. A 5/11lb sack of maize meal will sell for Z\$21, 874 up from Z\$ 3, 200.

April inflation rate 2, 200%. - **GDN page 21 C 1-**

Wed 9

Headline - ***Protesting lawyers taken away and beaten*** - after police broke up a demonstration outside the high court in Harare. They were gathered in that place, according to Beautrice Mtetwa (qv) the head of the Zimbabwe Law Society, as a protest against the detention of two of their colleagues after they were accused of obstructing the course of justice in their defence of opposition activists.

A number of yesterdays demonstrators were loaded into a truck and taken to the Harare suburbs. They were then subject to the humiliation of being forced to lie down in the grass and beaten with riot sticks. - **GDN page 20 C 5 -**

Thurs 10

Headline - *Simon Mann now the nightmare of Black Beach prison* - could be the new home of the ex SAS soldier and nominal military leader of the failed 2004 coup against the leader in the west African state of Equatorial Guinea (qv).

Days before it was expected that he could qualify for early release it has become known that he authorities of the west African country have applied for Mann's extradition to stand trial. To those in the know this was always a possibility when it became obvious that Zimbabwe receiving consignments of oil from the country.

As to conditions in the prison, a report by Amnesty International of 1/07 indicated that the authorities in the Malabo prison had stopped providing medical care for those incarcerated within its walls. Such are the conditions detrimental to health an alleged fellow conspirator, the German national G E Nershaw, died of cerebral malaria whilst resident in Black Beach. - **GDN page 3 C 1**

Headline - *Zimbabweans face power cuts for up to 20 hours a day* - in order to keep fired up the irrigation schemes that the few farmers, who are producing a wheat crop, can continue.

Those that will suffer, even as the low winter temperatures come into play, live in the residential areas. According to the Zimbabwe Electricity Supply Authority the suburbs of Harare, and other cities will face being without power from 9pm to 5pm the next day. - **GDN page 24, C 1 -**

Sun 13

Headline - *Anger over Zimbabwe's UN role* - as a countryman has been appointed chairman of the committee responsible for the environment. With the nomination of president Mugabe's minister of tourism and the environment F Nhema, and acceptance - because of 'buggins term' by the African continent - once again international criticism of Harare has been ignored. - **IOS page 6 C 3 -**

Mon 14

News item, Moves are afoot, by the members of the Senate of Edinburgh University, to remove the honorary degree awarded to Robert Mugabe back in the 1990's. A spokesman for the president said that 'he was not losing any sleep over the move. - **BBC Radio 2 15. 00 -**

Fri 18

Headline - *Pressure for Mugabe as inflation hits 3, 700%* - as the International Monetary Fund predicted the lesser rate of 3, 000% for this month. - **GDN page 32 C 5 -**

Sun 27

Headline - *Police arrest opposition activists* - during a demonstration in Harare. The protest outside the Movement for Democracy headquarters building resulted in 200 detentions by the police. A party spokesman said that the police had no valid search warrants, nor was a reason offered for the raid. - **IOS page 27 C 3**

Mon 28

Headline - *Mugabe ready to seize foreign companies* - with the first to be those from countries of with an imperialist past. Thus the future ownership of, for example British American Tobacco or Rio Tinto Zinc, are at stake. Other targeted foreign holdings under threat include Standard Chartered and Barclays Banks and the multinational company Anglo American.

If, as seems likely, these proposals are passed through parliament - which opens its next session on 1/7 - the rule will be that 51% of a company's shares will have to be handed over to black Zimbabweans. In the opinion of the business community this will mean that loyal supporters of the Mugabe regime will be awarded this controlling interest in the company, thus strengthening the Zanu party's influence in Zimbabwe but causing great economic damage to its people . - **GDN page 21 C 1 -**

JUNE

Sun 3

Headline - *Revealed: how leaders' broken vows doom Aids babies* - says the charity Action Aid. According to their figures there is a £5bn/\$10bn funding gap in promises after the 2006 G8 summit to what has been spent in the concerned countries.

In the case of Zimbabwe this has led to the authorities in Harare being able to allocate only 8.9% of its GDP being spent on the health budget. - **IOS page 22 -**

Thurs 7

Headline - *Edinburgh leads moves to axe Mugabe honours* - in this case awarded in 1984 for "his services to education in Africa."

In America, the Universities of Massachusetts [UMass] and Michigan State are considering revoking academic awards bestowed on Mugabe in the past. In the case of UMass the honorary law degree from 10/86 is likely to be taken away. This follows a recent meeting of its board of student and academic affairs. There is also a good chance that the authorities of Michigan State University will remove the 1984 and 1990 legal degrees from the president. **GDN page 21 C 1**

Tues 19

Headline - *Talks begin on Zimbabwe crisis* - forty eight hours ago in the South African capital. Representing the Mugabe regime : justice minister P Chimasa and the labour and social welfare minister N Goche. Facing them across the table in Pretoria were T Biti and W Ncube as representatives of the factionally divided Movement for Democratic Change.

Speaking on Zimbabwe's controlled state radio G Sibotshiwe, South African based representative for the MDC, would only confirm that the two sides were talking. The media black out was called for by the host nation and respected by them.

Economic notes Inflation: 3, 714% say the United Nations. - **GDN page 24, C 4** -

Thurs 21

Leader Comment, **Still looking for a saviour**, with the announcement of the Pretoria talks between the MDC and the Mugabe regime (qv 19/6) have been well within the South Africans policy of “quiet diplomacy” so favoured by president Mbeki.

With the well documented evidence, within these diary pages, of the collapse of the Zimbabwe economy and the rule of law and order, north of the River Limpopo there “good reason for scepticism that a breakthrough will be achieved.

The fact that these talks are not purely about setting conditions for the coming 2008 election are a hint that they will succeed. The purpose of these talks is to establish a “constitutional change and elections held in the full glare of international scrutiny”. To achieve such a diplomatic breakthrough, without the use of Britain’s “megaphone diplomacy” or measures that would see thousands more Zimbabweans cross its southern border as refugees, “not only would Mr Mbeki be vindicated, but South Africa would truly show its leadership. - **GDN page 36** -

Fri 22

Headline - ***US predicts regime change ... as hyper inflation destroys the economy*** - to such an extent that the unofficial exchange rate has tumbled twice in the last seven days. As of now the rate is: Z\$ 300, 000 : \$1USA whereas within the last 7 days £1 would have purchased Z\$ 400, 000. The set exchange rate is Z\$250:1\$US. Predictions, for end of year inflation, have been put at 1.5m% by the US ambassador, who leaves his post after a three year stint in Harare.

To combat this rampant inflation, that can see prices rise twice a day, many of the remaining workers - some 25% of the population have left the country - rely on the barter system to survive from day to day. - **GDN page 17 C 1** -

JULY

Mon 2

Headline - ***Mugabe invited to Lisbon summit despite ban*** - under threat of boycott from members of the African Union. As Portugal takes over the rolling presidency of the European Union, with its sixth monthly priority focused on Africa once again the president of Zimbabwe will be able to flout the Europe wide travel ban imposed on him in times past.

Due in the Portuguese capital for 2 days in 12/07 are the 53 delegations from the AU and those from Europe who do not stay away because of the presence of Mugabe.

Responding to the hyper inflation that is affecting Zimbabwe (qv 19/6) the government has set a specialised unit to try and stamp over charging. Made up of police, special branch, army and trades ministry officials. Since becoming active 20 business executives, including a senator from Zanu PF, have been arrested. - **GDN page 18 C 1** -

Thurs 5

Headline - *Shops emptied as panic grips Zimbabwe* - due to the hyper inflation raging in the country and the greed of shop owners. Since government action was announced (qv 2/7) 200 retailers have been charged by the police with overcharging.

Throughout the major cities shelves are being cleared of food, even at these inflated prices, in fear that to delay will see a second price rise. One example of overcharging has seen a retailer ordered to reduce, from Z\$15m to Z\$150, 000, the price he was charging for a bag of cement.

Speaking to the state owned Herald newspaper the president has said “this nonsense of price escalations must come to an end.” There was a further warning for business, they should not try and undermine the government, or “we will nationalise them if they continue with their dirty tricks.” - **GDN page 16 C1** -

Mon

Headline - *Plan for Zimbabwe to join S African rand* - to solve its economic/ inflationary crisis. Instigated by the South African Development Community it is seen that the buying power of the Zimbabwe dollar will be linked to the buying power of the Rand. For this to happen there must be commitment from the Mugabe government for political reform.

If there was this monetary union it would not just be a bilateral agreement. It would seem that the currencies of Namibia, Lesotho and Swaziland are all linked in this way.

As to action by the Mugabe government to stop manufacturers and retailers profiting from the economic crisis (qv 5/7) 33 business leaders have been arrested and within the last 48 hours 40 market vendors have been detained for hoarding goods. - **GDN page 18 C 3** -

Mon 16

Headline - *Mugabe's price cuts bring cheap TV's today, new crisis tomorrow* - To combat these moves, allegedly the rising inflation is a move to herald the fall of the current regime, Zanu - PF party loyalists will be appointed to run companies that continue increase prices for goods. Observers point out that moves such as this will mean creeping state ownership of the means of production will be seen.

The official exchange rate: Z\$250 = 1US\$, whilst on the ‘black market’ **June** Z\$ 400, 000: 1US\$. In **July** Z\$130, 000: 1US\$. - **GDN page 21 C1** -

Tues 17

Headline - *Mr Njini lived to 45. He was an old man* - and his age at death is an indication of the devastating policies of the Mugabe regime. So serious are the numbers of deaths, in one cemetery in Zimbabwe's second city of Bulawayo, that the council here is proposing two burials per grave. A second more radical move would see the introduction of cremation, something not practised

here. - **GDN page 1 C 5** -

Headline - *Zimbabwe's archbishop accused of adultery* - if the state owned television company is to be believed. In court papers served on Pius Ncube the head of the Roman Catholic Church in the country - in the presence of a media scrum - an aggrieved husband has demanded Z\$20bn/£80,000 from the man he accuses of sleeping with his wife.

Although the allegations have not been denied by the cleric he, and his supporters, claim that the presence of the cameras of the Zimbabwe Broadcasting Company such a high profile publicity are all part of a campaign to discredit a well known opponent of the current regime. - **ditto page 14, C 3** -

Sat 23

Headline - *How secret camera in archbishop's 'love nest' silenced vocal Mugabe critic* - in a way not unlike the 'sting' operation on M Tsvangirwa, the leader of the Movement for Democratic Change, had to endure during his treason trial two years ago.

The concealed camera, placed by an acknowledged former member of the Central Intelligence Organisation [CIO] purports to show Archbishop Ncube (qv 17/7) in a compromising position with a number of women.

The aggrieved husband, O Sibanda, hired the former CIO operative E Tekere to check on his wife, even though later evidence shows that he was estranged from her. The archbishop, who had faded from the spotlight, is still supported by the Solidarity Peace Trust is pressing for political change "regardless of the truth or falsity," of the allegations. - **GDN page 28 C 1** -

Cartoon - the view, from J Shapiro of South Africa's Mail and Guardian of the benefit of Mugabe to Zimbabwe's economy. - **ditto page 37 C 1**-

Leader Comment, **Wounding cuts**, are those being forced on the countries shopkeepers in an effort to stabilise the crumbling economy.

"There are no clear answers . Even if Zanu - PF becomes a military regime, it will not be able to feed the people. The last thing South Africa needs is millions of starving refugees, and there will be more as basic food runs out" fleeing across the border. In all probability the country is, according to the American ambassador to Harare is 'committing regime change on itself.' It is felt that "Zimbabwe may have further to fall before it finally slams into the ground. - **ditto page 38 C 1** -

Wed 25

Headline - *Mugabe wants power to name successor* - as well as other changes in the law. Opening parliament in Harare. If he gets parliamentary approval, and he must as Zanu has the largest number of seats, the president wants to be able to appoint his own replacement without an election.

A second piece of controversial legislation would allow for the combining of parliamentary and presidential elections. Attached to this new power would be one to allow a resigned, in mid term, president to be replaced by a simple vote in parliament rather than a new election. - **GDN page**

17 C 1 -

Thurs 26

News item, a 'spur of the moment' demonstration, through the streets of Harare, has ended in accusations of police violence. Filmed in a holding area injured participants recounted there stories. - ITN 18. 30.

Fri 27

Headline - *Editor of Zimbabwean news service is shot* - as he returns to his Johannesburg home. The former managing editor of the Daily News, an 'opposition' newspaper closed down in 2003, and now the editor of ZimOnline was ambushed by three assailants outside his home since he fled south.

To all intents and purposes the bullet, that has lodged near his heart - after passing through a lung was intended to kill one who is seen as an ongoing critic of the Mugabe regime. - GDN page 24 C 5 -

Sat 28

Headline - *The Battered Dream* - that is Morgan Tsvangaria's of leading a truly democratic Zimbabwe. On a visit to London TUC headquarters he was able to give an account of his recent arrest and beating before a Harare protest by the opposition Movement for Democratic Change party (qv 11/3).

... "As he drew near Tsvangaria heard that members of the MDC's leadership had been arrested so he called at the police station to investigate. Somebody said 'you are wanted outside.' I went out as soon as he saw me [a policeman] said 'were have you been.' 'Why are people beating the police?' I said. 'Which people.' He said. 'Lie down!' So I lay down and 15 people came and beat me all over. I went out.... " - GDN Weekend page 29 -

AUGUST

Wed 1

Headline - *Z\$200, 000 banknote issued to fight inflation* - that, says the International Monetary Fund, will reach 100, 000% by 12/07. Meanwhile this new note the new note is worth US\$1 on the black market and about \$13 at the official rate. - GDN page 22 C 11-

Mon 6

Headline - *Shoppers surge out of Zimbabwe* - and into the nearest cross border town. The numbers, anything from 60 to 1, 000 a day who wind up in the Zambian town of Livingstone are causing massive headaches for that countries immigration department in what is already a tourist hot spot because of its proximity to Victoria Falls.

The cross border shoppers come, not to sightsee, but rather to fill up with bread, maize meal and

milk which are hard to find in Zimbabwe. Commenting of the influx a member of the immigration department said that, in times such as these, there is the security situation to consider. There is a similar influx of the hungry in border towns of Botswana and South Africa. - **GDN page 20 C 4**

Mon 13

Headline - ***South Africa blames UK for Zimbabwe crisis*** - which echoes the claims of president Mugabe. Among the contents of the report, which is only a draft of Pretoria's response to go before the SADC, are claims that negotiations between Zanu and the MDC are gathering pace. The reality of the situation, in reality, is that the two cabinet ministers delegated, Goche and Chinamassa have only travelled to meet the two members of the Movement for Democratic Change within the last seven days. - **GDN page 16 C 4** -

Fri 17

Headline - ***Zimbabwe rejects calls for change at summit*** - as the 14 nation Southern African Corporation meet in the Zambian capitol of Lusaka. As head of the Zimbabwean delegation,, which included the countries justice minister, Mr Mugabe was given a thunderous reception as he arrived. As to any political changes the justice minister, P Chinamasa, declared that there were non needed because "we are a democracy like any other democracy." As for the opposition political parties "they are only interested in getting into power through unconstitutional means.

With Zimbabwe at the top of the agenda the movements executive secretary said that there was one of three options, hard line, quiet diplomacy or a 'different method,'for the all Africa movement to consider. - **GDN page 25 C 1** -

Sun 26

Headline - ***British population abroad*** - According to the mid year figures for 2006, from the Office of National Statistics in London, the number of whites living in Zimbabwe is 6, 100. - **IOS graphic page 34** -

September

Sat 1

Headline - ***Mugabe bans pay rises to combat 7, 600% inflation*** - Companies that break the law can be fined and their staff jailed for six months. The presidential powers act gives Mr Mugabe the right to approve all salary and price rises.

The government has ordered all prices to revert to 18/6 levels in an attempt to stem inflation. More than 7, 500 business people have been arrested and fined for breaching price controls which sparked panic buying.. - **GDN page 25 C 1** -

Thurs 6

Headline - *Zimbabwe's food crisis deepens as leading bakery forced to close* - forcing the closure of Bulawayo's Lobels Bread production plant. This is the second time that this facility has been affected in recent months. In 5/07 the company reduced the number of loaves produced daily from 200, 000 to its current 40, 000 because of the difficulty of obtaining the wheat grain needed. This move comes after the recent government admission that it was not able to fund the purchase of grain from Mozambique.

At this time there is no comment from the states Grain Marketing Board. However the spokesman for the UN's World Food Programme indicated that it wanted the international community to fund a £50m distribution of 300, 000 metric tonnes to the south of the country. An initial success as seen 60% of this target achieved. The largest donation, so far, £1.7m/\$3.5m, from the Canadian embassy in Harare. - **GDN page 31 C 4** -

Sun 9

As the Lobels production plant in Bulawayo is forced to close (qv 6/9) it can be said that the price of a loaf on the supermarket shelf is £59. 50/ Z\$30, 00 in local currency. The production cost, of said loaf, is Z\$55, 561. - **IOS page 35, C 4** -

Wed 12

Headline - *Pope lets critic of Mugabe quit after sex video* - it has just come to public notice that at the time of the sting perpetrated against Archbishop Ncube (qv 17/7) that the head of the Roman Catholic Church offered his resignation to Pope Benedict in Rome.

Despite his leaving the church this former cleric has state that he will still maintain his campaign of being outspoken about the ruling Mugabe regime. He is also determined to defend himself against a lawsuit brought by the husband of the woman featured in film clip who is demanding £80, 000/Z\$20, 000in compensation. - **GDN page 25 C 5** -

Sun 16

Radio report - Doctor John Sentemu, Archbishop of York, has called on the international community to impose sanctions against Zimbabwe. Further, he has called for the number of staff at the British embassy in Harare be cut as he believes that staff members could be assisting 'notable Zimbabweans' to receive luxury goods. - **Radio 2 15. 00** -

Mon 17

News item - under cover trip across the border, from South Africa, investigating how Mugabe keeps his grip on the country. Principally it is through fear, of being beaten, torture or becoming one of the 'disappeared,' at the hands of the 'Green Bombers' members of the youth wing of Zanu PF. Also interviewed was the Archbishop of York (qv 16/9) - **ITN 18. 30** -

Tues 17

News item - ditto report from Zimbabwe, this time concentrating of the numbers, and how young and old people risk their lives to flee across the countries southern border. To do this they have

to, when the R Limpopo is in full flow swim through the crocodile infested river.

To aid their passage, and arrange onward transport to a city - usually Johannesburg - they employ a guide at a cost of £5. By the reports own admission he can earn up to £10, 000 per year. According to the named individual 'its not for the money' rather its to help. Also interview was former Archbishop Tutu who made a plea for the international world to come to the rescue of Zimbabwe, much as J Sentemu has (qv 16/9). - **ITN 18. 30**

Wed 19

Headline - ***Change to constitution could let Mugabe pick successor*** - is the turn round policy of the Movement of Democratic Change (qv 25/7) as the president had agreed to abolish his power to appoint unelected members to the lower house of parliament. Also, the MDC thought that with this move there would lead to wider constitutional reform which could ease Mugabe from power.

A report from the International Crisis Group [ICG] warns of a 'complete collapse in Zimbabwe'. This could lead to regional destabilisation. It called on the SADC to do more and put pressure on the president to step down. As an incentive, the report says, he should be allowed to keep his wealth and be able to 'just walk away.' There would have to be a guarantee of immunity from prosecution for notables in the remaining Zanu PF members.

Constitutional changes would see parliament realign the parliamentary constituencies, in favour of the ruling party, something that the ICS says is not justified on the grounds that there is no grown in voter numbers.

News item - ditto report from Zimbabwe, The city of Bulawayo, where the opposition Movement for Democratic Change has its strongest support, faces the full wrath of the government regime and of this time an outbreak of cholera. With 2 of the 3 cities reservoirs empty and the third only 18% full residents are having to utilise any water source they can. In most cases this means collecting water from open ditches or freshly dug wells - all that are not fit for the purpose. Thus making the conditions for water borne disease to spread, and kill, opponents of the president.

On camera was a notable representative of the European Union and the American state department. The European admitted that 'sanctions had not worked'. The USA's spokesman prevaricated in his answer when asked whether it was time for 'intervention' in Zimbabwe to topple Mugabe.

There was also a warning from M Tsvangaria, leader of the MDC, that if there were not changes to the constitution - remembering that the interview was filmed - his party would boycott the 2008 elections. - **ITN 18. 30** -

Thurs 20

Headline - ***Brown to boycott the EU summit over invitation to Mugabe*** - The meeting, first announced on 2/7, is a joint meeting with the African Union where the presence of the Zimbabwean leader will undermine - and dominate - the works of the joint group.

Writing in an alternative media source the prime minister Brown reiterated tat Mugabe's attendance would 'divert attention away from the important issues that need to be resolved. There

was some good news for those suffering - his government would provide an extra £8m, for famine relief, through the UN's World Food Programme. - **GDN page 6 C 1** -

News item - ditto report from Zimbabwe/SA border - linked interview with Britain's prime minister who confirms that he will not attend EU summit in Lisbon if Mugabe is there.

Inside the countries shops to see them virtually empty of necessitates such as bread and milk. Interview with named black marketeer who exchanges, for the camera, one US\$50 for a bundles of Zimbabwe notes, that by next week you would need twice as many for the same US currency. **ITN 18. 30**

Fri 21

Headline - ***Brown warns of new Mugabe sanctions*** - if the prime minister does, in fact, go to Portugal for EU/AU summit. The type of sanctions envisaged is an increase in the number, now standing at 130, of members of Zanu PF who are restricted in their travel outside the country.

In its defence Portuguese official say that Mugabe has not actually been invited to the 12/07 meeting yet. In London an official indicated that if Zimbabwe was represented by a Mugabe stand in then the prime minister may reconsider his stance. - **GDN page 24 C 1** -

Sun 23

Headline - ***Stray giraffe saved from hungry crowd in Harare*** - as the animal wandered close to their homes. According to the Herald newspaper the animal was saved from the hungry mob who were about to 'kill it for the pot' by police and wild life experts. - **IOS page 7 C 5** -

Wed 26

News item - from New York as the members of the United Nations general assembly gather for their heads of government annual meeting. Once again president Mugabe defies sanctions and attends.

Ambushed, as he arrived by media interviewer, he was asked to give a direct quote to camera he refused. As an add on the interviewer let it be known that there was a harsh exchange of views between the Zimbabwe leader and the secretary general in the UN. - **ITN 18. 30** -

Thurs 27

Letters, **B Hartley Leeds** - seeing that the majority of the people are starving, and under the thumb of a virtual dictator there should be immediate military action by the international community. Is the fact that the country has no oil the deciding point as to Zimbabwe being left alone?

[2] **O Twist, Whinmoor Leeds** - this city, home to many black Zimbabwean exiles, is now home to another - albeit a privileged white - who is the daughter of a millionaire who seems to be nothing to try and dispose of a man "who is willing to bring the country to disaster for the sake of

being all powerful.” Is it the case that, with the possibility that I might become related to the British royal family, daughter is the girlfriend of a royal prince, then everything is alright. **YEP page 10 -**

Fri 28

Headline - *Zimbabwe MPs back takeover of white firms* - as they begin to debate the indigenisation and economic empowerment bill. Such was the disgust of the opposition MDC members at such proposals, that white owned businesses would have to hand over 51% control to the black population, they walked out.

The white owner of an engineering firm likened the take over to that of the seizure of white owned farms in 2000. Back in parliament it was stated that whites, who were disadvantaged by the colonial system before 1980, those now deemed indigenous Zimbabweans would be allowed to keep their business. - **GDN page 25 C 5 -**

Sat 29

Headline - *Township trading in Zimbabwe* - is rife if the activities of entrepreneurial skills shown in Chinotimba are anything to go by. Close to the town of Victoria Falls, on the border with Zambia any number of residents have turned rooms in their homes into trading places.

Despite the 2/7 ruling from the government, where prices in the shops were frozen, profits are still being made. It is estimated that the value of the dollar falls 11% every day. With neighbour versus neighbour competing for foreign currency the battle for survival is ongoing.

Evidence from resident Nomosa a 35 year old widow who sold vegetables from her front room gives an example “My neighbour was selling cabbage for Z\$800, 000. She bought them for Z\$50, 000 before the police came to call. Now they are sold at the controlled price of Z\$30, 000”. Nomosa asks “how can we operate in this environment. This situation cannot keep dragging on for ever. I hope this is it - the beginning of the end”. - **Big Issue page 5 -**

OCTOBER

Tues 2

Headline - *Bakeries close their doors as collapse in wheat production adds to crisis* - as being able to find the essential of life becomes harder and harder for the people. Such is the problem that finding a supply of cigarettes is harder to find than that of marijuana.

The governments difficulties are compounded because of finding adequate foreign currency to pay for imported maize. There were plans to import 100, 000 tonnes of the grain through Mozambique, 35, 000 tonnes of which are being held in the port because there is no foreign currency to pay for its movement inland.

Even if the grain could be brought across the border there would be a shortage of power to grind to flour of turn into bread. As of this time electricity supplies between the two countries have been stopped as there is an unpaid bill of £17. 1m/\$35m owed to Mozambique.

The authorities in Harare have estimated that the wheat harvest will be 145, 000 tonnes short of expectations. Critics of the government have put this down to the fact that successful white farms were placed in the hands of inexperienced black farmers over the last few years. - **GDN page 25 C 1 -**

Headline - ***Calls for a palace coup rise from the abyss*** - as the International Crisis Group (qv 19/9) heads faster and faster towards “complete collapse” the rise of internal opposition to Mugabe remaining head of the government becomes more likely.

A scenario, played out by both the SADC and internal - though unnamed party members - would involve complete disregard by Mugabe of all approaches by these bodies, refusal of the Zanu central committee to endorse in 12/07 his stance in the 2008 elections would see condition favourable for a coup. - **ditto -**

Wed 3

Headline - ***Brown loses fight to bar Mugabe from summit*** - even though he has not had an official invitation to the 12/07 EU/AU meeting in Lisbon. Another suggestion, from the British prime minister, a proposal that a special envoy from the European Union be appointed to report on the crisis in Zimbabwe, also received little encouragement from European officials.

As to whether Britain would be represented - a priministerial stay away was supported by the Conservatives - government officials in London were still undecided. One of the main reasons that Europe was willing to invite Mugabe, thereby ignoring their travel ban, was the influence on the African continent that the Chinese were bringing to bear.- **GDN page 24 C 1 -**

Cartoon - an illustration of the presumed respect Mugabe, and by implication the African continent, has for the authority of the European Union. **ditto page 33 -**

Wed 10

Headline - ***Terror charges against opposition dropped*** - following, in the authors understanding, the 18/3 Harare demonstration. The 22 activists, who had been charged with taking part in terrorism training and attempted murder had the indictments withdrawn because of lack of evidence or so the defence layers claimed. - **GDN page 19 C 1 -**

Thurs 18

Headline - ***Pressure on Mugabe as inflation nears 8, 000%*** - as economic indices from the Central Statistic Office show. Inflation, in 9/07 was 7982.1%. In the preceding month, 8/07, the year on year rate was 6, 592.8%. - **GDN page 22 C 3 -**

Mon 29

Headline - ***Last BA flight from a grounded economy*** - for the second time in its 75 year history those who can afford to travel have one less airline to use. For the second time in its history, the first when former president Ian Smith declared UDI in 1965, there will be no British representatives flying from Harare to London.

The chief reasoning behind the move is the supply of fuel at the airport and the difficulty of road tankering it in from South Africa. Passengers on the last flight, C Msapa - Zanu PF member son of the governor of the Midlands region - would the reliability of the flight. A second passenger, Anne would the supply of toilet paper - hard to get in the shops - that the plane was supplied with.

With only Air Zimbabwe now the only direct flight to London, with the price of an economy class seat costs £7, 500 at the government exchange rate. A 'black market' ticket will cost £225, which is still twice the cost of a British Airways ticket and has to be paid in US\$'s. - **GDN page 1 C 5 -**

NOVEMBER

Wed 21

Headline - *Ian Smith, ex - PM of Rhodesia, dies at 88* - after a long illness whilst living in a retirement home in Cape Town South Africa. As head of the newly formed Rhodesian Front, in 1962, it was he and he alone that forced through a Unilateral Declaration Of Independence [UDI] on 11. 11. 65. This, illegal step as the British saw it, was to further prevent outbreaks of black majority rule throughout the African continent. - **GDN page 20 C 2, Obituary page 38 -**

Thurs 22

Headline - *authors own - Even in death former PM has support* - "Against the background of the ongoing crisis in Zimbabwe all papers sought the most thoughtful way to report the death of Ian Smith, the man who fought so strongly to prevent black rule, 'Rhodesian PM Smith dies at 88', said the Sun. 'Ian Smith, scourge of Britain and Mugabe', dies at 88, said the Telegraph.'Rhodesias last white leader dies', reported the Times. Only the Daily Mail would think to headline its story 'Good Old Smithy'. Good old Daily Mail. - **Diary, GDN page 35 C 4 -**

Fri 23

Headline - *Ian Smith's policies led to 50, 000 deaths. He was worse than Mugabe* - says one who was living there at the time of the civil war. Although they were living in the white ruled 'independent ' Rhodesia there were still aspects of white control which left them, not as Mugabe does 'as human beings. - **K Chitoiyo, now head of the African programme at the Royal United Service Institute London, and former co - director of the Centre of Defence Studies at the University of Zimbabwe, GDN page 39 C 2 -**

Sun 25

Headline - *Voices from a basket case* - via illegal blogs. - **IOS page 67 -**

Wed 28

Headline - *EU scrambles to control Mugabe after he confirms a summer visit* - after the Portuguese confirm they will issue him with a with a visa to attend the 12/07 African Union/European Union Lisbon conference. As already announced (qv 3/10) the British prime

minister confirms he will not attend. It is thought that London's Africa minister M M Brown will be his replacement.

Another likely move, by the European Union, is to appoint an special envoy for the troubled Zimbabwe. The appointee, J Solana, will not win the approval of president Mbeki. It is well known that much of Africa believes that the Mugabe problem is a problem that only Africa can solve. - **GDN page 21 C 1** -

Thurs 29

Headline - *Lady Amos to attend boycotted Africa summit* - and not, as previously stated M M Brown (qv 28/11). - **GDN page 9 C 5** -

DECEMBER

Tues 4

Headline - *State airline doubles fares and bar price soar* - bringing the cost of a round trip to London to Z\$804m, about£193/\$400. At the same time there was a doubling of restaurant and bar prices from 1/12.

Inflation rate, for 10/07, was stated to be near 8, 000%. A more accurate figure is not now possible because there are too few items in the shops to make such an assesment - see **GDN 1/12 page 2** -

The International Monetary Fund estimate that, by the end of 2007 the Zimbabwean inflation rate will have reached 10, 000%. - **GDN page 12 C 4** -

Wed 5

Headline - *Mugabe says 'sinister campaign' to isolate Zimbabwe is failing* - as he acknowledges the support he has received from the heads of government who will attend the EU/AU summit in Portugal.

Speaking to the nation, through his annual address, he said though the country faced chronic shortages of basic fuels the predicted economic collapse had not happened. - **GDN page 22 C 4** -

Fri 7

Headline - *10 - cent business cards jail threat* - such is the contempt felt, by Dennis Paul 41, who used said note with his contact details on. Attending the World Tourism Market fair, in London and observed by fellow delegates defacing the 2006 introduced note, he was reported to the authorities in Harare.

Questioned by officials from the Zimbabwe Tourism Authority for the crime of stamping his phone number on the notes, that have now seemingly disappeared from circulation because of the countries hyper inflation, he apologised and said the incident occurred because he was not thinking. "It was not my intention to demonise the country and I gave them only to people I knew. - **GDN page 25 C 4** -

Headline - *A guest who will make the most of the conference* - is president Mugabe and his attendance in Lisbon at the EU/AU gathering. With the stated 'stay away' intentions of prime minister Brown (qv 29/11) there was implied criticism of this move by J M Barroso, EU commissioner, who said that a head of government should be able to reconcile attendances of 'undesirables' to the good that the agreements made at these conferences made. - **ditto page 31 C 2** -

Sun 9

Headline - *Merkel to Mugabe: you're damaging Africa's image* - the thoughts of the German chancellor as the two heads of government gather at the joint European and African Union summit in Lisbon. - **IOS page 18 C 1**-

News item - Appearing on BBC1's Andrew Marr programme the Archbishop of York made a dramatic gesture as to his feelings about human conditions inside a Mugabe led Zimbabwe. With the snip snip of a pair of scissors his clerical dog collar was left in pieces.

In an explanation Dr J Sentamu indicated that by removing - as he said - his 'identity' as an Anglican minister he was showing solidarity with the people of Zimbabwe, who under Mugabe had lost their identity also. The archbishop also indicated that he would go collarless until "Mugabe had gone." - **ITN 18. 30** -

Mon 10

Headline - *Labour's Lisbon pain* - is the on going confrontation of the Party's naivety in its dealing with Mugabe. In the writers opinion there are three fundamental misunderstandings that this current government makes when dealing with the continent.

[1] There is a historical link between Labour and, the struggle for freedom of the masses from the former colonial white rulers. Today, while black African leaders privately say that Mugabe is in the wrong, in public they say the opposite. There is nothing like making the 'boss class' feel embarrassed.

[2] Labour, strong supporters of the need for black Africans to rule a black continent, have no real understanding of the politics of the left leaning black politician. While the 'left wing politician' in Britain is a radical in Africa he would be different. On the African continent he would be a social conservative, with a high respect for formality and show deference to those who hold alternate views.

[3] The continental priorities of the two left leaning political groups are not the same. Although there is some agreements, like democracy, between the two groups. African politicians look to their short term aims of political power, while here in the UK ministers still think in continental and humanitarian and development terms. - **T Cargill, manager of the Africa programme Royal Institute of International Affairs GDN page 27 C 5** -

Wed 12

Letter, **J Selby Mickley Street, Leeds** Questions lower themselves, and the African nations, who

are in attendance at the EU/ AU summit in Lisbon, invite the loathsome Robert Mugabe to join them.

The writer offers strong support for the actions of prime minister Brown along with those of the Archbishop of York (qv) and the comments of the German chancellor (qv 9/12). **YEP page 11 C 1 -**

Fri 14

Headline - *Zanu PF endorse Mugabe as presidential candidate* - despite the ongoing rumours of internal dissent and the possibility of a challenger for his position in 2008.

Delegates at the annual congress described him as a distinguished revolutionary who had defended the rights of Zimbabweans and all Africans. Mugabe who had denied rigging the past three elections is thought almost certain to win the coming election, as the opposition is weakened by internal division and government crack-down. - **GDN page 29 C 1 -**

Sat 15

Headline - *Hot spots - the carbon atlas* - says of Zimbabwe that each person causes emissions of 0. 97 tons of carbon dioxide and each year, 1995 - 2005, the country produced 11. 78m tons during the decade. This places Zimbabwe in 95th place in the United Nations ranking of 214 nations.

In comparison the UK's carbon dioxide out put per person is 9.55 tons/pp 577. 17m during the decade mentioned. This places the UK as the 8th worst in the world ranking. In 2005 the average production/per world citizen was 4.7 tons. - *graphic* **GDN page 26 -**

Sat 22

Headline - *authors own photographic adventures* - following a lead in the Yorkshire Evening Post from 21/12, about unsolicited 'graffiti' your diarist went to investigate. On the protective fencing around the building site - adjacent to 29 Wellington St in the centre of Leeds - there is a depiction of what can be classed as support for the stance made by the Archbishop of York (qv 9/12).

In due course a reproduction of this image will appear within this 'script.