

## JANUARY 1985

### Thurs 24

Headline – ***Election Date*** – The Zimbabwe PM, Mr Mugabe, said yesterday that his first post Independence general election would be held in March, but did not name a precise date. - AP -

## FEBRUARY 1985

### Sat 2

Headline – ***Chief Suspended*** – The PM of Zimbabwe Mr Mugabe told parliament that his police chief,, Police Commissioner W Mozayi Ngurave, has been suspended from his post while a four man team investigates allegations of 'misconduct.' The nature of the allegations, or who has levelled them was not disclosed. - AP -

### Thurs 7

Headline – ***Poll Protest*** – The Zimbabwe senator Garfield Todd has called on Mr Mugabe to postpone the general election until late 1987 to allow political tensions to ease. No response from the government was received. A Meldrum GDN page 8 C 8 -

### Fri 8

Headline – ***Water to Spare*** – Lake Mcllwaine, the main reservoir for the Zimbabwe capital Harare has been spilling over for the first time in 3 years of drought. Rains began on time this year and most cities have lifted water restrictions. - ***Reuters*** -

## MARCH 1985

### Thurs 14

Headline - ***Mugabe Deports Britons*** – The Zimbabwe government plan to deport two South African exiles with British passports today according to diplomats in Harare. David Hewson and Darcy Dutoit were arrested last week with five black Zimbabweans for what the government suspected was subversive activity with the trade union movement. - A Meldrum GDN page 8 C 7 -

### Fri 15

Headline - ***Changing Names*** – Zimbabwe has renamed several buildings because of their colonial origin Information Minister Mr J Tiisimba announced yesterday. Mr Mugabe 's office in Harare, which used to be in Milton Building has been renamed Mhumummatopa after a traditional chief widely believed to have founded the first black nation there. - ***Reuters*** -

### Thurs 28

Headline ***Famine Over*** – Zimbabwe [and Kenya] has removed itself from the list of African countries needing emergency famine relief. The UN announced yesterday another eight countries

remain on the list of those seriously affected by drought. - AP -

## **APRIL 1985**

### **Mon 8**

Headline – ***Beaten to Death*** – The party of the PM, Mr Robert Mugabe, is investigating the death of a school pupil beaten to death for not attending ruling party meetings because he wanted to do his homework. - AP -

### **Fri 19**

Headline – ***April Deportations*** – Zimbabwe has deported two white South African political refugees whom it accuses of subversive activities, the Herald newspaper reported yesterday. It said David Hemson and Darcy Dutoit left Harare on Wednesday for London were members of a left wing labour organisation and had been planning strikes against the government. - AP -

## **MAY 1985**

### **Tues 7**

Headline – ***Axe Murderers*** – Zimbabwean dissidents, who raided a village in the Midlands province at the weekend, forced two members of the national youth brigade to hack to death with axes six colleagues working on development projects, police said in Harare. - ***Reuters*** -

## **JUNE 1985**

### **Wed 19**

Headline – ***Harare Violence*** – A Zimbabwe opposition candidate, Mr Oziah Muchuche, was injured and his home gutted by fire by rival political supporters near Harare on Monday night. It was the first serious political violence since campaigning began a week ago for elections on July 1 and 2. - ***Reuters*** -

### **Thurs 20**

Headline – ***Polling Veto*** – The Zimbabwe government has threatened to cancel polling in any constituency during the general election, beginning on June 27<sup>th</sup>, if it believes there is any intimidation or violence. Regulations empower President Canaan Banana to cancel elections if he felt they would not be free and fair. - ***Reuters*** -

### **Sat 22**

Headline - ***Amnesty*** – Zimbabwe will free nearly 3, 000 prisoners from jail under a clemency order marking the fifth anniversary of Independence which was signed by President Canaan Banana yesterday. - ***Reuters*** -

## JULY 1985

### Thurs 4

Headline – **Higher Turnout** – More than 70% of Zimbabwe 's 2.9m black electorate *had* voted by Noon yesterday, government officials said. Polling was heavy in farming area 's but slack in towns. Voting ends today. - **Reuters** -

### Mon 21

Headline – - **Witch Hunt** – Two Zimbabweans, suspected of sorcery, have died in a village witch hunt. A male witchdoctor and his two women assistants were hired to identify the witches. Witchdoctors are traditional healers while witches cast deadly spells, some villagers believe. **AP**

### Mon 29

Headline – **Zapu Pulls Out** – A opposition candidate to Zimbabwe 's parliament has pulled out of a bye election ensuring that the PM 's ruling party will win an extra seat. The opposition leader, Mr J Nkomo, *said* this weekend that Zapu had decided “not to contest the Northern Kariba seat for security reasons.” - **Reuters** -

## AUGUST 1985

### Thurs 1

Headline – **Editor Sacked** – Musarurwa editor of Zimbabwe 's best selling newspaper, The Sunday Mail, said yesterday that he had been dismissed with immediate effect from his job. One of Zimbabwe 's most respected journalists Mr Musarurwa – 57 – who has edited the newspaper since 1981, was regarded as a rare independent voice in the largely state controlled media. **Reuters**

### Thurs 29

Headline - **Zimbabwe Clampdown** – The new mayor of Zimbabwe 's second city of Bulawayo and one of his white Aldermen were detained in a continuing crackdown against supporters of the Opposition leader Joshua Nkomo a government spokesman said. Mr Nick Mabadoko and Alderman Michael Constandinos were helping police with *their* investigations. - **AP** -

### Fri 30

Headlines – **Harare Counters** – Zimbabwe is building a new radio transmitter to counter the rebel 'Radio Truth' which is broadcast from South Africa. The new transmitter, in the southern border town of Beit Bridge will beam propaganda in the Venda language. - **A Meldrum GDN page 7 C 2** -

## SEPTEMBER 1985

### Mon 30

Headline ***Mugabe 's Pledge*** The Zimbabwe PM, Mr R Mugabe, said yesterday that a successful merger between the ruling party and the main opposition party of Mr J Nkomo would not affect his governments socialist programmes. It was his first comment on the union talks which began last month and are expected to continue this week. - ***Reuters*** -

## OCTOBER 1985

### Thurs 3

Headline – ***Cuba Visit*** – The Zimbabwean PM Mr Robert Mugabe is due in Cuba on Monday for talks with President Fidel Castro foreign ministry sources said in Harare yesterday. - ***Reuters*** -

### Sat 5

Headline ***Officers Held*** – Five army officers, including three Brigadiers, have been detained in Harare on allegations of subversion in a continuing government crackdown against the opposition party of Mr J Nkomo. - ***AP*** -

### Thurs 10

Headline – ***Rambo Banned*** – Zimbabwe yesterday banned two American films, the gory Rambo First Blood and the comedy thriller Gotcha after protests by the East German and Soviet embassies cinema owners said. - ***AP*** -

### Fri 11

Headline – ***Head Killed*** – Zimbabwe rebels shot and killed a school headmistress and a villager near the central town of Gokwe on Sunday, police reported yesterday. The two were denounced by their killers as 'sell outs' for supporting Mr Mugabe 's ruling Zanu PF party. The rebels burnt the body of the school head and also set on fire 13 houses in Gokwe. - ***Reuters*** -

### Sat 12

Headline – ***South Africa Accused*** – The Zimbabwe government has accused SA of infiltrating rebels into the country to step up their activities if unity talks between the ruling Zanu PF and PF Zapu fail. The State Security Minister Mr Emerson Manoongai said he was aware of meetings between Zimbabwean opposition leaders and Pretoria. - ***Reuters*** -

### Mon 14

Headline - ***Smith Attacked*** – Zimbabwe 's white farmers joined in an attack yesterday on the former PM Mr Ian Smith for saying that most blacks in 'his' country are illiterate and ignorant about politics. Mr J Laire, President of the Commercial Farmers Union strongly condemned Mr Smith 's remarks made in a TV interview. - ***AP*** -

## **Tues 15**

Headline – ***Senate to Go*** – Zimbabwe is to abolish the 30 member Senate, an upper house of parliament that routinely opposes legislation passed by the National Assembly. The Speaker, Mr Didymus Mutasa, said in an interview published yesterday. The new House of Parliament, to be built on a hill overlooking Harare will not include room for the Senate. - AP -

## **Wed 23**

Headline – ***Village Burnings*** – Rebels burnt seven villagers to death in Southern Matebeleland province; bringing to ten the number of people murdered by insurgents this month, police in Harare said yesterday. - ***Reuters*** -

## **NOVEMBER 1985**

## **Wed 20**

Headline ***Torture Denied*** – Zimbabwe has rejected *Amnesty International* 's charges of increased detention and torture of suspected opponents, the embassy said in London. The Home Affairs Minister Mr Enos Nkala met on Monday with Amnesty officials and said its report contains sweeping and false allegations. - ***Reuters*** -

## **Sat 23**

Headline – ***Press Law*** – Zimbabwe 's lower house of parliament has approved a censorship law allowing government connected organisations to bar press coverage of its proceedings. Violation of the law carries a maximum sentence of five years in jail. - AP -

## **Thurs 28**

Headline – ***Mugabe 's Visit*** – The Zimbabwe PM, Mr Robert Mugabe will leave on Sunday for his first official visit to the Soviet Union since Zimbabwe 's independence in 1980. During the guerilla war against white rule in Rhodesia Moscow backed Mr Mugabe 'd rival Joshua Nkomo. ***Reuters-***

## **DECEMBER 1985**

## **Fri 6**

Headline - ***Apologies from Smith*** – The former Rhodesian PM Mr Ian Smith yesterday apologised to the black dominated Zimbabwe parliament for saying, during a trip abroad, that most Zimbabwe blacks were illiterate and ignorant about politics. - AP -

## **Sat 21**

Headline – ***Policeman held*** – Zimbabwe 's former police chief, Mr Wiridzayi Ngurwei, dismissed last week after being accused of corruption and trading in Mandrax tablets was arrested on criminal charges on Thursday night. - AP -

words written in *italics added by diarist*