

January 1983

Sun 2

Headline – ***Mugabe unyielding in petrol crisis*** – as the prime minister is of the opinion that the apartheid state is in fact responsible for the fuel shortage north of the Limpopo river. Despite the fact that there is a glut of petrol in South Africa the Pretoria government were themselves are behind the crisis up north. Their support for the pre 25/12 attack on the Beira to Umtali fuel pipe line by those opposed to the Maputo regime brought no heed of the consequences for the Zimbabwean people at this time.

While elements of the the Zimbabwe National Army have crossed into Mozambique to assist the government seek out the MNR rebels some petrol, shipped to the capital Maputo, does reach the beleaguered nation after it has been trucked across the border into the refinery.

Contact with South Africa is maintained through their trade mission office in Harare and the white businessmen who trade with the apartheid state. Pretoria still insist that any request for fuel, of which the country has in excess of its needs, must come from energy minister S Makoni; which will not happen as ordered under the presidential diktat of non cooperation with the regime down south on political or administrative issues at ministerial level. However at lower levels of the diplomatic hierarchy negotiations would have been possible. - **The Observer** -

Mon 3

Headline – ***Fuel crisis forces Zimbabwe to buy from South Africa*** – which would imply, that the ten day crisis that has brought to the nation the worst fuel crisis since 1980, has forced the hand of the prime minister to allow ministerial contact between the two countries. Minister Makoni and the apartheid state's counterpart minister P T C du Plessis met each other in Botswana recently where they both signed a contract that ensures that petrol and other fuel oils will begin arriving in Zimbabwe within the next seven days.

Headline – ***Gunmen kill nine in new violence in Matabeleland*** – and leaving 20 persons injured over the recent holiday period. Much of the violence occurred among the white farming communities that surround the nation's second city Bulawayo. As many as 2, 000 police / military personnel have been deployed to the east of the city in search of the dissident guerillas around the road that links the city to Victoria Falls. They are helped in the search by tracker dogs, patrol planes, helicopter gunships, armoured cars and other vehicles. - **The Guardian** -

Wed 5

Headline – ***Zimbabwe road closed*** – leading to the border crossing with South Africa. The reason; a police search for saboteurs who blew up for power carrying pylons 11 miles outside Harare which occurred on 3/1. Blamed on dissidents electricity was lost to the eastern highland city of Mutare / Umtali.

The road closure resulted in a vehicle log jam at the Beit Bridge border crossing over the River Limpopo as officials searched for those responsible. Other security issues; the continued search for dissidents in Matabeleland province where it is now known of the kidnap of student D Bilang aged 24 whose 71 year old grandfather was one of the 9 killed in the province recently. There are now 7, 000 security force people involved in the search.

Spreading the news of the good intentions towards the white farming community of the present government is to be undertaken by the agricultural minister, Dennis Norman and the president of the Commercial Farmer 's Union Jim Sinclair. The two will tour of Matabeleland with the message that the Harare authorities are doing all they can to detain the dissident guerillas that continue to roam the province targeting the white farming community. - **The Guardian** -

Sat 8

Headline – ***Nkomo wedding reception halted*** – that was to have taken place on Makwe Farm; one of the Zapu farms seized by the state after a weapons find and hence his sacking from he cabinet. The politicians daughter, Thandine, eventually married journalist J Ndhlove in a ceremony in Bulawayo.

The troubled former prime minister Ian Smith has accused the press of mounting campaign that amounts to character assassination of himself as he continues to criticises newspapers who who will not allow him the opportunity to counter the many allegations made against him within the pages of the nations written media. He specifically mentions the Herald 's which he says accuses him, through the pages of the USA 's Washington Post, that the international community should end all financial support to the Harare regime because the country is being moved towards a one party Marxist dictatorship.

Another colonial era remembrance; a plaque, a tribute to Pioneer Column that arrived from South Africa in 1890, to the spot from which Salisbury grew as the capital of the latest British colony in Africa. It is sighted inside the capitals railway station. However other plaques, that honour white pioneers that worked for the good of all races will remain in place noted the minister of information.

The fuel pipe line from Beira to Mutare has again been attacked and blown up, on 6/1, just at the time when Pretoria 's officials denied that there was any agreement to supply fuel / petrol to ease Zimbabwe 's shortages.

Headline – ***White farmers allowed arms*** – in the unrest region of Matabeleland in light of the recent upsurge in violence within the province. As of this date 11 whites have been killed over the last fourteen days. The agreement involves as many as 600 farmers being issued with automatic weapons. A number of farmers have added protective measures by employing security guards and forming their own search and security teams which respond to neighbours calls for assistance if under attack by dissidents.

All measures have been agreed after the farming community met with the president of the CFU and the minister of agricultural along with Rex Thonged commander in chief of the Zimbabwe National Army. - **The Guardian** -

Headline – ***Black Judge*** – *The Zimbabwe government has appointed its second black Zimbabwean high court judge the Department of Information. Mr Wilson Sandora, aged 42, who was Secretary for Justice was sworn in by President Canaan Banana during a ceremony yesterday.* - **Reuters** -

Mon 10

Headline – ***Five killed in rush to greet Zhao*** – Ziyang the Chinese prime minister as he arrives at Harare airport for a visit to the nation and, according to a spokesman “learn the experiences of the Zimbabwe people” of the recent past. It can be noted that the Beijing government were the principal backers of Zanu forces during the liberation war.

The fatalities occurred when a female contingent, of the 1, 000 strong crowd – bussed in from the city and its surrounding suburbs – surged forward as the prime ministers plane landed. Those that died were crushed, and trapped against the crowd barriers erected to stem such a happening. Those injured were taken to hospitals 20 miles away.

A foreign office minister from London, Cranly Onslow, has brought the wrath of the Harare 's Herald newspaper down on the Conservative minister over recent comments he made concerning the 1982 actions of the Pretoria government when it ordered its military to raid into Lesotho. Speaking to the British/Zimbabwe society in Harare the minister denied the apartheid states cross border raid was a mistake. Forty two people died during the actions.

Prime minister Mugabe claimed that two incursions, from across the nations southern border, have been thwarted by agents hostile to the black led government from Harare. He said “we have crushed and annihilated her agents” when speaking at a banquet in honour of his overseas visitor. - **The Guardian** -

Tues 11

Headline – ***Mugabe accuses US of blackmail*** – as he opens the African American Conference in Harare. In his view the belief of the American president, Ronald Regan, and his fellow members of the Western Contact Group, as well as Pretoria that Cuban troops must leave Namibia before the apartheid states considers its independence is miss guided.

At the same banquet, in honour of the Chinese visit, his host blasted the west over its concerns over human rights issues as being hypocritical when looking at Zimbabwe 's. From the 'first' world there was much concern shown over these rights from emerging nations. However, in the case of the recent South African raid into Maseru; the capital of Lesotho, there was little condemnation. - **The Guardian** -

Fri 14

China will provide Zimbabwe with a \$32m interest free loan.

Tues 18

Headline – ***Two Held*** – *The former Rhodesian Army Commander, Lieutenant General John Hickman, has been detained under the emergency regulations the Zimbabwe national news agency reported yesterday. A businessman, Peter Mr Donald was also reported to have been held but no details were available. Reuters* -

Wed 19

Headline – ***'Giggling' ministers accused of inaction during fuel crisis*** – as minister S Makoni deems the fuel shortage a 'national crisis.' The minister of energy faced the full wrath of MP 's as he made a statement to members of the house of assembly.

Questions, and accusations of who was to blame for the fuel shortages, shot across the floor of the parliament during the debate. Much of the blame was placed at the feet of the South African backed MNR rebels who oppose the Marxist government in Maputo.

Ruth Chinamono MP, a member of the Zapu, highlighted the actions of the government front bench as it seemed to her that much mirth was evident on the faces of the Zanu ministers on the front bench. “People are saying that the government is finished many might think this petrol shortage

is affecting only the whites who live in the suburbs. But it is the masses who are suffering and they can bring the government down.” - **The Guardian** -

Thurs 20

Headline – ***Pretoria is accused of backing violence in south Zimbabwe*** – according to the home affairs minister Herbert Ushewokunze. The minister was speaking in parliament where he warned the apartheid states leaders, who were known to be destabilising Angola, Mozambique and Namibia, that if it was correct that attempts to destabilise the province of Matabeleland was confirmed there would be consequences for the Botha regime. He urged the government to renew the state of emergency regulations for a further six months.

To combat the ongoing fuel crisis a Zimbabwe University employee has converted his petrol fuelled vehicle to run on cylinders of household gas. As of this time Jack White indicates that his Fiat can travel 14 miles per cylinder. - **The Guardian** -

Fri 21

Headline – ***Mutual benefit for club of nine*** – being the number of countries come together in the Southern African Development Coordination Conference [SADCC]. Three years after its formation still there are calls, in Zimbabwean newspapers on the one hand to cut imports of textiles from Botswana and on the other hand to increase exports to neighbouring SADCC member nations.

Other priorities, 3 years ago, were to improve the railway system throughout the region such that the reliance on the South African railway system diminished. Whereas in reality the hope of sending imports/exports through Beira and other Mozambique ports has been difficult as military actions by the South African backed MNR attempt to oust the Marxist government in Maputo.

Seen as success has been the bringing together of “nine diverse countries together and accomplishing more than anyone expected. This is all due largely to a wise early decision to concentrate on areas of obvious mutual benefit and to avoid contentious issues”. - **J Hanlon; The Guardian** -

Headline – ***Briton Stopped*** – *A Briton has been held for questioning by Zimbabwe police at Harare border after trying to cross into SA with arms and maps. Police said Mr Robert Palmer had been employed by Zimbabwe Posts and Telecommunications Corporation in Mutare.* **Reuters**

Headline - ***More Powers*** – *Zimbabwe 's Emergency Powers regulations, which give police sweeping powers to detain without trial, were extended yesterday for a further six months. The only opposition in the 110 seat assembly came from 6 members of the former Rhodesian leader Ian Smith 's white Republican Front.* - **Nick Worrel Harare** -

Sun 23

Headline ***British Jets for Zimbabwe*** – *Britain has approved the sale of fighter aircraft to Zimbabwe to replace some of those sabotaged last year and will help repair the others.*

The Zimbabwe Air Force, left in ruins when a series of explosions ripped through Thornhill base in July, is to receive 6 Hawk Hunters. Junior Foreign Office Minister Stanley Onslow confirmed the deal when he was in Harare recently.

His visit was overshadowed by speculation in London that military assistance to Zimbabwe was in

jeopardy because of the alleged ill treatment of Air force officers being detained in connection with the sabotage.

The British High Commissioner last week denied reports that Mrs Thatcher had vetoed the sale of four more advanced Hawk trainer fighters. Stephen Taylor OBS -

Wed 26

*Headline – **Stuftaford Resigns** – Mr Wally Stuftaford the white MP, acquitted of subversion charges last year, has resigned on health grounds parliamentary sources said yesterday.*

Meanwhile two white Zimbabwe special agents, Phillip Hartleburg and Colin Evens were cleared by the Zimbabwean High Court yesterday of spying for South Africa the national news agency Ziana reported.

Thurs 27

Headline – **Harare fuel crisis ends** – as the government not that there has been a significant improvement in petrol deliveries such that those supply points that have been closed during the eight weeks of shortage have now been told to reopen.

There is no indication, from the Harare authorities, as to why the supply situation has so suddenly improved. - **The Guardian page 8 C 1 -**

Fri 28

Headline – **Soldiers killed villagers, says MP** – Edward Ndlovu along with S Malunga; both men representing the Zapu Opposition. Speaking in parliament the Matabeleland representatives were promised a full inquiry by the defence minister Sidney Seceramayi. The only details revealed were that among the 14 dead were children. The security forces were still searching for dissident guerillas that have, in recent times, caused security issues in the province.

During the parliamentary report of the deaths other issues of security force issues were raised; the make up of those searching for the Nkomo supporting dissidents. Reports indicate that many of the searchers, while being from the ZNA are loyal to Zanu and the president. Other reports of wide spread mistreatment of villagers in the province by those searching for the ever growing of renegades who still see themselves above the law.

In an effort to seek out the dissidents on 25/1 a dawn to dusk curfew was imposed in Matabeleland province that covered 35, 000 sq km in the central and western region of the troubled province; the region where it is believed that the dissidents are most active. - **The Guardian page 8 C 1 -**

Sat 29

Headline **Nkomo's murder claim 'rubbish'** – the former cabinet claims that as many as 95 civilians, from Matabeleland, was the true number that had been killed by troops searching for dissidents in his home province. Also he said that they had been killed by members of the newly formed 5th Brigade which is trained and officered by troops from North Korea.

More shocking still was that Josiha Gumede, the countries first black president, was among the dead. However when media outlets contacted, via the phone, a named J Gumede they were told 'I am alive although later, it became known that among the dead were members of his family

Speaking to the press Nkomo highlighted claims that the killings were specifically targeted at his party supporters he quoted the experiences of one villager and his family members; Solomon Ndebele detailed how family members were executed in front of villagers by security force members. However local media reported that they had been killed in crossfire.

Despite the legal moves that freed by the high court in Harare of spying for South Africa (qv 26/1) P Hartenburg and C Evens were served with detention orders.

FEBRUARY 1983

Tues 1

*Headline – **Credit Deal** – Britain has signed a £20m mixed credit agreement with Zimbabwe yesterday which consists of a new loan of £15m and a £5m grant previously pledged. The British High Commission said the credit was for buying British goods. - Reuters -*

Wed 2

*Headline – **Mugabe troops leave trail of death** – as members of the 5th Brigade; wholly trained by members of the North Korean army and with a perceived political loyalty to Zapu first, continue the search for dissident guerillas roaming the Matabeleland province.*

Eye witness accounts, from accompanying media representatives, observe the funerals of those that died on 25/1 after bayonet wielding ZNA troops moved through such as Fingo a poor farming area 30 miles east of Bulawayo.

To heighten the tension there is said, by Joshua Nkomo and other officials of Zapu, that there is a death list, of thirty eight supporters of the sacked cabinet minister, who are high on the seek and detain list of the government / military authorities. Once the searching military have passed through a suspect area those left behind indicate are willing to show graves recently dug and home to the recent dead. Still in Fingo village the graves of three and an indication that there were 11 more close by of residents “who had died for nothing.”

Party leader Joshua Nkomo, speaking at Bulawayo airport, to travel to the Harare parliament, noted that the death toll in Mbengisi region; the location of Fingo village, by 28/1 was said to be 95 with 47 confirmed. He described the deaths, at the hands of the North Korean trained 5th Brigade as the actions of a “tribal and political army come to wipe out the KwaNdebele.” - **The Guardian page 1 C 1** -

Thurs 3

*Headline – **Government says blame lies with Nkomo** – was the message from Edison Zvobgo, the minister for legal and parliamentary affairs, as he spoke to support a government motion of censure of Zapu, during a debate in the house of assembly. The minister condemned the words of the disgraced former cabinet minister who indicated the the military establishment were intent on wiping out those that support the politician; the KwaNdebele. The minister was much concerned how the international community would interpret the politicians words. To the ministers mind the words were “reckless utterances which would have the effect of polarising the country.”*

As a military investigation team arrived in Bulawayo, to investigate the claims that the foreign trained military of the ZNA overstepped their remit, they were confronted by the aftermath of a rampaging member of the nations army. It would seem that an aggrieved soldier had sprayed a railway carriage with bullets. As a result two people died, an adult and a child, as the train travelled

between Dete and Graai on the rail line that terminated at Bulawayo station. - **The Guardian** -

Headline – ***The fifth column that is shaking Zimbabwe*** – and was specially trained by North Korean instructors does no favours to the aim of prime minister to stem the outbreak of dissident guerilla fighters that still roam Joshua Nkomo 's home province. His agreed method to flood the province with supposedly integrated ZNA members seem to have been turned on its head when it is known that many of the 5th Brigade were had picked Zanu members; the ethnic rivals of the main Matabeleland residents. - ditto page 15 C 8 -

Sun 6

Headline – ***Mugabe 's man in UK flies home*** – not because of being 'recalled' by the Harare government, rather that he, Robert Zwinoira; the high commissioner, had purchased £585, 000 official residence in Mayfair. This, at a time when the parliament of Zimbabwe were minded to impose financial discipline throughout its jurisdiction. It would seem that the commissioner has disregarded this advised path.

Defending his purchase, while waiting to return to Harare to 'attend an annual conference of overseas heads of mission' the London resident since 1980, indicated that 11 Chesterfield Street was only an investment; claiming that in five years the Mayfair property would be worth £1m. Claims that the purchase price was all the Zimbabwe budget for overseas mission dwellings was rubbish. It was a mistake to buy it but there was no intention to disobey his government. - **The Observer** page 1 -

Thurs 17

Headline – ***Refugees flee Zimbabwe soldiers*** – as the continued hunt for dissident guerilla spreads, throughout Matabeleland province, those arriving in the provincial capital of Bulawayo continue to tell of death and destruction at the hands of the 5th Brigade. In the recent debate in parliament the minister of state, Sydney Sekeraanayi, noted that members of the national army were “not allowed to murder, torture, terrorise or abduct the peasants.”

Many of the fleeing refugees had tales to tell that disputed the ministerial assurances. An unnamed female refugee; one of 208 who are sheltering in a church building in northern Bulawayo, noted that in her village the entire population were gathered together by members of the North Korean trained ZNA military. Those assembled were forced to lie face down on the ground. They were then attacked with sticks and kicks by the soldiers. They were questioned about the whereabouts of the dissidents, which none of them knew. Fed up with beatings and questions two villagers stood up to leave and were immediately shot dead.

In another case of brutality, in a village 30 miles outside the provincial capital, two male relatives of one of the residents were shot dead by members of the military. He fled to Bulawayo because he was afraid to return home.

Headline – ***Smith calls on Mugabe to resign for abuse of power*** – in a motion set for debate in parliament on 21/2. The main claim by the leader of the Republican Front is that the prime minister, and by association his government through excessive use of emergency powers are circumventing the constitution to interfere in the administration of justice and violate human rights. The opposition leader, of a party with only 11 MP 's, instigated the debate because of the government refused to answer questions about alleged brutalities levelled against the ZNA 's 5th Brigade members.

The Herald newspaper, the media outlet of the government, interview with the minister of state for

security, Emmerson Munangagwa makes comment on the still detained, although ordered to be released by the high court, two white intelligence officers; P Hartlebury and C Evens who were originally detained in 1981. They would be released then the state felt they were no longer a grave security risk.

In the same paper the home affairs minister, Herbert Ushewokunze, caused a storm of protest when he criticised ethnic white judges. High on the minister list was Justice Squires who is presiding over the treason trials of Zapu's leading figures in Matabeleland province. The minister concerns are that Justice Squires has an anti government bias. This ministerial attack is not an isolated incident. In the recent past; the case of the two alleged apartheid state spies, mentioned above, are just the latest criticisms that the judicial system as administered by white judges, shows certain sections of the legal system is still steeped in colonial times. - **The Guardian page 7 C 4** -

Sun 20

Headline – ***Nkomo is arrested*** – as he begins a journey to the city of Prague at Bulawayo. The sixty four old politician was detained as he crossed the the airport tarmac to travel across the countries border to connect with flight onward.

While the authorities say they would not be happy for him to leave the country at this time the disgraced politician was taken to a police camp where he was able to meet with members of his legal team and members of his family.

His destination, in the Czechoslovakian capital was to attend the World Peace Council is his role as vice president. - **The Observer page 1** -

Mon 21

Headline – ***Nkomo must report to Bulawayo police today*** – after being prevented from flying overseas on 20/2. Welcomed back to his suburban home of Pelendaba were gathering of 2, 000 political supporters this call to present himself at the cities main police station may answer his questions; what do the police want of him and why had he even been detained in the first place?

An earlier government explanation that they would not be happy to leave the country at the same time as seven regional members of Zapu were on trial for treason was the given reason for the police action. Now the government are saying that as they are searching for evidence that the party leader is somehow implicated it would not be proper for him to be overseas at such a time.

A member of the military is to be charged with the murder of Roy Lathe aged 5 who lived with his family in Matabeleland 10 days ago. He was travelling with his dad in the family car. At the time of the shooting the boys father said that government troops had opened fire on the car. - **The Guardian** -

Headline – ***The wife who waited 10 years for Mugabe*** – named Sally was only recently married when husband Robert was jailed for ten years by the Smith regime for his black nationalist dreams of ending the rule of the ethnic; and by that time illegal white government. For the next 22 years, she saw very little of the now guerilla leader. Much of her time was spent in Britain in exile. - **The Daily Mail page 7 C 1** -

Tues 22

Headline – ***Nkomo attacks 'pack of lies'*** – disseminated 24 earlier by security minister Emmerson Munangagwa that the Zapu leader gave a false name when attempting to board a flight to Prague

via South Africa. Speaking to the gathered media the politician noted that it would not be possible for him to use any other name than his given and family name, he is so well known throughout his home province and Zimbabwe itself. "I am an entity Munangagwa is a twit."

Prior to the press briefing the business at Bulawayo 's main police station involved the Zapu leader making statements, under police caution, concerning three matters that the authorities were investigating. These involved currency export regulations and two alleged offences under the Law and Order Maintenance Act.

Later, in the privacy of his suburban home further details were released; the amount of currency found during a bag search at Bulawayo airport was in excess of the amount allowed for citizens to take abroad. Police also found written notes of alleged brutality crimes, said to have been perpetrated by members of the 5th Brigade as they swept through Matabeleland seeking out dissident fighters.

This whole episode of targeting the former cabinet minister, on seemingly trivial incidents, are at odds with the investigation that has been ongoing for the last 12 months into alleged treasonable acts involving plots to overthrow the Mugabe government. Little progress seems to have occurred. The investigation has gone very quiet even though recent claims from government ministers claim to have evidence that implicates him in acts of treason.

Despite all the recent happenings the government authorities have, after a plea from Romesh Chandra, the president of the World Peace Council, the councils vice president will be allowed to attend its annual meeting in the Czechoslovakian capital. - **The Guardian** -

Wed 23

Headline – ***Press campaign against Nkomo*** – in the pro Mugabe written media outlet the Herald newspaper. Reporters claim, after speaking to an official in Harare's Czechoslovakian embassy that the politician had not left the country to attend a conference in his nations capital. Rather, when arrested on 20/2 he was flying to South Africa to attend a press conference.

Media sources, who have investigated the embassy officials, claims can find no evidence that Joshua Nkomo had any alternative plans than already stated; backed up by accredited documentation, that the one he has always stated.

Within recent times a journalist, Holger Jenson of Newsweek magazine, has had his press accreditation withdrawn by the Zimbabwe government. The reason; a claim that as many as 500 civilians had died as troops swept through the troubled province of Matabeleland .The journalist thoughts on the Harare governments move is there hope that the killings could be hushed up. Also the harassment of Joshua Nkomo was motivated by the authorities attempts to keep quiet the actions of the 5th Brigade. - **The Guardian** -

Thurs 24

Headline – ***Nkomo fails to retrieve passport*** – as well as seeing three party officials detained, and thus the authorities have barred him from leaving the country. The authorities seem to be using deliberate tactics, first made legal by the Smith regime throughout the 1960's and early 1970's as a method of clamp down on the activities of the black nationalists.

Sat 26

Headline – ***Nkomo accused of seeking S. African aid*** – by the prime minister when speaking at a military ceremony to honour the end of the para military training of 750 military instructors at a camp in the town of Binduru 40 miles north east of Harare.

Mugabe accused the Zapu of being desperate and seek the military help of the apartheid state across the Limpopo river. Speaking directly to the new recruits Mugabe called on them to seek out as many as a 20, 000 strong peoples militia who will combat any threat from across the nations southern border who come to the aid of Zapu. - **The Guardian** -

Headline – ***Freedom Denied*** – Zimbabwe 's High Court yesterday rejected an application for release from detention by the former Rhodesian Army Commander John Hickman and a business colleague Peter Mc Donald who have been held since January under emergency regulations on suspected security offences. Their lawyers will appeal. - **Reuters** -

Sun 27

Headline ***Nkomo; Mugabe is lying*** – when he says that the dispirited Zapu leadership are seeking the help of the apartheid state 's military to overthrow the present regime in Harare. This at a time when Zanu politicians, led by the prime minister, go all out to discredit the Oppositions accusations of the torture and killings of Matabeleland 's residents while the ZNA 's 5th Brigade search out dissident guerillas.

Such are the number of deaths in the troubled province that Robert Mercer, the provinces Anglican Bishop, has called for an independent inquiry into all aspects of the military actions on the searching military forces. In the clerics opinion there are widespread feelings that the truth was not being told by the authorities. - **The Observer page 1** -

March 1983

Tues 1

Headline – ***Nkomo says stay at home order 'is asking too much'*** – for himself to be placed under house arrest and report to the police when he wants to leave Bulawayo. According to the politicians lawyer, Bruce Hurst, the request came via letter from the CID which asked for his cooperation and phone the authorities when wanting to leave his suburban home. Deeming such a request to onerous the lawyer noted that his client would only notify the authorities when he was going to leave the city limits. In response the police spokesman noted that the reporting of his whereabouts was “a polite order” and should be obeyed.”

The media outlet, the Herald newspaper ran a critical editorial that attacked the politician as being “not so much of a mountain as his volume might suggest but a messy heap of sand.” There followed a criticism of the recent claim that he sought help from the apartheid state on Zimbabwe 's southern border.

An overview of the anti Nkomo campaign stem, from the observations of diplomats from the international community, is the recent claim by the Zapu leadership in his 28/1 claims of brutality that the North Korean trained 5th Brigade are perpetrating in his home province. - **The Guardian** -

Wed 2

Headline – *Nkomo 'was lying'* – according to home affairs minister Herbert Ushewokunze, when he claimed, on 1/3, that the police in Bulawayo had placed the politician under house arrest. The 'spin' that the minister gave the police notice was that the Opposition leader was being 'protected from himself' as he has a number of criminal charges to answer to.

At the same time the minister, who is responsible for police and immigration affairs, added one more investigation the former cabinet member will have to undergo. It is claimed that he has breached the Precious Stones Act. The alleged crime; dealing with uncut emeralds. Thus the Zanu leader now faces four possible charges emerging from the statements given earlier to the police in Bulawayo. Breaching the PSA could lead to a three year jail sentence. - **The Guardian** page 1? -

Thurs 3

Headline - *Zimbabwe minister plan to eradicate colonial influence from parliament* – was unveiled to members of the Senate by the minister of legal and parliamentary affairs Eddison Zvobgo. In his speech, to the upper house of assembly, the minister noted that this two tier parliament was foisted on the emerging government through the Lancaster House Agreement of 1979. In his view this mirror view of the Westminster style government favoured in London was not right. Zimbabweans should be able to come up with more suited to their needs.

The minister, while working on this 'acceptable form of government,' noted that the special powers for whites in parliament negotiated at the time of the civil war settlement; were not agreeable. He would also look at the laws that shielded security forces and other officials from prosecution in view to amending them. Thus opening members of the military to prosecution for any overuse of their powers under military law rather than through the civil courts. - **The Guardian** -

Fri 4

Headline – *The end of the line for Matabeleland 's refugees* – as those Zimbabwe residents that feel threatened by the ZNA 's sweep through their home troubled province flee across the countries south western border into the city of Dukwe in Botswana.

The city has always known refugees, whether fleeing Zimbabwe national during the civil war with the white Smith / Muzorewa governments, or the present day exiled South Africans or refugees/ guerillas from Angola or Namibia who also flee /train for the liberation wars ongoing in either country.

The number of refugees, located at this time in town camp 80 miles north the countries capital Francistown, is said to be 1, 300 and rising by 50 people a day who flee from the troubled Zimbabwean province.

Twenty teenage school students have been kidnapped and taken across into Botswana says Harare 's information director Justin Nyoka. They were taken, on 3/3, from Silonkwe school in the Kezi district in the countries south west. It is assumed that the boys were taken to be forced to train as guerilla fighters. Low level inter government contacts have been made to try and have the students returned back home have been made. - **The Guardian** -

Sat 5

Headline – *Death of the innocents attacked in Zimbabwe* – by former prime minister; now Senator

Garfield Todd when speaking during an adjournment debate in the upper house of assembly in Harare. He noted that as the government seeks to eliminate anti government dissidents by military action alone. It is the manner in which has proceeded that has done our image no good at all.

While Mugabe and the government blame much of the reporting of alleged civilian deaths mainly as the work of the foreign reporters based in the country. The government claim that the foreign media reports are exaggerated.

The, once jailed by Ian Smith, senator now seems to appealing to the people directly above the heads of the government, who only read in the media what the government allow to be printed by the director of information. He is calling areas in Matebeleland 's rural lands; declared safe that will be bypassed by the searching military as they continue their search for dissidents.

Foreign journalists now say that 1, 000 people have been killed in the region since 21/1; after which the military stepped up their campaign in the province. - **The Guardian page 6 C 1 -**

Sun 6

Headline – ***The Matabeleland bloodbath is beginning to spill over*** – as men of the ZNA 's 5th Brigade begin to tighten their grip on locations well distant from the rural districts as as outside the troubled province. As well as the countryside clampdown townships to the north west of Bulawayo were sealed off by roadblocks manned by the North Korean trained troops. The rhetoric of senior minister Enos Nkala said the Zapu leader was a politician who was working against the government. Detained, in the countries second city, was MP S Malunga the first politician to accuse elements of the national army to be engaged in the killing and torture of civilians.

In London the Zimbabwe government minister, Kambirira Kangai detailed the evidence that the authorities would use when Nkomo faces the four charges previously outlined. This amounted to having evidence that he was “colluding” with the South Africans to overthrow the state.

With the first appearance, of the 5th Brigade on the streets of the Luveve township outside Bulawayo, residents received a sharp warning as to which blacks were in charge. The roaming Shona ethnic troops were treated roughly and ordered off the streets. Helicopters patrolled overhead. Their worst actions were to order all children over the age of 12 into trucks. One eye witness, who say his two sons aged 14 and 17 driven away noted that they were put among at least 30 other youths then driven away.

The clerical leadership in the province, Anglican Bishop Mercer, called for an impartial inquiry into the alleged deaths and other atrocities that have occurred allegedly at the hands of the military. Unconfirmed reports, from a rural living priest claims that eight villagers died, although the bishop could not verify the story. Meanwhile the Roman Catholic; Bishop Carlin was unwilling to speak to the media although in recent times he knew of “killings, rape and beatings” which had happened up to 13/2; a report would be sent to S Muzenda the deputy prime minister. - **The Sunday Times page 9 C 1 -**

Mon 7

Headline – ***Nkomo in hiding as Fifth Brigade launch a round up in Bulawayo*** – seen as a continuation of the seek and detain campaign within the cities boundaries, first initiated in the Luveve townships north west 24 hours ago. As of this time the politicians home has been ransacked as troops searched, without success, for the disgraced politician.

Out in the township there are still elements of troops searching for weapons and carrying of lorry loads of people for detention and interrogation. Media reports tell of the deserted suburban home of the Zapu leader being deserted soon after troops came looking for him. They were shown a blood spattered bedroom where it is believed his driver, Yona Ncube was killed. Outside the house blood spatter marked the spot where Didiza Ndlovu aged 23, an innocent outsider, was killed in a hail of machine gun bullets fired by soldiers after he had been searched.

Two other Zapu notables, city MP Sidney Malunga and one of the parties vice chairmen Kennerly Moyo, have been detained and taken to Westmange police station where they join six other members of Nkomo 's personnel staff. Unwilling to disclose the number of deaths that have occurred during the military action the authorities were of the belief that as many as 1, 000 people had been arrested.

On a stopover visit of the Indian Ocean 's Seychelles Island prime minister Mugabe castigated the western media for mounting a smear campaign against his country. He was on his way to Delhi to take part in the non aligned nations conference. - **The Guardian page 1** -

Headline – ***Mugabe stops the talk and starts to kill*** – examining the reasons why the Harare government hawks have won the day which allows the political loyal element, to the Zanu party, of the Zimbabwe National Army bring in more aggressive tactics when searching for dissidents. - **The Guardian page 15 C 2** -

Tues 8

Headline – ***Mugabe purges widen in city of fear*** – namely Bulawayo and four of its associated townships; Luveve Njube Etumbabe and Palindaba. Other reports show that foreign journalists, from London 's ITN and German ARD TV were detained by the authorities and then released after some length of time. Other reports of civilians being beaten by the searching military while others were forced into trucks and driven away. - **The Guardian page 1 C 1** -

Headline – ***Zimbabwe journal calls for end of terror*** – that is Moto; a magazine published by the Roman Catholic Church. In the words of the writers the article tells its readers the realistic events that are happening in the troubled province of Matabeleland. Something that the nations news media is failing to do when the nations leading newspaper group is owned by the government.

While the magazine accepts that to send troops into an area to search for dissidents is the correct approach to the situation. In some cases the troops sent in went in with far and above the amount of force necessary, especially when in contact with innocent villagers. As a result province residents, with no interest other than their immediate neighbours, suffered violence at the hands of the searching military eager to locate dissidents. - **The Guardian page 7** -

Leader Comment, **The hunting of Mr Nkomo** may or may not have commenced at the same time as the prime minister was out of the country. It is well known “when an African leader goes abroad nasty thing may occur at home in his absence.” Thus his recent comment that the western media is running a smear campaign against Zimbabwe was not to bright.

Approaching Year Three of independence, a much delayed occurrence in many eyes, the Harare government seems willing to let the world watch as it “eliminate the opposition by violence.” Even now ministerial wordings, on the military actions in Matabeleland, favour words such as 'liquidate' when speaking on Nkomo or members of the Zapu political party.

In reality it may be said that this is a battle for supremacy of of one tribal group over another.

Rather like the trouble that the English king Henry 2 had with his Archbishop Thomas Becket. It is a battle of two wills; both men could say “who will free me of this troublesome opponent?” Words that have echoed through history whenever two strong personalities aspire for power.

Also up for scrutiny is the west's belief; its liberals mainly that the type of rule from a democratic Westminster is best. But what about the belief of those who live in Africa? While the minority in the apartheid state still profess support for London style rule “European standards is alien to African tradition.”

In summation; “MR Mugabe's Zanu party is explicitly intent on teaching the KwaNdebele a lesson.” However its methods the deployment of the all ethnic Shona; North Korean trained 5th Brigade, and its methods “verge on civil war.”

“Mr Nkomo, he and his people should be left in peace and the hunt for 'dissidents' turned over to conventional law enforcement the claim that the horrors of Matebeleland were all got up by the foreign media has been exposed as specious. It is probably too much to hope for a retraction. - ditto page 10 -

Wed 9

Headline – ***Allegations follow Bulawayo pull-out*** – of the military, who have been running a bitter campaign throughout the city and its surrounding black townships. Elements, of the ZNA; including members of the North Korean trained 5th Brigade have been accused of various acts of torture and unjustified killings in their search for dissidents. Sources indicate that as many as 50 people died at the hands of the army during the 72 hour operation.

Incidents reported include; 5th Brigade troops discharging their weapons at the members of the regular police force while manning a roadblock in the city. Females forced to dig through a glass strewn rubbish heap with their bare hands. It was said that they were looking for hidden weapons. The searching of a sewer by men forced to dive in and look for weapons. All the divers found was a dead dog. They were then ordered to tear it open looking for hidden weapons.

All told there were 3, 000 members of the Shona dominant Battalion involved in the three day seek and detain dissident campaign. Their ethnic base is in the north and west of the province while the Ndebele are in the majority in the south and west. Mashonaland is the true place of origin of the Shona peoples.

Such is the dangers of violence in the province that seven Canadian teachers from the World University Service of Canada have been ordered home. The directive came as a shock to the teachers as the University is located well away, 22 miles distant, from the troubled area in the south of the province.

As of 24 hours ago two have refused their teaching posts at the Tegwani secondary school near the town of Plumtree close to the border with Botswana. Both Allen Potts 32 and fellow teacher David Galbraith, 30, have therefore broken their contract. Thus the two teachers, teachers of science and English at A level, agree that the recall decision is an “absurd decision based on panic and ignorance” on behalf of their employers who are many miles distant.

With the staying on decision made the two have broken their employment contract and face losing part of their salaries, insurance cover and the air fare to return to Canada. Two British based employees, T Rogers 18 from Essex along with W Lidgate 19, both recent school leaver volunteers were due to return home before the end of 1983. - **The Guardian** -

Thurs 10

Headline – *Nkomo flees as civil war fears heighten* – into neighbouring Botswana. Sources indicate that he crossed the Zimbabwe border, at an unmanned border crossing, on the night of 8/3. Then he travelled on to a secret location in the country's capital Gaborone. Later a statement was issued, by his hosts, that the politician had temporarily left his country to help resolve Zimbabwe's problems.

The decision to leave Bulawayo was made on 6/3 after the former cabinet minister had accused the prime minister of deliberately tasking the 5th Brigade with his assassination ; hours after the death of his driver and the raid on his suburban home.

There is much speculation, in Harare's government circles, that with Nkomo now across the border in Botswana it must be remembered that there is the possibility that the long held rumours that many dissident guerilla fighters; 6, 000 loyal to the Zapu leader are encamped near the nation's border and are in fighting mood. They may also be armed with the remnants of the military weapons that were stolen, since independence, from a ZNA army base. - **The Guardian page 1 C 1** -

Headline – *Newsman find men dead in Bulawayo* – only a thirty minute drive outside the provincial capital. The seven western journalists came across six bodies, showing advanced signs of decomposition, just lying by the side of the road. Residents of the area told of as many as 18 corpses had been lying there for the past 3 weeks. They blamed soldiers from the army's 5th brigade who were at this location at that time. Responding the authorities in Harare blamed the dissidents for the deaths.

The Roman Catholic magazine, *Moto*, has reiterated its concerns about the; in the Church's mind, the unlawful killings, the brutality and oppression that has been attributed to the North Korean trained/ Shona dominant military brigade's operations in recent times. - **ditto page 9** -

Fri 11

Headline – *Nkomo's wife and daughter arrested* – along with is his son in law J Ndlovu. The arrests were made by; the police on a train travelling from Bulawayo to Harare and at the city's airport as the newly weds as they prepared to depart the country, respectively. Other persons, from within the Nkomo political circle; the wife of P Mpfu a personnel assistant to the political leader, was thought to have also been detained by the authorities.

With the party leader in self imposed exile in Botswana, contemplating a trip to London, top Zapu officials have met to discuss whether his leaving Zimbabwe has put his position of life president of the political party at risk. Such a thought will have to be discussed at a meeting of the central committee. Until vice president, J Chinamano, was stepped in to lead the party.

Such is the alleged tension between the two governments a statement from the Herald newspaper in Harare that the Botswana has "now declared war on us" was swiftly retracted by the authorities. Such words were not made with government authority. A quick response, from Quett Masire president of Botswana noted that they expected that the Zapu leader would leave the country 'in days.' - **The Guardian page 1** -

Headline – *Mugabe accuses SA of exploiting divisions* – as there was no way that the prime minister would want his former guerilla commander killed. He was speaking to the media in the Indian capital Delhi. He continued to express his bafflement at recent meetings between the politician and authorities of the apartheid state. "As the dissidents are known to be going there we

accused him of collusion. Strong on the belief that South Africa was a destabilising influence, note the states interference in neighbouring countries; Mozambique, Angola, Lesotho and allegedly Zimbabwe, over the last few months he appealed to the international community to put pressure on South Africa to stop interfering in his nations future.

Headline – ***Nkomo fails to arrive for London flight*** – from Johannesburg airport and transfer the a British Airways flight to London. He was expected to arrive, for his connecting flight from Gaborone. Officials indicated that the no show was due to the Zapu leader being denied a visa by the British to fly to London.

The temporary leader of Nkomo's party, a step up for the vice president J Chinamano, called on dissidents to end their actions and appealed for calm in the troubled province. After 48 hours in police detention Johanna Nkomo has been released. However still detained are daughter Thaniwe, son Tulani and J Ndlovu. - **The Guardian** -

Headline – ***The old suspicions that blazed into bloodshed*** – stem from, on the part of the government 's thinking, that their right to rule authority is being challenged by Nkomo 'Zanu party colluding with the nations of Botswana and Zambia plus the international mining companies along with the apartheid states military. On the other hand it is Zapu's contention that the Harare regime is intent on destroying the party and its main bunch of supporters with a policy of ethnic cleansing of the Ndebele people

It would now seem that a stable future for the Zimbabwe nation depends on the outcome of the actions of the, alleged, dissidents still roaming Matabeleland, as to whether such a dismal future for this newly emerged nation has any settled future. Will the dissidents Nkomo supporters rise in their anger, what with their leader seemingly in self imposed exile, and enter into a nationwide campaign to right the wrongs imposed by the Harare/Zanu authorities. - **N Davis; The Guardian page 13 C 2** -

Leader Comment, **The old man in his exile** could be likened to that of an old African to an ancient parable; “..... a poisonous snake wanted to cross the River Zambezi. Unable to swim, it asked a crocodile for a lift. The crocodile wanted to know how it could be sure that the snake would not bite.'Because we would both drown', said the snake'. Halfway across the crocodile felt the snake's fangs sink into its neck, and cried out ,Why?the snake replied: 'That 's Africa, baby”

Thus the two men of the moment, Nkomo and Mugabe seem to exist even as they declare an inevitable desire to rule on their own. Although to do so is to encourage the belief that whatever each of then do, or say, the other will misinterpret the others intentions. “

Ever since Mr Nkomo lost the in 1980 and rejected the powerless presidency, it was clear that even Zimbabwe was not big enough for him and Mr Robert Mugabe, the exceptional man who defeated him for the premiership.”

With the Zapu leader unwilling to accept his loss of status having fought and suffered through the civil war, seemingly more that the eventual countries leader the actions of his Zanu rival could to be dealt with in the way that many other African leaders, in a similar situation; winning / power ahead of a more popular rival.

“There I not an African leader, past or present who would regard such a man in opposition to himself as anything other than a threat requiring urgent and drastic attention.... a treason trial.”

With such an indignity avoided as he is now either in Botswana or travelling to London it could be said this was “his final defeat that was inevitable, not the way in which it came about.”

But what of the future of Matabeleland?; a province submerged in the violence metered out by the ZNA 's 5th Brigade the North Korean trained / manned by Shona dominated Mugabe loyalist troops. Following a seemingly acceptance, by Nkomo, of the Realpolitik of the present situation should persuade him not to seek help from his powerful friends in the region.

The history, and its nations boundaries, of the African continent was mainly written by the Europeans “We can only hope now for government restraint. Without it the very last chance of realising Mr Mugabe 's promise of 'national reconciliation' will be thrown away.” - ditto page 12 -

Sun 13

Headline – ***Enter Nkomo, unwanted guest*** – in London after a flight from Johannesburg. With the arrival of the self exile will strain, further, the relationship with the regime in Harare. At the same time information minister Nathan Shamuyarira will be in town at the same time. In the eyes of the government their hosting of the former Zapu leader is one of embarrassment.

Despite an assurance, from inside the office of the Botswana president, the stay of Nkomo will not be for ever; “back to his country as soon as possible.” The Conservative government now fears that with an exile in situ he will use London as a base to criticise the actions of the authorities in Harare. Such happenings bring fears that the influence that the UK feels it has, over Zimbabwe's human rights record, will be lost.

An ideal solution, to this crisis, through the eyes of the politicians in London, would be if the two main political parties in Zimbabwe were to merge into a one party state even if such a move breaches the Lancaster House Agreement when it laid down the necessity for a 5 year period of Westminster style of rule. It is felt this is the only way for the country to avoid disintegration; the end of a dream. - **The Sunday Times page 1?** -

Headline – ***Mugabe in showdown*** – as tales continue to be told of the explicit violence metered out by the Shona dominant 5th Brigade as it roams through the, still loyal, Nkomo province as 3, 000 troops sweep through searching for dissidents. ditto page 10 C 1 -

Cartoon The battle to avoid a civil war in Zimbabwe

Mon 14

Headline – ***Kaunda 's key role in Nkomo dilemma*** – will bring the two African politicians together as the Zambian president landed in London for a state visit; he is well known as a 'political fixer' on the African continent.

To the London government, the visit of the Zimbabwean disgraced politician, will not bring forth an offer of permanent admission / exile until foreign office officials have considered. As to 'out of Africa' negotiations with the Harare government minister of information; himself in London, noted “We cannot talk to, or negotiate with a fugitive..... meaningful discussions can only take place in Harare and nowhere else” - **The Guardian page 1 C 1** -

Leader Comment, **Make way for Mr Nkomo** a man who “cuts a tragic figure as he flies unwanted from capital to capital.” Whereas in past times he would have been lauded by the very same people who would in those times greet him as a VIP.

Is it any wonder that his government describe him as a fugitive, would that not be the same for any person who had had their home wrecked and those close to him killed by the authorities. Would

anyone want to remain in a country that treated a national hero in that way? Should it be allowed “that a long career should collapse in such a mixture of ignominy and doubt.”

It was unthinkable, by himself and his political followers, that after the elections of 1980, that he and Zapu; the party with the greatest number of supporters, should come behind Zanu in the polling results. Thus rival Robert Mugabe became prime minister. Offers of president; seen as only a ceremonial role, was rejected while a cabinet post was taken.

The well documented path of successes then “rebuffed and became aggrieved again.” The hidden weapons issue was not “perhaps not convincingly” enough condemned enough. The whites turned their back on him when he lauded the deaths of plane crash survivors downed by a rocket fired by his supporters. Blacks began to feel the same “simply because of his stature, political and physical; he found himself ill cast in the new Zimbabwe.”

As to his presence, in London; his treatment by officialdom if they do not want to become involved with the battle of ethnic dominance between the Shona or Ndebele is to treat him as a visiting senior politician should be while on a private visit. For this is what it is.

“For old times sake he deserves the elementary courtesies, the least of which is to end the public display of embarrassment.” - ditto page 12 -

Wed 16

Headline – *Whites hit at Mugabe in debate at atrocities* - during a debate in the Senate; the upper house of the Zimbabwe parliament. Members were critical of the refusal of the prime minister to make a verbal report over the alleged misdeeds of the military in and around Bulawayo.

An ex government minister, from the Smith regime, Senator Partridge, noted that the government had had plenty of opportunity to make a report on alleged cases of torture, the raping of women and the forced expulsion of rural dwellers out of their villages and into the bush. It was common knowledge that members of the 5th Brigade were active in these areas.

The pledge of safety for the Zanu leader when he returns from his trip to London, given by the prime minister in recent times, was rubbished by an opposition MP N Sithole. This one time leader of the Zapu, at a time prior to the beginning of the liberation war, was described as a gimmick as his name was on a long death list.

An editorial in the government supporting Herald newspaper calls for all journalists from the apartheid state to be banned from working in the country. Titled Mischief Makers the writers noted that the South African writers were portraying this nation as one on the verge of civil war. - **The Guardian** -

Fri 18

Headline – *Zimbabwean kidnappers say tourists still live* – after their 7/82 kidnap. This truth became when a ransom note was left at the scene of the capture of a white farmer R D Smith after he was pulled from his vehicle near ancient African city of Khami 20 miles outside Bulawayo.

The dissidents, according to a note left at the scene, demand the release of Lookout Mauka and Dumiso Dabengwa from prison. Both prisoners were former guerillas high level members of the Nkomo political hierarchy. If both men are not released the note indicates that the six long term detainees and their latest hostage will be executed.

Despite a plea, from lawyer Adrian de Bourbon, acting for N Dabanegwa and five other former guerillas, Judge H Squires remanded those charged with treason to jail in the Harare high court. At the same time government security minister, Emmerson Munangagwa rubbished the claim that there was a plot to assassinate the former cabinet minister. - **The Guardian** -

Sun 20

Headline – ***Why Nkomo 's men are out of tune with Heroes 's Acre*** – which is the location of the burial site for the military men from the civil war; some 7, 000 in number. Further out, in the rural lands there is another remembered place; World 's View, where the dead of the struggle to wrest these lands from the indigenous Ndebele were battled over by Cecil Rhodes and his pioneers as they struck out from Cape Colony in the search for land.

The site, high in the Matopos Hills outside Bulawayo, stands the monument that remembers the dead of the battles between British colonialists as they came into contact with the Ndebele followers of their ruler Chief Lobenguela. The patrol fought to the last man and patriotically went to their deaths with the words of the national anthem on their lips.

Also laid to rest in the Matopos Hills is Cecil Rhodes. His only epitaph are words carved on a lump of rock; “This ground is consecrated and set apart for ever to be the resting place of those who have deserved well of this country.”

In this area peace was signed with the local tribes in 1896 three years after the British/ Ndebele clash. Throughout the whites rule and especially during the end game civil war the whites sought a location where their time of governance could be honoured. Tentative steps to see their time remembered, and notable politicians along with members of the military interred, receives a cool reception in Harare. - **The Observer** -

Mon 21

Headline – ***Farmers seek protection after murders*** – along with the recent abduction on 18/2. The latest death, of the Stafford family on Secret Valley farm 15 miles outside Bulawayo happened on 18/3. The reason; two of the black farm workers indicated to those believed to be supporters of the self exiled Joshua Nkomo's Zapu claimed they were mistreated by their employee. The six dissidents then brought Eric 66, wife Christine along with their two granddaughters, 12 and 15 years old were shot dead with a revolver belonging to Eric Stafford.

Responding to this and other similar incidents in the troubled province the president of the Commercial Farmers Union, Jim Sinclair, noted he felt “shock and horror we will be seeking a meeting with the civil and military authorities to discuss measures to protect our members.”

In the hunt for farmer Dyre Smith a Bulawayo black township, to the west of the city, was searched by the security forces. Hundreds of homes were involved. - **The Guardian** -

Fri 25

Headline – ***Mugabe 's arrests 'illegal'*** – says the leader of one of the smaller opposition parties in the Harare parliament. The recent arrested prostitutes, beggars and squatters are being sent to labour camps where they are forced to labour against their will. Ndabaninge Sithole; at one time a co leader of Zanu with Robert Mugabe, disclosed in an open letter.

The political cleric, which started in 10/82 had “no constitutional status.” - **The Guardian** -

Wed 23

Headline – ***Zapu men beat treason charges*** – despite the remand order, signed by Justice Hilary Squires on 18/3, the high level party members and military commander Lieutenant General Lookout Masuka were found not guilty on all charges in the Harare high court. However one man, Zipra intelligence chief Dumiso Dabengwa must still face trial for treason at a later date.

Explaining his decision, the Smith regime appointed judge, pointed out that the state could not say; that the six given their freedom, conclusively any hostile intention written into a letter when writing about an intention to overthrow the Mugabe government. In the case of the Zipra chief; a letter sent by him to the Soviet KGB in 1980, on 28/4, would on first inspection would have thought to have come from the Mugabe administration asking for help over the apartheid states intentions to the newly independent nation.

It was not and therefore and therefore, as a member of the military high command Dabengwa was guilty of high treason and should stand trial. - **The Guardian** -

Headline – ***The massacre that misfired*** – is the failed outcome of the Mugabe dream to turn the newly independent Zimbabwe into a free, peaceful socialist African state. The prime ministers dream evaporated in the face of external pressure and internal dissent; mainly from the wealthy white land owners and the far away bosses of the international companies who show little regard for their black Zimbabwean employees.

Also to consider are the actions of the 'dissidents' who roam Matebeleland province, who by ethnicity are believed to be Ndebele, and despite being the largest ethnic group in the province / nation lost out in the elections to the smaller Shona tribal group led by Robert Mugabe.

As the military's search for those those who have been deemed to be responsible for the reported atrocities; villagers shot dead or tortured for information there is more evidence, from those who have fled to the cities for safety, that it is members of the searching forces that are to blame for the deaths. - **N Davis; ditto page 15 C 2** -

Thurs 24

Headline – ***Zimbabwe bans Guardian correspondent*** – Nick Worrall from working and declared him an “undesirable person and an enemy of the people of Zimbabwe.” The restrictions on his working life were, according to information minister Nathian Shamuyarira, as a result of three media articles said to have been written by himself.

The controversial articles, the first of which appeared within the last 24 hours, was said by the minister to give the wrong impression of the actions of the Zimbabwe National Army's 5th Brigade during its sweep through the troubled province of Matebeleland.

The banned media writer now joins a small list of three foreign reporters, from De Welt; a West German paper and the US Newsweek magazine, to have their accreditation removed by the authorities in Harare. Such a Worrel banning has happened before. In 1981 he was forced out of Uganda; while his father John suffered in the same way after writing words that displeased the Smith authorities in 1969. - **The Guardian page 1** -

Headline – ***Zimbabwe torn apart by old issue of land*** – which without checks and balances which the prime minister seems to have ignored since 1980 may come back to haunt him in the future as he acts in whatever way is needed to improve the lot of the black farming community while not

angering the ever dwindling number of whites who exodus the country in ever increasing numbers.

As of now 700, 000 black farming families are still existing in the tribal trust lands, used in the past by the white regime to control the actions of the African farmer in giving support to the liberation fighters. Changing names, from the TTL's to Common land does not alleviate the problem of the promises made of productive land for African farmers. Still 4, 600 commercial white farmers own 38% of the land between them, produce 90% of the national agricultural produce and earn 42% of Zimbabwe 's foreign currency. They employ 255, 000 workers, mainly Africans. With the Mugabe government raising their wages, by 66% from \$30 to \$50 per month.

Demands, from the rural, poor land producing farmers, seek 14. 2m hectares of the good white farming lands to share out fairly. A government / white farmers offer 2m underused or non productive land has been rejected.

The government continue to claim that the original land details, worked out in London in 1979, was the shortness; only 3 pages, long on the land issue. There must be a 'willing seller' matched with a self same purchaser. All this is to be paid for by the foreign office with its 50% grant for the purchase. The difficulty comes when the prices asked drain London's coffers quickly. Any seized land will not be financed this way.

The Commercial Farmers Union, keeping up their beliefs that only the whites have the skill, technology and the cash, to continue producing the goods that keep the nation fed and provide foreign currency for the government, to make the land reach its full potential.

Three years of independence sees only 20, 500 African farming families settled on productive land. The cost;\$50m in compensation and \$55m in administration and new infrastructure. - **ditto N Davis page 7 C 1 -**

Leader Comment, **The second Mr Worrall**; a comparison with his dad as he displeased the regime 's leader in the late 1960's African colony that was then Rhodesia. "Nick Worrall is paying for articles written by quite another Guardian journalist Nick Davis one can only, sadly, believe that minister Shamuyarira has' nt read the material occasioning his wrath."

With a long interest in a proper settlement in Rhodesia shown by this paper there is an element of tragedy in the way things have turned out. "We hope Mr Mugabe, pondering carefully will think again we hope not to hear the mocking laughter of Ian Smith in the wings of history." - **ditto page 14 -**

Fri 25

Headline – ***Harare ban 'unfair on Guardian man'*** – and such is the anger of the Foreign Correspondents Association that officials of the Harare based organisation have sent of a stiff letter of protest to government minister N Shamuyarira.

The basis for the written missive was that the media organisation's members thought that the minster had been unfair in banning N Worrell when many other journalists, from a wide range of media outlets, had detailed the atrocities that had been revealed, through the interview of residents of Matebeleland, the acts of torture and killings allegedly by members of the national army.

Headline – ***A fearful path to a one party state*** – that the recently banned journalist qv 24/3 had to endure to compile his reports that has so annoyed the authorities in Harare that led to his expulsion.

So much of his information had to be gathered through people who would not be named as 'first

person contacts'. Rather they would only impart information second hand. Along with the secret meetings arranged with people who also would not be named.

All this personnel anonymity was because of the ever tightening hold that the Zimbabwe security services; the Central Intelligence Organisation, were rooting out anyone who criticised the workings of the states organs of government.

“But after three years of growing repression, the fact that a one party state with all its trappings of terror is virtually established without the need for constitutional cosmetics.” - N Worrell; *The Guardian* -

Sat 26

*Headline – **Freedom Denied** – Zimbabwe 's High Court yesterday rejected an application for release from detention by the former Rhodesian Army Commander John Hickman and a business colleague Peter Mc Donald who have been held since January under emergency regulations on suspected security offences. Their lawyers will appeal. - Reuters -*

Sun 27

*Headline – **Sunday Times man raided** – in his hotel room only six days after the journalist; David Blundy began his reporting stint in a country that now seems to be clamping down on the work of the foreign media who wish to report on issues that the Harare authorities may wish to hide.*

In this case, which has similarities to that of N Worrell, the two policemen from the CID accompanied by the same number of men from the CIO, removed passports, notebooks, cameras and personal papers. He was told leave the country until further notice. - *The Sunday Times* page 1? -

*Headline – **Zimbabwe bleeds again** – as a new wave of killings has brought terror again to the people of Matebeleland as the Zimbabwe 's National Army 's 5th Brigade search out dissidents. ditto page 17 C 1*

Mon 28

*Headline – **Mugabe gives broad hint Zapu may be banned** – unless the Nkomo loyalist dissident guerillas hand in their weapons. Speaking at a Zanu rally in the capital the prime minister also stated that there would be no new talks over the troubled province of Matebeleland while the opposition politicians were on the one hand talking peace and on the other seemingly continue to support the actions of the dissidents.*

The rally also heard a confession from the prime minister; referring to the capture of the foreign tourists seized 9 months ago. “My government is still very embarrassed to this day that the tourists have not yet been recaptures.” He admitted that he and his government did not know whether they were still alive.

It's now known that the journalist D Blundy (qv 27/3) is being investigated about possible offences under the Police and the Criminal Procedure and Evidence Act. He may not leave the country any time soon. London foreign office officials have ordered its high commissioner to make the situation known to the highest of the Zimbabwe authorities as soon as possible.

It now seems that even though the Zambian president, who is on a stopover visit in London, will make any attempt to intervene between the Zapu leader and the authorities in Harare. There was not

even a meeting between the two political leaders. - **The Guardian** -

Wed 31

Headline – ***Zimbabwe flatly rejects charges of army killing*** – published in a report by leading members of the Catholic Church into the mass deaths of those who lived in the troubled province of Matebeleland.

In a lengthy critique, the information minister, Nathan Shamuyarira, rejected the need for an independent inquiry into the alleged actions of the military in general and specifically the ZNA's 5th Brigade; staffed by Zanu loyalist troops. Other points made by the minister the report used words; deemed intemperate and used language seen in reports filled by members of the foreign press.

There would be an examination of the allegations of torture and unjustified killings of the provinces residents. The minister assured the bishops that if any inappropriate actions had been carried out there would be punishments metered out. However “we must stress that no evidence has been presented to the government by the Catholic bishops.”

Headline - - ***Nkomo asks for Matebele inquiry*** – led by members of the Harare parliament. This would be shadowed by a second all party conference of political leaders. Its aim; to stop the country sliding towards party and tribal warfare. - **The Guardian** -

Leader Comment, **The bishops know the bush** and the reaction of the information minister “was predictably swift... It was also unjust.” While the minister report of an inquiry into the armies actions “was very welcome “ his belief that some atrocities, believed by the clerics to have been carried out by the 5th Brigade, were “in fact were work of the dissidents cannot be dismissed out of hand.”

The clerical hierarchy in Matebeleland and elsewhere in the country throughout the colonial times and the illegal UDI times have always seemed to support the indigenous peoples, although there were clergy that supported the small ethnic whites, and many clerics suffered for their belief in the rights of the African over the whites.

Coming to the present day the minister claims that the clerics and the foreign press are working together to discredit the government “the minister id not comparing like with like..... the hierarchy has destroyed the last vestige of credibility in the official claim that the Matebeleland crisis was all got up by the foreign correspondents.” - ditto page 16 -

April 1983

Sat 2

Headline – ***Mugabe crisis of truth*** – as as expelled journalist, deemed 'an enemy of the people' by the minister of information, makes his exit across the River Limpopo, leaves Zimbabwe. All the people he has done business with; the bank manager in Harare who speeded up the sorting out of his finances right through to the black customs officer who was his last contact before he crossed into the apartheid state's jurisdiction, hardly regarded him as minister Shamuyarira did.

Reflections as to why the government may be felling that as it does at this time; seemingly under the threat of adverse / wrong reporting of actions carried out members of the foreign media. Expectations, from the international community at the time of independence that Zimbabwe would

follow the route of other black governed states; rival faction fighting bringing an unstable regime to power did not happen. There was praise for the way that Mugabe developed his government into a coalition; with democratic intentions and used all the wealth of experience from the white business and the opposition political masses, to begin building an economy that had a future. There seemed no intention of seeking bloody revenge on those of the previous era.

Such a situation; an instant forgiving nature of a new government in Africa was seemingly unheard of by the international press. Decisions were made that saw an influx of overseas media arriving in the newly independent nation to chart its progress. Whether their motives were to report fairly on the black run regime any infringement, of the western accepted normalities by the new regime, were reported on. Thus a myth of unacceptable actions; from the western view point, was reported on.

It is the lives of the black Zimbabweans, who have either endured the fight for freedom while fighting in the civil war, that independence was meant to improve. It is the leadership, at this time, that is letting them down. It would seem that the present regime feels under pressure and in such situations lash out at those who to be the source of the criticism. Hence the ongoing harassment of of the foreign press seen in recent times. - **The Guardian page 1** -

Sun 3

Headline – ***KO for the tough guy mayor*** – of Gweru /Gwelo, Mayor Patrick Kombay, has been suspended pending an inquiry into allegations of corruption by president Canaan Banana under the governments emergency powers. It was claimed, in parliament, that the third largest city in Zimbabwe, that the government supporting mayor, ruled it like his own personal fiefdom.

With a background of revolutionary politics, he made available his Zambian owned nightclub, as a venue for meetings place for guerilla fighters. Actions that brought the disgraced politician to the authorities attention have a 12 months history. A legal claim, against the council, saw the mayor attack the plaintiffs lawyer. The outcome; a fine of Z\$250/ £175 and a further Z\$25 for an attack on a policeman.

The cities white independent MP, Henry Elsworth cites other actions of the mayor that have seen Gweru deemed 'the most oppressed and frightening city in Zimbabwe; the public funded purchase of a Mercedes, for Z\$54, 000 for official duties and a second vehicle for private use. Defied the government and granted Z\$84, 000 worth of back pay to city councillors. Spent Z\$45, 000 on a mayoral chain of office.

In response the nine government supporting council members resigned in protest at government interference in the cities administration. In response the authorities in Harare appointed a commissioner along with three deputies to run the city. - **The Observer page 1?** -

Headline – ***Very few rays of sunshine in Mugabe 's sombre state*** – despite the nations viewers being able to laugh of the London comedic export of televisions Morcambe and Wise show. Then back to reality; the stiff faced news broadcasters who tell tales of revolutionary rhetoric, the deeds of 'racist South Africa' and the freedom loving deeds of the Palestinians and the Nicaraguan guerillas.

The next 'big thing' that will change the hopes of the president for a continues peaceful nation is a possible ban on the Zapu political party along with the demise of its leader Joshua Nkomo. Such are the action, of the police and the authorities, against his one time military allies, that Mugabe has, according to the Herald newspaper forced the party to hold meetings in secret, face police raids on provincial offices. Once loyal Nkomo supporters are now purchase Zanu loyalty cards such that the

ruling party's finances have improved by \$Z3, 600 in the countries Gwanda district, Z\$5, 000 in Matebeleland North and Z\$3, 000 in the Beitbridge area.

The passport and journalistic notebook and other papers belonging to David Blundy have been returned to him by the police. The journalist deemed the initial seizure of his papers, eight days ago, as a misunderstanding as the police said he was free to travel to and from the country at any time he wants in the future. - **The Sunday Times page 9 C 7** -

Mon 4

Headline – ***Seeking hearts and minds in Matebeleland*** – as government ministers are deployed in the troubled province to spread the word of peace and joy; a Hearts and Mind exercise, to spread good thoughts to its residents. This initiative comes at the same time as the curfew is lifted, food deliveries to remote areas resume, bus services throughout the provinces operate again and political rallies can be held.

Headline - ***Zimbabwe mayor goes into hiding after his dismissal*** as the political head of the Gweru city council. Aged 44 Patrick Kombayi was found guilty as charged (qv 4/4) and sacked on 29/3. The towns MP brought the actions of the mayor to the governments attention and also noted that he forced residents from the city if he took against them. Refused businesses trading licenses if he did not approve of the concern. - **The Guardian** -

Tues 5

Headline – ***Senator killed in Matebele farm raid*** – named as Paul Savage aged 70, daughter Collen aged 20 from Acomb village near York; England, resident Sandra Bennett. The Republican Front politician and others died on the ranch near the city of Gwada which was approximately 85 miles south of Bulawayo. The ranch owners wife, Betty, was injured when about 20 dissidents came to the property. Thus the total number of deaths in the province, of white farming folk is in excess of 20 to date.

It would seem that the invaders were intent on stealing property rather than looking for food. Among items removed was a Land Rover and other goods. Before the attack all the black employees were driven away from the property by the dissidents.

It is thought there are 3 reasons for this resumed attacks; such killings invite international news coverage of perceived grievances and highlights the inadequacy of the Mugabe regime to protect its citizens. Such attacks harm the countries economy. In the dissidents view the whites are responsible for encouraging the Harare government of bringing in the North Korean trained 5th Brigade into the troubled province over the use of the ZNA. Then there is the refusal of the Mugabe government to act on the note, that demanded the release from prison, of high ranking members of Joshua Nkomo 's party. - **The Guardian page 1** -

Headline – ***Former Rhodesian Army Commander J Hickman and business associate P Mc Donald were freed in Harare after the High Court overturned the 26/3 appeal. The state opposed the application on the grounds that the two had addressed secret meetings and expressed support for an idea of a South African invasion.*** - **GDN page 6 C 5** -

Wed 6

Headline – ***Mugabe 's face to face attack on 'sanctimonious prelates'*** – is seen as the government striking back at the recent report of alleged atrocities, allegedly carried out by the ZNA 's 5th

Brigade in the troubled province of Matabeleland, in recent times. During the prime ministers vigorous defence of the military action he castigated a pastoral letter, written by the seven clergymen, which challenged the rights of the army to bring a reign of terror to the province.

Speaking to the heads of Christian denominations, at a meeting in the Zimbabwe capital, he also condemned the recent killings of a rancher and members of his family that recently happened on 4/4 south of Bulawayo.

Across the border, in Botswana, it is reported that one who has fled the conflict in Matabeleland; and a former Zapu military commander has said that his aim is to recruit a private army too revenge the killings of Matabeleland residents. He hopes, that among these 20, 000 strong force, South African nationals will be involved.- **The Guardian** -

Thurs 7

*Headline – **Smiths 's Plea** – The former Rhodesian Prime Minister Ian Smith said yesterday that he had applied for a British passport so he could fly to South Africa for medical treatment. His Zimbabwe passport was seized last December after he allegedly criticised the Mugabe government while visiting the USA. - Reuters ? -*

Fri 8

Headline – **Smith wants to stay a Zimbabwean** – even as he has been granted one by the British government which will enable him to travel across the Limpopo River for medical treatment. In response home affairs minister, Herbert Ushewokhunse, noted that being the holder of two passports “he obviously runs the risk of ceasing to be a citizen of Zimbabwe.”

The outcome of a bye election in Bulawayo, caused by the sitting Republican Front MP, Wally Stuttaford 's emigration to the apartheid state is awaited with eagerness. It is a two way battle for the voters. The choices; the RF candidate is Mark Simpson a pilot. He is challenged by the cricket commentating dentist Bob Nixon.

The son of Joshua Nkomo, who is now self exiled in London, has been released from jail after being detained during a police and army raid on the politicians home in Bulawayo on 8/3. Tulaani Nkomo had been detained accused of helping his dad evade the police while he travelled across the border into Botswana. - **The Guardian** -

Sat 9

Headline – **Mugabe declares war on rebel backers in death warning** – came as the prime minister ventured, for the first time since his troubles began, into the Matabeleland. He was speaking, in his native Shona language to a crowd of 7, 000 rural dwellers at the Zhombe mission station.

The essence of his speech, admittedly to an audience that were not his governments strongest supporters, that if they were seen to provide food or shelter for the roaming bands of dissidents they would themselves be classed as rebels and killed.

The Zanu leader left the rally having posed this question when considering the actions of his political rival. 'Why is Joshua Nkomo hiding behind the British? We are no longer under British rule?' -

Letters, **M S Kajese, Deputy High Commissioner Zimbabwe HC London W C 2** comments on

the differences in style of reporting of the recently excluded journalist N Worrall and one who had also fallen foul of the government authorities in previous times. The writer, himself a Harare government appointed official, is of the opinion that the Worrall reports did not paint an accurate picture of the current state of affairs inside Zimbabwe. On the main however the reports of J Borrell, in the high commissioners opinion were in the main a fair description of the happenings in the then Rhodesia.

N Michison Carradale Cambeltown, Argyll a plea to remember the good things that have happened under the Mugabe rule while acknowledging the events in the troubled province of Matabeleland. In the writers thinking is the scheme Production Schools project where those who fled across the countries borders, as refugees, return to the land of their birth and continue their interrupted education. - **The Guardian** -

Sun 10

Headline – ***Nkomo moves down from his penthouse*** – even as his permission to stay in London has been extended for another four weeks. His intention; made on the assumption that the prime ministers response to the clerics reports of excess violence in his home province would lead to Mugabe ordering an independent inquiry, thus he would be able to return home 'with his dignity I tact.'

With the nations third year of independence looming there will be a reception, held at the Commonwealth Institute in London, within the next seven days. According to the high commissioner, Robert Zwinia, no invite has been sent to the high profile exile. - **The Observer page 6 C 1** -

Wed 13

Headline – ***Nkomo to stay another month*** – that in 12/5 so says a foreign office official. Speaking to the press recently the 'out of favour political leader' reiterated that he became an exile because he felt that his life was in danger in Zimbabwe and to some extent across its border with Botswana.

There was information given that his British business were assisting him financially to the sum of £15, 000. An amount that will help with his travel expenses and also support the two aids that have been at his side since he left the land of his birth. Any possibility of him returning, before 18/4, have been discounted as his return would likely lead to his arrest after Mugabe refused to give a promise of an amnesty. - **The Guardian** -

Sat 16

Headline – ***Nkomo 's wife urges him to come home*** – a plea that is also backed by Ian Smith the leader of the Rhodesian Front. Citing her own police guard, requested; by herself, at the time of here release from prison, as a guarantee of his safety if he would return home. By remaining outside the troubled country he could not lead his people, which was the only way forward, in the thinking of the last white prime minister of the British colony.

The newly appointed British high commissioner 's attempt to present his credentials to president Banana was delayed because of the organising of the independence day celebrations. The London appointee, Martin Ewans, was assured by Harare government officials that the delay had nothing to do with any political or diplomatic reasons. - **The Guardian** -

Mon 18

Headline – ***Why the Father of Zimbabwe has little to celebrate*** – many of those who reside in the last British colony in Africa now celebrate their third year of independence from London's rule. As the masses gather in Harare's Rufaro stadium it is an irony that the thirty years of self sacrifice that has led to his current predicament of resident in a two residence in north London sees Joshua Nkomo excluded from the Zimbabwe nations celebrations.

Despite his present predicament the one time guerilla leader shows no anger to his one time military colleague and now prime minister Robert Mugabe. His only reaction is to note the deep tragedy he feels that the nations people now face. Of his own plans he says he will return to face what he must within the next three weeks. Until then he will remain in London until “some rather important business” is dealt with.

On a broader perspective the persona of Nkomo, one that would rather make a compromise decision with the person he is in conflict with, is no the modern way in today's Africa; whether it is a conflict between the whites and the black population on tribal arguments among the blacks. The whole issue of dispute settling was, and still is, behind the whole history of the struggle for black nationalist rule that came to the fore after the UDI declaration of Ian Smith in 1965.

While the Zapu wing of the nationalist forces would willingly have negotiated with the rebel white leadership, before and after the UDI, the stronger element of the Mugabe/ Shona guerilla force was not in any way ready or willing to negotiate with the white regime. Thus 20 years of internal struggle ensued.

The ensuing victory, at the elections of 1980, was a bitter blow to Nkomo; seeing his Zapu come second in the polls with he himself firstly offered the ceremonial position of president which he refused. Only then was he offered a cabinet post and even then that was taken away as the Zanu strong government effectively sought ways to discredit himself and his followers. Such pressures have now led him to London as an exile.

It now seems that the time of 'the fat man', a name given by a Harare government minister recently in London to the exiled disgraced politician, has nearly ended. It is now the time he too could be crushed. - N Worrall; *The Guardian* page 6 C 1 -

Wed 20

Headline – ***Mugabe fuels rumours of Cabinet reshuffle*** – as the main theme, of his independence day speech to the thousands of people crammed into Rufaro stadium, was a critique of government ministers who would rather amass personal wealth than implement his administrations socialist policies. His speech was followed up by an editorial in Herald newspaper titled Greedy Leaders.

The white Independent Max Roxenfels was elected to the Senate when a deadlock between the Independents and the Rhodesian Front MP's was settled by drawing lots in favour of the rancher from the town of Marula in the countries south west. The election only involved the white members of the upper house. - *The Guardian* -

Headline – ***Border Talks*** – Zimbabwe and Botswana officials have ended two days of talks in Gaborone on border problems. The Zimbabwe Home Affairs Minister, Mr Ushewokunze, said yesterday. The talks followed reports that many supporters of the exiled Zimbabwe Opposition leader Mr Joshua Nkomo had fled to Botswana. - *AP* -

Tues 26

Headline – ***Legal action threat to Opposition in Zimbabwe*** – as a government minister for home affairs believes that the acting head of Zapu, Joshia Chinamano; the former vice president; put in charge after his boss fled into exile, has asserted that in Matebeleland government troops and party supporters were selling Zanu membership cards to Nkomo 's party members. Thus the likely hood of harassment when travelling on buses or receiving drought relief food would be diminished. These allegations were also backed up, in the Herald newspaper, by the parties secretary general Joseph Msika.

The minister angered Herbert Ushewokunze, while promising to investigate these claims of forced purchase of party cards, thought that elements of the law and order maintenance act could be used against those who made these claims. Under this act, legislation first introduced by the rebel white regime, note that it is illegal to make statements likely to cause offence, make false statements or cause alarm or despondency among the public. - **The Guardian** -

Wed 27

Headline – ***Mugabe conspiracy decision*** – as to whether the leader of the opposition ever plotted to overthrow the government will be made in the nations high court within the next 24 hours. The Harare based court is about to sit in judgement in a case involving two, one time Zapu guerilla commanders; now performing similar high level command posts in the national army; intelligence chief D Dabengwa and Lookout Masuku lately deputy commander of the ZNA. Along with five others all seven face a charge of treason and being in possession of much military equipment. - **The Guardian** -

Thurs 28

Headline – ***Nkomo men arrested after acquittal*** – of six of those charged with treason and of hoarding weapons. Only one man, Mishef Velaphi; the Zapu accountant, was found guilty of holding illegal weapons. This verdict was only because he helped transport he stolen weapons onto a farm that belonged to the then Zapu leader. He now faces three years in jail.

However once out of the court house the two military/ party members were again arrested; this time under under the emergency powers act that allows detention without trial. Such arrests seem now to be the norm for anyone who, although found not guilty of any crime in a court of law, will face if the government deems it right and proper. - **The Guardian page 1** -

Fri 29

Headline – ***Harare hangs French killers*** – who had travelled from their homeland, at the height of the bush war, to join the Rhodesian army. Their crime; the murder of German national Ehard Kraqft who owned a business in the city. Thus Gervals Boutanquol aged 34 and Simon Chemoull, 31 originally from Paris were the first whites to be hanged in Zimbabwe since 1980.

The trial of the two soldiers took place previous to an appeal hearing in the supreme court, in 11/'83, where the presiding judges found no circumstances that could mitigate a reduced sentence. The victim died after being first stabbed and then shot inside his building in the north western town of Karol. All for the contents of the till; put at £500.

Outside the country, in Paris, French and Zimbabwe government officials; who were in the French capital discussing events in Namibia, met to discuss the case. There was no solution found. The two

one time mercenaries met their fate in Harare 's central prison. - **The Guardian** -

Sat 30

Headline – ***Court hunt for Nkomo aids*** – as the whereabouts of the six top officials of the Zapu political party, recently found not guilty of treason on 28/4 then detained again under emergency powers, have not been seen. Since their arrival at Chikurubi Prison on the outskirts of the capital. The order for appearance, of the 'missing 6', was made by Judge W Sandura; the same man that sat in judgement at the treason trial.

In the view of the 'missing 6's lawyer, Stephen Taylor, they have been spirited away from the police and prison authorities by members of the Central Intelligence Organisation. This secretive body s a separate security service controlled from within the prime ministers office to whom it reports.

Headline ***Skin sales approved*** – by the worldwide body that seeks to take care of the endangered wildlife that remains under threat from those who would kill the lion, elephant or rhino for their own benefit.

In Gaborone, capital of Botswana, African wildlife officials, from Kenya Zambia and Zimbabwe battled with experts from other nations to be allowed to export the skins of endangered species. The export of which had previously been banned.

The vote 34 : 6 in favour of the motion saw the countries, who are members of Cities, to export 460 leopard skins per year. A breakdown; Botswana, Kenya, Zambia and Zimbabwe 80 each. Mozambique 60. Malawi 20.

May 1983

Sun 1

Headline – ***Mugabe sacks his envoy in Britain*** – over alleged misappropriation of the Harare government funds when high commissioner Zwinoria purchased a residence in the exclusive London suburb of Mayfair at a cost of £585, 000.

Sources indicate that his sacking, and return home, is being treated by the government as a low key event. This may be due to the diligence that the the former guerilla chief was able to recruit the youth of war torn Rhodesia into the guerilla army led by the now prime minister.

As to the present circumstances of the former ambassador, recalled in 2/'83, little is seen of him out and about in Harare. It is known that since he returned from London contact has been made, although not on any regular basis, with the ministry of foreign affairs although no diplomatic briefings were given to officials.

Details from parliaments committee of public affairs, chaired by a white Independent MP, and with the finance minister B Chidzero as a member brought forward charges that the purchase of 11 Chesterfield Street was one of a 'catalogue of misdemeanours almost without parallel.' The need to purchase the mansion in the exclusive suburb of Mayfair was likened to a 'near obsession' by members of the committee. Worse still the ambassador continued with the purchase even after being told to stop by Harare officials. - **The Observer** page 6 C 1 -

Tues 3

The Zimbabwe government lift the ban on Jamaican reggae star Jimmy Cliff the Department of Education Minister Mr Joseph Culuverwell said yesterday. Mr Cliff was barred from touring Zimbabwe last month because he performed in South Africa.

Mr Culuverwell said that the government would allow the tour because Mr Cliff would soon be off a UN blacklist of entertainers who had performed in SA. It was understood that the banned ANC will propose Mr Cliff's clearance by the UN after a pledge by the singer not to tour SA again. Reuters

Thurs 12

Headline – ***Nkomo 's daughter attempts suicide*** – after swallowing pills which led her to being taken to a Bulawayo hospital. Her husband, J Ndhlovu who is being detained by the police for aiding the former cabinet minister crossing into Botswana, will be allowed to visit is wife once she leaves hospital.

Now in self imposed exile in London the politician, despite "being very sorrowful" about daughter Thandiwe's plight he had no plans for his immediate future. It is noted that the former guerilla leader would hope to return but at the present time the prime minister is not willing to agree to this. There is the possibility that Nkomo could be arrested if he returns for leaving the country illegally and breaking currency regulations.

The Herald newspaper claims that three black ex members of the Rhodesian security forces have infiltrated, from across the border from South Africa, into the troubled province of Matebeleland. The three were members of a 16 man patrol; all former Rhodesian paramilitary force members said minister of security Emmerson Munangagwa. Separately and also infiltrated from the apartheid state 's military was an ex Rhodesian special agent smuggled back into Zimbabwe after visiting an intelligence bas south of the Limpopo river. Sources indicate that this man was responsible for the 1981 death of Joe Gqabi the ANC 's representative in Zimbabwe at that time. - **The Guardian page 8 C 1** -

Sun 15

Headline – ***Radio attacks Mugabe*** – as the contents of Radio Truth are beamed through the airwaves of the Zimbabwe radio listening public. While the location of the stations transmitters is unknown those in the know believe the source if the broadcasts come from within the borders of the apartheid state. Radio Zimbabwe technicians indicate that technical details, from Radio Truth match those of Voice of Free Africa; a radio station, staffed by Pretoria 's men and beamed; on behalf of the MNR, into Mozambique.

Latest output from the station highlights the increased fears of the white farming community and the Ndebele people living and working in the troubled province in the west of the nation. The possibility/ certainty of trouble in relatively quiet provinces of Zimbabwe will be targeted by the military in the near future is another warning from VoFA's correspondents .

One recent broadcast commented on the sudden death of Mugabe 's top military commander, Josiah Tongogara, who died in a road accident, a short time before the end of the civil war. It was postulated that the death of the man, who may have been a peace time political rival of his military boss, Robert Mugabe, was not an accident

As of this time Voice of Free Africa only transmits for 30 minuets per day. In time, however, with the addition of music and quasi news reports along with supporting messages for the dissidents

roaming free broadcasting periods will increase so says one who worked for Ian Smith's government. - **The Observer** page 1? -

Headline – ***Whites fear poll change*** – as the government move towards all those eligible to vote are all recorded on a common voting role. Thus removing, so many believe, the last constitutional obstacle of the Zanu led government that Zimbabwe becomes a one party state. When announcing the governments proposal the minister of parliament and legal affairs, Eddison Zvobgo, noted than many whites support this decision.

A Republican Front noted that such a decision would encourage the few remaining whites who still live here to leave. Also “it is paving the way for a one party state and we oppose that.” - **The Sunday Times** -

Wed 18

Headline – ***Mugabe 's Trip*** – Zimbabwe 's PM Mr Mugabe was leaving Harare last night with a team of ministers for official visits to Hungary, Czechoslovakia and East Germany, the government announced yesterday. No details were given but from the composition of the delegation it appears that comprehensive talks are planned. - **Reuters** -

Mon 23

Headline - ***Mugabe 's nerves go on trial*** – these being the six white air force officers, with dual Zimbabwe/ British citizenship, who go on trial charged with the sabotage of 13 military aircraft on 25/7/82. The trial's outcome will have long standing effects of the future of this young nation.

In diplomatic and government circles a conviction of any of the accused is unlikely. It is more possible that following recent precedents; those who have won their court battles but still have angered the government authorities, will be detained under the nations state of emergency regulations.

It is well known that the confessions were allegedly obtained by the fear of and actual torture of the six. The defence team is led by the British barrister Harry Ognall and he expects the trial to last six weeks.

Away from the trial setting; on this day Air Marshall Norman Walsh, a veteran of the civil war and one who instigated the many air raids that destroyed many of the black nationalist bases in Zambia and Mozambique retires. He will be handing over his role, as head of the Zimbabwe Air Force to the similar ranked black military officer Josiah Tungamirai who during the liberation struggle were bitter enemies and following the peace served as Walsh's deputy. - **The Guardian** -

Fri 27

Headline – ***Rebels kill farmer*** – named Lawrence Dando aged 24 who managed the black workforce located in the Shangani district outside the town of Gweru close to the city of Bulawayo capital of the troubled province. Sources indicate that the manager died on 21/5 when battling with three dissidents. He died after being shot in the head. This brings to 30+ the number of white farmers who have died at the hands of dissidents in Matebeleland to date for 1983.

Recent comments, by the information minister, Nathan Shamuyarira in a written media outlet, that the security in the province had improved and civilian life was returning to normal. - **The Guardian** -

Sat 29

Headline – ***Prison uniforms for Harare officers*** – will, from this time;after new regulations were gazetted in official government papers, be the court wear for the six air force officers on trial in the court who are charged with sabotage. This move treats those not convicted as if they were already found guilty according to judge E Dumbutshena who would have been happy to see the see the uniformed 6 before him as they were obviously entitled to wear them.

Newly signed orders will now allow the state to indefinitely detain the aids of Joshua Nkomo who had recently been acquitted of illegally hiding weapons and treason on farms outside Bulawayo. Their only redress is to argue their case before a review tribunal although it is well known that the government will take little notice of its ruling. - **The Guardian** -

June 1983

Sun 5

Headline – ***Acquittals may turn Mugabe to no trial option*** – if the present legal moves, against six high ranking officers from the nations military air force, once again; following the lost legal challenge concerning high ranking Zapu politicians, fails to have the accused convicted on charges of treason.

The reasoning; legislation, albeit a sanction brought into being by the illegal UDI government of Ian Smith, is still on the statute book. The emergency powers act, brought in to combat the rise in the black nationalist call for independence as the illegal Smith regime began to clamp down on such aspirations, remains on the statute book. Thus those that the legal system decided were no threat to the government could be detained indefinitely if the governments home affairs minister deemed it necessary.

Throughout the time that Zimbabwe has been independent the courts have caused the release of at least four 'notables' that the Harare government would have rather seen convicted of their crimes. These ranged fro attempts to coerce the government, spying for the apartheid state to illegal weapons hoarding.

As of this present time, with a high court made up of ten judges, with a 6 : 4 ratio majority of those appointed at the time when the nation was led by the minority whites, there are elements within the present black dominated government that such a legal bias in the courts make up, leads to the conclusion that the courts rulings' appear to sow the seeds of revolt against the government'. - **The Sunday Times** -

Mon 6

Headline *authors own* – ***Vote of Confidence*** – Zimbabwe 's opposition Zapu party passed a vote of no confidence yesterday on its exiled leader Joshua Nkomo who is living in Britain. Nkomo fled to Britain last March accusing the PM of wanting him killed. - **Reuters** -

Tues 7

Headline ***Torture Claim*** – A Zimbabwe Air force officer, accused of helping South Africa saboteurs blow up 13 military aircraft last year, said yesterday police interrogators had subjected him to electric shock torture. My body was in spasms and I shouted and screamed said Wing Commander Peter Buisio aged 36 on trial with 5 other airman, all of whom have pleader not guilty to the charges. - **Reuters** -

*Headline - **Railman Held** – A white railman, acquitted of charges of insulting President Banana and PM Mugabe, has been placed under indefinite detention the national news agency Ziana reported yesterday. Mr Mr Herbert Moll aged 26 was held in Khami Prison Bulawayo under an order alleging he was a dissident collaborator.*

Thurs 9

*Headline – **White Exodus** – More people emigrated from Zimbabwe in February than in any single month in the past year according to official figures released yesterday. Most of those leaving are officially recognised to be whites and generally among the better technically trained members of the population. - **Reuters** -*

Fri 10

*Headline – **Deficit Doubles** – Zimbabwe 's trade deficit doubled last year to £10m according to official figures released yesterday. **Reuters** -*

Sun 12

Headline – **Whites wary of sabotage trial backlash** – and ponder the question what, if any future, has the white officer in the nations air force or any other of branch the nations military. The relevance will come to the fore if the the legal system convicts in the sabotage trial at the Thornhill base that is drawing to its end.

Conviction, of the six officers, in a plot now known to have been inspired by those from the apartheid state, the question of the loyalty; of all the nations white military officers, to the black led government will be questioned by the administration. If the verdicts fall in the favour of those in the dock their defence team has deemed the six as being scapegoats; an easy target for the Mugabe regime to blame because of their colour.

The board of inquiry report, into the events that saw the destruction of 13 aircraft at the Thornhill base appeared during the last seven days; and written by Air Commodore P Pile discloses that the men and officers stationed there were riven with rivalries and were unhappy at / unwilling to accept that the system had changed. No longer was he white man in charge. - **Observer page 10 C 1** -

Tues 14

Headline – **Kidnap tourists' fate still in doubt** – even as the five dissidents face continuing questioning, with the use of torture, as to the six foreigners; who were taken on 23/7 and said to have been killed within the next 24 hours have not been located despite the ongoing searches in Matabeleland province.

This gloomy news was made in a statement, by minister of security Emmerson Munangag, a day after B Hayden the foreign minister of Australia had been informed of the assumed deaths of two of his fellow countrymen. Government policy, in Harare, is not to make such announcements unless confronted with indefatigable proof; graves of the dead were found. - **The Guardian** -

Thurs 16

Headline – **Rebels shoot farmer** – Ian Bradner aged 39 who worked his farm in the south western town of Figtree. As he inspected a water trough he was ambushed by six dissidents. They then went and ransacked the contents of his farmhouse. The death, which occurred on 13/6, was the twenty

third white farmer / family member of friend, to die in the troubled province in the last 16 months. During this same period approximately 200 black farm labourers have died by the dissidents actions. - **The Guardian** page 6 C 1 -

Sun 18

Headline – ***Elephant herds to be slaughtered*** – as the numbers, recorded by the nations National Parks and Wildlife service, climb to a record number of 50, 000. As of this date the total killed is put at 2, 000. Twice that number will be culled within weeks a spokesman for the government said .

The park where the numbers of those to be culled are at their greatest is Hwange where 12, 000 will die over the next three years; a park where the greatest number of elephants are located. Government officials noted that the park's limited size could not sustain the 5% per year birth rate of the parks elephants.

One the elephants have been located, using spotter planes, the professional hunters would end their lives with a single rifle shot. Then skinned, catalogued for scientific purposes and the meat sold to the locals who have had to contend with the growing herd numbers who impinge on their homes and damage their crops. The elephant ivory tusks, with an expected weight of 8, 000 pounds, will be sold on the open market. The profits will go into state coffers. - **The Guardian** -

Sun 19

Headline – ***Zimbabweans united by sports fever*** – as for the first time, since independence, a foreign based team of rugby players to test their skills against a home team mainly composed of burly white farmers. Not noticed for their rugby prowess Moscow's rugby playing elite were not much of a challenge to the white farming stock that faced them on the playing field.

This small show of the nations sporting prowess has, in the recent past, been shown success on the cricket field; triumph against the Australian national team and a similar victory over the English rugby team. The final showing of their emergence into the international sphere of world sport is a play of place, in the African sporting sphere, to appear at the Olympic football finals. Set against these recent successes however was a defeat at the hands of the West Indian cricket team.

These sporting victories come after years of sporting isolation due to the international sporting boycott that was set in place by the United Nations at the time of the imposition of the 1965 United Declaration of Independence by the Rhodesian rebel leader Ian Smith. Such a boycott was only lifted after the prime minister Robert Mugabe took power.

As to the sports favoured by the vast majority of the nations black population, football predominates. Much covered on television and the press the national teams 3 : 0 victory against neighbours Mozambique brings hopes of a place in the Los Angeles Olympic Games in 1984.- **The Observer** -

Tues 21

Headline – ***Hippo Cull*** – *Three hundred Hippopotamuses are to be killed by rangers in a Zimbabwe game park because of drought a spokesman for the Ziana said yesterday. A National Parks spokesman said that if there was no controlled reduction the hippos would probably starve to death in much greater numbers.* - **Reuters** -

JULY 1983

Sat 2

Headlines – ***Zimbabwe Asians threatened*** – if, as it seems to Zanu MP and chief whip Nmuroyiwa, black employees of are the first to loose their jobs when working for Indian employers which is against government policy. He also noted that firms, run persons of the Jewish faith, seemed to let their black workers go first.

This highlighting of the breach of the nations employment policy will not, indicated the MP, bring a call that such employers should be expelled from Zimbabwe; some MP 's indicated that such an action could be likened to the moves that Idi Amin of Uganda sanctioned in the 1970's. There would be no wholesale expulsion of the Asian community he said. Rather it was a warning that just because the countries manufacturing industries were facing a crisis any actions taken to mitigate industries problems should not fall exclusively on one ethnic group.

Mrs Nkomo has had her passport returned by the police and all other travel restrictions imposed on her after the security forces searched the Nkomo home in a suburb of Bulawayo. - **The Guardian page 1?** -

Tues 5

Headline – ***Fear continues to rule in Matabeleland*** – despite the presence of the military becoming less obvious in the rural areas of the province. Schools have reopened and 'no one wants any trouble with the army' is the refrain most often heard when residents are questioned. Always at the back of the peoples mind is the possibility that the dissidents become more active. This in turn will bring the military back into provincial heartland along with their tactics of violence and intimidation of residents of times past.

Lupa, a town in the provinces heartland, is now deemed as having returned to normality following months of disruption due to the actions of dissidents and or the 5th Brigade of the national army. Shops are open and children have returned to their education. Back in 2/'83 the town was under military law; a curfew imposed, shops closed along with the schools. The closed down office of the local branch of the Zapu political party still remains locked and shuttered.

The overall impression of the region is normality however, according to members of the clergy and others concerned with freedom and fairness in society, the reality is hidden by this façade.; people are still frightened and in fear of the military. All efforts to still investigate claims, made in 3/'83; and rubbished by prime minister Mugabe, have not progressed and they see no possibility of stopping the alleged continuation of such actions in the near future. - **The Guardian page 7 C 4** -

Mon 4

Headline – ***Harare squat Bulldozed – Bulldozers*** , sent by the Zimbabwe government, raised a squatter settlement on the outskirts of Harare during the weekend leaving 3, 000 people homeless the Herald reported. The squatters, on private farm land, defied orders by the Local Government and Town Planning Minister, Enos Chikoworo, to evacuate the area by midnight last Thursday the national news agency said; he supervised the demolition.

The government said unauthorised dealers had been making fortunes from selling plots to Harare home seekers desperate for accommodation. Harare city council has a long waiting list for homes. -

Reuters -

Tues 5

*Headline – **Black Justice** – A Black Chief Justice West Indian born Telford George aged 60 was appointed for the first time in Zimbabwe yesterday. The Supreme Court judge was sworn in to replace Briton John Fieldsend who retired last year. - Reuters -*

Fri 8

Headline – **Villages burned in Zimbabwe** – as dissidents attacked two resettlement village, using bazookas and automatic rifles forty miles east of the city of Lupane in Matabeleland province. All told the rebels ordered the 58 family units; the entire population to vacate their homes without taking anything with them. Their homes were destroyed by fire leaving the residents with no possessions or a place to live. A similar styled attack occurred in 6/'83 which left 156 family units without the where with all to continue living there.

In response to this latest attack the prime minister promised to seek out the dissidents and crush them believing that they are former members of the guerilla force that supports the politician Joshua Nkomo. Mr Mugabe made his promise as he attended the passing out parade of 800 civilian who had been trained to be part of a paramilitary force who would return to their village homes and train other like minded residents in the tactics that they themselves had been taught by their North Korean instructors.

As the prime minister was out and about in the country in parliament a Zapu MP, Edward Ndlova, dismissed the idea that the party supported the actions of alleged dissidents in the troubled province. He also complained at members of the army were allegedly committing acts of torture against residents. The MP specifically blamed the 5th Brigade; those trained by the North Korean instructors as being responsible for much of the brutality. - **The Guardian** -

Sat 9

*Headline – **Minister Sues** – seven top aids to the Zimbabwean Opposition Leader, Joshua Nkomo, are suing the Home Affairs Minister Herbert Ushewakunze for Z\$50, 000 /£30, 000 damages for allegedly illegal detention before their trial for treason lawyers in Harare said yesterday. Dumiso Dabengwa, Mr Nkomo 's guerilla commander, Lookout Mksaka security chief in the seven year Independence war and 5 others were originally detained in March last year. **Reuters** ?*

Wed 13

Headline – **White farmers still under siege** – are once again considering their future as their numbers have fallen by 23 over the last 18 months in the troubled province where the loyalty of many of those dwelling within its borders are supporters of Joshua Nkomo. Options being considered; a move across the border into Zambia or just a short hop into the neighbouring province of Mashonaland province. There is little that threatens life here.

There are reports, from the farming community, that rather than track the dissidents the army would rather meter out threats of violence and even death threats to members of the black community. In the opinion of one white farmer violence towards peasant farmers is not the way forward. The only way to end this long dispute is to engage with Zapu in meaningful talks. These should involve political and their military aides; especially Dumiso Dabengwa, despite his recent repeat detention after his, and others, acquittal on a charge of treason.

Headline – **Senator and son ambushed** – along with the ranch 's black foreman; who died of his wounds. Senator M Rosenfels 57 an Independent, son Tony 27 only suffered shrapnel wounds as

they came under heavy automatic rifle fire. According to the politician's wife, Mary, by using his own weapon her husband beat off the dissidents' attack. Once again the police blamed the attack on supporters of Joshua Nkomo. - **The Guardian** -

Thurs 14

Headline – ***Mugabe rules out a political answer to dissident violence*** – when questioned, by former prime minister Ian Smith, as to bringing to an end to the troubles in Matebeleland. The prime minister was speaking in parliament in his, newly instigated, question and answer session before the country's members of parliament. Other topics covered included the continued detention of top leaders of the Zapu party and allegations of torture by government officials.

Many of the questions, for this 30 minute session ;which will occur on a monthly basis, came from members of the Republican Front. Concerning the present day allegations of torture from a party, when in the 1970 's detained and tortured many black nationalists, brought about a shocked response from one who had himself spent time in a Rhodesian jail during those troubled times. **The Guardian**

Fri 15

Headline – ***Musorewa criticises 'repression'*** – which is leading, in the opinion of the ex cleric/prime minister of the short run pre independence multi racial government, towards a state that is run without regard for a person's human rights.

Speaking to the media, and now returned to the clerical sphere, that the freedoms fought for and finally won by the Patriotic Front leadership are being lost as the present government continues to clamp down on those who wish to speak out against the Mugabe government. Only recently has there been an example of this; when Zanu supporters stoned church congregations as they entered or left their place of worship.

By encouraging their political supporters to attack the Church and its followers the state was implying it is OK to attack those that speak out against those that often speak out against the actions of the state. Where is the freedom of speech, that was at the centre of the black liberation struggle, against the rule of the white regime? - **The Guardian** -

Headline – ***Respect Please*** – People who lampoon the Zimbabwe President Mr Canaan Banana will risk going to jail for five years and a fine of Z\$5, 000 /£3, 400 if a bill being debated in parliament becomes law. - **AP** -

Sat 16

Headline – ***Harare calls for restraint*** – a plea from the Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace which was becoming 'distressed' at the ongoing violence in the troubled province in the south west of the country. Calling for continued calm in the province the report however noted that since 3/83 nineteen people had lost their lives and much property had been destroyed in the province. Once again it is the provincial poor who are most directly affected. To add to their hardships the region is suffering from the effects of a drought.

Headline – ***Zimbabwe disowns attack on Indians and Jews*** – even as recently the government's chief whip, Nason Muroyiwa, had criticised actions taken; a lost job by such employers against black employees before those of their own faith/ethnicity. The minister, and his thoughts, were dismissed by the legal affairs minister, Eddison Zvobgo, on 14/7, as being his and his alone thoughts. Such thoughts were “indeed the government finds such racialism and suggested racial

discrimination abhorrent.” In an attempted explanation of his remarks the chief whip, who had received letters naming him as a 'black Hitler', was identifying ethnic groups that they themselves identified themselves with at every opportunity.

Another climbdown, one sponsored by the North Korean mayor of Mutare; an anti United States solidarity month, came in parliament. The campaign, centred in the above town, which is at the heart of the province where the 5th brigade training headquarters is located names the American president 'the worst criminal and warmonger on the earth', The Harare administration made its statement after embassy officials in the capital made an informal protest. - **The Guardian** -

Sun 17

Headline – ***Hubble bubble toil and strife....*** - as traditional healers; those who use medicines and herbs that grow naturally, become concerned that this age old medical service, is to become infused with Western commercialisation.

The all embracing Zimbabwe National Traditional Healers Association, set up in 1981 by former health minister Doctor Herbert Ushewokunze, to bring rural medical knowledge into the cities now plans to purchase a farm to grow medical plants. The plan was proposed by academic and the Zinatha president Dr G Chavunduka the dean of sociology at Zimbabwe University.

Zinatha members are trained in three methods of divination. Spirit mediums who when possessed by their spirit are able to diagnose illnesses and determine their cause. The letters after their name are RSM; registered spirit medium.

A study of the use, and power of garden herbs and their various uses to cure medical complaints will entitle the Nanga; the ethnic name of a 'traditional medical practitioner' to be seen as a traditional medical healer.

To combine the above spheres of medical divinity will see RSM and RTMP appear on their business cards. - **Sunday Times** -

Mon 18

Headline – ***Romania assures Harare of friendship*** – as the nations president Ceausecu speaks at a rally in the countries capital. Much was made of the two countries long standing friendships; forged as the eastern bloc nations showed their support for black nationalist freedoms on the African continent. - **The Guardian page 7 C 8** -

Tues 19

Headline – ***Nkomo Release*** – The son in law of the self exiled Opposition leader Mr Nkomo has been released after more than 4 months in detention without trial. A spokesman for Mr Nkomo 's Zapu party said in Harare yesterday John Ndlova had been freed in Bulawayo last Friday. **Reuters**

Thurs 21

Headline - ***Three die in raid on gold mine*** – located 80 miles south of Bulawayo. The mine, named Freda also suffered the wounding of eight other persons. Two of the dead were only visiting while the third was a mine employee. All told the mine employs 400 persons while a 'sister mine' Blanket, located 12 miles distant; which itself had been attacked by dissidents in recent times in which no fatalities were recorded.

The gold bearing rocks, that are mined from these two locations provide the government with its second largest earner of foreign exchange earning industry. In 1982 the gold mining industry brought £77m into the Harare exchequer. - **The Guardian page 9 C 8** -

Fri 22

Headline – ***Zimbabwe 'trampled' on rights*** – when the state accepted the confessions of the six air force, brought about by torture, which has led to there appearing in court on a charge of treason. As the trial continues to hear the summing up of the defences evidence, which began on 20/7, chief council H Ognall QC challenges the validity of the officers confessions.

The defence team decry the states acceptance of such crucial evidence, made by the accused while in police custody. In the opinion of state prosecutor H Mukushi QC, 'they had the ring of truth about them' and provided sufficient proof of the defendants guilt. Such assumptions, in the defences opinion, could not be used as evidence because they were not made in the presence of their lawyers.

If the defences argument; the use of evidence gained under torture, was accepted by the presiding judge then in the opinion of the defence team the whole trial would collapse.

Headline – ***Harare hit by hold ups*** – on city branches of the Central African and Beverly building societies. The move comes after two of the city branches suffered criminal raids in which thousands of pounds were stolen. The announcement of the closures, of the 24 branches on security grounds, was made by Senator Garfield Todd

In the house of assembly Independent MP, D Divares that the close of these branches were a blow to law and order ... a victory for the bandits and we cannot allow it. - **The Guardian** -

Sat 23

Headline – ***World 's eyes on Harare verdict*** – of the nine week long trial of the air force officers accused of sabotaging aircraft of the nations air force. After a 12 hour summation of the evidence from the London based QC, the court was adjourned for the court to decide its verdict which is expected to take until mid 8/'83. - **The Guardian page 5 C 8** -

Sun 24

Headline – ***Harare shock for Air Force*** – as the air wing of the nations defence force will be overall commanded by air vice marshal Azim Drudpota; a native of Pakistan. Thus the moral of the Zimbabwe flyers will be further diminished as the outcome of six of its high command await outcome of the sabotage trial.

Already in post, placed ahead of AVM Joshia Tungamari who could have expected to take the top position because of his closeness; a former guerilla commander, and close associate of the prime minister.

With a 12 month long top job contract A V M Drudpota 's main aim will be to bring air force personnel into one cohesive fighting force with the attitude of being as one with the next person of whatever colour or creed. Joining the new boss will be 30 other members of the Pakistan air force. Their jobs ranging from flight instructors and technical staff all with the aim of instilling a cohesive working unit throughout the Thornhill base and elsewhere in the flying military.- **The Observer** -

Fri 29

Headline – ***Opposition demands army withdrawal from Matabeleland*** – which, in effect, means the ZNA 's 5th Brigade; a unit trained by North Korea instructors and staffed by loyal Zanu supporting military men. The calls comes from the newish leader of Zapu Josiah Chinamota whose request is backed up by the Catholic priest Father Hebron Wilson.

In response government officials noted that the contentious military unit had in fact left some of the more peaceful areas of the troubled province. Other elements of the 5th Brigade had been deployed to the British Military Assistance base for more training.

With a lessoned role for the military now in place to police have taken on the mantel of the provinces security. To this end beginning on 26/7 the government agencies began a fly and drop policy of leaflets offering a limited amnesty to dissidents. The first air drop occurred 50 miles south of Bulawayo over the Kenzi and Antelope mine complexes.

The essence of the offer, written in the three spoken languages; English, Shona and Ndebele, was the call for the dissidents to hand themselves in to the nearest authority within the next 24 hours. Upon arrival a promise; “you will be welcomed and treated well” would be made. However they were no details offered as to their future outlook.

It would seem that such amnesty tactics are not new. Under exclusive white rule and at the height of the black nationalist conflict offers of amnesty were offered to those opposed to the Smith regime. They too offered made promises of good treatment to those who wished to stop fighting.

Headline – ***Zimbabwe's troubles reduce corn stocks*** – to the level of only 50, 000 tonnes which is only 14 days supply of the countries staple foodstuff. From a nation given the soubriquet 'the granary of Africa for the last two years, and having to cope with drought he feeding of its people must become a priority.

This worry was revealed at the annual conference of the Commercial farmers Union by president Jim Sinclair. With the next harvest due in 3/'84 feeding the nations people must become a priority of the government. The minister for agriculture, D Norman, who has recently returned from the USA to enquire about shipments of its surplus grain endorsed the given figures. However he was sure that when there was enough grain in store to keep the country fed until the next grain harvest was available.

Elsewhere at the conference, the mainly white farmers attending, criticised the six government ministers who attended the conference who were blamed for allowing the attacks of dissidents on the white owned farms in the troubled province. - **The Guardian** -

August 1983

Tues 2

Headline – ***Journalists to appeal against Harare ban*** – a specific decree, signed by government officials on 31/7, that prevents apartheid state based journalists from reporting from inside any of the six front line states. A delegation has arrived in the capital to plead its case before the information minister.

The minister, and by implication, the Zanu led government, claim that the South African media; and members of the international press who feed of its Johannesburg press office, give a biased opinion

of newsworthy events that occur in Zimbabwe and elsewhere in the FLS. Known as the Kadoma declaration; after the town were the minister met with media, apartheid state reporters will however be allowed to report Zimbabwe 's newsworthy events for publications that only are published in their home country. However if any journalist is banned from any of the six front line states that person would also not be able to work in any of the others.

Historically the majority of journalists who report on southern African events are based in Johannesburg or Cape Town. In response the nations foreign correspondents association will appeal to western nations diplomats based in the country to put pressure on the Harare regime to force a change of mind. - **The Guardian** -

Wed 3

Headline – ***Journalists in ban talks*** – met with deputy information minister Justine Nyoka for a 45 minuet period. The delegation, senior journalists from the apartheid states Foreign Journalists Association and others from the Voice of America, were not there to protest during their 45 minuet meeting. Rather they were seeking clarification of the government issues that concerned the present regime.

All told the SAFCA, based in Johannesburg, looks after the interests of ninety overseas media correspondents based in the republic. They, in turn report for 53 international media organisations that are based in 12 countries. - **The Guardian** -

Thurs 4

Headline – ***Nkomo 's parliament seat in jeopardy*** – as, under the present constitutional arrangements it is written that if an member of the house of assembly is absent from parliament for more than 21 days in a row then his place in the legislative falls vacant.

The motion was tabled by the minister of legal and parliamentary affairs Eddison Zvobgo. It is not as if there need to be a bye election to fill the vacant seat. Under the Lancaster House agreement, of 1979, vacant seats are filled from within the political party of the outgoing member.

The ensuing debate brought to light the case of a Zanu member who had also let his attendance in the house slip beyond the allotted time; the deputy defence minister, W Ndangana, it turned out was in hospital according to Speaker D Mutasa.

The vote to disbar, which would have needed 51votes, the exiled MP was defeated with the help of the whole of the Republican Front members joining with opposition MP 's. - **The Guardian** -

Headline - ***Aid Swindle*** – *The Secretary General of the Zimbabwe Red Cross has been suspended after being arrested for allegedly stealing \$360, 000 in grants from the International Red Cross in Geneva. Musafare Mupanduki is on bail awaiting trial on August 31.* - **AP** -

Sat 6

Headline – ***Harare censor threat to press*** – as moves are afoot, promulgated by the ministry of information, to ban overseas and local media persons, to report on security issues in as yet unnamed regions of the country. Once the government have defined the areas where dissidents actions cannot be reported by the media it will become criminal offence for the media to make any reference to it in their copy.

Penalties for breaching the government order, a new clause added to the state of emergency; a

legacy of the white regimes security measures, will be a fine of £600 or a jail term of two years.

Commenting on the Front Line States acceptance of the Kadoma Accord, of 2/8, the Zambian minister of information, M Tamntamba, noted that his government only went along with the majority of its members so as to keep up a unified face against the apartheid state. Some time later, and back in the Zambian capital Lusaka, noted that he was unhappy at the regional agreement because of Zambia 's “good record of not hiding anything to the outside world.”

Back in Harare swift support for the new journalistic accord was shown by the authorities when withdrew media accreditation to a BBC television crew who worked out of Johannesburg. Previously those working in the media had very few restrictions; inform the government of their movements outside the capital and Bulawayo as well as months of reporting from inside the troubled province of Matabeleland. - **The Guardian page 4 C 1** -

Sun 7

Headline – ***Zimbabwe muzzles the Press*** – even as one dissenting nation; also a member of the Front Line States organisation, stands alone and indicated that it would continue to allow visas to the apartheid states media 'when it suits them.'

One of the first casualties of the press ban will be a journalists from the London based Daily Telegraph, who covered the eight week trial of the British born officers of the Zimbabwe Air Force. They will not be allowed back to report the courts verdict on 29/8. - **The Observer** -

Mon 8

Headline – ***Zanu will rule for ever*** - was the message that the prime minister thundered from the platform of a rally in Parliament Square in the centre of the nations capital. He made this prophesy twenty years to the day since the party was formed. The party was founded by Enos Nkala who is now a cabinet minister in the present administration.

Speaking from the platform, to an audience of two thousand supporters, many of whom had marched 15 miles from the black township of Highfields, the prime minister said “a one party state is what we want and that shall be.” He then went on to say, speaking in Shona; the main language spoken by his supporters, that only Zanu card carrying nationals would be allowed to stand for parliament.

The ongoing debate, as to whether the self exiled former leader of the Opposition should loose his seat in parliament, because of his prolonged absence in London, has been adjourned till 17/8. - **The Guardian** -

Wed 10

Headline – ***Dissident 'trained in S Africa'*** – was the admittance of Bensen Dube who has made entered a not guilty plea to the charge of murdering a policeman and others indicating acts of terrorism, when giving evidence in Harare 's high court.

The state claims that as many as 300 Zimbabweans have entered the apartheid state for military training in the last 2 years. Once trained they would spearhead a campaign to destabilise Zimbabwe that would lead to the downfall of the Mugabe government.

Giving details of his time across the border; a forced abduction it is claimed the 20 year old

reluctant abductee was seized by six armed men as he travelled to Bulawayo. His journey entailed crossing "a big river and a huge fence" where he was met by three men and a vehicle. They then travelled to a military camp; Spencer then onto a second camp. Here he underwent training, along with 300 other Zimbabwean national, in the use of firearms, grenades and the art of survival.

In 12/82 himself and about 50 other trainees were infiltrated back across the Limpopo river and over the border fence into Zimbabwe. Their instructions were to attack members of the ZNA that they came across. Their first contact occurred near the town of Mwenenzi in the south east of the country. It was during this 'first contact' that the police man died and he was injured. After a further two days roaming the bush He was captured along with a second man. - **The Guardian** -

Mon 15

Headline – ***Nkomo flies home to confront his rivals*** – as he denies any secret deals, between him and the prime minister, about his future have been made. As far back as 12/8 the former president of Zapu noted that he thought he would not have to go to jail if he returned home. As to his seat in parliament the MP noted he would occupy it on 17/8; the day of the resumed debate on attempts to bar him as a member of the house of assembly because of his lapsed attendance record. - **The Guardian page 1** -

Headline – ***Joshua flies into battle*** – the authors personnel reminiscences, over many hours in Swiss Cottage home of the self exiled political leader. All his past powers of 'thinking on his feet'; much in use in his military and political career, will now have to be retuned for the uncertain times ahead.

He himself still believes that there is much he can still achieve once back in the land of his birth. In his opinion the timing of such an event is crucial. To leave it to long will see his return as a non event; times, events and people have moved on. Return to early and there was/is the threat of jail. In Both cases there is the element of danger of his supporters forgetting him. However, as in the past, he has calculated well the optimum time for his return. - **P Keatley ditto page 13** -

Tues 16

Headline – ***Nkomo 'safe from arrest*** – as senior members of Zapu; led by acting president Josiah Chinamano, prepare for his return to Harare. Once back in the country he will settle in his Highfield home and speak to the press. There was no reaction to the news from the government other than to say the former cabinet minister would be returning 'as an ordinary citizen'. The police have also noted that he will not be arrested although there are criminal charges pending.

Rumours of talks, concerning the unifying the two wings of the political parties, begin to circulate where 'little progress has been made' notes the prime minister. Observers of these recent, unreported events, note that such "exploratory unity talks" would make little progress without the input of the former party leader; seen as such a dominant figure in Zimbabwe politics despite his recent fall from political favour since 2/82. - **The Guardian** -

Wed 17

Headline – ***Nkomo announces reconciliation plan*** – which extends to thirty pages in length and would be presented to parliament if the prime minister has no objection. As of this time there has been no response from the Zanu leader. In essence the former cabinet minister proposes a 'peoples conference' to consider the nations political tensions and continuing anti government dissidents in Matabeleland.

The politicians and peoples congress make up would involve all persons / groups with a vested interest in the smooth running of Zimbabwe. The format could be likened to the Ndebele decision making Indaba where group representatives, from politics, farming groups, and trade unions et al would thrash out means and ways to end the dissidents campaign of protest.

As a side issue, the reasons for his flight from the country, in 3/'83, was explained to the gathered media in his Highfields home. Him leaving the country was not only because he feared for his life but also he needed time to work through his thoughts on the above plan. - **The Guardian page 1?** -

Thurs 18

Headline – ***Nkomo jeered in parliament*** – along with being deemed as a traitor by MP 's loyal to Mugabe government. Despite his acrimonious return the government have abandoned their plan to have the house of assembly vote on declaring his seat vacant because of the length of time the “father of the dissidents”; a term used by the prime minister, was absent from parliament.

Noting that there was no let up by the government / prime minister in blaming Zapu and its former leader for the troubles in his home province the minister of parliament, Eddison Zvobgo, indicated the real culprit for the ongoing crisis could be laid at the feet of the chairman of the 1979 Lancaster House peace conference that ended the civil war. Chairman, Lord Carrington 's proposals for Zimbabwe 's constitution contained the clause that allowed an unseated MP, due to his absence, could return representing a new constituency. - **The Guardian** -

Fri 19

Headline – ***Nkomo opposes the iron fist*** – as he returns to his seat of power; the troubled province of Matabeleland 's main city Bulawayo. Here, before a crowd of 5, 000, he expressed the hope that his return “will bring about the spirit and desire to discuss problems instead of resorting to the iron fist.”

Home media reaction to the events in the house of assembly 24 hours previously, as seen by the Herald newspaper, was given in a message to the prime minister; ignore Mr Nkomo 's proposals. The editorial, titled Dr Who noted that “the government would be shooting itself in the foot” if it followed such an idea.

Going against the perceived notion, that the dissident forces are in tune with the thinking of the Zapu, government minister H Ushewokunze head of home affairs, is of the opinion it is the government of the apartheid state that are the driving force behind their actions.

Strongly supportive of his prime minister, and speaking to members of the senate, said that the large number of refugee/dissidents who found homes in Botswana and were sent back, in 1982, across the border to the land of their birth have now fled south across the Limpopo river. Here they are being used by the authorities as 'a reserve for sponsored bandits' against the front line states bordering South Africa. - **The Guardian** -

Leader Comment, **Joshua: the last chapter** begins in a good way; the government withdrew the motion to expel him from parliament. However the prime minister name calling him does not bode well for his political future. This “open hand of reconciliation” could soon be closed into a fist of military action in the troubled province. The prime minister's intention is to end the dissident actions through the power of the gun rather than the power of the word.

“Joshua Nkomo now has a last chance to make the politicians supreme sacrifice – of personal

sacrifice – and lead his people to safety, even if Mr Mugabe will take some persuading that he is big enough to do it. The alternative, alas, is all to clear.” - ditto -

Sat 20

*Headline – **Property Seized** – The Zimbabwe government has confiscated the property of two white former intelligence officers being held without charge Ziana reported yesterday. Philip Hartlebury and Colin Evens were acquitted by the High Court last January of spying for South Africa but detained under the emergency laws. - Reuters -*

Sun 28

Headline – **Baby dumping angers Mugabe** – such that a ministerial committee will investigate the reasons why newly born infants are being abandoned. The prime ministers fatherly concerns were raised when during a political rally he told a political rally that the practice was “immoral and evil.” By 6/83 the bodies of twenty two babies had been found in the Harare over the last five months.

Reasons for such a concern, from the head of the continents newest nation, is that the ethos of the family and care of the child, is the strong bond of family that is centred on the African family unit. It would seem that the ending of the civil war, where many males were away from the family unit and the the struggle ending, has brought an expectation of a large increase in the Zimbabwe population. The World Bank, in 1982, predicted that by the year 2000 the nations population would have risen by 4. 3%.

Also, in recent times, the contraceptive drug Devo Provera, delivered as a injection; to last 3 months has been discontinued after women reported unwelcome side effects. Since it was first prescribed, by the end of 1981, almost 100, 000 women had used this method to limit their number of pregnancies. Official comment, from former health minister H Ushewokunze deemed the use of DP as 'part of a colonial plot to oppress the blacks'. - The Observer -

Wed 31

Headline – **Zimbabwe trial verdicts today** – with the whole world watching, and waiting for, the verdict. Whatever the outcome, that faces the British born six white air force officers charged with the sabotage of 13 aircraft, the verdict will also indicate how Zimbabwe will be viewed by the members of the international community.

As has been seen recently, where the legal system has not worked as the government would have hoped; freeing those who the government would have wanted to detained. Once out of the courts jurisdiction, police swoop in and, under state of emergency regulations, those freed are whisked away to be locked up without trial and little hope of release. - The Guardian -

SEPTEMBER 1983

Fri 2

Headline – **Thatcher 'concerned' by Harare arrests** – of the six Zimbabwe air force officers even after the nations legal system found the officers not guilty of sabotage. The governments concerns were passed both to prime minister in Harare; through a letter from the Conservative leader. The same message was also passed, by M Rifkind a minister of state at the foreign office, to the acting Zimbabwe high commissioner Munyarasdi S Kajses.

In Harare there is speculation that the state of emergency sanctioned detentions will not be without limit; not indefinitely at least. Coming to a decision as when to release the six may be helped by the fact that prime minister Mugabe is about to embark on a three nation international tour. Worries about his reception may also add to the pressure that could lead to a quick release for the six.

Their lawyers are also of the opinion that their state of emergency detention order was imposed while the authorities decide what to do with them. - **The Guardian page 1** -

Leader Comment **So what was the point of the trial?** As the only evidence, used by the police in the trial was produced through the use of torture on the air force officers where was the independent evidence? The police claim they had such evidence. "Why did they not offer it in court.... procedures laid down by Mr Mugabe was scrupulously followed and the evidence was 'weighed by the court'." Only the confession evidence was presented in court. This was scrutinised by Judge Enoch Dumbutshena ... "found it unconvincing." - **ditto page 12 C 1** -

*Headline – **Refugees Stay Put** – Thousands of Zimbabwe refugees in Botswana have refused government offers of a safe return home the Botswana Press Agency reported yesterday. About 47, out of about 3, 000 refugees in a camp have agreed to return to the troubled province of Matebeleland which they had fled since the beginning of the year during anti rebel operations. Reuters*

Sun 4

Headline – **Airmen may be freed** – through the act of deportation of the three British./Irish nationals who were freed, by the courts and then rearrested under state of emergency regulations, prior to the prime ministers visit to Dublin as an act of goodwill. At the same time the remaining three British nationals, caught up in the same sabotage trial, may be expelled after a plea from London's government officials. - **Sunday Times page 19 C 6?** -

Leader Comment **An affront to justice** is what the outcome of the sabotage trial is seems to be the conclusion of the whole of the British and the international community. However it must not be forgotten that "during colonial times – in Kenya's Mau Mau emergency, for example – we were not above putting black nationalists back into detention after failing to secure a conviction against them."

Despite this; a means of stemming the forces of those seeking political change, it was the rebel Ian Smith that introduced the state of emergency regulations into Rhodesia in 1965. While not denying that there is domestic pressure for change in Zimbabwe for the government to flout the legal system, that accepted police evidence that was extracted by torture. "Non of this can excuse actions so totally repugnant to universal concepts of fair play."

Despite the recent words of the acting chief justice Leon Baton that urgent steps should be taken "to ensure that detention under emergency powers regulations is not further abused. He was ignored."

This warning was enhanced by the trial judge when he made comments on the use of torture when seeking a confession. Mr Mugabe should see to it that those responsible should be brought to book." **The Observer**

Mon 5

Headline – **Mugabe to decide officers' fate before leaving on Western trip** – within the next forty eight hours. There is ongoing negotiations as to whether all, or just the most senior officers; Air

Vice Marshall H Slater, Air Commodore P Pile and Wing Commanders P Briscoe and J R Cox. The two remaining officers Barrington Lloyd and Neville Wei; both Air Lieutenants should remain, according to government officials, as they are deemed the most guilty.

The fate of a seventh accused, Air Lieutenant N L Walker, is more controversial. While the London authorities would like him returned although there is a Zimbabwe case that the officer should remain where he is. In 4/'83 he faced a fine of £33/ \$50 for possession of weapons; deemed unusable as they were mounted on a plinth for display purposes. At the time of the arrest of 6 he was also rounded up by the police. During the interrogation sessions he alone did not admit to the sabotage charge. Therefore he did not appear in court but still remains in detention. - **The Guardian** -

Tues 6

*Headline – **Black Pilots** – Zimbabwe Air Force has appointed its new black pilots the government announced yesterday. The Romanian trained airmen received their wing during a ceremony at air force HQ in Harare. - Reuters -*

Wed 7

Headline – **Concern for airmen held in Zimbabwe** – could linger, till 10/'83, the date that the prime minister's returns from his four nation international tour. Within 24 hours he will land in the Irish Republic 's capital Dublin; the natural home of two of the six officers now detained under soe regulations in a Harare jail. He leaves, for the USA on 9/9; leaving on 14/9.

From an expected warm reception, for Mugabe on arrival in Washington, the issue of the alleged saboteurs, will see a downgrading of the welcome from American officials. Likely to suffer is the value of inward investment from US firms into the economy of Zimbabwe. Other concerns of the American nation is the perceived increase of the amount of human rights abuses against civilians, by the police and military, reported as they swept through the troubled province of Matabeleland searching for dissidents. - **The Guardian** -

Thurs 8

Headline – **Unabashed Mugabe seeks investment** – as the futures, of the six re detained air force officers, may/ will cloud the prime ministers reception during his four nation tour. As of this date no decision has been made of their early release says a government official in Harare.

The thinking of the government officials, about the deportation/ release of the six officers; now held in indefinite detention under the state of emergency regulations, will be that as members of the opposition Zapu, who had faced criminal charges over arms possession et al, and found not guilty by the courts. Still they are held under the same state of emergency regulations, and still languish in a Harare jail. - **The Guardian** -

Fri 9

Headline – **Mugabe asked about airmen** – by Dr Garret FitzGereld the president of Eire when the two met for an hour soon after the African visitor arrived in Dublin. The president expressed 'his concerns' over the detention of two of the officers, who have duel Zimbabwe and Eire nationality. No other details of their meeting were disclosed.

Mugabe hopes that this trip will see the Irish Republic business / state institutions offer help in the fields of education and farm management. To that end he will lead his delegation, including three of

his government ministers, to Dublin University where its academics are well known, in the developing world, to aid the 'third world' to improve their education systems. Other visits, for the prime minister is to the country's main Catholic seminary; Maynooth. The visit will show the high regard that the Harare government places the work of the Catholic clergy in the many mission schools that continue to educate the rural population. - **The Guardian page 1** -

Headline – ***Minister attacks acquittal*** - thus, so it seems that home affairs minister Herbert Ushewokunze, has lessened the likelihood of an early release of the six air force officers held under state of emergency regulations. The minister expressed the view that the six were guilty of the sabotage charges, when he spoke to the Herald newspaper.

In the interview, to a media outlet that is seen as the media spokesman of the ruling party, the minister said the judicial outcome was wrong and had a 'distinct class bias.' He noted that the judge centred his objections; to a guilty verdict, on the use of torture. However the minister noted “In our law illegally obtained evidence nevertheless remains admissible in court..... even if a policeman acts illegally that does not justify letting the criminal free.”

Part of the presiding judge's summing up noted that the men had all asked for a meeting with their lawyers while in police custody and been refused. In the view of high court justice Enoch Dumbutshena, the nation's first black judge the police refusal breached the constitutional rights of the prisoners. - **ditto page 7 C 1** -

Leader Comment **An odd idea of justice** is the attack on prime minister Mugabe from Eire's president as his country, in times past, had its own difficulties with the British crown; while lobbying for its own independence in times past. Freedom from British rule “encouraged independence movements throughout the empire and ushered in the process that brought Zimbabwe its own liberation in 1980.”

From asking why go through the legal process of charging the six officers only, when they were found not guilty, and then using state of emergency regulations, continue to deny the officers their freedom. To be answered now is the “what value there is to detaining not only the six acquitted men but also a seventh who was not tried at all” not forgetting the Zapu party officials detained earlier.

As for the utterances of the home affairs minister “that the criminals should not go free because a policeman made a mistake,” That is an answer of sorts; one that offers no comfort to those who believe in the separation of powers, of the state versus justice system.

If the present system remains; the bypassing of the legal system in favour of executive power there will be little chance of national reconciliation between the “white former race enemy, or the internal opposition.”

“The only apparent difference now between detention by decree as practised in Zimbabwe and the apartheid state next door is one of quantity rather than quality. Even that may disappear if Mr Ushewokunze has his way. - **ditto page 12** -

Sat 10

Headline – ***Mugabe attacks 'stupid ass' law that bars torture confessions*** – away from Dublin two of the six SOE detained officers, both with dual Eire/ Zimbabwe nationality are expected to arrive in London after being released 'because they were less involved in the alleged sabotage of military planes than their colleagues'.

The prime minister made his 'stupid' remark; seeing it as a bit part of the regulations brought in by the colonial rulers and further used by the illegal regimes of recent times. He made it very clear that he thought little of legal rejection of evidence gathered by the use of torture. - **The Guardian** page 1? -

Sun 11

Headline – ***Fears for other officers*** – of the Zimbabwe air force were expressed by the two officers; Slater and Pile as they landed in London after being deported from the country due to both men having dual nationality.

Announcing that both men would now wish to settle in England one of the freed men awaited the arrival of his family from their African home. Air Vice Marshall was whisked away, after their three minute encounter with the media, to be debriefed by members of the foreign office.

The, until now, unnamed air force officer; who was arrested at the same time as the six who did not appear in Harare high court and remains in Chiikurubi jail, but not named is now known to be Air Lieutenant N Walker aged 28.

Rumours abound that after the end of prime minister Mugabe's four nation tour he will travel with his 50 strong entourage to meet Soviet officials. - **The Observer** -

Mon 12

Headline – ***Mugabe discusses detained airmen*** – during an off schedule trip to London while on his first leg of his four nation tour. Within the confines of Heathrow airport the Zimbabwe prime minister met with the British minister of state Richard Luce. The only item on the agenda was the fate of the detained officers.

The talks between the two were deemed by officials as “a normal courtesy” considering the closeness of the two nations. London was keen to assure the continent's newest head of state that the action taken over the six would not jeopardise continuing British economic aid or its military training commitment to Zimbabwe.

The one criticism that the London government had about the prime minister's actions over the six was that Mugabe would not / could not overrule the opinions of his MP's that the six should remain in jail. Such actions lessened the effectiveness of those British MP's, who were supportive of the new regime in Harare, when it came to dealing with worldly events.

Direct from his London talks Mugabe flew to the state of Georgia where he met with the American politician Andrew Young then on to New York. - **The Guardian** -

Tues 13

Headline – ***Nkomo men accused of armed raid*** – on the Harare home of the Mugabe family in 1982. Appearing in the city's high court were ten men all; members of the Zapu political party. It is said that the then opposition leader was informed of the date, 24/6, before the attack occurred.

The state's case, outlined by nation's chief prosecutor A Chigovera, was that the aim was that after the death of the prime minister Joshua Nkomo would head a military junta with support of party followers drawn from the Zapu heartland city of Bulawayo. Such a thought was dismissed by the spokesman for their defence team who said those in the dock knew nothing of the plot. Therefore

they entered a plea of not guilty. - **The Guardian** -

Wed 14

Headline – ***Mugabe calms US fears over judiciary*** – as the visiting African prime minister meets America's President Regan at the White House in Washington where they have two hours of and a working lunch.

With assurances, from the American president, that the relationship between the two nations was generally good the Zimbabwe prime minister turned to the issue of trade between the two countries. At the present time the United States contributes about \$75m per year to the African nations coffers. There are those, among the feel that more should be done for this emerging nation because as of this time as an economically viable nation Zimbabwe would be a fine example for other black African states to follow if sufficient western aid and help with building the right infrastructure was forthcoming.

As to the future of Namibia, a great concern of prime minister Mugabe, there was a plea to president Regan to take a strong line with the leaders of the apartheid state who rule the west African colony along similar lines to their own regime. His hope is that with an exchange of views, between Washington and Pretoria “South Africa would proceed to act positively.” - **The Guardian** -

It has been announced, by the minister of security, Sydney Sekeramayi, that a commission of inquiry to investigate alleged criminal acts by members of the military in the troubled province of Matabeleland. The commission had its first meeting on 28/6. The four members are; chairman Simplicius Chimbakwe a Harare based lawyer. Retired brigade commander Mike Shute. John Ngara and P Machaya. - **The Guardian** -

Thurs 15

Headline – ***Zimbabwe releases detainee but four officers still held*** – as the last British governor at the time of the 1980 multi racial elections is to leave the country he, and his family, have been part of for the last fifty years. The reason; because his family no longer feel safe living here. - **The Guardian** -

Fri 16

Headline – ***Harare airmen must stay in jail*** – as a third air force officer, Wing Commander P Briscoe; holder of a South African passport, prepares to fly to freedom on an aircraft that lands at Gatwick airport outside London.

As to the fate of the remaining officers, Cox Lloyd and Weir, their future was outlined in parliament by home affairs minister Herbert Ushewokunze. - **The Guardian** page 1? -

Headline – ***Officers to stay gaoled*** – because the minister told the assembled members of the house of assembly because of other information that he had received. This 'new information' indicates that for the foreseeable future the three will remain in detention 'indefinitely' The minister noted that the courts had found the three not guilty which ensured that their SOE inspired detentions were not a punishment. Therefore the “government will give them humane treatment.” - **ditto page 9** -

Sat 17

Headline – ***Harare suspends white pilot*** – of the air plane that carried Slater and Pile (qv 11/9) out of Zimbabwe and into the arms of their relations in London. His crime; a tanoy announcement that welcomed on board these two men, where air commodore Pile was at one time director of operations. Captain Tony Thomas was suspended on 16/9.

In part of his welcome, according to an unnamed source; a passenger!, Captain Thomas welcomed the two on board and hailed them as celebrities and hoped they had a pleasant flight. The incident will be investigated by a committee and its findings submitted to Farayi Masango the nations transport minister.

Mon 19

Headline – ***Hopes that Zimbabwe inquiry will ease tension*** – in Matabeleland after the government announces a commission of inquiry into the alleged inappropriate actions of the military during its search and destroy campaign to seek out dissident fighters that the military launched at the beginning of 1983. Commenting a the administrations decision a church worker, a body that has long called for such an inquiry, “its an indication that the government still represents the rule of law.”

The commission will be made up of three lawyers and a retired army general and will look into the many instances, reported by both province dwellers, members of the Roman Catholic priesthood and international aid organisation. Most of the reported wide spread atrocities are blamed on the 5th Brigade of the national army who show their first loyalties to the Zanu; a force trained by military officers from North Korea.

Even as the commission prepares to hear evidence there are rumours that the, now quiet province, has seen a recent upsurge in actions by dissidents. Diplomatic opinion was tempered by concerns that the commissions findings would lead to prosecutions of those found to have carried out acts of torture or the killing of residents.

Under legislation, that was enacted from the beginnings of the black liberation struggle, under the Smith regime prevents prosecutions of members of the military if their actions were defence of the state. The only way such prosecutions can take place, and override the indemnity act if the attorney general takes over the case. In present circumstances this is thought unlikely. - **The Guardian page 8 C 1 -**

Mon 26

Headline *authors own* - ***A Footballers Burial*** – The Zimbabwe President Canaan, a football fan, has disclosed he wants to be buried in Harare 's Rufaro Stadium the Sunday Mail reported. - **AP -**

Headline *authors own* – ***Escaping the Drought*** – Elephants from Zimbabwe are swimming the Zambezi river into neighbouring Zambia to escape the effects of the drought the Zambia Daily Mail reported at the weekend. - **Reuters -**

Wed 28

Headline – ***Zimbabwe protest*** – outside the Harare office of London 's high commissioner. The crowd, of up to 2, 000 Zanu supporters were showing their support for Mugabe 's recent comments, on 12/9, concerning his perceived inability to stand firm when making decisions about peoples

future.

There was a meeting between the British high commissioner and a delegation from those protesting outside. According to the British officials “they went away happy”, as they knew that the London government were intent on having a good relationship with the Harare regime. On the street outside the commissions office elements from within the crowd of demonstrators made threats of violence towards white journalists who were among the crowd. - **The Guardian** -

Thurs 29

Headline – ***White MP 's warned*** – of the Republican Front were warned not to assist the London based Conservative government in any attempts that it may have in interfering with the internal policies of Harare administration. The prime minister was addressing the house of assembly at parliamentary question time. Such an announcement shows the belief that London is still meddling in the future of the remaining jailed air force officers held under the SOE regulations.

A second question, over paying the retirement pensions of former white civil servants, the PM noted that if it was known that one had worked against interests of the present regime he noted. “There is no moral basis which we must pay pensions who have worked against us, but there is a constitutional basis.”

During his reply Mugabe talked about the Lancaster House discussions concerning the paying of pensions of white civil servants. The settlement agreement says the Zimbabwe administration agree to continue these payments. Then there was a long list of perceived attacks, made by the colonial power... breaches of human rights, people are not free and harassing of RF MP 's.

“This is what annoys me about Britain. That having done so much for them ... most of the pensions are for the people are for people who have worked against us during UDI.” - **The Guardian** -

Fri 30

Headline - ***Chaplin Out*** – The Chaplin General of Zimbabwe 's security forces has been suspended because of his links with the 6 white air force officers who were detained after being acquitted of charges of sabotage an army spokesman confirmed in Harare yesterday. He is Lieutenant Colonel Val Rajh who visited the airmen in detention and led prayers for their wives during the year they were in custody. - **AP** -

OCTOBER 1983

Sat 1

Headline – ***Smith party loses to white moderates*** – after the sitting member of parliament, Arthur Tapson, resigned his Makoni district seat to move south to the apartheid state. The constituency is now represented by Jock Kay who will sit as an independent.

The result; 493 : 434 now means that the once dominant, whites only political party, now has fewer than half the members of parliament, twenty, that were guaranteed under the 1980 constitution.- **The Guardian** -

Headline - ***Hopes buried in the land slide*** – as the government confirms that no new farmland will be purchased for the resettlement of black farming families when recent hopes that 162, 000 families would soon move on to unused white owned land.

From a high, of £27m government spending in the years 1982/3 the next years allotment will be the same even though the need for resettlement land has grown. - ditto -

Sun 9

Headline – ***Hopes rise for airmen*** – who number four that are still remain in detention in one of Harare 's jails. While no specific hopes were mentioned, by Eddison Zvogbo, its toe could be deemed 'moderate.'

In his long statement it could be said, according to a diplomatic source, with a defence of the actions of the presiding judge; Justice Dumbutshena, in going against the wishes of the state, to bring in a not guilty verdict, gives the small white population some comfort that the legal system is fair in its dealings with all lawbreakers of whatever ethnicity. - **The Observer page 1** -

Headline – ***Zimbabwe on trial*** – a view deeply expressed by the nations minister of legal and parliamentary affairs, Eddison Zvogbo, as well as a member of the Zanu central committee. His plea, to the international community, for his governments treatment of the six air force officers comes as an advert.

The whole tenure of this full page statement is to refute the widely held belief that the rule of law and order is breaking down on the continents newest independent state. Within this statement the minister has made much of the fact that London, when dealing with IRA terrorists in Northern Ireland jurisprudence. Accused persons are being convicted on the basis of the evidence of sole witnesses 'who are accomplices in the same crimes.' To add further the management of the witness statement the witness is promised safe protection for himself and his family thereafter.

Harare 's courts, if they allowed such 'behind closed doors evidence' would bring censure upon themselves. "No one in Britain loses sleep over these new procedures."

In the end; "we believe this tempest will blow over and British /Zimbabwe relations will be back to where they were – solidly based on sovereign equality, mutual trust, and respect and non interference in the domestic affairs of each other. We value British aid and friendship. Prime Minister Mugabe has publicly thanked Mrs Thatcher for these. We value our independence freedom and sovereignty more." - - ditto page 8 C 1 -

Mon 10

Headline – ***Mugabe ready to seize white land in retaliation*** – if prime minister Thatcher reneges on an element of the Lancaster House Agreement of 1979; the promise of the London government to make payments to white farmers who wish to sell their land for peasant settlement.

The PM was addressing a crowd of supporters in Marcosa village in the east of the country. His well received speech invoked the spirit of a long dead 'freedom fighter Mbuya Nehand who led a long campaign of civil war against the colonising British in the 1890's. Here fate; being hunted down and hanged by the first settlers who came north across the Limpopo river. - **The Guardian** -

Fri 14

Headline – ***US considers halving aid to Zimbabwe*** – as Harare 's delegate to the United Nations refuses to vote in favour of a censure motion of the Soviet military for its shooting down of Jumbo jet of the Korean national airline.

This possibility came about after the Zimbabwean political leader along with the American president met in Washington in times past. The decision was explained away; that being the only African country represented on the security council, continental wide opinion was sought. The outcome; with a broad opinion of black African leaders in favour of a vote against the motion the vote was cast in the way it was. At the time president Regan accepted the decision.

It would seem that the cut in aid came from Peter McPherson the director of the agency for international development as to a cut of the promised \$225m over three years. Such an action has the support of the American ambassador to the UN Jean Kirkpatrick who early in her term of office warned black African leaders that Washington's financial support came at a price; support of America's actions at the UN.

Headline – ***Threat to rail link*** – that links the port of Beira on the Indian Ocean and the heartland of Zimbabwe. This came from the MNR rebels; allegedly backed by the apartheid state, via a locomotive driver whose train was stopped after detonating a mine 170 miles north of Maputo.

The driver, Mr Caroca, noted that before his train was stopped it came under automatic rifle fire which killed the fireman. He and another, a hitch hiker, were captured. Quickly the traveller was released while the train driver was taken to the rebels base in Tome where another Zimbabwe train driver, detained in 2/'83, was located. As of this date 18 trains had been destroyed on this cross border rail line by those opposed to the Mozambique regime.

Thurs 20

Headline – ***Mugabe blames Britain for curbs on resettlement aid*** – was the essence of the report, made to the upper house of the Harare parliament, by the minister of land resettlement and rural development Moven Mahachi. According to his, and the governments understanding, bureaucratic delays from London which have prevented accessing the promised £20m. Government ministers are of the belief that “some of them are deliberate.”

There were no examples of these 'British delays' offered by the minister however he was concerned that grants from the £20m of London's money would only be allocated if an equal amount of Zimbabwean cash was forthcoming from Harare. The spending, from the British fund at this time, was only £5m as the ministers budget for the current financial year had already been cut by 51% for the '83/'84 financial year.

Since 4/'80 only 35, 000 black African farming families have been resettled on unwanted white owned land. At independence the Mugabe government had plans that 132, 000 black farming families would have been settled by 12/'84.

Although highlighting the lesser numbers of settled farming families there are other reasons that the independence target had not been reached. Officials, from within the land resettlement and rural development ministry, pointed to the effects of a two year long drought that had affected both white and black owned farms. This, along with the poor infrastructure for the collection and management of whatever water supplies there were, added to the problems of the agricultural development. Also the Harare government was not unknown for its bureaucratic delays. - **The Guardian** -

Fri 21

Headline – ***More at School*** – Zimbabwe's school enrolment has increased from 800, 000 to 2.5m since Independence in 1980 the deputy PM Simon Muzenda said yesterday. The number of teachers teachers has trebled and education spending has risen four fold. - **Reuters** -

Wed 28

Headline – ***British envoy denies Zimbabwe claim*** – of 20/10. The defence of the London government's actions came from Britain's deputy high commissioner, Nicholas Elam in Harare. He claimed, along with other diplomats, that the attack on the London government was an effort to hide the inefficiencies of the Harare regime itself. - **The Guardian** -

Headline – ***Release Order*** – *The Zimbabwe High Court has ordered the release of an imprisoned Zapu MP, Mr Vote Moyo, deeming his imprisonment to be unlawful. Mr Moyo, a confidant of Mr Nkomo, was seized on June 15th last year and had been in detention without trial ever since.*
Reuters

November 1983

Wed 2

Headline – ***Muzorewa accused of Pretoria link*** – on 31/10 for alleged links with the apartheid state. However members of the former prime ministers United African National Council accuse the Mugabe government of a campaign to muzzle political parties opposed to the present regime.

According to the minister of state, Emmerson Munangagwa, the cleric had been planning a trip over the River Limpopo where he would have met “his intimate friends in the leadership of the South African government.” It was, said the minister, only the latest move in a long campaign to keep an eye on subversive elements who keep in touch with subversives and South African bandits.

Recent trips, a recent one to Israel, has received severe criticism from prime minister Mugabe after the cleric was seen on Israeli television where he advocated that the two countries should establish diplomatic relations. A move not likely to happen as the Jewish state has close links with the apartheid state. All was denied by Musorewa. - **The Guardian** page 8 C 1 -

Thurs 3

Headline – ***Muzorewa allowed to see a lawyer*** – while remaining in police custody over his alleged meeting with 'intimate friends.' According to the Edward Mazaiwana, secretary of UNAC a lawyer attended the cleric following his arrest on 31/10. A family member, of the 58 year old former Zimbabwe Rhodesian prime minister, noted that he was being held at Goromonzi Prison 20 miles south of the capital.

While opposition politicians and members of the government may disagree, about the purpose of his attempt to cross into the apartheid state, the Bishop's stated reason; to travel to the United States to attend a United Methodist Church conference was not believed. - **The Guardian** -

Fri 4

Headline – ***Muzorewa 'linked to Zimbabwe 's enemies'*** – according to undisclosed, as of this date, so stated the prime minister during an interview with the media. While not revealing full details, of the cleric's alleged links with the enemies of the apartheid he noted that there were “definite grounds that are being investigated at the moment.”

In Harare city centre a demonstration outside the prime ministers office, involving 1, 000 Zanu supporters, called for the death of the Bishop. It was claimed that when the cleric, along with the leader of the Rhodesian Front were joint leaders of Zimbabwe Rhodesia it was the bishop who ordered military raids, into Mozambique, where many refugees supporters met their deaths.

Claims, that the detained cleric was to meet those against the current Harare regime, given as the reason for his detention, were again rebutted; this time an aid to the former prime minister. In fact there was only a 4 hour window of opportunity for such meetings as Musorewa would only be using Johannesburg 's Jan Smutts airport as a stopover before he departed for his US trip. - **The Guardian** page 8 C 1 -

Sat 5

Headline – ***Bishop in fifth day of hunger strike*** – as a protest as to his continued detention by the Harare authorities; a move that had been declared illegal by the countries high court due to the vague nature of the reason why the former prime minister was being detained. A second attempt, under the state of emergency regulations, ensured the cleric remained in custody. However within the order, signed off by security minister Emmerson Munangagwa, there was no stated reason why the Bishop should remain in jail.

Long known to be worried by writings of both international journalists and those born in the country new restrictions have been on these members of the press. A published decree announces that it is forbidden to write about, or report on, the security situation in Matabeleland without the permission of the authorities. To defy this edict could see a journalist fined Z\$1, 000 or face two years in jail. - **The Guardian** -

Tues 8?

Headline – ***Son of Musorewa is arrested*** – after being taken, by members of the nations Central Intelligence Organisation, from his home in the capitals suburb of Borrowdale. As of this time the authorities have not indicated the reason why Philemon aged 29 was now removed from his home.

The charred remains of James van Vuuren, a 40 year old white farmer who worked the land in Kezi in south east Matabeleland has been discovered recently. It is thought that he died at the hands of dissidents who continue to roam in the area. - **The Guardian** -

Wed 9

Headline - ***Muzorewa's son is held by security police*** – and then released him, after five hours of questioning that in the 29 year old 's words were meant to “shake him up” for having consistently spoken out against the actions of the Mugabe government. The cleric's son held firm to plans of continuing criticism despite acts of violence against him while in detention.

A one time political leader, close to the Zanu political leadership who split with the Mugabe leadership and became a small element in the Zimbabwe/ Rhodesia administration; the Reverend Ndabaningi Sithole called on the nations prime minister to show evidence of his claim that there was a conspiracy between the bishop and others; from the apartheid state, to overthrow the Harare government.

The high court has ordered the release of one of the top officials of Zapu; Dumiso Dabengwa, who remains in detention despite being cleared by the court of a charge of treason in 4/ '83. The government are to challenge the ruling in the supreme court.

Dissident guerillas were blamed for the death, on 7/11, of white farm manager T Smith as he came upon two renegades demanding food from the farm labours on Fig Tree farm. In the confrontation he was stabbed to death as he investigated the incident. As of this time, this most recent fatality, brings the number of white farmer/ family members deaths to approximately 30 in Matabeleland. **The Guardian**

Fri 11

Headline – ***Zimbabwe bishop ends his hunger strike*** – on 8/11 says information minister John Tsimba. The claim has not been backed up by officials of the United African National Council political party. However it is rumoured that the cleric's mother, who is nearing her eighth decade, had promised to begin her own hunger strike if her son did not partake of food again.

Around the same time of the minister's announcement a second minister; of legal affairs, Eddison Zvobgo outlined efforts to encourage more of the nation's people to join Zanu. Seen as an effort to quash the opposition party; Zanu, T-shirts emblazoned with the logo of the pro Mugabe political party will be distributed nation wide.. The aim of this move is to ensure that after 1985 elections votes for the prime minister will ensure the demise of the Nkomo opposition. Thus, constitutionally the de facto one party government, envisaged by the prime minister, has been come into being.

Sat 12

Headline – ***Botswana complains of border violations*** – in the south western region as a number of members of the Zimbabwe National Army have illegally crossed the border into the republic. For an explanation of the incursion, which occurred on 10/11, both the nation's foreign minister, Archie Mogwe, along with the armed forces minister D Kwelagboe, who have arrived in Bulawayo for an explanation.

There were no details revealed of the outcome of the meeting or who the Botswana delegation met. However it is known that the Zimbabwean officials denied that their troops had crossed into its neighbour's territory. There was an incident, on 8/11 when Zimbabwe troops exchanged mortar and rifle fire with troops across the border. They then returned into Zimbabwe and were whisked away in two helicopters

There is an ongoing dispute, between the two governments, over the plight of legally registered refugees still camped in United Nations sponsored camps outside Dukwe near the Francistown. Botswana has, however, returned Zimbabweans who are living illegally in Botswana. - **The Guardian** page 5 C 8 -

Sun 13

Headline – ***Mugabe fetters rivals*** – as members of the media go in search of the head office of UNAC; a location that hides behind a dilapidated 'Church of Disciples Mission' sign. A two room building where members of the political party fret about its future and well being of leader Bishop Muzorewa.

Election tale; Returning officer "All who want to vote for Zanu and for dissidents and war [queue up] to my right. All for Zanu PF, the government peace and development, to my right." All the while an army major is standing alongside the election official. - **The Sunday Times** -

Mon 14

Headline – ***Women rounded up in purity campaign*** – in an anti prostitution drive; thousands of females were detained during the police campaign in the last seventy two hours. There seemed no restrictions on the ages of those detained; from school age to women with their husbands or boy friends attending cinemas throughout the nation.

Failure to prove that their liaison with males will see the women sent to rehabilitation camps to be

'educated' to become "useful members of society." One such camp; Mushumbi Pools, is noted for its heat and remoteness. Already illegal squatters, rounded up by the police in the last 14 days already reside there. Not all those detained were from the black majority population. Counter able numbers, of white and a number of British and Americans were also detained. **The Guardian page 1**

Thurs 17

Headline – ***Zimbabwe releases air force officer*** – Air Lieutenant Nigel L Walker after 15 months detention and a trial that found him not guilty of being complicit in the sabotage of a large proportion of the nations air force planes. The officers freedom came after a tribunal reviewed his case recently. There is the possibility that he may not leave the country; the option remains where he could resume his career if he so wished. - **The Guardian** -

Fri 18

Headline - ***Border Clash*** – Botswana troops fought a brief skirmish against a gunman near the countries border with Zimbabwe Botswana radio said yesterday. It was the third border incident in the region since early October. - **AP** -

Sat 19

Headline - ***Law Slipped In*** A law gazetted in Harare yesterday makes lampooning Zimbabwe 's head of state President Canaan Banana a crime punishable by a jail sentence of up to five years and a fine of as much as Z\$1, 000 /£60 approximately. - **AP** -

Sun 20

Headline – ***Crisis for babies*** – is highlighted, by the prime ministers wife ; Sally Mugabe. The 'first lady' was speaking at a conference that launched a government initiative to understand why a growing number of new mothers are "throwing their babies into latrines." Police also report greater numbers of babies are being found left on the sides of the nation roads roads.

The government inquiry will be chaired by Kumbiari Kangai the social services minister, who has noted that after the end of the seven year civil war, when many rural dwellers have moved into the towns have seen a national loss of traditional tribal values which has been replaced by an age of promiscuity.

Such liberations, in the minds of the young black Zimbabwean; both male and female, have resulted in the increase of sexually transmitted diseases alongside ignorance of birth control methods. With the current birth rate standing at 3.7% per year, f the present trend continues, the population of the country will be 9m by the year 2000. - **The Sunday Times** -

Mon 21

Headline – ***Zimbabwe women protest at raids*** – as the Roman Catholic Church, through its commission for justice and peace, demands of the government to justify its wide sweep up of females accused of being prostitutes on 14/11? At the same time the statement, from the clerical human rights body, made it clear that the police/ government policy of rounding up vagrants and women selling sex was right and proper.

However there were concerns that many of those detained were so with excessive force and without any positive evidence of a crime committed. What laws had they broken?

The alleged killer of Peter van der Walt, from the Umtali district; Grove Farm manager; outside Kwekwe and shot dead has been arrested. He was shot with an AK47 rifle after an argument, between the dissident and a security guard at a power station. - **The Guardian** -

Tues 22?

Headline – ***Zimbabwe Trip fails*** – as permission to meet Bishop Muzorewa, now on his 22nd day in detention, was refused to a visiting United States law professor. Albert Blaustein, based at Rutgers University New Jersey is president of the Human Rights Advocates International.

Having tried to gain visiting access to his long standing associate; the American was an advisor to the then Zimbabwe Rhodesia prime minister at the 1979 Lancaster House talks in London, made many attempts to see the him at all levels of government. His final rebuff came through a note from the Central Intelligence Organisation. Even a meeting with the prime minister was deemed 'impossible.' - **The Guardian** -

Wed 30

Headline – ***Zimbabwe frees women held in prostitute raids*** – on the orders of prime minister Mugabe. The announcement, made in parliament by Eddion Zvogbo the minister of legal affairs, was met with an admittance that 'mistakes had been made and many innocent women were arrested.

There were no numbers released of those who had been detained however it was already disclosed as many as 2,000 females were rounded up and sent into wilderness resettlement camps in the torrid heat of the Zambezi river valley Musumbi Pools region. The minister admitted that the recent arrests may have been over officious however the governments campaign to clamp down of the 'oldest profession in the world' would continue. Only this time proper methods would be used. - **The Guardian** -

December 1983

Thurs 1

Headline – ***Rift with Britain 'healed'*** – as prime minister revealed that the case of remaining white air force officers remaining in a Zimbabwe jail will be reviewed. The splits, between the two governments, were heightened by the regimes decision, in 8/'83, to continue the detain the whites after they had been found not guilty of the treason charges levied against them.

Thus spoke the prime minister after his return from the Commonwealth Conference, hosted by the Indian government in New Delhi.

“I think relations which were soured have been repaired and there are now smiles on both sides.” noted Mr Mugabe. - **The Guardian** -

Thurs 8

Headline – ***Mugabe 'regrets' vice blitz*** – which saw many females swept up in a police/ security campaign; Operation Clean Up, to clear the growing number of prostitutes away from the city streets of the cities of Zimbabwe.

The prime minister, speaking to members of parliament, and making his first public comments, confirmed that women that they “need not fear” the authorities who by implication were innocent of plying the worlds oldest profession on the streets of the nations towns.

Questioned, by MP 's, he came down strongly in favour of a continued campaign that would rid the streets of prostitutes, beggars and squatters. He believed that such a campaign would be supported by the majority of women who would welcome any moves that would lessen the chance of they themselves being approached for 'business.' - **The Guardian** -

Sat 10

*Headline – **Four Hanged** – Four murderers were hanged in Harare yesterday a government spokesman announced. Simon Mayo and Danny Ringstone Nkomo killed an elderly couple on their farm near Bulawayo. Marko Ncube, Alan Gumbo were hanged for the murder of an army Colonel. - AP -*

Thurs 15

*Headline – **Pay Stopped** – Zimbabwe has stopped paying salaries to three white air force officers detained four months ago after they were acquitted of treason charges the Minister of Legal Affairs Mr Zvobgo told parliament yesterday.*

“No employer can be expected to indefinitely pay a person who by virtue of unlawful action ... is no longer available for work” Mr Zvobgo said. - AP -

Sun 18

*Headline – **Zimbabwe 's feminists elite attack arrests** – of the thousands of females rounded up by the security forces as part of Operation Clean Up. Female anger was bursting from the 100 odd women who gathered in a church hall in Harare. Among those present were academics from Harare University women in top jobs in the government; the ministry of women 's affairs. Also in attendance was the daughter of Herbert Chitepo who deeply involved in emerging black nationalist struggle for independence. was assassinated in 1975 while in exile in Zambia.*

At the meeting there were no direct outbursts of anger; direct criticism shown against the government however the undercurrent of anger was seen to be present. The birth of a women 's liberation movement comes to the world 's newest nation? The first step that was taken was the formation of a Women 's Action Group.

Still no real explanation why Operation Clean Up happened, although at this meeting tales were told of experiences; 14 year old 's detention while leaving the mayor of Gweru 's Christmas Party or the empty emergency hospital ward bereft of nurses because all had been detained.

A theory from this newly formed pressure group; a backlash by the male orientated society, prevalent across the whole rural regions of the African continent, against he rising tide of the democratic rights won so recently by women in Zimbabwe. - **The Sunday Times** page 5 C 8 -

Mon 19

*Headline – **African summit** – involving 14 central and east African countries to promote trade between each other rather than with the former European colonial powers. Deemed the Preferential Trade Area conference Harare was the base for 48 hours of negotiations.*

At the PTA's second meeting, chaired by prime minister Mugabe, delegates reviewed the movements efforts over the last 12 months. At a second meeting, of the ministerial council considered proposals from its civil service to come up with trade goods that will not be taxed when crossing member state borders. Agreement of a \$2.8m budget will be, hopefully signed off by the 14 nations heads of government. - **The Guardian** -

Wed 21

Headline – ***US cuts aid to Harare in half*** – as a consequence either of budget cuts, imposed on the presidents spending by the Congress, or; more believably; as a result of criticism of American military action against the government of Grenada voiced by president Mugabe.

The back story, to this cash loss for the Zimbabwe government, some \$40m, comes from an initiative voiced by an official of the Agency of International Development; Peter McPherson. With such a policy the agency's coordinator makes the intention clear, to those that seek financial aid from Washington, aid will only be given if the applying government supports the overseas policies proposed from the White House.

While not wholeheartedly backing the policy, believed to have been vetoed by secretary of state, George Shultz, to loss of financial aid to Harare has been put down to the failure of lack of support, during a United Nations vote, for the US invasion of the Caribbean island.

A voice who spoke out against this cut in funding, down from \$75m, was voiced by William Gray a congressional member of the black caucus. He noted that such an action was a “disastrous policy for the Regan administration there was enough money to do the \$75m for Zimbabwe if they had wanted to.” The congressman also was critical of the amount of food aid that the United States was shipping 84, 000 tonnes, to the drought stricken region of the continent.

Others have noted, that the eleven countries on the African continent in need of food aid, in reality 3m tonnes will be required. - **The Guardian** -

Wed 28

Headline – ***Mugabe reacts coolly to aid cut*** – but criticised the reason why financial aid had been lessened. The government was grateful for the economic aid that the USA granted. It understood that the aid had to fall short of Harare's expectations for financial reasons. However to lower the amount finally granted because of Zimbabwe's vote in the United Nations was “extremely objectionable.”

This latest clash in the UN is not the first between the two countries; Harare abstained on a US motion to condemn the USSR for shooting a South Korean airline down. The latest, co sponsored, with Nicaragua, seems to have been the last straw which infuriated the American ambassador to the UN. - **The Guardian** -

Sat 31

Headline – ***Zimbabwe air officers tell of 'terrifying torture'*** – come from the three remaining; Neville Weir, John Cox and Barrington Lloyd who now are back to the land of their birth after a total of 17 months in a Harare prison. - **The Guardian page 1?** -