

## JANUARY 2000

### Thurs 20

Headline – *Telegram exposes quest for personal gain in conflict* – Exposed, in a confidential document – **A Coup for Zimbabwe** – by P Longworth the British High Commissioner in Harare, has detailed the moves that president Mugabe has gone to keep the top echelons of the Army loyal to the war in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

To keep the top generals loyal to the president, it is believed that those with one star and above have been granted land from the government's land distribution policy. For junior officers there have been unparalleled opportunities to take part in the black market. For the regular soldier the opportunity to earn much sought after foreign currency, is an added incentive to stay loyal to the generals. – **E MacAskill, page 3, C7** –

**Cartoon**, two loaders stand in front of a wooded container labeled 'Hawk aircraft spares.' **Caption** – "Lets tell Mugabe that they're made by Gays." – a reference to the known fact that that he believes that to be homosexual is evil –

Leader Comment – **Turn these clients away** – "Zimbabwe is a country ripe for revolution and Robert Mugabe is lord of its misrule." Health service in crisis, the Aids crisis, high inflation, record unemployment rates, foreign exchange reserves virtually exhausted and the fuel reserves will last only six days.

Whether a revolution, if it comes, is peaceful or violent, Zimbabwe is simply not a place where Britain should be selling arms." - **GDN, page 23** –

### Fri 21

Criticism has come from all shades of politicians as the government has agreed to sell spares for Hawk fighter aircraft operated by the Zimbabwean Airforce. The government's spokesman A Campbell, reasoned that the present government was only fulfilling a contract signed by the Conservative Party, and to revoke it would incur financial penalties and possible job losses in Britain. Those opposed to the sale, among them D Andeson, the Labour chairman of the foreign affairs committee, thought that to sell them to a country that is involved in a futile war in the Democratic Republic of Congo justified a delay in the sale.

In Harare, although no government spokesman would comment on the events, T Ncube the editor of the **Zimbabwe Independent** said that the decision to sell the parts was hypocrisy as it as well known that London was against Harare's involvement in its neighbors civil war, as well as being against the Mugabe government's spending on such, when Zimbabwe is in such a bad economic condition.

Conditions are so severe, according to J Makumbe, political science lecturer at the University of Zimbabwe, that “people are walking 20km to work because there is no foreign exchange to buy fuel for cars or busses”. Money owed to the South African company Eskom, which supplies Zimbabwe with 40% of its electricity have not been paid. – GDN, page 2, C 3 –

### Wed 26

Headline – *Arms human rights and a question of values* – From 1995 to date Britain’s Export Credit Guarantee Department has been asked to underwrite the following amount of business – **96** inquiries with a value of **2,464.9m**. Of these, 9 were underwritten with a value of 95.7m. – GDN, page 8, C 8 -

### Mon 31

Headline – *New party threatens Mugabe* – A crowd of 6,000 was in at the beginning at the launch of a new political party. The 1999 promulgated Movement for Democratic Change (qv 7/9) has been given a public face with the intention to mount a democratic opposition to the ruling Zanu PF government.

Elected officials were named as Morgan Tsvangirai, as president and Gibson Sibanda as his deputy. Both the newly elected are also prominent officials in the Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions.

The all embracing – from the women’s movement, human rights groups and the professions – will form a popular alternative to the present government. The MDC will put up candidates in the forthcoming general election. However its first challenge to the government will be to press the people of Zimbabwe to make a no vote at this months referendum on changes to the constitution. – GDN, page 11, C 4 –

## FEBRUARY

### Wed 9

Headline – *Violence before Zimbabwe vote* – With the country going to the polls, in a referendum to adopt a new constitution within 72 hours the state is using all legal and illegal powers to curb those calling for a no vote.

Throughout the country violence has erupted between those opposed to the changes proposed by the government. Much of the violence is carried out against women campaigners by groups of youths loyal to the Zanu PF government.

One of the chief campaign groups is the Woman’s Coalition who are strongly opposed to the draft constitution as many of the points are aimed at denies women’s basic rights. To stifle the growing campaign, even further, the government has stopped the state-controlled media from taking any no vote advertising from opposition groups.

The new draft constitution leaves virtually all state power in the hands of the president. The constitution commission, appointed by Mr Mugabe, is accused of failing to listen to the public's views before writing the new constitution. – **GDN, page 16, C 1** –

## **Sat 12**

Headline – ***Mugabe faces referendum on misrule*** – Despite widespread opposition to Zimbabwe's proposed new constitution, cynicism abounds over this weekend's poll.

Numbers of civic and human rights groups are opposed to the new proposals – some of which are listed below.

**Increased presidential power**- the power to dissolve parliament and declare war is vested in Mr Mugabe, who will be able to stand for president more than the twice that was allowed under the Lancaster House agreement of 1980.

**Women's rights** – A women's legal rights would be severely curtailed, she would not be able to own property.

**Individual rights** – These would be affected as they could, according to the legal profession, be overridden in the name of "public morality and public security."

**Press censorship** – regulation of the press through a state controlled media council.

**Emergency powers** – gives draconian powers to the government to make arrests, ban strikes and demonstrations. This would give the authorities similar powers that the last white president of Rhodesia used against these self-same people.

**Immunity** – The president has immunity from prosecution while in office, and can grant pardons to anyone convicted of crimes.

**Gay rights** – prohibits same sex marriages. Individuals rights could be dismissed through the 'public morality' section. - **GDN, page 20, C 8** -

Leader Comment – **Mugabe in the rough, Zimbabwe is crying out for a fresh start.** The results of this referendum will only add to the crisis that will come when the forthcoming general election is held. A "yes" vote will have the opposition accuse Zanu of ballot rigging. The National Constitutional Assembly accuses the government of intimidating its "no" campaign and harassing its supporters and as the media is shunned from carrying any of the Campaign's advertising, they face a difficult task.

"The country cries out for a fresh start. It would be better all round if Mr Mugabe, now 75, voluntarily heeded that call." – **ditto, page 23** –

### Sun 13

Turnout was low yesterday, for a referendum on a new constitution in Zimbabwe that would entrench Robert Mugabe and demand British compensation for farmers who lost land to resettlement schemes. – **IOS, page 22, C 1** –

### Tues 15

Headline – ***Mugabe heads for defeat in poll*** – With the return of the votes, counted in the urban areas of Harare and Bulawayo the attempt by the president to amend the constitution looks doomed to failure as there has been a massive ‘no’ vote registered. A defeat on changes to the constitution looks even more certain as a low turn out in the rural areas – which holds 70% of Zimbabwe’s 12m population has been noted. – **GDN, page 16, C 2** –

### Wed 16

Headline – ***Poll’slap in the face’ for Mugabe*** – Effective final results of referendum on a new constitution, proposed by the president, were rejected by the majority of the Zimbabwean population – 55% to 45% - on a turn out of only 20%.

As previously stated, with most of his support in the rural areas, it was expected that Mr Mugabe’s idea for change would be accepted. However with the crisis in the economy, the shortage of fuel and the ongoing involvement in the civil war in the Congo even this support vanished. – **GDN, page 2, C 2** –

Leader Comment, **Zimbabwe says no, Mr Mugabe deserves his defeat** – “Robert Mugabe’s referendum on Zimbabwe’s draft constitution turned out to be a referendum on Mr Mugabe himself.”

The vote was a personal defeat for the president as he had taken a keen interest in the contents of the new draft – even going so far as to propose the gay rights clause (qv 12/2). His miscalculations that support for change would come if he blamed the whites unwillingness to move of the land was wrong. People would rather make change through the democratic process.

“The proof that Zanu – PF can be successfully challenged will greatly encourage opposition groups as Aprils parliamentary elections approach.” “There is a long way still to go but, all in all, it was a good day for the people. – **ditto, page 19** –

### Sat 19

Headline, ***Majority rejects Mugabe constitution***, - “This is an exercise in democracy and, winners and losers, we remain one Zimbabwean nation united in one common destiny.... The government must be congratulated for allowing the referendum to take place last weekend and the parliamentary elections to be held next April.

The government had the option to postpone, but in its wisdom did not do so. In fact the opposition and the civil society were urging it to do so.” – **The Herald, Zimbabwe, 16/2**

“Impressively, the Zimbabwean blacks have refused to scapegoat the descendants of the white settlers for the deplorable conditions of their country’s economy, in the worst shape since independence in 1980. .... In general Younger Africans grow impatient with blaming the continents woes on the bogeyman of colonialism”. – **Wall St Journal, 16/2**

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“The locality and timing of” [Mugabe and Mbeki talks] “are unfortunate,” ... “They have served to boost Mugabe’s fading prestige by enabling him to avert the prospect of being targeted by the anger of motorists unable to buy fuel and householders deprived of electricity. Once the dust is settled, on the referendum, Mbeki should make it clear that his objective is regional stability, not propping up an irascible gerontocrat.” – **Financial Mail, South Africa** – *extracted from the The Editor, page 6, 18.2*

### **Sun 20**

Comment from Ian Smith, the last leader of Rhodesia who mounted a 6-year campaign to stop majority rule, on the result of the referendum – “Fantastic, at last the truth has come out. We are all hear together, black and white, a united country, against gangsters, corruption and people liming their own pockets. It’s a wonderful day.” – **IOS, page 23** –

### **Thurs 24**

Headline – ***Mugabe hints he will not run for re – election*** – in a recent nationwide television broadcast the president made a hint that he would not try for a third term as president, when his current role ends in 2002. “I do not want to wait to retire until I am back on all fours, in my second childhood,” he told the nation. To retire in the near future would give him time to write his memoirs and do other things.

The decision, which is not ‘cast in stone’ was divulged at a caucus meeting of Zanu PF. Some of the 220 members of the party central committee, which was called plan the strategy for the 4/2000 general election, made it plain that they wished that Mr Mugabe would resign from both the presidency and as chairman of the party.

Meanwhile the government laid charges of criminal defamation against Clive Wilson (qv) the publisher of the Standard newspaper and its editor, A Moyses along with a reporter C Zvauya. They have been accused of publishing a false report that the draft constitution had been printed in 9/99, long before the public hearing on it was completed. – **GDN, page 18, C 7** –

## Tues 29

Headline – *Black protesters occupy farmland in Zimbabwe* – led by a leader of the country's War Veterans Association and filmed by state television thousands of ordinary citizens marched onto white owned farmland around Norton on the outskirts of Harare. Critics of the move, which has been peaceful in nature so far, said that this seizure of land at this time was a cynical move on behalf of the president, so close to his loosing the vote on adopting a new constitution. – GDN, page 15, C 6 –

## MARCH

### Wed 1

Headline – *Police wash hands of farm squatters* – Confirming, what government critics had thought all along, the authorities have decided not to take any action against the thousands of squatters who have moved on to land owned by 30 white farmers. The first indication that no action would be taken was an announcement from the police commissioner because “it is above the police ... it is a political issue.” This view was compounded when the government minister in charge of land redistribution, J Masiks, said that any response would only be given after the government had heard from provincial leaders. – GDN, page 16, C 7 –

### Fri 3

Headline – *Farm squatters are promised white land* – within 48 hours of the seizure of white owned farm land the government has moved to, eventually, make such land grabs legal under the present constitution.

For the present, police have moved onto the 70 farms where action is being taken and given those there 36 hours to vacate the land. To achieve this supposed ‘legality’ an amendment will be made to the present constitution – which in turn will have to be debated in the parliament, all of three times, and then promulgated in the government gazette. The amendment will then become law after 30 days, as the governing Zanu party dominates the parliament.

The government's amendment is taken word for word from the draft constitution that was rejected by the voters (qv) It states that if Britain does not pay for the land its white colonists seized from the Africans, the Zimbabwean government is empowered to seize the land without paying compensation. – GDN, page 19, C1 –

## **Thurs 9**

Headline – *Distant drums signal land war* – The squatters on Zimbabwe's tobacco farms shows the country's big gulf is between Mugabe's supporters and the rest. Evidence of this assumption can be seen on the Brooker farm in Mashonaland, after 200 squatters invaded the land on 5/3. They were there; it was obvious, at the behest of the Zanu party – carried in Party owned vehicles and wearing party slogans.

Farm workers were attacked and accused of supporting the Movement for Democratic Change, who are opposed to any such land grab. Thirteen other farms in the area have also been seized.

A spokesman for the Commercial Farmers Union says what the country needs is more productive farmers, not just more subsistence farmers on more land. – **GDN, page 18, C1**

## **Fri 10**

Headline – *Our man in Harare recalled in row over diplomatic bag* – The diplomatic bag, between London and the Zimbabwean capital became a central point as to how far relations between the two countries have fallen. Because governments are supposed to allow free passage between embassies, any interference is seen as a breach of faith between governments.

In this case, according to the foreign office minister P Hain, there was only sensitive communications equipment being transferred to Harare. For their part members of the Zimbabwe government was not happy with this explanation and opened the container. A spokesman said that inside the container might have been material that would be used to further destabilise the country in the run up to the general election in 4/2000

A more credible explanation, for what in effect is a breach of the Vienna Convention, came from J Makumbe a political science lecturer at the University of Zimbabwe is that Mr Mugabe has just returned from Kuwait where he went 'cap in hand' for a \$100m loan and was refused, as the authorities there said Zimbabwe was not creditworthy. – **GDN, page 4, C 1 –**

## **Sun 12**

Last week Zimbabwe's Supreme Court ruled that Mugabe may be forced to release secret reports about the alleged killing of up to 20, 000 government opponents [*authors note – in Matabeleland*] between 1980 when the country won independence from Britain, and 1988. – **World Watch, page 15, Time Magazine 6/3 –**

### Wed 15

Headline – *Mugabe given right to snoop* – Zimbabwe’s parliament yesterday passed a law allowing the president to order the interception of any telecommunications including telephone calls, emails and faxes.

The bill passed its third reading with only 10 MP’s present. It only needs to be signed by President Robert Mugabe to become law. – **GDN, page 16, C 6** –

### Fri 17

Headline – *People sick of Mugabe but unsure who else to vote for* – In an Gallup opinion poll of 1,900 Zimbabwe residents, funded by the Helen Suzman Foundation of South Africa the following conclusions could be detected –

**65%** of those polled thought that Mr Mugabe should step down as president. During the 4/2000 general election only **35%** of those questioned would vote for the ruling Zanu Party.

**17%** will vote for the recently formed Movement for Democratic Change. Of those polled 60% think that the greatest issue facing the country in the rate of inflation and the falling living standards.

A report from the human rights group **African Rights, Zimbabwe’s 2000 Elections, Making and Breaking the Rules** – casts doubt that the police and military will hold an on partisan role in the forthcoming elections. This concern can be evidenced from a front page article in the Herald newspaper which claimed that a leader of the War Veterans Association has claimed that there would be a military take over if the opposition parties were to win the general election.

The British foreign office are taking additional measures to make the consular section of its commission building in Harare secure, as officials make plans to evacuate 60,000 white farmers entitled to entry into Britain. London has denied this.

### Sat 18

A Zimbabwe judge yesterday ordered squatters to end their occupation of more than 500 white owned farms.

The judge said it was the police’s duty to remove the squatters and officers should ignore any counter orders on this subject by President Robert Mugabe – **AP** –

### Sun 19

Zimbabwe war veterans said they would ignore a court order to vacate hundreds of white owned farms they had invaded in the last month. – **IOS, page 2, C 8** –



## Mon 20

Headline – *Showdown pits Mugabe against the rule of law* – determined to pit himself, and the government against the rule of law, determined by Mr Justice P Garwe (qv 18/3) the president as the leader of Zanu Pf is paying Z\$50 a day to mainly youths and the unemployed to squat on white owned land. They are in support of the war veterans who initiated the land grab recently.

According to a lawyer acting for the Movement for Democratic Change, T Biti, Mr Mugabe is supporting this action in an attempt to win the loyalty of the rural masses before the forthcoming general election. – GDN, page 14, C 1 –

## Fri 24

Headline – *Minister arrested in Mugabe's surprise corruption crackdown* – the arrest of K Kangai, the agricultural minister and two others, which took place on 20/3, is seen by many opponents of the government as an exercise in attempting to clean up the government weeks before the coming general election.

The minister was charged with siphoning off Z\$228m [3m] of government funds. The two other notables arrested within the last 24 hours – S Tawenga, a former mayor of Harare and N Vingirai chairman of the state owned Bank of Zimbabwe are charged with corruption. The chairman of the campaigning group Transparency International in the country, J Makumbe, says that the president should charge a further five or six cabinet ministers before he was assured that his aim was to clean up the government.

The Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights group has called for the resignation of both the president and the country's police chief, for failing to obey the high court ruling that ordered squatters of the 650 white owned farms they have invaded. – GDN page 20, C 5

## Sat 25

Headline – *Zimbabweans split by shared wish to farm* – within the last 24 hours the total number of white owned farms that have been invaded by squatters had risen to 731., out of a total of 4,200.

Giving the two sides, in this argument, a right to their say – on the one hand is **K Kirkham aged 63**, whose family have been residents in what was Rhodesia since 1894. The current owner of the land followed on from his father in 1936.

“I want to see farms taken over and see the land remain productive. If you can demonstrate success then the willingness to make the land available would increase.

On the other hand – is **T Mhembere aged 23**, who lives in Norton, in Ngoni Township with a widowed mother – being the youngest of eight children. His only employment has been temporary – with the council and in the local beer hall - whereas he has expressed an interest in becoming a farmer.

“I do not want to spoil the land. I want to work and have a productive farm, but I need to get some land and I need to learn how to farm properly.” – **GDN page 16, C 4** –

### **Sun 26**

Headline – *Hitler enthusiast menaces Zimbabwe’s white farmers* – with the nom de guerre ‘Hitler’ C HunZvi, a member of the Zimbabwe National War Veterans Association, squats on the Hunyani Farm 60 miles outside Harare where the official spokesman explains the Associations point of view. “We are people orientated to go to war for a political party. ...first and foremost we are members of Zanu – PF.”

As if to emphasise this point ten days ago the ruling party boosted the Associations fund with a “campaign gift” of Z\$20m. This was followed swiftly by a one off payment, to each member Z\$2,000, taking the pension to Z\$4,800 per month. The minimum monthly wage in the rest of the country is about Z\$1,000. – **IOS page 28, C 1** –

### **Mon 27**

Headline – *Foreign office plans Zimbabwe evacuation* – despite earlier decisions (qv p 20), the British government has made plans to evacuate those residents in Zimbabwe holding British passports and other citizens who are eligible for one.

The evacuation plan was revealed [*the author believes*] during a CNN multi participation interview. Those taking part were P Hain, R Mugabe and South Africa’s defence minister, M Lekota. The views of the United States were known earlier in the week when the under secretary of state for African affairs, W Scheneidman, said that the Clinton administration were “concerned about the prospect of violence.” – **GDN page 14, C 1** –

### **Tues 28**

Leading Article, **Africa’s angry old man – Mugabe’s machinations hurt Zimbabwe** – suspending the general election raises the question “will the poll take place at all.” This is despite the 1995 mandate coming to an end, thus the legislative loses all legal credibility as has the president with his disregard for the rule of law that said the squatters should be ejected from white owned farm land that they are occupying.

“Africa’s angry old man plunges blindly on, deaf to all advice, the victim of imagined conspiracies and betrayals, still fighting the colonial battles of his youth. The problem is how to stop his unredeemed tragedy becoming Zimbabwe’s. – **GDN page 23** –

### Wed 29

Headline – *Mugabe says critics are ‘Blair’s gays* – speaking in the eastern town of Mutare the Zimbabwean president has accused the British prime minister of leading an international campaign against his country because of earlier claims that the Blair government was not hostile to the gay philosophy of his own.

The remarks, which were made on 27/3, were in response to a House of Commons debate initiated by the Opposition, who also called for the suspension of Zimbabwe from the Commonwealth because of bad governance.

Also covered in his Mutare speech was the issue of the white farmers who have squatters on their land – he would take no action against them. It is an issue of reverse colonisation. There was no indication of a new date for the general election, which he postponed until at least the middle of 5/000. – **GDN page 15, C 3** –

### Thurs 30

Headline – *Mugabe regime faces meltdown* – thousands of workers are on strike throughout the country, with a large crowd massed outside the municipal buildings in the centre of Harare – for the third straight day. Among their demands is a pay increase of 70% to keep pace with the hyper inflation that is sweeping the country. This strike is only the latest in a number of disputes (qv) that could see the end of the political career of the president.

One of the crowd, M Mashiri who works in the city’s treasurer’s department earns only Z\$ 8,000 a year and with the fall in the value of the Z\$, from parity with the pound, to little over 2p, the father of 4 is finding it impossible to manage. – **GDN, page 3** –

### Fri 31

Headline – *Crisis at the gate in Zimbabwe* – continued clashes between supporters of the Movement for Democratic Change and supporters of the government, have led to the death of a teenage MDC supporter in the north of the country on 28/3.

At one of the farms that has been overrun by supporters of the government – the total is now 800 – the 70 strong invasion was led by the leader of the War Veterans Association, C Hunsvi, when they invaded land an alleged training camp for MDC supporters. During this time they removed 11 guns, and other legally held weapons, and handed them over to the police.

Statements from the Harare government led by the information minister, C Chimutengwende, attack the stance of P Hain (qv) and accuse him of believing he is the “governor of Rhodesia”. This attack on Anglo – Zimbabwe relations is more and more unreal as the information minister spent 12 years in Britain during the liberation struggle. The minister called for London to “keep out of our internal affairs.” – **GDN page 14, C 1**

**Internal press coverage** – “Can Zanu – PF be trusted to run elections of a great magnitude – elections which are likely to bring its reign to a close if they are run in a transparent manner? Can a party that has demonstrated that it is prepared to shed blood in order to stay in power be entrusted to be both player and referee when the outcome will shape the country’s destiny? In other words, are the cries for a transparent, non partisan electoral system cynically hollow? These are issues that every peace loving Zimbabwean should seriously consider”. – **From the Zimbabwe Standard, 26/3, quoted in The Editor page 7**

## APRIL

### Sat 1

Headline – ***Panic shows as Mugabe vents spleen on Britain*** – In a speech to 1,5000 members of the War Veterans Association the Zimbabwe president launched his election campaign with a stinging attack on the amount of criticism he, and his government were receiving from the British government.

Speaking on the 6,000 acre Dromoland farm 50 miles south of the city of Bulawayo in Matabeleland – not a province that has recently shown any support for the party of government – and the new home to some 200 black families. The farm, which was once owned by the conglomerate Lonhro, is the venue of a resettlement scheme.

The crowd, of 1,200, listened without too much enthusiasm to an attack on the policies of Britain – somewhere not many of them had any knowledge about. Once again the president said that the government of Tony Blair was full of psychiatric cases and lots of homosexuals, men who want to be women. “Zimbabwe cannot continue to exist as though we were an extension of the British Empire, we get our instructions not from ...Downing Street but from our people.” – **GDN page 1, C 1** –

Headline – ***Britain plans for airlift from Zimbabwe*** – the foreign office has detailed the moves it will take if relations with the Mugabe administration deteriorate to the point that British nationals are threatened. The 3 stage operation would first advise nationals not to travel to the country. Then those living inside the country would be advised to leave, using commercial transport. Only then would there be an emergency airlift of those British passports – this is expected to be less than the 20, 000 quoted. ***ditto, page 19 C 8***

### Sun 2

Headline – ***Thugs smash anti – Mugabe protest march*** – a peaceful march in the center of Harare organised by the National Constitutional Assembly ended in violence. The demonstrators were attacked by a 200 strong mob – many of which were seen leaving the headquarters of the ruling political party in the country. During the initial attacks police, who had been monitoring the NCA march, stood by and did nothing.

In a speech in Chiweshe, at the heart of the farm occupations, M Tsvangirai told a crowd of 5,0000 supporters of the Movement for Democratic Change that the police were acting

in an illegal manor. He promised if the MDC won the elections they would be made to account for their actions. – **IOS page 20, C1** –

### **Mon 3**

Headline – ***Black, white and red alert: a nation in crisis*** – the march by members of the National Constitutional Assembly who were subject to a beating by members of Zanu PF specifically targeted the whites in the crowd. This lends credence to the argument that those involved in the violence were members of the War Veterans Association. By sending in the ‘untouchables’ – as far as the law is concerned – this in Mr Mugabe fighting his corner just as the earlier colonialist powers of Rhodesia tried, and failed, in 1980. – **GDN page 1 C 1** –

Headline – ***Cooke denounces Harare attacks*** – the British foreign secretary has promised to bring forward his displeasure at the recent violence in Harare when he meets the president of Zimbabwe at a conference in Cairo, sponsored by the European Union. This will take place within the next 24 hours.

In the Zimbabwean capital a spokesman for the NCA has promised a demonstration in protest at the governments inaction for the next 100 days. The final casualty total for the recent troubles in the city is 12 hospitalised – one person remains unconscious in intensive care. – **ditto page 11, C 1** –

### **Tues 4**

Headline – ***Cooke and Mugabe meet to defuse Zimbabwe row*** - there has been a 45 minuet meeting between the ‘notables.’ The meeting on the fringe of the Africa EU summit revealed that Mr Mugabe had assured the British foreign secretary that the expected general election would be held in 5/000 – although no date had been mentioned. The president will also send a delegation to London to discuss land reform and associated issues. – **ditto page 11 C1** –

Leader Comment, **Mugabe on the edge, elections, not sanctions, are the best hope** – despite calls from the international community to ‘do something’ sanctions are not the issue while there is still the possibility of peaceful change, through elections. These same international ‘notables’ the UN, the OAU and South Africa all have a role that “repression of his opponents is inimical to his and his country’s best interest.”

To come down now, in favour of sanctions, could do more harm than good – push the president into a more repressive mode – inviting more civil strife – a move into the unknown. But for now ”persuasion, carrots and free elections remain the best hope. Only if and when that fails should the sanctions hammer be raised. – **ditto page 23** –

## Wed 5

Headline – *Mandela condemns ‘policeman’ Britain* – in an interview with his biographer the former president echoes the views of the president of Zimbabwe over their approach to the current crisis in his country. Mr Mandela, speaking about the press coverage in South Africa of the crisis in its northern neighbour, said that the papers printed words that they knew were not true. “The fact that he lost the referendum may be a blessing in disguise for him. Because Mugabe is a strategic thinker, he’s a capable man. If I had to express an opinion, he is likely to retain power.” – **GDN page 1, C 1** –

Headline – *Policeman shot dead as tension rises in Zimbabwe* – during an attempt to arrest squatters, who had attacked and beaten a white farmer on land Marondera 75 miles east of Harare, a policeman was killed. The farmer, Ian Kay was targeted because, like many other land owners in the area, is a supporter of the Movement for Democratic Change who allows rallies of the fledgling political party to hold rallies on his land. Other farmers in the area have begun to formulate defence plans, including the use of weapons, if the situation is deemed necessary. – *ditto page 16, C5* –

**VC Kennedy writes**, An explanation why Mr Mugabe will not succeed in driving whites out, from one who has links with both London and Harare. – *ditto page 22*

Letter, **P McKenna, Bromley Kent** – the issue of the current dispute is not black versus white, rather all Zimbabweans against one whom is evil. – *ditto page 23* –

## Thurs 6

Headline – *Zimbabwe faces state of emergency* – as random acts of violence occur throughout the country there is a possibility that measures will be introduced, not seen since the 1980’s, to limit the rights of the people. These measures are being “urgently considered” according to the minister of home affairs these “various strict measures to deal with public demonstrations until the completion of elections.”

Reacting to the announcement from D Dabengwa M Tsvangirai (qv) said such measures were a “possibility but not a probability., this country cannot afford not to have democratic elections ... there can be no reversal of the transition to a new government that is already taking place.

On his return from the EU/Africa summit Mr Mugabe let it be known of his dislike of P Hain (qv), so much so he would not have him in the British delegation when he met the foreign minister. – **GDN page 19, C1** –

## Fri 7

Headline – *Zimbabwe tells Britain to compensate white farmers* – as promised the parliament in Harare has amended the constitution to allow the government to seize farmland at will. As previously stated the Mugabe administration will only pay compensation for building improvements made. It will be up to the British government to compensate for the loss of land.

The amendment nearly failed, as only 100 members of Zanu PF, the minimum needed to alter the constitution, were in the chamber. This was protest by those party members who had not been nominated to contest the coming general election. – **GDN page 2, C3**

**Internal press coverage** – “That the country is in a mess, is no secret, but Zimbabwe is not beyond redemption. It is a country of long suffering citizens who are willing to forgive those who repent their sins – our bloody history bears testimony to this. To the political parties we say, play fair, play clean.” – **from the Zimbabwe Standard 2/4, The Editor page 6 –**

“The truth of the matter is that some 400,000 white farmer’s own 75% of Zimbabwe’s arable land. This equation, on its own, is obscene, and would not be tolerated in any civilised country ... All the huffing and puffing from Whitehall will not turn wrong into right.” – **A V, African Business, 4/2000 – The Editor page 6 –**

## Sat 8

Headline – *Mugabe warns ‘Boers’ to leave* – During the launch of the general election campaign the president made reference to the ‘land seizure clause’ written into the constitution recently. Speaking in the north east of the country he told the white farmers that were unwilling to hand over their land to leave the country. Mr Mugabe also warned opposition politicians not to “start a fire” that will consume them.

Internationally the administration has been penalised for its actions by the USA, who have withdrawn \$1m of aid – with the total now of farms seized standing at 926 - Also Britain, who since 1980 have spent 44M pounds on land resettlement, has withheld a further 5m pounds. This has now been allocated to other projects. – **GDN page 16, C1 –**

## Sun 9

Headline – *Mugabe opponents plan corruption commission to target British assets* – in an interview the leader of the Movement for Democratic Change, M Tsvangirai, has outlined some of its policies if it was to win the coming general election.

The first move would be to instigate a commission, on similar lines to the truth commission in South Africa, to untangle the suspected web of corruption that is alleged to be rife within the present administration. Their chief target will be the president, who is alleged to have hidden abroad. It would give amnesty to those who ‘came clean’ about their taking such ‘kick backs.’

There will also be a pull out of the military from the Democratic Republic of the Congo. This could be seen as a risky tactic, as it is known that many of the top brass have made a lot of money by becoming involved in the transport business. Thoughts of a coup are unlikely, as the troops that would carry out the plan are dissatisfied about being involved anyway. – **IOS, page 21, C 1** –

Leader Comment – **Listen to Mugabe, but talk back to** – accusations that the likes of P Hain and R Cooke are acting no better than previous British governments in dealing with the ‘colonies’ have come from a leading member of the European parliament, Glenys Kinnock. Not to speak to the president would “drive a wedge between ourselves and Mugabe ... lose the opportunity of trying to draw him in and trying to get him to behave in an acceptable way.” – **ditto page 28**

### **Tues 11**

Headline – ***Police action against black farm squatters ruled out*** – in the Harare high court the Zimbabwean attorney general, P Chinamasa, has overruled a judge in the supreme court (qv 18/3). The decision means that those squatting on white owned farm land can stay because for the police to move them would, according to the judge cause a bloodbath.

At a meeting of the foreign ministers of the European Union, in Brussels, a decision was made not to suspend an aid package, worth about 80m pounds. Instead a statement was issued calling on Mr Mugabe to end the seizure of land and allow EU monitors in for the general election. – **GDN page 1, C 1** –

Headline – ***Zimbabwe’s whites lift their heads above the parapet: “some of our guys want to kill*** – the unpleasant experiences of white farmers the hands of the war veterans. The known support for the MDC, by the white population, is not their only source. Black business is just as concerned that this administration should go, they just have to be more secretive in their methods – Zanu Pf supporters inside major black concerns. – **ditto page 3, C 1** –

### **Wed 12**

Headline – ***Uneasy Zimbabwe waits for polls*** – with the dissolution of the parliament the way is clear for the long awaited general election. Although expected to be held within weeks, a delay may be expected until at least 7/000 – or even longer – as new constituency boundaries have to be drawn up. This could take anything up to four months.

In another pledge, from the leader of the Movement for Democratic Change – M Tsvangirai – he has said that if his opposition party gains enough votes to force a change in the constitution their first move will be call presidential elections for 2001 in a move to unseat Mugabe at the earliest opportunity.



Meanwhile, the would be champion of the people, is in South Africa to raise funds. At the same time he is warning the Pretoria government that it cannot allow its northern neighbour to “go down in flames.” Within days Mr Tsvangirai will be in London, to see P Hain and the foreign secretary.

Inside Zimbabwe, farm seizures continue – another six have been fully or partially occupied – and the farmers await the ruling from the attorney general (qv 10/4). – **GDN page 14, C 1 –**

Headline – ***Black peasants have waited 110 years, says white minister*** – In the view of Dr T Stamp, the minister of health, to settle this ongoing thorn in the side of Zimbabwe’s economic development can only do the country good in the long run. Gone would be the main issue that divided the peasant from the city dweller.

Attempts, by this 1968 émigré to the then Rhodesia, to show that resettled peasant farmers could be productive, have worked but only after a lot of hard work. In the 1980’s he set up a scheme for 2000 people on Vuti farm, with a grant of DM3m from Agro Action in Germany. – **ditto C 8 –**

### **Thurs 13**

Headline – ***Britain seeks neutral envoy*** – officials in Whitehall are urgently on the look out for an eminent person to act as a go between over the various concern of the British government has with the Mugabe administration. On the British side the president of Nigeria, O Obasanjo, who has an admiral record in turning Nigeria away from military rule to democracy in 1999. He was also the mediator that brought the British foreign secretary and the president together at the EU/Africa summit. – **GDN page 16, C 1 –**

Headline – ***farm workers bear brunt of occupations*** – on a farm in Norton 25 miles west of Harare a labourer, Gladman T has worked for 35 years and now earns Z\$750 per month, this is less that a black maid earns. The long time worker has pegged himself out some land on his employer’s land, in the expectation that when war veterans invade the farm there will be no job for him, in its present form. He has to be able to provide for his family - **ditto C 2 –**

Leading Article, **A man in the middle – mediation could defuse crisis** –to seek a mediator is an idea worthy of pursuit as “to find someone who can connect with President Mugabe and speak to him with respect and authority,” is what is needed. This respected figure could help the foreign secretary achieve the three aims that he sees, as does the European Union, that are most important – “free internationally monitored elections, an end to farm occupations and respect for the law – especially the rights of government opponents.

“There is, of course that Mr Mugabe, who is plainly putting his own interests before Zimbabwe’s will see reason ... Given the current dangerous impasse, a genuine impartial mediation effort could hardly make matters worse. – **ditto page 23 –**

## **Fri 14**

Headline – ***Police ordered to evict squatters*** – disregarding the Attorney General's advice Mr Justice M Chinengo in the high court ordered that the police authorities begin moves to evict those who have heeded the calling of the war veterans and taken over white owned farm land.

With the president on a visit to Cuba it was the vice president, J Misika, who put the government's view. He called on the squatters, if not to leave the land, then carry out no more invasions, with the amended constitution (qv) such a move was not needed.

Reaction, from those with an interest in developments, ranged from “the high court can go to hell” – “Hitler” C Hunzvi, the leader of the War Veterans Association. The police made little effort to comply. A spokesman for the MDC said “the reality is that unless Mr Mugabe orders those bandits off the land you have a problem. I don't think he will do it.” – **GDN page 2, C 2** –

Headline – ***Pressure grows to halt Zimbabwe tour*** – at the same time that the England and Wales Cricket Board have given the go ahead to a Test cricket side from the troubled country entering Britain, in 5/000, moves are afoot to have the tour cancelled.

Pressure is mounting on the foreign office minister P Hain (qv) and his boss Robin Cook to cancel the visit unless the Zimbabwean president named the date of the general election.

It has been seen before how the canceling of sporting contacts between countries can concentrate those in authority to bend to the will of the people and the international community. – **ditto page 9, C 1** –

## **Sat 15**

Headline – ***Hopes fade as Mugabe backs squatters*** – despite the recent high court ruling, that the police must evict squatters from white owned farms, the Attorney General is to appeal to the Supreme Court to have the decision changed. According to the Commercial Farmers Union no ‘illegals’ on the land had left, 615 farms are being affected.

On the diplomatic front, the leader of the Movement for Democratic Change is leading a delegation overseas. In London he had a meeting with the foreign secretary, R Cook and P Hain. Mr Cook reiterated the government's position – to support a genuine land reform programme, to help the rural poor. There would also be compensation for those white farmers who wanted to leave the land. Among the delegation was the Movement's secretary general, W Ncube, who said that to be seen to reward the Mugabe administration was the wrong policy – it would give the lie that to inflict terror and intimidation was a way to be rewarded. – **GDN page 15, C 1** –

## **Sun 16**

Headline – *Zimbabwe farmers flee* – unclear as the situation, by the latest estimate 60 white farmers have left their land, after threats from the those who have been squatting on their land since 2/0000.

One such case involves David Stevens – heavily into opposition politics – and his family, who live in the Virginia farming district of Marondera 75km east of Harare. It is apparent through speaking to his wife, Maria that her husband was taken away in a 3 vehicle convoy. Also taken at the same time two other farmers were abducted.

Many of the families, having left their farms, are staying at the Marondera County Club, along with many of the other victims of the forced expulsions.

Meanwhile riot police were on the streets of the capital as members of the War Veterans Association, attended by members of Zanu PF held a rally. The gathering heard from the Associations leader C Hunsvi (qv) that only president Mugabe had the authority to call an end to the land seizures.

In London the leader of the Movement for Democratic Change, M Tsvangirira told a gathering of 1,000 at the Central Hall Westminster – many expatriates – and urged them to return to Zimbabwe. “We want you to participate in the political process of your own country. The battle is not outside; the battle is in the change at home. – **IOS page 2 C 2** – Headline – *UK urged to keep force in Zimbabwe* – a force of British military officers, who are the remnants of a force that gave post independence training to the Zimbabwe Defence Force, are at the centre of a dilemma – to go or stay.

With their original function completed, the 10 strong force with offices inside the ZDF building, offer members of the southern African military training in a peace keeping, which can be used to the benefit of all countries on the continent.

Pushing for the force to stay is the leader of the Movement for Democratic Change who thinks that the presence of the force, however small, will ensure that there will be free and fair elections in the near future. Calling for a recall of the force, a member of the Conservative party, in Britain, says that force should come home as Zimbabwe is still heavily involved in the civil war in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. A more pressing issue is what F Maude calls “the ethnic cleansing of the white farmers.” – **ditto page 21** –

## Mon 17

Headline – *Zimbabwe slides into anarchy* – following the abduction of D Stevens a white farmer from Norton, along with other farmers, his body has been discovered. He was killed by members of the Zanu PF for being an active supporter of the MDC –, as were the other farmers who were beaten with iron bars, fan belts and rocks. What is more alarming is that Mugabe’s supporters had chased the farmers to a police station, to report the abduction, when they themselves were taken from under the noses of the police who did nothing to prevent this second abduction. Other deaths that have occurred were members of the MDC – one was the driver for Mr Tsvangirai during his recent trip to London.

On returning, from his trip to Cuba, the president was greeted by a crowd of 1,000 who heard him say “I know there is the expectation that I will say to the war veterans ‘get off the land.’ I will not say or do that.

On the diplomatic front, in London, the foreign secretary said that the situation was “very grave ... it will get worse unless there is a return to the respect of the rule of law in Zimbabwe.” Equally angry was P Hain, who called Harare’s ambassador to London to meet him at the foreign office. At the meeting he told S Mumbengegwe to tell the president to “get a grip ... Zimbabwe was on the brink. – **GDN page 1& 3** –

## Tues 18

Headline – *Fast track for Zimbabwe refugees with* the knowledge of 20,000 British passport holders in the country the British high commission offices are ready to issue certificates of entitlement to all those who want to leave. The way will then be open for as many of the 20,000 families to enter Britain as wants to. – **GDN page 2, C 2** –

Headline – *Mugabe vents anger on growing opposition* – with the deaths of at least 8 members of the MDC over the last 14 days, security is the number one priority when entering the Movements headquarters building in Harare. Mr Tsvangirai’s driver – T Chiminya aged 42, was killed by a petrol bomb attack in the Buthera area in south east of the country. – **ditto page 14** –

Leader Comment, **A way out for Mugabe – South Africa is vital to Zimbabwe’s future** – the need for Mr Mugabe to be offered an ‘honourable way out,’ should be given more provenance, what with Mr Mbeki’s forthcoming state visit. With the addition that the South African president is the current president of the Commonwealth, the timing could not be better.

Working with other international agencies – the Commonwealth’s foreign ministerial group – which meets in London at the beginning of 5/000 along with the physical leverage – its neighbour controls all Zimbabwe’s electricity supply and the import of fuel oil – South Africa is in an ideal position to set a settlement in motion – **ditto page 21** –

Letters – **R Bourne Commonwealth Human Rights Institute, London** – urges the intervention of Mbeki and the commonwealth to steer the country away from “the brink.” **M McCartney, Harare, Zimbabwe** – living an ‘ordinary’ life in the capital. **Brian Robinson, Brentwood, Essex** – “land reform should have been achieved before UDI, In the long term violence begets violence. **M Evans, Liverpool** – press reaction to any white farmer asylum seekers – give them a fair hearing. **J Pardoe, London** – damage to a country that is suffering from the attempts of a leader to stay in power too long. – **ditto page 21, C 4** –

### Wed 19

Headline – ***Death at dawn: the agony of Zimbabwe*** – on the day that all the people of the country should have been celebrating the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of independence from Britain, the day was marred by the killing of a second white farmer.

The death of M Olds aged 42, who ran a cattle farm at Nyamandlovu, 50 miles west of Bulawayo, was at the hands of a crowd of Zanu PF supporters who arrived in a 15 vehicle convoy – watched over by the local police. After firebombing the house there began a 3 hour shootout in which Mr Olds was shot in the legs. On emerging from the burnt wreckage he was beaten by his attackers then killed.

Countrywide there has been further acts of aggression, sponsored by government supporters – beating of farmers and their workers, abductions and seizure of opposition materials. In one case members of the Central Intelligence Organisation – internal security – were identified as being responsible for burning down the staff quarters of a farm in the Enterprise area – 15 miles north of Garare. – **GDN page 1** –

Headline – ***Land aid tied to real land reform says Hain*** – the foreign office minister bitterly rejects claims that the Labour government has reneged on previous promises to fund land reform in its former colony. It was pointed out that the suspension of aid was made in the 1980’s, because – according to the administration at that time - the process was falling apart.

According to Mr Mugabe, who was recalling the time of the Lancaster House Agreement, the then foreign secretary – P Carrington – agreed verbally to fund compensation to the tune of 44m. The Conservative peer cannot now remember this conversation. – **ditto page 4** –

Headline – ***‘Land distribution is not robbery, but a necessity.’*** – Thabo Mbeki has urged dialogue between the two principals and “get back to the understanding reached when the independence of Zimbabwe was negotiated ... and to solve the problem that way. These thoughts would not be to the liking of Britain – neighbours would not apply pressure to keep the status quo, over the land issue.

Land is the stumbling block to political peace security - as it has been since the signing of the Lancaster House Agreement - and, not as the leadership of the Movement for

Democratic Change seems a peripheral matter. *Edited comments from the pro government Zimbabwe Herald – ditto page 4, C 6 –*

Headline – ***Mugabe stokes the fires of resentment*** – during his address to the nation the president, speaking from a television studio rather than at an outdoor ceremony, accused the white farmers of being ‘enemies of the nation.’ Speaking in English he expressed regret at the deaths of the farmers, while speaking in the local Shona he congratulated the war veteran squatters. – **ditto page 5 –**

### **Thurs 20**

Headline – ***‘This is not racism, it’s politics’*** – the comment spoken the father in law of T Chiminya, the driver of the MDC’s leader, who was one of two party members killed recently – speaking at his funeral gathering in Highfield township outside Harare – **GDN page 1 –**

Headline – ***Blair tries to raise Mugabe pressure*** – speaking in the House of Commons the prime minister detailed his governments efforts to diffuse the crisis in Zimbabwe. To this effort it has been agreed that the Nigerian president will send an envoy to Harare to express to the president the intense feelings that the international community against his current policy. There had been dialogue, between Robin Cook and the general secretary of the United Nations – with a promise from K Annan to speak to Mr Mugabe and remind him of his responsibilities towards all of his people. During their talks the president had agreed to send a delegation to London, within seven days, to discuss the land issue.

The London representative of the UN, although welcoming the moves announced by the general secretary thought that African structures, the Southern African Development Corporation, could play their part. As is already known a meeting of Commonwealth foreign ministers is to take place in London on 5/5. – **ditto page 4, C 1 –**

Headline – ***Hundreds join the queue for a passport*** – long lines of people, of hoped for British lineage, are lining up inside and out the British high commission building in Harare, hoping to prove their eligibility to enter Britain is this becomes necessary. At this time 14,000 of the estimated 20,000, people have registered their intentions. – **ditto C 4 –**

Headline – ***The man with a hold over Mugabe*** – despite claims that he had fought in the war of liberation, Dr H ‘Hitler’ Hunzi, was away in eastern Europe training to be a medical doctor during the critical time. The doctor only came into prominence when he spearheaded a campaign launched by the war veterans and won them Z\$5bm in grants and pensions. Ever since then he has seemed to have the ear of Mr Mugabe – even a hold over him? –

In the current dispute ‘Hitler’ has been found in contempt of court and ordered by the High Court not to launch any more invasions of white owned farm land. In response to this ruling he said “The white farmers have two options: to hand over the land and leave

or stay and see what land we leave them. The whites are foreigners, they are British! They should go back to Britain. – **ditto page 5** –

Leader Comment – **Why so inert? Zimbabwe is a Commonwealth issue** – “over Zimbabwe the Commonwealth is found wanting,” all along the country has been a problem to other members – its dealings with the human rights issue.

Despite the role the Commonwealth, under its new secretary general D McKinnon, in brokering peace involving member states, urged a return to dialogue involving “both white people and African people.” He was speaking from Delhi, whereas he should be saying these, badly phrased words, in Pretoria, as the South African President’s words will carry more weight. “South Africa is also the lynchpin of the Southern African development community, and de facto arbiter of Zimbabwe’s economic destiny.” – **ditto page 23** –

### **Fri 21**

Headline – ***Mugabe gangs torch workers’ homes*** – having made their intentions clear to the white farmers – go – government supporters turned their concerns to the farm workers. Nowhere was this clearer than on the Windrum’s tomato growing farm in the Arcturus region of the country.

More than 100 people attacked the homes of the labourer’s homes and burnt them to the ground and looted their possessions. They had first stoned to death the 3 dogs that the farm owners had left on the land. – **GDN page 1, C 3** –

Headline – ***President ‘realises he is beaten.’*** – commenting on events, over the last 14 days overseas, the leader of the Movement for Democratic Change – M Tsvangirai – said of the charge of treason laid against his party “no threats, no intimidation will deter us. We are determined to withstand the pressure, the atrocities; we are not retreating – **ditto page 4** –

Headline – ***British multi – millionaire bankrolls Mugabe party*** – as he has done, ever since the 1970’s and the liberation struggle, N Hoogstraten, has been a favoured donor to Zanu. At this time he owns nine farms, covering 1m acres in the country. Only one white manager is employed there.

Of the current crisis, the former friend of Mr Rowland of Lonhro, says the problem stems back to the attitude of the whites – who see Zimbabwe as still ‘colonial Rhodesia. He calls Mr Mugabe “a tremendous fellow,” and is appalled at the disgusting way the media are treating him. – **ditto page 5, C 6** –

**Garry Young writes – *The power struggle*** – whites say the issue is the plight of white farmers at the hands of a black mob. They would, wouldn’t they – “What is taking place in Zimbabwe is not so much a campaign against whites but a struggle for democracy and human rights. Thanks to Mugabe the issue has refracted onto an unseemly scramble for land in which no one can rightfully claim the moral high ground.” – **ditto page 23, C 7** –

Letter, **name and address withheld** – remember those other ‘enemies of Zimbabwe,’ from the 1980’s – the Ndebele from Matabeleland – where untold atrocities were committed against them. – **ditto page 25, C 8** –

**Internal press coverage**, “ Britain should know by now that taking the hard road does not bear the desired results. It failed against the Rhodesian rebels, then against the freedom fighters. It would be much cheaper, in terms of human life, money and property for Britain to soften its stance and work with our government and farmers to resolve the land problem

This is certainly more sensible and cheaper than banking on an evacuation and the opposition party. – **from the state owned Zimbabwe Herald. 17/4, The Editor page 6**

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### **Sat 22**

**Gary Young writes** – *After 24 years, Lovemore is still fighting for freedom* – as L Moyo left his Matabeleland at the age of 12, to begin training as a liberation fighter, a peace deal was signed.

Now he is prepared to fight for justice again. As a member of the Ndebele speaking group this idea is nothing new. Following independence there was a lot of turbulence in Matabeleland province as the Shona dominated government tried to subdue its Ndebele population with force.

Tactics, first used in the 1980’s, are now being employed by the government to attack white farmers in the province, who have been little targeted up to this time – as the Ndebele have never had the inclination to do the governments bidding because of the treatment they have received in the past. – **GDN page 1 C** –

Headline – *African heads of state stand by Mugabe* – a meeting between Chissano, Nujama, Mbeki and hosted by the president, which was supposed to be talking about Zimbabwe’s involvement in the DRC, instead concentrated on the land issue.

At the end of the talks, held in Victoria Falls, the three regional leaders came out in favour of the agreed 1998 donor conference that a sum of money would be paid by Britain, the USA and the European Union to compensate those farmers who wanted to leave their farms – **ditto page 4, C1** –

Headline – *Jittery neighbours prepare for regional market slump* – economic crisis, never far away from the southern African region, is set to deter development once again. It could lead to a total economic collapse, as the farming industry provides 40% of the country’s exports and employs 65% of the workforce. The tourist industry worth Z\$10bn, spent by 2m visitors is now down to 50% - at the busiest time of the year. – **ditto C 6** –



## Sun 23

Headline – *Britain sees hope for Zimbabwe* – the agreement reached at the Triumvirate gathering of southern African leaders (qv 22/4), that supported president Mugabe over the issue of the payment of land seized for the use of black farmers, was only achieved after a little ‘behind the scenes’ arm twisting by President Mbeki. The president will now make a state visit to Harare after the general election.

In London, the foreign secretary R Cook, welcomed the deal and was making preparations for the 27/7 arrival of the Zimbabwe delegation for discussions. The minister of state, P Hain, said that “Zimbabwe is an independent country ... has been for 20 years and we cannot, as some in the press and the Conservative Party seem to think it is send in the gunboats time.... There need to be a Zimbabwean and African solution to what is a Zimbabwean and African problem.” – **IOS page 18, C 1** –

Headline – *“Its shocking when they kill someone you know* – on the day that the funeral of white farmer M Olds (qv 19/4) took place one of the many families – the Keith’s - are interviewed at a secret location in the capital. – **ditto C 5** –

Leader Comment, **There is no excuse for Mugabe** – attitudes of farmers, may be hard to change, from their colonial outlook, or their racist attitudes, but by the same token the action of Mugabe is just as wrong if he was not to heed the pleas from the war veterans for a more fair distribution of land.

“Mr Mugabe’s ambition is little to do with equity anyway – his eye is on the coming election.... Which he has no intention of losing.” The president’s followers are involved in ethnic cleansing; “they must be condemned.”

“The rainbow nation” so elegantly coined, by the then, President Mandela will be worth nothing if there is no pressure on a northern neighbour to uphold the law of the newly fought for democracy – that encompasses both black and white. – **ditto page 24** –

## Mon 24

Headline – *Police step in as farm invasions continue* – tensions, inside Zimbabwe have eased over the last 48 hours following the agreement of Mr Mugabe abide by the decisions made at the regional heads of government meeting (qv 22/4). The most immediate sight of eased tension was the agreement of the president not to endorse any more land seizure.

Following this assurance a number of white farmers, from the area where D Stevens was killed (qv 17/4), have returned to their homes in the Macheke area, outside Harare. Despite these ‘returnees’ there were at least two cases where farms were invaded. In the first incident 200 people invaded the Forrester farm in the Mvurwi district, 60 miles north of the capital. A second invasion took place north east of the capital, involving 60 people, on the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Interview Lord P Carrington –Ever *the diplomat* – as of today’s crisis the former foreign secretary – at the time of the Lancaster House Agreement – still insists that the best deal was arranged at the time. The failure of the system is squarely on the shoulders of the present regime, as the leadership has stayed in power for too long. It has lost the respect of the people.

“It [the deal] was the only solution to get at the time. And it really started off rather well. For 10 years he stuck to the provisions of the agreement.” – **G2 page 4** –

## **Tues 25**

Headline – *Mobs turn fury on black farm workers* – with the return of some farm owners to their property the fury of the war veterans has turned again on their employees and begun a campaign of burning and looting their homes. This type of action gives the lie to the belief that these were protests on behalf of the landless masses. Rather it is an operation, by government supporters, to crush those that would challenge Zanu’s rule.

With a type of rule of law established the police seem to be taking a more active role, rather than being passive observers, by actually offering help. In one case police intervened in the Macheke district, and escorted farmers and their families back onto their land (qv 24/4). In a second incident, on a farm 60 miles north of Harare, police ordered 700 squatters of farmland after rescuing 3 people – **GDN page 1, C 4** –

**Gary Young writes – *Death of a dream, how the Zimbabwean success story turned sour*** – Two decades ago it was the toast of the liberal world. Even three years ago it was considered an economic success. So what went wrong, so how has Mugabe’s failure to tackle the land issue brought the country to the brink of anarchy? – **ditto, G2, page 2** –

## **Wed 26**

Headline – *Political killings inflame pre – poll tension* – gone is the pretense of seeking a more fair distribution of land. Rather the supporters of Zanu – PF are in the midst of a campaign to frighten the rural population into not supporting the ever more popular Movement for Democratic Change.

To this aim at least five of the Movements supporters have been killed in the last seventy two hours. This brings to total number to twelve that have died for their beliefs in the last two months. Speaking of the recent incidents Mr Tsvangirai indicated that “ the MDC is aware of this [intimidation] burden and sacrifice. It will not deter our campaign – the elections are the real benchmark. They will determine where this country is headed. We shall pull through”. – **GDN page 4, C 1** –

Headline – *‘The killers must be tried – for the soul of the country’* – a well attended memorial service to, celebrate the life of D Stevens (qv) the first white farmer to be killed in the present dispute, heard these words spoken by the officiating priest.

The service, in Harare, was attended by 1,000 of the white community who were friends and colleagues of Mr Stevens. There was hardly any black employees present as they felt to show themselves would leave them open to further beatings and intimidation from the bands of marauding bands of government supporters. – **ditto C 5** –

Headline – *Something rotten at the heart of the country* – as corruption and African leaders go Zimbabwe is not really troubled, but what there is has proved disastrous.

The head of the armed forces, General V Zvinavashe, is the director of Olseg Private Limited - a private company dealing in the trading of mining of gold and diamonds to finance the help that is given to the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The general is also a director of the transport company that keeps the ‘wheels in motion.’ The permanent secretary in the defence ministry rents an 800, 000 acre state farm for just one pound a year.

A nephew of the president represents a consortium that won the 1.5m pound contract to build a new airport for the capital. A brother in law won a 14, 000 pound pay out from the war veterans fund – which a judge alleged was fraudulent.

There are other claims of ‘irregular’ dealings between members of the ‘notables’ and private enterprise. – **ditto page 5, C 1** –

### **Thurs 27**

Headline – *FO denies military plan for Harare evacuation* – according to the West German newspaper, **Allegemeine Zeitung**, based in Frankfurt, the British government has formulated a military plan to evacuate British citizens from the region if the situation worsens.

Troops that are working in Mozambique, as part of the flood relief work, would be sent across the border to bring farmers, their families and other European nationals, out of harms way.

Inside the country as the situation becomes more unstable, three more supporters of the Movement for Democratic Change have been killed – one in Harare and two others in the city of Kariba, 220 miles north west of the capital.

Responding to these deaths, now standing at five in the last three days, M Tsvangaira said, “we will devise strategy to protect ourselves. We shall take this violence to their doorstep. – **GDN page 1, C 7** –

Headline – *Cook warns Zimbabwean mission he is offering help, not appeasement* – with the delegation from the government due into London within the next 24 hours the foreign secretary laid out some ground rules before they met.

In essence the minister insisted that there would be “magic solutions.” There would be no new money on the table. Only the 58m promised 2 years ago. There will be 12m from the

Department of International Development this year, and 10m in 2001 – even if the Mugabe government does not cooperate. However, if he should begin to run the country, in a way that is acceptable to the international community – free and fair elections, without intimidation – the aid package would increase to 28m and 30m over the same timescale.

There will be a 3 man delegation – N Shamuyaria, industry minister, J Nkomo, local government minister and S Mudenge, foreign minister - to meet the foreign secretary, all who are hardline supporters of Mr Mugabe. They will probably take a tough stance and demand that Britain foot more of the bill for the changes, as the colonial legacy is much of their problem. – **ditto page 4, C 5 –**

### **Fri 28**

Headline – *Harare talks end in failure* – after longer than expected talks, involving the foreign secretary and three ministers from the Zimbabwe government, there has been no breakthrough that would end the illegal occupation of white owned farmland in Harare. Mr Cook blamed the Zimbabwean ministers for the stalemate, as they would not indicate that the Mugabe government would not end the violence. The visitors from Harare put an alternative view. The delegation leader, J Nkomo, blamed the British for not abiding by an earlier agreement to fund land reform.

In Harare the police commissioner has moved to prevent the movement of party activists in such a way that violence would occur. This Law and Order Maintenance Act, was first brought in by the last white government to prevent the spread of the political message of the then rebel Zanu PF.

In an effort to “cool things down,” Nelson Mandela is working behind the scenes to this effect. He said, “the people of Zimbabwe are justified in expecting Britain to honour her pledge to finance the redistribution of land.” – **GDN page 1, C 1 –**

**Internal press coverage** – “The people of this land have no police force, no effective judicial process, no right of freedom of expression, no right to freedom of association, and no right to defend themselves. ... one man would take this land back to the Stone Age rather than acknowledge that he can no longer lead this country, this government, or Zanu – PF – **from The Zimbabwe Standard, 23/4, - The Editor page 7 –**

## Sat 29

Headline – *Whites get the message* – attending a Zanu – PF rally, in the Garomenzi district, farm owners and their labourers were forced to listen to the sloganeering of party officials. A ‘sort off’ agreement was reached – under threats – that support for the Movement of Democratic Change would end.

A more favoured agreement was reached at a meeting in Harare, between leaders of the Commercial Farmers Union and the leader of the War Veterans Association – C Hunzi, who’s supporters have now occupied 1,200 farms. At the meeting Mr Hunzi agreed to end the violence. For the CFU, Mr Swanepol said, “we can solve the problem together. – **GDN page 13, C 1** –

Headline – *Mbeki treading softly to diffuse Zimbabwe crisis* – despite the actions and accomplishments of the regions ‘notables’ from South Africa, the president is reluctant to urge any prohibitive actions against his northern neighbour. To do so would bring about a region wide crisis. Already this problem has caused the rand to fall in value. Add to this is the 80m pounds that the Harare authorities are in debt to Eskom – the South African state owned electricity authority

Inside South Africa land reform is just as slow, only 6% of land claims have been settled and 1% of land has been distributed. Of the population 54% of the population support the actions of the squatters to the north – which is twice the number of their own countrymen.

The leader of the MDC, M Tsvangirai, advocates the stance of the South African president when he says the land crisis is an African problem and there should be an African solution – **C 6** –

Leader Comment, **A crisis cooked to order** – the “ruthless determination, of president Robert Mugabe to cling to power in Zimbabwe is obvious.” With what has gone before, beatings, killings and burning etc “no reason to give up on Zimbabwe.”

African leaders must show they are not reluctant to take a lead. “Africa, in its own interest, must bring him, Mugabe, to heel or cast him out”. – **unsourced** -

## MAY

### Mon 8

Headline – *White farmers with UK passports ‘must leave’*- As farm owners and their workers continue to suffer violence, at the hands of members of Zanu – PF, the leader of the War Veterans Association has called for the expulsion of holders of British passports. Mr Hunzvi was speaking in Glen Norah, south of the capital. During his speech he said that the 20, 000 people entitled to hold British passports must be hunted out and forced to leave the country.

Detailing the economic plight of the country experts, in Harare, warned the president that his course of action might in the short term bring benefits to the people, However in the long run the country will suffer – **GDN page 11, C 7 –**

**Garry Young writes – Alternative politics** – “the people must govern ... not the party and certainly not one man,” spoken by a former minister of ruling Zanu – PF.  
“If Zanu – PF wins, it may not matter if Zimbabweans likes what it does or not – for then may lose the right to vote altogether.” – **ditto page 15**

## **Tues 9**

Headline – ***Deadly cost of opposing Mugabe*** – following the recurrence of violence against farm owners and labourers (qv 8/5) one of the owners of a farm in Beatrice, 60 miles west of Harare – A Dunn – has died from his injuries. He was probably attacked, not because of his land ownership, but because he was a leading official in the opposition Movement of Democratic Change – the 19<sup>th</sup> victim at the hands of Zanu PF. – **GDN page 13, C 1 –**

**J Steele writes**, “Britain’s record is murky.” With its dealing in which Mugabe looks as though he might win – see the report of the Commonwealth and European Union observers at the 1980 independence ballot, the British and the governor did everything to try and ensure that Zanu did not win. “It is no wonder that Mugabe is still angry.

The first priority is to make sure that the president actually calls the elections. What Britain should not do is take any further lead in process – it has already lost its credibility when it allowed Ian Smith 15 years of illegal rule. – **ditto page 17, C1 –**

## **Wed 10**

Letters, **1) Dr D Jester, University of West England** – Garry Young’s article (qv) overlooked two aspects of recent election history. By nature all votes in Zimbabwe have been subject to violence and intimidation. The newness on this occasion is the fact that the whites are feeling the backlash of Mugabe’s attempts to cling on to power.

At the time when Zanu PF was a ‘movement for democratic change’ - in 1980 – the authorities – the British – believed that there existed an alternative choice for the people in Bishop Musoewa, who would work with J Nkomo – if he had to – to keep the present president out of power.

The way forward now is for the Movement for Democratic Change is go down the electoral route, making certain that there are enough international monitors watching and reporting on events.

What must not happen is for the British to continue acting as if it still was the colonial power.

**2) name and address supplied** – a call from a Zimbabwean national for the MDC to take the moral high ground and to protect the most precious of human rights – the right to life. – **GDN page 21, C 6** –

### **Thurs 11**

Headline – ***In Zimbabwe’s townships, the fight to survive comes first*** – in a 15 minute drive from Harare you can reach the black township of Dzivaresekwa. In colonial times, home to the whites domestic servants, and now the home of black students, bank clerks and labourers.

To speak of the coming elections, is the reaction from the Ndlovus is any thing to go by it is a transient thing “both blacks and whites are worried by the government and the economy – albeit for very different reasons.” – **GDN page 19, C 1** –

Headline – ***Opposition may boycott election*** – there is a move, within the Movement for Democratic Change, to try alternative tactics to force a change of government. Following the example of a nationwide strike called by the then chairman of the, M Tsvangirwa ZTUC, in 1998 and 1999 seems a very good idea. – **ditto C 7** –

### **Fri 12**

Leader Comment, **Mugabe, unopposed?** – as reported (qv 11/5) the threat from the Movement for Democratic Change to boycott the coming election, “is understandable but ill advised.”

Despite the provocation from Zanu PF to withdraw from the elections would be playing right into the president’s hands and ensure that he would remain in power – with all the repression and non democratic features that entails.

No the best thing that the MDC can do, despite extreme provocation, to ensure the future of Zimbabwe, is “not join Mr Mugabe in abandoning the democratic path – **GDN page 23** –

### **Sat 13**

Headline – ***Mugabe offers end to violence in return for land*** – with a plea to the war veterans that they “should not disturb the farmers,” the president said that there had been enough violence and no more property should be touched.

This plea to end the violence came after a 4 hour meeting between leaders of the Commercial farmers Union, the president and the Associations leader. In return the farmers have agreed to hand some of their farmland over so that members of the black farming community can resettle it.

Whether this apparent agreement will be an end to the matter, is of concern, It can be seen that some of those in authority see this agreement as a way of ending support for the

Movement for Democratic Change. A statement from the governor of Masvingo province indicated that this was the aim “We do not want another war. If you want peace you should support me and the ruling party. If you want trouble then vote for another party.”  
– **GDN page 17, C 7** –

### **Sun 21**

Headline – *Zimbabwe to strip passports from whites with UK links* – many white residents of the country, who have thought of themselves as citizens of Zimbabwe since 1980, have been downgraded to that of only having resident status, by the present authorities. Reacting to this one resident of Harare indicated that the move was intended to stop whites – strong supporters of the Movement for Democratic Change – from being politically active.

After its foreseen meeting, to discuss tactics (qv 11/5) M Tsvangirwa of the MDC announced that the election will be contested. This is despite a campaign of ‘state sponsored violence.’ The opposition group, National Constitutional Assembly’s agreed rally in Harare’s Sports Centre was nearly forced to be cancelled as war veterans – bussed in by Zanu PF – chased supporters. – **IOS page 21, C 1** –

### **Mon 15**

Headline – *Mugabe supporters invade Ian Smiths farm* – on the day that the secretary of the Commonwealth, D McKinnon, arrives in the country to discuss the placement of observers at the forthcoming general election, the farm owned by the last white prime minister I Smith has been settled by squatters.

About 50 government supporters are now occupying the Gwenzoro farm, near the town of Sherungwe 200 miles south east of the capital. The former prime minister, who was not present on the farm, dismissed the action as being done by a “few old timers who were out of work.”

More serious is the situation around the town of Beatrice, where a white farmer has died from his injuries after recent attacks. Mr Weeks was the fourth white farmer to die in recent weeks. – **GDN page 2, C 2** –

The date of the long awaited general election has been set for the weekend of June 24 and 25. – **Radio 4 news, 10pm** –

### **Wed 17**

Headline – *40 monitors to be sent to election in Zimbabwe* – after a number of intentional snubs to D McKinnon, the commonwealth secretary general, a meeting was held with Mr Mugabe. Under discussion was the 24/6 general election, and the number of overseas monitors the authorities would allow.



At the end of the meeting Mr McKinnon said that the president would allow 40 overseas monitors to oversee the 2 day elections. The political analyst, J Makumbe, said that this was a good sign as usually the Commonwealth just sends 20 people. – **GDN page 14, C 6** –

### **Fri 19**

Headline – *UN called in to tackle Zimbabwe deadlock* – behind the scenes talks between the South African president and his northern neighbour has seen Mr Mugabe agree to allow the United Nations Development Programme to investigate the long standing issue of land distribution

The aim of the UN is to work out a “mutually acceptable plan of action” that would involve -

**“a more equitable redistribution of land, an adequately funded land purchase programme that would provide compensation at a fair market price, a transparent process and a commitment ensuring that the poorest people benefit from the international assistance.”**

The announcement was made on the last day of Mr Mbeki’s second day in London, where he once again agreed that the endemic violence inside Zimbabwe should stop. “We want land reform that is beneficial to all Zimbabweans without conflict. – **GDN page 16 C 1** –

Headline - *Mugabe’s veterans renew the rampage* – despite the pledge of the president outbreaks of violence, attributed to party members, has broken out throughout the country.

At the end of the day in which teachers, township residents and manufacturing workers were the main targets one more members of the opposition MDC was killed [total 23]. A new target has been supporters of the United Parties, who lost two members dead and thirty injured after an attack Mudzi, in the north east of the country. – **ditto C 6** –

### **Sat 20**

Zimbabwe war veterans’ leader Chenjerai Hunzvi was fined and given a suspended jail sentence yesterday for defying court orders to end forcible of white owned farms. The relatively lenient sentence appeared to reflect fears that violence would worsen if he were jailed. – *Reuters* –

Leader Comment, **Mugabe changes tack** – “Political state sponsored violence in Zimbabwe is getting worse, not better.” This is despite the recent comments by the president. Now it seems that Zanu party activists have gone their own way and instituted their own ‘reign of terror,’ (qv 19/5).

Despite all that has been achieved through the efforts of the British, The United Nations and even the South African president Mr Mugabe seems reluctant to “call off his

mobsters, halt the violence and finally allow the country to vote in free and fair elections.”

“Now he is trying to set new conditions for Commonwealth and EU election monitors while busily gerrymandering constituencies, disenfranchising whites, and warning voters that the ballot is not secret.” The election monitors will face an uphill task.

### **Sun 21**

Headline – *All hope lost for fair Zimbabwe elections* – A report from a non governmental organisation – the Amani Trust has compiled a database of violence and offers of medical and legal help to victims of violence and torture.

The time span of this data covers the period from 1/1 to 14/5. It reported 6,120 people affected by violence, including 1,107 reported assaults. There were 9 reported cases of rape. During the stated period there were 572 cases of homes being burned down. Also 26 people have been killed.

However the number of crimes of violence, etc, reported are thought only to be the tip of the iceberg – as many incidents will not have been reported because journalists and human rights monitors have become key targets.

Despite denials, from the government that Zanu supporters initiated much of the violence the Trust found that 85% were in fact supporters of Mr Mugabe, 6.8% were government officials or members of the police. Retaliation from members of the Movement for Democratic Change accounted for only 4.3% of the acts of violence. – **IOS page 24, C 1**

### **Tues 23**

Headline – *Monitors in poll plea to Mugabe* – The internationally known, the National Democratic Institute which is led by a former vice president of Nigeria – Alex Kekwueme – has called on the president to take immediate steps to end the violence that has claimed many lives, before the general election. Mr Mugabe must establish the conditions for free and fair polls.

The report, dismissed by a government spokesman as “senseless,” criticised Zimbabwe’s leaders for restricting essential voter information and promoting biased reporting, - **GDN page 18, C 7** –

### **Thurs 25**

Headline – *Mugabe legalises land grab* – all the legal requirements are now in place for the president to implement the seizure of land promulgated in parliament (qv 7/4). The Land Acquisition Act will now allow make it possible for the Zimbabwean authorities to distribute land to the landless.

It is estimated that land, from 841 white owned farms will be taken. There will be no compensation for the land paid – only for improvements to farm buildings. Compensation for land seized will be expected to be found by the British and other international donors. In response the foreign office minister, P Hain, said, “This act is calculated to raise the temperature. It is in nobody’s interest. **GDN page 1 C 1** –

**Cartoon** – On an election banner is the slogan “Vote Mugabe, win a farm”

Headline – ***Mugabe gangs strip and beat school staff*** – life in the town of Chimanimani when supporters of ZANU PF hunt down supporters of the Movement for Democratic Change. – **ditto page 15, C1** –

### **Sat 27**

Police shot dead a supporter of President Robert Mugabe after he and others stormed a police station 90 miles north of Harare, an official said yesterday.

In the first reported shooting of a Mugabe supporter since February, the man was fatally wounded when the police tried to disperse a mob attempted to free 19 members of the Zanu – PF party. – **AP** –

### **Sun 26**

Farmers’ leaders in Zimbabwe cautiously welcomed the government’s pledge to order illegal squatters to leave white – owned farms, the third vow to persuade occupiers to quit more than 1,400 sites. – **IOS page 26, C 7** –

### **Tues 30**

Headline – ***Ex – president loses gay sex appeal*** – the former president of Zimbabwe, C Banana, yesterday lost an appeal against his conviction in 1999 (qv 19/1) for sexual assault and gay sex offences and was ordered to serve a year in jail.

The Supreme Court also upheld a previous court order that Banana should pay Mr Dube Z\$250,000 in restitution. – **GDN page 15, C 3** –

### **Wed 31**

Headline – ***Saudi pay 9m to fund Zimbabwe land deals*** – working behind the scenes the South African president has had a financial commitment from Saudi Arabia, and an unnamed Nordic state, to boost the promised international funds to buy out 118 white farmers. The fund will be coordinated by the United Nations Development Programme, (qv 19/5).

Police have made a positive move, in response to the president’s order that illegal squatters will be expelled from white owned land. Yesterday they forced 60 people of the land owned by R Bennett a high profile member of the MDC. – **GDN page 15, C 8** –

## JUNE

### Thurs 1

Headline – *Mugabe to name farms for seizure* – a climactic event, in the continuing land crisis, will come to a head within the next 24 hours. The government in Harare is on the brink of naming that white owned farms that are to be sized.

By acting in this hasty manor the president is preventing the international community from delivering on any of its promises made to offer compensation to the farm owners. The land taken will be without any additional services – roads, water supplies, schools or any other basic services that the expected 100, 000 new residents will need. These new land owners will be living like subsistence farmers says agricultural experts. – **GDN page 16, C 8** –

### Fri 2

Headline – *Mugabe praises farm invasions as two more die in violence* – speaking to assembled war veterans the president affirmed his support for their actions – “we are actually very happy for them to be there,” he told a crowd of 500 former guerilla fighters. The praise came as two more deaths, and numerous other acts of violence and intimidation against the opposition, were reported. A farmer, T Oates aged 65, was shot dead on 31/5 north west of Harare in an area known as Trelawney – he becomes the fifth white farmer to die in recent months.

A Movement for Democratic Change candidate - for Bikita east – T Rukini, was beaten to death at his home by government supporters who sang Zanu PF songs as they delivered the fatal blows. – **GDN page 20, C 7** –

### Sat 3

Headline – *Mugabe land seizures force hundreds of farm owners to flee* – with the naming of the 804 farms – less than originally thought (qv 25/5) – named for the taking by poor black farmers, a panic stricken exodus has begun by the white farm owners.

Mr Mugabe's action will enable his government to take possession of farms covering nearly 2m hectares [5m acres] by the time of the general election. Farms belonging to black supporters of opposition parties are also named among those to be handed over. The fear of those in the know is that these black farmers will not use the land to its full potential and ultimately damage the already damaged economy of the country. – **GDN page 2, C 1** –

### Sun 4

Moses Anufu, a Commonwealth observer in Zimbabwe to observe the elections this month, was recalled from Harare over his links to a firm with close ties to President Mugabe's regime. – **IOS page 8, C 7** –

### Mon 5

Headline – *Mugabe regime preparing to axe white judges* – the president, in his desperation to remain in power is to use the ethnic make up of the judiciary to try and remain in power after this month's general election.

At the present moment two of the five judges, in the Supreme Court and four of their colleagues in the twenty strong High Court are white. If the administration, in Harare, has its way those white members of the two courts will be seen as being ill qualified to pass judgements in political sensitive cases.

This move, which was given wide spread publicity through state owned media outlets, was seen as an ongoing process – promulgated 14 days ago to disbar whites from having dual British and Zimbabwean citizenship – after the passing of the 1985 act.

During a lightning visit F Maude, shadow foreign secretary, called for the number of commonwealth monitors to be increased from the proposed level of 44 to in excess of 400. "It is essential that the observers should stay for at least two or three weeks after the elections to reduce the chance of violent retribution. – **GDN page 11, C 1** –

### Wed 7

Headline – *Haine blasts Mugabe ahead of election* – a fax to the British High Commissioner in Harare, from the foreign office minister P Hain, sets out London's thinking on the conduct of the forthcoming general election. The 3 page missive details how the British government thinks Mr Mugabe will run the ballot. – **GDN page 16, C6** –

**Cartoon**, two Labour Party officials in London studying a Mugabe related headline – “Mugabe blocks fair election” – **Caption** - Get out to Zimbabwe and pick up a few tips

### **Thurs 8**

Headline – *‘Deranged’ Mugabe to seize more land* – During a pep talk to the 120 Zanu PF candidates in the forthcoming general election the president outlined plans to take all white owned farm land under state ownership. He went on to say that any white farmers that were allowed to remain on their land on the basis of “our own will, our own desire, our own charity”.

This pledge from the president was offered as proof, by M Tsvangirira the leader of the Movement of Democratic Change, that Mr Mugabe was deranged. In a further comment he said, “the land policy was being determined by a man who is no longer rational.

The Movements secretary general, W Ncube, commenting of the thanks that the president had offered to the war veterans for their part in the land seizures said ” It is irrational to ask Zimbabweans who have lost 29 lives to political violence to thank the so called war veterans”. It was also pointed out, by Mr Ncube, that between 7,000 – 10,000 are homeless in their own country because of the violence – **GDN page 17, C 1** –

### **Fri 9**

Headline – *Mugabe’s reign of terror* – following the visit, by F Maude (qv 5/6), the Conservative’s front bench spokesman on foreign affairs argues that the international monitors should stay in Zimbabwe even after the general election. This would ensure that Zanu PF, or their agents did not reek havoc following a disappointing, for them, election result.

Other means of bringing Mr Mugabe et al into line – proposed by the leaders of the Movement of Democratic Change – would see Zimbabwe’s overseas assets frozen and restrictions on travel overseas for ‘notables’. - **GDN page 20, C 2** –

### **Sun 11**

Headline – *Mugabe win set to be rejected by UK* – acting on intelligence reports from inside the country the British government are, even before the results of the general election are known, reject the result. The reason is because of the long campaign of state sponsored violence against the opposition.

Another aspect of the decision is the pull out of the United Nations after Mr Mugabe rejected its offer to co – ordinate the numbers of international observers inside Zimbabwe.

With the apparent failure of the South African president to curb the excesses of Mr Mugabe and even some support from within the ruling ANC – the secretary general, K

Motlanthe, said in an interview with the **Mail and Guardian** that Zimbabwe had suffered from a “misrepresentation of the facts” by the media. – **IOS page 20, C 1** –

### **Mon 12**

Headline – ***Mugabe accuses UN monitors*** – new restrictions have been imposed on the election monitors, 300 from overseas and 16, 000 domestic, following the actions of the United Nations (qv 11/6). It appears that the UN dissociated themselves from the elections because the president thought that there assumed role of election coordinator was to take on an “illegitimate role.”

Elsewhere in Zimbabwe another member of the Movement of Democratic Change has been killed, one tortured and one beaten. The killing, of F Zhou aged 21, took place in the Mberengwa district. Despite this recent, number three; death rallies of support have been well attended throughout the country. One, in Harare East, were in excess of 3,0000 people heard the MDC candidate P K Mapfumo, outline the Party’s position on a “better Zimbabwe for our children.” – **GDN page 15, C 1** –

### **Wed 14**

Political violence in Zimbabwe claimed another life in a tavern brawl, police said yesterday, bringing the death total to at least 32 since February.

A ruling party supporter, who was not identified, was stabbed in the chest after refusing to take off a party T shirt in a bar in Chivi, 200 miles south of Harare, on Sunday – **AP** –

### **Thurs 15**

Spurred on by TV footage in April showing pets being beaten to death or maimed by groups invading white owned farms in Zimbabwe, a Johannes based group has started flying out cats and dogs caught in the violence.

British Airways has donated space on three flights from Zimbabwe to South Africa for 10 pets at a time, the Wet Nose Animal Rescue Centere said. Seven dogs and two cats arrived in South Africa on Tuesday. More are expected soon, as the group says it has a permit to bring 100 animals initially. – **Reuters** –

### **Fri 16**

Headline – ***Storm greets Mugabe’s mines threat*** – alarmed is the business community after the latest threat of nationalisation - the mining industry – revealed in an interview by the president given to the **Johannesburg Star**.

Mining is a key element in the economy, accounting for 30% of export earnings. Zimbabwe has about 1,000 mines of which nationals own 800. “Just by making such a statement is to weaken the mining sector”, - Anglo American mining executive. ”Politicking, rather than a direct threat” – N Von Schirnding AAM, senior vice president.

The United Kingdom is the largest private sector investor in Zimbabwe. – **GDN page 20, C 7 –**

### **Sun 18**

Headline – ***Congo prisoners swap*** – Rwanda freed 35 Zimbabweans captured in the Congo war. Zimbabwe released 43 Rwandan soldiers – **IOD page 4, C 8 –**

Headline – ***Mugabe opponents beaten in their beds*** – returning to the very stadium where 20 years ago the then prime minister celebrated his victory at the first multi racial polls in front of a crowd measured in the hundreds of thousands, this time there were only about 5,000 to hear his last message before the coming general election. The message was all on the same lines – “this is a black man’s land [the whites] will never be our cousins.”

On the campaign trail with Mrs Mafudze Suka, through Mhondoro south constituency. There are no large scale rallies in these parts; this is because of the large scale intimidation that non Zanu PF candidate’s face. Rather there are select gatherings, of a few opponents, in a quiet spot away from prying eyes and potential violence. Mrs Suka is trying to unseat Mavis Chidzonga, who has represented Zanu PF for the last 5 years. Whilst not directly involved in attacks her opponents it is thought, by the MDC that she is directing the violence. – **ditto page 23, C 1 –**

### **Mon 19**

Headline – ***Mugabe’s rivals scent poll victory*** – an opinion poll predicts that the Movement of Democratic Change will win 70, of the 120, contested seats in the next Zimbabwean parliament. Even with the right to nominate the holders of another 30 seats Mr Mugabe is expected to face a challenge, from M Tsvangirwa, to quit his presidential post before his term of office ends in 2002.

At a rally in Rufaro stadium, in Harare’s Highfields township, a mixed crowd of 15,000 black and whites heard the leader of the MDC tell the crowd that “we showed Robert Mugabe the yellow card [over changes to the constitution]. Now we show him the red one. – **GDN page 1, C5 –**

### **Wed 21**

Zimbabwe’s health system rates 155<sup>th</sup> out of 191 countries. The list was compiled by the World Health Organisation and is based on five indicators – overall level of health, health inequalities, patient satisfaction, how the system responds to need and how well served people of different economic status feel. – **GDN page 3, C 8 –**

Headline – ***Defectors dare Mugabe*** – former loyalists of Zanu – PF, “Satens” in the words of Mr Mugabe, are being urged not to rock the boat and stay loyal to the Party. So angry are some of those that have been deselected, about 20 candidates, are to stand as independents. Their grievance with the party is the way that the selection process has been staged managed by the party hierarchy.



Patrick Chitaka aged 46 and the sitting MP for Mutare is one such candidate. Another who will oppose Zanu is Clive Chimbi. – **ditto page 15, C1** –

Headline – *Monitors horrified at tales of violence* – tales are emerging of continuing harassment of those opposed to the present administration. A graphic account of intimidation of MDC candidates was given to the head of the Commonwealth monitoring team, G Abacher, who was told of abductions of the party's candidates who was told of 30 who had gone missing from the Bulawayo region.

There will be 20,00 police and 10,000 reservists on standby during the voting process said the home affairs minister. The army would also be ready to help if need be – **ditto C 6** –

### **Thurs 22**

Headline – *Terror rules in Mugabe's laggards* – tales of violence inflicted on supporters of the Movement for Democratic Change – James and Finos Zhou specifically – from the city of Mataga 250 miles south of Harare.

This area of the country is one of 10 'no go areas' in the country for anyone who is not a supporter of the ruling party – witness the attacks and questions directed towards those investigating the incidents of intimidation. The town's MDC candidate, Sekia Holland, has had little opportunity to campaign openly after a forced expulsion by the police. Ms Holland was exiled to the nearby city of Zvishavane – **GDN page 15, C 1** –

Headline – *Crunch time for Zimbabwe* – adding to the view of the Opinion Poll (qv 19/6) it is thought that the level of election success of the MDC could end up even higher. Starting with the premise that they will win 40 seats, an excellent start for a Party only 9 months old and free to campaign in 25 constituencies. Extra seats could be won in the provinces of Matebele North and South – there is no love of Zanu because of the atrocities carried out by the army in the 1980's against Zapu supporters. –**ditto page 20** –

### **Fri 23**

Headline – *Mugabe era is over, says opposition* – predicting the end, as president, of Mr Mugabe members of the Movement of Democratic change see the post becoming vacant within one month of the elections. Their spokesman, Eddie Cross the prospective finance minister and leading industrialist, predicts that the party will win 76 seats.

A new MDC government, as one of its first acts would be to devalue the Z\$ by 40% as demanded by the commercial farmers. In their efforts to remove the president they would expect South Africa to play a role as they control the country's electricity and expect payment for an unpaid bill of millions of pounds. – **GDN page 15, C 5** –

**Internal press coverage,** "They have proved beyond any doubt, that they are not intellectually and morally capable of ruling this country. The international community has said "Mugabe, you are wrong." International donors left saying ... Our labour movement has said ... Archbishop Desmond Tutu has said ... Our church leaders have

said ... The people of Zimbabwe must now say Mugabe, you are wrong.” – **Zimbabwe Daily News 19/6** –

“Can we really vote to revert to the ‘boy’ or ‘yes baas’ era? ... The opposition wants to bring retrogressive changes that take us back to the Rhodesian era. The only thing that mattered was whether you were black or white ... Blacks are still alive, tending their farms and businesses, thanks to the unrequited policy of reconciliation. These are the real people behind the opposition – **from the state owned Herald, 16/7 – The Editor page 8**

### **Sat 24**

Headline – ***Mugabe keeps enemy in his sights*** – on the last day of campaigning for the president in the city of Chinhoyi, white farmers were made an ‘offer they could not refuse.’ They were supporting their union by attending the rally, along with 10,000 Zanu PF supporters. Throughout his address to the crowd the president made reference to the ‘guests’, despite never acknowledging them during his earlier walkabout. – **GDN page 1, C4** –

Headline – ***Zimbabwe’s south becomes a zone of fear*** – Mataga (qv 22/6) has lost its polling station, on the eve of the vote, to an attack of arson and the surroundings is becoming a ‘no go area’ for all but government supporters.

Other MDC candidates – David Coltart Bulawayo, Z Rioga Masvingo are hospitalised or in hiding after Zanu attacks. – **ditto page 14, C 1** –

### **Sun 24**

Headline – ***Huge turn out on Zimbabwe’s day of destiny*** – as Morgan Tsvangirua prepares to vote in Manicaland, he is just one of many of his countrymen who have turned out early – before 5am – to vote in what is seen as the most critical challenge to the rule of Mr Mugabe since he won independence from the British in 1980.

One of those eager to cast her vote was Maria Stevens, whose husband was the first white farmer to die after the land issue became so important to Zanu PF and its hopes for survival. The now penniless and homeless widow said of the turnout “As far as I can tell, the large number of people voting should be a good sign for the MDC.” She was determined to vote because her husband died for his support of the MDC and she wanted to show that her husband’s death was not in vain. – **IOS page 22, C 1** –

## Mon 25

Headline – *Mugabe to defy election verdict* – according to officials, within Zanu, there will be no automatic resignation of the president if the Movement for Democratic Change become the largest party in government following the election results.

Citing western governments, the USA and France, were presidents rule effectively when they loose control of their respective elected chambers, a candidate said that Mr Mugabe could rule with a cabinet of just five “Mugabe is an institution.”

As for the elections themselves the head of the European Union’s monitoring force, P Schori, indicated that the term “free and fair elections is not applicable in these elections. Because of the pressure of voters, whose names were not on the common roll – but they had receipts to show they had registered – the registrar general said if the identification numbers on these receipts and the voters ID card they would be allowed to vote – **GDN page 1 C 4 –**

Headline – *Captive tells inside story of Zimbabwe thugs* – the former district chairman, of the MDC Murhewa North constituency – north east of Harare tells his story of abduction and indoctrination into becoming a loyal government supporter after days of captivity and torture. How he managed to flee back to his village and find his wife and once again flee into hiding. – **Ditto page 15, C 5 –**

## Tues 27

Headline – *Mugabe faces setback at polls* – with a 65% voter turnout, the highest vote in 20 years, results up to midnight show results that give Zanu 32 seats of the 62 counted. In Bulawayo the Movements secretary general W Nucube (qv) won a seat with 85% of the vote.

After the end of the ballot the director of the elections, M Nzuwa, appealed to the people not to spoil the calm that had held over the two days of the election. To the candidates he said – “Those who had lost should not let their disappointment turn to anger and violence.” To the winners – “share their victory with those who had lost – **GDN page 1, C7 –**

Headline – *Zanu PF rebuffs claims of unfair poll* – the comments made by the head of the European Union’s monitoring unit (qv 26/6) were dismissed by the information minister. He said that it was only to be expected “considering the countries they represented, we didn’t expect anything positive from them.” – **ditto page 12, C 5 –**

## Wed 28

Headline – *Mugabe’s new threat to grab land* – The close result after the election has not altered the president’s intentions to distribute white owned farm land to members of the black majority. However so close is the result that there will be little opportunity to hand

the land to Zanu members and their friends. With the Movement for Democratic Change in such a strong position there will be no chance of nepotism or corruption.

### **2000 Election Results**

<b><u>PROVINCE</u></b>	<b><u>Zanu PF</u></b>	<b><u>MDC</u></b>
Mashonaland W	10	2
Mashonaland C	10	0
Mashonaland E	11	1
Harare	0	10
Manicaland *	6	7
Midlands	11	5
Masvingo	12	2
Mataberland N	0	7
Mataberland S	2	6
Bulawayo	0	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>57</b>

\*1 Zanu – Ndonga seat

Unfortunately the leader of the MDC failed to win the rural seat that he hoped for. The failure was put down to the fact that it was a rural constituency and had been specifically targeted by Zanu party activists as one where the MDC would find it difficult to campaign and gain support. The defeat of Mr Tsavangaria leaves the way open for him to concentrate his challenge for the position of president in 2002. – ditto page 4 and 5 –

Reaction, in London, from the foreign office minister P Hain (qv) was praise for the efforts of the MDC and a vindication of its hard line stance earlier in the year – over the land compensation issue –

Leader Comment, **A legacy of division** – “Zimbabwe today enters what is likely to be the most hectic and dangerous period in the country’s history as an independent state.”

The country is divided between rural versus urban political parties, that are so close together each does not really want to associate with each other for fear – on the one hand of being sucked into expected Africanisation experience of the previous one party state. On the other hand the ‘newcomer’ do not want to be associated with the legacy of the ills of the previous administration.

With so many seats in the new parliament the Movement for Democratic Change are in a good position to show the voters in the rural constituencies, where they did not fair well, that they are ‘for all the people’. They will also be able to campaign peacefully in the 2002 presidential campaign.

The issue of land, so much a part of the Zanu campaign, may have been just that – an issue – but the financial package that has been offered is not. With the economy in such a mess it is badly needed. The country is in such a financial mess that Zanu may back off

some of its most dire proposals in order to win back support from those whom voted for the MDC. This would be in order to retain the presidency in 2 years time. – **ditto page 23**

**Cartoon** - an election official, reading from a prepared script “Thank you for your tireless work, knocking down doors.”

### **Thurs 29**

Headline – *Zimbabwean opposition claims vote was rigged* – an executive meeting of the Movement of Democratic Change has decided to challenge the election results in at least 10 constituencies. The decision was made after a number of ‘disturbing facts’ came to light. Some of these facts concern the events in Buhera North – the seat lost by the Movements leader, M Tsvangeria. Other decisions made at the meeting were not to work in any formal way with Zanu who “must clear up their own mess.” Rather their time in parliament will be spent building up presence in the public eye, by promoting policies that will capture the will of the people. One of their first parliamentary motions will be to call for the withdrawal of the 11,000 Zimbabwean troops fighting in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Meeting senior colleagues the president conducted a postmortem of the election results. Why did the party loose so many seats? It has now become almost only representative of the Shona peoples.

Me Mugabe also pledged to enforce his policy of taking farmland from the white owners. He feels justified to do this because after the passing of the Land Acquisition Act (qv) there has been no appeals forthcoming in the specified time limit. Responding to this a spokesman for the Commercial Farmers Union said that there are ready to mount appeals on behalf of 500 farmers. It is also expected that another 300 farmers will try and keep their land by offering another property instead. – **GDN page 15, C 1** –

**J Steele writes** – the writer questions the role of the observer of foreign elections – do they serve a useful purpose? He feels it is far better to have a greater number of observers from inside a nation. This is because many overseas monitors have an ‘added agenda’ for their own countries. – **ditto page 20, C 2** –

### **Fri 30**

Letters, **1) K Walsh, Bicester Oxon** understanding the effectiveness of Zanu in the rural areas – threats of violence, as no vote is secret. In the towns and the surrounding areas, close by the MDC was able to reeducate the locals.

**2) M Owen, Empowering Widows in Development** the role of women, as land was removed in 4/99, could be restored under the presidents current plans. Such an initiative would restore the ability of these women to provide fore themselves and their families. – **GDN page 19** –

**Internal press coverage** – “This vote was a wholesale rejection of 20 years of Zanu – PF arrogance and misrule, especially when it recalled the people preferred a party a year old. ... The voting patterns between rural and urban voters are instructive. Rural voters are daily exposed to government’s mouthpieces ... This week’s winds of change offer an opportunity to right the wrongs visited upon this country during the past two decades. – **Daily News, Zimbabwe, 27/6 – The Editor page 8 –**

## JULY

### Sat 1

Headline – ***MDC targets reduction of Mugabe’s powers*** – Tendai Biti the Movement of Democratic Change’s spokesman on land and new member of parliament for Harare East has outlined the Movement’s first considerations. As M Tsvangaria has already indicated it, there will be no cooperation with Zanu. In fact the first move will be to try and reduce the powers of the president. As unlikely as this is it could come about through members of his own party seeing him as a liability to the rehabilitation of Zanu.

The newly elected member of parliament was of the opinion that a degree of ‘mass action’ by the people would be used to urge Mr Mugabe to leave power before the end of his term of office. Considering the broad spectrum of support the MDC has – among the white population – such mass action may not go down well. Bringing the masses onto the streets, strikes and acts of civil disobedience was not the reasons many of the minorities backed the newly emerged opposition. – **GDN page 13, C 1 –**

### Sun 2

Headline – ***Women will take key roles in Zimbabwe*** – despite the number of women in parliament falling from 17 to 11 since the election their role in society will be one of the main planks of the policy of the Movement for Democratic Change. Their first push will be the granting of six months paid maternity leave and the restoration of land titles.

One of the great difficulties that the MDC will have to overcome, to appeal to women voters, is its apparent reliance on the trade unions – from which initially was formed.

Elsewhere the newly elected member of parliament C Hunzvi (qv) has warned of a split developing between the war veterans and the government. In an interview with the **+Herald** newspaper the associations leader said now was not the time to “commend” their actions as it was now time to rebuild the economy.

One of the most notorious war veterans and the leader of many invasions has been arrested and charged by the police with murder. W K Ciro aged 60 was arrested for the abduction and torture of 3 supporters of the MDC. They were taken from Texas Ranch near Zvishavane, 200 miles south of Harare. The regional official of Zanu PF has already a record for politically motivated crimes. – **IOS page 22, C 1 -**

### **Mon 3**

Headline – *Mugabe says land seizure will continue* – at a ceremony to commemorate the life of Joshua Nkomo, who died 12 months ago, the president once again reiterated his intention to go ahead with the taking over white owned farm land.

The Commercial Farmers Union has reported that the taking of land has begun again. Most of the action has been in Mashonaland – **GDN page 12, C 1** –

### **Fri 7**

Headline – *Whites try to forestall farm seizures* – with the knowledge that the government plan to seize a large number of whites owned farms is imminent the Commercial Farming Union has offered an alternative solution. Rather than the indiscriminate seizure of 804 farms the white farmers are prepared to a voluntary sale of 600 farms. The farms offered would either be derelict or farms that are property of people who own several farms.

However there is little chance that the government will take up this, what the CFU call a ‘proper’ offer, as it would be to go back on their election promise. – **GDN page 20, C 3** –

## Wed 12

**J Steele writes** – as a country its race relations are good, its justice unbowed, its civil society vibrant. It has one problem – its leaders. Now Zimbabwe is the ‘good news story of Africa’ – literacy rate is about 90%, the highest in the continent. Following the recent general election, where presumed racial tensions were artificially inflamed normalised relations between and African and European have returned to what they were before, that is mutual tolerance.

The independent judiciary and the powerful trade unions are also a sign that the outlook for the country is on the up. The state authorities have apparently realised that changes must be allowed, the independent press – free to criticise the actions of these same authorities – are able to work freely. Also in parliament there will be a more robust debate over issues as there is now an efficient parliamentary opposition to Zany PF.

The downside to this euphoric state can be listed as three problems. One is the curse of most of sub Sahara Africa – Aids – with about 25% of the adult population infected and 1,000 people dying a week. The blame for this is the migrant labour system, introduced in past colonial times, when man and wife were separated. Thus a sex industry was created for which the consequence is the current epidemic.

The second is the nature of the society – an overwhelming patriarchal one – where the women takes second place to her man. Education, beginning in schools, is the only way to change the way men behave.

Thirdly Zimbabwe has a weak economy, in the face of global tendencies. Since independence, when the economy was strong – enough to have an effective health strategy – the world’s monetary bodies have dictated more and more of the direction that the economy should go. As these bodies are more orientated towards western policies there was little understanding of African economies should be encouraged to develop.

“Zimbabwe is in transition to a new generation, a new style of government, and perhaps in two years time to a president from a new party. Coupled with its many inherent advantages, this is a story of African success.” – **GDN page 20 C 2** –

## Fri 14

Headline – ***Mugabe’s farm confiscation’s start today*** – a number 160 – of white owned farms were due to be seized by the government for distribution to the landless blacks today. This number of farms represents taking 20 farms from each of the country’s eight provinces.

According to the president of the Commercial Farmers Union, T Henwood, say the government has failed to inform them before the seizures began. Also the authorities are taking farms that are not on a list, of 200, that their owners are not appealing against. They are being taken in an arbitrary fashion.



Elsewhere in the country the Zanu government is using the army to punish those who it feels have become supporters of the Movement for Democratic Change. In the Harare township of Mbare troops, sent to quell post election violence, were seeking out MDC supporters and acting in a violent manor towards them. – **GDN page 17, C 1** -

### **Mon 17**

Headline – ***Mugabe faces new row on land seizure*** – over the last 48 hours the president has named a cabinet – smaller in number than before the general election – and without some of the ‘notables’. Mr Mugabe also abolished the post of minister of war veterans.

The taking of white owned farms was also a cause of dispute, between various ‘notables’. The vice president, J Msiks, said the peasants and landless would be moved onto land as the war veterans were removed. In response, Mr C Hunsvi, the leader of the war veterans said that his members were there to stay on the approximately 1,400 farms they had occupied.

In the opinion of the man, who could have expected a cabinet position, the president is more cautious in meeting the general public, as they are supporters of the Movement for Democratic Change. He is becoming more isolated from his people. – **GDN page 10, C 1**

### **Fri 21**

Headline – ***Mugabe shows opposition a clenched fist*** – on the day that the Movement for Democratic Change took its seats in parliament the president acted as if he was running a one party state. There was no recognition of the party that had won 58 seats in the 150 seat parliament. The usual reception for all members of parliament, held on the eve of opening, was cancelled, as Mr Mugabe did not wish to mix with his opponents.

In his opening speech the president indicated that land redistribution of white farmers would continue at an accelerated pace. Otherwise the speech was lack luster in nature. Those listening to it through loudspeakers outside were amused by its content. Policing of the crowd was biased towards Zanu supporters, who were free to congregate, as they wanted. The MDC supporters tightly controlled in their movements. – **GDN page 13, C 1**

### **Sun 23**

Headline – ***Farmers call Mugabe’s bluff*** – with no moves yet, despite government promises, on the organised taking of farm land from the whites, farming is continuing. Where there is confrontation between war veterans and owners the veterans are given short shrift and sent on there way – or at least onto a parcel of land away from the main area of production.

Following a series of short strikes by farmers, because of an increase in the number of illegal squats, the police began to take action by ordering the ‘illegals’ off the land. It is

felt that Mr Mugabe has had a change of heart, not wanting to destroy the economy, if there is any chance of retaining the presidency in 2002. – **IOS page 21, C 1** –

## **Tues 25**

Headline – *Mugabe to quit in 2002, report says* – A report, from the national news agency *Ziana* on a stormy meeting of the central committee of Zanu, reports that after a lot of in fighting the president has agreed to resign. This will leave the way open for self appointed ‘king makers’ to groom a party member to take over the presidency without any hassle.

It is thought that there are three present members of the government who are backed by separate factions of the committee. They are finance minister, S Makoni, - who is backed by younger and more reformist members. His rivals are the present party chairman, J Nkomo or the finance secretary E Mnangagwa, both who would be regarded as more conservative. – **GDN page 13, C 8** –

## **Wed 26**

At least 230 of Zimbabwe’s white farmers downed tools and businessmen shut shops yesterday in the area around Kario after Zanu – PF supporters and war veterans beat a white farmer.

They submitted a list of demands to the police, including of the removal of the chief in Kario, whom they accuse of promoting tension. – **AP** –

## **Thurs 27**

Headline – *Mugabe sued for role in farm invasions* – A decision by the Commercial Farmers Union will bring the independence of the judiciary once again into question. Twice before has the courts ruled in the farmers favour over the current policy of the government.

On this occasion the CFU, on behalf of its 4,200 members, is to sue the president, Mr Mugabe because, – in the words of the indictment in that he played a “material role of the farm invasions.

At the same time as the use of the courts, by the CFU, the opposition Movement for Democratic Change mounted its legal challenge in respect of alleged wrong doings in 28 of the parliamentary seats won by Zanu PF in the recent general election.

In another move that is likely to aggravate the feelings of the poor black against Mr Mugabe the government has raise taxes on essential items. Petrol has risen by 26% and kerosene, by which the poor cook and light their homes – has risen by 126% - **GDN page 15, C 1** –

### **Sat 29**

Headline – *Mugabe faces national strike* – A three – day national strike to protest against President Robert Mugabe’s government is expected to close Zimbabwe next week.

The Zimbabwean Congress of Trade Unions voted yesterday to call the strike. Other workers are expected to join in. – **GDN page 14, C 5** –

### **Mon 31**

Headline – *Mugabe steps up farm seizures* – In a move that is sure to anger the white farming community further the president has ordered that the government will take into their control 3,000 farms, and not the 804 that had been originally listed.

Some will say that this new phase of land taking is in retaliation for the 3 – day general strike, 2 – 4/8 – backed by the Commercial Farmers Union as well as the Movement for Democratic Change. – **GDN page 11, C 4** –

## **AUGUST**

### **Wed 2**

Headline – *Mugabe mobilizes army for huge farm invasion* – to aid in the logistics and transport of the estimated 500,000 black farm invasions the local government minister will draft in elements of the 400, 000 Zimbabwean Army. Speaking to the state run Herald newspaper the minister said that legal moves to take control of the first 211 farms, which will house 37,000 families – will begin on 4/8.

The planned 3 – day general strike, called by the Zimbabwe Trade Union Council. And backed by the MDC, has been scaled down to a stoppage of just 24 hours. The intention, now, of this stoppage is to give notice to the government of the general public’s unhappiness at its policies. If the government does not take notice of the people this time then a longer stoppage will be initiated. – **GDN page 1, C 1** –

### **Thurs 3**

Headline – *Strike brings Zimbabwe’s cities to a halt* – the general strike, called by the Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions and backed by the Movement for Democratic Change, emptied the streets of the country’s main cities. The stay away encompassed all strands of the working population from schoolteachers, shop owners and even civil servants – who are forbidden by law from taking industrial action.

At a summit in Harare the South African president, T Mbeki, expressed his concerns for the region’s economic prospects to Mr Mugabe. He still refuses to meet and discuss the crisis with the leader of the MDC. – **GDN page 14, C 1** –

Headline *Chaos imminent as Mugabe ups the ante* – In a few short weeks the president has changed everybody's focus on the future of Zimbabwe – from wondering if he will run for the position again, to the very future of the country. While the 3,000 white owned farms are large – covering 20,000 square miles – to turn them over to subsistence farmers will have a catastrophic effect on everyday life. – **ditto C, 7** –

#### **Fri 4**

Headline – *War veterans expel Zimbabwe farmers* – Mayfield Farm, near the town of *Marowe*, one hour's drive from Harare – owned by D Parks and his family – was the scene on 2/4, of the farms take over by so called veterans. This was the first seizure of land since the governments announcement of a greater number of farms were to be taken, - 3,041 –

The taking did not happen without incident, as the owner was forced to leave 17 other white farmers arrived to confront the veterans. They were ineffective, being held hostage and facing death threats. – **GDN page 2, C 2** –

Leader Comment, **An African tragedy** – predictions that the post election situation in the country would somehow return to normal is a long way from what has occurred. Following the recent devaluation of the dollar the already bad economic crisis has some what worsened, All this has happened after the number of white owned farms to be seized had been revised upwards.

“Mr Mugabe's actions during the last few days amply illustrate his talent for intransigence and his gift for diverseness.” Along the way the president has told international aid donors to keep their money', humiliated Mr Mbeki at the time he went to Harare to plead for 'lawful and rational governance.'

All in all Mugabe leads Zimbabwe towards ruin.”

**Internal press coverage** – As Zimbabwe was preparing for the recent general election it has come to be known that an act of state sponsored violence was to be used to silence a critic of the government.

So in fear of this newspaper, and its editor G Nyartoa, was it arranged that a loyal Zanu PF member – B Massara – became involved in an assassination plot which was planned by the domestic security service, the Central Intelligence Organisation. However the plot was not a success as the would be assassin revealed the plot to his would be victim. – **Daily News, 1/8, The Editor page 10** –

## Sat 5

Headline – *Farm seizures start with widow’s eviction* – Viewfield Farm, Centenary, one hours drive from Harare into Mashonaland – the farm owned until he became the first white farmer to die at the hands of the war veterans – David Stevens – is the farm that the government has chosen as its first legal seizure.

The widow of Mr Stevens, April, has been given 90 days to vacate the 3,300 acre holding. The 34 black farm labourers will also have to leave. The government plan to buss in 47 “land starved” families who will be allowed to peg out 28 hectares of land each.

Meanwhile the supreme court is hearing an application from the Commercial Farmers Union that the taking of land is ‘unconstitutional racial discrimination.’ Also the deposition says that confiscation's amount to “an assault on the white farming community, the rape of their properties and the deprivation of their livelihoods.”

## Sun 6

Headline – *Zimbabwean economy faces collapse as more whites abandon farms* – as the lifestyles of the white farmers take another turn for the worse – more farms to be seized by the government – an unnamed official of the Commercial Farmers Union said “The safest thing for white farmers is just to look for alternative business opportunities elsewhere in the world and leave Zimbabwe.” – **IOS page 16, C 1** –

## Tues 8

Headline – *Regional leaders rally behind Mugabe* – at a meeting of the Southern African Development Corporation, in the Namibian capital of Windhoek, the gathering of most of the regions leaders supported Mr Mugabe. On the land issue the president of Mozambique, J Chissano, the movements chairman indicated that Africa’s leaders, as democratic elected governments should be left to pursue their own solutions to their internal issues – without interference from the west.

Meanwhile inside Zimbabwe the number of white owned farms with legal notice of seizure has reached 211. Members of the Tobacco Growing Association have given notice those next years export of tobacco will be hit if the crop is not sown soon. Failure to achieve 397m lb core business crop will jeopardise Zimbabwe’s position of a supplier of a quality crop. – **GDN page 10, C 1** –

## Wed 9

Headline – *Mugabe farm seizures backed* – with the backing of the Southern African Development Corporation [SADC] Mr Mugabe feels that diplomatic victory is in sight. A statement, at the end of the 11 nations meeting in Windhoek, at which it was decided that

the South African president would lobby his British counterpart to “honour British obligations,” under the Lancaster House Agreement of 1980. – **GDN page 2, C 1** –

### **Thurs 10**

Letter, **M Harper United Nations Association** – agreeing that land reform is for the best, the writer believes that for the heads of government of the Southern African Development Corporation is a wrong move.

It is thought that through the United Nations Development Plan any monies needed would be channeled more effectively from external donors through to those that will be eligible for aid – the commercial farmer.

### **Sat 26**

Headline – *Mugabe adds 509 farms to seizure list* – to add further problems to the economy of Zimbabwe, the president has nominated an increase in the take over mostly of white owned farms. The process, which will see a 65% take over of white owned farms, is expected to be finished before 11/2000 – the beginning of the rainy season.

At least 1,000 white farmers have made inquiries about leaving the country for Zambia. Only financial constraints are ruling out a mass exodus. However, since 4/2000 40 have left. There are also invitations from the governments of Uganda and Mozambique for the displaced whites to consider. – **GDN page 20, C 6** –

## **SEPTEMBER**

### **Mon 11**

Zimbabwe dismissed yesterday a \$400m [280mpounds] lawsuit brought against President Robert Mugabe in the US as a “non – event.”

The civil case accuses Mr Mugabe of orchestrating violence to keep his ruling party in power and says he was responsible for human rights abuses surrounding the parliamentary elections in June. – **AP** –

### **Wed 13**

Headline – *Harare bombs* – A hand grenade was thrown at the Harare headquarters of the Movement of Democratic Change building. The police, who arrived late and after only a short time went away again.

Responding to the cursory police examination the MDC’s secretary general W Ncube said “this is obviously part of the terror campaign being waged by the state against any opposition to the ruling party, Zanu – PF.” – **AP** –

### Fri 12

Headline – *MDC offices in Harare raided* – In a pre - dawn raid on the offices of the countries opposition movement, the Movement for Democratic Change, the police arrested four party officials.

They were held on suspicion of having illegal caches of weapons. Despite a search by more than 50 members of the police no such weapons were found. The police promised to return with a search warrant to look for documents and computer disks. – **GDN page 17, C3** –

### Sun 17

Headline – *Party Documents Returned* – After defying a court order for almost 24 hours, police in Harare, Zimbabwe returned illegally seized membership lists and other documents to the main opposition party. – **IOS page 4, C 8** –

### Wed 20

Zimbabwe’s commercial farmers yesterday welcomed the eviction of war veterans from five farms and urged Robert Mugabe to restore order on hundreds more.

Previously Robert Mugabe has said his government would not force the veterans off the farms. – *Reuters* –

## OCTOBER

### Fri 6

Headline – *Zimbabwe radio silenced* – armed police officers closed Zimbabwe’s first independent radio station on Wednesday night.

The information minister, J Moyo, said they were enforcing a law issued by President Mugabe making it illegal to broadcast without a licence, overriding a supreme court ruling that the state broadcasting monopoly was unconstitutional. – **GDN page 19, C 8** –

### Sat 7

Headline – *“We have given Mugabe a warning. It is clear. Listen to the people.”* – Mr Tsvengara, the leader of the opposition Movement for Democratic Change, is on the verge of being arrested when he returns from a visit to Europe and South Africa.

Seven days ago, speaking in Harare at a rally to commemorate 12 months of being a political party the leader addressed his supporters – “What we want to tell Mugabe today is to please go peacefully. If you don’t want to go we will remove you violently.” It is the

word violently that has seen calls – from among others N Shamuyarira – for Mr Tsvangaria to be charged with treason.

Speaking on the last stop of his overseas trip, in Johannesburg, the MDC leader said the word was undiplomatic. The word he had intended to use was “unceremoniously,” and there was no justification to arrest him.

Meanwhile the high court has ordered members of the police force to come before it and explain why Zimbabwe’s first independent radio station was closed down (qv) despite the station winning a supreme court ruling that it should stay open.

### **Sun 8**

Headline – *The poor lose their will to fight Mugabe* – with the election over and done with there is little enthusiasm to become further involved in politics, when the poor have such a job to find work which provides enough money to feed the family.

An example – With a monthly income of Z\$ 3,259 [44 pounds] Paul Widza a hotel cleaner living in the Chitungwiza township outside Harare has a hard time providing a stable life for himself and his two children. With the eldest child, Abigail 15, embarking on her A level studies at Z\$300 a term and a second child to consider, there is not a great deal left after Z\$ 1,300 is spent on travelling to work. A loaf of bread costs Z\$20 [1999 Z\$8], all energies are put into providing for his family. There is little time for further political action as threatened by the leader of the Movement for Democratic Change, Morgan Tsvangaria. – **IOS page 20, C 1** –

### **Tues 10**

Headline – *Quit or be toppled, Mugabe is told* – back inside the country the leader of the Movement for Democratic Change, Morgan Tsvungaria, was able to avoid arrest on treason charges (qv 9/10) by not ending his journey at Harare airport – where members of the security forces were waiting for him.

Having gone to his home the MDC leader spoke to the press and once again urged Mr Mugabe to resign ad president. He then telephoned the police and invited them to arrest him. As of late evening the challenge had not been taken up.

Meanwhile earlier the police arrested 3 members of the MDC for allegedly inciting violence. During the attempt, violent scenes occurred – tear gas was used – and about 10 arrests were made by the police – **GDN page 16, C 1** –

### **Wed 11**

Britain criticised Zimbabwe’s president Robert Mugabe for a “lack of commitment to the rule of law” after he amnetised people guilty of violence in the June elections. Almost all the violence was committed by his supporters.



Meanwhile, police questioned but released the opposition leader, Morgan Tsvangarui, after he allegedly threatened Mr Mugabe with revolution. – **Reuters** –

### **Fri 13**

Headline – ***US decries Mugabe pardon*** – taking a similar line as the British government who criticised the president's decision to grant an amnesty for those convicted of acts of violence in the run up to the June elections, the American administration has issued its own statement of concern.

A statement, issued in Harare, said that while the amnesty would not cover the crimes of rape or theft, those granted their freedom – for the crime of assault – were mainly supporters of the government.

A statement from the Commercial Farmers Union also said that the amnesty was “unacceptable.” – **GDN page 13, C 1** -

### **Sun 15**

Headline – ***Opposition victims of Zimbabwe poll violence to sue Mugabe in US*** – under the Alien Tort Act of 1789, and the 1991 Torture Protection Act four victims of pre poll attack by supporters of the government are attempting to sue Mr Mugabe and the foreign minister in a New York civil court.

The victims – C Tachiona, the driver for the leader of the Movement for Democratic Change, E Masaiti an elected MDC member of parliament, Maria Stevens a failed MDC candidate and E Pfebve who also failed to gain a seat in parliament are seeking damages in excess of \$400m.

Before Judge V Marrero lawyers for the four will try and prove that the two named in the writs – served on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> of last month – denied the plaintiff's were “denied their rights as members of a civilised nation, including universally accepted standards of human rights.” – **IOS page 19 C 1** –

### **Tues 17**

Headline – ***Protests shake Harare suburbs*** – Anti government price riots rocked Harare's eastern townships yesterday. Police blanketed the affected residential areas with teargas.

The protest in Mabvuku and Tafara townships showed people's anger at a big rise in bus fares and a 30% increase in bread and sugar in recent days. Rioters burned a state owned bus and put barricades across roads. – **GDN page 18, C7** –

## Wed 18

Headline – *'This will be massive ... we want Mugabe gone'* – continuing violence in the black townships of the capital (qv 17/10) are seen as a real danger to the stance of the president. Many of those taking part in the rioting see this as an opportunity to send a final message to Mr Mugabe that he should resign as president.

Adding to these problems are rumours that the Movement for Democratic Change is to begin parliamentary proceedings that will end with the impeachment of the president. The MDC's leader said that the party would charge the president with 'maliciously abusing his office and grossly violating the constitution.' – **GDN page 17, C 1** –

## Thurs 26

Headline – *Mugabe threatens to put Smith on trial* – on the day that the president's opponents, inside parliament and outside, show their contempt for his leadership Mr Mugabe has raised the possibility that Rhodesia's last leader – Ian Smith – will be put on trial for alleged atrocities committed during the 1970's liberation war.

The impeachment proceedings (qv 18/10) have been started by the MDC's vice – president. When they were delivered to the Speaker MP's on both sides of the House supported the motion or derided it depending on their allegiance. Outside parliament the police acted as organs of the ruling party – with their divisive handling of both sets of supporters.

Away from these proceedings – that stand little chance of success – an opinion poll by the Gallop organisation shows that the president's popularity has fallen by 74% in the last few months. The number of Zimbabweans that want Mr Mugabe to stand down as president was put at 51%. Also 71% have been dissatisfied with his policy decisions – rural, economic, land and the involvement in the civil war in the Congo. – **GDN page 19, C 5** –

## Fri 27

Headline – *Take me to court if you dare, Smith tells Mugabe* – on a visit to London the last white ruler of Rhodesia has welcomed the challenge to 'tell all' if he appears in court as has been threatened (qv 26/10). Mr Smith even revealed when and what time he would return to the country.

Opposition has even come from those that spearheaded the policy of land grab – the war veterans. A spokesman for Zimbabwe Liberation Platform, use the red card – favoured by the MDC – to urge Mr Mugabe to GO NOW. – **GDN page 16, C 1** –

## Sun 29

Headline – *Zimbabwe damage ‘lies’* – Zimbabwe’s government has dismissed as ‘lies’ reports that a US judge has ruled President Robert Mugabe must pay damages in a \$400m lawsuit over election violence. [qv 13/10]– **IOS page 5, C8** –

## NOVEMBER

### Sat 4

Headline – *New wave of invasions hit white farms* – In renewed violence, as the result of a new take over of white owned farm land, six people have been injured. This latest series of farm occupation happened in Glendale, in the north of the country, as members of the police helped themselves to a parcel of land.

In this latest action 100 farms have been targeted, after cabinet ministers and district governors urged Zanu – PF members to “settle themselves on farms.” – **GDN page 20, C 8** –

### Tues 7

Headline – *Zimbabwe farmers get day in court* – the 4, 200 strong Commercial Farmers Union has begun an action in the supreme court to declare illegal moves by Mr Mugabe to fast track the take over of white owned farms.

Lawyers for the union, who are not opposed to land reform, argue that the fast track chosen by the president is “a method to by pass the courts ... and prepared to go about it in willful disregard of the law.”

Responding, on state television, the president indicated that whatever the court’s three judges – one Asian, two whites and two black judges decided – “the land is ours and we will take it.” – **GDN page 20, C 7** –

### Wed 8

Headline – *Rival says Mugabe could be on way out by Christmas* – unfazed by threats of arrest the leader of the Movement for Democratic Change has been in London in his latest efforts to gain support for the resignation of the president, before the next presidential elections are due.

To force Mr Mugabe from office the MDC is to support a series of strikes and demonstrations that will add to economic difficulties Zimbabwe continues to face. Mr Tsvangaria believes that the president will not be able to rely on the support of the military to suppress these protests as the rank and file – the foot soldier – is unhappy as the rest of the country with its involvement in the civil war in the neighbouring Congo.

As to threats to arrest the former president Ian Smith (qv) there was no move to do so as he arrived back in the country from his overseas trip. – **GDN page 10, C 7** –

“The Zimbabwe government called out troops to assist police in confronting **rioters protesting against rises of up to 30% in fuel and transport costs** as the country’s economy continues its disastrous slide.

More than 100 people were arrested during almost a week of unrest in the crowded townships around the capital. While President Robert Mugabe’s cabinet meet to consider price controls on essential foods, business and industrial leaders warned that unless the economic crisis is halted up to 300 major companies in the mining, manufacturing and key service sectors could close down by December, resulting in the loss of 400,000 jobs. Unemployment in Zimbabwe already exceeds 50%.” – **World Watch, page 28 Time Magazine, 30/10** –

### **Thurs 9**

Headline – ***Britain and Zimbabwe close to farm deal*** – under the auspices of the United Nations Development Programme, a report – compiled by officials from Kenya, Chile, Brazil and the Caribbean – have come up with a solution to the 20 year old dispute concerning land reform.

Leaving aside the political considerations the report says that a transfer of the five million hectares desired by the president is a justifiable request. However the insistence that any hand - over should be rapid is rejected. The UNDP report suggests that a gradual redistribution – beginning with only one million hectares – in the first instance should take place.

Mr Mugabe gave the report and he said that he would work with the UNDP director when he visited his country in 12/00. The British government had some reservations but welcomed the report saying, “it formed a good basis to take the discussion of land reform forward.” – ***The Times page 17, C 2*** –

### **Sat 11**

Headline – ***Court tells Mugabe to end farm occupations*** – the supreme court has ruled that the government have gone against the spirit of the Land Acquisition Act with its stated intention to ‘fast track’ the take over of white owned farm land.

The concern of the court was that ‘fast track’ method, favoured by Mr Mugabe, did not allow those who were about to lose their land anything like the 90 day period that the Act specified to make a court challenge or to allow an orderly exit. – **GDN page 22, C 8** –

## Sun 12

Headline – *Land seizures continue* – Zimbabwe’s government said it would defy a supreme court ruling that President Mugabe’s land seizures from white farmers were unconstitutional. – **IOS page 4, C 8** –

## Wed 22

Zimbabwe’s Commercial Farmers Union is to appeal against a court order allowing squatters to stay on white owned farms.

On Monday a high court judge ruled that war veterans and supporters of President Robert Mugabe could remain on the farms pending a supreme court decision on the legality of the land seizure programme. – *Reuters* –

## Sat 25

Headline – *Protesters halt Zimbabwe court* – proceedings at Zimbabwe’s supreme court were halted yesterday when more than 100 war veterans flooded the courtroom, shouting that the judge had no right to rule on Robert Mugabe’s land seizures.

They were demonstrating against a recent ruling that the confiscation of around 2,000 mainly white – owned farms was illegal. – **GDN page 18, C 8** –

## Sun 26

Headline – *Zimbabwe intimidation* – Ruling party militants in Zimbabwe forced voters to answer questions before casting their ballots in a parliamentary by - election, a monitor said. – **IOS page 4, C8** –

# DECEMBER

## Fri 1

Headline – *African leaders criticise Mugabe for land seizures* – with the intention to persuade the president to uphold the law and end the violent occupation of white farm land two of Africa’s presidents arrived in the capital – Mr Mbeki of South Africa and his counterpart from Nigeria, O Obasanjo. They hoped to influence Mr Mugabe not to upset the international communities, who are ready to provide finance for a compensation scheme. After two and a half-hours of talks the two the two were disappointed at Mr Mugabe’s attitude.

Despite all sides – farmers, blacks and government officials - agreeing that land reform is necessary the international help, from the UN, is unlikely to be forthcoming while there is any moves to take over the farmland by violence. – **GDN page 21, C7** –

### Wed 13

Headline – *Mugabe turns thugs on critics within party* – a ‘one issue ‘ special congress of Zanu PF has been called into session. The topic of debate is expected to be the future of the president Robert Mugabe.

To secure his passage into a new 5-year term as the president Mr Mugabe has used the war veterans to harass and intimidate dissidents within his own party. This is the same tactic as he used to intimidate the white farmers into an acceptance of land reform.

A notable critic of the president Mr Eddison Zvogo a former cabinet minister, who retains his position of the politburo of Zanu PF, but is in danger of losing it because of his constant criticism of policy. Commenting on the continued rule by the president the disgraced former education minister said, as recently as 9/00, “We have tainted what was a glorious revolution, reducing it to some agrarian racist enterprise.”

Another critic of the president is S Makoni, the finance minister, in answering a question as to whether Mr Mugabe should serve another term in office implied that what Zimbabweans needed was a man who could lead the country out of its social and economic pressure. As to whether Mugabe was delivering leadership Mr Makoni said that "time will tell." – **GDN page 14, C 1 –**

### Thurs 14

Headline – *Farmer killed as Mugabe speaks of war* – as the president began speaking to a closed session of Zanu – PF’s central committee, before the annual congress, it has been reported that another white farmer has been killed.

In his speech Mr Mugabe accused the Commercial Farmers Union of an act of war in its pursuit, through the courts, of ways and means to delay land reform. “Let us bring it home to the commercial farmers of the CFU that they have declared war on the people of Zimbabwe who have every determination to win,” he said.

The farmer who died, the sixth in recent times, was H Elsworth aged 70, was believed to have died at the hands of war veterans who had been squatting on his land since earlier this year. The former MP – first in the last government of Ian Smith, then given a seat by the newly elected president – was ambushed on his land in Kwekwe, central Zimbabwe. At the time he was with his son Ian who was hit by nine bullets. The 20-year-old predicted that the food crisis in the country would become worse, in 2001. He also said that actions by war veterans would not drive him off the land.

The British eccentric N van Hooggraten, the self proclaimed ‘friend of Zimbabwe’ who predicted that none of his 2m hectares of land in the country would be touched has been “affected” to such an extent that all his land and 30, 000 head of cattle have been seized by war veterans. – **GDN page 19, C 1 –**

## **Fri 15**

Headline – ***Mugabe turns fire on white employers*** – not content with criticising the white farming community for the economic ills of the country the president has now turned his attention to another powerful group of individuals.

Speaking, at the special session of the Zanu – PF congress, Mr Mugabe told the delegates to blame white employers for Zimbabwe’s poor economy – which contracted at least 5% this year – for mass unemployment, rising prices and the countries developing financial crisis.

He told delegates “We do not create employment because we do not own our means of production. They who control our economy are the ones who create employment and not the government. – **GDN page 15, C 1** –

**Obituary** – Reverend Ndabaningi Sithole, July 21 1920 to December 12<sup>th</sup> 2000 – the son of a poor builder to Ndbele women was born north of Bulawayo in Matebeleland. Began his education at a mission school, with the ‘notable’ Garfield Todd (qv).

From the 1960’s he was a key player in the emerging struggle for black independence from their colonial masters. Joined the newly formed Zapu, as it emerged from the National Democratic Party that was led by J Nkomo. He left in 1963 to join the Zanu party led by R Mugabe, and became its first head.

From the time that Ian Smith declared UDI from the British crown he spent much of his time in jail in internal exile. With the increase of turmoil because of the war of liberation a deal was done, in 1979, with Ian Smith, Bishop Musorewa and Chief J Chiaru to form Zimbabwe/ Rhodesia in which the UNAC party of the Bishop defeated his Zanu party.

Following Lancaster House the Reverend Sithole spent much time in the United States where he took up clandestine work for the right wing Heritage Foundation – sponsors of Buthelezie and Renamo (qv). Returning to a free Zimbabwe in 1990 only to find his farmland taken by the government that led to a political explosion and a withdrawal into himself brought upon him by his mistrust and hatred of Mugabe and the authority of his Zanu PF party.

A brief return to politics – elected as MP for Chipange in 1995 – and a never to be served 2 year jail term for an amateurish bomb attack on the presidents motorcade in 1997. Early in 2000 he left for the USA for medical treatment. – **ditto page 24, C 1** –

## **Sat 16**

Headline – ***Zimbabwe opposition call of street protests*** – the Movement for Democratic Change has had a rethink on promise (qv 8/11) to bring protest to the streets during the

run up to the next presidential elections, which Mr Mugabe will – after the result the Zanu PF congress – contest.

The turnaround in policy was made, not without some opposition from senior MDC members, was made after ‘friendly advice’ from members of the Central Intelligence Organisation. The reasoning goes that street protests will lead to violence and deaths. Then a state of emergency is declared and all opposition banned. Matters are further complicated by the fact that the dissident Zanu PF member Mr Eddison Zvogo (qv 13/12) is seeking the support of the country’s trade union movement, which the MDC used as a failed springboard in the 6/00 election – which it has now lost. – **GDN page 19, C 1 –**

### **Sun 17**

Headline – ***Black brain drain hits Zimbabwe*** – in consequence of the poor state of the economy an increased number of those citizens who are able are leaving Zimbabwe. The group this mainly applies to be those that were educated after the country gained its independence in 1980 and the following 10 years. During this time the ‘born frees’ received the best education that was available to blacks throughout Africa.

The route for those that want to leave, and to beat the currency restrictions, is to take a flight to Egypt, then an onward flight to their final destination – London, Canada or the United States. Such is the number of Zimbabweans who have settled in Brixton, in southeast London, it is locally known as Mbare of London. Mbare is a township close to Harare where much of the labour for the capital lived before the level of unemployment began to rise.

Zimbabwe’s Central Statistics Office figures show that registered emigrants doubled in the first six months of this year to 3,299 compared to a similar period in 1999. – **IOS page 22, C 1 –**

### **Mon 18**

Headline – ***Anger erupts on streets of Harare*** – as the 7,000 hand picked – for their loyalty to the party – left the special congress of Zanu PF a riot began in the central shopping district of the capital.

The cause of the riot was a shot fired by the police – which accidentally killed a street vendor - as they tried to arrest a taxi driver. In the ensuing confusion the police officer was able to make his escape through a city store. This brought accusations that the storeowner was in collusion with the police.

Ads expected Eddison Zvogo, a known critic of the government, was sacked from the politburo and replaced wit party members loyal to Mr Mugabe. – **GDN page 15, C 8 –**



## **Sun 24**

Headline – *Mugabe to recruit youth terror squad* – now with the full support of the party following the recent Zanu – PF congress (qv) the president has hinted that he is ready to begin talking to the farmers, as farm occupations are bringing the country to its economic knees.

Meanwhile, in parliament, it has been suggested that young people be to be recruited to assist in the policy of the governments land resettlement scheme, 12 million acres for 150 families, which is blighted by lack of money. With responsibility to the Youth Development Minister those recruited will work mainly in the rural areas – where the Movement for Democratic Change were most effective during the general election campaign. These “thugs” will determine whether Mr Mugabe holds onto the position of president in 2002, or loses to Morgan Tsvangirai.

With Eddison Zvogo loosing his seat on the politburo (qv) the president was able to engineer, onto the ruling council Emmerson Mnangagwa, 58, – his heir apparent, who was made secretary for administration. Also elected was Simon Makoni, the finance minister, joined the government in 7/00, as a sop to western donor communities. – **IOS, page 17, C 1 –**

## **Sun 31**

Headline – *Shadow falls on eclipse tours* – with the spectacle of total solar eclipse cutting a swathe across the African continent, on 21/6, it should be a time of plenty for the economies of the countries that are under its path as the phenomena travels from the Angolan coast out into the Indian ocean over the island of Madagascar.

Keenest to promote this tourism will be Angola and Zimbabwe. However one of the leading tour operators, Wild African Safaris, concludes that there are too many undetected land mines in Angola. The company spokesman also ruled out basing holidays in Zimbabwe because of the ongoing political troubles.

Keen to dispute these facts a spokesman for the Zimbabwe Tourism Authority says that the flight path of the eclipse is going to be 30 miles away from any farm – and it has not been occupied. Overall the tourism industry, the third largest earner of foreign currency after farming and mining, has declined – according to figures from the Central Statistical Office – by 200,000 visitors this year. In the first nine months of 1999 1.4m came to the country on holiday. – **IOS page 15, C 1 -**