

During the previous year, 2000, there has been 8,634 column inches written about Zimbabwe in British newspapers. In comparison the largest coverage was given to the elections in the United States with 32, 272, column inches. Events in Zimbabwe were the fifth most covered, out of the eight top stories. – The Editor, page 3, 29/12 –

JANUARY 2001

Sun 7

Headline – *Dark days for man who shone a light on Mugabe* – as a local rock singer, O Mutukudzi was performing “*Bvyma Wasakara* - Shona for “be tolerant” at a concert over Christmas, a lighting made a gesture that in this country is deemed offensive.

Taking up the theme of the song – castigating elderly authoritarians – the white lighting engineer, S Schadendorf, at the Harare International Conference Centre – illuminated a portrait of president Mugabe that was hanging on the wall. In response many of the crowd flashed the red card, a symbol of the opposition, and shouted for change.

In response the authorities have charged the lighting engineer with inciting ridicule and hatred against Mr Mugabe – **IOS page 22, C 7** –

Fri 12

Headline – *Mugabe’s opponents ‘thrown to the lions’* – according to campaigning supporters of the Movement of Democratic Change police in south east Zimbabwe employed unusual tactics during a by - election campaign.

The police, it is claimed, took 13 arrested MDC supporters into Gonarezhou national game park – which is home to a plentiful supply of lion and leopard – and told to go and “campaign to the lions.” The accusation was, said the police “unlikely to be true.”

The incident comes less than 72 hours before the election in Bikita West election that is laid at the door of Zanu PF supporters. The MDC hope to retain the seat won – after stiff opposition – at last year’s general election. – **GDN page 16, C 7** –

Sun 19

Headline – *Zimbabwe poll tests opposition June gains* – twenty four hours after the Bikita West by-election the state news agency reported that voters had turned out in large numbers to cast their preference for local businessman B Pakai [MDC] or retired army colonel C Makova [Zanu – PF].

The outcome of the election – which was conducted without evidence of the pre poll violence, according to the local registrar – will go a good way to show whether the MDC has retained its power base in rural areas after the general election. – **IOS page 19, C6** –

Sat 20

Headline – *Harare sheds no tears for its puppet* – The body of L Kabila, the disputed leader in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, was on show at that country’s embassy in the Zimbabwean capital.

Dead – from an assassin’s bullet for 2 days – the body was on show only to those who showed suitable respect. Visited by a visibly shaken Mr Mugabe the death of Mr Kabila indicates, to some observers, that “who live by the sword, die by the sword. – GDN page 19, C3 –

Mon 29

Headline – *Bomb wrecks Harare presses* – following a week of campaigning, by war veterans against the only independently owned newspaper in Zimbabwe. Five bombs exploded at the Associated Newspapers building in Harare.

After a diversion, to occupy the security guards at the front of the building, war veterans broke into the printing house of the Daily News and placed explosives at strategic points round the presses. The damage caused – 1.2m pounds, English – makes it uncertain whether the paper will be able to print in the future. With a daily circulation of 100,000 plus the paper is the only ‘free’ voice for the opposition as its rival The Herald is state owned. – GDN page 14, C 1 –

Tues 30

Leader Comment, **Bombs are mightier than presses, for now** – acting on spoken, or not spoken, words or thoughts of the president “who will rid me of this turbulent press”? war veterans destroyed the printing equipment at the Daily News in Harare. This action is another example of the intimidation metered out to those who oppose the Zanu – PF government.

Whatever the outcome of the crisis in Zimbabwe be it the distribution of land or the ongoing economic problems “Zimbabwe journalists who do seek to speak truth to power can at least take comfort from knowing their pens – and rebuilt presses – will be needed to remake as a law abiding, plural and prosperous state.”

Wed 31

Headline – *Mugabe looses* – Zimbabwe’s supreme court yesterday struck down President Robert Mugabe’s recent law forbidding any legal challenge to the results of a parliamentary election.

The opposition Movement for Democratic Change is challenging the results in 40 constituencies of the June polls on the grounds of state-sponsored violence, intimidation and fraud. – GDN page 17, C 2 –

Headline – *We're not giving up* – the deputy editor of the recently disabled Daily News newspaper in Zimbabwe will not cease publication. This promise comes 48 hours after five bombs – allegedly planted by war veterans – destroyed the company's printing press.

Despite this loss journalists were able to produce, and with the help of an independent producer, print a 12-page issue within 24 hours of the destruction. Normally the paper would offer 82 pages on a daily basis. – ditto page 22 C 1 –

FEBRUARY

Sat 3

Headline – *Judge sent off* – Robert Mugabe's government sent the chief justice of Zimbabwe's supreme court into retirement a year early yesterday. As part of the full bench of five justices, Anthony Gubbay recently rejected as unconstitutional a Mugabe decree that results of parliamentary elections could not be challenged in court. – GDN page 17, C 7 –

Sat 10

Headline – *Supreme court justice defies Mugabe threat* – following the 'enforced retirement' of chief justice Anthony Gubb (qv 2/2) a second member of the supreme court has declared that he will not accede to the wishes of the president and retire early as had been demanded.

Following a visit, from the minister of justice, Mr Justice McNally aged 69 reiterated his determination to leave his position on the bench in 12/01 as that was his due retirement date. The visit from the minister seemed to be to deliver the message that he should take early retirement as anything could happen – an implied threat? As to his welfare and continued long life. – GDN page 21, C7 -

Sun 11

Headline – *Mugabe dumps top judges in new drive against whites* – with Mr Justice Gubb 'retired early' and McNally invited to do the same (qv 12/2) the remaining members of the supreme court – Ali Ebraheim, W Sandura and S Muchechetere are all expected to leave their posts earlier than expected.

The problem of an independent judiciary is one that, the soon up for reelection Mr Mugabe, cannot contemplate if he is to fulfill his promises on land redistribution if he is to remain the president. The replacement of a 'disloyal' supreme court with judges that are loyal would go a long way towards his remaining in post past 2002. – IOS page 19, C 1 –

Tues 13

Headline – ***Mugabe tries to crush all opposition*** – on the day that the high court began hearing a legal challenge, from the Movement for Democratic Change, that there was election fraud in 37 constituency's – which denied them the control of the parliament, it has been made clear that the president is intent on having a judiciary that is compliant to his wishes.

“We must exorcise from all our institutions the racist ghost of Ian Smith. We do so by phasing out his disciples.” – **Justice Minister Patrick Chimasa.**

“It is destroying the legal fabric of the country. No one is safe”. – **Tendal Biti of the MDC opposition – GDN page 13, C 1 –**

Sun 18

Headline – ***Mugabe expels 'IoS correspondent*** - continuing his attack on the independent media (qv 29/1) the president has declared that the journalists J Winter, who writes for the Independent in Sunday and also is the BBC's correspondent in the country, along with Ms de Sayagues – who works for a weekly South African newspaper – had 24 hours to leave the country. After various representations the two were allowed extra time to 'clear their desks'.

Responding to the expulsions the chairman of the Foreign Correspondents Association of South Africa said the orders were “part of a wider campaign by the government of Robert Mugabe to crack down on criticism from the judiciary, the media and the opposition... It heralds a period of accelerated decline in Zimbabwe ahead of.. elections.” – **IOS page 18, C5 –**

Mon 19

Headline – ***Mugabe steps up assaults on press and opposition leaders*** – with the recent expulsion of two journalists (qv 18/2), - which the high court has blocked - one of which worked for the Mail and Guardian, the president's intentions are becoming clear – to stifle any voice of dissent as the presidential elections loom on the horizon.

With the attacks on the independent media and his attempts to intimidate members of the supreme court to accede to the party line, or face an uncertain future, his latest move is sure to cause the most concern to most Zimbabwean citizens.

Seven days ago the leader of the Movement for Democratic Change was arrested over an incitement to violence speech he made in 2000. The speech made five months ago (qv 7/10) was made at the rally to commemorate 12 months of the MDC being in existence. If brought to trial, and convicted, M Tsvangaria would be barred from standing as a candidate in the presidential elections.

Other moves, to secure a new term for president Mugabe, is a call for the leaders of the mainly white Commercial Farmers Union to resign or face more land seizures. - **GDN page 2, C 1** –

Tues 20

Headline – *US threat to punish Zimbabwe as Mugabe steps up repression* – following the recent events inside the country diplomatic efforts, on the international field, are being made to punish Mr Mugabe’s regime for its increasingly violent campaign against its opponents.

Meanwhile inside the country, despite the high court ruling that the two expelled journalists could have more time to settle their affairs they have now both left the country. At the same time a senior BBC reporter and cameraman were allowed in the country. These arrivals came at the same time as the information minister, J Moyo, - who himself is embroiled in a legal fight with the Ford Foundation in a Nairobi court – was expected to announce that all foreign journalists would soon be expelled from the country.

The holding of dual citizenship is under attack again. Mainly affecting the 20,000 whites, the holding of two passports is already technically wrong. The supreme court has already ruled this impractical. The new laws will affect those holding Zimbabwe passports that stay out of the country for 5 years or more. – **GDN page 2, C 2** –

Leader Comment, **Making a mockery** – with these latest moves, against a wide range of Zimbabwe’s citizens Mr Mugabe is “now focussing on his own presidential re – election.” Despite all his moves to ensure a victory Mr Mugabe “believes himself above the law.”

The international community and his near neighbours have failed. It appears that “no one knows what to do about Mr Mugabe. .. his unchecked excesses makes all the world a victim.” - **ditto page 23** –

Sun 25

Headline – *Sham party at town Mugabe terrorised* – to celebrate the president’s 70th birthday, a few days ago, chose the town of Victoria Falls. Just a few days earlier the town’s member of parliament, P Nyoni of the MDC, became the second party member to be arrested on the flimsy evidence of the ‘red card’ protest in 2000 (qv 17/10).

Speaking at a rally attended by ‘loyal’ citizens of Victoria Falls Mr Mugabe railed against “evil forces that want to perpetuate their colonial hold on us.” The choice of venue seemed only to exacerbate the power of the ruling Zanu – PF as Victoria Falls was the centre of political violence in the mid 1980’s– **IOS page 21, C 1** –

“Tyrants of the world hate legal controls, - after all law inhibits their desire for absolute unbridled power. The shock is in the silence of the relative bodies in South Africa. Why is the official silence so deafening? Is this not the paradigmatic case we should be telling Zimbabwe of our belief in a constitutional state and an independent judiciary.” – **Mail and Guardian, South Africa** – “It has become obvious that the government.. will stop at nothing in its attempt to subvert the constitution .. It is the government that needs to be warned .. It should behave more respectfully towards the people. They can take only so much abuse without retaliating.” – **Daily News, - The Editor, The week abroad, page 10** –

Mon 26

Headline – ***Pressure mounts on Mugabe*** – following the attacks on the countries judiciary and media (qv) there are calls for international pressure to be put on the Zimbabwe regime to conform to accepted standards of international behavior.

One of the prime movers is Francis Maud, the Conservative ‘s shadow foreign secretary in London. Mr Maud is calling on the Commonwealth to send a ‘eminent persons’ delegation to “offer a dignified exit for Mr Mugabe”. At the same time there should be worldwide investigations into the affairs of notables in the government. Restrictions could be placed on these people traveling abroad, or their assets could be frozen until such time as conditions improved inside Zimbabwe.

Probably the most effective lever belongs to the South African president. The state owned electricity company – Eskom – supplies 30% of Zimbabwe’s power. Mr Mbeki could threaten to stop these supplies, as the fuel bill is not being paid at this time. – **GDN page 2, C 3** –

Wed 28

Headline – ***Chief justice defies Mugabe’s axe*** – the white chief justice of the supreme court (qv 3/2) advised to ‘retire early’ has had second thoughts. Mr Justice Grubbay will today refuse to vacate his court and official residence on the grounds that to do so would give legitimacy to the ideals of the president – the suppression of human rights.

With a party nominee, G Chidyausku, awaiting appointment the authorities are to set up a disciplinary panel to sack other supreme and high court judges who are considered to a “Rhodesian mind set.” The panel will be chaired by Mr Justice Chidyausku, which will see the government having its own way in all matters legal. – **GDN page 16, C 1** –

Headline – ***Dream lie buried in a land of hate*** – it was not always so that Mugabe and his like despised whites that had settled in Rhodesia. There were people who could see the injustices of living a ‘master and servant’ relationship.

One such was G C Brock and his wife who during there time there, they were expelled in 1971 under Smith’s Citizens Act of that year. Owners of Cold Comfort Farm they were there to teach the many blacks that settled their sound farming business practice. Such

was the respect that Mugabe had for this man he was afforded the honour of being buried in Hero's Acre, the site of national remembrance to those that died in the civil war. – **ditto page 20, C 7** –

MARCH

Fri 2

Headline – ***Cook puts screws on Mugabe*** – angry at the continuing action by the authorities in Harare to interfere in the agreed legal frame work of the judiciary (qv) the British foreign secretary has withdrawn the services of a military training team. The soldiers have been training their Zimbabwean counterparts for a number of years. They were initially the remnants of the monitoring force that went to the country during the run up to independence in late 1979.

Continuing his act of defiance supreme court chief justice, A Grubby, returned to his office despite the earlier warning to 'retire early'. Lawyers acting for the chief justice said that any panel set up to try and oust him from his position would itself face legal challenge. – **GDN page 16, C 1** –

Leader Comment, **Illegal and immoral** – the stance of the chief justice “deserves the strongest support. But will he get it?” To set up a panel to try and remove him would infringe the constitution, agreed at the talks at Lancaster House in 1980. Such enforced removals are only allowed once “once an independent tribunal has proved misconduct.” To do so otherwise would break a whole load of international agreements – Article 17 of the UN basic principals on the independence of the judiciary [1985] states “ no one shall be subject to arbitrary or unlawful attacks on his honour and reputation.” Clearly this is not the case in this instance.

This move, by the British government, is “welcome for the signal it sends.” – it is a “minor punishment,” when others could and should be doing more. South Africa's response, in recent days, has been “looks like little more than hot air.” Perhaps the EU's “critical dialogue” is the best way forward. However it is of little help to the chief justice or to the people of Zimbabwe. – **ditto page 25** –

Sat 3

Headline – ***Zimbabwe's chief justice to quit after threats*** – with just one visit from J Chinotimba, a 'war veteran' Justice Gubby – the chief justice of the supreme court (qv 2/3) – has announced his early retirement. Following discussions with the authorities in Harare he will, from now, go on immediate leave and retire in 7/01. As part of the agreement the chief justice will be technically able to block any purge of the remaining judges that may be ordered by his assumed successor G Chidyausku.

A trip to the heartland of the European Union, Brussels by Mr Mugabe – to lunch with the EU's humanitarian and aid commissioner, P Nielson, and then the following day a

visit to France has been defended by officials as doing nothing wrong. Despite the appalling human right conditions inside Zimbabwe Mr Mugabe is still entitled to recognition a head of state deserves say European officials. – **GDN page 15, C 1** –

Leader Comment, **Arrest Mugabe** – with the known travel arrangements of Mr Mugabe [*see above*] “this is a good time to arrest him.” A suggested menu for the meeting in Brussels

1st course, “a demand to know why Mr Mugabe is still blocking publication of the findings of two commissions of inquiry into the 1982 – 1987 Matebeleland massacres.”

2nd course, to ask the president whether he “would agree that his frequent inflammatory statements, his incitement of racial hatred and the consequent deaths last year of over 30 people amount to personal criminal culpability on his part.

Whilst in Paris the president should be questioned on the one hand acceptance of UN covenants covering political, civil, social and cultural rights in 5/91 and the rules covering the above at this moment in time.

“Sadly Mr Chirac or Mr Nielson is likely to call the cops.” It may not work – any attempt by a magistrate to have the Zimbabwean president arrested – “it is surely worth a try.” – **ditto page 21** –

Sun 4

Headline – ***US grants immunity to Mugabe in torture case*** – a civil case, brought by victims of a state run campaign of orchestrated violence – prior to the 2000 general election – ongoing in a Manhattan court (qv 11/9), has all but been blocked by the new president.

According to the authorities any attempt to indite Mr Mugabe will be struck down because of the international conventions covering heads of state. Under the Alien Tort Claims Act, enacted 211 years ago, it is not allowed to challenge the doings of a head of state, or restrict his travel movements – let alone arrest him.

The four plaintiffs - A Chiminya widow of an MDC organiser, Maria Stevens (qv) E Pfebve beaten by Mugabe supporters and E Masaiti an opposition party MP – are claiming \$68m in punitive damages have through their lawyers until 23/3, to persuade the Department of Justice to change its mind. – **IOS page 20, C 1** –

Mon 5

Headline – *Mother killed on same Zimbabwe farm as her son* – the mother of the fifth white farmer killed in 2000 (qv 19/9) has herself been killed by alleged ‘war veterans’. Gloria Olds, aged 68, was killed in an ambush as she went to open the farm gates that she still shared with her remaining son – David.

Peter Tatchell (qv) will make a second attempt to have Mr Mugabe arrested, having failed to make a citizens arrest in London in 1999 (qv 31/10). The setting for the action will be during a visit to Brussels (qv 4/3) by the Zimbabwean president. The gay rights activist will present an Amnesty report to the authorities detailing claims of torture against two journalists held, and later released without trial. – **GDN page 13, C 7** –

Tues 6

Headline – *Mugabe men beat up Tatchell* – in Brussels to ‘greet’ the Zimbabwean president, with a citizens arrest attempt, not only did he fail to achieve his object (qv 5/3) he also received a severe beating at the hands of the president’s minders. As the Belgian police stood by Mr Tatchell’s attackers left without being questioned. – **GDN page 2, C1**

Headline – *Killers motive ‘not robbery* – following the attack by war veterans on the mother of M Olds, Gloria Olds who died as a result of her wounds they fled in the farm owned vehicle. This was recovered in the city of Bulawayo. There was nothing missing from it, not even the car’s radio or audiotapes. According to a neighbour this underlines the fact that the killing of Mrs Old was politically motivated. – **ditto, page 17, C 1** –

Headline – *Robert Mugabe and me* – from the inside, the story of M Sayagues – the journalist (qv 18/2) who fought and won extra time to clear up her affairs, before fleeing to Mozambique to live out of a suitcase, where she makes plans to continue being a thorn in the side of the president. - **G2, page 8** –

Wed 7

Headline – *Mugabe brought in from the cold by Chirac* – returning to Paris, after the events in Brussels, Mr Mugabe had at least one hour’s talks – over dinner – with the president of France.

Following the meal the Zimbabwean president was interviewed on Radio France International. Giving an indication of the measures covered he said that the French president had agreed that the question of white owned farms in Zimbabwe was a matter between Harare and London. France would stay neutral over the issue.

Comments like these angered the Conservative spokesman on foreign affairs, F Maud, who accused the prime minister of a “shameful silence” on reports of official concerns of the “red carpet treatment” given the Mr Mugabe. – **GDN page 16, C 5** –

Fri 9

Headline – *Mbeki refuses to ‘meddle ‘ in Zimbabwe’* – calls by the international community for concerted action against the authorities in Harare – sanctions says the Conservatives in London – have been dismissed by the president of South Africa.

In an interview with the Afrikaans newspaper Beelb Mr Mbeki defended his policy of ‘good neighbourliness’ towards the authorities in Harare. Speaking of the consequences of such a policy he said that further economic collapse would see many Zimbabwean citizens fleeing south and putting intolerable pressure on its southern neighbour.

Speaking elsewhere, on the pressures put on members of the Zimbabwe legal system (qv) Pretoria’s justice minister denied that there was any crisis. Mr P Maduna said recently that he was “satisfied “ by the assurances given by his counterparts across the Limpopo that there was no evidence of threats made to judges that ruled against the government. Any such evidence should be reported to the police. – **GDN page 16, C 7** –

“The severe thumping of ... Peter Tatchell should serve as a warning to all those that make it to denigrate the president at every turn and without cause at all. ... This would not have happened to US or European president. . . . The severe beating metered out on Tatchell sends a clear message to the world that never again shall we stand by while our president is treated like dirt and reviled like a criminal”. - **The Herald, Harare 7/3 – The Editor** –

Sat 10

Headline – *Priest curses Mugabe as farmers funeral* – the Presbyterian minister, Reverend P Adrianatos – who himself is to leave the country soon as his work permit has not been renewed – was chosen to conduct the funeral service of G Olds (qv).

About 250 people made up the congregation; they were in the main members of the white farming community from the Bulawayo area. During the address they heard the minister say, “For officials and cabinet ministers who ignore and act against just laws I pray for your curse. For the leaders of this country who are not honest, sincere and have compassion for the people, I pray that they be removed or cursed”.

Also in attendance was the in hiding MDB MP, D Coltart, who was able to slip into the church by a back door. – **GDN page 19, C 5** –

Tues 13

Liz McGregor writes – Britain should stop hounding Mugabe and look for an African solution. Continuing to look on its former colony with paternalistic interest and not allowing a sovereign state to deal with problems in its own way is not good government practice.

What should occur is to use the traits of the African continent to an advantage – the veneration of age and experience. Also, in trying to ensure that Mr Mugabe leaves the world stage seemingly at the height of his powers his role in instigating the end of the last of Britain’s colonies in Africa should be played up. The British government should also do more to facilitate the release of white owned farmland to the black majority.

It can be seen, from recent events, that Zanu’s fear is a president picked from echelons of the Movement of Democratic Change. However there are reform minded party members within the ruling party. Support for such a move comes from the Zimbabwe Democracy Trust, with internationally respected patrons from the USA and Britain.

If Zimbabwe did descend into chaos; the whole region would also suffer. The main destination for many – black and white – would be South Africa. Blacks would add an economic strain. Whites would join the already disaffected white community in Cape Town. – **GDN page 18 – C2 –**

Wed 14

Letter, **W Hain, London** – not withstanding the argument that Mugabe is a tyrant, and must be removed, the writer suggests an alternative way to the one offered by L Mcregor. Out goes the ‘graceful exit’ and the persuasion of his peers. Rather a ‘palace coup’ from within the Zanu PF echelons – instigated by an increase in international pressure.

The president of Zimbabwe, Robert Mugabe, swore in a political ally as acting chief justice yesterday after informing the former incumbent to retire.

Judge Godfrey Chidyausiku, 54, will become chief justice when Anthony Gubby leaves on July 1. – *Reuters* -

Thurs 15

Letters, **Francis Maud MP** – accuses L McGregor (qv 13/3) of being an apologist for the president. The writer, having visited the country 14 days ago gives alternative means to remove Mr Mugabe – expel Zimbabwe from the Commonwealth.

P Marks, London, “a lucid approach to the argument” says the writer, speaking of the 13/3 approach. One point of disagreement – using African leaders of the same genus as Mr Mugabe – because of the disdain of which these leaders are held by western governments. More should be achieved by the involvement of Mr Mbeki, as a further collapse of the Zimbabwe economy will have a devastating impact on the region – especially South Africa.

J Collins, Zimbabwe Democratic Trust – a movement to promote democracy freedom and the rule of law would have no concerns about the MDC, as L McGregor states, as now – without the violence and intimidation before the 2000 general election it would

have a majority in parliament. Support for F Maud MP's views and not just hoping that Mr Mugabe would just go away, is the only hope for Zimbabwe.

Fri 16

Headline – *Drive to make farmers' union Mugabe – friendly* – there is a move to soften the stance of the whites dominated Commercial Farmers Union's stance over its opposition to the land seizure efforts by the Zimbabwe government.

Such is the division between members of the union that a special general meeting has been called. This is to be held on 21/3. The main aim of the meeting is to accept the proposal that the all white leaders should be sacked and replaced with blacks. The chief backer for such a move is N Swanepoel, a former president of the CFU. The theory is that with the white leaders removed the union would look more favourably on the proposals of land distribution from Mr Mugabe. In return those farmers would receive a better deal from the government.

Letters, **G Shire London** – with a history of land ownership, from before WW2, which was taken away and given to a white, as a reward for services rendered, the writer feels that to most Zimbabweans “the land issue is seen as the second major stage of their struggle.” Mugabe “offers them the best hope,” of reclaiming their lost land.

D Coltart, MDC MP and shadow minister of legal affairs – defending the Movement For Democratic Change's position, after the McGregor attack (qv 13/3), to remove Mugabe will take “selective action” – travel bans, overseas asset ‘freezing’ and indictments prepared against those involved in torture and violation of human rights.

Sun 18

Headline – *Mugabe prepares a bloody victory* – according the shadow spokesman for legal affairs for the Movement for Democratic Change, D Coltart MP “Zimbabwe is in complete meltdown. This will be the bloodiest campaign [for the presidency] ever.” This gloomy prediction comes from a leading light in the protests that have surrounded the ousting of Judge A Gubbay. Recently two sources have warned him of death threats from within the ruling Zanu PF party. This comes long after the ‘disappearance’ of his Bulawayo South election agent.

Appealing for help, from Britain and the European Union, he asks that governments stiffen their resolve and counter the individual government's – Belgian and France – in particular who give sucker to the president. Otherwise there will be no stopping the re-election of Mr Mugabe. – **IOS page 22, C 7 -**

Mon 19

Headline – *Mugabe earns priests' wrath* – Zimbabwe's Roman Catholic priests and nuns, represented by the Conference of Religious Superiors, condemned the Mugabe

government yesterday in a statement saying: "People live in abject fear of violence, crime and threats."

They added that they were "deeply offended" by the refusal of their bishops to take a public stand against the government. – **GDN page16, C7** –

Tues 20

Headline – *'My brother was a good man. Why was he killed'?* – As an archdeacon in Zimbabwe, Peter Wagner devoted his life to helping others. Last month he was brutally murdered in his church. His brother, Hugh, traveled to the troubled country for his funeral – and to try and uncover the truth behind the senseless killing.

The 26/2 killing was not reported, to the authors knowledge, in the British press – although a letter did appear [also unreported] in the Guardian on about 10/3. This detailed the anger of the writer – Hugh Wagner – of no such coverage.

Archdeacon Wagner was based in Masvingo, 200Km east of Bulawayo, after leaving Birmingham, England, in 1970. The priest's body was found bound and gagged inside the church. It had been lying there all day. Police arrested one suspect and were conducting a 'massive manhunt' for a second person – a former church caretaker with a conviction for theft – he has not been arrested as, according to the police he "is never at home when we call".

Going by past experiences the police will not try to hard to solve a crime against a European speaking person – the dead man, a few years previously, had to report an intruder inside his house, on hearing a white man speaking over the phone to report the incident the response at the other end was "we have no transport." This from the police who were based only 400 yards from the incident. A sure indication of a culture of 'petty racism.' – **Inside story G2, page 4** –

Wed 21

Headline – *Commonwealth ministers to visit Mugabe* – after a two-day meeting on London it has been decided to send a mission to Harare. The group will be made up of the foreign ministers of Barbados, Australia and Nigeria. In Harare a spokesman for the MDC said that there was little chance of the group being welcomed unless a foreign minister from a more Zimbabwe friendly country – such as Botswana – were included.

Despite recent calls for Zimbabwe to be expelled from the movement, at the present time this goes against the rules – only a country whose government has been overthrown in a coup can be expelled. This rule is to be discussed at a heads of government meeting in Brisbane in 10/01. – **GDN page 16, C3** –

Fri 23

Headline – ***Zimbabwe bans British exams*** – Zimbabwe has banned schools from entering pupils for British O – level and A – level exams.

The education minister, Samuel Mumbengegwi, said pupils were “subjected to emotional and psychological stress” while studying for foreign exams, and claimed a ban would create a national identity. – **GDN page 13, C3** –

Robin Cook warned Zimbabwe that it faced Commonwealth isolation after its foreign minister called a planned investigative visit by Commonwealth ministers “unprocedural.”

Zimbabwe’s independent **Daily News** agreed with cook. “The threat of censure, as suggested by Britain and now the Commonwealth, is not always the result of sinister intentions. It can be occasioned by a desire to bring into line a member whose conduct is increasingly wayward.” – **Need to know, The Editor page 10** –

Sat 31

Headline – ***Britons help anti – Mugabe propaganda campaign*** – to counter the welter of biased news reporting, emerging from the authorities in Harare, new sources have been found. Opposition groups – both black and whites have joined – are determined to take the full horrors of the Mugabe regime into the remotest rural areas of Zimbabwe.

The scheme, run by a white farmer – T Whitehead – and material aid from the Zimbabwe Democracy Trust in London is behind the organisation. Along with such simple help as providing bicycles for news gathering, modern methods of information technology – digital camera’s, computers and fax machines are being provided.

Albert Ncube, 47, has been charged with the killing of Gloria Olds (qv 5/3). The court, in Bulawayo was told that the accused shot Mrs Old 20 times. His trial is set to begin on 19/4. – **GDN page 18, C 1** –

APRIL

Sun 1

Hoxton, in east London, is to be the venue for special evening in support of the Zimbabwe’s Daily News. The benefit, organised by four photographers, is to be titled Home Is Where Harare Is, takes place at the Home Bar and Lounge on the evening of 2/4. – **Sholto Brynes, The Diary, IOS page 28** –

Mon 2

Headline – *Email from Harare* – not that many residents cars, belonging to the residents of the, can go anywhere – lack of petrol – the light bulbs are being pinched from street traffic lights. These light bulbs then appear in the city discos, which no longer can obtain them through the regular channels, due to the ongoing economic chaos leaving no foreign exchange for these trivial imports. Also on the trivial import list are aluminum coffin handles. These are now being manufactured from street signs, taken in the dead of night.

Diesel is hard to come by. So short is Air Zimbabwe that the authorities stole 16m litres from BP tanks in Mozambique, after a government cheque to pay Kuwaiti owners bounced. One transport fleet – government owned vehicles for the transport of ministers is not affected by any fuel shortages however. – **Diary, GDN page 18, C 1 –**

Sat 7

Headline – *Zimbabwe workers threatened* – the authorities, spearheaded by the infamous ‘war veterans’ have taken their political terror campaign to the cities. On 5/4 Lobel’s Bakery, the countries largest, was invaded with the connivance of the police and members of the central intelligence organisation.

During this time the 1,200 members of staff were told to support the policies of the president or suffer the consequences – violence and possible death. – **GDN page 20, C 5**

Sun 7

Headline – *Zimbabwe ‘nearer to fascism’ as Mugabe turns on party critics* – not only the actions of the ‘war veterans’ (qv 6/4) are turned against the population, legislation has been enacted in parliament to limit – some would say to make it impossible – for an opposition candidate to succeed against the candidate sponsored by Zanu PF.

On 2/4 three journalists, from the *Daily News* were charged under the Law and Order Maintenance Act, with criminal defamation after publishing an article that linked the president with corruption in connection with the building of Harare’s new airport.

The following day Supporters of the government turned violent against managers who had sacked workers because of the worsening economic crisis. The supporters of the president promised this type of intimidation to any other employer who used the state of the economy as a reason to sack workers.

On 4/4 the Broadcasting Services Act was passed in parliament. The provisions of this act will be to prevent the media from using information from any other source than that distributed by the ruling Zanu – PF organisation.

On 5/5 through parliament went the Political Parties Finance Act. It is now illegal for any opposition organisation – chiefly the Movement of Democratic Change to receive funding from overseas.

On 6/4 the foreign minister, S Mudenge, let it be known that if the international community – European Union or the USA were to try and impose sanctions a state of emergency would be declared.

Mr Mugabe has also turned on those that he sees as opponents from within his own party. All ten of Zanu – PF's elected provincial executives have been dissolved, because they are opposed to him staying in power. Party loyalists have been placed in to these positions. – **IOS page 18, C 2** –

Wed 11

Headline – *Zimbabweans' hopes of land fade into dust* – Twelve months on, since the death of the first white farmer, (qv 16/4), the plight of the farm workers – who at first welcomed the coming of the war veterans – is now far worse than what it was at that time.

To take one example Calgary farm, which was overrun, at the same time as the Stevens land, by former army corporal S Mapfumo, were promised not the Z\$64 [85p] but Z\$70 per day for working on the D Wheeler owned land – 3,500 acre. Today, after a second expulsion of the owner in 1/01, the land lies in ruins with no crops sown or harvested.

“We regret the war veterans coming, very much, We thought there would be better things to come but there's so much uncertainty – no crops, the bosses are leaving. What's our future like? I thin its bleak.” – *Unnamed Calgary farm worker* – **GDN page 14, C 1** –

Thurs 12

Headline – *Lawyers beaten by Mugabe thugs* – not content with bringing lawlessness to the countryside, the farmers and the judicial system thugs acting on behalf of the president have assaulted a leading human rights lawyer.

The chairman of Zimbabwe's Lawyers for Human Rights, and fellow members were attacked by police and Zanu PF supporters at a place 50 miles south of Harare. During the 3 hour attack Mr T Hondora's jaw was broken, he also suffered severe bruising.

The delegation was visiting the town of Sadza to gather evidence that police were intimidating witnesses who were due to give evidence in court to challenge the right of the war veterans leader, C Hunzi's (qv) right to take up his seat in parliament. According to a member of the delegation the group was attacked by people wearing Zanu PF T-shirts, who forced their victims to chant pro Zanu slogans. – **GDN page 15, C 8** –

Wed 18

Headline – *Mugabe will stand again* – Robert Mugabe has swept away speculation aside that he will retire by declaring himself the Zanu – PF candidate at the presidential elections in Zimbabwe within the next 12 months. – **GDN page 18, C 1** –

MAY

Sun 6

Headline – *Mugabe minister quits* – Nkosana Moya, a key Zimbabwe minister, has resigned from the cabinet in protest at ‘war veterans’ raiding businesses – **IOS page 5 C 1** –

Mon 7

Headline – *Zimbabwe awaits verdict on its future* – as the war veterans are given free range, in the cities to spread their support Mugabe message – which has led to the resignation of a member of the government (q v6/5) – the leader of the Movement for Democratic Change is to stand trial.

Mr Tsvangaria is to be brought before the court as a result of remarks he made during a MDC rally in 9/00, in which at first reading it would seem that he was calling for the violent overthrow of the Mugabe government. Later, however he modified his remarks, and only calling on the government not to cling to power against the will of the people.

Charged under the Law and Order (Maintenance) Act, which Mr Tsvangaria claims is unconstitutional, he will be tried in the high court. Here he is expected to receive a fair trial, as the court is well known for standing up to political pressure.

While it is accepted that the case is being brought to prevent the MDC from putting a candidate forward to run in the forthcoming presidential the movements leader could be a candidate if the sentence of the court was one of less than six months. There again if Mr Mugabe was to call a snap election the outcome could not be certain. – **GDN page 3, C 1**

Tues 8

Headline – *Judge blocks Zimbabwe terror trial* – in what is seen as an important first round victory against the government’s desire to prevent the leader of the Movement for Democratic Change from standing as a presidential candidate, the court has decided to challenge the legality of the relevant act.

Morgan Tsvangaria is charged under the Law and Order (Maintenance) Act. The supreme court has now agreed to consider the legality of this Act, which is a relic of the colonial regime. Only then, after judicial consideration, will this terrorism trial be referred back to the high court where the fate of the MDC’s will be decided. – **GDN page 10, C 1** –

Sat 12

Commenting on the trial of M Tsvangaria, the leader of the Movement for Democratic Change, South Africa's *Mail and Guardian* newspaper said "the worst we can do is pretend that the situation will resolve itself. Indeed Mugabe's track record suggests that the worst might still be coming." – **The Editor page 8** –

Tues 15

A Danish chewing gum maker said yesterday that he was suspending production at its Zimbabwe factory after militants threatened its employees and forced them into hiding.

Dandy, makers of Stimerol gum, said workers at its subsidiary, 25 miles from Harare, had repeatedly been harassed by "groups of persons, allegedly war veterans", claiming they were former employees and demanding to be paid. It will stay closed until the safety of the workers is assured. – **AP** –

Fri 25

Headline – *Zimbabwean 'torturer' in hospital with malaria* – the director of the War Veterans Association, C Hunzvi (qv), already a 'notable' in the recent events in the countries history – land invasions and intimidation - is in hospital in Bulawayo. Doctor H is suffering from malaria.

To add to his worries the doctor has been denounced as a torturer by the general secretary of the Danish based International Rehabilitation Council for Torturer Victims, Dr I Genfke, who is to give evidence in court about state sponsored violence. – **GDN page 14, C 7** –

Sun 27

Headline – *Mugabe confronts the king of diamonds* – with land holdings, and other business interests, in Zimbabwe said to equal the value of Belgium's equity The Oppenheimer family holdings came under the scrutiny of the administration.

Within the last seven days a delegation, led by Mr Mugabe, descended on Debsham farm in Matebeleland along with those that would squat on the land to force the South African mining magnate to hand over more of his land for settlement by the dispossessed.

This is not the first time such an incident has occurred. Twelvemonths ago 5,000 campaigners were given rights to settle on 40, 000 hectares of land. What is now in dispute is the amount of land owned. According the Herald newspaper, state owned, the actual size of the farm is 960,000 hectares [2.4m acres]. According to the family the ground covered is only 137,000 acres instead of 137, 000 hectares. – **IOS page 21, C 1** –

“Zimbabwe can still recover. If we get rid of the gangsters running the country, then we can draw a line.” – *Ian Smith 82 year old former president of Rhodesia - Quotes Of The Week, ditto, page 23*

Mon 28

Headline – *Second Mugabe minister dies in car crash* – so affected by the death of his minister of defence was the president that he cancelled his visit to the overseas conference of the G – 15 members in Indonesia.

M Mahachi, 53, was involved in a road traffic accident in the Nyanga district in the mountains which form a natural border with Mozambique. A loyal and long standing associate of the president – he helped him escape from Rhodesia in 1975 and therefore begin the founding of the war of liberation that ended with the inception of Zimbabwe in 1980.

This death is a second blow to an already unpopular administration. Last month the employment minister, B Gezi also died after a traffic accident. He was responsible for instigating the policy of mass invasion of the white owned farmland.

To add further to the problems of the ruling party – with a third cabinet minister resigning (qv 6/5), it now emerges from fax while he was overseas, to avoid retaliation, attacks on members of the MDC have resumed. One, the MDC MP for Matebeleland North, A Bhebhe, is now recovering in hospital from a beating given by war veterans. A second party member, from the town of Plumtree in the south west of the country, J Sithole, is also hospitalised after a beating on 26/5. – **GDN page 12, C 7 –**

Tues 29

Headline – *Mugabe faces coup plot* – senior Zimbabwe military officers have warned neighbouring South Africa that they are prepared to remove president Mugabe from office if civil unrest in the country escalates throughout the coming months.

A scenario is envisaged that because of the failure of maize and wheat crop, the inability of the government being able to rely on the international community to bail out the president the army and police will be brought onto the streets to quell the disorder. However the military would not want to uphold the rule of Mr Mugabe against the will of the people. Authorities in Pretoria have been forewarned because if such events take place many thousands of Zimbabweans are expected to flee into South Africa.

Whilst it is not certain who would lead any such revolt a likely candidate is Air Marshall P Shiri. He is well connected to the president and was in command of the 5th Brigade who saw service in Matebeleland in the 1980's and has been accused of war crimes against the Nbebele peoples who were loyal to Joshua Nkomo.

Another contender is E Mnangagwa, the Speaker in the parliament. During his time as a member of Zanu he has served as defence, security and police minister and now a leading player in Harare's expeditions in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The role of the Army, in any such coup, would not be of any real benefit to the lives of the ordinary citizen – Zanu PF – would still retain power – a coup would ensure that the lucrative mining and business opportunities continues. This would be unlikely if the ruling party was toppled by democratic means. – **GDN page 1 and 3** –

Wed 30

Headline – *Plot to oust Mugabe dismays Zimbabwe opposition* – the means of a military coup to remove the president from office will not rid the country of all its problems says the leader of the Movement for Democratic Change. Mr Tsvangaria points to many such occurrences throughout Africa and notes that very few such coups have resulted in a return to democratic rule.

Government sources in Harare rubbish the South African release of names of those who were to play a prominent role in the events. The Speaker, E Mnangagwa, laughed when told about his role “I’m hearing this for the first time.” The information minister, J Moyo, said, “I will not dignify such trash.” – **GDN page 1, C 1** -

Leader Comment, **Zimbabwe's way ahead** – That the president ‘is overdue for retirement is not a controversial view.’ However to do so via an engineered military coup is a “more contentious” view. The justification is even less tenuous when those that would replace Mr Mugabe are removing him from office so as to preserve their positions of privilege.

The correct way forward, as the leader of the MDC advocates is “early, free and [a] fair presidential poll – and the army in its barracks, whatever Mr Mugabe orders.” – **ditto page 23** –

Thurs 31

Headline – *Mbeki questioned in parliament about coup plan* – recent revelations of an alleged military coup attempt north of the Limpopo (qv 29/5) have resulted in questions to the president in the Pretoria parliament.

Answering a question from the leader of the New National party leader, M Schalkwk, Mr Mbeki denied any knowledge of any attempt being made to replace Mr Mugabe as leader in their northern neighbour. He did, however, show concern for the consequences of the social upheaval that was taking place in Zimbabwe. In his speech he defended the Zimbabwean presidents attempt to right correct a “constitutional legacy” that the British set on land reform. – **GDN page 13, C 3** –

JUNE

Sat 2

Another judge has resigned from the high court of Zimbabwe, officials said yesterday. Ishmael Chatikobo's letter gave no reasons but the judiciary is under pressure from the government

Judge James Devittie quit the high court last month. The chief justice, Anthony Gubbay took early retirement in March. - AP -

Commenting on the reported words of Colin Powell, in the Wall Street Journal which praised the US secretary of state for his blunt and forceful criticism of Zimbabwe's poor democratic record the **Zimbabwe Standard** was not impressed. "If by this self pitying mumbo jumbo it is meant that [he] should turn a blind eye to Mugabe's many excesses, then this is exactly the reason why many promising African countries have landed in the gutter ... Mr Powell has spoken well." – **The Week Abroad, The Editor, page 10** –

Tues 5

Headline – *Doctor who left a curse on Zimbabwe* – probably the second most hated person in the country, Chenjerai 'Hitler' Hunzvi, has died in hospital. The director of the War Veterans Association, who was hospitalised 14 days ago (qv 25/5) with what was said to be malaria. However it is known that he faced the constant battle with the HIV virus. – **GDN page 3, C 2** –

Sat 9

Headline – *Mugabe calls for farm invasions in Hunzvi's memory* – as the acknowledged leader of the War veterans Association, Chenjerai Hunsvi (qv) was laid to rest in Heroes' Acre – an outrageous privilege said some. The president, giving the funeral oration called for more seizures of white owned farmland as a "tribute of honour" to the man who masterminded the occupation of at least 1,800 such farms up to the present. – **GDN page 24, C5** –

Commenting on the death of the leader of the War Veterans Association the **Harare Daily News** said that Hunzvi "was a man driven to extremes by his love for his party and its leader. To many ordinary Zimbabweans, he represented the unacceptable face of the war veterans [those] who freed this country from colonialism in a bitter and brutal war." **The Editor, page10**

Sun 10

Headline – *Mugabe party 'fears the hand of Lucifer'* – following the deaths of three of the most avid supporters of the president, the party is in disarray. Even 'notables' like the

speaker in the parliament admits, “something unnatural must be behind this.” He also has the thought that the “gods must be angry.” Others believe black magic is afoot.

So uneasy are some members of Zanu PF that to work with the authorities is little more than the ‘kiss of death,’ official positions – the mayor in Bulawayo – remain unfilled because of this curse of Lucifer. – **IOS page 24, C 1** -

Thurs 14

The main Zimbabwean labour federation is threatening to call a national strike if the government does not withdraw a 72% increase in the price of fuel, announced yesterday.

A 15% increase, in October, along with increases on bread, milk and other foodstuffs, sparked rioting in the poorer suburbs of Harare. – **AP** –

Tues 19

Riot police in Zimbabwe cleared barricades erected in a Harare township yesterday after protests against the 70% rise in petrol prices. Witnesses in the capital said new barricades were erected elsewhere. – **Reuters** –

Thurs 21

Zimbabwe’s president, Robert Mugabe, has welcomed a Nigerian proposal to set up a seven nation commission to mediate an end to the standoff with Britain over land.

His first official comment on the initiative follows talks in Nairobi with the Kenyan leader, Daniel arap Moi. – **Reuters** –

Fri 22

Headline – ***Eclipse gives Zimbabwe joy and hope*** – as the first solar eclipse of the century made its way over southern Africa and through the Zambizi valley not even the political and economic crisis in the region could spoil the event. Exponents of traditional African medicine dwelt on the fact that such an event heralded great changes to come.

In response to the coming event, president Mugabe spoke to the nation on 20/6. Whilst his speech assured tourist of their safety he attacked the overseas media for its portrayal of Zimbabwe as a country of “hateful and horrid images.” – **GDN page 15, C 5** –

Sun 24

Headline – ***Suspicion remains despite Mugabe change to resolve Zimbabwe crisis*** – as the president appears to hint that he is willing to end the countries land crisis, some people think it is a ploy. Mr Mugabe would then put himself in a good position to win the 2002 presidential election.

As is already known Mugabe will travel to Kenya for mediation talks with president Moi (qv 21/6). This will give him the opportunity not to lose face with his peers, as any solution offered will have been deemed 'as African solution by the African nation.'

Other diplomatic moves, in the near future, that could see introduction of the long hoped for solution is the arrival of a Commonwealth foreign ministers group into South Africa. Top of the agenda trying to end Zimbabwe's isolation. After this delegates to the Organisation of African Unity will meet in the Zambian capital in 7/01. – **IOS page 25, C 1 -**

Mon 25

Headline – *Zimbabwe's eager pupils are too poor to practise what they learn* – one of 12 British volunteers working with Students Partnership Worldwide [SPA] who has been placed at Nkashe High School in Matebeleland. Along with his Zimbabwe pair – B Mlamba – Ben Dean is teaching 21 lessons a week in the school. Their work is by nature one of guidance and counselling and awareness of the Aids issue.

Of the 350 pupils on the roll a school survey shows that the majority of the senior pupils are sexually active. However condoms are available 15 miles distant – at an adult HIV clinic, which the pupils would not want to attend, out of a sense of shame.

However by various other methods the message of safe sex is getting through. The largest problem was to win pupil trust, before any mention of the disease was made. Once established related questions came thick and fast. – **GDN page 11, C7 -**

“Last month, for the first time. The MDC won control from ZANY – PF of a local council in the southern city of Masvingo. The MDC has successfully fought for reruns of last June's vote in several disputed districts. .. MDC leader Morgan Tsvangirai has been allowed to argue in the supreme court that charges of terrorism and incitement to violence are unconstitutional.” - an extract, **Time Magazine, 18/6, page 57 –**

Thurs 28

Headline – *Zimbabwe bans UK journalist* – the Zimbabwe government has forced the departure of British journalist David Blair, correspondent for the Daily Telegraph, by refusing to renew his work permit. Mr Blair's permit expires on July 16, but he said yesterday that he plans to leave before then.

The minister of Information, Jonathan Moyo, charged yesterday that the Telegraph had threatened the Mugabe government with bad publicity if it expelled Mr Blair. – **GDN page 18, C 7 –**

Sat 30

The Zimbabwean government has nearly doubled the number of farms it intends to confiscate, it was announced yesterday. This meant virtually all farms owned by white citizens are to be seized without compensation, farm leaders said.

The government said in July that it planned to hand 3,000 of about 5,000 white farms to landless blacks. A new list of 2,030 published yesterday means that the land of 95% of white farmers is now taken, the Commercial Farmers Union said. – AP –

JULY

Wed 4

Headline – *National strike paralyzes Zimbabwe* – on the first day of a planned two-day general strike called by the country's Congress of Trade Unions [ZCTU], the major cities and towns were empty of the usual masses of workers. The largely peaceful first day was marred by an attack on three bread delivery vans in the city of Budiriro, west of Harare. The authorities arrested members of the press trying to report the incident.

The strike was called by the trade union movement in response to the recent rise in fuel charges (qv 14/6). The protest is also seen as the first mass demonstration against the hopes of president Mugabe staying on as president after the elections in 2002.

On the wider international front the European Union has given the president 60 days to restore the rule of law and order and stop illegal farm seizures. Failure to do so would see sanctions imposed.

The ZCTU say that day one of the general strike was 90% effective. Experts say that studies show that a family of four need Z\$14,000 [180 pounds, English] for food rent and other expenses. Many of the workers are only earning Z\$3,000 [37 pounds, English] per month. – GDN page 14, C 1 –

Thurs 5

Headline – *West will monitor Mugabe re-election* – in London, on the latest stopover of meeting international 'notables', M Tsvangirua (qv) has received assurances that the 2002 presidential elections in Zimbabwe will be monitored by members of the international community. It is also hoped that the forthcoming seven parliamentary by-elections will be watched over. – GDN page 15, C 1 –

Leader Comment, **Power to the workers** – as the government declared this two-day general strike, called by the Congress of Trade Unions, illegal it is a wonder that so many of the nation's workforce – 1.2m people – ignore the ban and stay away from work. Not only did they ignore the threats of intimidation, from the 'war veterans' and the

government, by their actions showed that they agreed with Mr Mugabe when he said that this strike was political.

These last 48 hours have been an “enormous challenge to his own continued tenure as president. And more than that, it challenges the power monopoly enjoyed by Zanu – PF since independence 20 years ago.”

“A man who was one of Africa’s most respected revolutionaries is now on the wrong, losing side of a popular revolution. The clock is ticking. It is a great pity he cannot hear it.” – **ditto page 21** –

Sat 7

Headline – *Mugabe wins trial of wits* – as the world watches the fate of another autocratic leader – Slobodan Miosevic, on trial at the International War Crimes Convention in the Hague, on charges of crimes against humanity – Zimbabwe’s autocratic leader is unlikely to suffer the same fate.

At the present time, despite the strong support for the recent general strike, called by the ZCTU there is little movement from the opposition in parliament for a swift overthrow of the president. Mr Mugabe has let it be known that any attempt – led by the MDC – will result in the arrest and detention of his opponents.

Observers feel that the only way to remove the president is through the popular will of the people when the conditions are right. So acute have the problems become that ministers are looking to international donors to provide food aid for the soon to be hungry masses. This grain shortage – 600,000 tonnes, within 6 months, says the UN’s food agency, could be the signal to ‘light the blue touch paper.’ – **GDN page 12, C 1** –

Fri 13

Headline – *Gadafy’s Harare roadshow brings out the curious* – in a stately convoy of 80 vehicles, and well protected by the military, the Libyan president and his Zimbabwean counterpart traveled from Lusaka to Harare.

The bussed in Zanu PF supporters, were little more than curious bystanders and there were scuffles in Chinhoyi, 70 miles north of the capital. President Gadafy came to show his solidarity with Mr Mugabe in his struggle with the British over payments for land reform.

Away from this spectacular University of Zimbabwe students were confronted by riot police as they made protest against a four-fold increase in fees. Offices of the opposition Movement for Democratic Change, in Bulawayo, Kweke and Binduru have been raided by police and 27 members arrested. – **GDN page 16, C 1** –

Following on from the meeting of the Organisation of African Unity, in Zambia (qv 24/6) the final communiqué indicates that the movement backs the moves taken by Mr Mugabe in his struggle with the white owned farmers and their land. – **Un sourced YEP, 10/7** –

Tues 17

Headline – *Farmer accused of murdering squatter* – notwithstanding the number of white farmers killed by squatters and have not had to face retribution – the full force of the law is to brought to bare on P Bezuidenhout.

It is alleged that the farmer drove into a group of people intent on occupying his land, of which the dead man – F Mapenzauswa – was a part. His accusers say that the farmer, who continued moving after initially running him down, deliberately targeted the dead man. Neighbours of the Mutare land owner say that he panicked after being confronted by the crowd. The accident occurred as he fled the scene.

The high court has ruled that the government cannot promote its ‘fast track’ land resettlement scheme until it abides by a supreme court ruling about the handling of the seizures. There is little chance that the government will abide by the ruling. – **GDN page 13, C 7** –

Sat 21

One of Zimbabwe’s most prominent white farmers, Jim Sinclair, is to go on trial charged with using violence against ruling party militants illegally occupying his land. He denies the accusation. – **AP** –

Thurs 26

Headline – *Mugabe wants only ‘real men’ in cabinet* – speaking, as he opened the latest session of parliament, the president said that the type of person that should serve in the cabinet were those who did not behave like spineless cowards.

Uppermost in Mr Mugabe’s mind were people like Nkosana Moyo, the former industry minister who fled to South Africa with his family in 5/01, because he was exasperated at the attacks on farms and businesses. This first public attack on the former minister was made only to journalists who worked for the Herald newspaper; a state owned outlet for the government’s propaganda. – **GDN page 18, C 1** –

Fri 27

Headline – *Harare gags BBC for ‘biased’ report* – the effective reporting of events in the troubled country of Zimbabwe have now become more difficult as a television reporter working for a London based station was told to leave.

The information minister -J Moyo – accused the foreign correspondent, T Omar, who works for the BBC, of misinterpreting remarks made by the president as he opened parliament. The broadcast had indicated that farmland would be taken into state ownership with the use of force, if necessary. In reality, the minister said, land would only be seized with the due process of law.

Having now left the country, along with other members of the news gathering team, it is now only by negotiation between London and Harare that accreditation that ‘independent’ newsgathering will be heard. – **GDN page 18, C 7** –

Mon 31

Headline – ***Mugabe opposition candidate arrested*** – on the day of the Binduru by election, caused by the death of Zanu PF candidate in 4/01, the MDC candidate – E Pfebve and a number of his supporters were detained and then released by police. It is anticipated that Mr Pfebve will take the seat from the government. – **GDN page 12, C 4** –

AUGUST

Wed 2

A Zimbabwe high court judge, Michael Gillsepie, has become the country’s third senior judicial figure to resign this year. He was one of the five remaining white judges.

Mr Gillespie gave no reason for his decision, but human rights and legal groups have accused President Robert Mugabe’s government of deliberately undermining the independence and power of the judiciary. –*Reuters* –

Sun 5

Headline – ***Mugabe plot to rig election exposed*** – using a tried and evidently successful method, it saw Zanu PF hold the seat of Bindura by 5,000 votes in the recent by - election, the president expects to hold onto the soon to be contested election for president.

Prior to the by election many of the land less Zanu party supporters were moved onto land taken from white farm owners in the constituency. For the forthcoming presidential election a more ambitious movement of supporters will take place. Once on site they will register on the voting roll, enabling them to cast their vote for Mr Mugabe. As and when the Zanu PF numbers in the rural areas are low people will be moved from area to area. In effect they will gain multiple votes.

A second strategy, to ensure that the 77 year old Mr Mugabe retains power, has been revealed by the Financial Gazette. Despite the shortage of foreign currency the government is to try and purchase \$20m worth of riot vehicles and water cannon from the Israeli firm Beit Alfa Trailer Company. – **IOS page 18, C 1** –

Wed 8

Headline – *White farmer dies after ‘war veterans’ attack* – rancher R Corbet, 76, who farms near the town of Kwekwe has become the ninth white farmer to die in recent times. According to a member of his family he was killed by an axe blow, wielded by one of a 20 strong mod of self proclaimed ‘war veterans’ who were already squatting on his land.

In another incident, to involve clashes between white farmers and blacks, 23 whites are to be charged with public order offences. The state news agency, Ziana, said the farmers and their opponents fought in the Chinoyi area – 60 miles west of Harare. According to the official sources the arrests were made because the farmers were attacking the farmhouse, where the owners, the Barkleys, were being besieged. – **GDN page 12, C 1** –

Sun 19

Headline – *The sound of defiant laughter gets under Mugabe’s skin* – despite the latest attempt by the authorities to interfere with the running of the only independent newspaper in Zimbabwe – The Daily News – the popularity of the paper continues to rise.

The most recent outrage occurred was when four of its leading journalists were detained for ‘publishing subversive material.’ The charges relate to an allegation, made by the editor – G Nyarota and his colleagues – was that police vehicles had been used by those that went to loot white owned farms.

The greatest affect on the accessibility of the paper has been the fall in circulation, from 100, 000 to 80, 000, following the bomb attack last year. – **IOS page 19, c 1** –

Mon 20

Headline – *Zimbabwe dissidents pay big price* – with the focus of attention on the plight of the white farmers and there struggle to hold onto their land little thought is given to the blacks that are opposed to the rule of Mugabe and Zanu – PF.

Latest figures from the Amani Trust in Harare, which monitors human rights abuses in Zimbabwe, recorded 11 political murders, 61 disappearances, 104 cases of unlawful detention by the authorities and 288 incidents of torture in 7/01. – **GDN page 9, C 1** -

Tues 21

Headline – *Bail for white farmers in Zimbabwe* – twenty-one of the twenty-three, who were being held in jail, after the attacks on black squatters (qv 8/8) have been released by the high court in Harare.

The bail conditions that were set, for what in the event is seen as a minor charge, for those granted their freedom are – twenty of those freed are forbidden to return to the

entire province of Mashonaland West, where the incident occurred, for a period of 4 weeks. A surety of Z\$ 100,000 was set – a rather steep amount that is usual in this type of case.

Wed 22

Headline – ***Land grab makes black farm workers homeless*** – in an intensification of the policy of expelling white farmers from their land war veterans – with president Mugabe’s support – have forced 20, 000 black workers off the land.

This latest actions comes as the presidents henchmen purchase 14 white owned farms in the very productive Hwedza district of the country. Also at least another 5 white farmers have abandoned their land because of threats of intimidation. At 20 more farms work has stopped after threats of violence. The finance minister has said that the taking of agricultural land has reduced by 54% the commercial planting of maize, a staple crop.

Despite the order, by the high court, for the release of the 23 white farmers (qv 21/8) they remain behind bars. This is because officials have not received the warrants for there release. – GDN page 10, C 1 –

Thurs 23

Headline – ***Freed farmers cannot go home*** – as the 23 white farmers, emerged from jail after 16 days incarceration, members of their family and officials from the Commercial Farmers Union greeted them. As a condition of their bail they will have to live away from their farms in Chihoyl, which they fear will leave the properties open to looting and acts of vandalism by war veterans.

As the farmers were being released the government’s minister for information, J Moyo, led a group of journalists – and more importantly the high commissioners of the countries, who’s foreign ministers will meet on 6/9 in Nigeria to discuss the crisis in Zimbabwe – around this part of Mashonaland West. The minister put across the idea that the whites were, in fact, encouraging the vandalism and looting of their own farms.

In other reactions, commenting on the ongoing crisis, the South African reserve bank governor, T Mboweni, told a n audience in Johannesburg that the “wheels had come off in Zimbabwe.” In Victoria Falls war veterans invaded the town’s supermarkets and forced them to close, as they believed it was these shops that were forcing high prices in the country. Another journalist, B Peta, has joined the list of scribes who have been told they are on a death list because of their writings. – GDN page 10, C 1 –

Decca Aikenhead writes – *Remnants of an empire* – despite the ongoing crisis – the papers are full of how the “British colonial style’ of life is being denied the 50, 000 whites who are so desperate to cling onto the life in the sun.

“Britain certainly owes Zimbabwe something – but what it owes individual white farmers is less clear, and less important.” – **ditto page 16** –

Sat 25

“Joseph Made, the country’s agricultural minister, told the state owned **Sunday Mail** that farmers whose land had been seized must leave their homes within two weeks to make way for black settlers.”

“The government has repeatedly refused to appreciate the high price of its encouragement of lawlessness throughout the country, but this week really caught up with it ... the beef export quota to the EU is worth US\$ 50m .. Suddenly all that is threatened because the government reneged on its responsibility to act decisively and stop farm invasions.” – **Harare Daily News, 22/8** –

“Imposing general and economic and transport sanctions against Zimbabwe may be better deployed further down the road, if less drastic options fail. But we can relatively easily start now by freezing foreign bank accounts and assets of Zimbabwean leaders and officials, curbing their right to travel, ostracising them diplomatically and considerably improving and deepening relations with the opposition to the Mugabe government.” – **The Mail and Guardian, 17/8, Johannesburg – The Editor page 9** –

Tues 28

Headline – ***Zimbabwe veterans to intensify white farm seizures*** – in an interview the new self proclaimed secretary general of the Zimbabwe National War Veterans Association, A Mhlanga, has indicated that despite the economic problems facing Zimbabwe – because of the ongoing taking of white owned farmland – the process will be accelerated.

With the completion of Phase 1, the occupation of small to medium sized farms Phase 2 can begin. This will be directed at larger farms. – **GDN page 1, C 4** –

Garry Young writes – *Whites are sitting pretty ... we have nothing* – traveling with the newly announced secretary general, from his office in central Harare to an occupied farm in Chitungizwi to hear the story of the Murupunies – squatting on Beatrice Farm.

Living on the land, since 6/01, they farm mealie and tomatoes on what once was grazing land. – **ditto, page 10, C 1-**

Headline – ***Land seizures start to drag in big corporations*** – phase 2 of the war veterans plans for taking over farm land – Operation Give Up and Leave – supported by the government is set to involve international firms.

Names such as Forrester Estates, owned by a German family are to be targeted. Put together with Zimbabwe’s own Border Timbers and Hippo Valley Sugar, both of which

are listed on the stock exchange, then it can be seen the extent to which the government will go to rid the land of white ownership. – **ditto C 4** –

Letter, **E Macharia, St Hilda's College Oxford** – a good balanced report (qv 23/8) from D Akenhead, shows up the popular press for not complaining about the overseas presence of non native born [white] on originally black land.

SEPTEMBER

Mon 3

Garry Young writes – *Surviving Mugabe* – to quote a hero of Mugabe's, Vladimir I Lenin, “for a revolution to take place, it is not enough for the exploited and oppressed masses to realise the impossibility of living in the old way and demand changes; for a revolution to take place it is essential that the exploiters should not be able to live and rule in the old way.”

Determined to stay in power the Zimbabwe president has staged a two pronged attack to ensure he remains. On the one hand his generals in the army have become rich with the spoils of war from across the border in the DRC. Obstinate members of the judiciary have been forced, through intimidation, to stand down from the courts. Intimidation of the political opposition and the common citizen are widespread. Such is the fear of the secret police and the informer that little is said of revolution.

If, in 3/02, the unthinkable happens and the Movement of Democratic Change can nominate the next Zimbabwean president the country could face intervention from the military. Then there are the economic problems to face – the IMF and the World Bank would still impose conditions. Rather than impose a 'western way' the West should offer post colonial Zimbabwe more than an apology. – **GDN page 15, C 1** -

Tues 4

Garry Young writes – *Broken promise – where did it all go wrong for Robert Mugabe?* – When Robert Mugabe he was an African hero and the toast of the liberal world. Now he is a lonely, frail despot who seems an embarrassment even to his former allies. So what became of the intellectual revolutionary once described as Africa's Clem Attlee? – **GDN G2 page 1** –

Thurs 6

Headline – ***Zimbabwe farm militants try to evict Smith*** – a failed attempt to seize a farm owned by the former president, in Shurugi central Zimbabwe, was reported on 3/9. The former president called on the help of the police and provincial governor. The invaders left before help arrived.

On the diplomatic front, the British foreign secretary, J Straw, will meet his Zimbabwean equal in the Nigerian capital. Also attending, in Abuja, are six other foreign ministers from the Commonwealth, who will try and broker a deal between London and Harare. Failure to do so would see pressure building for the expulsion from the Commonwealth of the Mugabe administration.

In a move to diffuse the tension, Harare has accepted and offers of almost 1m hectares of prime land from its white owners. This comes eight weeks after an offer – known as the Zimbabwe Joint Resettlement Offer - of 531 farms that covered a total of 967, 452 hectares was rejected. – **GDN page 12, C 1** –

Leader Comment, **An African solution** – the ensuing suffering of the “primary victims of their countries economic and political problems” are the also Africans. Any destabilisation in the region effects the whole – disruption in Harare “blamed for yet another run this week on the South African rand.”

Within the next seven days members of the South African Development Community are to visit Harare. It is the “most promising of the various efforts now underway to modify President Robert Mugabe’s odious behaviour.”

“Given this context Foreign Secretary Jack Straw is right to take a low key approach to potentially combustible Commonwealth talks... Britain has a duty to help turn Zimbabwe around.”

Fri 7

Headline - ***Straw wins deal to end land seizures*** – an unexpected coming together for the common good of the people of Zimbabwe has seem a deal in the land crisis signed in the Nigerian capital.

As part of the Commonwealth team Britain’s foreign secretary has pledged to ensure that the already pledged 36m pounds [English] to help compensate farmers who give up there land is soon forthcoming. In return the Zimbabwean president has agreed to uphold the spirit of the law and end the spate of illegal expulsion of white farmers from their land.

Commenting on the 10 hours of negotiations the Commonwealth Secretary General, D McKinnon, said; “The commitment from the Zimbabwe representatives was very strong. There were very frank face to face hard discussions on everything you have ever read or heard about Zimbabwe. – **GDN page 1, C 1** –

Headline – ***Mugabe seizes chance to end mayhem*** – as already alluded to a settlement was reached, and there are those that are those who have their doubt, by the positioning the land dispute as one that could affect the whole region of southern Africa. In effect the Nigerian president has insisted on an Africanisation settlement of the issue. Another stroke of inspiration was to have the British foreign secretary within the Commonwealth

delegation. This circumvents the known mistrust that Mr Mugabe has of Britain and its demands.

Failure to adhere to the agreed policy will lessen the chances that there will be any opposition to a move to suspend Zimbabwe from the Commonwealth during the heads of government meeting in Brisbane. Already the European parliament has voted to freeze the assets of Mr Mugabe, his family and there associates. – **ditto page 11, C 1** –

Sat 8

Headline – ***Zimbabwe faces sanctions if it reneges on land deal*** – within 24 hours of the land deal being hammered out it was again reiterated that the international community, and especially the Commonwealth, would be ready to impose sanctions if Mr Mugabe reneges on the deal.

White farmers, while welcoming the deal, were anxious that the president would not honour the promises it contained. Opposition MP's were just as concerned as to the presidents commitment. British officials were aware that there had been no contact between Zimbabwe's chief negotiator – foreign minister S Mudenge – and the president. However they were confident that the Harare administration would make the agreement work for the good of the southern African region – **GDN page 2, C 2** –

Headline – ***Burden of proof rests with Mugabe*** – the president's opponents, chiefly the members of the Movement for Democratic Change, derided the 'historic' agreement. A spokesman for the parliamentary opposition said that the content concentrated on only one of the MDC's grievances that the party had with the Zanu – PF administration. Chief among there concerns was the rampant lawlessness throughout the country that saw party members tortured, detained and even killed for their belief's.

The self appointed leader of the war veterans, J Chinotimba, was also unhappy, "why should people have to move off farms. They are on farms that have been properly acquired and allocated. They have built permanent homes and structures. – **ditto page 13, C** –

Headline – ***Tension in Zimbabwe*** – All the difficulties promised and prophesied 18 months ago are happening. It was said then that things had to get worse before they get better – and they are certainly getting worse. – **The Farmer** – It is my belief that Mugabe and his henchmen are deliberately trying to provoke a civil war. . There ever increasing violence and inflammatory statements point to this. – **C Frizell, Daily News – The Editor page 9** –

Sun 9

Headline – ***Fresh Zimbabwe farm invasion despite land 'deal'*** – with the ink hardly dry the spirit of the Nigerian brokered agreement has been spoiled. On 8/9 militants invaded

a farm 30 miles south of Harare. They came to **Beatrice** farm and intimidated the farm workers to leave the land.

As to diplomatic continuances – there was no Zimbabwe president for the Nigerian foreign minister to brief. He was out of the country “ on holiday” said government officials. – **IOS page 18, C 3 –**

Mon 10

Headline – ***Deal fails to end farm invasions*** – a second farm, **Logan Lee**, was host to so called war veterans as 150 supporters of the president burned the homes of the 20 employees and ordered them to stop working.

Having now returned from his 10 day ‘working holiday’ in Libya Mr Mugabe has seen the copy of the Abuja agreement. Speaking at a press conference he said that the hammered out deal was a victory for Zimbabwe. This would allow them to work with Britain. For the first time we “speak the same language.”

Elsewhere in the country people were lining up to show how the president, and his supporters, were already breaking the spirit of the agreement. It was claimed, by supporters of the MDC, that with residents of the city of Bulawayo due to vote on a new mayor and council non residents – but Zanu PF supporters, who registered to vote in Harare – were being bussed into the city to bump up party’s chance in the forthcoming elections.

Within 24 hours the president is to host a visit from the leaders of the Southern Africa Development Corporation [SADC]. They will be talking about the current crisis and its implications for the whole region. – **GDN page 12, C 1-**

Leader Comment, **A month for Mugabe** – “Robert Mugabe has roughly a month to demonstrate that Zimbabwe is serious about implementing the agreement reached with the Commonwealth in Abuja last week.” Otherwise it is virtually certain that the movements leaders, meeting in Brisbane, in 11/01 will impose sanctions and other measures against all the ‘notables’ concerned.

What is more likely to happen is that “ given a farm invasion here or there, he will pay lip service to the Abuja accord for the next few week’s... then slide back into the old ways of intimidation and proxy violence as next spring’s presidential elections nears. Land reform is important to Mr Mugabe. But keeping power is more so.”

Tues 11

Headline – ***African leaders criticise Mugabe*** – at the beginning of a two day fact finding mission, by eight members of the Southern African Development Community, Mr Mugabe was invited to listen to a plea from the movement’s chairman not to destabilise the region through the internal political and economic policies of the Zimbabwean

government. To add to the concerns of the president – who in an attempt to limit damaging publicity, refused accreditation to members of the press – members of the SADC would meet with members of the MDC, white farming community and others who are opposed to this regime.

In Bulawayo (qv 10/9) the Movement for Democratic Change won all seven council seats that were up for re election. – **GDN page 14, C 3** –

Thurs 13

Headline – *Summit has Mbeki fuming, Mugabe sulking* – at the closing meeting of the SADC, venture in Harare, it could be seen that all that participated were unhappy at the events that occurred. The South African president walked out as the so called war veterans made their presence felt. Mr Mugabe showed his disdain for the hectoring manner of the message from the delegates – to restore economic confidence in the region.

The final communiqué had it agreed that the Zimbabwe president would restore law and order and halt farm invasions. However, few ‘notables’ had any hope that the president would honour this agreement. – **GDN page 21, C 1** –

Sat 15

The Zimbabwean opposition has blamed the death of a state school headmaster in Chivhu district on militants of the government party Zanu – PF, saying it was another sign of political intimidation.

Felix Mazva, 47, died on Tuesday after being badly beaten. – **AP** –

Sun 16

Headline – *Two farm workers feared dead as veteran invasion goes on* – active supporters of the ruling party, the so called war veterans, have forced their way onto a farm in the Hwdeza district. Once on site they burned all the workers homes. During the incident it is feared that 2 people died.

In another incident, reported by the *Daily News*, militants had taken two hostages, on 13/9, on a farm in Chitungwiza, which is 20 miles south west of the capital. Although the police are on site they are reluctant to do anything without orders from above. – **IOS page 15, C 1** –

Mon 17

A white farmer has been arrested in Zimbabwe, accused of being an accessory to the death of two Zanu – PF militants in Wedza on 15/9. An unknown number of farm workers were also arrested.

John Bibby, 70, denies being involved in the death of the men, who were knocked down by a truck on his farm. – **AP** –

Wed 19

Headline – *Mugabe's party backs deal to buy white farms* – the politburo of the ruling Zanu – PF party has endorsed the Abuja agreement signed recently in the Nigerian capital. The way is now ready for the international community – Britain, as part of the Commonwealth – to finance the purchase of white owned farmland.

As to previous land seizures, they have been ruled within the law by politburo member E Mnangagwa, the supreme court – at the insistence of the farmers union and human rights groups – is to decide the issue. Although previous legal challenges have gone against the government, with the bench now dominated by party supporters, the outcome is not so certain. – **GDN page 15, C 1** –

Thurs 20

Headline – *White farmers loose first fight in crucial land case* – on day one of the court challenge, by the Commercial Farmers Union, to the governments seemingly indiscriminate plans to seize white owned farmland, their lawyers have been dealt a massive blow. The supreme court, which until this time had been of an independent nature has had positions filled by members of the judiciary who are ultra loyal to the ruling party.

Those, who will now hear the case and will sit with chief justice Chidyausiku, were only appointed to their posts recently. In doing so judges of a more senior standing, but known for their independence of thought, were overlooked. Two other court members were also unfit to hold their posts, as both pay only nominal rents for state owned properties.

The essence of the CFU's case is that they want a written list of the land to be redistributed and an end to the bussing in of government supporters when there is not an adequate infrastructure in place. – **GDN page 20, C 1** –

Wed 26

Zimbabwe's ruling Zanu – PF party held its seat in a by election in Chikomba, south of Harare, with a slightly improved majority of 71% of the vote. The Movement for Democratic Change opposition took 24%. – **AP** –

Fri 28

Headline – *Abuja deal fails to halt land seizures* – in a not unexpected reaction, and despite the agreement signed with the Commonwealth, according to figures from the Commercial Farmers Union there have been at least 20 illegal further land occupations. As an explanation a government minister has stated that the taking of land would

continue until the British came up with the compensation, which was agreed in the talks in the Nigerian capital.

The supreme court, having heard the governments reasons why the land seizures should be halted (qv 20/9) adjourned on 26/9 to consider its decision. In the high court a farmer, J Biddy, accused of the murder of two black militants has been granted bail. – **GDN page 19, C 7** –

OCTOBER

Wed 3

Headline – ***Judges free Mugabe to seize farms*** – by a majority of 4:1 supreme court has given the go ahead to the president to implement the ‘fast track’ approach to the taking of white owned farmland. The final decision, whenever it comes, will rule whether the taking of the land is illegal.

There was no immediate comment from the government. However lawyers for other interested bodies – the Commercial Farmers Union and members of the MDC – said that this move signaled the “end of an independent judiciary.” – **GDN page 17, C 1** –

Fri 12

Headline – ***Call for sanctions against Mugabe*** – the Brussels based International Crisis Group has produced the report - **Zimbabwe: Time For International Action** – which states the case for the introduction of ‘smart’ sanctions against the president and leading members of Zanu – PF.

The aim of these suggested sanctions, a ban on international travel and freezing of overseas bank accounts, for senior members of the government go to the next level of showing the international communities disapproval of the conduct of the administration in Zimbabwe.

The production of this report has come at a time of renewed political violence. In recent days 6 members of the MDC, in the Gorkwe district in central Zimbabwe, have been the subjects of torture inflicted by government supporters. – **GDN page 18, C5** –

Tues 16

Headline – ***Mugabe returns to socialism*** – as the government ordered a price cuts of many basic foodstuffs – maize, meat, bread, vegetables, cooking oil, soap and salt of between 5% and 20% - the president vowed to return the Zimbabwean economy to one with socialist ideals. These were abandoned in the 1990’s at the behest of the World Bank and IMF, in return for economic aid.

In his determination to adhere to these new principals he urged any manufacturer who was not happy to pack up and leave. On other fronts South Africa is to expel 20, 000 Zimbabwean working there as farm labourers. – **GDN 17, C 6** –

Sat 20

Following the president's decision to return the economy to socialist principals (qv 16/10) the **Daily News** reported a comment from Bishop Able Muzorewa as he described the plan as “sheer nonsense and silly.” – **The Editor page 9** –

Wed 24

Headline – ***British minister flies to Harare*** – a foreign office minister Baroness Amos is set to arrive in the Zimbabwean capital within the next 24 hours. Her presence, as part of the Commonwealth team, set up after the Abuja agreement (qv) is to finalise the details of the way forward for the peaceful transfer of farm land from whites to blacks.

The purpose of the delegation, which will be in Zimbabwe till 26/10, is to set up – with the government's agreement – monitoring groups to report on the moves made to implement the deal worked out in the Nigerian capital. During their stay they will meet all sections of the community – farm owners, labourers, members of NGO's, opposition politicians and even – it is hoped the president.

The visit, by the Commonwealth delegation, comes at the same time as a report written by Amnesty International that concludes that the president has failed to honour pledges made in Abuja concerning respect for human rights of Zimbabwe citizens. The reports authors feels that the scale of intimidation of those opposed to the president – who seeks re-election in 2002 – will continue. They recommend that members of the international community be allowed to send observers. – **GDN page 19, C 1** –

Thurs 25

Headline – ***Mugabe faces EU reprisal after snub*** – with a blanket refusal, from the president, to allow monitors for the forthcoming presidential elections moves are in motion to place EU backed sanctions on Zimbabwe.

Under the terms of the Cotonou treaty – which governs aid, trade and political relations between the 15 member states and their former colonies – the international community will seek to restrict the movements and assets of the regime. In this way, the aid that is given 6.2m pounds [English] per year will still go towards helping the countries poorest people. – **GDN page 19, C 1** –

Fri 26

Headline – *Mugabe hounds critics under envoys noses* – even as members of a Commonwealth delegation (qv 24/10) meet the president, measures are being taken that show that the authorities do not have a high regard for the Abuja agreement.

As the meeting with the president took place police were detaining five board members of the Daily News newspaper. Police were questioning the five about a law suit being brought by businessman M Mawere who is trying gain control into the countries only independently owned written media outlet.

As these legal moves were in progress Zanu PF members had hired earth moving equipment, to redesign the road structure on a white owned farm outside Harare. The move was in readiness for the landless to move on to designated one acre sites that they will farm. – **GDN page 19, 1** –

Mon 29

Headline – *Zimbabwe mission ends in fudge* – at the end of the Commonwealth mission (qv 26/10), which was extended 24 hours, because of disagreements over the wording of the final communiqué, the seven members released a diluted statement that called on the president to maintain law and order.

Referring to the money pledged by the British government, for the purchase of white owned farmland, Baroness Amos said that no new money would be forthcoming until a report by the United Nations Development Programme had been studied. – **GDN page 14, C 2** –

Tues 30

Headline – *EU gives Mugabe deadline to avoid sanctions* – with the onus on the Harare government, to prove there commitment to a country that respects human rights and democracy, the foreign ministers of the European Union are set to invoke sanctions (qv 25/10).

Within days a letter, a formality, seeking a meeting will be sent within days. In reality a long process of negotiations will begin. The authorities should respond within 15 days with assurances of good intent. If there were no satisfaction, on the part of the European officials sanctions would begin in 60 days. – **GDN page 16, C 1** –

NOVEMBER

Fri 2

Headline – *Court victory* – a US federal court ruled yesterday that Zimbabwe's ruling party, Zanu – PF, was liable to pay damages for the murder and torture of its opponents.

Relatives of four murdered members of the Movement for Democratic Change brought the action under the law which lets foreigners sue in the US for injuries suffered in violation of international law. Harare dismissed the judgement as a 'non event.' – **GDN page 17, C8** –

Sat 3

Comments on actions to be taken, by the European Union (qv), “ Next years crucial presidential election is being dubbed ‘ the mother of all battles.’ I have already closed my eyes for I am certain that we ain’t seen nothing yet.” – **M Phiri**,

“The combination of political instability, breakdown in the rule of law, disregard of property rights and corruption will be a sufficient cocktail to drive away investors and destroy this country, once the pearl of the region.” - **Daily News – The Editor page 7** –

Sun 4

Headline – *White farms under siege as famine looms* – as more invasions of white owned farms takes place – the latest are four properties in Guruve, 100 miles north of Harare – many of the people are facing starvation.

According to a report, in the Financial Gazette, nearly three million villagers have registered for food aid with the government. Figures from the finance department say inflation has reached 83.6%. The minister calls for international help to feed the growing number of people facing starvation. – **IOS, page18, C 3** –

Wed 14

Headline – *White farm exodus to cost 400m* – following a presidential ruling, on 12/11, farmers have begun to dismantle the farming infrastructure on their land. Not to close down their ability to farm could, as from that date, could leave them open to imprisonment.

The cost to the Zimbabwean economy – 240, 000 farm workers thrown out of work and off the land and lost crops to the value of 410m pounds [English] is supposed to ensure the re election of Mr Mugabe for another six year term as president. Taking into account the families of those unemployed farm workers, the number of people – black – hit by this latest move will be 1.2m.

At the same time as the latest economic catastrophe is implemented, the president has ruled that only the government can distribute food aid and train election monitors for the 2002 elections.

To portray this crisis, as one of black versus white, would be wrong. This can be seen in Gokwe district in rural western Zimbabwe. Despite the presence of no white farmers in

the district it is still riven by political division. Scores of supporters – teachers, in the main – are subject to beatings and harassment from the authorities. - **GDN page 19, C 1**

Thurs 15

Headline – *Wave of arrests follow killing of Mugabe activist* – the body C Nkala, the chairman of the Bulawayo branch of the Zimbabwe War Veterans Association has been found in a shallow grave on 14/11. He had been missing since 5/11.

The conclusion the authorities have made is that members of the MDC, in what is an opposition stronghold, killed this powerful supporter of the government. The vice president has promised “a bloodbath” if it can be shown that supporters of the MDC were to blame for his death.

Inside the city it was rumoured that government supporters had killed as Mr Nkala was about to name names over the killing of an MDC official, P Namanyam in 6/2000, after he himself had been linked to the killing by police. – **GDN page 19, C 1** –

Sat 17

Headline – *Mugabe’s veterans burn MDC offices* – the threat of countrywide civil strife looms, according to the leader of the Movement for Democratic Change, M Tsvangaria, as their offices in the second city of Bulawayo are destroyed in an arson attack. The burning down was at the behest of the war veterans, and Mugabe supporters after the death of the movements branch chairman in the city (qv 15/11). It is now known that Mr Nkala was strangled before he was buried.

Now deemed, by the state propaganda machine, as a terrorist organisation 15 members of the MDC, including an MP – F D Ncube have been arrested for the killing. Some cabinet ministers have gone so far as to declare the 15 ‘guilty’, without even the setting of a trial date. – **GDN page 18, C 8** –

Sun 18

Headline – *Zimbabwe police on alert after rioting in Bulawayo* – as feared following the disturbances in Zimbabwe’s second city (qv 17/11) riot police are patrolling other Matebeleland towns. These include Kadoma, Masvinga and Gweru.

Following the arson attack, on the MDC’s offices supporters of the opposition firebombed a private college belonging to a Zanu PF official in revenge. The number of arrests, of MDC supporters in connection with the death of Mr Nkala, has now risen to 17. – **IOS page 18, C 1** –

Mon 19

Headline – using the occasion of the state funeral of C Nkala, chairman of the Bulawayo branch of the War Veterans Association, the president has accused the British of being the paymasters of the terrorist Movement for Democratic Change.

During his speech Mr Mugabe said “let it be heard in the tall towers of London, in their tall towers elsewhere .. we shall never, ever brook attempts to subject us directly or indirectly to colonial rule.” – **GDN page 15, C 7** –

Wed 21

The Zimbabwe supreme court threw out charges of terrorism against the opposition leader Morgan Tsvangaria [*authors note – see page 98*], yesterday saying that they contravened the constitution. He was charged after telling a rally last year that President Robert Mugabe should quit or face violent removal. – **Reuters** –

Thurs 22

Headline – ***New laws to crush Mugabe’s enemies*** – foreseeing further unrest in the run up to the presidential elections in 2002 the government, according to the Herald newspaper, are making plans to suppress this.

With the new Public Order and Security Bill, which will replace already existing pre colonial security legislation, will make it an offence to “undermine the authority of the president” or “engender hostility towards him.” Violation of this act will result in the death penalty or life in prison, as will acts of insurgence, banditry sabotage and terrorism.

The decree from the president, affecting the workings of the farmers (qv 14/11), shows that whites must stop working the land immediately – leave their homes within 3 months, those remaining have had their land holdings reduced to 250 hectares [624 acres]. This is one eighth of their previous limit.

A demonstration, organised by the National Coalition Assembly, - a coalition of churches human rights organisations and unions – outside the parliament building were attacked by a 200 police who were armed with tear gas and shotguns. They were protesting about the imminent introduction of the new security laws. – **GDN page 17, C 1** –

Sat 24

Headline – ***Mugabe calls UK reporters terrorists*** – not content in the knowledge that the supreme court threw out the accusation that the leader of the MDC was a terrorist (qv 21/11), a government spokesman has accused six foreign reporters of being in league with the opposition.

The unnamed government source, believed to be J Moyo the information minister, has accused the six, which includes Andrew Meldrum of the Guardian [*the diarists chief source of facts*] – who work for the Times, Daily Telegraph, Independent group, Associated Press and South Africa's Business Day newspaper – of “assisting terrorists.” Accused of the same charge was a campaigner for a South African based human rights group.

Other developments have seen the European Union refused in its plea to send independent observers to the forthcoming presidential elections. – **GDN page 16, C 1** –

Commenting on the last seven days of unrest, in Bulawayo – caused by the death of C Nkala – and Harare as well as the calling the MDC terroristical the **Daily News** had faith in the ultimate victory of Democracy “The government is uncertain of its prospects of winning next years presidential race. This is why it has decided to define the opposition as terrorists [but] in the long term the threatened crackdown will not work.”

A neighbour's view – “President Robert Mugabe continues to make one blunder after another as he desperately clings to power. Violence continues unabated, and threats by Mugabe to flush out the MDC ‘terrorists’ can only add fuel to an explosive situation.” – **Johannesburg Star, The Editor, page 9** -

Sun 25

“After opinion polls showed them trailing the opposition by nearly 6% Robert Mugabe's Zanu – PF party announced in Harare that international monitors will not be allowed to observe the forthcoming presidential election.

The government ordered the arrest of the editor and director of Zimbabwe's only privately owned newspaper, the *Daily News*, for allegedly breaking investment regulations. After a night in jail the two men were released on bail.” – **World Watch, Time Magazine, page 22** –

Mon 26

The head of Zimbabwe's electoral supervisory commission has said foreign observers are welcome to monitor next year's presidential vote, a newspaper said yesterday.

Sobusa Gulia – Ndebele's comment puts him on a collision course with President Robert Mugabe, who told EU leaders to keep out of the election. – **AP** –

Tues 27

Headline – ***Editors tell Mugabe to withdraw threats*** – following the accusations that a number of Harare based foreign journalists were in league with the opposition (qv 24/11) the professions international body has written a formal letter of protest to the government.

Writing on behalf of the International Press Institute the movement's director, J Fritz, calls for the president to repudiate the claims. Not to do so would put the lives of the six in danger and damaged the accepted tenant of the freedom of the press. Also the letter foresaw such moves as being used to implement new restrictions on the press. – **GDN page 15, C 1 –**

MUGABE'S VICTIMS*

YEAR	DEATHS	PSYCHICAL TORTURE	PSYCHOLOGICAL TORTURE	UNLAWFUL DETENTION
2000	136	584	328	79
2001	38	2,011	328	992

- confirmed cases, Human Rights Forum, Harare – ditto page 19 -

Wed 28

Headline – *Students denounce Zimbabwean army as terrorists* – following the death of L Chemvura aged 22 a student at the University of Zimbabwe students and police fought running battles on campus. It is alleged that the student was strangled and then thrown from a moving train by members of the military – one of whom has been arrested – although colleagues of the youth say up to six soldiers were involved.

Police say Mr Chemvura was killed in a brawl, and that his death was not a political act. Those traveling with him disagree, it is said that he died because he was suspected of being a member of the opposition MDC.

A demonstration, planned by the National Constitutional Assembly (qv) was stopped as it approached the parliament building. The demonstrators were dispersed by the police. The shooting of a farmer, A Bradley aged 36, who was shot on his farm at Virginia 120 miles south east of Harare has been deemed non political. Despite being badly injured he survived to see a man arrested for the shooting. – **GDN page 12, C 7 –**

Fri 30

Headline – *Mbeki predicts more turmoil in Zimbabwe* – across the border the South African president, speaking to a gathering of foreign journalists, conceded that despite international pressure from all those concerned the forthcoming presidential elections would not be run along democratic lines. – **GDN page 19, C 1 –**

DECEMBER

Sat 1

Headline – *Mugabe to strangle foreign reporting* – the government, through their spokesman J Moyo the information minister, has announced new measures to affect the working of Harare based foreign journalists. Not content with the announcement of 24/11 those in authority are to quash the effective reporting of events in the capital.

According to the Herald newspaper there is soon to be introduced a law that will effectively ban reporting of events from the capital. In the words of the information minister “this means that all foreign correspondents will need to be Zimbabwean citizens.

Speaking as one of the affected journalists A Meldrum, the Guardians representative in the country, “this is an attempt to make it impossible for foreign media to operate.. [it] is also saying it will take licences away from Zimbabweans if the government does not like what they have written.

Three hundred war veterans marched in the city in support of the legislation. During the demonstration offices of two independent newspapers were stoned and journalists attacked. One photographer was injured.

Another aspect, of the minister’s speech, was an accusation that the BBC was about to launch a propaganda radio frequency within the next four weeks. – **GDN page 21, C 1** –

Mon 3

Trade unionists and thousands of representatives of civil groups launched a civil disobedience campaign yesterday to try force Zimbabwe’s government to implement political reforms and stage free presidential elections early next year. – **AP** –

Wed 5

Headline – ***Zimbabwe land seizures ‘legal’*** – Zimbabwe’s supreme court, now packed by President Robert Mugabe with his supporters, has ruled his land seizure programme is legal.

The judgement removes the last legal obstacle to the confiscation of land without compensation. – **GDN page 13, C 3** –

Sat 8

Headline – ***Mugabe loses South African friend*** – following comments made by Mr Mbeki (qv 30/11) on the expected turmoil facing Zimbabwe, in the run up to the forthcoming presidential elections, the two facets of the written media have stated their case.

“The present government has the reputation for being one of the most arrogant and corrupt in Africa. Even their allies in the Southern Africa Development Community now seem to be ashamed of belonging to the same organisation as a government whose respect for the rule of law is practically non-existent.” – **Daily News** –

From the mouthpiece of Zanu PF, accusing Mbeki of ‘betraying Zimbabwe,’ noting his comments “neatly dovetail into Britain’s grand plan for a global coalition against Zimbabwe. Such betrayal is difficult to stomach. What crime has Zimbabwe committed

against its rich and powerful neighbour to deserve a knife in the back.” – **Zimbabwe Herald, The Editor, page 6** –

Wed 12

Zimbabwe’s presidential election will be held in March, President Robert Mugabe said yesterday.

Mr Mugabe said his government would invite international election observers, but the EU might not be invited as a bloc. – **Reuters** –

Thurs 13

Headline – ***Neighbour states give Mugabe their blessing*** – despite the predictions of Mr Mbeki (qv 30/11) the South African Development Community – of which South Africa is a member - has given its support to the campaign to have Mr Mugabe continue his role as president of Zimbabwe.

Prior to launching his re – election campaign, in Victoria Falls, the president indicated that non national monitors would be welcome from countries that were members of the SADC, the African Union [formerly the OAU] and the West African group Ecowas.

Other news – the Harare based Human Rights Forum (qv), in its latest report, says that there was 6 political killings and 115 cases of torture in 11/01. A member of the MDC won the recent mayoral election, on 11/12, in the city of Chenguutu. A press bill is to be introduced which will prevent journalists reporting on pre election violence or vote rigging. – **GDN page 19, C 5** –

Sat 15

Headline – ***Tsvangaria held in dawn police raid*** – so in fear of the Movement for Democratic Change do the ruling party seem to be that the security police mounted a 4.30am raid on the leaders Harare home. Released five hours later Mr Tsvangaria described the incident as a “clear case of political harassment of the worst order.”

At the opening of the Zanu PF congress Mr Mugabe called his supporters to be prepared for a “psychical fight.” Once again he lambasted the British government for trying, as he said, to forestall the land seizures. – **GDN page 18, C 7** –

Headline - – ***Mugabe announces poll*** – commenting of the MDC’s third successful toppling of a Zanu PF candidate (qv 13/12) a South African newspaper, **Business Day**, said the party was “loosing support rapidly in the urban areas due to the deepening economic crisis.”

A columnist, N Reynolds, in Harare’s own **Daily News** called on a neighbour to conduct military exercises on the border “ with the clear intention to enter Zimbabwe if things to

do not improve. This would force a split in Zanu PF and in the army and police. Let the confusion and killing be there [Zimbabwe's] rotten core.” - **The Editor page 7** -

Sun 16

Within the next seven days the members of the Commonwealth Monitoring Group will meet in London. Under discussion will be the situation in Zimbabwe, as to human rights abuses, and the likelihood of free and fair presidential elections.

In this programme opinions were sought from government ministers, opposition spokesmen, and Commonwealth officials. – **The World Tonight, R4, 10pm** –

Mon 17

Leader Comment, **Mugabe must go** – taking the events, on 14/12, as an indication of how Mr Mugabe will run his presidential campaign it can be seen that the incumbent president intends to “polarise black and white and intimidate the opposition.” He accuses the British of demonising him.” He asks the question is he a Hitler, is he a Napoleon?”

Although accusations, such as these, will find common cause with some voters, most people will want Mugabe to go because despite being a great guerilla fighter he is not a “a great nation builder.” Far from that he has brought the country, that was one of Africa's most prosperous countries “close to bankruptcy.”

A chilling warning from the leader of the Movement for Democratic Change ‘We expect the MDC to experience a lot of destabilisation, a lot of harassment, intimidation even murder.’

“Mugabe has promised to admit international observers to monitor the election. The sooner they are in place the better.” – **GDN page 19** –

Thurs 20

Headline – ***New voice in Zimbabwe*** – exiled Zimbabweans have begun broadcasting to Zimbabwe, from a station somewhere in southern Africa, programmes in English and local languages critical of the regime, just as President Mugabe hurries through laws to ban media dissent. – **GDN page 13, C 1** –

Fri 21

Headline – ***Move to push Mugabe*** – at the end of the London meeting of the Commonwealth Monitoring Group (qv 16/12) it was announced that the first steps of a punitive action against the Harare regime are to be taken.

So concerned were the Commonwealths foreign ministers at the government's disregard for people's human rights that an option to suspend the Mugabe regime from the

international body is to be given serious consideration at their next meeting. This will take place on 30. 1. 2002.

This most serious of options has been justified on the grounds of the continuing on the regime having reneged on the Abuja Accord and the “serious and persistent violation of the Commonwealth’s political values and the rule of law.” – **GDN page 14, C 6 –**

Fri 28

Headline – *Australia stalls on visit for Tatchell* – having applied for a visa in 9/01 to visit the home of his birth Peter Tatchell the gay rights and human rights activist is still waiting for Canberra’s say so.

Whilst the Australian government may not wish to stop him visiting his elderly and sick relatives they may be concerned that his stay will coincide with the visit of Mr Mugabe at the forthcoming Commonwealth conference. The last time the two met, in Brussels, there was a clash between Mr Tatchell and the president’s security detail – **GDN page 10, C 7 –**

Headline – *Pro – Mugabe militias kill four rival activists* – over the festive period the lives of four supporters of the Movement for Democratic Change have been cut short by the actions of members of the war veterans and other loyal supporters of the president.

All the killings which have taken place in the province of Mashonaland – Maguenge, Karol, Sabina and Birundi – have been declared ‘no go areas’ to the members of the MDC by Mugabe supporters. – **ditto, page 14, C5 -**