

# Attacks on Zambia, Mozambique escalate

Guardian Correspondent

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Luanda, Angola

South Africa and Zimbabwe-Rhodesia, have escalated their attacks on Zambia and Mozambique.

The white-dominated Zimbabwe-Rhodesia regime of black Prime Minister Abel Muzorewa announced its intention to starve the people of neighboring Zambia in retaliation for that country's support of the Patriotic Front, which is fighting for liberation in Zimbabwe.

A Nov. 5 statement from Salisbury said all shipments of corn to Zambia have been halted because, "despite warnings," Zambia refused to oust Patriotic Front guerrillas based on its territory.

The blockade plunged Zambia into a crisis. Imported corn is a food staple for Zambia's 5.5 million people. Last month, Salisbury government war planes and sabotage units cut off all rail routes serving Zambia except one from Zimbabwe-Rhodesia to South Africa. Now, even that link won't carry corn.

The starvation move has been combined with armed attacks on both Zambia and

adjoining Mozambique, which is also a reliable rear area for Zimbabwe guerrillas. Some 53 were reported killed in Zambia, with 100 civilians killed by racist forces in Mozambique. (See above for eyewitness account of new raids into Angola.)

Zimbabwe-Rhodesian warplanes and helicopter gunships moved into the southern part of Zambia Nov. 1-2 to attack Zimbabwe refugee camps in the Kalombo area. A Lusaka spokesman said three Zambians and 50 Zimbabwean refugees were killed in the attack. Heliborne commandos were dropped after air bombing of the region.

In socialist Mozambique, both racist states continued their campaign to weaken that country's support for the Patriotic Front. A government spokesman said this week that invaders maintained a base inside Mozambique for several days in mid-October. The base was kept supplied by aircraft and helicopters.

Mozambique announced one helicopter was shot down and 22 troops were captured. Large quantities of weapons were captured when Mozambique soldiers launched

a counteroffensive. Salisbury and Pretoria claim that operations inside Mozambique are the work of a so-called Mozambique National Resistance. This new puppet group operates from headquarters in Salisbury (Guardian, Oct. 31).

All of these incursions come as the frontline states—Mozambique, Zambia, Angola, Tanzania and Botswana—have declared their support for the Patriotic Front's stand at the London talks on the independence of Zimbabwe, which began Sept. 10.

British Foreign Secretary Peter Carrington, chairman of the conference, "is trying to keep Muzorewa in power," charged a Zambia Sunday Times editorial Nov. 4 reflecting government policy. "It is clear South Africa entirely financed the [April] electoral farce that placed Bishop Muzorewa in as premier. Now once again South African cash will be given to Muzorewa to try to win fresh elections, the result of the [London] conference."

Last week, Carrington displayed a "final" British proposal for the transition period to independence in which he said

the white-controlled armed forces should remain intact since they are "a disciplined force" and there is "no practical alternative." The Patriotic Front rejects this position.

In Salisbury itself, election fever is running high among the handful of puppet politicians who have the blessing of Pretoria. Muzorewa announced price cuts in corn and called on businesses to raise salaries. He also promised wage hikes to government employees. The moves were immediately denounced by Muzorewa's rival, Ndabaningi Sithole, as dishonest electioneering.

While the puppets are preoccupied with the upcoming elections, their security forces continue to round up, torture and kill thousands of Zimbabweans. Amnesty International (AI), the international "human rights monitor," decried the significant erosion of human rights in Zimbabwe since the Muzorewa regime was installed. AI said the number of political prisoners has increased and the use of torture dramatically risen until it has now reached "epidemic proportions."