

## TANZANIA-MOZAMBIQUE

### A tale of two spies

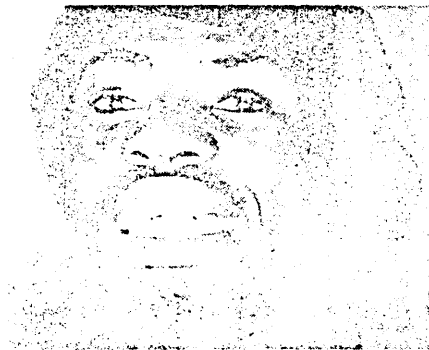
LAST month a former Tanzanian intelligence officer was on trial at the Hirr Court in Dar es Salaam accused of spying on his country and southern African liberation movements based in Tanzania. Almost at the same time, further south at Mapai, the Mozambican village that has been bombed and occupied at various times by the Rhodesian armed forces, the Mozambican authorities apprehended a compatriot who was gathering security and military information for the Rhodesians. While the two cases were not directly interconnected, they were linked in the sense that both men were working for the same people, and for the same objective of undermining the liberation movements in southern Africa.

In the Dar es Salaam High Court, Juma Thomas Zangira, a former intelligence officer, was alleged to have spied for a foreign power since 1971. The court was told by the government prosecutor that Zangira had passed prejudicial information to a man identified as John Wilson, an Englishman living in Britain. The prosecutor, D.S. Meela said Zangira had been gathering and passing information about Tanzania and several African liberation movements, including the two Zimbabwean guerilla groups, ZAPU and ZANU which have had their main training camps in Tanzania for a long time. Other organisations included the OAU Liberation Committee, the body

responsible for servicing and arming all liberation movements; the ANC and PAC of South Africa, both of which have important military bases in Tanzania; and SWAPO of Namibia.

Zangira, who was arrested in July, worked as a tour guide from the Kilimanjaro Hotel in Dar es Salaam. It is clear that from this position he would also have had access to confidential information; most meetings of the Frontline Presidents with the liberation movements were convened at the hotel.

The prosecutor said Zangira had met a Mr. Wiltshire in 1971 who said he had a friend interested in news from Africa. Zangira gave his address to him and received his first letter from John Wilson in November 1971, and since then had sent



Afonso Joane Cotoi

about 30 letters to England. One of the letters from Wilson was quoted as saying: 'It requires much skill to get news which is secret . . . not for newspaper reporting.' The letters from Wilson, Meela said, requested 'information that centred on espionage and sabotage'.

Zangira was arrested last July 29 after police were told he was communicating with a foreign agent. A letter he was seen collecting from his private post office box contained a note from Wilson and \$18. More letters from Wilson were found at Zangira's home and office. Some of the letters asked for information on the training of Zimbabwean freedom fighters, Cubans in Tanzania, the reported feuds in Zimbabwean guerilla camps, the effect of Chinese influence in the country, as well as information on President Nyerere and his top advisers. Evidence heard in court, however, revealed that as far as international espionage goes, Zangira was not an astute operator; for all the nuggets of information he passed on he received paltry sums of money, usually ranging from 18 to 23 dollars.

During the trial, the second espionage case in Tanzania's post-independence history, Zangira said he believed the information was wanted by Wilson for business purposes. In fact, Wilson claimed in some of the letters that he was working on behalf of business interests. However, the Chief Justice reported: 'Could business investors ask for this kind of information or is it the kind of information that the enemies of Zimbabwe nationalists, that is the illegal regime Ian Smith, needed?'

Zangira, the first Tanzanian to be convicted of spying, was sentenced to 20 years in prison. In giving the sentence, the Chief Justice said Zangira had betrayed the cause of African liberation: 'I have taken into account the fact that the armed struggle in central southern Africa is now approaching its peak and decisive stage. Enemies of that struggle are bound to increase their efforts to sabotage it and make use of the unpatriotic citizens of this country.' He added that the sentence was also aimed at deterring others to commit similar offences which were almost treasonable.

Zangira's Mozambican counterpart, Afonso Joane Cotoi, proved to have been more treasonable when he revealed his role in activities against Mozambique by the Rhodesian and South African forces. Cotoi, a Mozambican from the Inhambane Province who was recruited by the South Africans while working on the Rand, revealed details of a plan for a major Rhodesian attack on Mozambique at the Press conference in Maputo. He was arrested while on a reconnaissance mission aimed at gathering information in connection with the attack at Mapai in September, one of the objectives of the attack, he said, was the physical elimination of President Samora Machel and his lieutenants.

Cotoi told journalists that he was first contacted by a South African in 1974 who

invited him to work with him. Soon he was taken to Rhodesia where he finished up in a military training camp. For months he, along with others, received training with different types of weapons. He told the Press: 'The soldiers who trained us were Rhodesians, Portuguese, South Africans and others who spoke various languages . . . In the morning the Rhodesian flag was raised, then we started with arms FN and G3 submachine guns and others.' In addition, there was also ideological instructions; the camp inmates were told that they had a 'duty to liberate Mozambique from Frelimo'.

It was through these lessons that Cotoi learned of the existence of 'Africa Livre', a group that was formed principally to carry out acts of sabotage against the newly independent Mozambique. The group is believed to be financed by Jorge Jardim, a businessman who lived and owned newspapers and had other substantial business interests in Mozambique until the end of colonialism in the country. 'Africa Livre' is also believed to be linked with another group, the Mozambique National Council of Resistance, which claimed last month to have killed over 100 Frelimo soldiers in the Tete, Manica and Gaza Provinces. According to independent sources, however, both groups are essentially mercenary armies established and financed by wealthy Portuguese businessmen who operated in colonial Mozambique as well as by the Rhodesians. They also contain some Black Mozambicans who were in the colonial army but fled to Rhodesia and South Africa when Frelimo assumed power.

After his military training, Cotoi was sent on his first mission, a military action at Mapai in the Gaza Province, where the helicopter in which he was travelling dropped incendiary bombs on the village and killed several civilians. Thereafter, he was given specialist training in reconnaissance and espionage and at the beginning of September was infiltrated into Mozambique on his second, and last, mission.

'We left by helicopter', said Cotoi, 'there were about 105 of us, 100 of whom were put down in N'Gala. I and four others went on to Mapai.' On the day before they left their Rhodesian training camp they had been told to gather and send all possible information for the attack which the Rhodesians were planning. Cotoi's mission was to roam the roads and railways alone, getting close to military units and defence installations, making note of troop strength and the types of weapons used by Mozambican armed forces.

On foot, by train and by bus he travelled the regions of Chokwe, Barragem and Mabalane. Finally after obtaining a transit pass in Chokwe, he again headed for Mapai, having said his mother was ill and he was going to visit her there. 'Meanwhile,' he said, 'I was observing how many soldiers there were on bridges and in the villages, how they were living and what weapons they had.'

However, Cotoi's mission was coming to a premature end, ironically in circumstances of African hospitality. While waiting to make a rendezvous with a Rhodesian helicopter that was to take him to his base camp, he was arrested in the hut of a peasant from whom he had asked for overnight accommodation. After intensive interrogation, he confessed that he was an agent of 'Africa Livre' and, according to AIM, the Mozambican Information Agency, showed no remorse for his action.

Both the Zangira trial and Cotoi's arrest underline the extent to which African governments and liberation movements are still prime targets of South African and Rhodesian intelligence. The latter also underscores the elaborate plans that Rhodesians and former Portuguese settlers in Mozambique are developing to subvert the government of President Machel. That both Zangira and Cotoi were caught, however, indicates that their masters underestimated one essential factor; the vigilance of the ordinary Mozambican and Tanzanian, and their loyalty to their present rulers●