

Zimbabwe

Dissident Campaign Widens

[AN] As security forces combed the bush along Zimbabwe's western frontier looking for dissident guerrillas late last week, Prime Minister Robert Mugabe broke his initial silence and blamed the rival ZAPU political party for the latest attacks against his government.

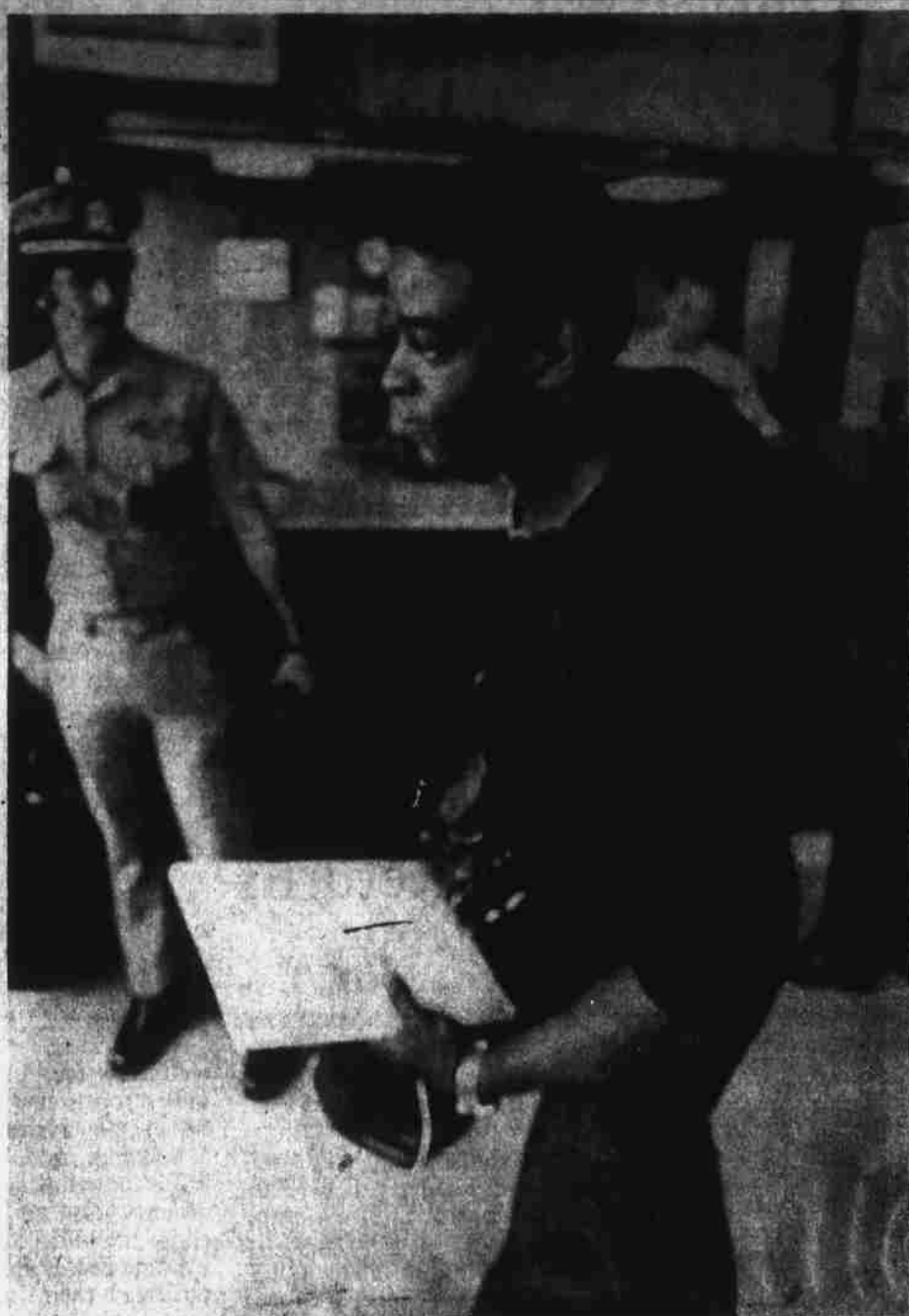
Mugabe claimed last Thursday that the rebels were using ZAPU arms and had been given a program of action by leaders of the opposition party, which controls 20 of the 100 seats in Zimbabwe's parliament. The prime minister also called on ZAPU to redirect the dissidents, either publicly or clandestinely.

Responding to Mugabe, ZAPU chief Joshua Nkomo issued a statement denying that his party was responsible for the violence, and he appealed to the rebels who are holding several foreign tourists hostage, to release their prisoners safe and sound.

On July 23 nine foreign tourists and their guide were taken hostage by armed men who had created a roadblock on the highway from Bulawayo to Victoria Falls. The kidnappers, who later released the guide and three of the tourists, threatened to kill all six remaining hostages unless the Zimbabwe government releases several aides of Joshua Nkomo who are now in jail. (The bodies of three tourists, identified as British, were found Monday on a hillside across the country from where they were taken hostage.)

Two days later, saboteurs using sophisticated explosives blew up 13 aircraft at Zimbabwe's main air base at Gweru, including four new Hawk jets purchased from Britain three weeks ago at a cost of \$35 million.

Authorities announced the arrest of 11 persons last week in connection with the sabotage at Thornhill Base, and there continues to be some speculation about possible South African backing for an attack. On a number of occasions Mugabe's administration has accused South Africa of using Zimbabwean agents to 'destabilize' the govern-



Receives Honorable Discharge

SAN DIEGO — Jarryl Summons, 22, Columbia, S.C., discharge in hand, leaves the San Diego Naval Base. He had been sentenced to three months at hard labor for mistreatment of a Michigan seaman who died in custody aboard the USS Ranger. Summons' conviction and sentence triggered charges of racism against the Navy. His sentence was commuted and he received an honorable discharge.

UPI Photo

ment. The Zimbabwe military has been confronted, meanwhile, in its attempt to locate the dissidents holding the six foreign tourists, despite a manhunt involving roughly 1500 troops. Press reports from the area say the security forces have lost the trail and are getting no help from the local population, which is being treated harshly by the search parties.

The hostages include two Americans, two Britons and two Australians.

The latest incidents come as part of a pattern of violence that has escalated since Nkomo was sacked from his Cabinet post in

February. Nkomo's dismissal was prompted by the discovery of a large arms cache on property belonging to ZAPU and by government claims of an opposition coup plot.

At the time there was speculation that Mugabe's ZANU party had given up on hopes of forging a genuine

alliance or merger with Nkomo but wished to pursue this sort of relationship with other ZAPU figures who were kept on in government. While there continues to be ZAPU participation in the Cabinet, however, the ZAPU grassroots organization has been deeply alienated by Nkomo's humiliation.

Former Government Officials To Fight Regression In C-R

[NNPA] Arthur S. Fleming, former Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare,

announced recently the formation of a citizens' commission to analyze and resist the regressive actions taken by the Reagan administration and the Congress in the area of civil rights.

The Commission, including four former cabinet members, Republicans and Democrats, and six former members of the U.S. Civil Rights Commission contends that the administration and the Congress have a defined strategy to do everything possible to weaken or eliminate methods needed to implement laws and court decisions.

Fleming stated that the initial effort of the commission would be directed toward a review of the legislation recently passed by the Senate that would preclude the Federal courts from ordering busing to bring about desegregation. He further indicated that future consideration would be devoted to the administration's cutbacks in school aid, the Labor Department's restrictions on affirmative action in hiring minorities for government contract work, and moves to allow segregated schools to retain tax exempt status and the increased use of riders to legislation as a threat to civil rights.

Fleming also stated that "Taken collectively, these and other actions threaten to close doors of opportunity only recently opened to sow the seeds of renewed conflict and rend the social fabric."

The formation of the Citizens Commission on Civil Rights should not be viewed as critical of the present Civil Rights Commission but would complement the watchdog activities of that agency as noted by Fleming.

Plans To Break Boycott Collapse

[AN] South African plans to break a world soccer boycott collapsed late last month when a \$1.7 million tour by a team from Britain was cancelled with three of the six matches unplayed. Less than 7,000 turned up for the first match, and only 3,000 for the second, when normally as many as 45,000 spectators (mostly black) show up for major soccer matches.

Black community groups, such as the Azanian People's Organization (AZAPO), and the South African Council of Churches had called for a boycott of the tour and for maintenance of the international isolation of South Africa in sport. In addition, the world soccer body FIFA

had threatened penalties against soccer players who participated. Two Argentinian World Cup players, Osvaldo Ardiles and Mario Kempes, withdrew from the tour after arriving in South Africa. And three leading teams from the black township of Soweto, the Orlando Pirates, the Kaizer Chiefs and the Moroka Swallows, refused to play the visiting team.

According to the black newspaper, the Voice, the teams issued a statement deploring "the morals of these marauding mercenaries for allowing themselves to be bribed into trying to put South Africa back into world soccer through the back door."

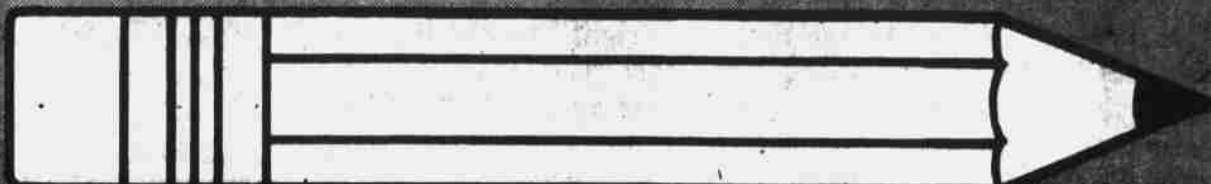
A back door tour to the U.S. by the South African Springbok wrestling team in June and July was less eventful, having avoided advance publicity that might have led to protests such as those against the Springbok rugby team tour last September. The 33-man delegation, which included 14 wrestlers (10 white and 4 black), 18 coaches and a journalist, spent half their tour in rural Oregon, with shorter visits to California, Oklahoma and New York.

The tour was organized by two central Oregon high school coaches, prompted by Dale Thomas, wrestling coach at Oregon State University, a leading promoter of U.S. sports ties with South Africa. On the Oregon tour, the black

wrestlers, all of whom are employed by the South African police, met the local press on several occasions. One, 26-year-old Elias Mnisi, stressed that "as far as sports are concerned, you can forget about apartheid." The slow pace of change in South Africa, he said, was mainly due to blacks, who have not yet accepted that "there has to be a sound relationship between the white man and the black man."

An Oregon team of local wrestlers left in mid-July for a return tour to South Africa. It was missing, however, four of its original invitees, who had decided to honor the boycott.

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