

AFRICA NEWS

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backdrop—the largest visible military mobilization the country has ever seen. By the first day of voting the Rhodesian military call-up has resulted in the deployment of an estimated 100,000 Rhodesian regular forces, reserves, auxiliaries and police. The *Rhodesian Herald* dramatized the military show of strength with a photo of convoys of tanks, captioned "All right, who wants a fight?"

means of nullifying the mass intimidation of voters that took place during the election campaign, but he did not. The party most relieved about that decision was Robert Mugabe's wing of the Patriotic Front, for it was his party members and stray guerrillas that the governor had held responsible for most of the intimidation.

Mugabe argued throughout the campaign that the principal intimidation came from the auxiliary forces of the Rhodesian Army, which Lord Soames had deployed throughout the country. Many observers believe that all parties, and their military forces, were attempting to intimidate voters.

The governor summoned the leaders of both wings of the Patriotic Front separately to Government House on the

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THE CAROLINA TIMES — 13
Abel Muzorewa, who even refused to say he would abide by the outcome of the elections. Muzorewa's campaign climaxed with a four-day long celebration in Salisbury's largest black township, Highfield. The fathering featured free food and drink, music, and exhortations to the crowd to shun the "communist" Patriotic Front parties, which, it was alleged, would organize mass executions and steal people's children and cattle if elected.

The final week of the election campaign was also characterized by what can only be described as "dirty tricks." A fake version of *Moro*, a Catholic Church-funded newspaper that editorially supports Mugabe's ZANU, was distributed throughout the

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ZIMBABWE
Repatriation Exercise Disappointing
MAPUTO [AN] At least 100,000 citizens of Zimbabwe living in Mozambique refugee camps hope to begin returning home this week following the completion of the British-controlled election.

Prior to the voting, the repatriation operations from Mozambique, Zambia and Botswana were much less successful than many refugees and officials had hoped. According to figures compiled by the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), 10,938 Zimbabweans went home from Mozambique between February 4, when the repatriation began, and February 24, when the border was closed preceding the election. Approximately 6,000 were repatriated from Zambia and another 14,000 from Botswana.

At largest refugee camp in Mozambique, Tronga, on the final day of repatriation, about 5 a.m., nearly 600 residents of the camp piled into ten buses for the two-hour trip to the border post at Machipanda. Eager to return home, they had spent the previous night in tents beside the main road, since the buses could not travel the two-mile dirt road into the camp.

Throughout the area there are signs of the attack which occurred on December 4 during the London negotiations. Where fairly substantial bamboo houses once stood, there lay empty 15 x 30-foot dirt pits covered with ashes. Some 60-70 per cent of the dwellings were burned to the ground during the raid.

The attackers, 350 Rhodesian soldiers, were dropped by helicopter during the night. They marched up and surrounded the camp about five in the morning, but their presence was somehow discovered, and the refugees were apparently evacuated. Five residents were killed, probably while they were out collecting wood. Mozambique soldiers killed three of the Rhodesians.

The destroyed dwellings have been replaced with less permanent-looking structures. Residents still have to carry their water up steep banks of a nearby river, and a nurse there said were many water-borne diseases among the sick. Most of the families who lived in Tronga were repatriated. Those remaining are mostly orphans and young men who come to Mozambique to join the ZANU Patriotic Front guerrilla army.

The ZANU leadership had to tell several thousand youths that there were no more places in the army. "We explained that getting trained to help run the country is also part of the struggle," one teacher said.

Approximately 650 Tronga residents a day departed for Machipanda during each of the twenty days of the repatriation operation. Along with refugees from other camps in Mozambique, however, many of them were refused entry into their homeland.

"We had hoped to repatriate more, and the capacity on the Mozambique side was high enough to handle a thousand a day," says Thor Stedne, UNHCR officer in Maputo who worked with a team of six internationally recruited officials at Machipanda.

At first, Stedne said, the reasons for the slower reception were understandable. The Rhodesians wanted to see how long it took to screen, medically examine and transport the refugees, before overloading their facilities.

"After that," the UN worker recalled, "they brought a variety of reasons—water problems, bus shortages, which were

later proved untrue, medical excuses. Then in the last two weeks they set a quota on accepting males. Since the majority of the people in the camps are men... this was a serious problem. They took all the children and women we had, which indicated the problems were not logistical ones."

Officials from both wings of the Patriotic Front have accused the British and Rhodesians of deliberately slowing the repatriation process to reduce the number of pro-PF voters in the country at election time.

Soames Guards His Options

SALIBURY [AN] As some 3000 guerrillas at assembly point Delta were converging on an open field near the northeastern Mozambique border, the hum of a helicopter was heard over the stomping of combat boots. The sound grew louder and the guerrillas paused to watch the chopper land by the abandoned, looted mission that serves as headquarters for the 37 Commonwealth troops assigned to monitor Delta camp. The top guerrilla commander was called out of parade formation and introduced to the visitors, shaking hands with one of the Rhodesian soldiers who had just flown in.

The meeting marked the first time that this particular group of Patriotic Front guerrillas and Rhodesian Security Forces met face to face in the field. It was one of a series of encounters out in the bush between the soldiers who have been fighting each other for the past decade, the first phase of a program aimed at integrating Rhodesia's three separate armies.

Representatives of the Cease-fire Commission, which is chaired by Britain's Major General John Acland and includes top officers of Robert Mugabe's Zimbabwe African National Liberation Army (ZANLA), Joshua Nkomo's Zimbabwe People's Revolutionary Army (ZIPRA) and the Rhodesian Security Forces, with Commonwealth supervision, have been jointly touring the sixteen assembly points around the country, where 22,000 guerrillas are confined. They have been discussing what is rather noncommittally referred to as "resettlement."

On the eve of the elections, General Acland announced what he described as "the first psychological step in merging the gap between the armies," the opening of a guerrilla retraining camp supervised by Commonwealth troops and staffed with instructors of the all-black Rhodesian African Rifles. This initial exercise involved a battalion of 650 ZIPRA guerrillas, moved out of an all-ZIPRA assembly point into a Rhodesian military battle school near the Botswana border.

ZANLA sources said they had understood that the programs for integrating the armies were to include a contingent of approximately 350 troops each from ZANLA, ZIPRA and the Rhodesian forces, with an aim toward developing joint patrols. ZANLA commander Rex Nkhong privately interpreted the ZIPRA-only debut exercise as a political move to favor Joshua Nkomo, who has 6,000 guerrillas in the assembly points as compared with Mugabe's 16,000. Nkhong has been lobbying vigorously for an assimilation of the armies before the numbers game becomes a factor in the formation of a government.

The British maintain that the alleged pro-ZIPRA bias was instead a matter of unfortunate timing, and they quickly initiated an alacagous joint training program involving ZANLA guerrillas from an assembly point in

the east at a Rhodesian military base near the Mozambique border.

Who Wants A Fight?

Perhaps the single most important factor in the effort to diminish the potential for civil war or a military coup is the Commonwealth Monitoring Force. Numbering just 1200, these British, Australians, New Zealanders, Kenyans and Fijians have played a vital peace-keeping role, and British officials have refused for weeks to discuss the controversial issue of their withdrawal.

Authorities have, however, commenced a kind of exchange program, in which the guerrilla troops that leave camp for regular army training are replaced by Rhodesian police and soldiers. This development, accompanied by stepped-up joint patrols, is the most significant sign of military cooperation. It serves to reassure the Rhodesians, who fear guerrilla attacks, and the ZANLA and ZIPRA cadres, who remember too well the bombings of their camps during the war.

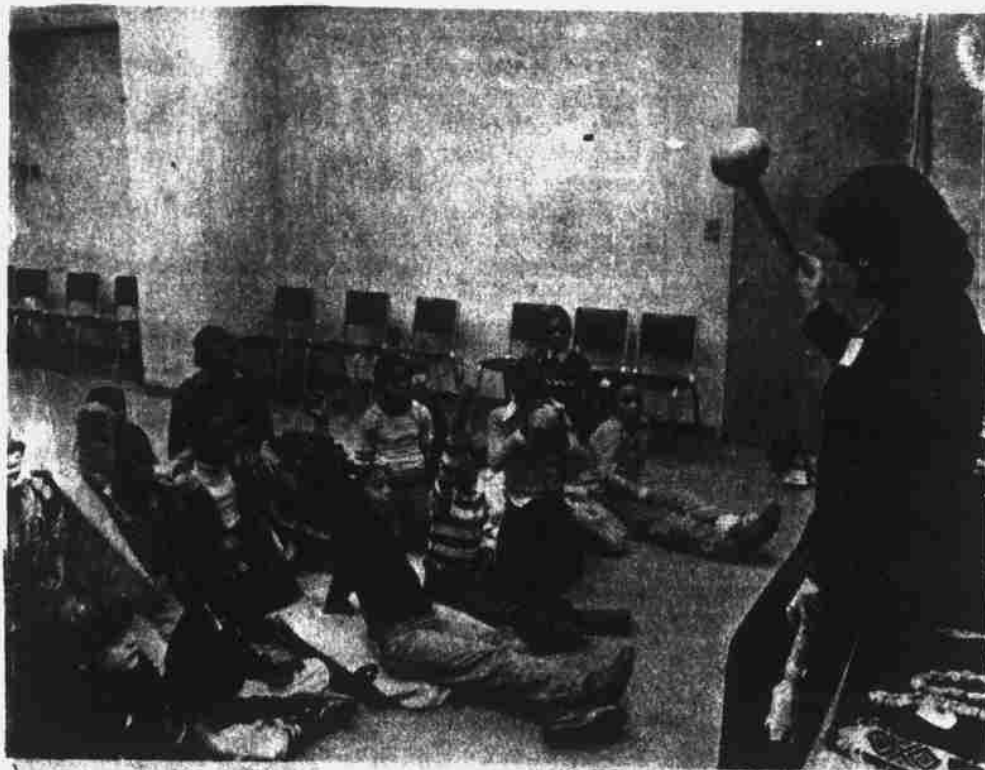
Recent efforts to solidify the cease-fire extend beyond Rhodesia's border. In response to concern over possible foreign intervention, a message was sent from London to Pretoria, warning the South Africans not to interfere militarily with the affairs of their northern neighbor.

In addition, there was a visit to Maputo, Mozambique, on February 24 by a Rhodesian military man

who many longtime political observers here now feel has replaced Ian Smith as chief negotiator for the country's small white minority. General Peter Walls traveled with the head of the Rhodesian Intelligence Agency to confer with Mozambique's top military officers in an apparently successful effort to avert renewed border conflict.

Dirty Tricks

The military developments on the eve of the elections nearly eclipsed the final stages of the two-month-long election campaign. Under the supreme powers accorded to the British interim governing authority in the Londo peace accord, Lord Soames could have announced the banning of certain parties, or even the disenfranchisement of certain election districts as a



LEARNING ABOUT ANOTHER CULTURE — N. C. Museum of History docent, Mrs. Sharon Keister, holds up a gourd which Indians used for a kitchen utensil. Mrs. Keister is delivering a museum "touch talk" on the daily life of the Cherokees to a second grade class from Durham's R.N. Harris Elementary School.

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