

AFRICA NEWS

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ZIMBABWE Scandal Mischel Visit

SALISBURY [AN] This was supposed to be a triumphant week for Zimbabwe, a week to pay tribute to the Mozambican leader whose weapons and bases sustained Zimbabwean guerrilla fighters in their war of independence. Instead, the long awaited state visit of Mozambique's President Samora Machel was eclipsed by the biggest scandal to hit Prime Minister Robert Mugabe's government since he took power nearly four months ago.

Tens of thousands of cheering and chanting Zimbabweans turned out to greet President Machel in Salisbury Monday morning. He was welcomed at the airport and then drove down newly-renamed Samara Machel Avenue. But at the official state banquet in Machel's honor that evening, there was one Cabinet minister conspicuously absent, Manpower Planning and Development Minister Edgar Tekere.

Only the next day was it learned that Minister Tekere had spent the night holed up in an apartment building in downtown Salisbury, with the police special weapons and tactics squad stationed outside.

The Minister of State, Emerson Munangwa, was called in on the matter. Prime Minister Mugabe himself later conferred with the police minister as well to prevent the 'SWAT' team from storming the building to arrest Tekere and several of his bodyguards. The 44-year-old minister was questioned by police when he emerged from the building Tuesday morning. He was formally arrested and charged with murder August 5 after an unusual *in camera* hearing at the Salisbury central police station.

The charges stem from an attack on a farm just outside Salisbury allegedly staged by Tekere and his associates on Monday afternoon, in which a 68-year-old white farmer was killed. According to the witness who found the body of Gerald William Adams, the murder was the result of a shoot-out between former black Rhodesian Army soldiers that were guarding the farm, and former black guerrillas who were guarding Minister Tekere.

Official sources say the shoot-out followed a dispute on Sunday night, when a soldier from the adjoining farm crashed a party attended by several government ministers including Tekere. Tekere reportedly accompanied his bodyguards to the farm the next day to settle the score, and his car was seen speeding away from the scene of the murder.

The same sources say the state has requested that the manpower minister undergo psychiatric examination before he stands trial for murder. Tekere is also the third-ranking member of Robert Mugabe's ruling Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU-PF) party, and he has been the most outspokenly radical member of both the Cabinet and the party's central committee. His calls for swifter moves toward fulfilling the party's socialist campaign promises won popular support from black Zimbabweans, who have yet to see a concrete gain come out of Prime Minister Mugabe's restrained efforts to dismantle the country's largely white-controlled capitalist economic base.

Tekere, along with Finance Minister Enos Nkala had also issue public criticism of Joshua Nkomo, the leader of the minority wing of the Patriotic Front guerrilla movement and now minister of home affairs in

the independent government.

The Tekere affair has obscured what could have been an important symbolic move toward healing some of Zimbabwe's numerous post-war wounds, for the visit of President Samora Machel managed to bring together Prime Minister Mugabe and his erstwhile rival Nkomo on the same platform at two mass rallies, one in the home territory of Nkomo's party, last week. Due to the stage-managing of the vibrant Mozambicans, a packed stadium in Bulawayo was treated to the rare display of Machel, Mugabe and Nkomo together singing the Zulu freedom song interspersed with shouts of "Viva Zimbabwe."

At the Salisbury rally that climaxed Machel's five day visit, Nkomo walked off the stage for unknown reasons in the middle of Machel's condemnation of racism and tribalism. Unfurling the Zimbabwe flag to the applause of the approving crowd of 50,000, the Mozambique leader proclaimed, "There are no Ndebeles, no Shonas, no blacks, no whites in this flag, only Zimbabweans."

President Machel's visit was in part to sign a joint economic trade and transport agreement, but at the Salisbury rally he also pledged defense aid, saying "Any time the independence of Zimbabwe is threatened, count on the people of Mozambique."

Machel's only oblique reference to Zimbabwe's political problems came in a mention of the recent strikes, and criticism of his friend Mugabe's cautious leadership. "Are you helping the enemy to destroy your own government?" he demanded of the crowd.

ANGOLA

No End To War
[AN] A special delegation from the Organization of African Unity, headed by Togolese Foreign Minister Aniani Aniano, and including representatives of Angola and Nigeria, visited southern Angola last week to inspect the damage from the massive South African incursion that lasted from early June until the second week of July.

The testimony of the OAU mission, consistent with that of other recent visitors to the area, was that major damage was done to civilian Angolan targets rather than being confined as South African officials have stated, to guerrilla bases of the Namibian independence movement SWAPO.

Only days before the OAU visit, airborne South African troops struck at the town of Chitudo, some eight miles from the Namibian border, killing 27 people, according to the South African communique. Apart from an attack on the repeatedly assaulted border town of Calai in mid-July, this was the first large raid since the June-July action in which more than 2,000 South African forces occupied large portions of Cunene province. Lt.-Col. Foguetao, commander of Angola's fifth military region, told the Angola press agency, however, that South African reconnaissance flights and attempts to infiltrate guerrillas of the UNITA movement are carried out almost constantly.

The major purpose of the South African raids, observers agree, is to try to force Angola to withdraw its support for SWAPO, as well as hampering SWAPO's actions directly by attacking its supply lines and the refugee population.

There is little doubt that Angola's southern areas are hurting badly. The small town of Mongua, for example, at the center of last month's action, was completely destroyed

by South African air power. And there are now reportedly some voices within Angola in favor of making more compromises with South Africa in order to halt the attacks.

If the latest Cabinet reshuffle is any barometer, however, there appears to be no change in the Angolan government position, a combination of on-the-ground resistance and diplomatic initiatives to settle the Namibia question. The same personnel remain in posts related to security, though portfolios have been shifted somewhat, largely for the purpose of increasing efficiency.

Veteran guerrilla leader Col. Pedro Maria Pedale moved from deputy defense minister to minister of defense; Kundi Paihama, who served for several years as commissioner for Cunene Province, moved from minister of interior to minister of state security; and Col. Alexandre Rodrigues (Kito) moved from vice-minister of interior in charge of the police to minister of interior.

Meanwhile, in what was a clear sign of a hard line against South African-backed insurgents, sixteen persons were executed August 5 following conviction in a trial of 28 accused of organizing bomb attacks in public places in Angola over the last eighteen months. Seven others received jail sentences

from twelve to 24 years, and four were acquitted. The group is part of a larger number of 129 arrested in June.

When the trial started, UNITA, with which the men are apparently affiliated, released a communique in Lisbon, Portugal, threatening to explode ten bombs for every one of its members sentenced to death.

At this point, however, Angolan authorities appear less worried about the threat from UNITA than about the direct attacks from South Africa. Three recent British visitors to Angola, whose account was cited in *The Times* of London, report that in central Huambo and Bie, provinces away from the Namibia border but considered the heart of UNITA leader Savimbi's support, they traveled freely without danger. Large numbers of peasants formerly under UNITA control, they said, have come into government centers, where they are putting a serious strain on social services and food supplies.



Ready For Next Olympics

Los Angeles Olympic Organizing Committee president Peter Ueberroth (l) and Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley display the City of Los Angeles flag (green at top, yellow at center and red at bottom). Ueberroth said the raising of the city flag was made possible by a rule change approved by the International Olympic Committee. Traditionally, the flag of the country that will host the next Olympics is raised at closing ceremonies at Moscow.

"If there is no struggle, there is no progress. Those who propose to favor freedom and yet depreciate agitation, are men who want crops without plowing up the ground. They want rain without thunder and lightning. They want the oceans majestic waves without the awful roar of its waters."
—Frederick Douglass

SCIENCE JUST FACTS

A recent research study showed that women who had abortions before 1973 were more likely to have a miscarriage than women who had abortions after 1973. The researcher attributed this to the fact gentler abortion methods are being used.



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