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# Zimbabwe: Guerrilla Struggle

Conducted by the ZAPU-ANC Alliance, the guerrilla struggle in Zimbabwe is fast developing into an armed uprising of the masses of oppressed toilers against a minority of privileged racist oppressors. Armed guerrillas are operating in an area approximately 75,000 square kilometers. This area is situated in the northern, northwestern, western and southwestern parts of the country. In the rest of the country, clandestine revolutionary committees are organising or completing the organisation of combat units forming the nuclei for the further expansion of the armed struggle.

The racist and fascist oppressors are deserting the countryside and are now congregating into the cities and other urban centers. This aspect of the situation is imposing serious economic, political and social dislocations onto the enemy camp. The enemy forces are divided into several contending factions. Ian Smith's Rhodesian Front has been split by the fact that its ultra-rightist wing has formed a new party called "The Rhodesian Nationalist Party" patterned on the Nationalist Party of the Boers of South Africa.

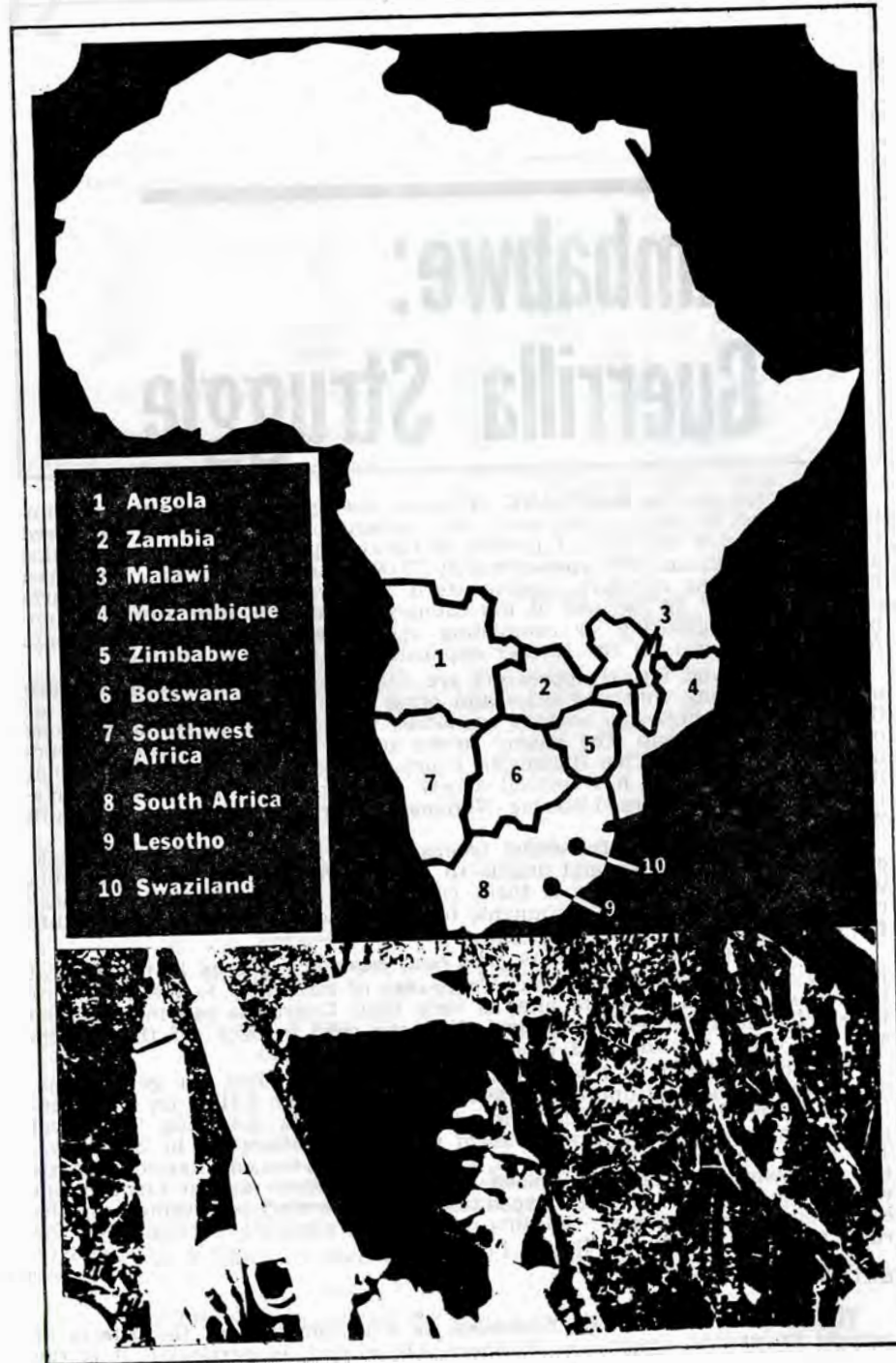
In the combat field, the racist troops of Ian Smith and Vorster, weakened by jungle diseases and unable to cope with the conduct of guerrilla warfare which is unfamiliar to them, continue to suffer heavy losses. These racist troops find themselves unable to withstand the rigors of forest life for one week at a time.

On the other hand, guerrillas, who have been brought up in these rural jungles, find themselves at home. Their rate of immunity to the effects of the tse-tse fly and mosquito bites is very high. Guerrillas can move in the jungle for hours on end without feeling the need to take off their shirts and rest under the shade as the fascist forces often do.

The social effects of the Apartheid system, which has, for generations, separated the class of oppressors from the class of the toilers on a residential basis, renders added advantage to the guerrilla activities. The rural population has suffered greatly from racial land allocation in Zimbabwe. The rural population has acquired a deep and permanent hatred towards the oppressors. Peasants have never known oppressors amidst them except when they come on punitive expeditions, or on armed enforcement of the collection of heavy taxes. All this ensures the complete alienation of the rural population from the fascist forces.

## EXTERNAL FACTORS:

The present situation in Zimbabwe is a culmination of the effects of general imperialist designs in Southern Africa and, in particular, it is the



result of British imperialist machinations aimed at perpetuating the exploitation of the indigenous majority under the political domination of a racist and fascist minority.

The suffering of the African people of Zimbabwe from all forms of exploitation and racial discrimination in the past and present, directly emanates from the functions of the colonial and foreign policies of Britain. The position of the British Government was made clear by Dr. David Kerr, Parliamentary Secretary to the British Minister of State for Commonwealth Affairs who said, "it is the stocks and shares and the blue chips which inhibit the British Government's actions." Capitalist societies are founded on the theory of acquisition of profits, profits, and more profits at the cost of humanity.

Internationally Britain presents a face of seeming opposition to the illegal regime of racist Smith while doing everything in the opposite direction.

The present international policy of Britain over Zimbabwe is widely known as NIBMAR (no independence before majority African rule). This policy being a broad outline of aim and intention, has principles the application of which is purported to achieve the desired goal. These principles are listed as "The Six Principles". These Principles are so carefully set in characteristic chicanery and hypocrisy that some international observers and governments have been swindled into believing the sincerity. Some African governments that had broken diplomatic relations with Britain over her handling of the Zimbabwe situation have since resumed these relations. In the United Nations, member states have supported British initiated resolutions on Zimbabwe.

British NIBMAR policy and its accompanying "Six Principles", puts into clear focus, the machinations of the British Government which is the principal planner of the suffering of the people of Zimbabwe. Britain, is backed and advised by the arch imperialist power, the United States and supported by all major imperialist powers.

**The Armed Struggle expands in spite of the alliance of powerful enemies.**

The unholy alliance of the Vorster racist regime, the illegal regime of Smith and the fascist Salazar regimes in the colonies of Angola and Mozambique has grown. At present long meetings are held by top officers of the army and police. These meetings are held either in Lourenço Marques or Salisbury, or Pretoria or Luanda depending on circumstances.

While these meetings are being held, the guerrilla forces in Zimbabwe, Angola and Mozambique are making gains of territory. The guerrilla forces have opened new fronts, and the enemy finds his citadel being steadily inundated by the rising waves of the guerrilla tide.

The guerrilla forces are taking the initiative while the fascists are increasingly being pushed onto the defensive. In these circumstances, the imperialist are beginning to see the dawn of the end approaching steadily. Portugal, which has long been sustained by NATO mercenaries, armaments and money, has already admitted that "if the guerrilla war continues much longer, available resources will have been stretched to the limit." This is open admittance of the inability to carry on the aggressive war of colonial



conquest on the part of Portugal. Ian Smith can not render Salazar assistance as in the past because he, too, is in a desperate need of similar assistance. To the aid of these two fascist brothers comes the massive assistance from their elder racist brother Vorster. Vorster has sent 500 troops to both Angola and Mozambique. He has sent an unbelievable force of 1,700 troops to Ian Smith.

Most of Vorster's troops are rashy and intoxicated with the feeling of superiority over black guerrillas to such an extent that many of them have been killed in guerrilla ambushes without being given any chance to fire their bullets. The inability of the mighty armies of Vorster, Salazar and Smith has alarmed the imperialist camp. They are "obviously receiving support from these countries who are not considered friends of Britain." Wilson continued to say that if the guerrillas succeed in overthrowing the racist regimes, then "the situation in the whole of Southern Africa will have been put in the hand of chaos."

The United States, Britain and France are supplying arms to South Africa and to Rhodesia although this is publicly being denied for fear of the reaction of independent African states. On the whole, South Africa and Rhodesia are carrying out extensive armament programs. The putting of industry on a military footing, is reported to be nearly through.

#### **Prospects for the revolutionary forces.**

The armed guerrilla struggle in Zimbabwe has bright prospects. The guerrilla war is advancing and has completed the first phase of the first stage, which is marked by the involvement of the oppressed masses in armed uprisings that are led by the vanguard liberation movement, the ZAPU-ANC Alliance. This can be called a phase representing the struggle between internal revolutionary forces and reactionary ones.

The second phase of the war in Southern Africa is definitely going to encompass the whole continent. This phase will come about as the guerrilla forces gain more combat experience and liberate more zones, as is the case in South Viet Nam. The obvious reaction of the fascist forces will, as a reaction to that eventuality, intensify their accusations against independent African states like, in particular Zambia and Tanzania, which border on the zones of fighting. As a culmination of this phenomenon, the fascist forces will resort to open attack on Zambia and other neighboring independent states. In fact, Vorster has already said that he wishes to "hit Zambia so hard that she will never forget it."

The other possibility is that the imperialist powers like the USA, Britain and West Germany will appear on the scene in one form or another. In any case, the guerrilla forces will not lay down their arms. The war has to be fought to the victorious end. Major Che Guevara saw this two years ago when he wrote, in his message to the Tricontinental, that "When the patriotic people of South Africa and Rhodesia initiate an authentic struggle, then a new epoch will be opened in the history of the continent of Africa." This epoch is unfolding surely and steadily. The ZAPU-ANC Alliance is determined to extend the guerrilla struggle into South Africa this year. When this is done, then the initial phase of the guerrilla struggle will have been prepared all over Southern Africa and thereby opening the way for the further development of the war of liberation.