

During the previous year, 2002, there has been 9,395 column inches written about Zimbabwe in the newspapers monitored by the Editor –

Wed 1

Headline – Praying for rain and democracy – within the Seke communal area, 2 hours drive Harare, the farmer M Ngazana aged 52 the head of a family of seven, contemplates the new year.

With a drought damaged maize crop and an intermittent supply of government grain – the area has a large proportion of Movement of Democratic for Change supporters, who are deprived of food for this act – there is only one meal a day. His is not the worst off family in the region – some are only eating every three days. – GDN page 3, C4 –

Letters, [1] **H Mendelsohn, Freedom for Zimbabwe Campaign** – the hoped for boycott is not about punishing a few white racists, as previous writers have thought, more it is end the regime that holds humanitarian issues in such a poor light.

[2] **A Edwards, Tidworth, Wilts** – no boycott, play and the world – through the word of the following tourists - will experience the conditions inside the country. Something that is now denied under the restrictive press restrictions.

[3] **T Williams, Guilford, Surrey** – as the ECB is not performing ‘correctly’ – to rule on the right decision it should be replaced with one that will make the moral judgement in the current crisis.

Headline – *Players not to blame for keeping dead bat* – there is no way that the players should play, the International Cricket Council must take on the responsibility for the whole confrontation. – ditto page 18, C7 –

Headline – *Ministers would not foot bill for World Cup boycott* – as Baroness Amoss is to join the ECB/government talks the foreign office said that it will not pay any public money as compensation if the team were withdrawn from the 2 controversial matches.

Foreign office minister M O’Brien said, “It would be very odd for the British taxpayer to be asked to foot the bill for a decision taken by an independent sporting organisation. He also indicated that the final decision, on withdrawal, would be theirs.

One way out of the crisis would be to relocate all Zimbabwe based matches across the border in South Africa. The governments of Australia and New Zealand have already advocated this. The sport and recreation minister in Pretoria has rejected this. The minister called on the ICC to support the role of Zimbabwe. – ditto, page 22, C 1 -

Tues 2

Headline – *New muzzle on Zimbabwe press* – within the next seven days the promulgated new media licenses – another measure of government control of the press – come into force. So will end the role of the ‘independent press.’

At this time also more details of the sacking of the founding editor of the Daily News (qv 1/1) has come to light. Sources indicate that his sacking came at the behest of the government minister for information, J Moyo, who according to Mr Nyarata had long wanted to silence him.

Condemnation of the move came from the deputy editor of the Daily News, he resigned. The Zimbabwe National Editors Forum, who said the man “was a courageous editor who provided readers with unadorned views for which there is a public demand.” The Media Institute of Southern Africa said that it now feared for the future of other independent newspapers in the region. – **GDN page 13, C7** –

Letter, **C Ngalande, Los Angles** – the implication that the white Zimbabwe farmer produced produce that made the country the ‘breadbasket of Africa’ is a falsehood. All they were interested in growing was the European bound tobacco. What maize they grew was for feeding the farm animals. Over the last 20 years maize has had to be imported from Malawi to feed the black population.

Now the situation is exacerbated by the removal and non compensation move by the government of which western whites are ashamed to complain about because they made no similar protests when blacks were at the receiving end of hardships. As for the president Mugabe is a patriot with ‘visions of empowering the African.’

Fri 3

Headline – *England’s nationalised game* – the stance of the English Cricket Board, in the current crisis is not one of fair play. The board is saying that sport should be ‘politically blind’ to circumstances in the countries of their opponents. All sporting contacts have social as well as political consequences. – **GDN page 18, C 2** –

Sat 4

“During the apartheid era the ICC did not support cricket tours in South Africa – ‘why is it different in Zimbabwe where freedom of press is non existent, there is no rule of law and the average citizen is faced with imprisonment, torture rape .. simply for supporting the opposition’”. – **J Stnsiunde, Business Day, 31/12** –

“It is a sad day for political sanity when Blair’s thuggish government uses the Commonwealth to make his racist prejudices count more than the vote of the people of Zimbabwe – **Editorial Zimbabwe Sunday News, 29/12 – The Editor page 2** –

Sun 5

Headline – *Hain calls for cricket to boycott Zimbabwe in favour of South Africa* – the former anti apartheid campaigner and latterly a minister in the foreign office has called for England's matches to be moved across the border. This will avoid the possibility of giving credence to the regime of Mr Mugabe.

The call, by Peter Hain, comes at a time when the Zimbabwe president considered the possibility of banning the team from even coming to the country. However ministers in his own government were able to convince the president that there was no threat to his life from elements of Britain's security service. In fact there will be 3 members of the Central Intelligence Service attached to every member of the visitors from England. Levels of security will be such, according to the authorities, so as to prevent the threat of violence. – **IOS page 1, C 3** –

Headline – *England stars face violent demos* – a new rainbow alliance of those opposed to the rule of Mugabe and his regime. The group – Organised Resistance - have promised to disrupt the six matches that England and Australia are to play in the country.

As to the thinking that the controversial matches could be played in South Africa there are inherent dangers for the whites in the Zimbabwe team. It is possible that their passports could be withdrawn. This would bar them from returning home. – **ditto page15, C1** –

Speaking about the current crisis, during a wide ranging New Year interview, the leader of the Conservative Party Ian Duncan Smith had little sympathy for the government. In fact, he suggested, the crisis could have been averted weeks ago if a decision had been made then and not left to this late stage. – **The World Tonight, R 4, 22. 00** –

Mon 6

Headline – *Hain Backs cricket ban as tourist killed in Zimbabwe* – elaborating on his recent plea to the cricket authorities the government likened Mugabe to the situation in Germany in 1936. A propaganda victory was handed to Hitler – that year Olympics. It would be wrong to provide such prestige to a similar tyrant.

Pressure, to re thing the position of the Australian squad, will intensify as a back packer was knifed to death at Victoria Falls. The unnamed traveler was killed as he emerged from the rain forest in the vicinity of the Falls. Australia is due to play in the country on 24/2. – **GDN page 2, C6** –

Tues 7

Headline – *Mugabe loyalists to run opposition strongholds* – the two largest cities where the Movement for Democratic Change has a well organised support system, Harare and

Bulawayo, is to see mayoral power curtailed. In the near future Zanu PF will appoint party supporting governors to the two regions.

Announcing the move, through the Herald newspaper, the local government minister I Chombo denied the appointments were to try and usurp the power of the mayors office. Local opposition point out that the move is just another move by the 'control freak' party of gaining the upper hand in the troublesome regions.

Both cities have faced food riots in the last seven days. Demonstrators were unhappy at the lack of food, inflation of 175% and an unemployment rate of more than 60%. – **GDN page 12, C 7** –

Thurs 9

Leader Comment, **Murdoch and morality** – it is all very well that other newspapers are making comment that the England cricket team should not go to Zimbabwe – “The issue is simple. Zimbabwe is a tortured and miserable land.” – **The Sun**– “ The England cricket authorities must recognise the inevitable symbolism of a visit and call it off. Zimbabwe is a clear and moral case.” – **The Times** –

However there is one person, as head of the company that has world wide television rights to the cricket World Cup, who it could be said could be a greater influence on worldwide opinion. That is Rupert Murdoch who happens to own both the Sun and the Times newspapers.

“Strangely, nobody has called on Mr Murdoch to agree to write of his losses by agreeing not to broadcast the games from Zimbabwe. Until now. Mr Murdoch should take a stand and give a clear lead too. Zimbabwe is, after all, a clear moral case.”

Fri 10

Headline – ***Tempers flare over cost of cricket boycott*** – as ministers and officials from the English Cricket Board meet at least 50 MP's signed a motion calling on the sport not to go to Zimbabwe. Also the leader of the Commons, R Cook, said that the sports ruling body were aware that the government did not want sporting contacts with Mugabe as far back as mid 2002.

In a frank exchange of views, on what is the sports biggest crisis in 30 years, ministers once again insisted that there would be no compensation paid to the ECB if they bowed to pressure. The ECB chief executive, T Lamb, said that he was disappointed at this response and did not understand why the government would not discuss a payment if the board were to follow their instruction and not go to Zimbabwe. The 15 member executive of the ECB would make a final decision within the next seven days. – **GDN page 9, C1** –

Cartoon – It's from Mugabe: throw the match and win a farm – an incentive to the ECB not to withdraw from the Zimbabwe leg of the Cricket World Cup –

Sat 11

Headline – ***South African Minister hails Mugabe land grab*** – on a visit to its northern neighbour the South African minister of labour, M Mdladlana, thought that the way that his host's administration had handled the land issue was a lesson that the regime in Pretoria would do well to learn from. – **GDN page 19, C 1** –

Sun 12

Headline – ***Opposition mayor held*** – Harare's mayor, Elias Mudzuri, of Zimbabwe's Movement for Democratic Change was arrested with 21 others at an 'unauthorised' public meeting in the city. – **IOS, P 5, C8** –

Headline – ***ICC to review Zimbabwe's status as host's*** – the International Cricket Council will look, for a second time, at their earlier decision to allow some World Cricket matches to be played away from the main host – South Africa – and across their northern border.

Whilst the ECB is expected to rule, at its next meeting on 14/1, that England should honour its commitments any change of heart by the games ruling body will lessen the tension between the Labour government and the sports ruling committee. – **IOS, Sport P1 C8** –

Television programme, ***Zimbabwe Tape 7 Mugabe's Secret Famine C4 20.00 – 21. 00*** an investigation, by Peter Osborne of the Spectator Magazine who undertakes an undercover – secret camera filming – who asks "Are there really six million people in danger of starvation in Zimbabwe and, if so, why doesn't the British government do more about it?"

The trail they uncover suggests Mugabe's government is starving opposition supporters to get rid of them in a brutal attitude to politics.

Mon 13

Headline – ***Secret deal for Mugabe to quit*** – a mediator, retired army Colonel L Dyke, has been sounding out close associates of the president as to the possibility of him resigning. The move would be a way forward for the country to retain some international standing and also receive much needed food aid and foreign investment.

Also privy to the discussions was the leader of the Movement for Democratic Change. His role was to act as go between the speaker in parliament, E Mnangagwa, and the armed forces chief of staff General V Zvinvashe. These two men as well as being top Zanu PF figures are close advisors to Mr Mugabe. There was no comment from any members of the regime in Harare.

The reaction in London came from the shadow foreign secretary, M Ancram, said that the details needed to be studied carefully. He would also need to seek the opinion of those opposed to the regime from inside Zimbabwe. An academic, from St Andrews University, indicated that a deal would be extraordinary and would need the support of the president himself.

A British member of the Commonwealth ceasefire monitoring commission – the 1980's body that oversaw the transference to black majority rule will hand his medal back as a protest to current conditions in the country and the indecision of the ICC over Zimbabwe as a host nation for the Cricket World Cup. – **GDN page 2, C 1** –

Headline – *World Cup fears grow as mayor is arrested* – the conditions of the arrest of Harare's mayor, E Mudzuri, (qv 12/1) takes on increased significance as he was one of the people that the ICC delegation questioned on their recent fact finding visit. News of his arrest will give added significance to the ECB's meeting for a final decision whether to play their match on 13/2. – **GDN Sport, page 22, C1** –

Tues 14

Headline – *Zimbabwe denies plot to replace Mugabe* – wholehearted denials by high officials, in Zanu PF, have not stopped rumours that behind the scenes moves are being taken that will see a change of president before the 2008 – the end of the current term – for Mr Mugabe.

Mr Tsvangerira, the leader of the Movement for Democratic Change, was most insistent that through the two named mediators (qv 13/1) an 'exit plan' for the president was ongoing. The MDC leader says the two asked for the cooperation of the party informing a transitional administration. Initial efforts failed however he expected further, and successful, attempts to be made.

The high court has ordered the release of Harare's mayor, E Mudzuri, who was arrested on 12/1. According to the judge there was not enough evidence for him to be detained under the Law and Order Maintenance Act. – **GDN page 2, C 7** –

Headline – *Bested by the armed forces within* – a continued decline, in the eyes of the world – and by association – Zanu PF, is what will make the position of Mugabe untenable. The president will become a liability to those that still want to cling to power. Any pretence that a change at the top would see a more democratic system put in place could be wishful thinking. – **GDN page 13, C 1** –

Headline – *A racist and hypocritical boycott* – “the British government present the Zimbabwean problems one of dictatorship: the murder of white farmers, rigging of elections silencing the press, removal of the independence of the judiciary and stifling democracy. Sadly, the EU, US and white Commonwealth members have swallowed this ‘fight for democracy’ lie whole.”

The truth is, according to the writer, is the unresolved land issue – the basis of the 1979 Lancaster House Agreement that saw a conclusion of the civil war. A fund, set up by the British government, to enable ‘willing seller, willing buyer, to exchange cash for land never materialised. The blacks never had access to the cash to purchase white farmland as the whites were unwilling to sell. – **I Mandaza, editor in chief Mirror group Zimbabwe, page 16, C 7 –**

Headline – ***Only unrest will shift games from Zimbabwe*** – as the ruling body of meet to ponder the playing situation – they were reminded within the last 24 hours by those opposed, by an invasion of their offices – the ICC has ruled that only virtual civil war will cease to see Harare and Bulawayo as venues for world cup matches.

Detailing opposition to a venue move South Africa let it be known that nine, of eleven provincial administrations said that they were unaware on any movement plans. Of other participating countries both Zimbabwe and Namibia said that they would withdraw from the competition if moves were made to change venues. – **GDN page 30, C 1 –**

Wed 15

Headline – ***Cricket defies call for Zimbabwe boycott*** – despite a press conference invasion by members of the Zimbabwe Action Group led by P Tatchell (qv) the expected decision was made. England’s cricket team will fulfill their commitment to play the matches scheduled for Harare and Bulawayo. However there will be no actions by team members that the president could use as a propaganda message.

Defending the decision Tim Lamb, the chief executive of the England and Wales Cricket Board said, “it is not our role to make moral judgements about various regimes.”

Headline – ***The high price of a moral vacuum*** – the line that the ECB has taken throughout the crisis is that to withdraw the English squad would be ‘potentially an unmitigated disaster’ for the game in England. So a few cash shortages could ensue for ‘vitals ‘ like bats and pads. In Zimbabwe a ‘disaster’ is what the ordinary person is suffering every day. Who pays the greater cost? – **GDN page 3 –**

Headline – ***Family baffled after couple disappears in Zimbabwe*** – stamp dealer K Allanson and wife Hilary – a South African English union – living in Harare have been missing for seven days. According to their maid the couple were picked up from their quiet suburban home at 8pm and not been seen since.

According to a family member who lives in London to leave their home so late [for them] in the evening is unusual. – **GDN page 9, C 1 –**

Cartoon - If you find that you have to shake hands – how not to become a propaganda weapon for Mugabe –

Thurs 16

Letters [1] **M Ancram MP Shadow foreign secretary** – understanding for the decision of the English Cricket Board, however deplorable. A reminder of the sequence of events to show where the blame really lies – with the government. A call for the Boards claim of compensation to be paid. Then it can tell the squad not to play.

[2] **T Aylard Beckenham, Kent** – will a single withdrawal from Zimbabwe, by the cricket authorities, make any difference when over 300 other British concerns are active there?

[3] **J Hartfield, London** – Britain, as a long time sponsor of the man Mugabe have less to criticise his regime for than they do of a country like Pakistan. The difference is its leader is an ally of the west.

[4] **Dr S Kibble Berkhamstead, Herts** – other questions that Zimbabwe's Daily and Sunday Mirror group (qv 14/1) fails to answer is that internal problems are mainly state sponsored and against the rural poor. What the authorities are doing is force uncritical solidarity – and therefore any space for any form of democratic values.

Sat 18

Cartoon – ‘Come on ... NO ... YES ... wait there ... GO!’ - the dilemma for the ECB, and the result. - **The Editor page 10** -

Sun 19

Headline – *Cricketers may play to empty stadiums in Zimbabwe* – with so much opposition to the Mugabe regime, inside the country, his detractors are hoping to use the world cup to show to the world their hatred for their president.

To this end block purchases of tickets have been made on behalf of the National Constitutional Assembly so that protest can be taken right onto the playing surface. The first matches begin on 10/2, and there will be a huge police and army presence, in an around the ground to prevent any violence. – **IOS page 16, C 1** –

Mon 20

Letter, **Baroness Amos Minister for Africa** – disputes that ‘conflict between Zimbabwe and Britain’ (qv 14/1) is at the heart of the current crisis. More likely is that the majority were denied the right to choose, in 3/02, for themselves.

Britain's government is however trying – forty seven million pounds in humanitarian aid has been distributed since 2001 – long before Harare acknowledged the severe crisis they now face.

Wed 23

Headline – ***Britain agrees deal to let banned Mugabe attend Paris summit*** – the ongoing travel ban, for the president of Mugabe and other ‘notables’ is to be flouted after an understanding was reached by the heads of government of France and Britain.

One year on from the European Unions agreement that limited the movement of the members of the Zanu PF et al Mr Mugabe will be welcomed in Paris to attend the Franco African summit on 19/2. In return the French government will not attempt to veto the EU from re imposing these selective sanctions, first introduced in 2002 (qv 29/1).

The move was condemned, both in the House of Commons and inside Zimbabwe. The shadow foreign secretary, M Ancram, pointed out that in the case of the cricket controversy they were ready to force a decision on the cricketing authorities. In Harare opposition leaders were fearful that this move was only the beginning. The next trip to be allowed would be to the European summit itself, in Lisbon in 3/03. – **GDN page 1, C 1** –

Fri 24

Headline – ***UK moves to limit damage over invitation to Mugabe*** – the invitation from the French leader to Mugabe, to attend the Franco African summit (qv 23/1), once again has shown the differences within the European Union towards the current Zimbabwe regime.

High on the agenda of the British prime minister, T Blair, is any move to see ‘smart sanctions’ lifted for a second time to allow Mugabe and any of the seventy plus ‘notables’ to travel to Portugal. Such is the concern of conditions in Zimbabwe some members of the EU feel that the current sanctions have a detrimental effect on chances to influence the authorities in Harare to alter their stance.

Among the EU’s members Portugal, Greece and Italy feel these ‘smart sanctions’ hinder any chance of engaging Mugabe in fruitful negotiations to change his policy towards the democratic process. Even from within the country there are voices that take a similar stance. The Zimbabwe Crisis Committee’s spokesman, B Raftopoulos, urged that this door – the EU summit in Lisbon – should not be shut, as it will give the president some respectability. – **GDN page 18, C 1** –

Sat 25

Headline – ***ICC backing for Zimbabwe match*** – just as the English Cricket Board defied those opposed to staging matches in the country (qv 15/1) the worlds governing body, the International Cricket Council, has done so. They were following the advice of the chief executive, M Speed, who even at this late date had made a 24 hour visit to asses the situation.

Opponents of the six matches to be played in Harare and Bulawayo have pledged to disrupt the proceedings. This is despite assurances of those planning team squad safety that there will be 433 police on duty inside the stadium at both locations. – **GDN page 2 C 1** –

Sun 26

Headline – *England team get menacing letters* – despite the agreements of both the ECB and the ICC that play should go ahead in Zimbabwe little consideration for the thoughts of the players has been made.

If events in Australia, where the team is not playing well at this time, it is possible that en masse players may refuse to travel to Harare. While the team was on the field of play threatening letters were posted through team members hotel rooms. Team captain Nasser Hussain has advised team officials that because of these threats team members – who were ready to go seven days ago – are less ready to do so now. – **IOS page 8, C7** –

Leader Comment, **England expects too much** – “The honour of representing your country at sport carries with it certain responsibilities.” In this specific case can the players comprehend the intricacies of the Mugabe regime?

The British government’s recent actions – a plea, not a demand, for the management to ban the team traveling – is an act of “moral cowardice” As of the present players must abide by the ruling. “They must be allowed to get on with it.”

Mon 27

Headline – *Cricketers signal unease at Zimbabwe match* – on the eve of a player’s statement, from their union the Professional Cricketers Association, it has been revealed that the chairman of the ECB had been seeking a way out for his squad from traveling to Harare. An approach had been made to the cricketing authorities in South Africa to facilitate a change of venue for the 13/2 et al matches.

The coming statement, from the PCA, while no way indicating that there would be a players strike will outline their concerns about the morality and safety of playing in Harare and Bulawayo. – **GDN page 7, C 1** –

Tues 28

Headline – *France scuppers EU Zimbabwe sanctions* – at a regular meeting of EU foreign ministers in Brussels there was little – no – agreement that the ‘smart sanctions’ put in place 12 months ago should be continued when they fall on 18/2. Such is the opposition to the French plan to invite Mugabe to a regional summit (qv 23/1) that the future of the Lisbon meeting of the heads of government is in jeopardy. In protest, at the invitation to the Zimbabwe leaders Paris invitation on 19/2, the British prime minister, and five other heads of government would not attend. If this were to happen a number of

African leaders would stay away from the Lisbon meeting – which in itself in an Afro/EU summit.

Inside Zimbabwe protests have been voracious. The leader of the Movement for Democratic Change, M Tsvangaria, said he was disappointed at the failure to agree to renew sanctions. Also at the forefront of his concerns were the 1,000 or more party members who had, over the past 12 months, suffered torture, imprisonment or death at the hands of the regime in power. He called for an independent inquiry by the UN, Commonwealth and Interpol. – **GDN page 15, C 1** –

Headline – ***England team in revolt on Harare*** - the statement issued by the Professional Cricketers Association (qv 27/1) has asked the ICC, which will meet on 31/1, to rethink their decision to send the 15 man England squad to Harare and Bulawayo. Although playing of the matches in a financial and security sense is what is uppermost in the mind of the ICC's officials the minds of the squad are on the moral and political issues involved. They are also concerned about the welfare of the ordinary Zimbabwean people who will face the full force of the security forces as they go about there legitimate right of protest. – **GDN page 32, C 1** –

Headline – ***Players put the board to shame*** – four weeks in a short time. However in that time England cricket players have used the time wisely to dwell on the current moral and political state they have to play in the World Cup. Let us hope that the England and Wales Cricket Board take heed. – **ditto** –

Wed 29

Headline – ***Hussain plays a dead bat on the live question*** – as captain Nassar Hussain faced at least 10 questions, on the squads willingness to play in Zimbabwe, as he and the team arrived in Johannesburg as a prelude to the start of the cricket World Cup. To all of them he refereed the questioner to the statement issued earlier (qv 28/1) by the Players Cricketers Association. – **GDN page 32, C 1** –

Headline – ***The men who hold the key*** – the six members of the technical committee of the International Cricket Council, who meet on 31/1 hold the key as to whether there is a venue change for the England matches.

Of the six – A Bacher (qv), the world cup executive director S Gavaskar Chair ICC cricket committee and former Indian test batsman and B Basson, head of South Africa's UCB and loyal to his boss are expected to vote for the position to stay unchanged.

Challenging the status quo is M Speed, chief executive of the ICC who understands the mood for change among the 'influential.' M Holding, television commentator, will go against his instincts and put the players first - as his were when he played for the West Indies. C Jamieson, commercial manager, who understands that only a peaceful tournament, will encourage the money to flow.

Thurs 30

Headline – *World Cup braced for battles* – with the use of the Zimbabwe Republic Police and the Public Order and Security Act the authorities in Harare are adamant that security can be maintained during the time that cricket matches are being played in the country.

The National Constitutional Assembly and lesser well known Organised Resistance – who admitted sending the warning letters to England’s squad in Australia (qv 26/1) have both vowed to mount protests during any visit. From Organised Resistance will mount a series of civil disobedience campaigns. These will be aimed not just at the team but also officials, fans, grounds, sponsors and supporting businesses. The NCA will mount there protest at the Mugabe regime, as they have done over recent months, and with the world’s media on hand highlight – to a wider world audience – the restrictive regime that is in power in Zimbabwe. – **GDN page 30** –

Headline – *If cricket’s a dead duck, why is it still creating a flap?* – the relevance, on the increase now that it may take a ‘political stance’ – of the game that before this crisis emerged few people saw any significance in the game. – **ditto** –

FEBRUARY

Sat 1

“Robert Mugabe has already clamped down on the opposition, driven white farmers off their land, bullied the independent media and banned foreign journalists. Now the Zimbabwean leader has turned his paranoia attention to the weather. Mugabe took control of the forecasting service after learning that the drought – hit country is facing two more years of low rainfall.

The meteorological office has now been ordered not to reveal its long range forecasts before clearing them with presidential aids.” They are expected to remove the most negative aspects before authorizing their release,” added the paper. – Sunday Telegraph –

Perhaps unsurprisingly, Zimbabweans are the most pessimistic people on earth, according to a Gallup opinion poll of 67, 000 people in 65 countries. It found that nearly three – quarters of Zimbabweans feel 2003 will be worse than 2002. **Zimbabwe Standard, Around the water cooler, The Editor page 3** –

Sun 2

Headline – *Snub for Blair over Zimbabwe* – within 48 hours of the Anglo/French summit, a bone of contention between the British prime minister and a foreign head of state, Mr Blair had talks with the South African president.

Whilst these talks were of a wide ranging nature, covering world events, specifics such as Pretoria's support for its northern neighbour were ineffectual. The meeting despite being described as "warm and cordial" by officials, was of little effect in trying to change South Africa's policy toward Zimbabwe – **IOS page 19, C 1** –

Headline – *Quotes of the Week* – "On a day when thousands will die of state sponsored famine, the England team will be guests of its perpetrator, Robert Mugabe. Against this a game of cricket is absurd. – singer **Bob Geldof** on World Cup Match – **ditto page 21** –

Headline – *England players dig in over Zimbabwe* – before the 3/2 meeting of the England and Wales Cricket Board the Professional Cricketers Association will redouble its efforts to persuade the committee to withdraw from controversial matches. On this occasion lawyers will argue that the ECB can not guarantee, because of the security fears that they have fulfilled their commitment to their 'duty of care' to the squad.

Lawyers believe that a report, prepared by security consultants Kroll, which has been used as the basis to determine the risk factor, has been altered to give a false impression as to the risk to the English squad. – **IOS, Sport page 9, C 1** –

Mon 3

Headline – *Zimbabwe treason trial begins* – three members of the Movement for Democratic Change, leader M Tsvangeria, party secretary – general W Ncube and the shadow agricultural minister R Gasela appear in a Harare court on this day. They will deny a charge of treason. They are accused of plotting to have the president assassinated.

The charges were dismissed by the MDC's leader as being 'trumped up'. Their aim was discredit the opposition party. – **GDN page 18, C7** –

Headline – *Hussain prepared to rebel if Harare is not moved before Friday* – with the imminent meeting, of the ECB within the next 24 hours, the England captain N Hussain has said that he is prepared to lead a players walkout from the Harare match if the match is not rescheduled away from Zimbabwe. – **GDN Sport, page 16** –

Tues 4

Headline – *Tsvangirai trial opens in chaos* – there were scenes resembling a rugby scrum outside the high court in Harare as the leader of the opposition, and two other members of the MDC went on trial. Ringed by baton wheeling police overseas diplomats, members of the foreign press corps were at first refused entry to the courtroom.

Once the treason trial had begun, following an order from the presiding judge P Garwe to allow in diplomats, journalists, and interested members of the public, the trial began after a ninety minuet delay.

Opening the case for the prosecution the deputy attorney general, B Patel, said that the three were not charged with treason because they wanted to overthrow the government, as was their democratic right. What had brought these serious charges were the methods that were to be employed to bring about this change of government – assassination of the president.

The defence, led by the veteran South African lawyer G Bizos (qv), will use the state evidence – video tapes of MDC officials meeting with members of a Canadian consulting firm – and show that they have been altered to show what the government want them to show. A successful prosecution would go some way towards the governments aim to stifle any last vestiges of opposition within Zimbabwe. – **GDN page 2, C 3** –

Headline – ***ECB hands final decision to its three wise men*** – still determined to lead a players boycott N Hussain (qv 3/2), by 7/2 if the England Cricket Board have not made representations to the ICC by then.

Now in the hands of three men – T Lamb chief executive, D Morgan chairman and J Pickup, chairman ECB recreational forum, any change of venue must be before the cut of date of 9/2. The three men from the ECB will consult with England's captain, the team coach and the PCA's managing director before any final decision is made. – **GDN page 27, C 1** –

Headline – ***Labour's spin on Zimbabwe is untrue story*** – detailing the long and nefarious contacts between the government and the ECB during the current crisis. – **T Lamb, chief executive ECB, GDN ditto, C 4** –

Wed 5

Headline – ***Mugabe's invite to Paris 'not provocative'*** - speaking during an Anglo/French summit, in the French coastal town of Le Touquet, the French president brushed aside Blair's objections to the Mugabe invite to a forthcoming Afro/French summit on 19/2.

If a leaked memo, from the French, is accurate a planned meeting of the foreign ministers in Brussels to consider the Mugabe invite is of no importance. According to the French newspaper ***Le Monde*** a deal was struck as far away as 7/1. On this date Britain's foreign secretary and his French opposite number agreed that the Mugabe invite would stand. However in return the EU's 'smart sanctions,' would be renewed without the French authorities using their veto. – **GDN page 4, C 3** –

Headline – ***England's players give backing to World Cup switch*** – with a change of heart the England and Wales Cricket Board now believe that it would not be safe for the squad to play its matches in Zimbabwe at this time.

J Reed, head of corporate affairs will make the case to the International Cricket Council's technical committee (qv), on the grounds that "There has been significant deterioration in the security situation in Zimbabwe in the last few days". **GDN page 30, C 1.**

Thurs 6

Headline – *Zimbabwe sanctions agreement eludes EU* – for the second time of trying (qv 28/1) there was no conclusion to the efforts to have 'smart sanctions' renewed against the Mugabe regime.

There will be another meeting of ambassadors within the next seven days where a compromise may be worked out that would enable Mugabe to attend the Franco/ African summit and also see the renewal of the already in place sanctions that place limits on 'notable' Zimbabweans. Some see the way forward as to allow member states to be exempt from applying the travel ban if they are hosting an international meeting. – **GDN page 19, C 6 –**

Headline – *Zimbabwe refuse to play away* – comments by P Chinoka, chairman of the Zimbabwe Cricket Union to the BBC will give cause for concern to all involved in the current crisis. Mr Chinoka has said that the squad would refuse to play any of its six matches outside its borders. Only if they reached the second round would they leave the country. – **GDN page 34, C 7 –**

Fri 7

The Zimbabwe government has refused to reveal the nature of its business dealings with the main witness in the treason trial of the opposition leader, Morgan Tsvangirai, the defendant's lawyer said yesterday.

George Bizos said prosecutors would not give him any information about Ari Ben Menashe's work for the government, even though the Canadian consultant testified in the high court that he received US\$1m for his work. – **AP –**

Headline *Stop treating Zimbabwe as a pariah* – once again Britain is not allowing an independent state to have control of its own affairs. The former power is once again trying to influence the roll Zimbabwe must play on the world stage.

The international community, with London as its chief briefer, is passive to the long-term moves that are aimed in keeping the small white community in the ascendancy. No credit is given, so the writer says, to the peaceful transference of white owned land to new black owners. A crippled economy is only in evidence mainly because the IMF and other donors have bowed to the wish of those in London to withhold aid. This in turn has stopped outsiders bringing investment into the country, which has held down the economic advancement of the people. Any improvement, by London's logic, would only come by a regime change – hence the Mugabe claim that the MDC are puppets of the west – a claim always denied.

Whilst there is much reporting of Zanu inspired violence against the supporters of the MDC little note is made of the opposite. Of the 150 deaths, since 2000, reported by human rights groups the attention given to them by the west is not justified. Clashes between groups, that have led to reported deaths have their origins in the liberation war. They are scores being settled by black members of the liberation army and those blacks that fought on the losing side. In effect many blacks feel that the MDC is a front for the whites that live within and without Zimbabwe.

Much publicity has been given, after the 2002 general election, to the critical report from the Commonwealth Observer Group on the conduct of the election officials. Little credence was given to the other 14 reports made no complaint. The issue of the famine, which according to Blair's government is fueled by the policies of the Mugabe government, is off course. **GDN page 22, C 7 -**

Headline – ***England face their final judgement*** – after a presentation from the three man team from the England and Wales Cricket Board the technical committee of the International Cricket Board has turned down their request to have their Zimbabwe matches relocated to South Africa.

Sat 8

Headline – ***England team left with tough choice*** – following representations, by members of the England and Wales Cricket Board to a South African judicial review of the decision by the International Cricket Council (qv 7/1), it is now left to the squad themselves to decide whether to go to Zimbabwe.

Appeal judges rejected all three main arguments of the lawyers acting for the ECB. Speaking after the result was known P Chingoka, the president of the Zimbabwe Cricket Union, said that he hoped that the team would turn up. He was confident that they would and the environment would be safe and secure. – **GDN page 9, C -**

Letters, **Valerie Amos, Minister for Africa** – rebuttal of 7/1 defence of reflections of sympathetic detailing of life under Mugabe. Putting a figure on the amount of humanitarian aid given, since independence and add ons brought about by crisis. To also say that the food crisis is not made worse by the authorities. As it has been noted that mismanagement by officials has made the effect worse in the country.

J Hanlon, London – claims of increases in the number of violent incidents have been noted upon, by the members of the Southern African Catholic Bishops conference – “there are deep and disturbing signs that Zimbabwe is on the brink of total breakdown into civil war.” Are Africa's bishop's racists?

Headline – ***Inglorious saga lurches to a final hard choice*** – England's players will be damned if they go and damned if they don't. Whichever way the squad decides they will be accused of hypocrisy- imposing selective sporting sanctions, but allow British firms to operate without censure. To play will give succor to the Mugabe regime. The change of

mind – by the ECB and the players, within the last 14 days –will make English cricket foolish. – **GDN Sport page 2/3 -**

“Tsvangaria, it must be remembered, is widely believed to have won the presidential elections held in March last year.” “The trial would focus the world’s attention on the troubled country and be a test case for the Zimbabwean judiciary.” – **Editorial, 3/2 Daily News –**

“It is public knowledge that Mugabe over the last few years changed the country’s laws to extend his long rule. Mugabe can charge, convict and even execute his opponents, but this will merely postpone the inevitable – his demise. Pretoria is on the wrong side of history. Big time, as they say. – **Editorial, 4/2 Business Day – The Editor page 4 –**

Sun 9

Headline – *Who’d want to play for England in this World Cup? Not me* – an eye witness account, from former test cricket player A Fraser, who at one time would envy England captain Nasser Hussain, but not now that politics seem to have taken over.

Headline – *Where intimidation is the name of the game* – heaped on the shoulders of approaching? England squad is the new fact that a youth leader of the Movement for Democratic Change, E Mukwazi aged 29, has died after a long campaign of intimidation at the hands of the police. - **IOS page 3, C 1 –**

Headline – *England reach decision point on Zimbabwe* – gone are all the officials – from the England and Wales Cricket Board and the International Cricket Council – the squad is now on its own for the decision. Their concern is to make a judgement on individual morality, safety, money, famine, jobs, grass roots, the future – everyone’s – all on their own terms. – **IOS Sport page 1, C 6 –**

Mon 10

Headline – *England cricket match chaos* – furious meetings between members of the English and Wales Cricket Board and members of the International Cricket Council have continued over the last 48 hours. These have become more urgent after it became known that a previously unknown group the Sons and Daughters of Zimbabwe have issued death threat to T Lamb, the chief executive of the ECB, and members of the playing staff.

On this ground England cricket is mounting a second legal challenge to force the ICC to change the venue of the forthcoming match to a neutral without legal penalty. – **GDN page 1, C 3 -**

Headline – *Stuck at sea level miles from the moral high ground* – when this current crisis is resolved there will be no credit gained by any of those involved. The players have been lacking in courage and conviction. Their bosses ECB and ICC have both been indecisive or just looking for the easy way out. – **GDN Sport, page 15 –**

Tues 11

Headline – *Death threat dismissed as Zimbabwe decision ducked* – despite the utterings from various members of the England and Wales Cricket Board the English squad has still not made its mind up as to whether it will go to Harare in three days time.

Whatever the actions of the England squad the mind set of at least at least two members of the Zimbabwe team can be certain. During the match with Namibia H Flower and H Olonga wore black armbands as a protest to “death of democracy.” – **GDN page 1, C 2** –

Leader Comment, *Cricket’s catch dropped* – “At the end, only players emerged with any credit.” This is evident, more so in the actions of the two dissenting Zimbabwe players, than England’s.

Special note should be given to the Flowers/Olongo pre match statement – “We are making a silent plea to those responsible to stop the abuse of human rights in Zimbabwe. We pray that our small action may help to restore sanity and dignity to our nation.”

This courageous act, which might end their playing careers and their liberty, makes the actions taken by Hussain et al seem small in comparison. The actions of the ECB with three arguments to choose from all linked to commerce, when they should have had the players as their first concern. The actions of the International Cricket Council showed that they were more interested in securing the money offered from Sky TV and were also commercially minded.

“Thanks then to Zimbabwean cricketers, Andy Flowers and Henry Olongo, for restoring some sanity and dignity.”

Headline – *Confusion over death threat to England* – according to a deputy commissioner of the South African Police the e mail received from the Sons and Daughters of Zimbabwe, and so galvanised the England squad (qv), was of little consequence. The Zimbabwe police had investigated and found that the group was only ‘an organisation on paper’. Therefore no threat exists to the England team, as the ECB’s chairman wrongly interpreted of the letter. – **ditto page 30** –

According to the latest news the England squad have decided, on the grounds of security, decided not to travel to Harare. However they are not refusing to play the Zimbabwean team. They are prepared to play on a different day and at an alternative venue outside the country. – **ITV 18.30 news** –

Wed 12

Nigeria yesterday called for an immediate lifting of Commonwealth sanctions against Zimbabwe and the countries readmission to the organisation, saying it had the support of South Africa.

President Olusegun Obasanjo made the call in a letter to the Australian prime minister, John Howard, head of a special committee on Zimbabwe. He said President Robert Mugabe had agreed to pay compensation for any improvements on white farm land seized and was willing to resume talks with his opponents. – *Reuters* –

Thurs 13

Headline – *France forces fudge on Mugabe sanctions* – after meeting in Brussels the ambassadors of the European Union have agreed that the French president can go ahead with his invitation to the president of Zimbabwe. In return his government would not stand in the way for the ‘smart sanctions’ and most of the travel bans being renewed for another 12 months. An addendum to this agreement is that other Zimbabwean ‘notables’ would be able to opt out of the travel ban if it were to attend an international gathering by majority vote.

With the go ahead for Mugabe to attend the Franco/African summit in Paris European Union officials have to decide whether they should go ahead with a heads of government summit in Lisbon. – **GDN page 2, C 3** –

Headline – *Mugabe hires China to farm seized land* – acknowledging that maize production in the country is well down on what is needed to feed it overseas help has been sought. Seen as an admission that the taking of land from white owned farmers is a failure China’s state International Water and Electric Corporation to farm 100,000 hectares (250, 000) acres in the south of the country.

As the farm seizure’s now stand at 3,900 – leaving only 600 worked by white owners – many are standing idle. According to the minister of agriculture the take up has been so low because owners would only hold rights to work the land. The state kept the ownership for itself. This prevented black farmers raising cash for investment and to purchase equipment etc.

The Chino/Zimbabwean project hopes to produce 2.1m tonnes of maize a year. This would mean a crop three times a year. This hoped for production rate, would be adequate for internal use of 1.8m tonnes, has been described as “pie in the sky pipe dreams “ by an independent expert. Already a large market for Zimbabwean tobacco it is expected the crop will be a method of payment.

Contact between the Commercial Farmers Union, in the last few months, had centered on the Harare wanting to offer back seized land or offered compensation. Farmers then would be expected to hand over irrigation equipment. The farmers union has so far not agreed to the new offer. – **ditto page 17,!** –

Headline – *“We were right says Hussain* – as the England squad captain was insisting that not to play in Harare moves were afoot to convene the technical committee of the International Cricket Council. They will be asked to rule on whether the match with Zimbabwe has been merely postponed or cancelled. – **ditto page 32, C 1** –

Sat 15

Headline – *Disarray over Mugabe forces EU to delay summit* – the future of the EU/African summit, due to begin due to begin on 5/4 in Lisbon, will not now take place after discussions at the 2 day summit of European ambassadors in Brussels. The reason is that the long anticipated meeting, which is only – hopefully – being delayed cannot find away around that the insistence from African leaders that the Zimbabwe president must be invited.

As to the Franco/African summit, scheduled within the next seven days, once again the human rights activist P Tachell will once again try and have Mugabe arrested on charges of torture under a UN convention, which forms part of French law.

Two Valentine peace parades in Zimbabwe by women clutching roses and singing hymns were broken up by police yesterday. There were at least 88 arrests. The parades in Harare and Bulawayo were organised by Women of Zimbabwe Arise. – **GDN page 17, C 7** –

Headline – *‘We felt like we had been betrayed’* - the significance of the letter from the Sons and Daughters of Zimbabwe on the England squad’s decision not to play there Zimbabwe leg of matches. – **GDN Sport page 15, C 1** –

‘According to the government owned **Chronicle** the pair- Flowers and Olongo (qv 11/2) “betrayed the interest of the nation when they issued political diatribe.” – **The Editor page 11** –

Sun 16

Headline – *Nasser’s shattered world* – following a 6 hour meeting of the International Cricket Council there will be a 4 point deduction from the tally that are awarded during the England teams progress during this world cup. – **IOS Sport page 1, C 8** –

BBC programme, **Correspondent Zimbabwe - Hounded Out 18. 00 to 1845** – the experiences of a white farming family living under Robert Mugabe’s regime in Zimbabwe – see **Zimbabwe Tape 7** – [*the author believes the family refereed to – the Kay family – are mentioned in this diary*]

Wed 19

Headline – *Living in fear of Mugabe’s green bombers* – with two bi elections due to take place imminently the presidents hench men are active again. As always members of the Movement for Democratic Change are being targeted.

Reports that the movements chairman, F Tsvangaria, was taken on 21/1 by eight youths. He was beaten and forced to sing Zanu PF songs. All the time they were questions about

party strategy and addresses of members. Although police help was sought, those held were imprisoned, and the guilty went free. – **GDN page 14, C 1** –

Thurs 20

Headline – *Mugabe rides out storm of protest in Paris hotel* – arriving in the French capital, at the beginning of a 48 hour Afro/Franco summit, the Zimbabwean delegation were met by a strong protest outside their hotel.

Leading the protest was P Tachell (qv) a long time adversary of Mugabe, who rather than being at the hotel, staged a demonstration outside the French justice ministry. Others threw red paint on the building housing the Zimbabwean embassy.

The ultimate aim, of the notable gay activist, is to have Mugabe arrested on charges of torture. To this aim he has supplied the authorities with an affidavit from a person opposed to his rule. Tom Spicer 18 years old and an activist for the MDC who was tortured on the orders of the president. However under French law the actions by a head of state are not open to question. – **GDN page 2, C3** –

Cartoon – “We’ve given your farm to President Chirac” in recognition of the welcome given to our president.

Fri 21

Headline – *Tension surrounds Mugabe visit* – at the opening banquet for the delegates to the Franco/African summit most were greeted in the usual French ‘kissy kissy’ way. However the president of France offered only a stiff formal handshake.

Even the speech, from president Chirac, would have no comfort for Mugabe, because it centered on the work of the International Criminal Court, which will soon be operative. The ICC, which extends its protection to all citizens worldwide, would not stop at prosecuting a head of state as “the days of impunity, or where people were able to justify the use of force, are truly over.”

Meanwhile across Paris P Tachell – who would have been heartened by the French presidents speech (qv 20/2) - was detained, as were other demonstrators, as he emerged from the metro on his way to demonstrate outside the French ministry of justice. He was later released. – **GDN page 1, C 4** –

Cartoon – “Come out Robert Gay Paree is just an expression.” links Mugabe with Tachell and his sexuality

Headline – *My arrest in Paris* – the planning, and the execution, of the days spent bringing the Mugabe issue to the fore of the French media according to gay activist P Tachell. –

Arriving in Paris on 17/2 having spent much of the previous evening – in London – detailing the case for the arrest of Mugabe to be with my Parisian hosts, who it turns out are about as fluent in English as I am in French. The on to meeting with the Paris based human rights lawyer followed by members of the gay activist movement who will help in the protests that will dog the presidents movements.

18/2 – saw the arrival, from London, of A Wilkinson the director of the Zimbabwean Association and Tom Spicer, who were co signatories to the legal documents accusing Mugabe of torture. They were not met as Tachell was he was engaged in highprofiling his case to the media and contacting other activists. Later a number of Zimbabwean exiles and refugees, who had flown in from across the Channel, arrived. The evening was spent, with help from the MDC's European representative, in plotting the next move

19/2 – a 10am presentation of the legal documents to the deputy prosecutor of Paris after a hurried meeting with lawyers to check all was well; some technical difficulties manifested themselves. A quick alteration was required. Coming together, with the French and Zimbabwean contingents moving – in small groups, so as not to attract police attention – were made towards the ministry of justice. However 2 minuets after beginning riot police were on the scene, and forced them on the move. At the Palais de Justice CRS police moved in to limit their actions. Tachell was however allowed in meet with the deputy prosecutor where he presented the 100 page dossier for Mugabe's arrest.

Elsewhere gay rights – Act UP – held a strong protest outside the Zimbabwean embassy. They were all arrested. Another group – MDC – having had a tip off of the hotel that the African delegation was staying at went there to. They were also detained; a Tachell would have been if he had not run towards the media for protection.

20/2 – with the MDC crew returning to London Spice, Wilkinson and Tachell go to where the president is having lunch, again he is stopped by the police and arrested – on the orders of interior ministry. Released they were then followed by two members of the security forces. - **GDN 2, page 4/5** –

Sat 22

Headline – *Mugabe's cronies 'grab land'* – as if it was possible to hide the fact that white owned farms are given to Zanu PF supporters a parliamentary report has confirmed this.

The Land reform and resettlement programme national audit interim report highlights the case of military officers, 3 cabinet ministers, 4 provincial governors, 2 leading business men and even members of the presidents family have obtained farms by corrupt allocation. To obtain these farms officials have used troops to remove 96 resettled black farmers. Thugs drove off youths from a farm where they were undertaking an agricultural training programme.

The LRRPNAI report, leaked to African Confidential, is one of three expected to show that the missus of land, seized from white farmers, is not helping provide adequate grain to stem the growing starvation in the country. – **GDN page 17, C 7** –

MARCH

Sat 1

Home Office statistics show that in the year 2001/2002 the number of asylum seeker applications has risen 264% during this period.

Headline – ***Harare police arrest protesting clerics*** – as 21 ‘notables’ clerics from the countries religious communities – Roman Catholic, Anglican, Lutheran Presbyterian and Dutch Reform – attempted to deliver a petition urging “immediate corrective measures that the police force in this country perform its duties with respect for the church and all its citizens of Zimbabwe” they were surrounded by riot police and placed under arrest. As of this moment they are still being held in police custody.

A similar crackdown was made on 27/2 in Bulawayo. In this case the cities Catholic bishop, P Ncube, was warned by police not to allow his pulpit to be used to make political statements. The move comes after the bishop allowed seven members of the public to use the service to say they were victims of state sponsored torture. In his defence the Archbishop said that you could not separate issues of hunger, economic hardship and violence from religion. – **GDN page 21, C 1** –

Sun 2

Headline – ***Wicked wicket posters*** – Zimbabwe police charged 42 people under security laws for displaying anti Mugabe posters – one likening the President to Hitler – during a World Cup cricket match in Bulawayo. – **IOS page 4, C 8** –

Thurs 6

A Zimbabwean high court judge is suing the government for wrongful arrest after he spent a night in jail, saying the event had exposed the judiciary to worldwide ridicule. Justice Benjamin Paradza had been accuse of trying to make another judge release the passport of his business partner who is on bail on a murder charge. – **Reuters** –

Sat 8

Headline – ***Young Zimbabwean activist vows return*** – with the above vow T Tawanda Spicer (qv 21/2) a long time activist – from the age of 16 – a supporter of the fledgling opposition party, the Movement for Democratic Change, had suffered at the hands of the police long before he traveled to Paris with P Tachell (qv).

From the time that he began his political life, in Harare East – where the people wanted him to become their MP – police have arrested him 11 times, detained him in 18 different jails where he has been beaten stabbed and tortured. According to P Muzawa, a fellow exile in London and a founder member of the MDC “he is a true Shona. It’s only a matter of his skin colour.” – **the Big Issue in the North page 6** –

Sun 9

Headline – ***Mugabe force hit women*** – Baton wielding police in Zimbabwe beat women in a Bulawayo park attending the International Women’s Day march. Fifteen of the hundreds protesting at government violation of their rights were arrested. – **IOS page 2, C 8** –

Tues 11

The main state witness in the treason trial of the Zimbabwe opposition leader, Morgan Tsvangaria has accused Mr Tsvangaria’s party of breaking up his marriage. Ari Ben Menashe, a Canadian political consultant, said the MDC was planting stories in British owned newspapers to smear him. – **Reuters** –

Tues 18

Headline – ***Missing Briton’s body found*** – the body of Hilda Allanson, 58 missing from her home in Zimbabwe, has been found along with that of her South African husband. Their maid and two relatives, accused of murder, told the police where they had dumped the bodies. Mrs Allanson’s brother said in Newcastle upon Tyne. – **GDN page 14, C 7** –

Wed 19

Headline – ***Opposition strike halts Zimbabwe*** – in what was the first Movement for Democratic Change sponsored strike, since the 2002 presidential election, there was nearly full support for a called general strike.

Party officials said that the level of support – 80% - indicated that the people of Zimbabwe “desire change.” Although the action was mainly peaceful there were incidents of a number of state owned busses being set alight.

Claiming minimum disruption to everyday life the state owned radio claimed the strike was a failure and organised by a disgruntled white businessman. – **GDN page 16, C7** –

Thurs 20

Headline – ***Mugabe critics spurred on by strike*** – at the end? of the MDC sponsored general strike party officials were well pleased with the response from the masses. Encouraged by the wholehearted response of the people the party issued a 15 point list of

demands that called on the Mugabe regime to restore democracy by 31/3 or face “popular mass action to regain the peoples liberties, freedom and dignity.”

Throughout the country, according to reports, 400 opposition figures were arrested. The number also includes the MP for the city of Kadoma, who along with 32 others were detained by police.

On the international diplomatic front the suspension of Zimbabwe, from the Commonwealth, was extended till 12/03, when heads of government of the 54 member nations meet in Nigeria, will ponder the issue. – **GDN page `8, C 5,**

Sun 23

Seized land is earmarked for Mugabe’s family, farmer says – twelve months on from the invasion, and death of the owner T Ford on his Gowrie farm, the war veterans who took it from the family are to loose out.

Since the death of the farmer the land, according to all who have viewed it, has been underused as there are only 16 of the original 43 employees remain on the 840 hectare farm. So underdeveloped is the farm that for a ‘farm day,’ sponsored by the government, a tractor has to be borrowed from a neighbouring farm.

It has been uncovered that in the long term this farm, and a number of others, which are just a short distance from Harare – 25 miles – are to be given to close relatives of the president. His older sister, Sabina and the regional governor, is to take possession of Norton farm, a most valuable asset. – **IOS page 23, C 1 –**

Thurs 27

Worsening violence throughout Zimbabwe since the 48 hour general strike (qv) continues. In reports – claim and counter claim – police insist that the MDC claim that 200 of their supporters have been tortured is wrong. However they do say that 200 people have been charged with acts of violence. This figure includes 50 party members along with 3 members of parliament. Who were still in detention. As to those ‘missing’ police say they are ‘on the run’.

In the USA the state department condemned the rhetoric of Mugabe’s speech in which he aspired to be a ‘black Hitler’ – only 10x’s worse. In the same speech Mugabe blamed Britain, the United States and other western governments for inciting the opposition led violence. – **Reuters – taken from The Daily News, Colombo Sri Lanka page 7, C 1 –**

As the wearers of armbands, black cricketer’s Olongo and Flowers (qv 11/3) were taking a known risk. It has now been made known that in recent days they have resigned from the national team – before they were forced to. There best bet now is to seek a career in either England or Australia. – **ditto page 33, C 6 –**

APRIL

Sun 6

Headline – *UN brings food aid to cities as Zimbabwe's plight worsens* – well known is the plight of the rural dweller, in his search for food, what is now being discovered is that those people that living in the cities are now feeling the effects of the presidents food policies.

A spokesman for the UN's World Food Programme has been distributing aid in cities throughout the country. Especially hard hit is the capital and Bulawayo, where examples are given of children suffering from malnutrition.

Fallout from the protest 14 days ago continues. Arrests continue – 1,000 since the general strike call. The president has now issued a 'shoot to kill' policy against anyone who enters his official residence. This comes after an MDC threat to mobilise a mass march on his Harare home to demand his resignation. The movement's deputy head G Sibanda, still in jail after seven days has been charged with treason, for organising said march. – **IOS page 21, C 1** –

Thurs 10

Headline – *Report adds to Mugabe's isolation* – a report, commissioned from the Commonwealth secretary in 3/02 has been presented to the heads of government for consideration at there next meeting.

The findings by the author – Commonwealth Secretary D McKinnon – show that the regime in Harare is guilty of several cases of abuse of human rights. Well documented are incidents of a significant "deterioration" in its political, economic and social spheres.

Elsewhere in the country – a confrontation between women war veterans and a government official led to the official jumping from a third floor window to escape the angry women. The mob was demanding ownership papers for land they had seized from white farmers. – **GDN page 25, C 1** –

Thurs 17

Zimbabwe's tottering economy received a further blow yesterday as petrol prices rose by more than 300%. The state statistical office announced also the annual inflation rate had risen to a 228%. – **AP** –

Sat 19

Headline – *Tories call for tougher stand against Mugabe* – with the apparent mood of the world community to do the right thing for the people living under a brutal dictatorship

– see the recent Gulf War Two – the British Conservative party have called on the Labour government to take a tougher stance against the brutal regime in Harare.

M Ancram, the shadow foreign secretary, has challenged his opposite number to take the case of Zimbabwe to the United Nations Security Council. Especially of concern are reports that the UN's Human Rights Commission may be about to throw out a European Union resolution that criticises the Zimbabwe government on its human rights record. This follows a report from the Commonwealth Secretary (qv 10/4).

The UNHCR voting was 28: 24 saw an Africa/Asia split against an Europe/Latin America support for the resolution. South Africa led the 'no action call'. This in effect cancelled out any chance of a debate among the committee, which is chaired – on a rotational basis – by Colonel Gaddafi a long term supporter of Mugabe.

The ECB (qv) came under attack also for its apparent intention to go ahead with the already agreed 2004 tour of Zimbabwe. There was also praise for H Olongo and A Flower the cricketers who implied support for England's stance in the World Cup. – **GDN page 9, C 1** –

Headline – *Mugabe attacks 'imperialists'* - Zimbabwe's president Robert Mugabe marked the country's 23rd independence anniversary with an attack on British and American 'imperialists' for trying to recolonise the country. His tirade was prompted by a US state department call this week for fresh elections. – **GDN page 15, C 8** –

Mon 21

Headline – *Zimbabwean activist 'dies after torture'* – following the arrest of T Machiridza aged 32 it can be recorded that another member of the opposition has died at the hands of the security forces loyal to Mugabe.

Taken from his home in Chitungwiza, on 13/4, along with three others accused of theft after the 48 hour general strike (qv 3/03) he was held in custody for 6 days until taken to hospital where he died – after being beaten and tortured in police cells - on the 23rd anniversary of the countries independence.

The death also highlights an Easter message read from the pulpit by clergy calling on the president to end human rights abuses. - **GDN page 11, C 3** –

Thurs 24

Headline – *Zimbabwe shut down by strike* – to show its concern for its members, who have now to face additional cost of living charges – the increase in the price of petrol (qv 17/4) – the Congress of Trade Unions has called a 3 day work stoppage.

Claiming 70% success rate union officials say that Day 1 passed off without incident. The response by the authorities was to arrest Union officials and man roadblocks into the

main cities. Heartened by a second peoples protest within recent weeks the Movement for Democratic Change has pledged to continue its campaign to force president Mugabe from office. – **GDN page 17, C 8** –

Fri 25

Headline – ***Beleaguered Mugabe unleashes new terror*** – the recent increase in attacks on members of the opposition Movement for Democratic Change have been documented by Zimbabwe Crisis Committee.

Taking specific examples of violations of human rights it can be seen that the president has decided that a policy of violence and intimidation against those who oppose his rule has increased following the success of the 2 day general strike called by the MDC in 3/03. The most prominent victim T Machiridza (qv 21/4) died as a result, according to the autopsy, from the injuries he received whilst in police custody. Even at the recent funeral the mourners were not left in peace. Police arrested 55 of them.

Other high profile members of the opposition to feel the wrath of the security forces are M Kulinge secretary of the MDC's women's league. On 22/3 16 soldiers, in uniform, invaded her home at 1am where she was beaten with rifle butts and length's of hosepipe. The invaders turned on their victim's mother also. She was internally violated by the insertion of the tip of an AK rifle.

In other parts of the country the disregard for human rights was also in evidence. Targeted in Mashonaland was the movements district secretary, R Madzokere, for the east of the province. On the same day 25 soldiers dragged him from his bed at 2am. Over the next 3 days Mr Madzokere was subject to a beating with batons wire and logs.

Overall the report says that 600 of the Movements officials and supporters have been arrested. More than 250 needed medical attention in the four day period following the strike say the Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition. – **GDN page 16, C 1** –

Sat 26

Headline – ***West sidelined as Africa walks hand in hand with Mugabe*** – despite the question from a Labour MP “why can't there be a Commonwealth military force” [sent into Zimbabwe} to ‘do an Iraq’ the prime minister, even if he – as a private individual agrees, - knows that this will never happen. There is too much support, on the African continent, for one of its own.

Downing Street see the lynch pin as president Mbeki, of South Africa – he could turn off the tap on Zimbabwe's economy if he had the will. To do so however would reduce his status among Africa's leaders. Also Pretoria is of the opinion that the Movement for Democratic Change is no better equipped to run the country. It is far better, the president feels to apply quiet diplomacy to see Mugabe leave office, then a moderate successor could work with the MDC. – **GDN page 21, C 1** –

Sun 27

Headline – *Zimbabwe cricket tour to go ahead* – despite a plea from the Conservative party (qv 19/4) the English Cricket Board has made good its intention to tour Zimbabwe in 2004. With such a promise ‘in the bag’ the Zimbabwe national team are due to arrive in the UK on 1/5. The tourists are due to play two Tests – on 22/5 and 5/6, as well as a number of other matches – against an English team.

The reception that the visitors, under their captain Heath Streak, will – according to Peter Hain (qv) be of a similar nature to the response that the 1970’s visits from unwanted South African national sports teams. – **IOS page 5, C 1 -**

MAY

Thurs 1

Headline – *Leaders on mission to make Mugabe quit* - a troika of the most powerful leaders on the African continent will travel to Harare on 5/5. The leaders of Nigeria, South Africa along with the president of Malawi are there to urge the president of Zimbabwe to step down after 23 years in power. To ensure continued governance, until a fresh election can be held, it is envisaged that the country would be run with the assistance of the Movement for Democratic Change.

The change of heart, from Thabo Mbeki, comes about as the realisation that his New Economic Partnership for African Development – his hoped for lasting epitaph for African reemergence – is being hindered by the international perception of Africa as a poor financial investment and bad on human rights.

Whilst Mugabe is not adverse to leaving power, as his comment on the conclusion of the goal of a fair distribution of Zimbabwe’s land showed, during a recent television interview indicated- there would have to be an assurance that he would not face the courts for alleged human rights abuses. In the broadcast the president

As to such speculation Morgan Tsvangaria, the MDC’s leader, who will be visited by the troika of leaders, to encourage the resumption of Zanu PF/ MDC talks, the opposition leader set to conditions. The repressive media laws (qv) must be repealed. Also there must be an end to all state sponsored violence. – **GDN page 1 C 3 –**

Fri 2

Headline – *Knives out for Mugabe as party loyalty fails* – as if the president has not enough to worry about (qv 1/5) members of his own party are holding behind the scenes meeting to plot who should replace him as senior Zanu – PF concede that it is time for

him to go. However to ensure their continued position of privilege they have to maintain a show of public support for their president. The inner party is divided as to who should replace Mugabe – they have no fresh ideas how to revive Zimbabwe’s economy or its international standing. The one name being banded about is Simon Makoni, former finance minister, who has spoken out for rational economic policies and avoided associating with the lawless elements within the party. – **GDN page 17, C 1** –

Headline – *‘Suspension has not helped at all’* – the words of Commonwealth secretary of D McKinnon on the initial expulsion and the recent renewal of that order. For Zimbabwe to be outside the Commonwealth at a time when the internal situation is in a continuous state of decline shows that the initiative has failed. – **ditto, C 8** –

Tues 6

Headline – *Troika urges Mugabe to negotiate* – at the end of the visit by three of the continents influential leaders (qv 2/5) there was little to show that the visit had been a success.

The main stumbling block to talks it emerged was Mugabe’s insistence that the MDC’s legal challenge as to the legality of the 2002 presidential election should be ended. The troika’s 90 minuet meeting with Mr Tsvangeria a common agreement emerged “We agreed that we had to work out a solution ... the MDC and Zanu – PF must get down and talk.” – **GDN page 4, C 5** –

Wed 7

Headline – *‘The message is that Africans are in charge’* – “It’s still too early to say what the talks (qv 6/5) will bring us, but ... all indications are that our two leaders now appreciate that dialogue can at least bring a win – win situation without the shedding of innocent blood.” – **J Zaba, Daily News 6/5** –

“The Zimbabwe government has been magnanimous in opening its doors to its neighbour’s scrutiny, and can expect nothing short of a fair assessment, advice and help if need be, in addressing whatever problems it has.” – **Editorial, Herald, 5/5** –

“[But this] mission should not be another whitewash .. Mr Mbeki and Mr Obasanjo need to convince Mr Mugabe that is not only in the interest of his country but in the interest of our continent that he vacate state house.” – **Editorial, Mail and Guardian, 2/5** – **GDN page 24, C 7/8** –

Thurs 8

Headline – *Guardian writer in hiding after deportation threat* – hard on the heels of filing his most recent report, [see below], A Meldrum (qv) went into hiding. This move comes after an 8pm visit from five immigration officers. According to his lawyer,

Beatrice Mtetwa, such a timely visit from the authorities usually means that ‘the chosen one’ disappears into the void of the police detention system. – **GDN page 1, C 4** –

Headline – *Thriving city becomes capital of chaos and misrule* – Harare citizens are at the mercy of fuel shortages and brutal police. Throughout the city drivers queue, sometimes for days, for petrol – that has tripled in price, thanks to an inflation rate of 228% - while homes in one of the capitals townships, Mabvuku, have to rely on alternatives to electricity to light their homes.

Comments heard on the streets “We used to laugh at the Zambians because of all the shortages they had. Now they laugh at us because it’s much worse here.” Where once the supermarket shelves were once well stocked, now “Mealie meal and cooking oil and soap have been replaced by toilet paper.”

“The worse things get, the sooner we will have change. The more angry people get, the sooner they will press Mugabe to go.”

Headline – *Court tears off Mugabe muzzle on journalists* – the supreme court has ruled that two sections of a controversial bill that has been used to hamper the work of journalist as ‘unconstitutional.’

Section 80 [1] and [2] of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act [Aippa] made it a criminal offence to publish ‘falsehoods’. This act has been used in the past in the arrest and charge of 16 reporters – including A Meldrum – who faced two years in jail.

The government will now bring an amendment before parliament. This will require proof that a journalist intended to print something false. – **ditto page 4** –

Headline – *Seeking an African solution* – the tactics of Zimbabwe’s opposition movement have alienated much of the continent. But a softening of its approach may change things. – **L McGregor, Johannesburg ditto page 23** –

Fri 9

Headline – *Reporter willing to face questions, says lawyer* – members of the legal team acting for A Meldrum (qv 8/5), who believe that the immigration authorities intend to deport him, say that he is willing to answer questions put to him by them. There is one stipulation – all due process of law must be followed and officials act in a proper manor.

The editor of the Guardian has contacted government officials in London and the American ambassador – the reporter is a US citizen – along with the head of the international press association to voice there concerns to the Harare authorities. – **GDN page 4, C 4** –

Leader Comment, **A tale of two cities** – as a comparison of treatment of the press freedom in Belfast as well as Harare it would seem that the action by the Northern Ireland police authorities are more questionable than those in Harare.

“The world has resigned itself to the barbarous nature of the Zimbabwe government. The British government is supposed to operate to slightly more enlighten standards. To behave only marginally better than Mugabe is shameful indeed.”

Sat 10

Headline – ***Harare officials give Guardian executives 24 hours to get out*** – with their long term – 24 years – reporter, A Meldrum (qv), at odds with the authorities London executives of the newspaper flew into the country on 5/5. Following claims by the immigration authorities that their visas were filled in wrongly they have been ordered to leave.

Both the executives, S Williams director of corporate affairs and S Butterworth the head of legal affairs, deny that they had hidden the purpose of their visit when filling in the visa. In their defence the two point to the fact that they had been invited to a meeting between the authorities and the papers reporter.

As to the whereabouts of the immigration department’s target, he attended a party at the EU’s ambassador’s residence in the capital. Commenting on the moves to deport him he said “The government think by trying to intimidate or deport me, or prevent me from working, they will also prevent other journalists who are doing great work.” – **GDN page 18, C 7** –

Mon 12

The treason trial of Zimbabwe’s opposition leader Morgan Tsvangeria resumes today with state prosecutors ready to push ahead with charges that he plotted to assassinate President Robert Mugabe.

Mr Tsvangeria, who heads the Movement for Democratic Change, and two senior colleagues could face the death penalty if convicted. The case hinges on a videotape of Mr Tsvangeria that the defence says was doctored. – **Reuters** –

Wed 14

Headline – ***Zimbabwe confiscates Guardian reporter’s residence permit*** – with the threat of deportation hanging over him A Meldrum (qv) along with his lawyer and a representative from the US consulate – who was not allowed to sit in on the actual interview - attended a prepared meeting at the immigration department.

According to the government official, as the papers reporter had been writing outside of his brief – of writing about the issue of tourism and the economy – the authorities had decided to revoke his residents permit.- **GDN page 1, C 1 –**

Thurs 15

Headline – *Guardian reporter’s Zimbabwe lawyer threatened with jail* – while delivering a written explanation why A Meldrum should not lose his residence permit his lawyer Beatrice Mtetwa was threatened by immigration officials.

The actions of the government officials was as a result of the non appearance of the reporter, along with his lawyer, to present his explanation, which – according to the government official had been agreed at the 14/5 meeting. The police released Ms Mtetwa, after an agreement was reached that the two would present themselves back at the ministry within 24 hours. – **GDN page 17, C 1 -**

The EU yesterday approved humanitarian aid worth E13m [9.3m pounds English] to help Zimbabwe cope with drought and food shortages and Aids. The fund will provide food for more than 600, 000 children, improve Aids awareness and buy farm tools and seeds for 300, 000 households. – **AP –**

Sat 17

Headline – *Dragged off and deported* – finally after months of trying the Guardian’s reporter in Zimbabwe A Meldrum (qv 16/ 7) has been forced onto a plane and thrown out of the country. In highly dubious circumstances and despite two high court orders the immigration department has got its way.

With condemnation coming in from all concerned – the British foreign secretary, Jack Straw, said that he was very concerned and that the action by the Mugabe regime was petty and vindictive. In America the state department said that the treatment meted out to one of their own nationals reflected Washington’s “ongoing concerns over the erosion of the basic human rights and the rule of law.” – **GDN page 1, C 1 –**

Zimbabwe’s trade minister, Samuel Mumbengegwi has attended a meeting in Brussels despite the EU visa ban on President Mugabe and his allies. Belgium said he attended the talks between the EU and African, Caribbean group, because the ban did not cover some international meetings. – **ditto page 16, C 8 –**

Letter, **K Allen, Director Amnesty International UK** – a call on the international community, and most notably Zimbabwe’s immediate neighbouring states, to press the regime in Harare to cease its relentless campaign to stop the reporting of the ongoing abuses of, and restriction of, the free movement of the press.

Sun 18

Headline – *Reporter expelled* – Andrew Meldrum, 51, accused of a hate campaign against President Mugabe, became the fourth journalist in two years to be expelled from Zimbabwe – **IOS page 7, C 8** –

Mon 19

Headline – *From joy and hope to corruption, tyranny and misery of poverty* – expelled reporter, A Meldrum, looks back on his 23 years in the country that “only the most ruthless could overthrow Ian Smith’s system – that was Robert Mugabe”.

Here he describes how a country, which offered so much inspiration to Africa, became under its leader Robert Mugabe, a pariah. – **GDN page 16** –

Leader Comment, **Our man in Harare** – in a country “whose president has used intimidation, police torture and election fraud to hold onto power” it is no surprise to have had the last remaining foreign reporter – in his own words – deported from the country. Such is the stance between Mugabe and Mr Meldrum as the one tries to prevent the other informing the international community as to the conditions inside Zimbabwe.

“Ultimately, like earlier repressive regimes, Mugabe’s mob will realise that truth cannot be repressed.”

Cartoon – Behind you, a warning* to president Mugabe – dressed as a ‘big game hunter’ - from the prying eyes of those who are watching him now that he has expelled the journalist A Meldrum [*authors interpretation*]

Fri 23

Headline – *Rain brings test for Zimbabwe protesters* – a group of about 200 gathered outside Lords cricket ground, in London, to protest at the visit of Mugabe’s representatives – and to begin a match that had been postponed 98 days previously.

Judging by the security inside the ground trouble was expected. In the end there were two pitch invasions, which led to two people being charged with aggravated trespass. An MCC member summed up the view from the stands –many empty seats – as “This is a cricket match for God’s sake. These people know nothing of the game. Nor does anyone else frankly.” – **GDN page 9 C 1** –

Headline – *A sad day at Lords* – tales told by two exiles, as they report the events of the day. One, A Meldrum (qv), whilst the other M Mathuthu also a journalist who worked at the Bulawayo bureau of the Daily News. – **G2 page 4/5** –

Thurs 29

Headline – *Zimbabwe opposition calls out people* – With the media appeal “Rise up in your millions and take part in nationwide peaceful protest for democracy and good governance to encourage Zanu – PF to take dialogue seriously” the leader of the MDC has again called on the people to take to the streets.

In what Mr Tsvangeria hopes will be a five day protest - to follow the two recent calls for action to persuade Mugabe to leave office – the call in the Daily News was a part of the ongoing campaign to oust the president.

With this call for a huge demonstration in Harare the actions of the police were paramount. With the mass of the protesters living outside the city, at a distance of 20 miles, would they even be allowed to arrive there? – **GDN page 15, C 2** –

Thabo Mbeki writes – *Don't blame Mugabe for everything* - many of Zimbabwe's problems are the legacy of colonial rule. The economic crisis did not originate from the desperate actions of a reckless political leadership.

In contrasting the struggle that both the ANC and Zanu had to rid themselves of their colonial white masters the South African president writes “we will do what we can to enable Zimbabweans to enjoy the fruits of their hard won liberation. Righteous and self-serving indignation will achieve nothing. – **ditto page 24, C 7** –

Fri 30

The police commissioner, who had recently been elected as chairman of the international police federation –Interpol –, has resigned the position. A spokesman said the reason was one of not wanting to bring the organisation into disrepute. – **Radio 2, 3pm** –

JUNE

Mon 2

Headline – *Mugabe moves to crush protest strike* – with the backing of a high court ruling, that has declared the MDC's call for a national strike illegal, the security forces have been put on alert and tanks have moved into the townships around Harare.

With this show of force by the authorities, and panic buying of foodstuffs in the townships the coming confrontation can be seen as either as a campaign to install a new government after “free and fair elections” – W Ncube. On the other hand the following events are seen as a “showdown with the MDC. They must be confronted and taught a lesson. – N Shamuayaria, Zany PF spokesman. – **GDN page 14, C 8** –

Letters, [1] **C Catherine, London** - with the writings of T Mbeki (qv 29/5) and his support for the ideals of the worth of the liberation fighter there is still an argument that the current crisis in Zimbabwe is down to Mugabe.

[2] **Dr S Kibble African advocacy officer C II R** – the recent works of South Africa, and its president, to block anger of Zimbabwe’s human rights record and support for readmission into the Commonwealth do little to support Mugabe in his campaign to stay as leader

[3] **L Davidson Lawyers Committee for Human Rights, New York** – the abuse of human rights is a large part of the continuing campaign by Mugabe by which he is able to cling onto power.

Tues 3

Headline – *Mugabe cracks down with bullets, teargas and arrests* – they, protesters at the continued rule of the president, came out in there thousands. They were met by those determined to see Mugabe stay in power. Chaos ensued.

From the Harare townships 5, 000 workers attempted to march into the centre of the capital to protest peacefully, just as their fellow oppressed were attempting the same in Zimbabwe’s second city Bulawayo. Police and troops manning concrete barriers and tanks on the streets met them. Of notable arrests were the mayors of Harare and Bulawayo who, as of the end of Day 1, remain in custody. On the national arrest front seven members, including the party leader, of the MDC were arrested. Mr Tsvangaria was later released to allow him to attend his ongoing treason trial.

The state run media, through the ZBC, called the strike a flop and maintained police and army patrols had maintained peace around the country. – **GDN page 3, C 1** –

Wed 4

Headline – *Reaction to the opposition’s strikes and protests ‘an unwinnable and unfathomable war’* – “Not surprisingly the besieged government yesterday kept its promise to get tough with mass protests called by the opposition Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) by deploying thousands of army troops and police across the nation in a huge show of force ... But the stunning shut down of the entire nation dramatically and graphically underlines who calls the shots in the power stakes in Zimbabwe.” – **Editorial, Daily News 3/6** –

Harking back to a saying of a leader of the Roman Empire – “The MDC leader, Morgan Tsvangaria, and his supporters followed Caesar’s advice and broke the law (on Monday) but failed to seize power ... Instead of waiting for the outcome of his court application challenging the result of the presidential election, the MDC has shown his utter contempt for the rule of law. The correct body that should have had the final say on the matter is a court of law, not the people on the streets in opposition dominated constituencies. – **Editorial, Herald 3/6** –

Thurs 5

Headline – *Police beat patients in Harare* – with the option of hospital treatment – for suspected strikers – at public facilities, Mugabe has banned it, strike supporters on Day three have turned to privately owned institutions.

Even at these privately owned centres suspected strike supporters are not free from the state anger. To take one example, 10 police – accompanied by youth members of Zanu PF – stormed into the Avenues Clinic in Harare – where up to 150 anti government protesters were seeking treatment. Making no regard for the condition of the patients assaulted and then arrested many of the 150 patients. – **GDN page 17, C 1 -**

Sat 7

Headline – *Zimbabwe slides deeper into chaos* – facing the wrath of hoards of Zanu ‘s militant youth and the police a loan demonstrator braved the conditions in Africa Unity Square, in the centre of Harare, in a response to a second MDC media based appeal to the masses.

The full-page advert in the Daily News set out the opposition’s views thus “ we are winning against the dictator. This is the moment you have been waiting for. Protest peacefully – march for your freedom.”

In response security was tight throughout the city, there were more arrests – M Tsvangaria was charged with treason, for the second time. Observers noted that during a raid on the campus of the cities university despite the violence towards the student’s elements of the forces of law and order were more interested in looting. Of particular interest were foodstuffs – a sure sign that those imposing the law were suffering just as much as those people were who were demonstrating. – **GDN page 1, C 1 –**

Sun 8

Headline – *Zimbabwe counts the cost after a week of strikes and savagery* – with the return to work for the masses who heeded the call of the opposition MDC movement to protest at the continued rule of Mugabe, living and economic conditions have not changed. So the tension within the country still remains.

Still in custody M Tsvangaria, on his second charge of treason – for calling for the unconstitutional removal of the president – will appear in court on 9/6. According to the chair of the Zimbabwe Crisis Committee, Professor B Raftopoulos, the result of the last seven days of mass action has drawn the inevitable conclusion – for Zanu PF and to a lesser extent the MDC – that talks are the only way forward for Zimbabwe. – **IOS page 18, C 5 –**

Sat 21

Headline – *Court frees Mugabe opponent* – Morgan Tsvangaria, detained, his supporters say, in a filthy and overcrowded cell, for the past 14 days has been freed on the orders of a supreme court judge.

The leader of the Movement for Democratic Change and his supporters have had to come up with Z\$10m [9,000 pounds English] in cash. Also they had – to fulfill the judges ruling on bail – lodge Z\$100m in assets to ensure their leaders release. – **GDN page 21, C 1** –

Wed 25

Pondering the ease in which the South African president does little to encourage the ousting of Mugabe even though he is an “unscrupulous dictator” to have the present administration in power will ensure that the many South African business interests in place in Zimbabwe will face little challenge from elsewhere.

“Mr Mbeki is afraid that if there is a new government of the Movement for Democratic Change western economic interests and conglomerates will flood Zimbabwe, and South Africa would be left out in the cold. [South Africans] are coming to pick the flesh from the carcass but dying Zimbabwe”. – **P Waktama, Standard** –

On the other side of the coin – South Africa’s continued habit of “blunting international pressure for tough action to be taken against a rouge government that has rightly become a pariah in the world.” Has self interest as a motive.

“Mr Mbeki is worried that labour led political change could yet take place in South Africa because of the African National Congress’s failure to deliver on its election promises.” – **Daily News – The Editor, GDN page 28, C 1** –

JULY

Wed 2

Headline – *Zimbabwe calls Powell ‘Uncle Tom’* – in a comment on an article in the New York Times, written by the US secretary of state after he had attacked the policies of Mugabe and called him a tyrant, he was branded an “Uncle Tom.” by certain sections of the Zimbabwe press.

Leading the onslaught was the Harare based Herald newspaper. The state owned outlet likened the secretary of state to a disgraced Uncle Tom who was always sang his master’s voice to the detriment of social justice and the rights of people of colour.

The timing of the attack comes on the eve of an American top level tour of African states, which will be led by the US president. Mr Powell will accompany him. – **GDN page 12, C 7 –**

Fri 4

Headline – *Exiled officer tells how Mugabe’s thugs took over police* – with ever the increasing pressure on the regime in Harare the president is in effect allowing thuggish members of Zanu PF to police the country, rather than those who belong to the police service.

Officers from the Harare ranks – from constable to the rank of assistant inspector – too frightened to reveal their names for fear of retribution for those back home have had to fled the country in fear of their lives. In telling the tale, one of indiscriminate violence against anybody suspected of being sympathetic to the opposition, they themselves have come under suspicion. In fear of their lives they have sought, and been granted, asylum in Britain. – **GDN page 21, C 1 –**

Sun 6

Headline – *Mugabe’s pay rebuke* – Zimbabwe’s MDC opposition party condemned the 600 per cent rise in salaries for President Robert Mugabe and his top officials, as food shortages and lack of jobs continue to hit the country. – **IOS page 4, C 8 –**

Thurs 10

In a bill, to be presented to the parliament in Harare, the president Robert Mugabe proposes – – that there will be financial penalties imposed on members of the MDC if they are not in the chamber to listen to the presidents speeches. The move has been thought necessary because of a determined number of opposition MP’s who have left the chamber as Mugabe rises to speak. – **World Service, R4 5am –**

Headline – *Bush backs Mbeki on Zimbabwe* – after a private meeting between the South African president and his American counterpart – who is in the midst of a tour of the continent – it emerged that President Bush thought his host was an “honest broker” who was doing a good job in trying to resolve Zimbabwe’s economic and political crisis.

A small demonstration by supporters of Zimbabwe’s Movement for Democratic Change were outside the press conference. Initially their demonstration was inclined to show thanks for Washington’s apparent tough line against the Harare regime. However when the tone of the accord between the two presidents was noted attitudes changed. Some of those gathered outside the US embassy expressed disappointment. – **GDN page 15, C1 –**

Fri 11

“Yesterday Morgan Tsvangaria was told loud and clear that whatever he wants in Washington must go through ... Mr Mbeki, whom he has described as a dishonest broker. Mr Mbeki smartly told Mr Bush that Zimbabwe ... needed a homegrown solution.. The American president saw no offence in this and agreed that he would follow the lead of Mr Mbeki.” – **Zimbabwe Herald** –

“The choice for Mr Mbeki must be made very clear. He must either stand up for democracy and good governance by acting for Zimbabwe, or the whole world will conclude that his place is among the world’s tyrants.” – **Daily News - The Editor, GDN page 26, C 1** –

Sun 26

Headline – ***Dying to beat the queues*** – one of the ways to beat the dire petrol shortage in Zimbabwe is to be taking a dead relative for burial. You can then jump the lengthy queues outside garages, and fill up your car. Last week the inevitable happened. Two mortuary workers were arrested for renting out corpses to motorists. – **Storyville, IOS page 26** –

AUGUST

Fri 6

News item – such is the economic crisis in the country, the authorities in Harare are to allow the use of travelers cheques as legal currency. Their action was prompted by the scarcity of paper money due to inflation and the poor economy. – **Radio 2, 2am** –

Mon 11

Headline – ***Short denied responsibility to Zimbabwe*** – in a just disclosed letter, written by the then international development secretary of the newly elected 1997 Labour administration absolved themselves of any commitment to assisting with Harare’s land transfer plans.

The essence of their argument was that Labour had no “special responsibility to meet the cost of land purchase.” The letter, written to Kumbirai Kangai the Zimbabwe minister of agriculture, continued “We do not accept that Britain has a special responsibility to meet the cost of land purchase in Zimbabwe. We are a new government from diverse backgrounds without links to former colonial interests.”

By 1998, when the violent takeover of white owned farmland was commonplace, a draft message from Blair to Mugabe states “My government recognises that the present pattern of land ownership needs to be fundamentally changed. We remain willing to assist with a

land reform programme which is transparent and fair and has the support and participation of beneficiaries and stakeholders.” – **GDN page 7, C 1 –**

Inside story – *Mugabe’s ties to the architect of apartheid* – “the resemblance [with Dr Verwoed, of South Africa] was so uncanny sometimes wondered if they were not perhaps related. Verwoed was an elected tyrant who crossed the line between government and religion.” – extract, **Brothers Under the Skin by C Hope, published by Macmillan at 15.99 pounds [English] - G2, page 4/5 -**

Tues 20

Headline – *Mugabe to run food aid distribution* – a government announcement from the minister of social welfare, that it would take over the running of distribution of donated food, has confirmed well documented cases that the maize will only go to party supporters.

As the government details their needs of donated grain for 9/03 – 6/04 at 450, 000 tonns as it will continue to feed in excess of 5. 5m people [12/03 estimate], the USA – who were planning to donate 225, 000 tonnes [about 50% of what was requested], was not impressed. According to sources this sudden move is linked to the forthcoming elections for urban councils – a method of encouraging voters not to vote for the opposition. – **GDN page 12, 1 –**

Headline – *The handshake peril of the MDC* – “In Zimbabwe, where political opponents are regarded and treated as enemies, I see Zanu – PF leading negotiators .. shaking hands with their Movement of Democratic Change counterparts. And the MDC better be warned.”

“The MDC should be careful that the sacrifices and concessions they make do not amount to a betrayal of the people .. Zanu – PF is a master of inflicting political wounds; their record in trickery is a mater of public record.” - **T J Wande Daily News 19/8 , - GDN page 22, 7 –**

Thurs 28

Headline – *Mugabe palace hints at plans to stay* – with the perceived notion, after the continued MDC/Zanu PF talks, that the president will retire as chairman at the party at its 12/03 conference or on his 80th birthday in 2/04, talks were well in hand for the setting up of a transitional administration. This would lead to free and fair elections at a later date.

However all now is in doubt. It has been revealed that the Belgrade based construction company, Energoproject, is nearing construction – in a Harare suburb – a 25 bedroom mansion. There are also others, in Zvimba his birthplace. Another is located in his wife’s birthplace of Chivu.

The main mansion in the capital is built in Borrodale, an affluent area – 15 miles away from the city center. As well as the noted bedrooms, which are all en suit, there will be identical spas. The cost is expected to be 3m pounds [English]. The added security will bring the budget up to 6m pounds [English]. - **GDN page 19, C 8 –**

Fri 29

During the period 5/03 – 8/03, according to home office figures, there were 815 Zimbabwe nationals have applied for asylum in this country – *graphic*, **GDN page 11 –**

SEPTEMBER

Thurs 4

Headline – *‘Wake up’ call for Mugabe* – as an over view of the recent parliamentary and local council elections comes from the information minister, J Moyo, who said “we should have seen it coming”.

As to the results themselves – the MDC won control of 10 town councils, despite Zanu using their use of food to buy votes. Kept Harare Central parliamentary seat. Won 6 of the 7 executive mayoral posts but lost the position in the central Zimbabwe town of Kwekwe. Altogether they won 137 of the 222 council seats contested in 21 towns and cities.

As a consolation prize Zanu PF held its seat in Makonde. – **GDN page 21, C7 –**

Sat 6

Headline – *Mugabe’s thugs admit their crimes* –Johannesburg, in South Africa, was the venue for the press conference that launched a report from the **Solidarity Peace Trust**. Details were given, by the Catholic bishop of Bulawayo – Pius Ncube – of the numbers of under 18 year olds who have been trained in the use of weapons and torture techniques.

According to the report some 60, 000 of these “child soldiers” – illegal under a United Nations charter dealing with the military – were targeted with attacking prominent members of Zimbabwe’s opposition party.

Thabo said he had been part of a 70 strong gang who killed H Sibindi, the ward MDC chairman in Tsholtsho north of Bulawayo in 1/03. “We twisted his neck and he was beaten with iron bars until he was dead. His son and daughters were watching.” In another incident, which was not fatal, **S Nkala** the MDC’s organising secretary was beaten unconsciousness. – **GDN page 18, C 1 –**

Wed 10

Headline – *Botswana erects 300 – mile electrified fence to keep cattle (and Zimbabweans) out* – the partially constructed barrier, originally perceived to keep Botswana’s cattle free of the foot and mouth infection rampant in Zimbabwe, is causing some displeasure across the border in Zimbabwe.

The length of the electrified fence, which extends from a village north of the country’s second city - Francistown - to Tuli, close to the South African border, will also have the effect of stemming the flow of refugees fleeing from the Mugabe regime. There is a lot of resentment from the local residents, who accuse the refugees of being thieves and workshy. – **GDN page 13, C 1** –

Sat 13

Police closed down Zimbabwe’s only private daily paper last night, a day after the supreme court ruled that its owner, Associated Newspapers of Zimbabwe, was operating it illegally without a licence. The group said the Daily News editor and operations manager had been taken to a police station. – *Reuters* –

Mon 15

News report – *ITN 18.30* – an undercover reporter enters, as a tourist, and witnesses the police raid on the offices of the Daily News (qv) which he compares, in severity because of the numbers of police used, to the force used by Britain’s anti terrorist police.

Also spoken to was the leader of the Movement for Democratic Change and a party supporter. Mr Tsvangirua prophesied that the president – who is having a multi million pound mansion built (qv 28/8) – would not remain in power much longer. The number of workers who are not receiving any wages as the money is running out formed this view.

The party worker – injured during the recent council and parliamentary elections – appeared with a broken arm. These injuries were sustained after a beating from supporters of the Zanu – PF campaigning for their own candidate in the same district.

Wed 17

Headline – *Mugabe throws cloud over summit* – the Australian prime minister has been accused of megaphone diplomacy with his call for a no invite for the Zimbabwean president to Nigeria at the end of the year.

The call to exclude Mugabe is likely to split the Commonwealth along racial lines, long before the 12/03 gathering in the Nigerian capital. Any decision would have to come from president Obasanjo, the Nigerian host.

In Harare the status of the independent press, following the closure of the Daily News (qv) for not applying for a license under the draconian AIA of 2002 – even though now it has made an application seem unsure. Days after being shut down police once again raided the office building seized equipment and harassed journalists despite not having a warrant for their actions. – **GDN page 15, C 1** –

Thurs 18

Headline – *Dozens arrested after Harare protest* – a demonstration, organised by the reform group the National Coalition Assembly (qv) has resulted in the arrest of 104 people. They were held outside the office building that houses the offices of the Daily News.

A police spokesman said those held would be charged under the miscellaneous offences act for conduct likely to cause a breach of the peace. Meanwhile attempts – through the courts – are being made to force the police to return office equipment seized earlier (qv 17/9). An application for accreditation, under the Access to Information Act, is now with the government after the papers owners filed the necessary papers on 15/9 – **GDN page 20, C 8** –

Sat 20

Headline – *Zimbabwe paper shut despite court order* – even after the application to the state's media board for registration – despite its belief that mandatory registration was unconstitutional – the Associated Newspaper Group has been prevented from publishing the Daily News.

As of this time police and security forces have surrounded the papers offices and once again expelled journalists from the building. This move comes in defiance of a high court ruling that publication should resume, although the police did return seized office equipment (qv 17/9) as instructed by Mr Justice Omerjee's ruling. However the resumption of work was forcibly prevented by the higher echelons in the police service. The attorney general will now appeal Justice Omerjee's ruling in a higher court.

Despite these setbacks the officials of the Daily News expect a print run, even if the paper is only four pages long, on the streets today. – **GDN page 20, C 1** –

Sun 21

Headline – *Mugabe's top aid dies* – Zimbabwe's Vice President, Simon Muzwanda 80, and co founder of the Zanu – PF party, and government member since the end of white rule, died after a long illness. – **In Brief, IOS page 4, C 8** –

Mon 22

President Mugabe's choice of replacement for his deceased deputy (qv 21/9), could shed new light on who the veteran Zimbabwe leader wants to eventually succeed him, political analysts said yesterday.

Analysts said Mr Mugabe could elevate the country's second vice-president, **J Msika** aged 80, or appoint a new candidate. Local media speculated that there was a great pressure – from within Zanu PF - for the appointment of a younger candidate.

According to Professor B Raftopoulos at the Zimbabwe Institute of Development Studies the "two most likely contenders at the moment appear to be **J Nkomo** [Zanu – PF national chairman and **E Mnangagwa** [the speaker in parliament] – extract *Reuters* –

Headline – '*The UK doesn't like foreigners*' the tale of G Muketiwa aged 20 as told the F Abrams. Having fled Zimbabwe in 2000 – as his home was attacked by 'war veterans' because the family sympathies were with the MDC and now 12 months later having failed to persuade the Home Office in London that he was in danger if he returned to Harare he was awaiting the 'pleasures' of two men from the president's office.

Severe beatings followed, leaving him blood spattered and coughing up blood, he finally escaped through a toilet window. Making his way first to the British high commission building in the capital – where he was refused help, it was dinner time, he hitched a lift to an aunt's home in Bulawayo. Unable to stay, because the aunt had been detained herself, an attempt to find help in the Botswana capital and ultimately join his family in Canada. As there was no embassy in Gaborone he was advised to try for South Africa by the UNHCR. Failing to cross the border en route to Pretoria, he was sent back to Zimbabwe.

Following a second, failed, attempt to reach across the Limpopo river, the young looking political activist was helped by a UK based asylum seekers organisation who provide the airfare to a safe country. During the 6 weeks of this episode the Home Office decided not to return any Zimbabwean asylum seekers.

Twelve months on Gerald is living in the Midlands and was granted asylum in 5/03. Undecided about his future – to stay, even though the UK isn't a very friendly place – or to return to Zimbabwe in a political role. – **G2 page 2** –

Tues 23

Leader Comment, **No News is bad news** – the principled members of the British government, who spoke out – and were overtly critical of the Mugabe regime – may have moved on to other things. With P Hain with other governmental responsibilities and R Cook out of the limelight – selling his memoirs? – there is a need for the British administration to highlight the wrong doings of the Mugabe regime. The current situation is to let the EU speak out for us.

Despite the international world's focus being in other places – Afghanistan, Iraq or Sierra Leone – the closure of Zimbabwe's only independent news outlet, the Daily News, and the treatment of the opposition leader M Tsvangirwa, still need a response from London.

Will conditions north of the Limpopo have to deteriorate to the standards of such countries as Liberia or Sierra Leone, one of civil war, before “a strong regional initiative, led by South Africa and its blinkered leader Thabo Mbeki, could only see where his nation's and Africa's true interest lies, Mr Mugabe might soon be writing his memoirs.”

Obituary – Simon Muzenda 28. 10. 22. – 20. 9. 03 born in the Gutu district in the south of the country, one of the poorest and driest parts of the land. Educated at a local church mission school, then gained a diploma in carpentry across the border in South Africa.

A career in politics began as a local leader of the African nationalist movement that began to rebel against the rule of the whites, in the guise of Ian Smith. In detention for 10 years from 1962 he then went into exile into Zambia and then Mozambique where he worked with Mugabe and Zanu to defeat the Rhodesian regime.

Following independence, in 1980, this not very highly educated ‘national hero’ served in the government as deputy prime minister Mugabe. He also spent a short time as foreign minister. The next career move was as vice president to the self proclaimed president Mugabe in 1987.

On the streets today Muzenda – suffering from hypertension and diabetes – has met with a great out pouring of sorrow. Rather he will be remembered for his complicity in the corruption and repression of recent years. – **GDN page 25, C 3** –

Wed 24

Preempting a decision, by the Zimbabwe Media and Information Commission, on whether to grant a publication licence to the shut down Daily News (qv) the paper's website announced “we will be back.” Not so said the MIC, registration was refused.

In the view of **TendaiChari**, writing for the pro Mugabe paper, the silenced paper was accused of being a servile mouthpiece of the opposition. It had been “deceptive and irresponsible” and “prone to ethical lapses” – **Sunday Mirror** –

Of the other significant event in the country – the death of Simon Muzenda – the obituary writer described a “father figure and political grand master who illuminated Zimbabwean life with an aura of composure and calm wisdom.” Meanwhile an editorial called on all Zimbabweans “to follow in the footsteps” of a man “who encouraged citizens in this country to persevere in spite of the political and economic problems the country was facing.” – **Daily Herald, GDN page 24, C 1** –

Fri 26

Headline – *Cricket sponsor warns against tour* – in an echo of the call to cancel the 2004 cricket tour of Zimbabwe (qv 27/4) the chief sponsor of the game has called for a rethink. The chairman of Vodafone – which sponsors the game to the tune of 3m pounds [English] – has called on the governing body, the EWCB, to think again.

Lord MacLaurin of Knebworth, chairman of the telecom multinational described the prospect of any team visit to Zimbabwe, run by Mugabe as ‘abhorrent. As a former chairman of cricket’s ruling body said that an England visit to Zimbabwe would be bad for cricket and for his company. – **GDN page 1, C 8** –

Sat 27

Headline – *Zimbabwe arrests ‘banned’ journalists* – with the closure of the Daily News (qv) the authorities are intent on hunting down the papers journalists and charging them with working illegally. Of the 45 police warrants issued by the police, 36 are still outstanding. The 9 that have been detained face 2 years in jail.

As well as the journalists arrested five directors of the Associated Media group have been arrested by the police. They have been charged with violating the country's media laws. The whole issue surrounding the Daily News seems likely to lessen the chances of the readmittance of Zimbabwe to the Commonwealth, as sought by Thabo Mbeki. – **GDN page 17, C 6** –

Sun 28

Newsline – *Land in Pain* – filmmaker Fari Farenzo * returns to his country. His main observations are the number of queues that are everywhere, on the streets [sleeping], outside the South African high commission building, hoping for a visa. It was noted that to jump the line a payment of Z\$1, 500 [1.50p, English] would secure the vital piece of paper.

Around the bank’s cash machines crowds gathered to take their turn to withdraw a limit of Z\$1, 500 [1.50p English] per day.

There were also visits to friends, Mathew, and a photographer who had been arrested twice – an occupational hazard – who was a witness to the police raids on the Daily News building (qv). Press conference from an executive of the Associated Media Group after the closure of the paper. Others interviewed, some faces hidden, were members of the opposition’s MDC, who told of beatings and harassment at the hands of the police and security forces. – **C4 News, 19. 30** - * *phonetic spelling*

Tues 30

Newsline – a secret report showing the aftermath of the working of poachers – desperate for food – who have killed an estimated 3% of the country wildlife.

As is a typical occurrence – Penda de Friez* - a white farmer is turned off his land by a group of ‘war veterans’ and the land cleared of bush for more black families to move onto this new farmland. There is no management of the wildlife, no tourists come to view the game and those working in wildlife management are unemployed. – **Barnaby Phillips, BBC News 18. 00** - **phonetic spelling*

OCTOBER

Fri 3

Headline – ***UN ‘letting torturer escape’*** – with the return of H Dowa, a Zimbabwean police chief inspector, to Harare the United Nations have lost the chance to put this former peacekeeper – working in Kosovo – on trial for allegations of torture.

Redress, a London based organisation which works for justice for survivors of torture, claim the UN has broken its own treaty by allowing the policeman to face an international court. The world body cited a lack of funds as they simply sent him back to Zimbabwe. Now back in Harare the charity felt it was unlikely that he would “be held accountable for his alleged crimes as torture was endemic and part of the Zanu PF government’s strategy to stay in power. – **GDN page 18, C1** –

Thurs 9

At least 200 Zimbabwean trade union activists were arrested yesterday after rallies protesting at the country’s 70% unemployment rate, shortages and soaring taxes and prices. Police accused white owners of factories of backing the protests in Harare, Bulawayo, Mutare and other towns by urging participation. Those arrested face a maximum sentence of five years in jail. – **AP** –

Sat 11

According to Home Office research, by Linda McDonald, firearm numbers – per 100, 000 of population is 4. 81. As a comparison the same research shows that in England and Wales the figure is 0. 12. – *graphic*, **GDN page 11** –

Fri 17

Headline – ***Police accused of beating Zimbabwean lawyer who defended reporter*** – B Mtetwa – she who successfully championed the cause of A Meldrum (qv) has become the unwilling victim of police attention.

Called to assist the lawyer, after a car jacking incident, the police – from the Borrowdale police station in Harare – accused her of driving under the influence of alcohol. Taken to the cells she was detained for three hours where she was subject to a number of beatings by a named officer – Officer Mutumwa. Speaking 24 hours after the incident to a higher ranking officer – assistant commissioner W Bvudzijena - denied any knowledge of any charges pending. – **GDN page 3, C 1 –**

Mon 20

Headline – *Zimbabwe fuel firm on empty* – deepening the crisis that faces the Mugabe regime is the scarcity of petrol that is the backbone of the government machine. Commenting on the crisis a spokesman for the state owned company, the National Oil Company of Zimbabwe, indicated that some fuel was expected “early next week.”

Devoid of fuel transport, busses, the running of the police vehicles and ambulances has come to a stop – although relatives of patients are providing fuel for the emergency vehicles. Police work has to be carried out on foot or with the help of bicycles.

International oil companies stopped providing fuel as long ago as 12/99 because of the failure of the government to pay the bills. Even with a 12 month lifeline from Libya conditions did not improve. Noczim now needs to pay 180m pounds [English]. – **GDN page 15, C 1 –**

Sat 25

Zimbabwe’s only private daily paper, the Daily News, which police closed down last month, is preparing to publish again after a Harare court ordered government officials to grant it a license. – **Reuters –**

Sun 26

Tension rise in Zimbabwe over treason trial – having ended its case against Morgan Tsvangaria, the leader of the Movement for Democratic Change, who stands trial accused of treason (qv 3/2), the defence case is about to start.

Led by G Bizo’s, the South African lawyer who defended Nelson Mandela at his treason trial in the 1960’s, the claim will be made that the states chief prosecution witness B Meneshe is a ‘delusional and chronic liar’ who had earlier lost his job with an Israeli newspaper. In earlier evidence it was claimed that the British government backed the plot to assassinate – a word that never, according to the defence that never appeared in the video tape at the heart of the states evidence – Mr Mugabe. It is known that a \$60, 000 [355, 000 pounds English] fee had been paid to Ben Meneshe in his work as a political consultant. The defence claims this was a payment to frame the accused. – **IOS page 19, C 1 –**

Exiled Zimbabweans marched through central London yesterday in protest at Mr Mugabe's regime.

Mon 27

Headline – ***Police crack down on Harare newspaper*** – hours after a court had given the Daily News permission to resume its print run (qv 25/10) police once again raided the papers offices. Once again 18 journalists – who had just seen a paper with the banner headline “We are back’ hit the streets – were arrested. They were charged with publishing without a license. and then released.

At the same time the home of one of the directors of Associated Newspapers of Zimbabwe, S Sipea Nkomo – the group's chief executive - was raided by the police. As he was not there to be arrested his niece, T Nkomo who has no connection with the paper, was taken into custody. However police did detain another company director, the former high court judge W Sansole, who was charged with publishing without a license. According to the lawyer acting for ANZ, G Moyo, he will remain in custody until the remaining directors hand themselves in. – **GDN page 16, C 8 –**

Wed 29

Press comment – For African countries to ignore Zimbabwe's plight “is in itself undemocratic.” But unlike Business Day [in SA] it also had praise for Mr Mugabe, worrying that press repression would “erode the cause and good intention” of his land distribution programme. Despite its problems Zimbabwe is still “part of the global family striving to promote democracy and good governance.” – **Times of Zambia –**

“We [authors note, *white displaced farmers*] are like people in a coma” one lamented “we can't see our future.” Only about 100, 000 workers remain in employment in the whole of the country. Some have turned to odd jobs, while others try “panning for gold under railway tracks and prostitution.” – **Zimbabwe Sunday Standard, The Editor, GDN page 26, C 1 –**

NOVEMBER

Tues 11

Headline – ***Canaan Banana, president jailed in sex scandal, dies*** – the former Methodist minister ‘in’ at the conception of a new country, but providing Zimbabwe's first wiff of scandal – his involvement in ‘gay sex, for which he was jailed – has died at the age of sixty seven.

Of the former president, speaking on state television, the current incumbent expressed “his deep sorrow and sadness.” – **GDN page 2, C 3 –**

Wed 12

Obituary, Reverend Canaan Banana 5. 3. 36 – 10. 11. 03 born in Esiphezini in the district of Esingondi east of Bulawayo in central Matebeleland the son of a Malawi migrant worker and a Zimbabwean women. With the intention of becoming a teacher he trained at the Tegweni Training Institute to be followed by ordination, as a Methodist minister in 1966 after a 4 centre training in Salisbury, Japan, Washington DC and finally in Pretoria.

After various teaching positions he joined the Southern African Urban Industrial Mission for 3 years from 1970. During which time becoming vice president of Rhodesia's African National Council '72/'73. Moving to the USA to represent this movement from '73 -'75, at the United Nations. Returning from a period of detention, in his homeland, then attending the 1976 Geneva based conference to decide his county's future. As second choice for the post of president – Nkomo (qv) refused it because the position held no power – he took office in 4/80.

As president he is credited with brokering the peace deal between Nkomo and Mugabe after the prime minister let loose the notorious 5th Brigade in Matebeleland (qv). Outside his homeland the president was much involved in trying to solve other African problems.

Early on in life the Methodist minister had penned a book on the theology of liberation titled **The Gospel According to the Ghetto**. There was also his version of the Lord's Prayer, which included the lines "Teach us to demand our share of the gold/ and forgive our docility. – **GDN page 29, C 1 –**

Sun 16

Headline – ***Mugabe clamps down*** – an email urging protest against Robert Mugabe's regime led to the arrest of 11 people for "inciting violence" among Zimbabweans. – **IOS page 2 C 3 –**

Mon 17

Headline – ***Zimbabwe seizes foreign currency*** – throughout the country, with special attention being given to tourist venues police roadblocks are more and more in evidence. With vehicles stopped Mugabe's 'war veterans' are reliving passengers of all their foreign currency. This is despite the fact that the rules say that it is legal to own \$250. The veterans even target travelers who are only passing through the country.

In the view of one economist, efforts like this are futile, as seized amounts will go nowhere to alleviate the fuel and electricity crisis. Rather the government should be looking at the root causes of the problem, such as falling exports, an unrealistic exchange rate and negative interest rates. Inflation rate 455%. Unemployment 70%.

Elsewhere in the country – the Nigerian president, O Obasanjo – will arrive in Harare today to tell Mugabe why there is no invite for him to attend the Commonwealth heads of government meeting, on 5 - 8/12, in the Nigerian capital of Abuja. Basically the reason given will be Mugabe's shown disregard for Commonwealth's stated aims of members adhering to a set democratic principals over recent months (qv). **GDN page 16, C 7 –**

Tues 18

Headline – *Mugabe insists he will go to the summit* – there was no clear outcome, after the 90 minuet meeting between Mugabe and president Obasanjo of Nigeria (qv 17/11). On the one hand the Nigerian president, told a press conference, the possibility of Mugabe attending the forthcoming Commonwealth conference, was still “under discussion.” However Mugabe, standing behind his Nigerian visitor said “yes consultation is necessary and we look forward to attending.”

With these words there is the possibility that the 54 delegate meeting could be open to a split along racial lines. If the suspended leader was to force an attendance then, according to a Foreign Office spokesman in London, it is unlikely that the British leader would make the journey to Nigeria. – **GDN page 14, C 1 –**

Wed 19

Headline – *Mugabe arrests more than 100 opponents* – despite preemptive strikes by the security forces – in which eight union leaders were detained – a Zimbabwean Congress of Trade Unions demonstrations took place countrywide.

In Harare 100 demonstrators, who gathered in the city center, where they showed T shirt support for the ZTUC was confronted by riot police. They were all detained. In Bulawayo 50 union activists were also held. In other cities, Victoria Falls, Gweru in the Midlands and the border city of Mutare there were also protests at the continuing rising inflation rate – 525% and the high unemployment rate.

Those still in jail – W Chibhebe, secretary general of the ZCTU, L Matombo the groups chairman, R Majongwe a teachers union leader, L Madhuka head of the National Constitutional Assembly, two officials of the Zimbabwe in Crisis Coalition and A Moysse of the Media Monitoring Project.

As to the no invite to the Commonwealth Conference (qv 18/11) the president, speaking on state television blamed “the white racists” in the body. – **GDN page 15, C 1 –**

Thurs 20

Headline – *Zimbabwe unions call foe strike* – with eight union leaders still detained, after the recent Harare protest (qv 19/11), members have been urged to stay at home over the next 48 hours.

Following the countrywide protests the Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions say that more than 360 protesters were arrested by police as they called on the government to reduce taxes and respect human and trade union rights. However police say that only eighty eight demonstrators were detained. They will be charged with staging an illegal demonstration. – **GDN page 16, C 8** –

Fri 21

Headline – *Zimbabwe activists halt strike* – as a result of the police releasing 52 trade union activists, held after the recent Harare demonstrations (qv 19/11) a called for two general strike has been cancelled after only one day.

Speaking after his release from police custody L Matombo, president of the Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions – the stay away sponsors – said “since we are safely out of police custody there is no longer any need for the stay away to continue tomorrow.”

Throughout the country people turned up for work on Day 1. Union officials blamed this poor response to the strike call on a delay in sending out the strike call. – **GDN page 18, C 7** –

Sun 23

Headline – *Freedom fighters – or a trap set by Mugabe* – with the deepening crisis that is engulfing Zimbabwe the time to take direct action, according to some, is now. With this in mind the shadowy Zimbabwe Freedom Movement has chosen this moment to disclose itself.

With a declared aim of toppling president Mugabe in a peaceful coup to ‘to resolve Zimbabwe’s problems’ a video of the movements inaugural meeting was shown at an arts festival in London recently, with the aid of P Tachell (qv) a long time opponent of Mugabe.

On the tape itself, said to have been shot inside the country, were Commander C Black Mamba and his deputy Nthuko Fezla who outlined the movement’s aims. Chief among these was to remove the president in a bloodless coup so that he could “receive the truth.”

shades of opposition, both internal, the MDC, and external, the foreign office in London, distanced themselves from such a group. There is a feeling that such a group could be a front, set up by the Zanu PF regime, as an excuse for further repression. – **IOS page 24, C 1** –

Mon 24

Headline – *Radio Free Zimbabwe* – from a grimy suburb in London, exiled radio superstars – thrown out of their Harare base in 2000 (qv 6/10) – are beaming out the only opposition voice to Mugabe’s regime.

With their exile in London, a typical broadcast* – listened to by villagers deep in the bush on hard to find short wave radios – could here a record track from Zimbabwe music superstar Oliver Mtukadzi. From **Wasakara** comes the lines -

You are old, you are spent – it is time to accept you are old – this being a thinly veiled message to the president that ‘his time is up.’ Naturally such a sentiment is banned from the play list of the state radio.

With no paid reporters or correspondents, from inside the country the airwaves are filled by reports, via mobile phone, to a Harare then forwarded to London then rung back on air. Correspondents come from a wide society from a traveling salesman, a member of the police force to members of the public. None are trained reporters and all file under false names to protect them from the security forces.

Founded by Gerry Jackson, 49, a former DJ on ZBC’s Radio 3 [BBC’s R1], sacked for airing views of strikers during the 1997 food riots. Founded the independent Capital Radio in 2000, after a legal battle in the Supreme court.

Other notables, who conducts interviews, include Georgina Goodwin, 36, from the north London venue. Having worked for state radio and written a newspaper column, she now carries out interviews of victims of state harassment or even politicians ‘on air.’

Commenting on the possibility of welcoming back reporters of the stature of M Mundwawarare or J Matindi the justice minister they “would be welcomed back to our prisons.” – **G2, page 14/15** – to listen in Britain SW Radio Africa is broadcast every night from 4pm to 7pm – BST – on 6145Khz in the 49m band –

Wed 26

Headline – *Mugabe not invited to summit* – in light of the unproductive meeting between the Nigerian president and Mugabe (qv 18/11) there will be no invitation from president Obasanjo to attend the Commonwealth meeting in Abuja in 12/03. – **GDN page 18, C 2**

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Thurs 27

Headline – *Army ‘faked’ votes for Mugabe* – appearing before a press conference in Pretoria a renegade member of the Zimbabwe armed forces confirmed that there was an official campaign to enhance the number of votes cast for Mugabe during the recent presidential election.

Safely, although not fully sure of this and away from his army interrogators, Lieutenant H Ndlovu, aged 43, told of his part in stuffing the ballot box in the southern city of Msvingo in 2/02 one month before the election. Under the orders of Captain Chauke of the 4th Brigade he stuffed ballot boxes. Later, after being accused of having sympathy for the

MDC and suffering months of physical torture, he fled – along with a fellow officer who survived similar treatment – he crossed into South Africa.

This evidence will greatly strengthen the agreement of the Movement for Democratic Change's charge of ballot rigging by the authorities that is proceeding through the courts since 2002 (qv 12/4). – **GDN page 19, C 1** –

Headline – *11m lose parents to Aids* – this figure represents a calculation by the children's charity Unicef for the whole of sub Saharan Africa.

Specific to Zimbabwe the report indicates that 1:5 children will be an orphan by 2010 with 80% of them having lost one or both parents to the virus. – **ditto** –

Sat 29

Headline – *We may quit the Commonwealth for good, says Mugabe* – speaking at the funeral of a Zanu PF activist the president fired his first shot at the recent decision by the Nigerian president Obasanjo (qv 26/ 11) not to invite him to the Commonwealth forthcoming heads of government meeting.

His second response, to what he calls, actions of white racists within the movement, is back street maneuvers to have the secretary – Don Mckinnon's position challenged by the Sri Lankan foreign minister L Kadirgamar – a position the Canadian diplomat has held for four years. South Africa's president is according to diplomats in Pretoria, supporting the move.

In his speech Mugabe challenged the attitude of the small number of white members of the Commonwealth on their attitude to the much larger African membership. "Is it the African solidarity and sovereignty, the solidarity of those who are non whites, or .. the power of the few whites in the Commonwealth that should dominant the view of the Commonwealth?" He also took a swipe at the Australian prime minister, J Howard, after being called "a despot" by calling into question his genetic makeup. The head of what was a penal colony was accused of having a criminal ancestry; therefore he was genetically modified.

In the words of J Makumbe, the coordinator of the Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition "If he asks African leaders to choose between him and Obasanjo, he shouldn't be surprised if they chose Obasanjo." – **GDN page 19, C 1** –

DECEMBER

Mon 1

Headline – *Commonwealth snubs Mugabe* as to the possibility that this 'no invite' could herald the downfall of Zimbabwe's president the media has its say – " In the first fortnight of December, the foundations of Zimbabwe's future will be laid as the annual congress of Zanu – PF takes place. All eyes will be on this party that has ruled Zimbabwe

for 23 years and taken our country and economy almost to the point of no return. There are two possibilities from this congress and both are simple. One is that the 79 year old president ... will announce his successor and step down as head of the party and president of Zimbabwe. The other that he will dig his heels in, gather his party around him and do nothing

If Mr Mugabe decides he is not ready to relinquish the reins of power, the months and years ahead look very bleak ... Zimbabwean hope that Zanu PF has been following the events in Georgia where the president was forced to resign* sees the parallel and takes note of what happens when people finally say enough is enough. – **Editorial 27/11 Daily News – Editorial Briefing, GDN page 24**

Wed 3

Headline – *We'll overcome woes and build a rival world power, Mugabe tells Zimbabwe* as he makes his state of the nation address before parliament. These comments are in the realms of fantasy, according to the Zimbabwe Independent – one of the few privately owned newspapers remaining in the country.

Commented the paper editor, Iden Wetherell, “He’s living in a world of his own invention. He offered no solutions and appeared to think a lifeline is about to be thrown by China, and there is no sign of this.”

In his address to parliament the president made no reference to finding a solution to the series of ongoing strikes by doctors, nurses or postal workers.

The treason trial, of the leader of the Movement for Democratic Change M Tsvangirwa, has taken an unusual turn. The prosecution has asked the presiding judge if they can change the charges against the leader of the opposition. The reason given – the flimsy evidence being used. – **GDN page 13, -**

Thurs 4

Headline – *Nigerian press review* – With the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting [Chogom] opening in Abuja tomorrow, the debate over the absence of the Zimbabwean president rumbled on. Robert Mugabe should have been issued with an invitation by the Nigerian president, Olusengu Obasanja – “African Commonwealth members should never let that old wolf Britain dictate to them who to invite and who not to invite.” – **A Bonsuns, Daily Trust –**

“help Zimbabwe get out of its present predicament ...at 79 and 23 years in power, Mr Mugabe must be encouraged to step graciously aside. It would be a travesty of his past services to his country to simply demonise him out of office as the west would prefer. “ **Editorial, This Day – The Editor, GDN page 28, C 1 –**

Fri 5

Headline – *Blair digs in his heels over Zimbabwe* – As the Labour prime minister traveled to Nigeria, for the Commonwealth heads of government meeting, he took the opportunity to counter the charge – from Mugabe – that his policy towards Zimbabwe were based on the alleged racial policies of the colonial past. In fact the base of the policy was one of change for all the members of the population. “It is simply to do with regimes that don’t treat their people properly.”

In other comments on the Zimbabwean leaders recent outpourings, his call to African members to leave the Commonwealth was rejected, after a meeting in Pretoria on 28/11. The pressure group the Southern African Development Community agreed to take the initiative and become involved in the task of getting the dialogue between Zanu and the MDC going again. Many countries, on the continent, - SA, Zambia and Mozambique – call for the Harare regime to readmitted to the Commonwealth. They site evidence of improving human rights in the country.

Inside the country the shadow agricultural minister, R Gasela of the MDC, says that the country will run out of maize grain by the first month of the new year if the government does not ask for an increase in international aid. Aid agencies indicate that more than one third of the population will need food by the end of 2003. – **GDN page 15, C 1 –**

Headline – *Why pick on Mugabe* – whilst agreeing that there is no justification for the human rights abuses, that are a daily occurrence in Zimbabwe, the governments of the Commonwealth are not without there own limits to human rights legislation.

In India – in the name of ‘fighting terrorism’ a Prevention of Terrorism Act has given police wide powers to act. Our own government has increased such powers in recent times. There are other examples of torture, the passing of the death sentence and similar, that the writer has observed. – **K Allen, Director Amnesty International UK, ditto page 28, C 7 –**

Headline – *‘All nations need friends’*. – “When the colonial British, where ‘the sun never sets’, crumbled .. the British, with the agreement of former colonies, formed the Commonwealth club. Originally the former colonies accepted to join the club, expecting to be equal sovereign heads of their own governments. What we see now is the emergence of the ugly head of a colonial syndrome that we fought and defeated. Today Zimbabwe is under siege, tomorrow it will be our neighbours South Africa and Namibia. Zimbabwe supported Mr Mckinnon for secretary general but today he is in the forefront of demonising Zimbabwe ..

... “ Zimbabwe has a right to the Commonwealth membership as an equal partner and sovereign state entitled to all Commonwealth privileges”. – **S D Ndlovu, Herald, 4/12 –**

“Zimbabwe has not done enough to be allowed back into the club. On the contrary, things have got worse this past year .. W hope the South African government will not be

opposing Mr McKinnon's re-election and fighting for Zimbabwe's readmission. This could make us complicit in splitting the Commonwealth on racial lines and leave us looking like a champion of despotism." – **Editorial Star, South Africa, 3/12 – The Editor ditto page 30 –**

Sat 6

Headline – ***Commonwealth leaders delay decision on defiant Mugabe*** – that is for a period of 24 hours until a 'special interest group' – made up of the heads of government group from India, Australia, SA, Mozambique, Canada and chaired by Jamaica - were asked to come up with a compromise formula to allow Zimbabwe back into the fold within 2 years.

It is thought for this plan to be acceptable, to the 54 Commonwealth members, Mugabe would have to show that there was a vast improvement over the human rights issue. Critics of any move for readmission of Zimbabwe are of the opinion that such a change in policy, by the authorities in Harare, is unlikely. The position of D McKinnon (qv 29/11), as secretary general of the Commonwealth, is secure for another 4 years despite a challenge from a pro Mugabe supporter.

Within Zimbabwe the president has gone on the offensive, on two fronts, in his attack on the stance of the Commonwealth. In a second television broadcast the president attacked the stance of Britain's prime minister " Let Blain and the British government take note and listen, Zimbabwe is for Zimbabweans. Our people are overjoyed, the land is ours. We are now the rulers and owners of Zimbabwe."

Speaking to the 3,000 specially selected members of Zanu – PF, at their annual congress, the party leader reiterated his thoughts – expressed earlier (qv 3/12) – of leaving the Commonwealth. "If the choice was made for us ... to remain with our sovereignty and loose membership of the Commonwealth, then I would say, let the Commonwealth go. What is it to us? Our people are overjoyed, the land is ours. We are now the rulers and owners of Zimbabwe." – **GDN page 2, C 3 –**

Sun 7

Headline – ***Mugabe: Commonwealth is 'Animal Farm.'*** – comments made by the president – "The Commonwealth is a mere club, but it has become like Animal Farm where some members are more equal than other" – addressing Zanu – PF's annual congress. Congress also passed a motion supporting the threat, made earlier by Mugabe, to pull out of the Commonwealth as the body was interfering in the internal affairs of the country.

At the heads of government meeting itself the 'special interest group' (qv 6/12) will put forward the proposal that Zimbabwe should remain suspended for another 2 year period. However the group will propose that envoys – president Obasanjo and Don McKinnon

should monitor events inside the country. Revealed has been the votes cast during the re – election of the sitting secretary general at 40: 11. – **IOS page20, C 1 –**

Mon 8

Headline – ***Mugabe quits Commonwealth*** – in defiance of the extension of suspension decision, on a 4: 2 majority of the ‘special interest group (qv 7/12), Zimbabwe’s president announced that the country will leave the group.

As reported by the news agency *Reuters* a statement from Mugabe went “Anything that you agree on Zimbabwe which is short of this position [ending suspension] no matter how sweetly worded, means Zimbabwe is still a subject of the Commonwealth. This is unacceptable. This is it – it’s quits, and quits it will be.” – **GDN page 1, C 1 –**

Analysis – Humiliation led Mugabe to quit the club – the man has led the country out of a club that many other countries have taken. Ultimately these miscreants have rejoined the club further down the line.

The move, by the president, is a fit of pique at his suspension 2 years ago. He will miss the status of belonging; there will be no more strutting around on the world stage, as a ‘notable’ will. The Commonwealth will not care; there will now be more funds available, as his aid packages tended to be modest.

On the domestic front – “a rouge state like Zimbabwe needs to be isolated” Iden Wetherell, editor of the Zimbabwe Independent. He also said that even though he had left the clubs Mugabe still wanted to be a member. – **ditto page 13, C 1 –**

Leader Comment, **The Mugabe problem** – with this action the president of Zimbabwe is not ‘truly disastrous’ what would have been was Mugabe’s aim in the splitting – across racial lines and between north and southern members of the Commonwealth.

Since the 2000 parliamentary election’s – the reason for the original suspension – Mugabe “has done nothing to earn a lifting of the suspension or of the EU and US sanctions.”

“The Mugabe problem diverted time and attention away from crucial issues for Africa like poverty reduction, fair trade and HIV – Aids. To this extent Abuja was a missed opportunity, Mugabe and his apologists were to blame. All Africans should draw their own conclusions”. – *the author believes that this Leader was written before Mugabe’s announcement –*

Tues 9

Headline – ***Money no longer talks in Mugabe’s empire*** – the tale of a pensioner couple living in Harare, with their monthly pension of Z\$34, 000 24 pounds [English] these former teachers contemplate the cost of their shopping for the week.

Eggs, bacon, a bottle of cooking oil, bread and a bottle of local brandy [flavoured spirit], six sausages and a packet of beans. There was the option of a purchase of a piece of fish. However the cost, at Z\$23, 000, was out of the couples price range. For the articles purchased there was a payment of Z\$50, 000 – way above the pension allocation.

Urban myth – the old style Z\$ 500 and 1,000 notes, that have been recently replaced – in a different style – was necessary because the ‘old style’ notes contained a silver strip which had a high platinum content. The new style notes do not have such a security mark.

Headline ***Mugabe mania can be fatal*** – concentration on the ins and outs of an included or excluded Zimbabwe could harm the credibility of the movement. Who, which institutions, prioritized the running order of the heads of government meeting?

To some extent, especially in Britain, the media was to the fore. It was they who portrayed the struggle between the ‘good’ whites and the ‘bad’ black members of the Commonwealth. In other words the old racist issue of preserving the status of the remaining whites whom continue to live in black environment.

Because of Zimbabwe far more ‘life and death’ issues had to be left of the agenda. Perhaps the largest of these was the ability of small time farmers who, in the example of Nigeria, produce groundnuts, maize and millet et al, should be able to get their products onto the world market. However they have no clout to control prices on the world market.

Who has? Non other than the white owned companies of the white members of the Commonwealth. Time should have been made to devise a strategy that would allow the free movement of products and people across member’s borders – rather like the allowance of free movement across states in the European Union. – **C Duodu, African writer, GDN page 24, 7 –**

Headline – ***Tactics fail to split Commonwealth*** – despite the apparent support for a divided Commonwealth, from some black nations, their attempts to support this move with a challenge for the secretary general’s position has backfired.

Many individual countries – Botswana, Ghana and Kenya included – decided to stick with the democratic principal of the movement. Such a decision not only confirms the principals of the Commonwealth, bodes badly for the claim by the South African president. As chief proponent of the ending of Zimbabwe’s suspension how can Mbeki claim to be a leader of African opinion? – **GDN page 15 –**

Headline – ***‘It is now more isolated than ever’*** – “ [On] the matter of Zimbabwe’s association with the Commonwealth .. we wish to rally behind the president and delegates [at the just completed Zanu – PF party conference in Masvingo] and voice our concurrence. Our sovereignty is supreme

Zimbabwe is a member of various more relevant and more progressive groupings in the region all ready. There is nothing fantastic about being part of a club of former British

colonies. Withdrawing from the club with zero economic impact on Zimbabwe so if the people say – and they have – that it is time to quit, their will should be done. – **Editorial 8/12 Herald, The Editor GDN page 26 -**

Wed 10

Headline – *Zimbabwe threatens to cut UK ties* – in a move, aimed to bolster the countries withdrawal from the Commonwealth (qv 8/12) the status of diplomatic relations between London and Harare are being considered.

Speaking to the Herald newspaper, information minister – J Moyo – said it was time to confront the British establishment head on. The paper, which is the outlet for official Zanu PF said in an editorial “the time has now come for Zimbabwe to fully engage Britain head on by cutting all diplomatic ties with the former colonial master and its side kick Australia.”

Although calling for the ending of diplomatic relations nothing was said about a forced repatriation of the 40, 000 British citizens or the 300 British firms that live and provide employment in the country. Such a move would set off a chain of events that would effect all the member states of the EU.

Reacting to events ‘our man in Harare’ showed little concern. This is not the first time the mission or its resident has been attacked. Earlier there were claims that B Donnelly had been involved in a plot to overthrow the president. In London prime minister Blair reported to the Commons on events at the Commonwealth summit. With Zimbabwe being driven further into chaos by “ruinous economic policies. I and others argued that it was inconceivable that Zimbabwe should be readmitted to the councils of the Commonwealth.” – **GDN page 14, C 7 -**

Thurs 11

Headline – *Human rights award for ‘courageous’ Zimbabwe lawyer* – the annual award of the Human Rights Lawyer of the Year has gone to Beatrice Mtetwa for, as the citation says, her “courage and commitment to human rights whilst working in an environment hostile to lawyers and the rule of law and her disregard to the risk of her personal safety.”

Speaking from Pretoria A Meldrum – the Guardian journalist who has more than most to be thankful for the work of this Harare based lawyer – he called her a “fearless lawyer” who “defended [the] freedom of the press and the rule of law in Zimbabwe under the most difficult and dangerous conditions.”

The annual award sponsored by the human rights campaign group Justice along with the civil rights campaigners Liberty was held at the Law Society Hall in London. – **GDN page 1, C 1 –**

Fri 12

Headline – *Mugabe’s commonwealth defeat is Mbeki’s, too* – more details of the voting split, for the post of Commonwealth secretary general, have emerged. The Sri Lankan candidate got four south Asian and six southern African votes. He got no east or west African or Pacific votes, and only one from the Caribbean. – **GDN page 28, C 6** –

Sat 13

Headline – *Be happy, Mugabe tells the starving* – despite the huge problems facing the country the government has gone on the offensive to convince the public that everything is well. Through the efforts of a powerful media campaign efforts are being made to inject cheerfulness into the people.

The radio plays state sponsored jingles, there is now state support for football, as the African Nations Cup begins to dominate the television. Official funding of the Zimbabwe Football Association’s ‘Warriors’ national team, after years of neglect from the authorities, has seen the Information minister, J Moyo, pen support lyrics – **“we are going for goals, goals, goals. Score Warriors; go, go Warriors”**.

In the theatre, elements of dissent are left unchecked by the authorities. They see productions – Up the Vice Staircase or Super Patriots and Morons – as a monitor of the public’s perception of events. Even artists like C Kamangwana, who is exhibiting in Harare’s National gallery’s ‘**An Illusion of Freedom**’ – admits that his work is becoming more political, a depiction of women selling oranges makes a statement the way the paint is dripping. “You know they are not going to sell the oranges. The drips are like tears, he said. – **GDN page 19, C 1** –

Mon 14

Headline – *Tourists’ money is needed, but boosts Mugabe regime* – they still come – to admire Victoria Falls – do the overseas visitors, from Japan, Germany and South Africa. Left unsaid, by the visitors who stay in nearby hotels – which are four fifths empty – are whether it is right or wrong to come to a country where the people are brutalised as part of everyday life.

According to a MDC supportive councilor, on Victoria Falls council, there is a wish that visitors did not come here – it gave credence, and foreign currency – to the Mugabe regime. This, despite the jobs that become available in local hotels, does not put some off some visitors.

Figures show that the occupancy rate of hotels owned by the Zimsum group – the largest in the country – are down 39% in the six months to 9/03. Recently the Central Statistical Office told a Harare newspaper that arrivals from Europe have soared 67%, Asia 80% and the USA 19%. Figures from the Zimbabwe Council for Tourism show that the money

earned from tourism collapsed from \$700m in 1999 to \$70m in 2002 and is still falling.
GDN page 14, C 1 –

Fri 19

Headline – *Mbeki visits Mugabe – and his sworn rival* – in an attempt to facilitate a breakthrough, in the stalled Zanu PF/ MDC negotiations, the South African president went to Harare for the day.

Despite a 3 hour meeting with Mugabe and 45 minutes with Morgan Tsvangirwa Mr Mbeki was unable to bring the two sides together. During the separate meetings both sides set out conditions. Zimbabwe's president would recommence talks when the MDC dropped its court challenge surrounding the president's 2002 election. On the other hand there should be no conditions set for the opposition party to resume talks. – **GDN page 15, C 1 –**

Sun 21

Headline – *Mugabe 'is an occupier'* – Morgan Tsvangirwa, Zimbabwe's opposition leader, accused President Robert Mugabe of running the country "like a foreign occupying force", and called for a broad alliance to confront him next year. The proposed alliance would "intensify pressure on the regime and force it to come to the negotiating table. – **IOS page 12, C 5 –**

Mon 29

Headline – *The latest refugees from Mugabe's lawless Zimbabwe – hundreds of elephants* – fed up of being targets for the 'war veterans' or those who are hungry animals are now fleeing the country.

In recent times the numbers of elephants who have crossed the Zambezi River into Zambia's Mosi-o-Tunya National Park, close to the town of Victoria Falls has risen from 50 to about 200. Not surprisingly this small area cannot cope with the influx. Not only do the resident animals suffer also the farmers, who live close by the park, have had their crops of maize, millet or vegetables destroyed.

To alleviate this problem the Zambian authorities have a bold plan. They are hoping to create an 'elephant corridor' to encourage the animals to migrate the 124 miles north to the elephant depleted Kafue National Park. – **GDN page 2, C 1 –**

Headline – *Doctors fear Ebola may have reached Zimbabwe* – as if the country has not got enough to worry about a patient at Victoria Falls hospital has died of the suspected virus. South African experts are examining samples, taken from the Angolan trader. – **ditto page 13, 1 –**

