

in detention. Despite these improvements, the "emergency powers", first implemented by Ian Smith over twenty years ago, were extended last July for another six months.

### **ECONOMIC SITUATION**

The Zimbabwean economy ranks among the healthiest in sub-Saharan Africa. In addition to an abundance of natural resources Zimbabwe also possesses a diversified economic base, partly because Rhodesia had to encourage more industrialization to compensate for the sanctions imposed against it. In the first two years following its independence Zimbabwe also experienced significant growth. In the next two years the economy stagnated and showed negative growth as the immediate inflationary effects of the withdrawal of sanctions seen in the preceding years decreased and agricultural production faltered due to a 3 year-long drought. Good rains in 1985 produced bumper crops of maize, wheat and sorghum. Tobacco, Zimbabwe's principal export, also improved in quality, quantity and price, and in 1984 generated 22% of export earnings. The mining and manufacturing sectors made impressive gains in 1985. Measures were introduced in 1984 to counteract cattle losses experienced during the drought and in 1985 Zimbabwe started exporting beef to the EEC. The Five Year Development Plan (1986-90) released in April, 1986, is based on an expected annual growth in GDP of 5% in real terms and 7% annual growth in the value of exports.

Future growth of the Zimbabwean economy will depend largely on the issue of transport. Currently, most of Zimbabwe's exports and a majority of imports must pass through South Africa. Therefore, the government, in an effort to become less reliant on South Africa, has placed special importance on the Beira corridor which runs through Mozambique to the Indian Ocean. The Southern African Development Coordination Conference (SADCC) has designated as priorities the rehabilitation of this railway line and the Beira port. Zimbabwe has also stationed troops along the corridor to assist Mozambique in protecting it against sabotage by the Mozambique National Resistance (MNR).

### **INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

Internationally, Zimbabwe pursues a policy of non-alignment and, as current Chairman of the non-aligned movement, Prime Minister Mugabe hosted the Eighth Conference