

Rhodesians attack Zambia

Bombs kill refugees in camp

The target of Rhodesian bombings in Zambia October 19 was a refugee camp and education centre—not the military headquarters of the Patriotic Front, as was earlier reported, according to Oxfam-Canada.

Oxfam staff people in the area at the time of the bombings have reported many casualties and severe damage to the refugee camp.

The United Nations High Commission for refugees has confirmed that the bombed camp was an education centre which housed school-aged boys. When the attack occurred many of the children were busy putting up tents for the ever-increasing flow of refugees from Rhodesia into the camps in neighboring Zambia.

The Oxfam staff reported that, "before 9 a.m. on October 19 Rhodesian jet planes, helicopters and paratroopers bombed, strafed and shot refugees at a Zimbabwean settlement just 20 kilometres north of Lusaka (the capital of Zambia). The illegal regime in Salisbury claims to

have attacked the military headquarters of Joshua Nkomo, President of the ZAPU wing of the Patriotic Front. In fact, the target was one of three refugee settlements on the outskirts of the Zambian capital."

"Just last week we had visited one of these ZAPU settlements and toured the crowded dormitories, clinic, and classrooms of the 10,000 school-aged girls, mothers and babies who have sought refuge here. We were to have visited the other two settlements this week, one of which is the temporary camp for 8,000 school-aged boys. Because of problems with water supply and sanitation, a third settlement—called "Freedom Camp", the one which was attacked—was being prepared with schools, clinics and housing for the boys. "Freedom Camp" is the location of a poultry project funded by Oxfam-Canada, as well as other agricultural units funded by other Canadian Non-Governmental Agencies."

According to the Oxfam-Canada staff, Joshua Nkomo

said in Lusaka on the day of the bombing that, "this was a camp we were building with all the U.N. agencies and the Red Cross to house our schoolchildren. If we had not had problems with some equipment the children would all have been there when it happened."

"There were 2248 people at Freedom Camp, including old people, recently arrived young boys, and many sick, handicapped or blind Zimbabweans," report the Oxfam-Canada staff. "Casualties from the attack include 226 dead and 629 injured from napalm burns, explosions, and bullet wounds. One refugee found near the camp said he could not remember what happened except that he heard buzzing of jets and helicopters and 'within minutes a number of our houses were on fire and the pilots in the helicopters continued to shoot at those they could see running away'."

The refugee camp is the location for several humanitarian aid projects, including a large agricultural program involving vegetable maize production, poultry for eggs and meat, pigs, rabbits, and dairy cattle. The goal of the project is to reduce the dependence on donated foodstuffs for the refugees.

Oxfam-Canada has launched a special appeal for funds to assist the refugee camp. There is an urgent need for funds to purchase tents, blankets, medicines, food and medical equipment. Please contact the Halifax office of Oxfam-Canada for information about the special appeal.



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V.P. vetoes funds for fighters

CALGARY (CUP)—The Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU), a black Rhodesian guerilla organization fighting Ian Smith's regime, will not be getting any of the \$1000 requested from the University of Calgary students.

The request for funding, made in February, has been the centre of intense debate since mid-summer when the finance vice-president, Jeff Proudfoot, refused to sign the cheque. It has been thrown out on a technicality by the Students Union Review Board, the senior judiciary body on campus.

In a written statement to Bruce Ramsay, services vice-president of the union, who had originally requested the board to look into the matter, Review Board chair Dale Johns said, "The board found the committee acted without proper quorum, and therefore the decision to fund ZANU must be void."

The decision to give the money to ZANU was made by the Committee of Ten Thousand, a students union committee given \$10,000 a year of students' money for charitable purposes.

Proudfoot has flatly refused

to sign the cheque since July—a decision which has left him open to impeachment for violation of the constitution. He does not think ZANU qualifies as a charity.

Until this decision, the review board has consistently ruled in favour of the committee, each time Proudfoot has appealed.

Students' Union academic vice-president and Committee of Ten Thousand chairperson John Graham reserved judgment on the future of the ZANU proposal. "In the light of this decision being made in a non-quorum meeting, the committee will have to look at it," he said.

The committee is slated to meet this week to decide its course of action. A new change to a Committee of Ten Thousand by-law gives the Students' Council the power of veto if it deems any committee request to be in apparent support of extra-charitable actions within an ostensibly charitable organization.

With this veto power, it appears ZANU will never see any of this money even if the request is submitted again.

Financing for politics, religion ruled out

CALGARY (CUP)—Funding for Jewish and Palestinian student groups at the University of Calgary have been turned down by U of C Students' Union because of the groups' possible political or religious connections.

Student Union finance vice-president Jeff Proudfoot explained it has been a policy of the finance commission in the past to refuse funding for any groups construed to be political or religious in nature. Each group claims to have informative purposes, and both groups claim to be ethnic or cultural, not political or religious.

Mohamed Zibdawi, member of the Students' Association for Solidarity with Palestine (SASP), said his group registered with the union as a non-political organization.

The group's aim is to show "the human rights of Palestinians all over the world".

Zibdawi indicated membership is open to any student who "believes in the human rights of the Palestinians and is interested in their situation in a world context."

Jewish Student Association (JSA) member Cheryl Zimmerman said her group is also a cultural organization. The purpose of the JSA is to describe cultural aspects, provide basic information and to make people aware of the Jewish situation today, she said.

Zimmerman said the JSA is neither political nor religious and stated material presented is "screened" for political overtones. She said, however, "that some programming may take on that (political or religious) tone."

The only membership prerequisite, according to Zimmerman, is a "sensitivity to the problems at hand."

According to Proudfoot, "religious and political organizations on campus are always in direct competition". Other political groups on campus such as the Progressive Conservatives, the Liberals and NDP are also not funded by the Students' Union.

He added that, in the case of the SASP, "the name of the group represents a political movement". In deference to the difficult political and cultural situation existing between Jews and Palestinians, Proudfoot said it would not be politically expedient to fund the JSA.

