

War of liberation

by Mike Greenfield

"They are setting up the sale of a political settlement", Michael Mawema told an audience at the Killam Library, Thursday Jan. 23. Mr. Mawema is Secretary of ZANU (Zimbabwe African National Union). Zimbabwe is the African name of what we know as Southern Rhodesia. ZANU is the military liberation organization determined to establish majority rule and end Ian Smith's white minority regime.

By the summer of 1975 the ZANU forces had established themselves on the battlefield and had won victories against the Rhodesian forces. However, a cease-fire was declared to allow the two sides to talk. Mr. Mawema was part of the delegation that met with Ian Smith in a train car on a bridge over Victoria Falls in August 1975.

He told the audience that his meeting produced nothing and was a deception to halt the march of ZANU armies. Among the African delegation a spirit of divisiveness emerged from the Victoria Falls meeting. And now, despite the condemnation of many Africans, Joshua Nkomo continues negotiations. Negotiations which will most likely amount to a sell out, as far as Mr. Mawema is concerned. He told the audience that some countries are already prepared to support the settlement, before knowing what it contains. Anything less than immediate majority rule will be

considered unacceptable by ZANU. Ian Smith has continually refused to grant majority rule forcing ZANU to resort to a solution through arms. Mr. Mawema stated that the future of the Zimbabwe people was "tied to the barrel of a gun".

"Our war is no longer with the 215 white settlers, our war is with the whole of Western Europe and North America." Mr. Mawema pointed out that there are presently over 1000 ex-Vietnam Veterans and more than 1000 mercenaries from Western Europe fighting against ZANU.

The enemies that the people of Zimbabwe face are not just military in nature. Psychologically the Black Africans are at a disadvantage. Mr. Mawema spoke out against the white settler attitudes that taught the Africans to hate themselves. He also condemned the Church for colluding with the colonialists. "One could not be Christian unless you had a white man's name." Many Africans were very susceptible to Western prejudices. Many were sent to England to study and returned wanting to eat only fish and chips and speak only English, denying their own culture.

Mr. Mawema believes that even the Organization of African States is still governed by colonial interests. "There is not one political and economically independent state in Africa in 1976".

ZANU is not only anti-colonialist but most definitely anti-capitalist



Michael Mawema speaks against Ian Smith's oppression of Zimbabwe: [Photo by Bob Fulton]

as well. "The land belongs to the people, the land is priceless, it can not be bought or sold at any cost", stated Mr. Mawema. He said that ZANU is all out to destroy capitalism. He pointed out that in Southern Rhodesia the single largest chicken producer is none other than Nelson Rockefeller; all Nelson Rockefeller is interested in is profit figures and not the people of Zimbabwe.

Mr. Mawema's group is not the sole group fighting for liberation of Zimbabwe and Mr. Mawema addressed himself to the question of the probability that fighting between the different factions would erupt, similar to what has happened in Angola. He stressed that all the groups have united under one umbrella - the African National Council. Thus the opportunity for conflict has been greatly lessened.

However, he did make reference

to the possibility of internal strife once Zimbabwe has been liberated, by making an analogy of the situation of his group to the others and the Chinese Communists cooperation with the Kuomintang to fight the Japanese.

In his speech Mr. Mawema covered a lot of ground and his smooth articulation went over well with his audience. Unfortunately his Canadian speaking tour will have less of an impact than it should because of his sponsorship by a group that is not taken very seriously - the Communist Party of Canada (Marxist-Leninist). One of the important functions of the meeting was to raise money, and although thousands of dollars have been raised in the Maritimes alone the question arises whether or not Mr. Mawema would have attracted more interested and money supported by a different group.

Budworm problem

by Valerie Mansour

The spruce budworm problem in the Maritimes is on an increase. This fact was made clear at the day-long symposium held last Saturday in the Life Sciences Building. Many prominent speakers voiced facts and opinions concerning this serious epidemic.

Gordon Baskerville of the faculty of forestry at the University of New Brunswick informed a good-sized audience that the budworm is a native of North-Eastern North America and has become a main drive in forest development. The speakers who followed Baskerville agreed that the forests should only be sprayed when absolutely necessary.

It must be determined if the wood which the budworm is thriving on would decrease the supply level for industry. The budworm is capable of regenerating the forest, so budworm pesticides should cover the smallest areas necessary.

Gerrit van Raalte of the Maritime Forest Research Centre presented a history of the budworm problem. The first outbreak was in Quebec in 1909 and the problem has been threatening ever since. The forecast for 1976 shows that New Brunswick will again have problems, and a severe attack will be expected in the Cape Breton Highlands and the Tidnish area of Cumberland County in Nova Scotia.

Pesticides was the main topic for two more speakers. They both stated that the public considers the effect of spraying to be more serious than it actually is. The environmental effects are slight and, as of yet, there is no other alternative to spraying.

There has been no success in introducing a European parasite to control the native parasite, so man again must intervene with the natural forces.

Bud Irving, the General Manager of Forest Production Ltd. of New Brunswick emphasized that the

objective of spraying is not the eradication of the insect, but instead, to protect the forest crop. The minimum amount of acres should be sprayed with the minimum amount of insecticides so as not to put a great deal of chemicals into the environment.

Replying to a question from a member of the audience, Mr. Irving denied the fact that some airplane operators in the past have been known to go out in their planes, quickly dump their loads, and return for more, since they get paid per load.

Spraying has been criticized a great deal but the Nova Scotia Forest Industries feels it is necessary to protect the forests of Nova Scotia, especially in Cape Breton. Twenty per cent of their pulpwood comes from the highlands area, thus the budworm problem is of great importance to the economy of the island. Also, it was mentioned that there are fifty-six thousand acres of woodlot in Cumberland County which the budworm can destroy.

A budworm outbreak is most likely to occur where there is a suitable food supply in the form of large continuous acres of host species and consecutive years of warm, dry, spring weather. A cold wet spring possibly could reduce the amount of damage occurring.

Increasing technology and experimentation will hopefully improve the situation for the future. The problems of whether and where to spray have become very debatable throughout eastern Canada. The budworm epidemic must be brought under control before the economy of the various regions become further affected.

The budworm is part of an important natural process in the fir-spruce-birch forest, and it has been made aware that our economic interests cannot be preserved without intruding upon the ecological stability of the system.

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