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Missionaries slain

Rhodesian government guilty of massacre

NEW YORK (LNS-CUP) -- "Seven White Missionaries Slain In Rhodesia" blared the headlines in the western press in early February. Ian Smith's white minority regime lost no time in blaming black guerrillas and described the killings as "an infamous act carried out with all the animal brutality and cowardice which terrorists practice."

Immediately the Zimbabwe Patriotic Front, the political organization associated with the Zim-



Rhodesian Prime Minister Ian Smith would lead us to believe that the liberation movement massacred seven missionaries, despite evidence to the contrary.

imbabwe People's Army, refuted the charges. In a statement broadcast from Maputo, Mozambique, the liberation organization attributed the slayings to the Selous Scouts -- a special elite force of black soldiers within the Rhodesian army.

But massacres against whites are, line-for-line, a bigger story to western press, and the Patriotic Front's refutation was buried, or when mentioned, its validity questioned.

"Seven whites were killed and the guerrilla leadership denied any role in it, but it makes big front page stories for several days," commented

one observer of African affairs. "But Ian Smith orders -- and admits ordering -- his armed forces to invade Mozambique and kill hundreds of civilian black refugees, and you can't find the story on the western press."

SELOUS SCOUTS

The Selous Scouts, reports Guardian correspondent Sara Rodrigues in Luanda, are similar to the special forces organized by Portugal during its colonial wars in Africa -- the Flechas in Angola and the Groupus Especialis in Mozambique. According to the Patriotic Front, the Scouts disguise themselves as guerrillas to make it seem as though their actions were the work of the guerrillas.

And the Feb. 7 murder of the missionaries was not the first Selous Scout action. On Dec. 5, 1976, the Roman Catholic Bishop of Bulawayo was killed in similar circumstances and on Dec. 19 twenty-seven tea plantation workers near Mozambique's border with Rhodesia were massacred in front of their families. Both attacks were blamed on the Zimbabwe People's Army (ZIPA).

Just prior to the killing of the missionaries -- and perhaps one of the reasons for it, speculates Guardian correspondent Rodrigues, the Rhodesian government suffered an embarrassing bit of press coverage. In late January, Rhodesia claimed that ZIPA had abducted 400 Zimbabwe students from a Protestant mission school and took them to neighboring Botswana for involuntary guerrilla training.

"This too gathered big international headlines for a day," reports Rodrigues, "until the children were located in Botswana and told their story."

It turns out that the students had left on their own accord, having planned to escape several months in advance. They decided to leave because they were under pressure to join the Rhodesian Army, and had withheld school fees for the term in anticipation of their departure. Many of the students reported from Botswana that they were planning to join ZIPA -- voluntarily.

GOV'T FEAR TACTICS

In general, most of the government's stories of "terrorist brutality" find their way into the commercial press as unquestionable fact. A government booklet entitled "Harvest of Fear," for instance, has been widely circulated to the press. Illustrated with grisly photographs of murdered blacks, it accuses the guerrillas of "horrific acts of murder, mutilation, and even cannibalism"

directed at blacks as well as whites."

The minority regime's claims may reach sympathetic ears in the West, but attempts to divide blacks from guerrilla movement with these stories have been far from successful. New York Times reporter John Burns, writing from the Rhodesian capital, Salisbury, grudgingly admits that there is widespread belief that government provocateurs committed the murders.

Burns quotes a young waiter as saying about the missionaries deaths, "The Freedom fighters do not want to hurt friends of the African people." The waiter had gone to a mission school.

ROLE OF THE CHURCH

It is no coincidence that the church is coming under attack by the Rhodesian government, and the Patriotic Front alluded to that in its statement. Throughout southern Africa over the past few years the Catholic and Protestant churches (with the exception of South Africa's Dutch Reformed) have increasingly supported black majority rule.

In Zimbabwe, one of the most outspoken clergy has been Bishop Donal Lamot of Umtali. Last year, the government moved against the Bishop, charging him with failing to report the presence of guerrillas in his mission station. He pleaded guilty, saying at his trial that "I would have to behave the same way" in the future. Lamot was sentenced to 10 years in prison.

Mission hospitals are known to treat wounded guerrillas, reports Guardian correspondent Rodrigues. In addition, the churches provide education for more than 1.3 million black primary students and two-thirds of Rhodesia's 40,000 black secondary school pupils.

Given the increasing support from the missionaries, concludes Rodrigues, "it would be ridiculous for the patriotic forces to turn their guns on white nuns and priests."

In the week that the seven missionaries were killed, the government troops killed 12 black "curfew breakers" and 16 others, 8 of them who were said to have been "running with terrorists."

These nameless victims take their place with the thousands of other casualties of Rhodesia's desperate fight to maintain minority rule. Last year, in perhaps the government's most bloody action, Rhodesian troops attacked the Nyzaonia refugee camp in Mozambique, and acknowledge killing 350. The Mozambican government put the toll at 673.

CIA bribes to leaders exposed

They were the best world leaders money could buy. And the CIA bought as many as it could.

Last week the names of a few became public. They read like a who's who of world affairs: King Hussein of Jordan. Willy Brandt of West Germany. Jomo Kenyatta of Kenya. Mobutu Sese Seko of Zaire -- to name a few. They all were on the CIA's payroll at one time or another, and many are probably still getting bribes.

The most detailed exposures were of the 20-year long relationship between Jordan's King Hussein and the CIA. He got "millions of dollars" over the years and his current subsidy is \$750,000 a year, according to a report in the Feb. 18 Washington Post.

After the report was published, several other bribe operations were revealed.

Among the more interesting names was that of Holden Roberto, head of the Angolan FNLA, one of the two imperialist-backed neocolonial forces which tried to defeat the progressive MPLA in gaining political control of Angola during 1974-75. The FNLA, backed by the U.S. and Zaire's CIA-implicated President Mobutu, was within firing distance of Luanda in November 1975 before being turned back by the popular forces.

Although it had been open knowledge that the so-called "liberation leader" had been on the CIA payroll, it had never been confirmed before. In the wake of the latest revelations, the New York Times quoted a CIA official as saying Feb. 18 that "Roberto received an annual retainer of \$10,000 from the CIA from 1961 until the conclusion of the Angolan



"Please don't thank me. I would have accepted a kickback from anyone."

civil war last year."

Other names surfaced via informants who had been deleted passages in the book, "The CIA and the Cult of Intelligence," by former intelligence officials Victor Marchetti and John Marks. The book says that Guyanan Premier Forbes Burnham got CIA money, which probably has since been discontinued. Other names listed are former Mexican President Luis Echeverria, Venezuelan President

Carlos Andres Perez and former Chilean President Eduardo Frei.

King Hussein, whom the U.S. views as a most reliable ally, was among those who earned the money well. Hussein expelled the Palestinian Liberation Organization from its Jordanian base in 1970, refused to join the 1973 war against Israel (after consulting with the CIA station chief in Amman) and has supplied intelligence to the U.S. on

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