

Anglo-Americans To Push Zimbabwe into Civil War

by Dean Andromidas

The Anglo-Americans have decided to escalate their attacks on Zimbabwe. Despite successfully mobilizing almost all the international institutions, especially the countries of the European Union, to isolate the government of President Robert Mugabe, they have been unable to force any African leader to denounce Mugabe and to work for the overthrow of his government. *EIR* has evidence that the attack on Mugabe is being extended to other political layers who, despite their criticism of some of the Mugabe government's policies, refuse to join the Western-sponsored opposition Movement for Democratic Change (MDC). The aim of such a broadened attack is to polarize the country to the point of plunging it into a civil war.

The recent meeting of the Organization of African Unity, which resolved to disband and form the Union of Africa, came out in full support of Zimbabwe. A preliminary resolution was drafted by the organization's Council of Ministers on July 8, calling for full support of Zimbabwe and its land-reform process. "Recalling that the liberation struggle was essentially . . . a struggle by the people of Zimbabwe to reclaim the land which they were dispossessed of by British colonialism," the Council urged Britain to "fulfill the outstanding commitment it undertook during the de-colonization process by honoring its obligations on the land question." The resolution criticized Britain's opposition to Zimbabwe's land reforms, particularly London's "moves to mobilize European and North American countries to isolate and vilify Zimbabwe leading to the imposition of formal and informal sanctions against it." The ministers resolved to form a committee chaired by Nigeria, and comprising Algeria, Cameroon, Kenya, South Africa, and Zambia, to coordinate with Zimbabwe "at all fora wherever the Zimbabwe land issue is raised."

Because the final statement called for promoting "dialogue" between Zimbabwe and former colonial power Great Britain, Western media blared that the Council's statement was evidence of their backing down in fear of scaring off Western investors. Nonetheless, the draft statement captures the underlying mood on the continent, where Africans continue to be crushed under genocidal policies which the Western nations refuse to change. The fight being waged in Zimbabwe

is rekindling a political current comparable to that at the height of the anti-colonial and anti-apartheid struggles of the 1960s and 1970s. It also made clear that no southern African head of state is prepared to be a party to destabilizing Zimbabwe.

Pro-British Reactions

The response to the conference was swift. In the United States, right-wing Sen. Bill Frist (R-Tenn.), a strong supporter of the overthrow of Sudan's government, won approval for his so-called Zimbabwe Democracy and Economic Recovery Act in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. The act calls for sanctions against Zimbabwe, with a package of incentives for the Zimbabwe opposition and other southern African countries to overthrow the Mugabe government.

The private International Crisis Group (ICG) has also issued a report calling for putting Zimbabwe and President Mugabe in the same basket as Yugoslavia, under President Slobodan Milosevic at the height of the Balkan wars. The report declared that "if Mugabe will not permit free and fair elections, the international community should apply sanctions that impact on the political leadership—a freeze on personal funds and travel restrictions . . . and the [British] Commonwealth should suspend Zimbabwe." The report demands that Zimbabwe allow the opposition to receive as much money from outside as "the international community wishes to provide and it wants to accept."

The ICG is comprised of a gaggle of old U.S. State Department and Commonwealth officials, politicians, and others, who have managed to fumble almost every international crisis in the last 20 years. Among its members are former U.S. Rep. Stephen Solarz, who helped organize the overthrow of Philippines President Ferdinand Marcos in 1985-86; Richard Allen, former National Security Adviser to President Ronald Reagan; former U.S. Ambassadors Kenneth Adelman and Morton Abramowitz; Gen. Wesley Clark, former NATO supreme commander who headed the disastrous NATO war against Yugoslavia over Kosovo; and Cyril Ramaphosa, former Secretary General of South Africa's African National Congress, who is reportedly also leading a campaign to oust South African President Thabo Mbeki. One of the moneybags behind this operation is George Soros, the mega-speculator and drug legalization advocate, whose Open Society Institute is busy throughout southern Africa financing various anti-government organizations.

Inside Zimbabwe, there is a dangerous shift in tactics. Up until now, the policy has been to finance and give strong political support to a very aggressive political opposition, the MDC, to overthrow the Mugabe government through "democratic elections," in which the "international community" will decide that the only acceptable "democratic result" would be Mugabe's electoral defeat. (They pointedly ignore

the fact that Mugabe won re-election.)

Nonetheless, the Anglo-Americans are facing a problem with their MDC proxy, because it has proven politically inept. A recent report drafted for mining giant, Anglo American Corp., and leaked to the press, questioned whether the MDC and its leader, Morgan Tsvangirai, have the wherewithal to take power.

Because the MDC and its supporters in the opposition press never attack the policies of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank, the mining companies, and finance houses that are crushing Africans today, they are unable to win the support of the majority of the population. There are just too many Zimbabweans who, though critical of the government, see these international institutions and corporations, which still control vast chunks of the economy, as far more dangerous than President Mugabe. Despite what the international media prints about the government land-reform program, and with all its problems, it nonetheless has substantial support within Zimbabwe and throughout the region.

This was confirmed by *EIR*'s fact-finding mission to Zimbabwe last Spring (see *EIR*, April 6, 2001). *EIR* saw that the greatest cause of rage against Mugabe and the ruling ZANU-PF party, is their capitulation in the 1990s to the IMF policy that has collapsed Zimbabweans' living standards. The opposition has mobilized this rage, particularly in the urban centers, against the government, but without once attacking the IMF policies. *EIR* encountered intellectuals, politicians, and others who, despite being highly critical of Mugabe, refused to back the MDC. Even among the white commercial farmers, there is a growing minority willing to compromise with the government.

It is the growth of this more nationalist political center that has caused the MDC to fail to achieve the polarization necessary to secure the overthrow of the Mugabe government. A very dangerous shift in tactics by the MDC and its supporters is aimed at attacking this layer of the population. One important and potential dangerous case has been brought to the attention of *EIR*.

Anti-IMF Forces under Attack

Earlier in July, a Zimbabwean Anglo-American mouthpiece, the *Daily News*, launched a vicious campaign of slander and intimidation against Dr. Ibbo Mandaza, the editor of Zimbabwe's only independent newspaper, the *Zimbabwe Mirror*, which refuses to join the lynch mob against Mugabe. The outrageous and baseless nature of the attack, making wild allegations of corruption and impropriety, rules out a simple attack on a rival daily. A threat on Mandaza's life also cannot be rule out.

Dr. Mandaza has collaborated with *EIR* on economic and political investigations, and his newspaper has published *EIR* articles. The basis of this collaboration is Dr. Mandaza's out-

spoken criticism of the IMF and World Bank, and the evils of globalization. These are convictions that brought him into conflict with President Mugabe's government when, in the 1990s, the government adopted the IMF Structural Adjustment Program. An old-style African nationalist, Dr. Mandaza, despite his criticism of the government, sees the real enemy of Zimbabwe as the IMF, World Bank, and the policies of globalization that are destroying Africa. He is also part of the circle of African nationalists, who are looking toward the "Malaysian model" as an effective means to combat the IMF and globalization.

A businessman, Mandaza is also a well-known academic who has held tenure at several African universities, worked for the United Nations, and authored several books on politics and economics. He is also director of the Southern African Institute for Policy Studies of the Southern African Political Economy Series Trust, organizations which comprise a network of African nationalist economists. Many of their studies have documented the negative impact of IMF Structural Adjustment Programs.

Probably one of the principal reasons for launching the attack on Mandaza, was the fact that he is currently endeavoring to expand the *Zimbabwe Mirror* from a weekly into a daily. This would have a profound impact on the newspaper market, because all of the non-government dailies, including the *Zimbabwe Independent* and the *Daily News*, exist only to attack the government. As a daily, Mandaza would offer a media outlet for a patriotic opposition, whose commitment would be to the country and not to simply overthrowing the government and doing the bidding of the IMF.

A western European journalist in the capital, Harare, explained to *EIR*, "They have to attack Mandaza in order to completely polarize the country." This journalist, who has been living in Zimbabwe for years, said that Mandaza is being made an example of, for a whole layer of Africans with their roots in African nationalism and who have not fundamentally changed and refuse to join the MDC, despite their criticisms of the government.

Profile of the 'Daily News'

EIR can attribute some very evil intentions of those who have financed the *Daily News*. It was founded in 1998 and has the reputation of being the unofficial mouthpiece of the MDC. One of its directors is Janet Todd, daughter of Sir Garfield Todd, a former Governor of Rhodesia, the pre-liberation, colonial, name of Zimbabwe. More interesting is who finances the operation: The daily is owned by the Associated Newspapers of Zimbabwe, which was created in 1998. Some 60% of its founding capital came from the British-based consortium Africa Media Investments (Zimbabwe) Ltd., which was specifically organized to finance the daily.

The consortium brings us into the epicenter of the Anglo-

American operation targetting Zimbabwe. It is a mix of high finance and high-level international media and operatives linked to the Commonwealth apparatus. This includes the Bank of Scotland, one of the United Kingdom's most elite banks, whose royal charter permits it to print its own currency. The bank kicked up a lot of controversy when it was in talks with U.S. right-wing televangelist Pat Robertson to set up a banking operation linked to his fundraising operations. Robertson, who is notorious for commercializing his religious beliefs, earned the nickname "Diamond Pat," when it became known that he owned diamond mines in the Congo. One of his most important devotees is former President Sir George Bush, with whom he often travels to Africa.

Among the media backers is Independent Newspapers of South Africa. This is one of the country's leading newspaper groups and is controlled by the media empire of Tony O'Reilly, former chairman of Heinz 57, the U.S.-based multinational processed-food corporation. More important, O'Reilly is good friends with Henry Kissinger, whose Kissinger Associates consultancy was instrumental in getting Heinz into the China market. Among his other friends is Sir George Bush, who in 1988 offered O'Reilly the Commerce Department portfolio.

Another media group is Tindle Newspapers, one of the largest publishers of local newspapers in Great Britain, and whose owner, Sir Ray Tindle, is a good friend and business associate of O'Reilly's. Another key media empire is Allied Press, New Zealand's largest privately owned newspaper group.

The operatives who are running the day-to-day operations of the consortium are linked to the Commonwealth apparatus, which is often used for destabilizing members whom the "mother country" finds troublesome. One of these operatives is Derek Smail, whose Commonwealth Publishing Ltd. is part of the consortium. Smail is in constant contact with the Zimbabwe Democratic Trust of London, which is the major coordinating center for operations against Zimbabwe (see *EIR*, May 12, 2000).

The other operative is Michael Stent, who is a director of the Commonwealth Journalist Union. Stent travelled to Zimbabwe to set up the editorial offices of the *Daily News*.

The owners of the *Daily News* are always bragging about how their newspaper is vastly out-selling the government-owned Zimpapers group. Nonetheless, the company has been constantly on the verge of bankruptcy since its founding, according to Zimbabwe press reports. The last year was especially difficult, and another local consortium, the Independent Media Group, bought out 60% of its shareholders to help bail it out. Independent Media Group is led by Zimbabwe businessman and MDC financial backer Strive Masiyiwa. Masiyiwa is the head of Econet, one of Zimbabwe's mobile telephone companies, and is archetypical of the new breed of "globalized capitalists" of the so-called New Africa. A deeper

look will reveal that this "new breed" are promoted by the same Anglo-American companies that were part of colonial old Africa.

Masiyiwa is famous for breaking the monopoly of the government-owned telecom, which had been demanded by the IMF's Structural Adjustment Programs. He was aided by the Zimbabwe High Court, which simply declared the monopoly unconstitutional. His seed money came from one of the financial world's leading hedge funds, the New York-based Waterford Partners. Led by Edward Bozaan, Waterford became famous, because of its vulture-like Global Stabilization and Recovery Fund. This fund would invest in emerging markets after they collapsed, under assault from the large hedge funds, such as the Quantum Fund and Tiger Fund, which would pull out after taking huge profits. Bozaan threw Masiyiwa a few million dollars for Econet, after he came to Harare to buy up stock holdings on the cheap, of some of the old Zimbabwe elite firms, such as Delta Corp. and Meikles African, whose roots are in the colonial Rhodesia Cecil Rhodes. With this cash, Masiyiwa became the partner of such international telecom giants as British Telecom, eager to get into the African telecom market. In 1995, Masiyiwa was appointed by the U.S. government to the board of the Southern African Enterprise Development Fund.

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