Inside the Rhodesian border war

by Ruth B. Minter

(PNS) Maputo, Mozambique -- Ester Judicio, her wizened Black face showing little emotion, stood patiently beside the graves of her sister and nephew and answered reporters' questions: The planes were Rhodesian. They came in the middle of the night. Besides her sister and the child, three others of the tiny hamlet died. They tried to hide but couldn't. She herself was wounded.

Were Zimbabwe guerrillas (Rhodesian Black nationalists) there?

No. She knew of only the Mozambican soldiers. They helped to drive off the Rhodesians that night when her sister died. She and a couple of others stayed in the hamlet, but most of the people had fled the border area to the interior town of Mapai, where there was a hospital, a school and shops.

But mostly, Mapai was a safe place -- away from the frequent border clashes between the Mozambique-based guerrillas and the Rhodesian forces. That was last spring.

It was not safe for long. Four months later, Mapai, 60 miles from the border, was bombarded and assaulted by Rhodesian air and ground troops in the first deep penetration into Mozambique in the course of the widening war between Rhodesia's white-minority regime and Black nationalists fighting for majority rule.

Unlike the recent Rhodesian assault on an alleged guerrilla base in Mozambique, in which 340 soldiers and civilians died, Mapai was not a military target. The night it was attacked there were only 12 Mozambican soldiers in town, three of whom died instantly as they slept in one of the buildings first hit by bombs.

Mapai was the economic hub of a large rural district. The attack coincided with celebrations of the first year of Mozambican independence, which has drawn school children to the town from outlying hamlets. Some of them, sleeping in the school in the center of town, died in the onslaught.

The Ngala Transport Co., a vital link between the town and rural areas, was nearly wiped out by the bombs. Garages, vehicles, equipment, several canteens and the clubhouse, all in the center of town, were destroyed.

Shops were raided and looted. People scrambled to the bomb shelters and to the brush to try to escape the nightmare of exploding bombs and the ground forces.

Besides the three soldiers, 16 civilians died, making it the largest single civilian casualty reported to date.

To these peasant people, the damaged buses and trucks are a great loss. Though small boats still scuttle among the shoals to cross the shallow Limpopo River, the trucks that carried sacks of corn and other produce to market no longer come. Nor are there trucks to take the men to South Africa to work on contract in the mines. And the buses that regularly shuttled people about the rural areas are infrequent now.

Still, the people have their feet. Once again, they are harvesting, hauling water, preparing food, attempting to get back to the daily routine. In Mapai, reconstruction has begun, aided by funds from the national Solidarity Bank, to which all Mozambicans regularly contribute a portion of their earnings.

Support for Guerrillas

Though the attack on Mapai was deeper inside Mozambique than previous attacks, it was not unexpected. Back in March, when Mozambique's President Samora Machel announced the closing of the Rhodesia border in support of the Zimbabwe guerrillas, the people of Mapai were already digging bomb shelters.

In numerous interviews, Mozambicans recalled that during their own struggle for independence -- still fresh in their minds -- Zambian and Tanzanian borders were also violated by colonial Portuguese troops. Despite the incursions, Tanzania and Zambia remained firm in support of Mozambique's FRELIMO guerrillas.

Now, they say, they too will support the Zimbabwe guerrillas -- whatever the cost. Just one week after the raid on Mapai a support rally was held in the capital city of Maputo and $250,000 was given to the Zimbabwe fighters from the Solidarity Bank.

Montgomery Ward guilty of discrimination

In what may be considered a landmark case, Labor Commissioner Bill Stevenson found Montgomery Ward and Co., Inc. guilty of employment discrimination because of an applicant's physical handicap. Stevenson issued a final order in the case of James M. Williams vs. Montgomery Ward and Co., Inc., which is the first case requiring a commissioner's order to be considered under amendments adopted by the 1973 legislature to protect employment rights of injured workers, and physically and mentally handicapped persons.

Williams filed a complaint with the Bureau of Labor on April 29th, 1974 charging that Montgomery Ward denied him a position as appliance salesperson because he had suffered a heart attack in 1968.

Stevenson stated that the issue in this case was whether Williams' physical condition would or would not permit him to perform the job he sought, and whether there was a reasonable expectation of his being able to render continous service.

The commissioner found that Williams' physical condition was sufficient for continuous performance as an appliance salesperson. Extensive testimony was considered in the case, including that of Williams' physician, a heart specialist who has monitored the performance of Willaims' cardiovascular system at regular intervals since his heart attack.

Stevenson awarded Williams damages in the amount of $14,711.72 for lost earnings during 1974 and 1975 and $2,000 for mental anguish. In addition, the commissioner required the company to offer the complainant the next available position as salesperson in any of its stores in the Portland/Vancouver metropolitan area.

He further required the respondent to pay for lost wages during 1976 and subsequent years until such time as Williams is offered suitable employment.

"The intent of the 1973 legislature was to guarantee to physically and mentally handicapped persons the fullest possible participation in the social and economic life of the state, including the right to employment where the handicap has no bearing on the person's ability to do a given job," said Stevenson, who was a member of the Oregon State Senate in 1973.

"Williams' case obviously falls within state policy and law because his physical condition would not preclude job performance as an appliance salesperson," concluded Stevenson.

Public broadcasting ranks low

Many of the public broadcasting stations included in "Public Broadcasting and Equal Employment Opportunity Regulation -- Where Does The Buck Stop?" and considered to be that industry's cream of the crop are the subject of equal employment opportunity complaints, agreements initiated by citizens groups to eliminate exclusionary personnel and programming practices, special reporting conditions applied to broadcasters by the Federal Communications Commission, and broadcast license denial by that same agency.

The study, by Citizens Communications Center, a public interest law firm in Washington, D.C., examined 1) the EEO performances of public radio and television stations, which are partially funded by federal dollars; 2) the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (the major funding agency for public broadcasting entities) and its role in assuring its grantees operate in compliance with various EEO and anti-discrimination laws and policies, and 3) the lack of responsibility assumed by the FCC, U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare; the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, and the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Justice Department in assuring Title VI, Title VII, Title IX and other nondiscrimination law compliance among the grant recipients.

The examination also includes a statistical review and analysis of available 1976 employment data obtained from the individual stations, reporting forms on file with the FCC's Research Branch of the Broadcast Bureau. Of the 185 individual television stations receiving CPB grants, 78.4% show questionable 1976 employment statistics regarding the stations' compliance with FCC EEO rules and policy. Of the 172 radio grantees 83.8% show questionable minority employment practices. In fact, some 16 radio station grantees reported to the FCC as having fewer than five full-time employees, thereby making them ineligible for a CPB grant. Overall, only 2.7% of all CPB grantees employ minorities at the same percentage rate as minority representation in the respective service areas. 27.9% of all the grantees employ no minorities full time. And 20% of all the grantees are delinquent in filing their annual employment report to the FCC, which was due May 31st, 1976.

These subjects were discussed in the two-day hearing conducted by the House Subcommittee on Communications, chaired by Congressman Lionel Van Deerlin (D-Calif.) this month. Conclusion: all the agencies involved assume that someone else other than their agency has the major enforcement authority, and all have conceded some duplicated efforts as well as some overlooked responsibilities. The study title then, ". . . Where Does The Buck Stop?" is quite appropriate.

Citizen of the Week

Berna Plummer is Oregon's only Black delegate to the Republican Party National Convention in Kansas City. She received acclaim but also met the wrath of some delegates when she proposed that Black delegates withhold their votes unless the candidates met with them.

Ms. Plummer is an affirmative action officer for Multnomah County and has previously been a teacher.

She has long been involved in the Republican Party, serving as a member of the Central Committee. She was co-chairman of the Oregon Black Committee to re-elect Richard Nixon and was an unsuccessful candidate for County Commission in 1974.

Ms. Plummer currently seeks election to the Oregon Legislature.

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Murder try nets ten years

by Ron Sykes

Circuit Court Judge James Ellis sentenced Robert Louis Smith to ten years in prison Tuesday for the attempted murder of his wife on May 1st.

Smith had earlier been found Smith, a Tri-Met bus driver, of 4319 N. Borthwick, guilty of cutting the woman's throat with a small pocket knife.

According to police reports, Smith cut his wife after she had told him that she was leaving him.

Officers found a note, signed by Smith, near the bed where his wife was attacked. The note allegedly told of his plans to kill the woman.

Attorneys join Association

Six Portland, Oregon attorneys have been accepted for membership in The Association of Trial Lawyers of America, ATLA president Robert G. Begam announced today.

They are Philip H. Lowthian, John S. Marandas, Mark McCulloch. William F. Schulte, Richard A. Sly, and Stewart M. Whipple.

The association, with headquarters at Cambridge, Mass., is dedicated to the administration of justice for the public good and preservation of the trail-by-jury system.

Black activism

(Continued from p. 2 col. 6)

party regulars. Elements of machine politics are rapidly corroding as evidenced by the number of presidential primary cancauses a form of political isolation. No other identifiable group practices this exclusionary pattern, which negates the opportunity for Black Republican insistence for inclusion on that party's "balanced ticket", or for Black population ratio "fair share" of political patronage.

BLACKS MUST BE RECOGNIZED

The failure of presidential candidates to address the subject of racial justice during this year's primaries can in part be attributed to the Black voters' failure to indicate a flexibility in exercising their voting strength.

As an example, in New York City, in the borough of Manhattan, Black voters produce from one third to one half of the majorities won by the major candidates on the Democratic ticket. Yet this year, minority separations from municipal employment, under a Democratic administration was 35 per cent Black, (Black females were reduced 65 per cent) and hispanics 51 per cent.

The lack of Black political activitists is a reflection of the fact that American political organizations do not encourage activist participation. Machine politics requires a leadership, unchallenged by its didates. Yet not since the days of Adam Powell have the political aspirations of Black America been eloquently demanded.

LEADERSHIP VOID EXISTS

A void exists today in Black political leadership. In too many instances, Black appointed to political advisory posts share in common a timidity to challenge. I can not identify a Black political leader who can dream and accomplish the impossible, who can forge solutions for the varied complex needs of our nation's minorities, who is unwilling to perpetuate the mythology of the affluent, while the neglected masses continue to cry for attention.

Yet this is Black America's urgent need. Equal opportunity, or equitable relationships, will only be achieved as the result of sustained and equitable allocation of society's resources and energies. And this can not be accomplished without a national committment to fashion a solution to the massiveness of poverty through jobs, equitable business opportunities and income maintenance for the disadvantaged.

Dr. Toote, the highest ranking Black woman in the Nixon administration, seconded the nomination of Ronald Reagon for the presidency at the Republican Party's National Convention this week.

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Area: Multnomah, Clackamas and Washington Counties. Units Available: 20 two bedroom units, 40 three bedroom units.

Sponsors are encouraged to submit proposals for projects which combine bedroom types. Any size of multiple-unit project may be acceptable provided it does not exceed the total units available for the area.

Preference will be given to rehabilitation projects, small projects to be built and owned by local sponsors, and projects which maximize the use of local labor and suppliers.

The Division is an equal opportunity lender. All units financed and subsidized by the Division must be rented without regard to race, creed, religion, sex, or national origin of the potential tenants.

To receive a developer's packet, which includes all necessary forms and explanatory material, write or call the Housing Division, Department of Commerce, Labor and Industries Building, Salem, Oregon 97310; telephone 378-4343.