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OF 161200Z JUNE 86

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ARMED STRUGGLE IN SOUTH AFRICA: MUGABE'S SPEECH

SUMMARY

1. IN A HARSH SPEECH ON 15 JUNE MARKING SOWETO ANNIVERSARY, MUGABE GAVE PRIORITY TO ARMED STRUGGLE, SPEAKING OF 'KILLING AS MANY BOERS AS POSSIBLE'. VARIOUS MILITARY INITIATIVES ANNOUNCED. SANCTIONS MENTIONED ONLY IN PASSING. STILL UNCLEAR WHETHER THIS REPRESENTS ANY GENUINE CHANGE OF POLICY.

DETAIL

2. MILITARY INITIATIVES MENTIONED WERE:

A. FORMATION OF NEW ARMY SIXTH BRIGADE TO PROTECT ZIMBABWE FROM SOUTH AFRICAN ATTACK. (COMMENT. THOUGH THIS IS THE FIRST PUBLIC REFERENCE, PROPOSAL WAS LAUNCHED BY ARMY COMMANDER WELL BEFORE SADF RAIDS. WE BELIEVE REAL MOTIVES ARE: INTERNAL ARMY POLITICS, COMMANDER VERSUS CHIEF OF STAFF: NEED TO EMPLOY AND THUS DEFUSE MORE EX-ZANLA EX-COMBATANTS: AND INCREASE FLEXIBILITY IN EXISTING OFFICER PROMOTION STRUCTURE. ORGANISATIONAL AND FINANCIAL PROBLEMS ARE ACUTE. BMATT ARE ADVISING ARMY COMMANDER ON SOME OF THEM).

B. A NEW SOLIDARITY FUND TO RAISE MONEY FOR SOUTH AFRICAN LIBERATION MOVEMENT. MUGABE WOULD CONTRIBUTE DOLLARS TWO THOUSAND OF HIS OWN MONEY. EVERY ZIMBABWEAN SHOULD GIVE AT LEAST ONE DOLLAR. (COMMENT. THIS SEEMS TO BE EXTENSION OF LONG-STANDING ZIMBABWEAN POLICY ON ITS 'CONTRIBUTION TO LIBERATION STRUGGLE.' NAMELY METICULOUS FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO OAU LIBERATION COMMITTEE.)

M C. MUGABE SAID THAT HE WOULD PRESS FOR FORMATION OF AN ALL-AFRICAN 'DEFENCE FORCE' AT OAU MEETING IN ADDIS ABABA NEXT MONTH, TO ASSIST LIBERATION STRUGGLE. (COMMENT. THIS HAS BEEN ON OAU AGENDA FOR MANY YEARS. RECENT MEETING OF OAU DEFENCE COMMITTEE IN HARARE MADE NO SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS. NOONE TAKES IT SERIOUSLY AS A PRACTICAL PROPOSITION. IT MAY REPRESENT A DIVERSIONARY TACTIC BY MUGABE TO DIFFUSE EXCLUSIVE STRESS ON SANCTIONS.)

D. INTRODUCTION OF NATIONAL SERVICE FOR SCHOOL LEAVERS.

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/COMMENT

(COMMENT. THIS WAS FIRST FLOATED AT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ANNUAL MEETING IN MUTARE TWO MONTHS AGO. APPEAL OF IDEA SEEMS TO RELATE TO SCHOOL-LEAVER UNEMPLOYMENT MORE THAN SECURITY. WE DO NOT BELIEVE ANY DETAILED PLANNING HAS TAKEN PLACE).

E. INTRODUCTION OF WEEKEND WEAPONS TRAINING FOR URBAN RESIDENTS. (COMMENT. THIS IRONICALLY ECHOES SMITH'S TRAINING FOR WHITES DURING WAR. IT SEEMS A MERE GESTURE).

3. ON SANCTIONS, MUGABE SAID ZIMBABWE WAS READY FOR ANY ACTION THAT MIGHT BE TAKEN BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO BRING APARTHEID TO AN END, EVEN IF IT MEANT SUFFERING. 'IF SANCTIONS MEAN SUFFERING, THEN WE SAY WE PREFER THEM BECAUSE THESE SANCTIONS WILL SHORTEN OUR SUFFERING'.

4. EARLIER A PEACEFUL AND WELL-ORGANISED CROWD OF ABOUT 600 HAD MARCHED PAST THE HIGH COMMISSION AND US EMBASSY, PROTESTING AGAINST BRITISH AND US POLICY TOWARDS SOUTH AFRICA. BOTH MISSIONS HAD HEAVY POLICE PROTECTION.

5. NUMEROUS ROAD BLOCKS HAVE APPEARED OVER WEEKEND ON ZIMBABWE'S MAIN ROADS, SEARCHING VEHICLES FOR WEAPONS.

6. COMMENT. MUGABE HAS ALWAYS PLACED MORE EMPHASIS IN THEORY ON ARMED STRUGGLE THAN ON SANCTIONS ETC. REFLECTING ZIMBABWE'S OWN EXPERIENCE. WE ARE UNCLEAR WHETHER THIS UNUSUALLY HARSH SPEECH REFLECTS HIS NEED FOR TOUGH RHETORIC TO MARK THE SOWETO ANNIVERSARY AND THE SADF RAIDS, OR ANY MORE SERIOUS INTENTION TO COOPERATE MORE CLOSELY WITH ANC IN MILITARY FIELD WITH ALL THE OBVIOUS DANGERS. MY FIRST REACTION IS TOWARDS THE FORMER INTERPRETATION. BUT RECENT EVENTS HAVE RACHETED UPWARDS THE EMOTIONAL SENSE OF 'GHITTERDAMMERUNG' IN THE MINDS OF SOME ZIMBABWEANS. FULLY ANALYSIS WILL FOLLOW WHEN WE HAVE SOME EVIDENCE EITHER WAY.

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