

## 2. The Ban on the Weekly Mail

During October the Government issued a directive preventing the Weekly Mail from appearing for a month.

On an earlier occasion it issued a similar directive banning the New Nation for a period of three months.

Opening the Transvaal Provincial Congress in November the State President threatened legislation which would force reporters who claimed to have inside information 'leaked' to them by authoritative sources, to reveal who those sources were.

All this adds up to a further intensification of the campaign of threats and legal restriction which has been directed at the Press since this Government first took office forty years ago.

But now it is more dangerous than ever.

For now, more than ever, as our society goes through the agonies and upheavals which, whether Mr Botha likes it or not, are leading inexorably to the creation of a non-racial society here, it is vital that all of us, including him, should know what is happening.

More than any other publication, the Weekly Mail helps us to know.

Closing it down for a month has been an act of extreme stupidity. To close it down for good, a thought very much in the Government's mind we suspect, would be one of lunacy.

In the meantime, in order to help the Mail survive the financial implications of being off the streets for a month, we suggest that any of our readers who have not already done so, take out a subscription now, or order some of the calendars advertised below. □

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The paper for a changing South Africa.

— by Benjamin Pogrund —

## IMPRESSIONS OF ZIMBABWE

Years after the end of Zimbabwe's war of independence, the bodies of victims are still being discovered: not in ones or twos, but in dozens and hundreds.

They are people said to have been killed by the security forces of Rhodesia's white minority government during the 16 years of black guerrilla struggle. The war took a heavy toll: 40,000 people are estimated to have died.

It would not be surprising if the finding of ever-more bodies caused racial rancour, and especially as it is evident that many did not die in battle. Yet it strikes a visitor as a remarkable reflection of the interracial peace in Zimbabwe that the grisly evidence of mass murders is reported so soberly, and does not set off calls for revenge.

Last December, for example, a report in Harare's daily newspaper was worded in these terms: "Poor peasants in Mashonaland Central, which covers most of the former 'Hurricane Operational Area' during the liberation struggle, are planning to reinter hundreds of Zanla combatants buried in shafts and mass graves in the province." Using the same temperate language the report went on to say that the peasants were putting together their "meagre resources" to raise funds for proper burials.

The same approach is no doubt responsible for the continuing presence of the colonial past. Immediately after independence, statues were pulled down and a few street names in the centre of the capital, Harare, were changed. But most streets were left alone so that there are still visible reminders of the heroes of colonial rule. In the town of Mutare, on the eastern border, there is even a Jan Smuts Avenue, named after a South African white leader.



Robert Gabriel Mugabe, first Prime Minister of Zimbabwe.