ZAPU – ANC Guerrilla Campaign

The claim by the Rhodesian regime that our guerrilla forces had been instructed to return to Zambia is downright shameless fabrication and an attempt by the regime to conceal the defeats it is suffering at the hands of our forces.

The fabrications only reveals the desperation in the imperialist campaign to try and attach blame on Zambia for a purely internal African guerrilla uprising in Zimbabwe the causes of which are the evils of oppression perpetrated on the African by the British white settler in Rhodesia itself.

We wish to make it absolutely clear that the command of our guerrilla forces is permanently internal, with obligations to carry on and expand the guerrilla attacks on the White oppressors without mercy or retreat. Because of the internal character of our liberation struggle, orders of returning to Zambia are just out of question and not possible.

We wish to emphasize once again that the fighting is deep in Rhodesia, some 60 miles North West of Salisbury and not in the Zambezi valley. The enemy base camps for the current operations are in Barret, Sinola and Karoi, and not in the Zambezi valley. Our forces will never retreat and are enjoying an increasing support of the African masses as they advance.

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The fiercest battle of the current guerrilla campaign took place near Mazoe on April 3rd. In a battle with the enemy, our guerrillas wiped out
seventy-two army soldiers. During
the night of April 3rd and early
parts of April 4th, a wide section of
the Chirundu — Salisbury road was
closed to all public traffic moving
in both directions of this Zambia
Salisbury highway. The reason was
that the army was busy gathering
their dead from the battle-field. The
South African soldiers killed in this
engagement were first flown to
Wankie and from there to the
Caprivi Strip on their way to South
Africa. Some well informed sources
have given the number of the killed
South African troops in the recent
battles as forty-two. It is also belie­
vued that it was a result of the
disastrous routing of the enemy in
this battle that fresh and menacing
threats and anti-Zambia hysteria is
being whipped in South Africa.