

# Rhodesia: Concentration Camp

More than 350,000 Africans are imprisoned in Rhodesian concentration camps, it was reported in London on January 18 by the British news agency Reuters.

The same source disclosed that in two of these camps, thousands of African patriots are crowded together in the worst possible sanitary conditions and are subjected to the most brutal repression.

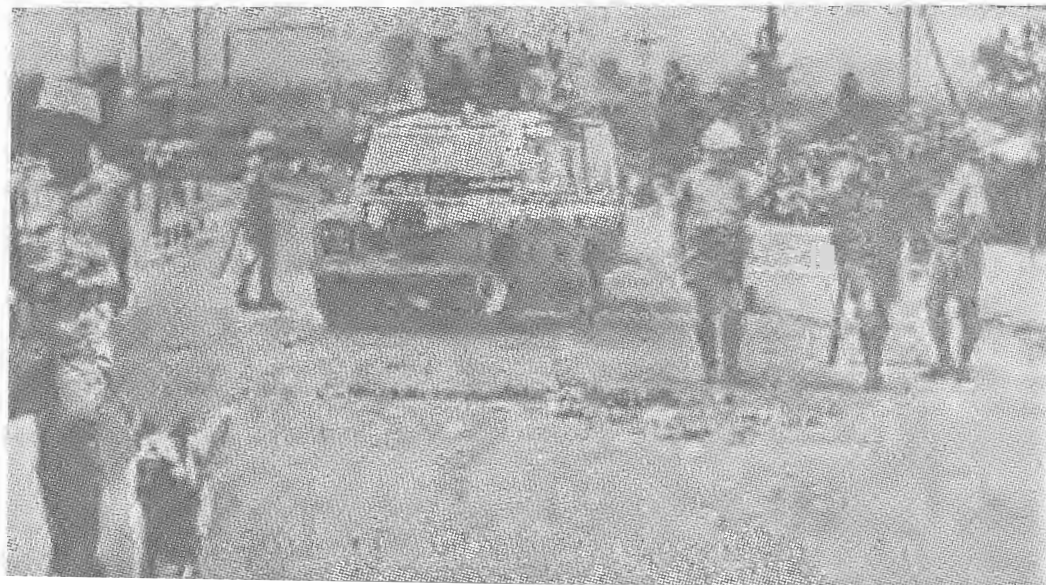
The conditions suffered by the political prisoners confined in concentration camps are not very different from those which the rest of the African population of Rhodesia must endure.

In an interview granted to the magazine *World Marxist Review*, the vice-secretary general of the Zimbab-

we African People's Union (ZAPU), Edward Ndlovu, said that the racist authorities had made Rhodesia into "one enormous concentration camp." The entire country is covered by punitive detachments which leave in their wake razed villages and barren fields.

Ndlovu added that an old mine, the Conne mara, has been readied to receive 2,000 African prisoners who are destined to die a horrifying and slow death in its depths.

ZAPU leader Joshua Nkomo remains shut up in one of these underground jails. He is seriously ill and has been savagely tortured, it was reported by the well-known British lawyer Montgomery Hyde.



Tens of thousands of Africans are arrested under any pretext whatsoever, and are sentenced to "forced labor" on the landed estates of the racists or in Anglo-U.S. mining exploitations.

Brutal repression is also carried out against African soldiers. Recently, it became known in Lusaka, capital of Zambia, that an uprising of African soldiers in the Inkomo barracks was crushed and its leaders murdered.

Reverend Kenneth Skelton, Bishop of Matabela, stated in London: "Beatings are now a common practise" in Rhodesia. The British prelate told how two white policemen had brutally beaten an African until he lost consciousness.

Another denunciation made by the British Missionary Society pointed out that Rhodesia is ruled today by police methods comparable only to those used in nazi concentration camps during World War II.

And it is precisely the fascist ranks that man the repressive agencies of the Ian Smith regime. The weekly *Zimbabwe Review* reported: "A considerable number of European mercenaries who served in the Congo (Leopoldville) have been contracted by the racist Ian Smith regime."

The publication added that the Smith regime "regularly receives military reinforcements from Portugal and the Republic of South Africa, while thousands of Smith's soldiers receive military training in Mozambique and South Africa."

The newspaper *Ngurumo* reported: "The majority of the officers serving in the Rhodesian army are from the West German army."

During the recent visit to Salisbury of West German political leader and former Defense Minister Franz Joseph Strauss, an increase in aid from the German Federal Republic for the bloody repression of the African population was agreed upon.

Despite the brutal repression, the Zimbabwe people continue to fight against racist savagery. Towards the end of April, several uprisings took place north of Salisbury; they were backed by demonstrations in the African ghetto of Highfield.

This struggle will continue until the overthrow of the Ian Smith dictatorship and the establishment of democracy in Zimbabwe.

