

HERALD 11.9.85

# MNR mercenaries

A PROPER understanding of the nature of the anti-colonial struggle must entail a recognition of its permanency, otherwise confusion will prevail to the detriment of popular gains.

It has been said many a time — and it needs to be repeated again and again because the stakes are high — that political independence is not an end in itself but just a stepping stone towards economic independence.

The imperialist and colonialist forces that were forced by popular resistance to abandon their colonial strongholds never rest or surrender completely but keep trying to reverse the process of decolonisation.

It is up to the people themselves who are the targets and victims of these manoeuvres aimed at turning back the clock to map out the tactics and strategies to foil neo-colonialist designs and render irreversible the decolonisation process.

The victory of the MPLA in Angola, that of Frelimo in Mozambique and Zanu (PF)'s in Zimbabwe in 1980, constituted a major reversal of imperialist designs and hopes in Southern Africa.

This explains the unleashing of Unita bandits in Angola, the MNR in Mozambique and the tribalist dissidents in Zimbabwe to destabilise these countries with a view of overthrowing their progressive governments and to reshape the political map of the region to the advantage of the apartheid regime and world imperialism.

The people must know that powerful, multi-billion-dollar corporations are recruiting mercenaries to fight with the MNR bandits to overthrow the friendly Mozambican government with the ultimate aim of dictating political terms to Zimbabwe that would rob us of our sovereignty and hard-won independence.

The people must know that in fighting against the bandits in Mozambique, Zimbabwe is not only making a sentimental gesture, towards a country which stood with us during our own war of liberation, but that the struggle to eliminate bandits in Mozambique, side by side with Frelimo, is also a practical and necessary defence of our own independence.

The people must know that there is no other course possible if Zimbabwe is to remain free to continue along its chosen path of total independence, worthy of the sacrifices that the sons and daughters of this country voluntarily made for us to be free.

When we realise that the MNR was brought into being by the government of Ian Smith to undermine our people's efforts to free themselves from his racist rule, it becomes logical that we must help in the elimination of the monster that was created and reared in the first place to jeopardise our liberation efforts.

The attitude of the people towards Zimbabweans fighting in Mozambique against the bandits must be similar to the one we had towards those who fought here to overthrow the Smith-Muzorewa regime.

The whole idea of African independence and dignity would be in a shambles and rendered meaningless if any reactionaries, just because they had the money, were to be allowed to topple progressive African governments using a handful of foreign mercenaries, local misguided tribalists and others under the influence of religious mumbo jumbo.