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How the US meddles in Zim affairs

WikiLeaks reveal how Washington has tried to spearhead the 'regime change' option to oust President Robert Mugabe from power. The leaked confidential document by a US top diplomat in Harare shows how the US has used MDC's Morgan Tsvangirai to remove President Mugabe from power and replace him with Tsvangirai.

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The End is NighClassified By:
*Ambassador Christopher W.
Dell* under Section 1.4b/d1. ©
Having said my piece repeat-
edly over the last three years, I
won't offer a lengthy prescrip-
tion for our Zimbabwe policy.
My views can be stated very
simply as stay the course and
prepare for change. Our policy
is working and it's helping to
drive change here. What is re-

quired is simply the grit, deter-
mination and focus to see this
through. Then, when the
changes finally come we must
be ready to move quickly to
help consolidate the new dis-
pensation.

THE SITUATION2.

Robert Mugabe has survived
for so long because he is more
clever and more ruthless than
any other politician in Zimba-
bwe. To give the devil his due,
he is a brilliant tactician and has

long thrived on his ability to
abruptly change the rules of
the game, radicalize the politi-
cal dynamic and force every-
one else to react to his agenda.

However, he is fundamen-
tally hampered by several
factors: his ego and belief in his
own infallibility; his obsessive
focus on the past as a justifi-
cation for everything in the
present and future; his deep
ignorance on economic issues
(coupled with the belief that



Author of the leaked secret document: Former Ambassador Christopher W. Dell, who tried to engineer "regime change" in Zimbabwe.

his 18 doctorates give him the
authority to suspend the laws of
economics, including supply
and demand); and his essentially
short-term, tactical style.

While his tactical skills have
kept him in power for 27 years,
over the last seven this has only
been achieved by a series of
populist, but destructive and
ultimately self-defeating moves.
In reaction to losing the 2000
referendum on the constitution,
a vengeful Mugabe unleashed his
"Green Bombers" to commit
land reform and in the process
he destroyed Zimbabwe's agri-
cultural sector, once the bedrock
of the economy.

While thousands of white
farmers saw their properties
seized, hundreds of thousands
of black Zimbabweans lost their
livelihoods and were reduced to
utter poverty. In 2005, having
been forced to steal victory by
manipulating the results of an
election he lost, Mugabe lashed
out again, punishing the urban
populace by launching Opera-
tion Murambatsvina. The result
was wholesale destruction of the
informal sector, on which as
much as 70-80 percent of urban
dwellers had depended, and the
uprooting of 700,000 Zimba-
bweans.

The current inflationary cycle
really began with
Murambatsvina, as rents and
prices grew in response to a de-
crease in supply. And now, faced
with the hyperinflationary con-
sequences of his ruinous fiscal
policies and growing reliance on
the printing press to keep his
government running, Mugabe
has launched Operation Slash
Prices.

This has once again given him
a very temporary boost in popu-
larity (especially among the po-
lice, who have led the looting of
retail outlets and now seem well
positioned to take a leading role
in the black market economy) at
the cost of terrible damage to the
country and people. Many small
grocery and shop owners, trad-
ers, etc., will be wiped out; the
shelves are increasingly bare;
hunger, fear, and tension are
growing; fuel has disappeared.

When the shelves are still
empty this time next week, the
popular appeal of the price roll
back will evaporate and the gov-
ernment simply doesn't have the
resources to replace the entire

private commercial sector and
keep Zimbabweans fed. It may
attempt to do so by printing
more money, adding even
more inflationary pressure on
a system already reeling from
the GOZQs quasi-fiscal lunacy
combined with the price im-
pact of pervasive shortages.

The increasingly worthless
Zim dollar is likely to collapse
as a unit of trade in the near
future, depriving the GOZ of
its last economic tool other
than sheer thuggery and theft
of others assets. With all this
in view, I'm convinced the end
is not far off for the Mugabe
regime. Of course, my prede-
cessors and many other ob-
servers have all said the same
thing, and yet Mugabe is still
with us. I think this time could
prove different, however, be-
cause for the first time the
president is under intensifying
pressure simultaneously on the
economic, political and inter-
national fronts.

In the past, he could always
play one of these off against
the other, using economic
moves to counter political
pressure or playing the old co-
lonial/race/imperialist themes
to buy himself breathing room
regionally and internationally.
But he is running out of op-
tions and in the swirling gases
of the new Zimbabwean con-
stellation that is starting to
form, the economic, political
and international pressures are
concentrating on Mugabe him-
self.

Our ZANU-PF contacts are
virtually unanimous in saying
reform is desperately needed,
but won't happen while the
Old Man is there, and there-
fore he must go (finding the
courage to make that happen
is another matter, however, but
even that may be coming
closer). This is not some sud-
den awakening on the road to
Damascus, but a reflection of
the pain even party insiders
increasingly feel over the eco-
nomic meltdown.

We also get regular, albeit
anecdotal, reports of angry and
increasingly open mutterings
against Mugabe even in
ZANU-PF's traditional rural
bastions. Beginning in March,
the other SADC leaders finally
recognized (in the wake of the
terrible beatings of March 11
and the international outcry
that followed, another self-in-
flicted wound for Mugabe) that
Zimbabwe is a problem they
need to address.

Thabo Mbeki appears com-
mitted to a successful media-
tion and is reportedly increas-
ingly irritated with Mugabe's
efforts to manipulate him or
blow him off altogether. If
Mugabe judges that he still
commands all he surveys by
virtue of being the elder states-
man on the scene, he may be
committing yet another serious
blunder. Finally, one does well
to recall that the only serious
civil disturbances here in a de-
cade came in 1998 over bread

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Republic of Namibia

The Government of the Republic of Namibia and the entire nation Commemorate "Namibian Women's Day" in remembrance of their sacrifices during the struggle for liberation and nation-building

Namibian women! Mothers of the Land of the Brave

Who were pregnant with the nation to be

In the struggle against apartheid and colonialism

In the heat of the pain of labour you persevered

Your presence at the battle fronts were visible and meaningful

As sons and daughters of this land fought to liberate

the only place we can call our own, Namibia

Yesterday we listened to you when you taught us lessons of resilience

The need to be free to determine our own destiny in our own land

No matter how long it was to take us to obtain that freedom

The amount of bloodshed to make freedom a reality

You stood by your words and principles

Today we understand your voice of reason, your labour was not in vain nor abortive

For your ultimate aim, victory, was achieved in unity.

Today you stand as proud mothers of freedom and independence

Your dignity and integrity restored since the day victory was born from your womb.

May this day be the time of remembrance of your strength, determination, love and generosity!

May your blood light and pave our way forward to produce the fruits of independence and freedom
as best as you taught us to do

To sacrifice when there is no option to realise our goals

To fight when there is no other means to walk to freedom

To work hard to achieve prosperity to feed and nourish the nation abundantly

Long live Namibian Women!

Long Live Our Mothers, Daughters and Sisters!