SECRET

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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Harare CLASSIFICATION

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The end is Nigh

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Christopher W. Dell, who tried to drive change here. What is required is simply the grit, determination and focus to see this through. Then, when the changes finally come we must be ready to move quickly to help consolidate the new dispensation.

THE SITUATION.

Robert Mugabe has survived for so long because he is more clever and more ruthless than any other politician in Zimbabwe. 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 political dynamic and force everyone else to react to his agenda. However, he is fundamentally hampere by several factors: his ego and belief in his own infallibility; his obsessive focus on the past as a justification for everything in the present and future; his deep ignorance of economic issues (coupled with the belief that 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 GOZ’s quasi-fiscal hyperactivity combined with the price impact of power shortages.

The increasingly worthless Zimbabwe 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’ve convinced the end is not far off for the Mugabe regime. Of course, my predecessors and many other observers have all said the same thing, and yet Mugabe is still with us. I think this time could prove different, however, because for the first time the president is under intensifying pressure simultaneously on the economic, political and international fronts.

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

Our ZANU-PF contacts are virtually unanimous in saying reform is desperately needed, but won’t happen while the Old Man is there, and therefore 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 sudden awakening on the road to Damascus, but a reflection of the pain even party insiders increasingly feel over the economic 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-inflicted wound for Mugabe) that Zimbabwe is a problem they need to address.

Thabo Mbeki appears committed to a successful mediation and is reportedly increasingly 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 statesman 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 decade came in 1996 over bread

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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!

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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.

The current inflationary cycle really began with Murambatsvina, as rents and prices grew in response to a decrease in supply. And now, faced with the hyperinflationary consequences 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 popularity (especially among the police, 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, traders, 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 government simply doesn’t have the resources to replace the entire

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