
Zimbabwe Elections

Anglo-Americans Still Seek Mugabe's Ouster

by Dean Andromidas

The results of the June 24-25 Zimbabwean parliamentary elections, in which the opposition Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) won 57 of the 120 contested seats, is seen by some as a surprising and major victory for the opposition. The results may be a major victory for the opposition, but they were by no means surprising. It marks the end of the first phase of an operation aimed at overthrowing the government of President Robert Mugabe and destroying Zimbabwe as a nation-state capable of resisting Anglo-American economic and political plans for the region. As *EIR* has detailed in recent articles (see, for example, "The Anglo-Americans Fear an African-Malaysian Alliance," *EIR*, June 30; "Anglo-American Elite Escalates Its Anti-Zimbabwe Campaign," *EIR*, June 2; and "London Headquarters Established To Overthrow Zimbabwe's Mugabe," *EIR*, May 12), these London- and Wall Street-based interests are not interested in a "democratic" Zimbabwe; rather, they want full control of its mining and land resources, especially at a time when their global financial empire is on the verge of collapse.

The election results gave the ruling ZANU-PF party 62 seats, and the independent ZANU party 1 seat. Despite the MDC's 57 seats, its leader, Morgan Tsvangirai, lost in his own district. In the previous Parliament, the ZANU-PF held 117 of the elected seats. Under the Constitution, another 30 seats are delegated by President Mugabe, of which 10 are delegated to the various tribal chiefs. This means that President Mugabe, who was not up for reelection until his current term runs out in 2002, will form his own government as he sees fit, but the ZANU-PF will no longer have the two-thirds majority needed to amend the Constitution.

On June 27, in a ten-minute address to the nation, President Mugabe called for reconciliation. In reference to the legion of international observers deployed especially from the European Union, President Mugabe took a well-deserved swipe, declaring that they had come to Zimbabwe with preconceived notions "in the mold of Victorian missionaries who came to pacify and redeem the natives. They go home humbled and educated." Indeed, the much-predicted "civil war" that the international media were accusing President Mugabe of planning after the election, has not materialized. The President also restated his intentions to continue the process of land redistribution, saying, "There are great ex-

pectations around land, which will soon come to the people in a big way."

In a call for national political cooperation, President Mugabe said, "Victory and defeat are quick to reconcile, quick to connect and cohabit in the same national space for greater peace and togetherness. The results are out. They bind us all, losers and winners alike." Mugabe continued that, in a parliament which "is certainly destined to be very lively, . . . I look forward to working with the new parliament as together we grapple with the pressing challenges of improving the livelihood of our people and developing our nation." He then spoke of the need for a "continual search for greater unity and stability within our nation, unity across race, tribe, and ethnicity, across regions, across class, the unity of our people which more than ever before has become so valuable."

While the international media have played up the MDC's "stunning victory," the fact is, according to African intelligence sources, the senior ZANU-PF leadership were expecting the opposition groups to receive between 45 and 55 seats.

The erosion of Mugabe's popularity began after 1991, when he began to implement an International Monetary Fund-mandated stabilization program, whose typical austerity sparked to mass demonstrations and rioting in the mid-1990s. In 1998, the IMF and other international institutions cut off all credit, after Zimbabwe, in self-defense, joined with along with Namibia and Angola, to militarily back the Democratic Republic of the Congo (D.R.C.) when the Anglo-American marcher-lords, Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni and Rwanda's Paul Kagame invaded the D.R.C. in order to overthrow their former ally, Congo President Laurent Kabila.

In this same period, ZANU-PF ceased to be a national party when MDC leader Tsvangirai, as Secretary General of the Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions, pulled out of the ZANU-PF, taking the trade unions with him. The move effectively closed down ZANU-PF's urban political organization. The election results reflected this split, with the MDC winning in almost all the major urban areas. The only rural areas where it did well, was the Matabeleland region, which is traditionally anti-ZANU-PF.

'They Jumped the Gun'

Abdulsalami Abubakar, the Nigerian chairman of the British Commonwealth observer group, declared that the vote-counting process was "commendably transparent," despite reports of violence and intimidation. He was seconded by Tony Yengeni, leader of the South African observer team, who not only declared the elections free and fair, but also ridiculed former Swedish Foreign Minister Pierre Schori, who, as head of the European Union observation team, refused to declare the election free and fair. Yengeni told reporters, after meeting with Mugabe, "We thought the EU was supposed to be humble and allow Africans to express themselves. . . . They jumped the gun."

South Africa's ruling African National Congress said in a statement: "We congratulate ZANU-PF on their victory as we realize that the election process has underscored the fact that democracy was taking root, not only in Zimbabwe but in the sub-region and indeed in the whole of Africa."

Thus, for the moment, Anglo-American attempts to mobilize African support for reversing the election are falling flat, as they have done in the past. The MDC has withdrawn its threat to challenge 20 electoral districts, a move designed to achieve a two-thirds majority, which would allow them to oust President Mugabe. They will now only challenge 10, based on allegations of violence, rather than vote fraud. As of this writing, the opposition has remained silent on what their next move will be, although they held a strategy session on June 28.

The Anglo-Americans have not remained silent. British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook refused to congratulate President Mugabe, and announced that Britain will not release the £36 million it had promised for land reform unless Mugabe "steered a path of national reconciliation" — thus signalling the continued international campaign to cut off all financial assistance to Zimbabwe. Earlier, Cook had threatened to launch an international campaign "to put pressure on President Mugabe to implement the will of the people," meaning the British oligarchy. Upping the pressure on South African President Thabo Mbeki, Cook said that Britain will "be looking to South Africa for support."

More sinister was a commentary in the London *Times* by Lord Renwick, formerly Ambassador to the United States and South Africa; he is currently director of the Robert Fleming Holdings brokerage firm and an adviser to the Hakluyt Foundation, the MI6-linked British partner of Kissinger Associates. After an anti-Mugabe litany, Renwick said, "So long as the present regime remains in power, Zimbabwe will be unable to attract any investment or further lending by anyone in their senses." Coming from the director of of Flemings Holdings, this is a serious threat. He called for "ostracism" of the regime. Renwick is a Labour Party member, and also a patron of the South African-based Suzman Foundation, which played a major party in the anti-Zimbabwe campaign. The same commentary was carried on the website of the Zimbabwe Democracy Trust. The ZDT, as *EIR* has documented, is the London-based center of the operation to overthrow Mugabe. Renwick, although not a formal patron, is intimately involved with ZDT's board members, including Lord David Steel and Lord Peter Carrington, in anti-Zimbabwe operations.

In the United States, networks associated with George W. Bush have begun mobilizing against the Zimbabwe government. On June 23, the U.S. Senate voted up the Zimbabwe Democracy Act, sponsored by Sen. Bill Frist (R-Tenn.). The bill calls for suspension of bilateral assistance to the Zimbabwe government, including debt relief, and "would instruct U.S. executive directors of the multilateral lending institu-

tions [e.g., the IMF] to vote against the extension of any credits or benefits to the government of Zimbabwe."

Frist has endorsed his close crony Bush for President. With respect to Africa policy, he is linked to right-wing Christian fundamentalists who support the Anglo-American killing machine in southern Sudan, the Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA). Frist recently toured the SPLA-held areas with the World Medical Mission and the Samaritan's Purse. The southern Sudanese operation is coordinated by another British oligarch, Baroness Caroline Cox of Christian Solidarity International, and by one of former President Bush's Christian fundamentalist money-bags, Pat Robertson, who also had diamond interests in the Congo.

It is obvious that institutions such as the U.S. National Endowment for Democracy, its GOP wing, the International Republican Institute, and the U.S. State Department, and British Foreign Office will continue to deny aid and credits. This will worsen the food and fuel crises, and lead to another round of destabilizations. They will also move to get the opposition to play its assigned role of mobilizing the widespread discontent. The MDC, although it has not officially announced its strategy, has nonetheless openly embraced the policies the World Bank and the IMF.

Such a policy will only lead to a civil war that will affect all of southern Africa.

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