

Why This Assault On Mugabe?

Dr. Simbi Mubako, the Ambassador of Zimbabwe to the United States, addressed a Schiller Institute conference on Feb. 16, 2002. He pointed out that, in addition to Zimbabwe's land reform, President Robert Mugabe was singled out for sending troops to the Democratic Republic of Congo (D.R.C.), to help defend that country from invasion by Rwanda and Uganda. Mubako stated:

"The D.R.C. appealed to SADC [the Southern African Development Community] for help; SADC agreed to send troops from Zimbabwe, Namibia, and Angola. The invading forces were checkmated, and the plan to overthrow the government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, was foiled. . . .

"In 1999, after our diplomatic quarrels with Britain had started, our annual application to the IMF was vetoed. . . . The reason given, was that Zimbabwe—which had sent troops to the Democratic Republic of Congo—was too poor to involve itself in the war in the D.R.C.; and therefore, they should be denied any further funds, so that they could not indulge in those kind of adventures.

"Yet, at the same time—in fact, on the same day—Rwanda and Uganda had their applications approved by the IMF. These two countries also have troops in the D.R.C.; they are the aggressors; and both countries are actually poorer than Zimbabwe. Yet, they received, and continue to receive, loans and grants from the Bretton Woods institutions, while Zimbabwe is quarantined."