Ambassador M.J. Mapuranga: Why the British Hate Zimbabwe

EIRNS/Stuart Lewis

Dr. Machivenyika J. Mapuranga, the Zimbabwean Ambassador to the United States, gave this interview to The LaRouche Show on April 12. The host was Lawrence Freeman, and Portia Tarumbwa Strid joined in by telephone from Berlin. She is a member of the LaRouche Youth Movement from Zimbabwe. The LaRouche Show is an Internet radio program, webcast every Saturday at 3:00 p.m. Eastern Time, at www.larouchepub.com.

Freeman: . . . I'll frame the discussion a bit in terms of what the global picture looks like—and this was discussed by Mr. LaRouche this past Thursday, when he met with a group of foreign diplomats in Washington, D.C.[1] The condition now that we're seeing around the world, is the meltdown of the global financial system. And under these conditions, the British financiers, located in the City of London, are looking for control, looking to save their system. And we're seeing a series of destabilizations, potentially leading to wars, that are being instigated by the British around the globe—certainly in Africa, in their attacks on Zimbabwe; their operations to support the Dalai Lama against China; their provocations against Russia. The British policies are to try to find a way to survive in a system that is dead: This financial system cannot be brought back to life. It is finished! What's needed is a new one, which Mr. LaRouche and our friends around the world and in the United States, are working to create.

Today, we will focus on the situation in Africa and in Zimbabwe. We're very fortunate to have the Ambassador here.

I'd like to start off with some very preliminary questions, Mr. Ambassador. Today is two weeks since the Zimbabwe elections for President and for Parliament. Could you bring us up to date, in terms of where we are in this process?

Zimbabwe's Election: Truth vs. Lies

Mapuranga: Thank you, Larry. You know, these elections are actually the culmination of a process that started last year in March, when the heads of state and government of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) met, and they issued a communiqué in which, among other things, they requested the President of South Africa, Thabo Mbeki, to play the part of facilitator—some say even mediator—in talks between the ruling party, ZANU-PF, and the opposition Movement for Democratic Change (MDC). Many meetings were held, both in Zimbabwe and in South Africa, through Thabo Mbeki's mediation, and it bore fruit. These talks resulted in Amendment 18 to the Zimbabwean Constitution—because all along, we have been operating under the Lancaster House Constitution that was given to us by the British, at the end of the protracted war of liberation—it lasted 14 years. And then we proceeded to Lancaster House for the peace conference that resulted in a constitution that we are operating under to this day.

Now, Amendment 18, agreed upon by the parties involved, cuts the Presidential term from six years to five, and it also stipulated that there would be a maximum of two terms. Because previously, we were following the British practice, that there is no term limit for the chief executive officer. The prime minister of Britain has no term limits. In the United States, you operated for a long, long time, since your Declaration of Independence, without term limits—until 1959, I think. The great Franklin Roosevelt, when he died, was in his fourth term.

The other provision of Amendment 18 that is germane to your question, has to do with the conduct of elections. Previously, there were three or four bodies that were involved in preparations for elections: You had the Registrar General's office, you had a Delimitation Commission, and an Electoral Council. All their functions were now concentrated in one body that was created, known as the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission. This commission has both members nominated by the opposition party, and members nominated by the ruling party, on a 50-50 basis.

Freeman: I think there are two for each.

Mapuranga: Yes. Then, there is a chairman, who is appointed in accordance with the procedure governing the appointment of judges: that is, on the recommendation of the Judiciary Services Commission.

So really, this malicious talk about how this commission is biased, or something like that, is not true, because the composition was made on a bipartisan basis.

1. See *EIR*, April 18, 2008.

Previously, we used to have our Presidential elections and our parliamentary elections separately. One of the agreements in the Mbeki talks, was that these elections have to be harmonized; they should be held simultaneously. There are four elections in one: the local government elections, for the councils; the Presidential election; the election for the Senate; and the election for the House of Assembly. Four in one. This is something that is unprecedented in our history. Previously, when we held our elections, we would get the full results within two or three days. But this time around, it has taken a bit longer. After four or five days, we got all the results of the House of Assembly. And after two more days we got the results of the Senate. We are getting the results now of the local government elections. But we still do not have the full results in the Presidential election, because there are two processes involved here.

First, the results of the election were posted at the polling station, for everybody to see. Then, they were transmitted to the National Collation Center, to be centralized, collated. We're talking about results from 9,000 polling stations. And then, the second process is that of verification. Now, in the other three elections, the Senate, the House, and the local government, these processes have been concluded. In the Presidential election, they are still in the process of verification. Your listeners may have noted that the ruling party had some complaints to make, because in several areas, the results posted at the polling station did not tally with the results that were received by the National Collation Center. These anomalies have to be addressed.

So, this is where we are now. But because the process has taken more than a week, to get the full results, the British and their surrogates, that is the opposition MDC, are claiming that their Presidential candidate had won, even though the Electoral Commission, the ZEC, has not yet concluded its task. We think that this is a recipe for disorder. People should not declare themselves winners before the authorized body does that.

Freeman: The votes have not been officially released for the President, and yet there are people in the MDC and others around the world, who are claiming that Morgan Tsvangirai, the Presidential candidate of the Movement for Democratic Change, won the election. How can anyone claim that, if the votes aren't counted yet?

Mapuranga: For one to win the Presidential election, he has to get 51% of the vote. And when the secretary general of the MDC addressed a press conference, he said, we have done our own collation of the votes from all the constituencies, from the polling stations, and we reckon that our candidate has won 50.3% of the vote. And they said that President Mugabe had won maybe 44% of the vote. But the important thing to notice here, is that *even by their own reckoning*, their candidate has not attained the 51% that the Constitution stipulates as the threshold.

Freeman: Right. So if people who are always talking about the rule of law being followed, well, the rule of law in Zimbabwe is, the candidate has to get 51%. If that does not occur, then there would be a runoff. So this is where we stand on the Presidential election. Now, while we are speaking here today, an emergency meeting of the SADC has been called in Zambia, to deal with this. Maybe you could give us some background on why this meeting was called, and what you expect to happen at it.

Mapuranga: Right. You probably would have noticed that when President Thabo Mbeki was on his way to a summit, the Africa-India summit, I think, he passed through London and he had discussions with Prime Minister Gordon Brown. And when he came out of those discussions, he was asked a question on Zimbabwe, and the election there. And he said: "We have to be patient, because the the ZEC has to do its job thoroughly." He could not understand why there was so much, almost panic, or whatever, impatience. You probably have noticed that only yesterday, he was having a meeting with President Mugabe in Harare, and he was saying to news reporters that there is *no crisis* in Zimbabwe. We have the results of three elections, and we are awaiting the final result of the fourth election, which is the Presidential. And the ZEC has made it clear, and the chairman of the ZEC has said on several occasions, that his body wants to make a meticulous collation of the results, so that we do not have a situation where the results are gainsaid and second-guessed, or, even worse, we have a Kenyan-type situation of post-election violence. So, this is what they are trying to avert.

But the British Prime Miinister, Gordon Brown, and I think Department of State here also, in the United States, have been leaning on the leaders of the SADC to say that they must put pressure on the ZEC to release the results. And the ZEC is saying, we cannot release incomplete results. We are still in the process of verification.

For Britain: 'White Man's Country'

Freeman: When you say that they are putting pressure on them, I think that is diplomatically well put. There is a lot of intimidation going on, I believe, at this point, because of Prime Minister Gordon Brown's attitude toward Zimbabwe.

I think, additionally, we should look at this situation in Zimbabwe, from a larger historical standpoint. And I think that most people, especially Americans, refuse to look at history, as if history has any relevance to what's going on today. Of course, the Baby Boomers think history began in the 1950s, when they were born. But even other people don't think that history is actually a force that acts on the present. I think it would be important to realize that the people of Zimbabwe and President Mugabe fought a very tough, long, war—a 14-year war—of liberation, against one of the most racist, imperialist regimes that the British Empire has ever seen, in Southern Rhodesia. And I don't think that they have ever forgiven President Mugabe or the Zimbabwe people for becoming in-

dependent, in fact, today I don't think they think they *are* independent, they still think they're under the British Empire.

Mapuranga: Well, if you listen to some of the debates that go on in the House of Lords, when from time to time they debate Zimbabwe, you would in fact get convinced that as far as they're concerned, Zimbabwe is not yet an independent, sovereign state.

To understand this, as you said, you have to go back slightly into history. If you peruse the Colonial Office documents that are kept in the Public Record Office in London, in Kew Gardens, you will see that Southern Rhodesia, which is Zimbabwe now, and South Africa, along with Australia, New Zealand, and Canada, these five, are referred to as "white man's country." That is the phrase that is used consistently by the great administrators, Lord Salisbury, Lord Milner, Sir Harry Johnston—they all refer to these five as "white man's country." It's a policy that was predicated on two subpolicies, or rested on two pillars: First, the British settlers who went to these countries, were supposed to eventually outnumber the natives, because these five were earmarked for permanent white settlement. Of course this policy succeeded completely in Canada, Australia, and New Zealand, and it was well on its way to success in South Africa and Southern Rhodesia (Zimbabwe now), because in the course of years, they radically changed the ratio between the natives and the incoming settlers. As we speak now, in South Africa, the ratio is 1:10, whereas three centuries ago, it was 1:19,000.

In Zimbabwe, when the British South Africa Company colonized the country in 1890, four years later we have figures which showed that in 1894, in their estimation, there was one white man to 17,000 natives. But at the height of the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland, which lasted from 1953 to 1963, in 1961, the ratio had been changed to 1:13. So, that is one aspect of this policy.

The other aspect has to do with land alienation. In all the five countries, the natives were removed from their land, and herded into native areas. In Zimbabwe, these were called "native reserves." I grew up in a native reserve myself, which comprised not more than 25% of the land. The other 75-85% was now in British hands. We had been totally removed.

Freeman: Same as with Kenya.

Mapuranga: Yes, that happened also in Kenya, but not to that extent. In Kenya, it was only what they called the White Highlands: The highlands which were cool and regarded as good for white settlement.

So this explains why, while the rest of British Africa was being given independence on a silver platter, or maybe after a few demonstrations or some strike action, in Zimbabwe we had to fight a liberation war for 14 years, because they said, "This is not black man's territory."

Freeman: From 1965 to 1979?

Mapuranga: From 1966 to 1979.

Freeman: It was a very brutal battle.

Mapuranga: Yes, and you know, at the Lancaster House conference, the peace conference, these talks almost broke down on the question of land. The liberation movements were packing their bags to go back to the bush, to resume the war, when Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher said, "I have a compromise proposal. We will not insist that you buy the land."

Because they were insisting that a new government of independent Zimbabwe would have to buy the land from the British settlers. And we were saying, no, this land was not bought from *our* ancestors; it was an act of booty that was taken from us. And we have fought a liberation war: We must get back this land. We cannot pay for this land! It's ours! But we can pay for the development on the land. Say, if the British farmer had built a farm, or has tobacco barns, or whatever development has gone on on the farm, a court will assess the value of that development, and then the government will have to pay compensation for that—but not buying the land. This was the compromise agreement.

Freeman: The compromise was that the British and the Americans would buy the land.

Mapuranga: Yes, because President Jimmy Carter—this was conveyed to us by Secretary of State Cyrus Vance—said that they also would step in and make a contribution to a land reform program. And indeed, Margaret Thatcher did pay money for what they called the Inception Phase of the land reform program. But when her party was defeated in elections in 1989, by the Labour Party of Tony Blair, the new party said that they were not beholden to promises made by the Conservative Party of Margaret Thatcher. And so this was conveyed to us by a letter from Clare Short, the Secretary of the Foreign Office. She said that this is a new government, and we cannot honor the promises made by the old government. And so, the government of Zimbabwe was constrained to amend the Constitution, in order to make it legal for the government to appropriate land, for redistribution.

Freeman: I think the point that is clear, then, is that Tony Blair said, we're not going to participate in this any more, and therefore what the current government did, was give the land to the 15 million Zimbabweans who were living on reserves. This is, I think, what drove the British over the deep end in 2000, to escalate their campaign against President Mugabe.

Mapuranga: Right. So, when we launched the land reform program, we were not actually saying, we don't want the British here. We were saying, let us share this land equitably.

Even as we speak now, we have British farmers in Zimbabwe. It's not like they've all been expelled. But before the land reform program, we used to have the second-largest number of white farmers in Africa, after South Africa. But because we have insisted on a "one man, one farm" policy, the

number of white farmers has gone down, and now we are number three in the whole of Africa. Number one is South Africa; number two is Namibia; we are number three; and Kenya is number four, in terms of the numbers of white farmers.

British Imperial Policy

Freeman: Portia, would you like to jump in, with some questions for the Ambassador?

Tarumbwa Strid: Well, I have a comment. In the organizing here in Europe, what I've noticed around these issues, is that the reason why people do *not* understand what is going on in Zimbabwe, or do not understand the key historical issue of this land question, is that they really do not know who the enemy is. That leads to the fact that they don't know what they should be fighting for.

And I'm talking now on an international scale—because as we speak, what's also making the headlines, especially here in Europe, is the food crisis, and the massive inflation of food prices, which is causing riots and unrest all across the globe. And people have been killed as a result. People are already dying on an enormous scale; but the fact that you see food riots in over 33 countries—this is the breakdown of civilization! And it is only the beginning. And anybody who has a sense of what LaRouche is talking about, when he says that the international financial and monetary system is dead, and that the central banks are now just pumping money, in a hopeless attempt to deal with this—then you know where all this is coming from. They've created a huge inflation of food, because the speculators said, "People are always going to have to eat something, so we can make a profit." And they don't really care very much about the suffering that this produces. They're for globalization and the free-market economy.

What has happened, is that the countries that *were* the leading exporters of grain and wheat, have just said, no, we're not going to go to market, because our people have to eat too. So the market for food has totally run dry! And this has to do with Al Gore's fascist biofuel policy: that suddenly everybody has to stop climate change and drive a car that uses ethanol. (I heard that most cars cannot even use these biofuels anyway!) Food production was diverted to this piece of nonsense, and then the food that was produced was not eaten by people. And the other side to this, is that the farmers who thought they were going to make a killing on this (they did, literally), ended up paying inflated prices for animal feed. So in the end, it just did not tally; they didn't gain anything. This is really a crime against humanity.

So if you can understand *this*, if you can see the face of the enemy in this whole question, then you also see why the media are so hyped up about Zimbabwe. Because any government that tries to go against globalization, or against the IMF, or against the British Empire—it's all one thing—they'll get crushed. And it's part of an operation, really to perpetrate genocide. You have these horrible quotes from Prince Philip, the Royal Consort, or the Royal Pervert—he wrote in a book

EIRNS/Helene Möller

LaRouche Youth Movement organizer Portia Tarumbwa Strid: The reason people don't understand what is going on in Zimbabwe, is that "they really do not know who the enemy is."

from 1988, called *Down to Earth*, how you have to reduce the population by starvation, wars, disease. This is really disgusting stuff. And so you get to a situation, where what the Zimbabwean government is trying to address, or *re*dress, in this land reform issue, is this British policy.

I was wondering if Dr. Mapuranga could also go into that a little bit, this whole question of the British Empire.

Mapuranga: In the case of Zimbabwe, you have to understand that the economy that we inherited was an integral part of the Anglo-American economy, and so, very vulnerable to sanctions. When we launched the land reform program, the British prevailed on their allies in the European Union and the Bush Administration, to impose sanctions on Zimbabwe. If you talk about sanctions with people from the British government or the State Department here, they say, "Oh, we have *targeted* sanctions!" Which is not true. They're only referring, in the case of the U.S.A. here, to the Executive Order that is made by the President every year, in which he lists the Zimbabwe leadership that is forbidden to come to the United States, and whose properties may have been nationalized or frozen, or whatever. But they will not talk about the *real*

EIRNS/Stuart Lewis

Dr. Mapuranga in the studio with The LaRouche Show host Lawrence Freeman.

sanctions, which were imposed by Congress in 2001. Because Congress passed a law, called ZDERA (that is, the Zimbabwe Democracy and Economic Recovery Act), by which the Secretary of the Treasury instructed all the directors who are U.S. citizens, wherever they are—in the Bretton Woods institutions, in the international finance houses, etc.—to block Zimbabwe's access to loans, to credits, to debt forgiveness, and so forth. So, they really put the squeeze on the economy. And that also happened in Europe. That explains why Zimbabwe cannot even raise loans on the global market, because of these sanctions.

These sanctions were part of what Tony Blair, the British Prime Minister, when he was addressing the House of Commons in 1994 and also in 2004, was saying: that our policy toward Zimbabwe is "regime change." In other words, they are funding the opposition—and this is not a secret. You can visit the website of the Westminster Foundation: The three parties in the British Parliament, the Liberals, the Labour Party, and the Tories, or the Conservative Party—they vie with each other to make contributions to the MDC, and what they call "civil society," the nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) in Zimbabwe that are opposed to the government. Here in the United States, you need to read the 2007 reports of the Department of State. They give a global report on human rights. Now, if you go to the section on Zimbabwe, they say the U.S. government spent money on the opposition and the civil society organizations that are opposed to the government. So, they are coordinating their efforts for what they call regime change. And maybe this explains why the British, more than anybody else, have been very much interested in the outcome of the Zimbabwe elections: because they wanted the party which they are sponsoring to win the elections.

A 'Treasure Trove' of Raw Materials

Tarumbwa Strid: Absolutely. I can only add to that, that in the *International Herald Tribune*, there was an article yesterday discussing another issue which is very telling, especially right now, that they're coming out with this: They talk about Zimbabwe as a "treasure trove" for miners. It's a pedagogical example that I like to use, to get people to understand the land issue in Zimbabwe. If you have the image of two maps (**Figures 1 and 2**), you can imagine a great belt of mineral deposits running through the center of Zimbabwe, diagonally across, over 500 kilometers, with just about everything you can think of—gold, silver, platinum, nickel, tin—

Mapuranga: Diamonds.

Tarumbwa Strid: Right. They were saying, we would love to come in and start mining again, because this for us is an absolute dream!

And then, you think of the land distribution in Rhodesia since about the 1930s, until we gained independence. You have another map, were the white Europeans had their farms, as Dr. Mapurango was saying. They had the richest soil. If you superimpose these two maps—where you have most of the mineral deposits, and where they had the land that they gave to the white Rhodesians—this is exactly the same, one thing on top of the other.

This is also why the land reform is very contentious, because this is not only in Zimbabwe. Also in Francophone countries in Africa, they realize that if the British are successful in recolonizing Zimbabwe, through their puppet opposition leader, Morgan Tsvangirai, then the rest of Africa is even *more* vulnerable. And that's why the African leaders actually supported President Mugabe being at the Lisbon summit, the EU-Africa summit last December. They insisted he actually be there, because he represents a *principle*, now more than ever, of the resistance to imperialism, especially British imperialism. And no country that has had a taste of what freedom is like, wants to go back to that. This is another reason that the British hate Zimbabwe so much.

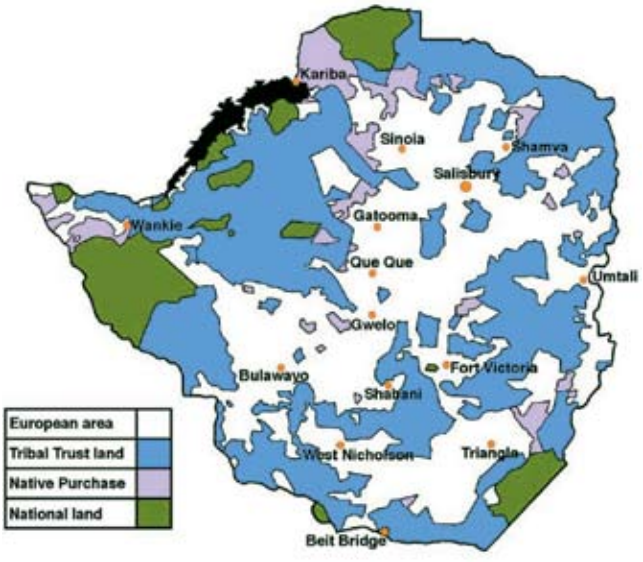
A Campaign of Vilification

Mapuranga: I could add here, they have led a campaign of vilification. When they gave us the Lancaster House Constitution, the first elections in Zimbabwe were organized and supervised by the last governor of the British, Lord Soames. They said these elections were free and fair, and Mr. Robert Mugabe and your party, you have won. Please form the first government of an independent Zimbabwe. And they placed Prime Minister Robert Mugabe on a pedestal, saying this is a paragon of democracy of a statesman. Even Her Majesty the Queen gave him a knighthood, and Zimbabwe was held up as the paragon of democracy. But once the land reform program was launched, they embarked on a campaign of vilification, to say, "There is no democracy in Zimbabwe! This is a dictatorship, this is a tyranny."

FIGURE 1
Zimbabwe's Mineral Resources

Now, when the Zimbabwean people decided that there is need for a new Constitution that reflects the Zimbabwean reality—because all along we have been operating under the Lancaster House, the British Constitution—we set up a constitutional commission, which travelled the length and breadth of the country, soliciting the views of Zimbabweans of all walks of life. That was in the year 2000. And we held a referendum on a draft constitution. The British did not like that draft constitution, because it had a clause that empowered government to redistribute land. And so, they and their puppets campaigned against that constitution, and in the referendum, the ruling party lost. When the MDC was formed, in the first election in which they participated, they won 57 seats, to the ruling party's 63. A mere difference of 6 seats, making it the largest parliamentary opposition party in the whole of Africa. And as we speak now, the ruling party has lost control of the House of Assembly. It has control of the Senate, but has lost control of the House of Assembly. I'm giving you all these examples—would that happen in a dictatorship? Or in a tyranny? It can only happen in a democracy.

FIGURE 2
British Rhodesia: 'White Man's Country'



commons.wikimedia.org

Comparing the two maps (Figures 1 and 2) shows, as Portia Tarumbwa Strid describes, the "white belt" of Rhodesia—much of it dedicated to farming—which is also where Zimbabwe's vast mineral wealth is located. Why are the British so worried about land reform that will turn farms over to Africans?

Freeman: I think it's actually worse than that, Mr. Ambassador. You see, Americans are so naive about understanding who our real enemy is. Because actually the enemy that's trying to destroy the United States, is the same British enemy that Zimbabwe's fighting. And this is complete hypocrisy and fraud, but through popular opinion, they continue to turn out propaganda against President Mugabe and Zimbabwe.

All you have to do is look at, about a year ago, the elections in Nigeria, which everybody admits were a complete fraud. And to this day, the President of Nigeria, Umaru Yar'Adua, is now going through the last appeal of those elections, to the Supreme Court in Nigeria. So, the elections are still in question, for almost a year, and everyone knew they were a fraud, and the opposition was wiped out, without being given any vote at all. There's no mention of this!

The point is, that they're not really concerned about democracy and about elections. The policy, as Portia went through, is a policy of genocide. It the policy of our government, no later than 1974, when Henry Kissinger wrote National Security Study Memorandum 200: The British Empire wants control of the resources. Especially in the financial collapse now, they want that wealth that Portia was talking about. And they are enraged, that they are losing control of the land in Zimbabwe.

And they're very much afraid, I believe—and you may have more on this—they're afraid of losing the land in South Africa next. I believe that a great deal of the effort being put to

U.S. Air Force/Tech Sgt. Jeremy Lock

Zimbabwe President Robert Mugabe was praised to the skies by the British—even knighted by the Queen—until he began his program of land reform.

break Zimbabwe, is in preparation to do the same thing in South Africa, over the period of 2008, leading up to their election in 2009.

Mapuranga: Yes, I think that is a valid point. You know, the principle that was agreed upon at the Lancaster House conference, and that was implemented for 20 years, was called the "willing seller/willing buyer" principle. It did not succeed in making a substantial redress to the imbalance in land ownership. And this is the same principle that was adopted by democratic South Africa, and also by Namibia, when it gained independence in 1990. In both countries, Namibia and South Africa, the government has declared that the principle is not working. There has to be a conscious and proactive policy to redress the colonial imbalance. And in both countries, the government has started appropriating some land for redistribution. So they actually are following in the footsteps of the Zimbabwe experience.

This is the reason why these countries have been giving solidarity to the people of Zimbabwe, because as Portia was saying, remember the EU-AU summit in Lisbon, the British were saying, we are not going there if Zimbabwe is coming. They were trying to persuade all their colleagues, don't go to this summit if Zimbabwe is going. But the whole of Africa said, if Zimbabwe is excluded, *we're not coming to that summit.* And the summit was held in Lisbon, and lo and behold, who was not there? Only Britain! The whole of Europe was there, the whole of Africa was there; only Britain was absent. So, this bilateral quarrel that we have with the British, they have tried to internationalize it, by soliciting the support of their allies in the EU and North America. But so far, Africa has shown tremendous solidarity with the people of Zimbabwe.

Freeman: What do you think will come out of the SADC conference this weekend? Because obviously, there's an attempt to pressure the SADC countries, which are the neighbors of Zimbabwe; but on the other hand, this is a sovereign question for the people of Zimbabwe to settle, the outcome of their election.

Mapuranga: I think what is going to happen, is that there is going to be a debriefing session. By this I mean, that at the Dar es Salaam summit last year in March, the heads of state and government gave a mandate to President Thabo Mbeki; now he has to report to them, to say, this is what I've done, the process culminated in elections, and this is where we are now. And on the basis of the report by President Thabo Mbeki, they will have to make a determination on what the SADC region has to do.

Freeman: When do you think that report will come out?

Mapuranga: The meeting is today, Saturday. We hope that by Monday we should know what the outcome is.[2] Incidentally, on Monday we are awaiting the pronouncement by Justice Uchena, who handled the case of the opposition MDC. They appealed to the court to say that they want an *immediate* release of the election results. The ZEC was saying: But we cannot release results which we do not have; we are still *working* on the results. And in any case, we believe that you do not have the competence to make a determination on this matter, because there is an Electoral Court, and the Electoral Court, which is in the Constitution, is the court that was agreed upon in the Mbeki-mediated talks. It is an electoral court where those who are aggrieved, in any election, make their appeals. But Justice Uchena, who belongs to the High Court, said that the High Court even has jurisdiction on these matters. So he seized on the issue; he has already made that pronouncement, that the High Court has jurisdiction of these matters; and second, he has already made the determination that the matter is now urgent, and the ZEC will be told on Monday that it should release the results forthwith, or they have to make a case to say that their work has not been completed.

Freeman: Now the other thing is, that Morgan Tsvangirai has called for a general strike for Tuesday [April 15]. I wanted to get your evaluation of what the purpose of that is, and what will be accomplished.

Mapuranga: Yes. Traditionally—and this is entrenched

2. The SADC summit was a defeat for the British. The communiqué only called for the results of the March 29 election to be released expeditiously, and that the run-off election be held "in a secure environment." Before leaving for the summit, President Mbeki stated that there was not a "crisis" in Zimbabwe, but a normal electoral procedure.—ed.

in our Constitution and our labor laws—workers have the right to strike. And over the years, they've been striking on labor issues: They want more salaries, or the conditions of service are not good. There is collective bargaining, that involves workers, employers, and the government. But what has been happening, is that the opposition party has been using the instrument of workers' strikes for political purposes. This is the latest example of a strike being called for political purposes, not for labor purposes. In the past, such strikes have not succeeded. The workers did not heed the call for strikes. In fact, they wanted to have, at one stage, the strategy they called "the last push." They wanted there to be a nationwide strike, to make the country ungovernable, so that there is a revolution from the streets, like what happened in Eastern Europe, where you had the Orange Revolution—these "colored" revolutions. They were calling for that in Zimbabwe. And they did not succeed.

Freeman: I could also add that last week, a member of the New York Council on Foreign Relations, which is a big think-tank here in the United States, which works with the British—a so-called expert on Zimbabwe—said that the opposition party has no leverage *except* to make the country ungovernable. That's their leverage.[3] Of course, that's what Raila Odinga did in Kenya, which destroyed the country. Kenya is now in a qualitatively worse state than it has ever been, since British rule. And that, I think, is one of the plans they have for Zimbabwe: to make the country ungovernable.

Mapuranga: Yes. That would suit very well the British policy of regime change.

But now that you mention Kenya, I need to say that there is a difference here. As far as the British are concerned—and Kenya was a British colony—it doesn't really matter if it is Raila Odinga in power, or Mwai Kibaki—both of them are very close allies of the British. In Zimbabwe it is different. We are talking of two different paradigms of development. On the one hand, you have a puppet party, which takes instructions from London, the MDC, which is funded by London; and on the other, you have the party of nationalists, that spearheaded the liberation war, and is saying that the indigenous people should also have a say in the ownership of land, and the mineral resources. They cannot just continue to be laborers in the mines of the British, or on British farms.

These are two diametrically opposed paradigms of development.

A Development Perspective for Africa

Freeman: Portia, did you want to join in?

Tarumbwa Strid: I can just say that what really gets me worked up, is the underlying tenor in the propaganda against Zimbabwe—for example, they insinuate the all-too-racist assumption that Africans cannot really deal with competitive commercial farming. Because today, there is a situation where many countries are not even self-subsisting food producers in Africa. But then, if you would just take the crazy situation with the global food crisis: Really there is no alternative but to develop Africa with massive investments in infrastructure, and advanced technology.

I just want to bring attention to this India-African Union summit that just took place. Africans have always been farmers, and they know how to farm! The huge plantations that were owned by the whites in Rhodesia: They were run, and staffed, by Africans. So you can't say that Africans cannot farm. But the whole globalization policy of "cash cropping" completely ruined most African countries. In the last couple of decades, you had to plant things like tobacco or cotton, which you can't eat, and which ruin the soil. So, one of the main points that Mrs. Zepp-LaRouche outlined, in her article that will appear in the next issue of the *EIR* [April 18]—she is the leader of the European movement—she talks about how the world really has to *double* its food production, as soon as possible. And that means that this whole biofuel issue has to be stopped. And it also means, as was discussed in India, that more developed countries should go into agreements with African states, and start building great projects in infrastructure, exactly what Russia and China are doing.

So, instead of the EU, or the U.S. government, grumbling about human rights and so on, I see no reason why they should not do this as well. I mean, we're going to need highways, railways, canal systems to integrate all the land that's to be made available for agricultural production. Similar to what Nehru did in the Green Revolution in India.

And here's a key issue, that's very important for Africa, because most of the farming is dependent on rainfall. And if there's no rain, then that's it! And to alleviate the situation, we need nuclear power—especially the fourth generation, the Pebble Bed reactor that's being built in South Africa right now. Because it's safe, it's perfectly safe, and it's also perfect for the desalination of water. And we need water management systems, power systems—we have serious energy shortages, especially in Zimbabwe, but in all of Africa. And as Mrs. LaRouche also points out in her article, the best way, and the cheapest way, to safeguard crops, is nuclear irradiation. It keeps away pests and diseases—like environmentalists!—and things like that.

At this point I can hear what most people are thinking who are listening right now: "Oh, it's very nice what you're saying, but it will take forever, and it's a total fantasy." But I don't think so. Because in a maneuver, the German defense forces, the Bundeswehr, can build a bridge across the River Rhine in 45 minutes. And if you could have something like an Army Corps of Engineers come in with the consent of the African government, with a crash program, you would train the people to do it on their own.

And I think there's a new determination of African coun-

3. Michelle Gavin of the CFR made this statement at a forum at the Woodrow Wilson Center for International Studies in Washington on April 9.

tries to take their destiny into their own hands. This impulse is very strong. The problem is, they're not getting any help from the West. And this is something that is a question of political will. We are blessed in Africa with the richest soils you can ever imagine: We could have four harvests in a year! One example is Sudan. In Zimbabwe, it's the same. So, what we need are these projects that the LaRouches have been discussing for a very long time.

As a young African, a young Zimbabwean, what I would wish, is to turn these barren and arid areas in Africa, into blooming gardens. And in that sense, I do admit that I'm a real greenie, as they are called here! Because I know the only way to do it is with nuclear power. That is going to be the issue that should be brought up. I'd be interested to know what Dr. Mapuranga has to say about that.

Freeman: Dr. Mapuranga?

Mapuranga: I think I agree entirely with what she has said. But then you have a situation where the Bush Administration arrogates to itself the power to say who should have access to nuclear technology, and who should not. That's a big problem. And she mentioned the question of agriculture being dependent on rain, and that is true in most of Africa. In Zimbabwe, we now have a Ministry of Water Development, which is concerned with building dams and sinking bore-holes for irrigation purposes. So, I agree entirely with her analysis.

Freeman: I think we've had a very educational show. I want to thank you, Mr. Ambassador, for coming to our studios. Thanks to Portia from Berlin. People can find out more information, at larouchepub.com and larouchepac.com, on our campaigns against the British and the defense of the African nations. Thank you very much, Mr. Ambassador, it's been a pleasure talking to you.

Zimbabwe: We Are Not a British Colony

In response to the April 16 charge by the rattled British Prime Minister Gordon Brown to the UN Security Council, that President Robert Mugabe has stolen the Zimbabwe election, Patrick Chinamasa, chairman of the Zanu-PF media sub-committee, formerly the Justice Minister) pointed out the absurdity of the charge, saying that the ruling party has never claimed that Mugabe won the election. He said the unofficial results point toward a runoff, since no candidate has enough votes to be a first-round winner, as even the opposition admits.

Chinamasa singled out the British as the source of the problem in Zimbabwe, still today. He charged that Brown continues to treat Zimbabwe as a colonial appendage of the British Empire: "We will tell him clearly and without any ambiguity that we are not a colony of the British. We are not a member of the Commonwealth. Brown has no legal standing to speak authoritatively on the results of the Zimbabwe elections. In speaking in the manner he has done at the Security Council is in order to promote nefarious British interests undermining Zimbabwe's due processes and misleading the international community."

Chinamasa added that false victory claims that the opposition party MDC has been peddling, were nothing but machinations of the British intelligence services to destabilize Zimbabwe. He said that Zanu-PF is calling on the Zimbabwe Election Commission to "bring to justice and without fail all those that ZEC employed to run the elections who were corruptly paid British pounds to tamper with the electoral process."

Chinamasa also charged that opposition leader Morgan Tsvangirai, along with Brown, are seeking regime change in Zimbabwe, and said that on the part of Tsvangirai, this is "treasonous."

Zimbabwe Minister of Information and Publicity Sikhanyiso Ndlovu said on April 16, "Brown lied about the situation in Zimbabwe," specifying that Brown's efforts to smuggle the Zimbabwean issue onto the UN Security Council agenda was a sign of his desperation to ensure that the MDC ascends to power via the back door: "Brown's theatrics at the UN show that he has forgotten that Zimbabwe is no longer a British colony and he should be reminded that Zimbabwe is aware of his efforts to reverse the gains of the hard-won independence."

Zimbabwe is taking the point in Africa in the fight against the British and City of London financial empire. It has been strongly defended by South African President Thabo Mbeki, in its fight for national sovereignty. Mbeki snubbed Brown before the UN Security Council meeting, because Mbeki understands that the British intention is to undo the sovereignty created by the independence struggles in Zimbabwe and South Africa (as documented by Dr. Mapuranga, in the interview published here), and re-establish colonial-style control over all of Africa. South Africa is the next British target, and Mbeki is now being hit very hard for the role he has played in holding the British gameplan at bay in Zimbabwe.

—Douglas DeGroot