

ZIMBABWE cc FCO MOD

JL

CF thank you
AD Jale



10 DOWNING STREET

Alan-FCO reward

From the Private Secretary *is Confidential - still not for CF?*

19 October 1982

Kay
20/10.

Thank you for your letter of 29 September to the Prime Minister about the detention of Zimbabwean Air Force personnel. I have been asked to reply.

The Prime Minister is aware of allegations that some of those detained in connection with the sabotage attack at Thornhill airbase last July have been tortured. A number of them, including a British national, Sergeant Lochran, have now been released. The British High Commission have made a formal protest to the Zimbabwean authorities about the ill-treatment of Sergeant Lochran. Those still held are either Zimbabwean citizens or dual nationals. The British Government therefore have no formal authority to intervene on their behalf. Nevertheless, the Zimbabwe Government have been left in no doubt about our concern that detainees, wherever they are held, should be treated humanely and fairly.

During his visit to Harare on 25 September, the Secretary of State for Defence, John Nott, raised the question of the detainees. He said that whilst HMG recognise that this is essentially an internal matter for Zimbabwe, we are concerned about allegations that some of those detained have been ill-treated. He was given to understand that the detainees would be brought to trial soon, and we understand that several of them have since been remanded after appearing before a magistrate.

I would like to assure you that our High Commission in Harare will continue to keep a close watch on developments in this case, which we very much hope will be satisfactorily resolved.

A. J. COLES

Councillor Julian de Lisle

CM



18/10

Julian de LISLE

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

11 October 1982

Zimbabwe

I enclose a copy of a letter which the Prime Minister has received from Councillor Julian de Lisle about Air Vice Marshal Slatter and others who are detained in Zimbabwe.

I should be grateful for a draft reply for my signature on behalf of the Prime Minister by 18 October. I should also be grateful if you could let me have an account of the latest situation with regard to these detainees.

A. J. COLES

Roger Bone, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

8



10 DOWNING STREET

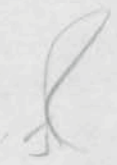
From the Private Secretary

11 October 1982

I am writing on behalf of the Prime Minister to acknowledge your letter of 29 September. This is receiving attention and a reply will be sent to you as soon as possible.

A. J. COLES

Councillor Julian de Lisle



30/9-82
CITIZEN

Zimbabwe launches its own Gestapo

By AIDA PARKER

FIRST positive information about the torture methods used by Zipolis, Zimbabwe's dreaded new Gestapo-type secret police force established to handle recalcitrant Whites, has been supplied to The Citizen by impeccable sources in Matabeleland.

The victim was Mrs Grace Cauvin, matron of the Queen Elizabeth Children's Home in Bulawayo and stepmother of Allen Cauvin (21) who was sentenced to four years imprisonment in May this year for being in possession of weapons of war.

On the night of Tuesday, August 24, four Black men, claiming to be police, arrived first at the Morningside home of Mr Pat Cauvin, father of Allen Cauvin, arresting him and leaving his five-year-old son in the care of a domestic servant.

Then, travelling in an unmarked car, the men went to the Queen Elizabeth Children's Home where they forced their way into Mrs Cauvin's flat. Without explanation, they tore the place apart, tipping contents of drawers and cupboards on to the floor.

They then dragged the panicstricken Mrs Cauvin out of her flat. Her screams attracted the attention of a coloured kitchen supervisor, Mrs



Dr HERBERT USHEWOKUNZE, Zimbabwe's anti-White Minister of Home Affairs... formed Zipolis to deal with recalcitrant Whites.

nothing of any such arrest.

The following day Mrs Cauvin's friend was told that neither the police nor the Central Intelligence Organisation knew anything about the arrest and would, consequently, treat it as a case of abduction.

But, later that day, it was established that both Mr and Mrs Cauvin were being held at Stops Camp, Bulawayo. The friend was told that they had been taken there "by a new organisation called Zipolis."

Zipolis was formed about eight weeks on the direct orders of the fanatically anti-White Minister of Home Affairs, Dr Herbert Ushewokunze, to "deal with Whites who have not yet fully accepted Black rule."

Theoretically, Zipolis in the Matabeleland area is answerable to the chief of police of Matabeleland Province. In this case, that officer knew nothing of the arrests until inquiries had revealed that the Cauvins were being held at Stops Camp.

It appears that the only reason Mr and Mrs Cauvin, who are divorced,

were arrested was because of their relationship with Allen.

They were freed from what is now admitted to be illegal detention on the morning of August 30. A friend of Mrs Cauvin who saw her immediately after release declared herself to be "horrified at the pitiful state she was in."

Both hands and both

feet were heavily bandaged to cover extensive cigarette burns apparently inflicted while she was under interrogation. In addition, her face and much of her upper body was badly bruised, with eyes and mouth badly swollen.

She was described as "most distraught". She

said: "I will never, never forget what they have done to me."

Mrs Cauvin is now believed to be in Britain. The whereabouts of her former husband are unknown.

According to Press reports, Zipolis is made up of about 300 hand-picked members of the

Zimbabwe Republic Police, under the command of a Sergeant Masawe.

The activities of this new force are causing widespread alarm among Zimbabwe's White community. The number of Whites currently being held by Zipolis cannot be established.

LEICESTERSHIRE



County Hall Glenfield Leicester LE3 8RA Leicester 871313 (STD 0533)

29

29th September, 1982

Dear

Mrs Thatcher

I have been asked to draw your attention to the plight of certain British Subjects who have been detained in Zimbabwe, following an attack on Thornhill airfield in that country by persons unknown.

The persons involved are:-

1. Air Vice Marshal Slatter (No. 2 in the Zimbabwe Airforce ("AFZ"))
2. Air Commodore Pile (No. 3 in the AFZ and President of the Board of Inquiry into the Thornhill attack)
3. Group Captain Jones (CO of Thornhill)
4. Wing Commander Briscoe (Member of the Board of Inquiry into the Thornhill attack)
5. Wing Commander Cox (CO of the Air Force Regiment - local equivalent of the RAF Regiment and responsible for the security of Thornhill)
6. Mr. Lloyd (Junior officer)
7. Mr. Ware (Junior officer)
8. Sergeant Lochran (Technician)

and possibly a further 12 or more Other Ranks. It is understood that Group Captain Jones and Sergeant Lochran have now been released.

I have also been asked to make the following points to you, relating to this matter.

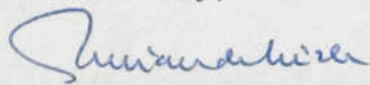
1. It is most unlikely that any of the detained men were involved in the attack at Thornhill. There is no apparent motive for such involvement.
2. Air Commodore Pile, Wing Commander Cox and Sergeant Lochran are British citizens although Pile and Cox have Zimbabwe passports as well as British ones. It is probable that some other detained men are also British.
3. The Officers and ORs have all been detained for over a month in disgusting conditions and there is evidence that some of them have been tortured. Until recently they have been denied access to lawyers and contact with their families.
4. The Mugabe regime was installed under the auspices of the British Government which continues to supply the regime with aid.

cont'd...

The House of Commons,
London. SW1

Clearly this is no matter for this County Council, nonetheless, I see it as very important and I would be most grateful if, in the interests of these unfortunate people, you could please make representations to the Foreign Office and take any other appropriate action as you see fit.

Yours sincerely,



JULIAN de LISLE. C.C.