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measures in
south africa

New Freedom-fighters in Zimbabwe

Enemy sources in Rhodesia and South Africa recently admitted that their security forces were "in contact" with a unit of freedom-fighters who had crossed into Zimbabwe (Rhodesia). The group numbered twelve men and they entered Zimbabwe at Chirundu. When the enemy forces came into contact with the freedom-fighters no immediate offensive action was attempted, the primary role of the group being at that time to contact local Zimbabweans in preparation for a larger force to follow.

More than 200 members of the liberation army have now followed this advance group into their home land. This new onslaught caught the Rhodesian racist regime's security forces by surprise. Heavy rains have turned most areas of the Zambesi Valley into a slithering jungle, with new bush growth making progress impossible for non-guerrilla forces except along well-protected paths.

Action in South West Africa

The activities of freedom-fighters on the northern border of South West Africa are creating a heavy drain on the manpower resources of the South African racists' Police Force. This was admitted recently by the Acting State President of South Africa. As a result, he stated, more recruits were needed for the Police Force.

Speaking at a passing-out parade of 1,500 police recruits, he appealed to the parents of young men to encourage and help them "in the important and

noble task of maintaining law and order." The police, he said, were in effect the first line of defence in the country, requiring among other things intensive training in musketry and in the military sphere.

South Africa is planning its biggest-ever peace-time Citizen Force callup, the acting Commandant-General, General A. J. Martin, stated in a press interview in South Africa recently.

About 30,000 trainees would be called up for the Army, Air Force and Navy under the new national service scheme, which replaces the ballot system. About 20,000 would be posted to Citizen Force units, and 10,000 to the commandos. National service now means that all white youths will be called up when 17. Under the old ballot scheme, those whose names were not drawn escaped Citizen Force training altogether.

"Nobody will escape in the future," said General Martin, "except of course those who are medically unfit or are granted exemption."

Immigrants will also be liable for call-up.

Call for more police recruits

The South African Police can take more than 2,000 recruits a year, the Commissioner of Police, General J. M. Keevy, told a pressman. He was commenting on the appeal by the acting State President (see above).

"We can take every recruit who is able to pass the fitness test," stated General Keevy. "We would welcome them."

Apart from the present demands on the force, he stated, it was policy at all times to strengthen the police.

Girls for "Civil Defence"

The armed forces had decided not to call up girls for service in military units, stated General Hiemstra, Commandant-General of the South African Defence Force, in a press interview.

The girls whom it is planned to call up this year will be trained "solely in civil defence," he said.

It is now known that the white girls thus recruited will be members of the Division of Civil Defence which, although it comes under the Minister of Defence, operated separately from the S. A. Defence Force.

Announcing the call-up, Mr. Botha (Minister of Defence) said the girls' training will be based on a semi-military principle. "We will start on a small scale," he said. "Their training will include first-aid, self-defence, shooting and ambulance work."

