

INSIGHT: A former Rhodesian Intelligence chief reveals dirty tricks and amazing secrets—Joao Santa Rita reports.

Confessions of a spymaster

Poisoned uniforms — and sordid treachery

IN ONE of the most sordid stories from the world of spying, a former Rhodesian spymaster has described how a black nationalist leader, secretly working for the Rhodesians, was murdered by them because he was about to be found out.

Mr Ken Flower, former head of the Rhodesian Central Intelligence Organisation, also discloses that the CIO had information that the wife of the first Rhodesian president, Mr Clifford Dupont, was a British agent.

Mr Flower says in his book, "Serving Secretly", that a top leader of Bishop Abel Muzorewa's United African National Congress, the Rev Arthur Kanodareka, who was murdered in 1978, had been recruiting young men for the nationalist guerilla armies and then passing the information to the CIO.

Mr Kanodareka was also poisoning the uniforms of the recruits with the knowledge of the CIO.

"For more years than I would like to tell, young men were recruited for the guerilla cause under the aegis of CIO and with the willing cooperation of Kanodareka and his helpers who supplied them with poisoned uniforms," writes Mr Flower.

Mr Flower says that as a result "hundreds" of recruits died a slow death in the African bush on their way to training camps.

"It became so diabolically successful that exposure seemed inevitable and so the principal perpetrators had to be eliminated — rather as a hunter will finish off a wounded animal to stop further suffering," Mr Flower says.

He says the bullet-riddled body of Mr Kanodareka was found in Salisbury "assumed to have been the victim of the nationalist struggle-within-the-struggle but in fact the villain in a most sordid tale of treachery and betrayal".

Mr Flower fails, however, to throw light on the killings of two other prominent nationalist figures, Jason Moyo of Zapu, who was killed by a parcel bomb in Lusaka, and Dr Edson Sithole of the UANC, who was kidnapped in Salisbury and has never been seen again. A recent book published in Johannesburg claimed that Mr Moyo had been a Rhodesian agent and had been killed by Rhodesians who did not know he was working for them.

Mr Flower, however, does not confirm Mr Moyo's links with the Rhodesian Intelligence and says he is not sure of the degree of involvement of the Rhodesians in Mr Moyo's killing.

Mr Flower says Mr Sithole's abduction in 1975 occurred when the Rhodesian authorities became increasingly convinced that his militancy "was the main obstacle to settlement", but does not confirm that the secret services played a part in his disappearance.

He says that up to the early 1970s the intelligence network he had established expanded worldwide, allowing his organisation to follow guerillas "from Algeria to Cuba, from Russia to China. There was virtually nothing we did not know of their inner workings at all levels, for our informers served us no less faithfully than they served their nationalist leaders," he wrote.

The head of the French security services was always "anxious to help" and his influence helped the CIO to make security contacts in Belgium, Italy, Greece and countries in North and West Africa. "Amongst our most valuable connections in Italy were those in the Holy See itself," says Mr Flower.



KEN FLOWER . . . head of Intelligence for Ian Smith, and security chief under Robert Mugabe.