



RECRUITING ADS FOR SOLDIERS OF FORTUNE
Mercenaries sought to fight in Rhodesia

—UPI Photo

SF Examiner ^{CIA} JUN 22 1975
**U.S. mercenaries
fight in Rhodesia**

United Press International

WASHINGTON — American mercenaries are fighting in the Rhodesian army against black guerrillas and more are being recruited with State Department knowledge, according to Rhodesian black nationalists and U.S. officials.

A State Department official said the government was checking to see whether any laws had been broken but has not tried to stop the recruiting.

"About 60 Americans are there already fighting and many more are being actively recruited in the United States," said Tapson Mawere, U.S. representative of the Zimbabwe (Rhodesian) African National Union, known as ZANU.

Zanu seeks black rule for Rhodesia, where minority white settlers have governed the country since 1965 despite worldwide protest.

Temple Cole, the State Department's desk officer for Rhodesia, said "there are certainly indications" that Mawere is accurate.

Cole identified the recruiter as Robert Brown of an organization called Phoenix Associates, near Denver.

Contacted by telephone, Brown confirmed he had been recruiting since September and said Phoenix Associates aims to "merchandise information on mercenary opportunities abroad."

He said his advertisements have drawn "about 300" responses, but he did not know how many Americans had actually joined the Rhodesian army.

"I have no official or unofficial contact with any country," Brown said. "I am not an agent for a foreign power."

Mawere also claimed

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American mercenaries bound for Rhodesia were being trained at the Quantico Marine Base in Virginia, disguised as South African troops.

Cole denied knowledge of any such training but said the State Department was checking into the legality of Brown's recruiting efforts.

"The obvious violation of law would be whether he was acting as an agent for a foreign power without being registered with the State Department," he explained.

Under the law, Americans who serve in foreign armies can lose their citizenship.

Ted Lockwood, director of the Washington Office on Africa, a private organization concerned with Southern Africa liberation issues, said he answered an ad Brown placed in the February, 1975, issue of Shooting Times magazine which said: "Mercenaries! Wanted Now! In Africa and Mid-East."

Lockwood received an is-

sue of Brown's magazine, Soldiers of Fortune, plus Rhodesian government applications and documents necessary for enlisting in the "British South African Police" — the Rhodesian army.

Cole said, "We naturally discourage people from going there but we cannot legally prohibit people from going.

"Our official policy is that we do not recognize the (Rhodesian Premier Ian) Smith regime or have communications with the illegal regime here.

"We abide by the U.N. sanctions against Rhodesia, the only exception being the importation of chrome," permitted by act of Congress.