

...noted the marks of a hired assassin. A tyre of Perrot's car had been punctured and the steering column of his motorcycle was

...wandered through Paris gardens hoping to catch sight of the child and had demanded a court order preventing his

...Police are piecing together a secret inquiry conducted by Perrot into the extreme wealth of his wife's family.

Montana, Catherine Deneuve and Gérard Depardieu, was found dead in his car in a Paris basement garage. He also was killed with a .22 rifle.

...proof of a bomb. But detailed tests have revealed them to be caused by rivets popping when the aircraft broke up.



Museveni: Refusal.



Moi: Mastermind.

the far west of Uganda. The NRA controls and administers most of the western part of the country and is still stopping the flow of all food supplies to the capital's one million people.

The collapse of the peace ceremony is expected to push up food prices, already described as being at 'astronomical levels,' because of alarm about Uganda's immediate future.

General Okello last month appealed to the international community for \$300 million, mainly to help resettle demobilised soldiers. Diplomats in Kampala who heard his request viewed it as unrealistic. The crumbling of the peace plan makes the prospect of such support still more remote.

Call to arms sounds for a new Time of Sorrows

ALLISTER SPARKS
■ Moutse

incorporation took effect on 1 January.

For two days last week groups of Ndebele men carrying knives, machetes, axes and guns roamed the villages of Moutse attacking homes, chopping down doors and putting families to flight.

It was this which led to Chief Mathebe's household guard sounding the kudu horn.

The fighting is a crude reenactment of the region's tribal history. The Ndebele are an offshoot of the warlike Zulus of Natal who invaded the Transvaal under their breakaway regimental commander Mzilikazi in the nineteenth century, putting peaceful tribes to flight.

After two decades of plunder, known among the predominantly Sotho-speaking blacks of the Transvaal as the *Difaquane*, or 'Time of Sorrows,' during which some fled into the mountains of present-day Lesotho and others into the semi-desert plains of Botswana.

Mzilikazi's Ndebele were themselves driven by the Boer pioneers across South Africa's northern border into what is now Zimbabwe where they settled in Matabeleland.

The warlike tradition lives on among the tribal remnants who remained in the Transvaal. Hence the plundering armed bands and the frenzied reaction to them, while Pretoria's police force stands back and watches

another outbreak of black-on-black violence.

To them the intergroup strife may seem like another demonstration of apartheid's justifying theme that black tribes are inherently incompatible. In fact, what is happening in Moutse makes no sense even in terms of the Government's own policies.

The Pedi are a sub-group of the North Sotho tribes, whose assigned 'homeland' is Lebowa. Until recently Moutse formed part of Lebowa. Now it is being made part of KwaNdebele, with which the Pedi have no ethnic compatibility. Their inclusion will reduce the number of Ndebeles in KwaNdebele to a minority and sow the seeds of continuous strife.

At a time when President P. W. Botha is trying to persuade the world that he is dismantling apartheid, he is seen going to extraordinary lengths to establish a new independent 'homeland.' Pretoria is also trying to persuade the world that it has stopped forced removals, but the Government is forcing 120,000 people to become part of a 'homeland' against their will.

And at a time when South Africa is grappling with widespread racial unrest, which has resulted in more than 1,000 deaths in 16 months and led to the declaration of a state of emergency, Pretoria has gratuitously created a new trouble-spot in a previously placid area.

The reason appears to be that Pretoria four years ago found an Ndebele 'leader' who was



prepared to accept independence, and now feels committed to him. He is a former vegetable seller named Simon Skosana.

The apartheid planners created an artificial 'homeland' around him by buying 19 white farms about 100 miles north of Pretoria: there is in fact no territory which the Ndebele can claim to be a traditional homeland in the Transvaal.

KwaNdebele, as this territory is now called, was turned into a dumping ground for expelled city-dwellers to give it a population. Its 300,000 inhabitants mostly live in sprawling resettlement camps along the main road and commute to work in Pretoria. The subsidy to the bus company is the biggest item in the 'homeland' administration's budget.

Skosana himself was made first a nominated member of a legislative assembly, then chief minister. As president of the new 'state' he will earn nearly £200,000 a year.

The forced annexation of Moutse appears to be one more step in trying to give a semblance of viability to what is a totally artificial creation.

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