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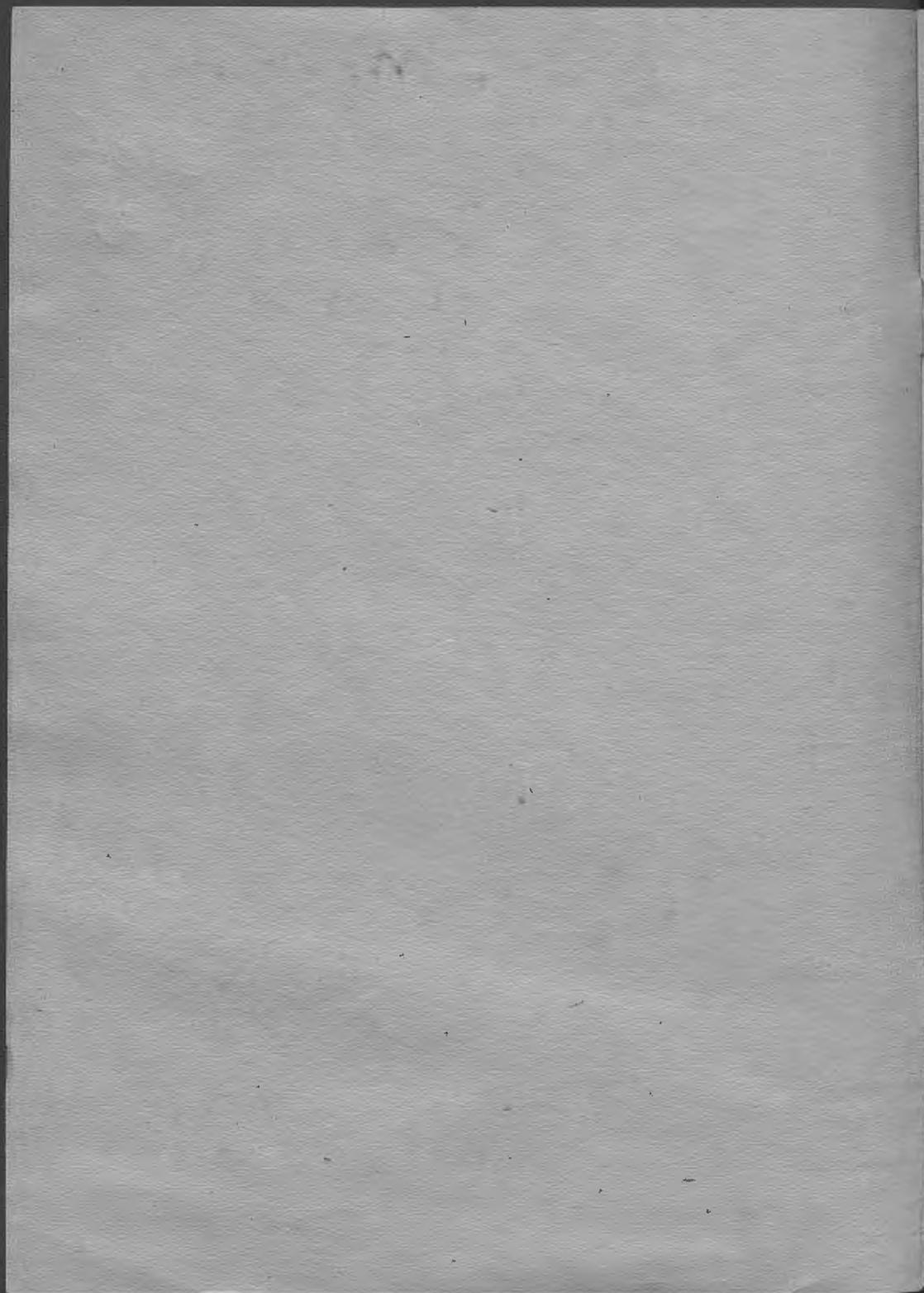
17 JUIN 1981

**PRIME MINISTER
ADDRESSES
THE NATION**

OCTOBER 1, 1980



ZIMBABWE



The following is the text of a broadcast to the nation by the Prime Minister, Mr. Robert Mugabe, on ZTV on October 1, 1980.

We are now in the sixth month of our hard-won independence; independence which came, as you all know, after a protracted, bitter struggle that cost us thousands of lives and a great deal of suffering. Death was the maximum sacrifice which the people of Zimbabwe were prepared to pay for the achievement of their freedom, sovereign independence and democracy.

Death was the price we were prepared to pay to rid our country of colonialism, racial domination and racial oppression. It was, therefore, our brave and honourable duty to die or suffer in our unwavering commitment to the sacred task of liberating ourselves. If we killed others in pursuance of that noble objective, the justification for such killing was the just war we were waging.

But we have now secured our freedom and sovereign independence and democracy. Our people, in the exercise of their democratic right to vote, freely elected a government of their choice and opted for peace. When, after the elections, I made my first broadcast to the nation, I appealed to all of you to recognise the phenomenon of peace and appealed for a complete transformation on the part of every member of our Zimbabwean community and for an acceptance of the new spirit of reconciliation based on a willingness to accommodate each other, whether or not we had been allies, enemies or mere opponents during the armed struggle. We had to recognise that peace was a necessary condition for the sustenance and consolidation of our independence and for the promotion of our resettlement, rehabilitation and reconstruction programmes.

I am glad to realize that the majority of our people, black and white, have heeded my earnest appeal and, through their lawful and disciplined behaviour, have assisted in maintaining perfect peace. I am glad that the majority of all our comrades—ZANLA and ZIPRA—who have been in assembly points for over nine months now, have maintained good discipline and contributed immensely to the consolidation of our peace and independence. I wish to congratulate you upon this excellent behaviour.

I am, however, sorry to say that some dissident elements and misguided party militants have acted in complete defiance of the call for peace. There have been senseless killings of civilians and

other acts of armed violence in several areas, especially in and around Salisbury, Sinoia and Bulawayo, over the last two or so weeks by armed dissident elements and indisciplined party militants who have become a scourge to our society.

I have repeatedly warned those concerned of drastic measures against them by government unless they desist from the folly of their barbarous acts, lawlessness and undisciplined behaviour. However, these warnings have been ignored and these evildoers have persisted in their criminal activities with impunity and in complete disregard of the welfare of our people.

I have, accordingly, now ordered the deployment of units of our integrated National Army in conjunction with the Police Force in all the affected areas as stated above. If need be, more forces will be deployed to cover more areas. The evil elements must be routed and routed with speed.

The task of the forces deployed will be to restore law and order in the areas concerned, by rounding up all dissident elements and taking possession of all illegal weapons.

It is senseless that after we have achieved peace and independence there should continue to be wanton political murders and hooliganism. It is equally deplorable that some people are bent on rejecting the spirit of reconciliation and prefer instead indulging in systematic acts of political violence, calculated to lead to a general breakdown of law and order.

Government is watching very closely the insidious activities of those irresponsible political leaders and the pattern of organised armed violence by planted clandestine groups, such as those responsible for recent grenade and other armed attacks at public places. Leaders who deliberately defy the law, court the wrath of the law unto themselves.

I appeal to all the people to give every form of assistance to the forces of law and order that have been deployed. It is important that you, the public, who have been affected by the recent spate of acts of violence, should welcome these forces which are being used to give you maximum protection and a greater sense of security so you can go about your normal duties without fear.

We need peace in both rural and urban centres. The peasant and commercial farmers are starting a new farming season. They

should feel perfectly safe and free to engage in their agriculture so they can produce more food for us all.

They should thus cease to be harassed by lawless bandits. It is the duty of my government to protect the people, and this responsibility we cannot shirk.

Once again I wish to thank you all for your lawful conduct and loyalty to government. I thank you for accepting the principle of peace and reconciliation, and the phenomenon of adjustment to change on which it is based. If those millions of us who treasure peace and unity can continue to stand solidly together and with government, the lawless incidents by a few bandits and the activities of disgruntled political malcontents, are bound to fail.

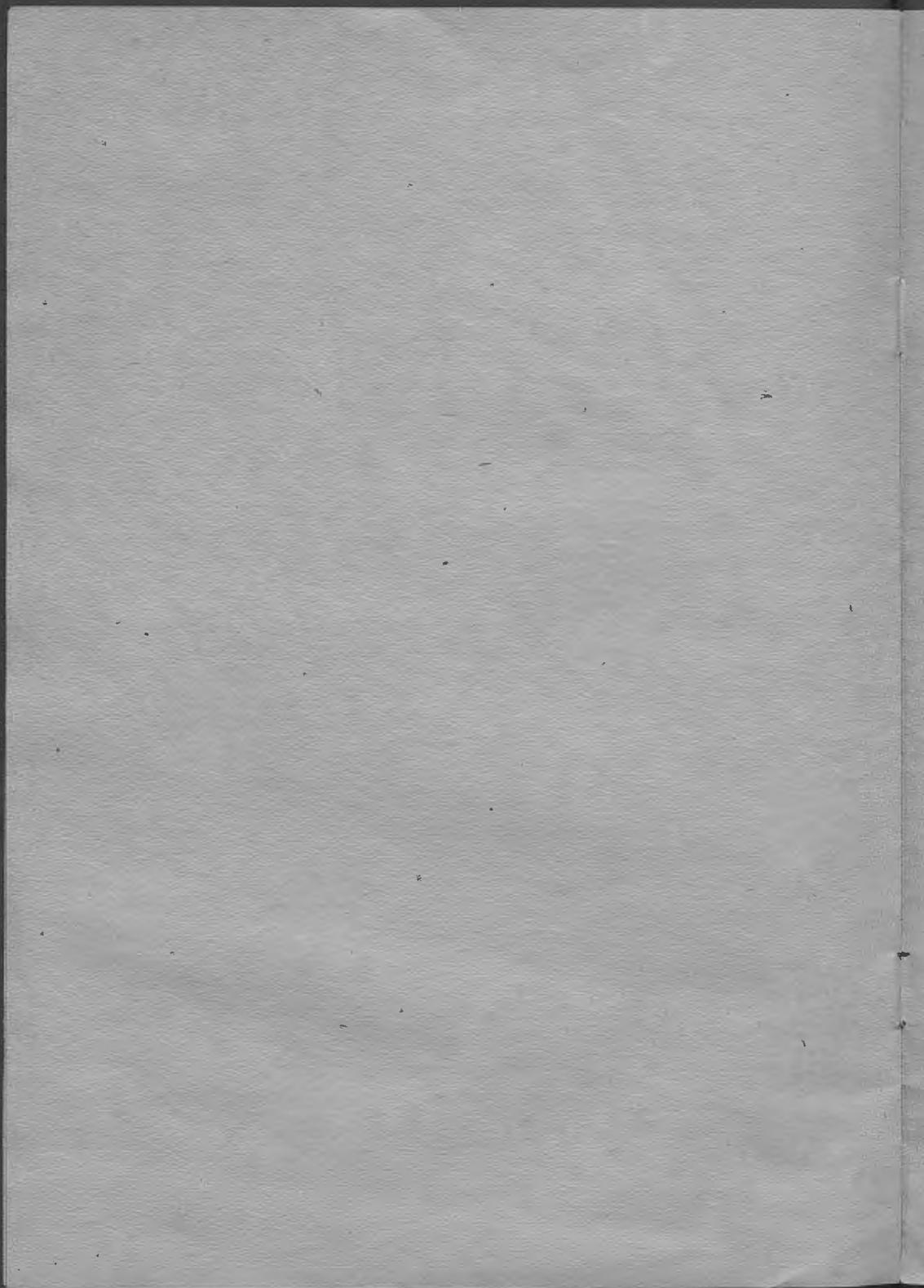
The will of the people as represented by my government must prevail over the will of selfish and unscrupulous individuals.

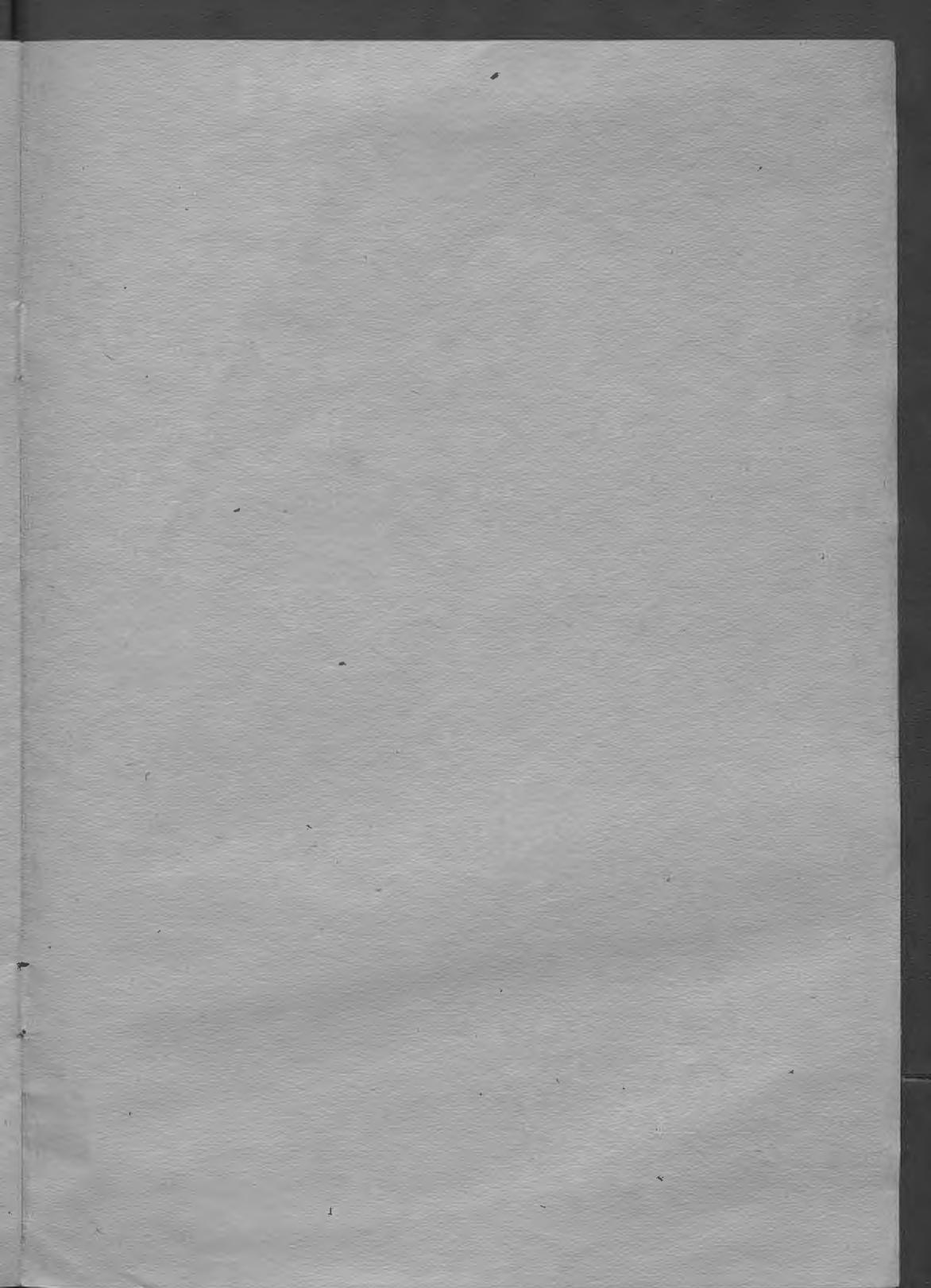
Long live our freedom!

Long live our peace!

Long live our independence!

Long live the People!





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