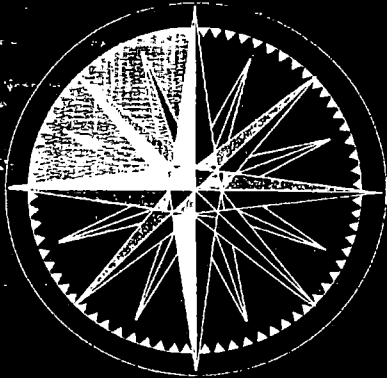


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19 February 1965

OCI No. 0277/65

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WEEKLY SUMMARY

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE



48-228527/1

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ASIA-AFRICA (continued)

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NR Record

CAMPAIGN BEGUN TO OVERTHROW BANDA'S RULE IN MALAWI

16

A raid on a district headquarters probably signals the start of an effort by ousted cabinet members to overthrow the government of Prime Minister Banda. Foreign African nationalists, who resent Banda's collaboration with Portugal, may aid his opponents.

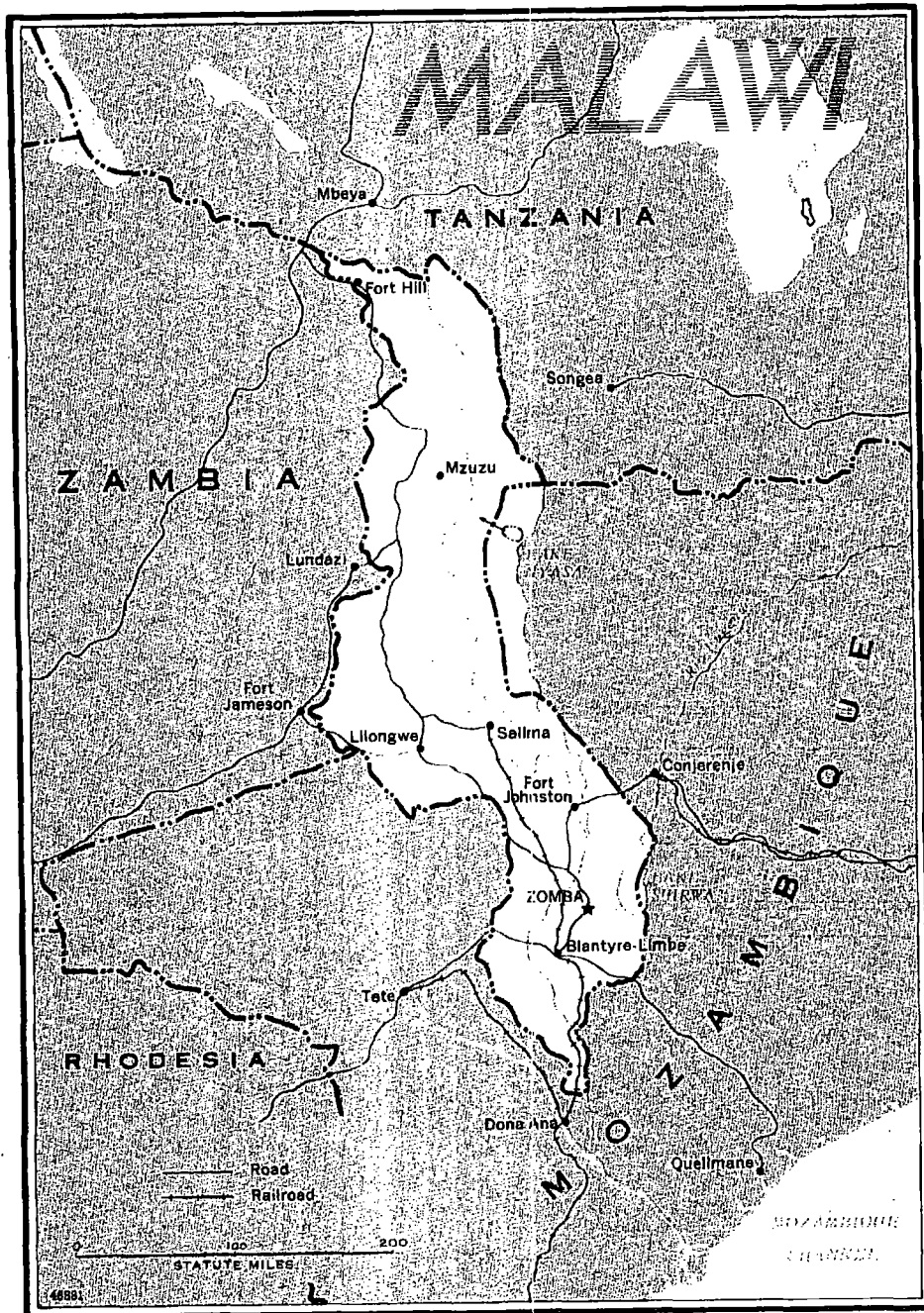
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19 Feb 65

CURRENT INTELLIGENCE WEEKLY SUMMARY

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Asia-Africa

CAMPAIGN BEGUN TO OVERTHROW BANDA'S RULE IN MALAWI

Former cabinet ministers determined to overthrow Malawi's Prime Minister Banda have apparently begun a terrorist campaign. Foreign African nationalists, who share the Malawi dissidents' resentment of Banda's collaboration with the Portuguese in neighboring Mozambique, may provide at least covert aid to the rebels.

During the night of 12 February some 200 raiders struck two police stations and a post office at Fort Johnston, a district headquarters less than 100 miles from Zomba, the capital. They cut all communications, seized 85 weapons and several vehicles, and withdrew with no known casualties. This is the first instance of a concerted attack against government installations, although opposition clashes with Banda's Youth League have occurred sporadically since September.

The raid probably was led by former education minister Henry Chipembere, who apparently has remained in the Fort Johnston area, his home constituency, since he broke with Banda last October. He has organized a resistance movement while eluding intensive police searches. Chipembere purports to maintain contact with five other ex-ministers who have settled in Tanzania, where they have solicited support from foreign African nationalists by denouncing Banda's links with the Portuguese. The strike on Fort Johnston, which followed months of vague threats, should enhance rebel prospects

of securing concrete foreign assistance.

Banda is clearly aware of such a threat. Last month Malawi police arrested ten agents of the Mozambique Liberation Front (FRELIMO) who were smuggling arms and ammunition from Tanzania to Mozambique.

[Redacted]

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(b)(1)
(b)(3)

A general popular uprising in Malawi does not seem imminent, however. Chipembere and his former colleagues probably have gained little mass support beyond the Fort Johnston district, although many civil servants in Zomba have become disaffected because of Banda's increasingly arbitrary rule. Banda retains firm control of the Malawi Congress Party, the country's only political party. The army, comprising four infantry companies, and the 2,800-man police force, officered by British expatriates, probably could suppress any open resistance around Fort Johnston or Zomba. Few of the Fort Johnston raiders have been captured, however, and they will almost certainly continue their guerrilla activities.

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