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The 'Times of Zambia' on Zaire's Claim to Kaputa

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Here is today's 'Times of Zambia' editorial opinion: The flying of the Zairean flag on Zambian soil in Kaputa district naturally angered Zambia. But that does not mean that Zambia should react angrily to that (?fact). Indeed, it would be futile for Zambia [words indistinct] against Zaire and demand immediate occupation by Zambian defence forces of the so-called disputed area. That would be playing right into the hands of imperialism, which revels in border disputes to maintain its divide and rule policy in (?most) of the Third World nations.

Traditionally, Zambians are not war-mongers. President Kaunda himself is a man of peace, who has not hesitated to mediate where border conflicts have threatened the peace of Africa. His mediation efforts on the Kenya-Somali border conflict are a case in point. We know that he is not [words indistinct] to what has happened in Kaputa; he believes that "jaw jaw" is better than "war war". Zambians ought to remember that President Mobutu is also a man of peace. It was he who built Zaire out of the ruins of colonialism and multinational capitalism to [words indistinct].

The Kaputa issue is delicate, and should not be allowed to bring up unnecessary animosity between Zambia and Zaire. It is an old open would which can be healed only through delicate diplomacy. Bellicose sentiments can easily upset the critical talks now going on between Zambia and Zaire to solve the problem quickly, and hence to (?spike) imperialism in its (?guns). It is true that Chief (?Moliro's) [words indistinct] in Kaputa is historically within the administrative directive of Zaire; in fact, maps published by (?Rand-McNally) of the US and the Edinburgh-based Geographical Institute place Moliro a bare kilometre inside the Zairean district of (?Mamba). Civil administration is directed from (?Kalemi), which is a Zairean town on the shore of Lake Mweru. But the traditional tribal links of the people of Moliro are firmly attached to Zambia. Chief (?Moliro) belongs to the (?Pabwe), who are, in fact, Zambian. We have [words indistinct], but so that the nation should be aware of the lengths to which imperialism can go to put a wedge between two brotherly neighbouring states. [Words indistinct] has not prevented neighbouring states from laying large claims to the territory of other states. Examples abound. Somalia has quarrelled with Ethiopia over Ogaden. So have Upper Volta and Mali and Algeria, Morocco and Mauritania, and we are confident that Zambia and Zaire, through Kaunda and Mobutu, will defeat imperialism at Kaputa.

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