

**July 18, 2003**

ZIMBABWE: CHURCHES REGRET INACTION Zimbabwe's Council of Churches apologized to the nation for failing to stop political violence, hunger and the collapse of the economy under President Robert Mugabe. The interdenominational group said it planned to press the government to find a peaceful solution to the current crisis. Since Mr. Mugabe won a widely disputed election last year, inflation has hit 300 percent a year, farming has collapsed and millions will need food aid to survive until the next harvest. Lydia Polgreen (NYT)