

ZIMBABWE

battleground for freedom



The
Africa
Fund



Ninety-five percent of the 6.4 million people living in Zimbabwe (the African name for Rhodesia) are blacks ruled by an illegal white minority regime which has resolutely refused to acknowledge any democratic rights for the majority African population.

This regime unilaterally declared its independence from Great Britain in 1965 in order to avoid majority rule. Not one nation in the world has recognized its legitimacy. Yet, Ian Smith, the prime minister, has said there will be "no black rule in a thousand years."

For the blacks in Zimbabwe, life is "nasty, brutish and short." Wages are low. A black mine worker earns 26¢ a day for an 8-hour shift. In 1974, the average annual earnings for blacks were less than \$650 against more than \$7,100 for whites. The Rhodesian regime spends only \$70 a year to educate a black child and more than \$740 to educate a white child. And above all, Africans have no voice in making the laws that they must obey.

repression and resistance

Inside Zimbabwe, African students, workers and their families are protesting the policies of the Rhodesian regime. Those who demonstrate, sign petitions, or join political groups are sometimes expelled from school with no hope of getting an education. They may lose their jobs, be beaten or jailed.

Some two to three million people have been forcibly resettled in "protected villages" guarded by soldiers and surrounded by barbed wire fences. Establishment of these villages is the regime's response to guerrilla attacks. Officials contend that the villages were built to protect the defenseless local black population. But critics charge that they were constructed to protect the government by separating the freedom fighters from a vital base of support. Africans in rural villages have commonly been a source of food, supplies and recruits for the liberation movement.

A recent investigation by the Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace in Rhodesia indicated that Rhodesian security forces have used torture and massive intimidation against people unwilling to move from their homes into these areas. These villages have been called concentration camps. At best they are overcrowded, filthy and lacking in the most basic necessities. Their inhabitants are subject to dusk to dawn curfews and rigid control of their movements.

Many Zimbabweans have fled from this violent repression to neighboring Botswana, Tanzania, Zambia and Mozambique. Since December 1974 more than 20,000 refugees have gone to Mozambique



alone. Young men and women often choose to join the armed struggle for independence. But there are many who are too young or too old to fight, and many who can contribute in other ways to the future of a free Zimbabwe. The host countries for these refugees, themselves poor and facing many problems, can ill afford to take care of these extra thousands. Until the day when they can return home, the refugees want to take some responsibility for their daily lives. They want to farm cooperatively, to build schools and train their own medical personnel. They want to begin the process of building independence now, rather than simply surviving off the charity of others.

AFRICA FUND PROJECTS

building self-reliance

A farm has been bought in Zambia for a self-reliance project so that Zimbabwe refugees can begin growing their own food. The Africa Fund has been asked by the African National Council of Zimbabwe to provide plows, hoes, shovels, pick axes, fertilizer and insecticides for this project.

There are also thousands of children in the refugee camps. Among the adults, there are teachers who gladly give of their services; but books, pencils and paper have to be paid for. The Africa Fund wishes to provide these basic school supplies. We have pledged to raise \$10,000 for these agricultural implements and educational supplies.

inside zimbabwe

It is more difficult to assist the people inside Zimbabwe. But it is possible to give support to the families of political prisoners, to provide legal defense and to help expose the worst of the abuses — the beatings, the torture, the abduction of African leaders. The Africa Fund has pledged to raise at least \$10,000 to carry on this critical work.

OTHER PRIORITY AID PROJECTS

Since 1967, The Africa Fund has been aiding other African people on their difficult road to independence. In Mozambique, Angola, Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde, The Africa Fund has assisted the health, educational and agricultural projects established by the African liberation movements. Though these former Portuguese colonies are now independent, Portuguese colonialism left behind a legacy of poverty, illiteracy, inadequate medical care and a badly distorted economy. The Africa Fund hopes to play a role in helping transform the life of the people in these first years of independence by supporting vital agricultural, health care and educational services.

In 1975, over \$50,000 was sent for these purposes. This year, The Africa Fund proposes to raise \$90,000 to be used to provide agricultural implements for farmers and a medical clinic in Mozambique; medical services in Angola; training of health workers in Guinea-Bissau; and school equipment for Cape Verde.

Both Namibia (South West Africa) and South Africa have seen new waves of political arrests in the past year. There is a rising tide of African opposition to oppressive apartheid rule, as evidenced by the growing number of worker and student strikes, bus boycotts, and continued organization of internal protest.

Although The Africa Fund cannot provide massive aid to the people inside South Africa or Namibia because of the interference from the white minority government, there are three ways in which The Africa Fund can help the people of these countries:





1. In South Africa: The Africa Fund has been asked to provide \$30,000 for black South African students who have been harassed, arrested, banned, and, perhaps most importantly, denied the right to continue their education because of their "political" activities. These funds will help maintain a "Free University Scheme" which will provide scholarships for correspondence courses. It will also be used to obtain legal defense for those on trial and will provide assistance where the students have lost jobs and there is no other source of money for their families.

2. In Namibia: Over the past two years, over 5,000 Namibian refugees have escaped from the brutal repression South Africa has meted out against the rising political protest. SWAPO (South West African People's Organization), the independence movement of Namibia, has begun to establish schools in neighboring Zambia and has asked The Africa Fund to provide \$20,000 to purchase textbooks and other supplies for its educational program.

3. Emergency Assistance: The Africa Fund also provides modest, yet often critical emergency assistance to refugees from southern Africa here in the United States. In 1975, \$8,355 was spent for legal assistance in immigration cases, to purchase medicine, to provide winter clothing, etc. We hope to raise an equal amount again this year.

RESEARCH & LITERATURE

A vital part of The Africa Fund's work in the U.S. is the production and distribution of literature and other resources. The research program performs a unique function in analyzing developments in southern Africa and U.S. links to these events. Research papers and articles prepared by The Africa Fund staff were critical in interpreting the real issues in the Angola conflict to the American people. The Fund produced a packet of materials on Angola, including an important chronology of developments there. Other publications included the booklet, *Mozambique: Dream the Size of Freedom*, by George Houser, Executive Secretary of The Africa Fund, and Herb Shore; and articles on "The U.S. Role in South Africa's Military Build-Up," by Research Director Jennifer Davis; and "Prospects for Change: Apartheid and the African Worker," by Dr. Susan Rogers, Research Associate.

TOTAL BUDGET

The Africa Fund's budget for 1976 is \$170,978 for projects; \$36,000 for education and research; and \$55,825 for program coordination — for a total of \$262,803. Contributions are deductible for income tax purposes.

"Let no one imagine that today's fearful prospects of a bloodbath in Rhodesia are just the result of a revolutionary war in Angola. They are the direct result of more than 10 years of illegal independence; the refusal of the white minority to recognize that the interest of black and white alike can only be protected by the sharing of political power, which, in a country where ninety-five percent of the people are black, must mean majority rule."

David Ennals
Minister of State, Great Britain
February 20, 1976



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