



Zimbabwe
medical
drive



AFRICANS ARE FIGHTING A WAR FOR THEIR FREEDOM IN ZIMBABWE (RHODESIA). THEY NEED YOUR HELP.

The U.S. media shows the war in Zimbabwe as a series of terrorist attacks on white settlers who are only interested in a peaceful solution which protects their rights as citizens. We are not told that the illegal Smith regime has been built on years of violence against the African people. U.S. foreign policy projects Rhodesia as a place to stop the spread of "Russian-supported" revolution in Africa, obscuring the genuine liberation struggle of the Zimbabwean people. These interests deny Zimbabweans the right to control their country themselves.

What is Zimbabwe? What is Rhodesia?

Zimbabwe is the country many know as Rhodesia. It has been the home of African peoples for centuries. The name Rhodesia comes from Cecil John Rhodes, a British imperialist who claimed the area in the 1880's for its vast mineral wealth.

What is the background of the war in Zimbabwe?

European settlers established themselves in Zimbabwe by force. "Move, work for me, or die" became the rule of the day. Africans fought back in 1893 and 1897--the first "Chimurenga." European guns checked the resistance. The small group of settlers gradually pushed Africans off of the most fertile land and forced them into the lowest jobs in the colonial economy. The Land Apportionment Act of 1930 legalized the takeover. By mid-century the Europeans, only 4% of the population, claimed over 50% of the land.

Britain granted internal self government to the white colonists in 1923, supposedly taking responsibility for protecting the rights of Africans. From then until the early 1960's African leaders have worked for majority rule through constitutional means and by pressure on Britain. They witnessed how British colonies like Uganda, Tanzania, Zambia, and Malawi had achieved majority rule without a full scale war.

When Ian Smith's Rhodesian Front Party came to power in 1962, it outlawed nationalist organizations and jailed their leaders. In 1965 Smith broke away from Britain with the Unilateral Declaration of Independence (UDI). Continued British inaction and increasing repression of Africans proved to the Zimbabwe nationalists that their objectives of independence under majority rule could not be achieved by negotiation alone. The only remaining choice was armed struggle -- a second **Chimurenga**.

Who is fighting the war?

The people of Zimbabwe are fighting this war, spearheaded by ZANU (Zimbabwe African National Union - leader, Robert Mugabe) and ZAPU (Zimbabwe African People's Union - leader, Joshua Nkomo). Freedom fighters from ZANU, then led by Ndabaningi Sithole, began fighting in 1966. A year later ZAPU also took up armed struggle. The ranks of the freedom fighters swelled when the African National Council under Abel Muzorewa led recruiting in the early 1970's. Guerilla attacks evolved into full scale war by 1972.

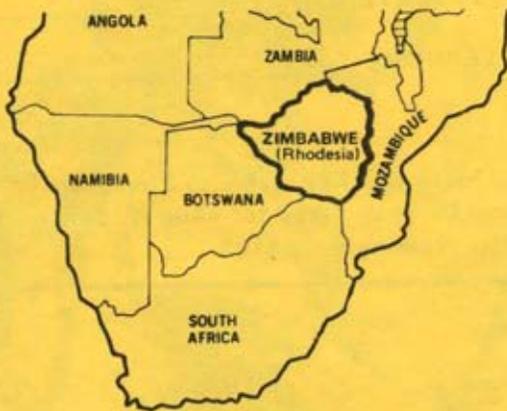
ZANU, with bases in Mozambique, and ZAPU, with bases in Zambia, formed a political alliance, the Patriotic Front, in 1976. They have the support of the African and international communities as the legitimate representatives of the people of Zimbabwe. They are supplied by the Liberation Committee of the Organization of African Unity. The liberation forces represent the majority of Zimbabweans; practically every family has close relatives who are freedom fighters.

The Rhodesian Army is made up of white settlers and Africans who are lured by the (relatively) high wages. Because of the intensification of the war, a forced draft of Africans began in September, 1978. The army is assisted by an estimated 4600 South African troops stationed in Zimbabwe and several thousand American and European mercenaries.

What kind of war is it?

The Rhodesian Army uses tactics much like those of the U.S. in Vietnam. Civilians endure the worst brutality. Napalm, crop destruction, burning of villages, and forced resettlement are commonplace. The Rhodesians repeatedly bomb villages in Zimbabwe to punish the people for aiding the struggle and to kill the families of the freedom fighters. More than 500,000 Zimbabweans have been taken from their homes against their will and detained in 'protected villages'. Another 150,000 have fled and are now in refugee camps in Mozambique, Zambia, and Botswana. Smith's army has made over 200 raids on these camps and killed thousands of civilians.

1978 has been a decisive year. The Zimbabwean people are closing in on the colonial system. Over 80% of the country the rural sector, is a war zone. In the liberated zones, ZANU and ZAPU are building health care and education for a new society.



These advances have put Smith increasingly on the defensive. The government has declared martial law and escalated its tactics of intimidation and propaganda. Civilian casualties now average 20 - 40 per day, many of whom are ordinary folk branded as curfew breakers or guerillas or (as listed by

Salisbury's official military communiques) "innocent civilians killed in crossfire." A special detachment of black troops in the Rhodesian Army called the Selou Scouts commits atrocities against white settlers and blames the freedom fighters in order to discredit the liberation forces. Western press prints the Rhodesian Army version as if it were unbiased truth, painting a picture of the freedom fighters as murderers, fanatics and terrorists.

What is the Internal Settlement?

In negotiations on the transfer of the power to the majority, the Smith regime has tried to hold on to as much power as possible for as long as possible. It has attempted to bring a few Africans into the government without changing conditions for the people. The most recent move is the internal settlement which Smith signed in March, 1978 with Muzorewa, Sithole, and Chirau. According to the proposed constitution, the whites would keep control of the army and the police and would have veto power in the government. The settlement would protect the economic and political domination of the white minority and foreign corporations over Zimbabweans and their resources. It is a plan to replace colonial control with neocolonialism. Neither the OAU (by a vote of 49-0) nor the UN recognizes the internal settlement or its leaders.

The internal settlement has failed to bring peace. The Rhodesian forces continue to massacre freedom fighters and civilians. If serious negotiations hand over genuine power to the people of Zimbabwe, it will be because the liberation movement has fought every inch of the way.

What are the Sanctions?

Why is the U.S. interested in Zimbabwe?

In order to isolate the illegal Smith regime, the United Nations in 1968 passed mandatory sanctions against all trade with Rhodesia. Since then the U.S. has supplied Smith with mercenaries, oil and weapons. Two billion dollars in U.S. investments and three billion in bank loans help South Africa supply Smith with planes, weapons and ammunition. In 1972

SUPPORT CHIMURENGA

Congress passed the Byrd Amendment allowing direct importation of "strategic minerals", putting the U.S. in open violation of the sanctions. In 1977, the Carter administration, realizing Smith was losing the war, successfully pushed for repeal of the Byrd Amendment, though covert trading continues. In the past year Smith and his co-leaders in the internal settlement have allied with conservative elements in Congress such as Senators Helms (R-N.C.) and Hayakawa (R-Cal) who are pushing for complete repeal of the sanctions.

The U.S. gives rhetorical support to majority rule because its interest is stability. A moderate stable government would best serve growth of corporate investments. Political and social upheaval in Zimbabwe threatens Rhodesian subsidiaries of such American giants as Union Carbide, Mobil and Shell Oil. The influence that these companies exert on U.S. foreign policy is well known. The American stance on Zimbabwe follows the all-too-familiar pattern set in Latin America and Indochina.

The Zimbabwe Medical Drive

The medical needs of this war are immense. In the refugee camps poor sanitation and crowded living conditions have led to outbreaks of tuberculosis, malaria and cholera. Malnutrition is commonplace. The Ministries of Health of ZANU and ZAPU are addressing themselves to these problems but are hampered by lack of money. An international call by ZANU for money and medical supplies has already yielded funds from other areas. Much more is needed.

The Zimbabwe Medical Drive in Seattle is a group of Zimbabweans and North Americans working together for the purposes of raising money and educating the American public about the situation in Zimbabwe and the nature of American interests there. The money will be sent to ZANU to be used in Zimbabwe and in the refugee camps in Mozambique. For further information, including requests for speakers, slide shows, etc., call 723-2507.

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This pamphlet was written by the education committee of the Zimbabwe Medical Drive in Seattle. All labor donated.