

# BOSTON COALITION FOR THE LIBERATION OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

(with B.C.M.H.E.)

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**NEWSLETTER**  
**December, 1979**

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## THE PRESSURE IS ON

The pressure is on and it seems that a settlement may be reached to end the war in Zimbabwe, which has already lasted over 12 years. Negotiations, supervised by officials of the British government, between the Patriotic Front and the Muzorewa-Smith government, have staggered along for over two months. Both sides have been forced to make considerable concessions, and more than once the talks have come to a standstill.

### PRESSURES ON SMITH AND MUZOREWA

This is not the first time that Ian Smith and the Patriotic Front leaders have met across the negotiating table. Kissinger, in 1975 and 1976, brought the two sides together in a U.S. initiative to try and arrange a settlement. Both these attempts failed, largely because of Smith's refusal to give up one iota of white power in Zimbabwe.

The circumstances now are somewhat different. The power and influence of the Patriotic Front inside Zimbabwe has steadily grown. They now exercise control over large sections of the country, and have the support of the great majority of the Zimbabwean

people. Smith's own power, on the other hand, has been growing steadily weaker, with large numbers of whites, fearful of a Patriotic Front takeover, fleeing the country. The Patriotic Front has shown, beyond doubt, that a white settler government cannot survive in Zimbabwe.

Adding to these internal pressures, the western powers are worried that a country ruled by the Patriotic Front would undermine their economic interests. Smith, therefore has been forced to make some changes inside the country. Determined to give up the minimum, and backed by the majority of Rhodesian whites and by South Africa, Smith came up with the Internal Settlement last spring. This settlement left most of the political and economic power in white hands, while providing a few Black faces in the government, in a pretense of relinquishing power to the Black people of Zimbabwe. Predictably, Smith deliberately excluded the Patriotic Front from the

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**CAMBRIDGE VOTES AGAINST  
APARTHEID**      *page 15*

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## A Ray of Hope

On November 14, a breakthrough was announced for the talks on Zimbabwe in London. After a period of intense negotiation, the Patriotic Front accepted the British proposal for a transition period. They agreed, however, only after they had forced the British to extend the transition from eight to eleven weeks. This still falls far short of their demand for a twenty-four week transition period. They will now have a major task in helping Zimbabwean refugees to return to the country in time to vote. The Patriotic Front negotiators did, however, win a major concession, in that their forces will remain in place in the liberated and semi-liberated areas.

Under the proposal, a British governor will oversee elections—in which the Patriotic Front will take part—with the help of a peace-keeping force. This force will be made up of soldiers from Commonwealth countries—Britain's ex-colonies. Debate continues as to whether these soldiers should be from New Zealand or Australia, as Britain wants, or from African countries, as the Patriotic Front demands. There is also disagreement on the make-up of the civil service and security forces. However, the agreement represents 'a ray of hope for the Zimbabwean people,' as Edison Zvobgo, spokesperson for the Patriotic Front, said.

### *Pressure continued*

settlement, despite the fact (or because of it) that they had driven him this far.

Under the Internal Settlement, elections were held, and Bishop Abel Muzorewa was elected as the country's first Black prime minister. He has since shown clearly whose side he is on. Brutal repression inside Zimbabwe continues. Since April, 1979, the number of war deaths has doubled to over 1000 a month, according to official estimates of the Zimbabwe-Rhodesian government. Other estimates put the toll at a much higher figure. The use of detention without charge against political activists remains. Furthermore, attacks against Mozambique, Angola, and Zambia have been stepped up. In one of the most recent attacks, 1000 soldiers from Zimbabwe-Rhodesia and South Africa invaded Zambia, to attack some key economic installations. Air raids in the past few months have severely damaged railroads and electricity supplies. Muzorewa openly defends these attacks.

### LIFTING SANCTIONS

The major goal of the white racists of Rhodesia was to gain international support for the lifting of trade sanctions against their

economy, while retaining control of the country. When Muzorewa became Prime Minister, Britain and the U.S. were ready to lift the sanctions. However, international opposition, particularly from the Organization of African Unity, forced them to reconsider. This brings us to the current talks in London.

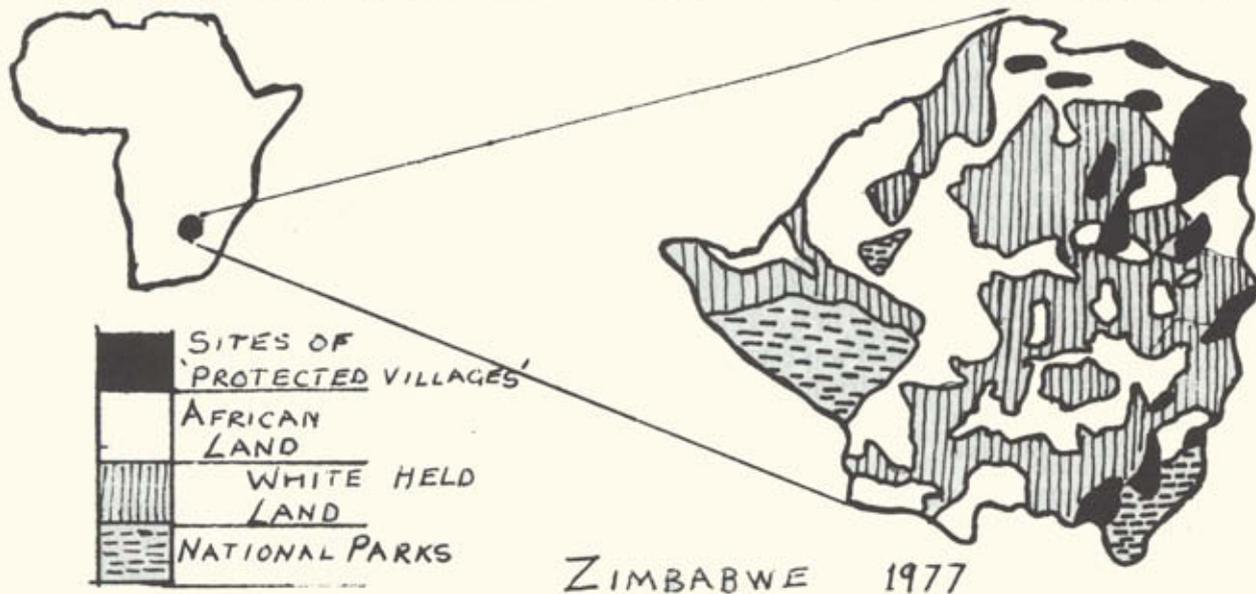
Earlier this year in Britain, the Conservative Party (the Tories), led by Margaret Thatcher, was elected into government. The right wing forces in Britain—with strong economic and familial ties to Rhodesia—are thus much strengthened and are clamoring to have sanctions lifted. This was, in fact, one of Thatcher's election promises. In the U.S. the right wing is also demanding an end to sanctions. Less conservative forces in both countries recognize the economic and political importance of not alienating the African States that have declared their support for the Patriotic Front. These forces also recognize that, in the long run, Western interests will not be served by a prolonged war. As a result, Britain and the U.S. now see this conference as their best hope to preserve Western economic interests in Zimbabwe.

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## ZIMBABWE: THE LAND QUESTION

If someone offered you a 3,000 acre farm and claims to 15 gold mines, would you be tempted to move? That was what Cecil Rhodes promised in 1890 to the first group of 200 mercenaries to occupy his newly founded Zambesia (later to be called Rhodesia) colony. With the tacit support of the British, Rhodes' 'pioneer column' in full military uniform and accompanied by 500 armed guards, marched

The conflict which is taking place in Zimbabwe today has its seeds in this earlier period of conquest. A key part of the struggle, then as now, has to do with deciding who is going to control the land and mineral rights of the country. For it was not long after the resistance of the African people to colonization had been suppressed that the white land-grab began in earnest. If Africans stood in the way,



to the heartland of the unsuspecting Shona people. There they established a fort which they called Salisbury and declared that they were taking possession of the whole of Mashonaland in the name of the British queen.

Earlier, on the basis of a bogus treaty, Rhodes had claimed full rights to the land of the Matebele, the other major African group in Zimbabwe. It was not long before the African people realized the enormity of these developments, and in a series of wars of resistance between 1893 and 1903, the white settlers, backed by British troops, were forced to pay in blood for the land they had originally taken by fraud and intimidation.

they were either moved or eliminated. 'I prefer land to niggers,' Rhodes said.

### THE LAND GRAB

While Africans outnumbered whites 45 to 1 in 1900, only about one fifth of the land was reserved for their use. By 1925, white settlers had acquired virtually all of the fertile land along the railroads and all the land surrounding the urban centers. The 1930 Land Apportionment Act merely made the already existing segregation of land holdings official. Under this law, 51% of the land—including most of the good land—was reserved exclusively for white ownership.

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*Land continued*

As a result white settlers—who never comprised more than 6% of the population—have always literally had more land than they could use. While population pressure built up in the African Areas, causing overpopulation and landlessness, an incredible 75% of arable white-owned land went unused. Much of this unused land was held by absentee owners in England for speculation.

By 1960 there were 6,000 white farms averaging between 1500 and 3,000 acres as compared to 500,000 farms in the smaller and less fertile African Areas. An inevitable outcome of the overcrowding in the African Areas was the movement of people to the mining towns and other urban areas in search of employment. What was a land *problem* for Africans was indirectly a *solution* to the labor problems of the white-controlled farms, mines, and industries. So long as Africans could not survive in the rural areas, the white settlers were assured of a cheap supply of workers. As in South Africa, a pass system was established to insure that only enough Africans necessary to fill the labor needs of the whites were allowed into white areas.

### THE QUESTION OF COMPENSATION

Both ZAPU and ZANU have insisted at the talks in London that the Zimbabwean people should not have to pay for the return of land which was stolen from them. The Muzorewa government and the British, on the other hand, have agreed that any transfer of white-owned land to a new government must involve 'fair' payment to the present owner. Adapting a scheme of Henry Kissinger, the British have now made a compromise proposal under which compensation for land would be paid out of a 'development fund' provided by a group of Western nations. This 'generosity' is not simply due to the fact that some members of the British Conservative Party own land in Zimbabwe—although that is part of the explanation. A more important factor is that Western countries such as the U.S. and Britain



California Newsworld

with large investments in Third World countries like Zimbabwe want to insure that the principle of private property rights is maintained at all cost. If there is nationalization without compensation, they fear that their investments and profits in such countries will be jeopardized.

If a new Zimbabwean government were to take over ownership of companies and land controlled by foreign individuals and corporations without payment, it would provide a dangerous precedent for other countries in the region which may have similar ideas. To protect the principle of private property in Zimbabwe the West is willing to foot the bill for compensating the white Rhodesian land owners. The land question in Zimbabwe, then, is really more than simply a *land* question.

Whether or not owners of land will be compensated for any land they may lose under a new government and what form land ownership will take in a new Zimbabwe—private, collective, or some mixture of the two—are two key questions which will only be resolved in the course of the liberation struggle.

## THE COSTS OF LIBERATION

An armed struggle is being waged in Zimbabwe. This struggle has been in progress for over 10 years. And for these 10 years, there have been both victories and victims, successes and setbacks: the costs of Liberation.

In 1965, Ian Smith's white minority regime proclaimed a 'Unilateral Declaration of Independence (UDI)' from Great Britain. In 1966, with the advent of black majority rule seemingly light years away, the armed struggle began. In the beginning, guerrilla attacks were very irregular. Not until 1972 did the war begin to intensify. After the breakdown of repeated diplomatic initiatives in 1975 and 1976, the war for black liberation reached its present intensity.

The Geneva conference in 1976 was the impetus needed to join the two major nationalist movements in Rhodesia. The Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU) led by Robert Mugabe, and the Zimbabwe African People's Union (ZAPU) led by Joshua Nkomo, formed the Patriotic Front (PF). During 1977 and 1978 the PF expanded their operations around the country while building a strong base of support in the rural areas.

Today, one third of the national budget of the Muzorewa-Smith government is for the military. The Rhodesia military greatly outnumbers that of the Patriotic Front. It is estimated that the PF can field as many as 20,000 troops while the Rhodesian military can field approximately

58,000 troops. In 1974, the government's direct costs for the war were \$137 million. By 1979 this cost had jumped to \$574 million.

### HUMAN COSTS AND SUFFERING

Towards the end of 1978, Ian Smith remarked that one black Rhodesian was killed every hour. The Rhodesian Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace believed fatalities were 4 times greater than that. The total number of killings for the five years prior to 1978 was 7000. Of this number, less than 200 were whites. In 1978 alone, more than 7000 people were killed.

In September 1978, ZAPU troops shot down an Air Rhodesia plane, killing 48 passengers. ZAPU alleged that Air Rhodesia planes were legitimate military targets as they are used to transport military supplies to war zones. The Rhodesian government retaliated by imposing martial law throughout the countryside announcing conscription of Africans into the Rhodesian military, and escalating its fighting. This produced the highest monthly death toll in the history of the war: 801 dead, including approximately 500 black civilians. The government stated that many of these civilians were killed due to 'crossfires' between government forces and the freedom fighters.

'Crossfires' is a polite term the government

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uses to justify the killings of innocent, unarmed, black civilians. Some are killed on suspicion of collaborating with the PF; others for simply being black. In the summer of 1978, the government claimed that 150-200 blacks were accidentally killed in 'crossfires'. However, the Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace, which investigated these killings, reported that a 'number of the victims were shot in the back while lying on the ground in an effort to avoid the shooting.'

On the same plane with 'crossfires', the government utilizes a commando unit known as the Selous Scouts. The Selous Scouts, in the guise of freedom fighters, have carried out many massacres of African villagers.

### 'STRATEGIC HAMLETS'

Another important strategy of the government is the removal of rural Africans away from the war zones and their resettlement into what are called 'protected villages.' These approximately 250 villages have a combined population of almost half a million Africans. Each village is surrounded with barbed wire, and is under continuous guard, with tight

curfew regulations. Curfew violators are subject to being shot on sight. The purpose of these villages is to prevent any contact between the PF and the rural Africans.

Many of these war victims, mainly black (the major white 'suffering' is in the form of emigration where an average of 12,000 whites, out of a white population of 250,000, have left Rhodesia in each of the past 2 years), go into camps maintained by the Patriotic Front in surrounding countries. These camps have been subjected to over 25 cross-border raids by Rhodesian troops where many refugees have been killed. In one of these raids on a refugee camp in Nyanzonia, Mozambique, 600 people—men, women and children—were killed. The Rhodesian rationale is this: 'where there are refugees, there are also guerrillas.'

As long as the struggle for liberation continues, the costs will mount. The victim, the refugee, is not in an enviable position. However, as difficult as it may be, it is hoped that the spirit, will, and desire of these Zimbabweans will prevail; the fruits of Liberation must be tasted by all.

*Stuart Winneg*

### What's in a Name?

ZIMBABWE is the African name for the country. It was originally the name of an ancient African city, with a rich civilization, constructed in this area. It is used by the Patriotic Front, and other African nationalists, and by anyone who supports their right to liberation from white racist domination.

RHODESIA is the European name for Zimbabwe. It is named after Cecil Rhodes, the nineteenth century colonialist, who conquered the area.

ZIMBABWE-RHODESIA was the name chosen under the Internal Settlement. The fact that 'Rhodesia' remained in the name was a further indication of the refusal of the white

minority to handover power to the African majority.

We have tried to use the names correctly, in context, throughout our newsletter.

**SANCTIONS: WHAT ARE THEY?** In May 1968 the United Nations Security Council imposed 'comprehensive mandatory sanctions' against international trade with Rhodesia. These sanctions have been continuously broken by Western companies and governments. It has been proven, for example, that Mobil Oil and Shell/BP have been supplying Rhodesia with oil. The U.S. openly 'broke' sanctions between 1968 and 1977 by allowing the importation of Rhodesian chrome.



## ZIMBABWE SUPPORT ACTIVITIES

Powerful U.S. corporations like Union Carbide, and their right wing congressional allies, have worked overtime during 1979 to secure official U.S. recognition and aid for the racist Internal Settlement in Zimbabwe. Meanwhile other Americans have worked with equal determination, and far less money, to support the Zimbabwean people's struggle for freedom. They have opposed big business mega-bucks with disco-fundraising dollars. They've exposed official government claims of U.S. non-involvement in the Zimbabwe-Rhodesian war with carefully researched proof that U.S. oil, munitions and mercenaries bolster the Rhodesian army. They've countered the guns and finance for Smith and Muzorewa with medical aid and clothes for the hundreds of thousands of Zimbabweans uprooted by the war. And they've mounted a growing campaign to force the U.S. government to honor the UN sanctions against trade with Rhodesia until the people of Zimbabwe have demolished the racist system that poisons their lives.

In January, 1979, Southern Africa activists in New York City presented a check for nearly \$10,000 to the UN High Commission for Refugees. They had raised the money in a single

'Evening of Solidarity with Zimbabwe and the Wilmington 10' in November 1978.

### PROTESTS AGAINST LIFTING SANCTIONS

By springtime, Americans concerned with building support for the struggle in Zimbabwe were faced with swift maneuvers by conservative business and congressional forces to lift the sanctions on Rhodesia. The Southern Africa Organizing Committee (in the San Francisco area) initiated a petition urging Congress not to cave into the pressures. Several thousand people in San Francisco, Los Angeles, San Diego, Baltimore and Boston signed the petition. But a rightwing juggernaut was moving in Congress. Only the concerted pressure of hundreds of Black elected and appointed officials, backed by millions of Black, and many white Americans, kept the election-wary Jimmy Carter from bowing to the corporate/Congressional campaign.

One of the ploys of the pro-Rhodesian forces (led by Senator Jesse Helms of North Carolina) during their spring offensive, was to bring Bishop Muzorewa to the U.S. to 'help us understand' the Internal Settlement. Hundreds of

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"[The Zimbabwe war of liberation] is a last response, taken in self-defense, when all nonviolent methods have been tried and spurned by our oppressors. This is why I am a freedom fighter. This is why I support the armed struggle. I cannot sit smugly and passively in the comfort of my home while my people are being tortured to death, shot down or bombed."

### FROM BISHOP TO PAWN

So wrote Bishop Abel T. Muzorewa in a chapter entitled 'Righteous Violence' in his autobiography *Rise Up and Walk*. The book was published in 1978 a few months after Bishop Muzorewa and two other African 'leaders' joined their former enemy Ian Smith in the 'Internal Settlement'. This was an agreement that allowed Blacks in Zimbabwe limited political power and accorded whites continued political and economic dominance.

### THE BISHOP AS CHAMELEON

Soon before publication of his autobiography Muzorewa placed a call from Zimbabwe to his editor in Boston in a futile attempt to remove from his book the chapter on 'Righteous Violence'. The reason is that the Bishop had now joined the very government that he claimed 'tortured to death, shot down and bombed' his people.

### THE BISHOP BECOMES A POLITICIAN

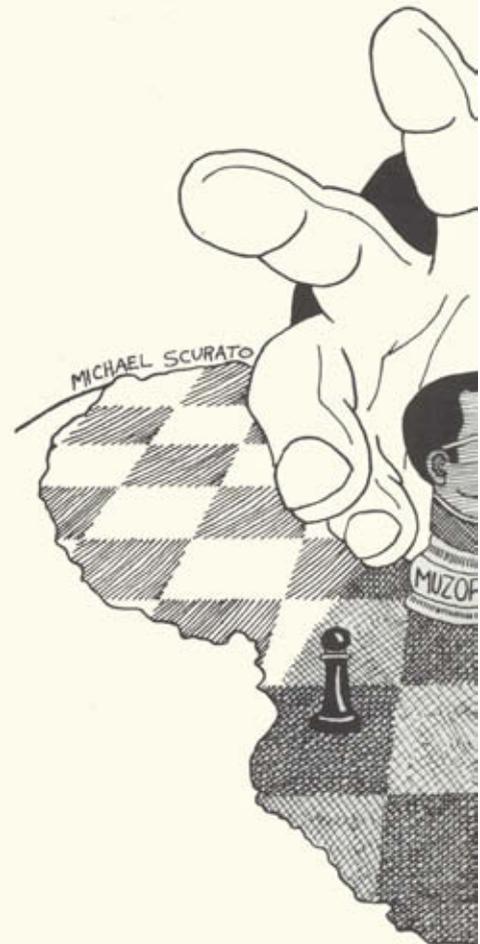
Muzorewa was introduced into the political arena in 1971. In November of that year a joint British-Rhodesian settlement proposal was announced. By a complicated formula of income and property qualifications Africans were gradually to be given a right to vote. Both ZAPU and ZANU, the leading liberation movements, found the proposals unacceptable. At the time, however, both organizations had been banned and their leaders imprisoned. The nationalist leaders were

apprehensive that without an organized opposition to the settlement proposals, the British and Rhodesian authorities could manipulate the Africans to approve the proposals.

### A NEW CAP FOR THE BISHOP

ZAPU and ZANU created an organization to fight the British-Rhodesian proposal. Thus was born the African National Council. In an attempt to protect the African National Council from immediate banning, and to minimize ZAPU and ZANU disputes from interfering with the tasks of this new organization, a prom-

## FROM BISHOP



# HOP TO PAWN



inent but non-political (i.e., belonging to neither ZANU nor ZAPU) figure was considered the ideal candidate to head the new organization. Muzorewa got the honor.

Beginning in July of 1973 secret talks were held between the African National Council and the Smith government. It was through these secret talks that the organizational deficiencies of the Council and the naivete of Muzorewa were demonstrated. The African National Council had no prepared strategy for the talks. Worse still, the Bishop was the sole representative of the Council to the talks. In his autobiography Bishop Muzorewa states that Smith opened the meeting by proposing

the same British-Rhodesian plans which had earlier been rejected. This was to the chagrin of the African National Council executive, and an embarrassed Bishop later claimed that he had not meant to endorse Smith's statement.

## SMITH CONTINUES DETENTION WITHOUT TRIAL

While the Smith-Muzorewa talks were in progress, Smith's government started on a campaign to detain without charges or trial the other leaders of the African National Council. For example, during these talks, Dr. Edson Sithole, the publicity secretary of the Council was imprisoned. Ironically, one of the major demands of the African National Council during the Smith-Muzorewa talks was for the release of all political prisoners.

## THE BISHOP CONTINUES DETENTION WITHOUT TRIAL

A major demand voiced by Africans throughout the negotiations that have been held with the Smith government has been the release of all political prisoners. In the Geneva negotiations in 1976, Bishop Muzorewa eloquently stated: 'We object to a system that allows detention and restriction without trial.' The Bishop went so far as to place name tags on two empty seats next to him. One of those names was that of Dr. Edson Sithole.

1979 finds that the Bishop supposedly as the head of state in 'Zimbabwe-Rhodesia'. Yet Dr. Sithole is still in prison. If Muzorewa were really the head of state, political prisoners, especially those belonging to the African National Council would have been freed.

Zimbabweans are, to use the Bishop's own 'holy' words, still 'being tortured to death, shot down or bombed.' Smith has the Bishop for a pawn.

## PRESSURES ON PATRIOTIC FRONT

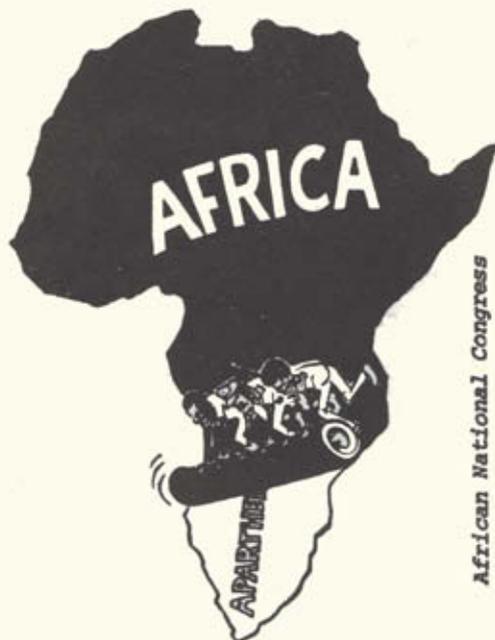
Since armed struggle began the Patriotic Front has made tremendous gains, but a complete military victory has not yet been achieved. While the struggles in Mozambique and Angola were considerably advanced by the fall of fascism in Portugal, this is not the case with the Zimbabwean struggle. Both the U.S. and the British have been able to continue to supply clandestine military and economic support to the Rhodesian racists. Furthermore, the right wing in Britain now has the strength in Parliament to lift sanctions. If they did this, the U.S. would soon follow suit and the floodgates would be opened to trade (in military as well as consumer goods). This would considerably strengthen a reactionary government in Zimbabwe and set back the liberation struggle for many years to come.

The Patriotic Front is also under pressure from the frontline states (Angola, Botswana, Mozambique, Tanzania and Zambia) to end the war. These countries have been the staunch supporters of the Patriotic Front, despite the economic problems that this support brings. Angola, Mozambique and Zambia, particularly are under constant military attack from the racist regimes of South Africa and Rhodesia. They desperately need peace so that they can begin to repair their war-torn economies.

Thus the Patriotic Front is not negotiating from a position of absolute strength. This has enabled Lord Carrington, who is presiding over the talks in London to threaten the Patriotic Front leaders on several occasions with continuing the talks without them if they refuse to accept the terms of the constitutional proposal drawn up by the British.

### OUR SUPPORT STILL NEEDED

While the Patriotic Front leaders are determined to eradicate all vestiges of racism and national chauvinism from their country, the



U.S. and Britain are determined to protect Western economic interests, and the interests of the white settlers who are their allies. Both sides are under pressure to end the war, so neither can dictate the terms. The whites have finally been forced to concede considerable power, but the Patriotic Front has also had to give up some important demands. If a settlement is reached the next important step for the Patriotic Front will be to win the elections. They will then have their work cut out for them in dealing with the problems that the racist system will have left in their country, and in building towards a society which truly serves the interests of its people.

Whatever happens, the Patriotic Front definitely needs our support!

*Peig*

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throwing racist governments and building a more just society can inspire us. At the same time, by supporting their struggles, we will strengthen our own fight against racism in Boston and throughout the U.S. *Bonnie Bishop*

*Support continued*

Americans understood only too well and greeted the black ally with pickets and demonstrations.

**MATERIAL SUPPORT CONTINUES**

While front page political battles were being waged, other supporters of Southern African freedom continued their material aid campaigns. Students at many universities collected clothes and sent them to Zimbabwean refugee camps in Mozambique. The Boston Southern Africa Alliance (representing most of the Boston area Southern Africa support groups) held a well-attended early-summer disco to raise money for humanitarian aid to the Patriotic Front. And late July saw 13,000 people at Harvard stadium for an all-star concert in support of the Zimbabwean and other liberation movements in Southern Africa.

Investigative journalists also contributed their skills to the array of efforts in aid of Zimbabwe's struggle. Among the fruits of their detective work was the report in *Africa News* (June 15, 1979) exposing the route of eleven Augusta Bell helicopters from U.S. drawing boards to the Rhodesian frontlines.

**ACTIVITIES IN 1980**

In mid-September, activists from up and down the West coast and from Boston, with guests from the Patriotic Front and the Anti-Apartheid movement of Australia and New

Zealand, met to discuss how to bring together and focus many of the diverse Zimbabwe support activities in the U.S. The multi-racial gathering decided to set up a campaign, the Zimbabwe Action Campaign (ZAC) which would have two goals: 1. to put pressure on the President and Congress to maintain sanctions on the Smith-Muzorewa regime, and 2. to generate political and material support for the Patriotic Front.

In the Boston area, the BCLSA has adopted the ZAC program, and is presenting a slide show on the current Zimbabwe situation and its roots to many church, community, student and union organizations. As part of the national effort to gather material aid, the BCLSA has also begun a raffle to raise money for the Patriotic Front. Finally the BCLSA in conjunction with the other organizations in the Boston Southern Africa Alliance (BSAA) is checking out the possibility of staging an evening in solidarity with Zimbabwe's liberation struggle in February, 1980. We hope to get some of Boston's best cultural groups to join us in the endeavor.

The U.S. people's movement to support our brothers and sisters in Zimbabwe is ever growing, but it needs your active interest. Join us. For more information on the slideshow, the raffle, or the evening of culture and politics for Zimbabwe, call 522-8699.

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*UPDATE continued from p. 15*

**Willie Sanders Trial****WILLIE SANDERS—NOT GUILTY**

On November 23, after only four hours of deliberation, the jury declared Willie Sanders not guilty. Willie Sanders is a Black man who had been charged with the rape of a woman in the Brighton area. The Willie Sanders Defense Committee played an essential role in protecting Willie Sanders from this racist frame-up.

The District Attorney's office claims that it will prosecute him on three further rape charges. The evidence for these charges is even more flimsy than in the case just completed.

We give Willie Sanders our congratulations and continue to support him in his fight against further prosecution.

## BOSTON: A CRADLE OF RACISM?

In South Africa, racism is legalized in the system of apartheid. Millions of black people suffer under conditions of poverty, deprived of basic human rights, while the white minority enjoys the highest standard of living in the world. Tremendous political tension reverberates between the oppressed black majority and the wealthy white rulers.

Here in the U.S., racism is often played out most dramatically between blacks and whites of comparable economic status—working people—while the corporate elite monitors and manipulates from the safest distance that money can buy.

### A PATTERN OF RACIST VIOLENCE

#### Boston, like the rest of

Boston, like the rest of the U.S., has never been free from racial tension. But this fall has seen a floodtide of racism in its most explicit and vicious form—racial violence:

- September 16 —Anti-busing rally held in South Boston
- Week of Sept. 18 —Buses carrying black students stoned in South Boston.
- September 27 —Fight at Wellesley High School between Black METCO and white students.
- September 28 —Darryl Williams, black student, shot and paralyzed on Charlestown High School football field.
- October 17 —South Boston Information Center sponsors racist rally at City Hall.
- October 31 —Motorcycle riders in KKK costumes drive through Roxbury.

In addition to these well publicized events, there have been numerous other acts of violence between black and white in Boston's streets, parks and schools. While most of the victims have been black, there have also been assaults



**NO! to  
RACISM**  
Student Committee For  
the March Against Racism

*epf*

on whites in schools and in the Black community. These assaults appear to be a misguided reaction to the atmosphere of racism throughout the city.

Despite an attempt by some media and public officials to characterize each event as an 'isolated incident', a clear pattern of racist violence has emerged. Nurtured in a climate of racial hatred and led or encouraged by adults, many white working class teenagers seek to relieve their personal and economic frustrations by scape-goating a visible target—black people. We are experiencing a period of economic recession, and historically, the tighter the economic squeeze on working people, the more virulent the racist attacks.

Membership in the KKK has always showed marked increase during hard times.

### RESPONSE TO THE EVENTS

The frequency and intensity of this fall's events have provoked responses from communities and organizations throughout the city. There have been neighborhood summits, emergency meetings and church proclamations. Radio station WILD sparked a marathon fundraising effort which collected thousands of dollars for Darryl Williams. Anti-busing leader James Kelly was forced to resign from Mayor White's administration. Boston School Superintendent Robert Wood requested an emergency budget increase of \$100,000 for extra security in the schools. Black students have repeatedly marched on City Hall. 1800 people, black and white, took to the streets during the Pope's visit to protest the violence. These responses are positive steps toward racial harmony, but the problem of racism continues.

### WHO BENEFITS FROM RACISM?

While the owners of the large corporations make ever-increasing profits, the standard of living for poor and working people of all races is declining. We working people produce the goods which are the source of the nation's wealth, but we are receiving a shrinking share of that wealth. Our ability to demand a larger share is undermined by false divisions between black and white. In a society where wealth is so densely concentrated in the hands of so few, racism diverts the hostility and frustration of poor and working class white people away from its actual source and vents them on those who already bear the greatest economic burden—Blacks and other people of color.

When poor whites and poor Blacks must fight for the same small piece of the economic pie, everyone loses except the wealthy. When racial tension is inflamed by unemployment, inflation, crime, escapist drug use and angry young people who see only prolonged frustration in their futures, everyone loses except the wealthy.

However, the racial tension in Boston has gotten out of hand in the last few weeks. Boston companies, fearful that the racial violence might threaten 'business as usual', hypocritically sponsored an ad in the newspapers condemning the violence and pleading for peace. These companies included the First National Bank of Boston, which is already notorious for its racist and sexist practices in hiring and promotion, for redlining (refusing mortgages in poor, mainly Black, neighborhoods), and for its investments in South Africa.

### WHAT CAN WE DO?

We must acknowledge the ugly fact that determined, organized hate groups operate in our city and prey on the frustrations and fears of white poor and working people. We must expose and isolate these groups. Last winter the KKK publically stated that it found Boston ripe for organizing. This fall's crisis, in part, may be the fruit of their efforts.

We must enlarge on the many strengths of students, teachers, parents and neighborhood leaders who, although born into a racist society, are struggling to overcome racism. For example, in the schools, long term strategies such as multicultural curricula, workshops and program development must be developed and protected.

We must take an active stand to defend the rights of all citizens—Black, white, Hispanic, Oriental and Native American—whenever and wherever they are violated. Everytime there is another racist frame-up, as in the case of Willie Sanders, or another corporate robbery of working people, as in the price gouging by the giant oil corporations, or another institutional manipulation of our rights, as in the redlining policies of the First National Bank, we must stand together and say 'No!'

The liberation movements in Southern Africa have demonstrated an active commitment to the same principles that we are working for. Their progress toward over-

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## UPDATE

### FNBB: TARGET OF MANY

BCLSA's campaign against the First National Bank's involvement in South Africa is continuing and since last Spring, two major efforts have been undertaken by other groups opposed to policies of the bank. The first of these was spearheaded by '9 to 5', an organization of women office workers. They have polled a large number of unions and community organizations about their involvement with FNBB.

The other major development in opposition to FNBB policies was the sit-in at the Boston headquarters by activists protesting the involvement of FNBB in financing nuclear

power. They pointed out the connection between FNBB and Seabrook construction bonds, as well as several interlocks with the nuclear industry.

The upcoming months will see the filing of another bill in the Massachusetts Legislature prohibiting the investment of State employees' pension funds in ways which benefit the South African regime. In addition, a Community Reinvestment Task Force is continuing to monitor the degree to which FNBB invests in communities in Boston. BCLSA will participate in all these upcoming campaigns and welcomes the support of all who are interested in doing work on these issues.

### NETO MEMORIAL

'It was a long program, but I enjoyed every minute of it.'

That was how one of those who attended summed up the BCLSA's memorial program for Agostinho Neto, held on October 12 at St. Mark's Congregational Church in Roxbury.

Neto was President of Angola when he died in September at age 56, of cancer. He had been a founding member and head of the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola, the organization which led Angola to independence from almost 500 years of Portuguese colonialism and set the country on the road to socialist development.

We viewed a slide show about Angola, listened to a moving reading of some of Neto's poetry as well as an original composition dedicated to his memory and enjoyed music and refreshments together afterwards. The goals for the evening—to educate ourselves about the struggles of the Angolan people, to celebrate their victories, and to draw inspiration for our work here in support of the peoples of Southern Africa who are still fighting for their freedom and in support of our work against racism—were met. We felt a strong sense of solidarity which we want to share with those who were not able to attend.

### NETO

To you comrade Agostinho Neto we say the struggle continues:

please say hi to Uncle Ho

say hi to Che Guevera, Jose Marti and Kwame Nkrumah

tell Albert Luthuli that we are still fighting the boer fascists in South Africa

convey our greetings to Lenin and Mao

inform Jason Moyo that the Patriotic Front is on the

verge of victory in Zimbabwe

tell Eduardo Mondlane that Mozambique is free and SWAPO

is going strong in its struggle against Apartheid settlerism

in Namibia

please say hi to Marx and Engels

inform all the Palestinian comrades in the land yonder

that the struggle continues

please say hi to W.E.B. duBois, William Z. Foster and

Martin Luther King

tell them that the struggle continues.

*Mfundu Vundla*  
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## CAMBRIDGE VOTES AGAINST APARTHEID

*"Should the City of Cambridge refrain from investing public monies in banks and other financial institutions doing business with or in the Republic of South Africa?"*

This was a question on the ballot in the recent Cambridge elections and it won in every precinct. It received its lowest vote in West Cambridge—the wealthiest part of the city. The referendum is not binding. However, conscious that it may become binding at a future date, City Treasurer George O'Brien said that the city would formulate 'some sort of plan to investigate methods of getting authority to look into the banks' portfolios.' Now

that South Africa is on the City Council's agenda, we must make sure it stays there.

### WBZ—STRIKE TWO!

Despite community opposition led by the Mass. Citizens Against Apartheid and supported by BCLSA, WBZ-TV once again cast a vote for apartheid by broadcasting the heavyweight title fight between John Tate and Gerrie Coetzee from Pretoria on October 20. WBZ, which has a public posture of deep concern about racism, is also on record for having refused to stop advertising the sale of South African gold in the form of Krugerrands.

### PLEASE HELP

We need money. We need funds—to publish this newsletter; to organize and conduct teach-ins and film shows on Southern Africa; to keep abreast of events in Southern Africa; to challenge the exploitative, racist, or sexist activities of American corporations at home and abroad; to expose U.S. governmental collaboration with the terrorist minority regime in Southern Africa; to discredit South Africa's multimillion-dollar propaganda machinery—we really need your assistance. We ask that you pledge yourself to at least \$1.00 per month, and more if you can, to support our work.

### WHO WE ARE

BCLSA is a coalition of organizations and individuals dedicated to the fight against economic exploitation and political repression, particularly in the U.S. and Southern Africa. The function of our newsletter is to (1) publish news about Southern African liberation support activities in the Boston area, (2) inform our readers of events and issues in Southern Africa, and (3) explain basic concepts relevant to these issues. We would appreciate any questions, comments, or suggestions that you may have.

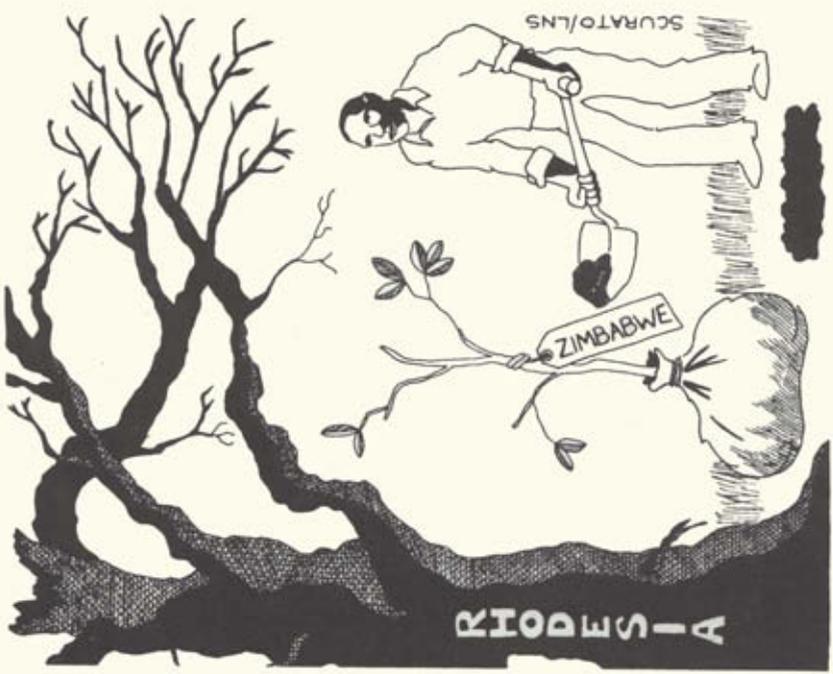
BCLSA  
Box 8791  
Boston, Mass. 02114

I pledge a monthly donation of: \_\_\_\_\_ \$1, \_\_\_\_\_ \$5, \_\_\_\_\_ SEVEN MORE  
to help the Boston Coalition for the Liberation of Southern Africa.

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