

June 4, 1979

Dear Editor,

Enclosed is a statement by the Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU), released by Mr. Leonard Mudavanhu, Director of Publicity for the Western Hemisphere, analyzing the impact of Rhodesia's April 20 sham elections on the struggle for the genuine independence of Zimbabwe. We hope that you will want to print this statement in the interests of spreading the truth about the critical situation in Southern Africa.

As you are probably aware, the Zimbabwe people's war for national liberation has already liberated 85% of the homeland. It is in response to this fact that Rhodesia orchestrated April 20th's "elections", which have been condemned by the Organization of African Unity and the United Nations Security Council as a total fraud. In an effort to rescue the West's vast economic, military and strategic stakes in Zimbabwe and Southern Africa, Congress and the Carter administration are now threatening to lift the 16 year old UN-imposed embargo against Rhodesia. This would drastically open up the supply of oil, arms and mercenaries which have so far been sent covertly to Rhodesia by the United States. Recognition of the Muzorewa/Smith regime would open up US military options ranging from a U.S. coordinated South African invasion of Zimbabwe, as in Angola, to a NATO attack backed by U.S. air power, as in Zaire last year, to a direct U.S. troop invasion as in Viet Nam. This would delay the victory of the Zimbabwean people and greatly multiply the sacrifices necessary to win self determination.

ZANU, a component of the Patriotic Front, is the organization leading the national liberation struggle in Zimbabwe. This statement is being circulated by the Southern Africa Anti-Mercenary Coalition (SAAMCO), a San Francisco Bay Area organization formed in response to ZANU's call to oppose the recruitment, training and arming of thousands of mercenaries by the CIA and the US Army Special Forces. We believe that ZANU's statement provides a leading analysis which can prepare people to stand with the Zimbabwean people and against escalating U.S. aggression in this critical hour.

The ZANU National Office of Publicity and Information can be reached at 612 Stiener St., #1, San Francisco, CA 94117. For more information on the campaign to stop the U.S. government mercenary machine, contact: SAAMCO, P.O. Box 14333, Station G, San Francisco, CA 94114. Please send clippings of any article reprinting this information to the ZANU National Office for Publicity and Information at the address listed above.

For Freedom in Southern Africa,

*Vicki Legion*

Vicki Legion  
for the Southern Africa  
Anti-Mercenary Coalition

STATEMENT ON THE CURRENT SITUATION IN ZIMBABWE BY THE ZIMBABWE AFRICAN NATIONAL UNION (ZANU) DIRECTOR OF PUBLICITY FOR THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE  
LEONARD MUDAVANHU

The sham elections that have just been concluded in Rhodesia, together with the brazen attacks by fascist Rhodesian forces on the sovereignty of the states of Mozambique and Zambia reflect the deepening and sharpening conflict in Zimbabwe in particular and Southern Africa in general.

This double strategy of holding elections internally, and engaging military thrusts externally is designed to promote a new era of international imperialism that is fast replacing British national imperialism. Britain for its part has given its responsibility in the decolonization of Zimbabwe over to international capitalism and imperialism.

The American people should know that the shameful elections do not answer the very obvious problem of a direct and definite transfer of power from the colonial regime to the people of Zimbabwe. Half measures, at this late hour, will not do. The transfer of power must be complete, unconditional and total. A government that is unable to change the economic and social relations that are responsible for the present war is certainly not exercising power on the behalf of the majority of the people. A government that is truly sensitive to the aspirations of the majority of the people of Zimbabwe cannot emerge with the support of South Africa, the number one enemy of free Africa and a free world.

Patriotic Zimbabweans are sacrificing their lives in order to get true genuine independence. Our party ZANU has no illusions about the stiffness of the struggle for our liberation. Under the guidance of ZANU, within the unity of the Patriotic Front, the people of Zimbabwe know that the struggle will be long and protracted; they know that Zimbabweans will pay heavily with their lives. Indeed, the people have already paid and will continue to pay heavily.

But despite these atrocities, despite the physical and economic threats on the population, such being the trademarks of mass coercion by the fascist

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colonial and now neocolonial authorities, despite all this, thousands of Zimbabwean young women and men are joining the struggle everyday.

Our friends as well as our enemies should know that ZANU is not engaged in an insignificant exercise of a military coup against the colonial and neo-colonial regime, a task which by itself requires a knee jerk reaction.

The world should know that ZANU is engaged in a social and a political revolution which involves a total change in the base and structure of the racist colonial system of Rhodesia. This is a change in which decisive political and economic power passes from the hands of the white minority and foreign multinational corporations to the people of Zimbabwe who are ready to take society forward to a new phase of development.

The 'limited majority rule' of the black puppets will be opposed physically. Led by ZANU, Zimbabwean masses will continue to fight till all of Zimbabwe is liberated. Nothing short of surrender of the racist colonial regime headed by the Muzorewa-Smith clique will influence the highly revolutionized masses of peasants and workers to lay down their arms. Threats of recognition of the puppet regime by imperialist countries will not fool the people either. The war will continue and it will intensify.

Pamberi ne chimurenga!

(Forward with the liberation war!)

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