February 28, 1980

Dear Friends,

The Zimbabwe voting has begun and seems to be going well by most accounts with a very high voter turn-out. The election results will be announced in Salisbury on Tuesday, March 4.

Ted Lockwood and the rest of the American NGO Observer team are still very cautious about the elections despite the rather optimistic news reports which we have been receiving in recent days. The team yesterday expressed their concerns about the mass arrests of ZANU-PF members which continued during the first day of voting. They are also concerned that Soames has not yet committed himself to giving the first opportunity to form a government to the party which receives the most votes in the election. To do otherwise would be a denial of true majority rule in Zimbabwe.

The observer group also announced that they will release a factual report on the pre-election period prior to the announcement of the election results. This report will highlight the harassment of ZANU-PF and the substantial intimidation by the auxiliaries and the security forces.

Two members of the observer team, Cynthia Cannady of TransAfrica and the NAACP and George Houser of ACOA, will hold a press conference in Washington, D.C. on Monday, March 3 to discuss their trip. The press conference will be held in the Rayburn House Office Building, Room 2200 at 10:00 A.M.

Ted Lockwood will remain in Salisbury to observe the formation of a new government after the elections. We expect him to return to the U.S. in mid-March.

Sincerely,

Christine Root
TOGETHER WITH CANADIAN NON-GOVERNMENTAL OBSERVERS, OUR GROUP ISSUED A STATEMENT YESTERDAY EXPRESSING CONCERN OVER INCREASED MILITARIZATION, INTIMIDATION BY SECURITY FORCES, AND POSSIBLE UTILIZATIONS BY THE GOVERNOR OF BANNING AND DISENFRANCHISE POWERS. WE CALLED UPON THE GOVERNOR TO RECALL AUXILIARIES, TO UTILIZE JOINT SF-PP FORCES TO DEAL WITH CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS, TO MAINTAIN THE COMMONWEALTH MONITORING FORCE UNTIL NEW GOVERNMENT IS FORMED, AND TO REFRAIN FROM USING POWERS TO BAT ON DIESENFRANCHISE. HELD PRESS CONFERENCE YESTERDAY AFTERNOON WITH GOOD TURNOUT AND GOT FRONT PAGE COVERAGE IN RHODESIA'S DAILY ALSO GOOD BSS COVERAGE, USLD PORCHING COPY FOR YOU BUT YOU MAY WANT TO ASK TSONGAS/SOLARZ TO ASK FOR CABLED COPY IMMEDIATELY. IF SO, DISTRIBUTE ACOA AND WOA.

YESTERDAY'S GOVERNMENT PRESS BRIEFING DISCLOSED THAT AT ZIPRA BATTALION WOULD SOON BEGIN TRAINING WITH SF AND THAT JOINT TRAINING WITH ZANLA WAS PLANNED. ALSO FENN ANNOUNCED THAT WITHDRAWAL OF CMF WOULD BE PHASED NOT ABRUPT AND WOULD "CHANGE PROGRESSIVELY MONITORING ROLE ... TO LIASON AND TRAINING."

ATTENDED SATURDAY FUNERAL OF MURDERED RC PRIEST, FR. KILIAN HUSSEN IN DREIFONTEIN MISSION ON ROAD TO FORT VICTORIA.

TAPED LENGTHY INTERVIEW WITH EYE-WITNESS PRIEST WHO STATED THAT KILLERS WERE STRANGERS AND THAT, SINCE HE HAD BEEN THERE 16 YEARS AND KNEW BOYS THEY WERE NOT LOCAL ZANLA. KILLERS WORE ARMY-STYLE BOOTS AND GAVE STRANGE ANTI-CHRISTIAN "MARXIST" HARANGUE. TORE BIBLES AND ROCKETED CHURCH. FATHER KILIAN KNOWN AS OUTSPOKEN AND HAD REFUSED SECURITY FORCES PERMISSION FOR RALLY ON MISSION GROUNDS.

TWO CHILDREN IDENTIFIED ONE KILLER AS A SF PERSON SEEN PREVIOUS WEEK, BUT PRIEST DISCOUNTED THIS BECAUSE OF DARK.

DROVE TO FORT VICTORIA SATURDAY NIGHT AND VISITED ZANU-PF HEADQUARTERS. THEY SHOWED US LIST OF 133 PERSONS ABDUCTED.

ASSAULTED OR DETAINED WITHOUT CHARGES SINCE CEASEFIRE. INTERVIEWED TWO WOMEN FORCED AT GUNPOINT BY AUXILIARIES ONTO BUS FOR SALISBURY MUZOREWA RALLY. THEY HAD JUMPED OFF THE BUS AT FORT VICTORIA AND CAME TO ZANU-PF FOR WAY TO GET HOME, SAW EDDISON ZVOZVO WHO SPENT NIGHT AT GOKOMEVI MISSION AND DROVE ONTO GWELO FOR NKOMO RALLY WITH 25,000 ATTENDING.

VISITED RUINS OF CATHOLIC MAMBO PRESS BOHED AT 3.00 AM SUNDAY MORNING. PRESS PUBLISHES FORMERLY BANNED AND CRITICAL WEEKLY MOTO. PORTIONS OF 2 BODIES FOUND, 1 WHITE AND BLACK. SPECULATION WIDESPREAD OF SF OR SELOUS PERSONNEL WITH ACCIDENTAL DETONATION. INTERVIEWED PRIEST AT SCENE—ALMOST BROKE DOWN.

(SATURDAY A FORGED MOTO WAS DISTRIBUTED NATIONWIDE WITH ANTI-HUDEBE HAVANGWE ON FIRST PAGE.)

SUNDAY 22 ZANU-PF CAMPAIGN PERSONS ARRESTED AT HOTEL KNOWN AS ZANU-PF LODGING. (SAME HOTEL RAIDED BY SF LAST WEEK BY SF LAST WEEK WHERE WE HAD WITNESSED THE CLOTHES, PAPERS ETC STREW AROUND.) AMONG ARRESTEES WERE FRIEND NATHAN SHANWYAIRA, CHARGED WITH INTIMIDATING CAMPAIGN TACTICS, NATHAN RELEASED ON BOND BUT, POLICE REFUSED TO GIVE NAMES OF SOME OTHER ARRESTEES.