Dear Friend,

As you have read in the newspapers, the liberation struggle in Zimbabwe (Rhodesia) is intensifying. The Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU) is engaged in armed struggle with the white racist Rhodesian government of Ian Smith. As part of the liberation struggle ZANU is building health, educational and legal systems in its operational zones.

Enclosed is a folder, Medical Aid to Zimbabwe, which describes Zimbabwe's need for a health system. I hope you will read it and respond. The Zimbabwean people will be grateful for any contribution you can make, no matter how modest.

Sincerely yours,

Tapson A. Mawere
Chief Representative of the Zimbabwe African National Union in North America,
Canada and the Caribbean
Africans of Zimbabwe (Rhodesia) are engaged in a militant, armed struggle to overthrow the racist minority regime in power there. ZANU, the major liberation force, has set up mobile health clinics and field hospitals in its operational zones to provide health care to the rural poor. As the struggle intensifies, the Rhodesian government is withdrawing what little services it used to provide the Africans in the battle zones, especially in northern and eastern Zimbabwe. ZANU's responsibilities in setting up a decent health care system are increasing.

We can help ZANU by contributing medical supplies. Please give generously to Medical Aid to Zimbabwe (address on the back). Your contributions will be used solely to buy medicines and medical equipment. However little or a lot, the money will be useful. 30¢ will buy a vial of penicillin; $15: a half-pound of quinine to treat malaria; $100: IV tubing for an entire ward; $3000: a vehicle that can serve as a mobile clinic.
ZIMBABWE

The six million Africans of Zimbabwe, 96% of the population, are ruled by a quarter million whites, a 4% settler minority, who own half the land (all the fertile land) and control the economic and political structure of the country. The first white settlers came to Zimbabwe in 1890 as part of the British South Africa Company, organized by Cecil Rhodes (whence the name "Rhodesia") to exploit the mineral wealth and the rich agricultural land of the area.

Today in Zimbabwe, the white government maintains a system of racial separation. The African people are restricted to the infertile, overcrowded "Tribal Trust Lands", where they can only farm at a subsistence level. To earn money, the men are forced to go to the cities and to the mines, where their families are not allowed. Laws restrict black travel, all blacks must carry passbooks, and black trade union organizing is severely curtailed - strikes are illegal. White earnings are more than ten times blacks'. The average white family in Zimbabwe has 3 or 4 black servants. The only employment available for African women is as domestic servants or as farm laborers. The women have the added burden of fighting abuse by white men.

The Africans have resisted this domination from the beginning. There have been both uprisings and repeated parliamentary struggles for independence. Every liberation group but the most timid has been banned and the leaders jailed.

Zimbabwe African National Union

The Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU) is a revolutionary organization formed in 1963 to fight for the liberation of the country through armed struggle. Its initial isolated military actions failed to gain mass support and were repeatedly put down by the well-equipped army of the white settlers.

Villagers line up to receive cholera vaccination.

In the late 1960's, the liberation forces pulled back and began a period of political education. ZANU began to integrate itself with the rural population and to involve the great mass of people directly and concretely in the struggle for freedom; the liberation forces could achieve victory only with the support of the people, only by being fed, clothed and sheltered by the masses of Zimbabweans.

Gradually ZANU has expanded its area of military operations from a small base area in 1970 to an area now including three million people and one-third of the land. In these operational zones, the peo-
ple, with the help of ZANU, are beginning to set up their own government, including education, health services, food production, and a legal system.

As the liberation forces have gained strength, the white minority government has increased its repression. In regions sympathetic to the guerrillas, crops and cattle are destroyed and suspected guerrillas are shot or hung. African women and children have been placed in concentration camps called "protected villages." Schools, shops, and medical facilities serving the African population have been closed by the government.

**ZANU and HEALTH CARE**

The organization of medical care for the population in Zimbabwe is grossly unbalanced in favor of the white settler population. The whites are provided a modern European-type medical care system with a ratio of one doctor for every 1800 people. On the other hand, rural Africans get almost no medical care; they are served by one doctor for more than 100,000 people. Present official policy is worsening the situation by closing down district and rural hospitals that primarily serve blacks and constructing modern hospitals in the cities to serve whites.

The white medical establishment acknowledges that the overwhelming portion of disease among the African population is preventable: due to infectious diseases or malnutrition (e.g., half the cases of mental disease among blacks are caused by pellagra, a vitamin deficiency disease). Most of these diseases are readily preventable by immunizations, improved public sanitation, and adequate nutrition. The effect of this poor health care system is readily seen in the statistics on infant mortality: the infant mortality rate for blacks is more than 300 per 1000, fifteen times that for the whites.

An example of the political use of health care occurred in 1973 in northeastern Zimbabwe, where ZANU forces are particularly strong. The Smith government's National Health Service gave cholera vaccine to the few white settlers in the region
While vaccinating none of the African population; a month later, cholera broke out in this region and of course it affected only the blacks. The ZANU health forces, supported by the World Health Organization and the United Nations, responded to the needs of the population and organized teams to carry out a program of prevention, detection and treatment to control the cholera outbreak.

Medical Aid to Zimbabwe

Medical Aid to Zimbabwe is a group of health workers, community people and activists who have come together to provide material aid to the liberation struggle in Zimbabwe. Medical personnel with the liberation forces tell us that at this time, their health forces are most in need of medicines and equipment for mobile clinics.

ZANLA Women's Detachment Health Team ready to begin cholera vaccinations.

Here is $____ to send medical supplies to Zimbabwe.

____ I would like to work with Medical Aid to Zimbabwe.

____ Send me more information about the struggle in Zimbabwe.

Name: ________________________________

Address: ________________________________

Send to Medical Aid to Zimbabwe

Post Office Box 181 Bronx N.Y. 10453