RESTORE U.N. SANCTIONS

WHY?

The American people now have a chance to restore U.S. compliance with the UN's economic sanctions against Rhodesia, or Zimbabwe, the African name by which it should be known. The Rhodesian Sanctions Bill (HR 1858) is awaiting a House vote. This bill would insure U.S. compliance with UN sanctions by stopping the importation of Rhodesian chrome and asbestos, (although it would not repeal the notorious Byrd amendment, it would negate its effect). Through our actions we hope to alert the American people that its government is clearly obstructing self-determination for the 95% black majority in Rhodesia. One way for American citizens to promote the self-determination of the Zimbabwean people is to support the passage of HR 1868.

WHERE?

The Rhodesian Information Office (RIO), 2852 McGill Terrace, Washington, D.C., N.W. The RIO is an information and lobbying organization for the white minority colonial regime of Rhodesia. This illegal regime is not recognized by any government in the world and according to a United Nations Association of the U.S.A. report, the U.S. is the only nation which now permits such an office. Representative Charles Diggs, Jr. (D-Mich.), Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Africa, believes the RIO is in violation of U.S. federal law and further that the U.S. itself may be in violation of U.N. sanctions by permitting the RIO to remain in this country.

WHEN?

Tuesday, July 23, 12:00 NOON
The American Friends Service Committee will sponsor a picket and vigil at the RIO. The Congressional Black Caucus has prepared a statement for our action and we expect to be joined by some members of Congress.

For further information:
AFSC, 112 S. 16th St.,
Philadelphia, Pa. 19102
LO3-9372
Lyle Tatum, Demonstration Chairman
Simeon White, Coordinator
In 1966 the United Nations imposed a boycott for chrome imports on Rhodesia as a sanction against the white racist government of Rhodesia, called Zimbabwe by Africans of that country. In 1971, Congress led by Sen. Harry Byrd of Virginia decided to disregard the U.N. embargo with strong pressure from Union Carbide and Foote Mineral, both of which own large mines in Rhodesia. The U.S. importation of Rhodesian chrome has served as a psychological boost to the white racist regime of Ian Smith and a severe blow to the 95% black majority struggling for majority rule and self-determination.

After Rhodesian Unilateral Declaration of Independence in 1965, the U.N. imposed economic sanctions against Rhodesia as an alternative to military intervention. Sanctions were imposed on the initiative of the United Kingdom and with strong support of the majority of members, including the U.S. Since Portugal and South Africa immediately broke sanctions and aided Rhodesia, the sanctions were never entirely effective. However, there is no doubt that the precarious regime -- which has not received official recognition from any country -- has been weakened by the U.N. decision.

A great victory was won by the illegal regime in 1971 when the U.S. renewed its importation of chrome. The argument for this policy change was that since chrome was a strategic material, the U.S. should not become dependent on its other major source, the Soviet Union. That this reasoning is no longer applicable is shown by the Nixon Administration's proposal this year to sell chrome from the U.S. stockpile. In addition, U.S. importation of Russian chrome remained at the same level the year after the U.S. broke sanctions.

U.S. policy of support to the Smith regime, like its general policy toward white regimes in Africa, shows a total disregard of and an insensitivity to the Africans' desire for freedom from white rule. This is not likely to change without the American public's firm voice demanding a policy which reflects a concern for majority rule and self-determination.

self-determination for Zimbabwe