This is a most critical time for Zimbabwe. Our Zimbabwe Action Campaign (ZAC) was launched in the midst of the recently concluded London peace talks. These talks have achieved a new constitution, a cease-fire, and a plan for holding free elections in February. Everything's moving along just fine, so we don't need a ZAC anymore, right? Wrong! The ZAC is more important now than ever.

The ZAC has several goals. First, it seeks to educate people in this country about what's happening in Zimbabwe. The press has continued its one-sided and racist coverage of the fast-changing events there. For example, in a Beston Globe article about the talks in London, pictures appeared of a Zimbabwean Patriotic Front representative and the British leader of the talks. Under the Zimbabwean's picture was the caption 'warns of war.' Under the Britisher's picture was the caption 'encourages compromise.' In reality, the British continuously threatened to kick the Patriotic Front out of the talks if they didn't go along with British proposals. That's a strange kind of compromising!

The second goal of the ZAC is to raise money for the Patriotic Front. After the cease-fire agreement was signed, the United Nations sanctions makes it possible for the U.S. government and U.S. corporations to give open financial aid to Muzorewa's election campaign. If he were to win, it would be a big boost to both U.S. government and business interests in Zimbabwe. On the other hand, if the Patriotic Front wins the election, its strategy would be to place the control of the land and the economy in the hands of the Zimbabwean people. This would cut into the power of the multinational corporations which now operate there.

Furthermore, with the Patriotic Front in power, Zimbabwe would become a strong rear base for the liberation fighters of South Africa. This would be a threat not only to the apartheid government of South Africa, but also to the United States, which has great economic and political interests in that country. With such powerful forces as the U.S. government and big corporations on the side of Smith and Muzorewa, those of us who support the Patriotic Front must step our concrete support to help them in their election effort.

A third goal of the ZAC is to make people in the U.S. aware of the role of the U.S. In the
ZIMBABWE SUPPORT
WHAT'S HAPPENING?

On January 17 and 18, Boston Southern Africa Alliance (BSAA) of which BCLSA is a member, held two successful educational programs about Zimbabwe. The film, 'Who Has a Right to Zimbabwe?', was shown, and Patrick Pfukani of ZAPU/PF spoke and answered questions about the current state of the struggle in Zimbabwe. In keeping with BCLSA policy of linking liberation support work with anti-racist work here in Boston, a speaker from the Mel King Coalition Committee Against Racism also spoke. About 175 people attended the two programs and proceeds will go to the Patriotic Front.

A benefit concert for the Patriotic Front is being organized by BSAA on February 9 at 8:00 p.m. in the Church of the Covenant, downtown. It is featuring jazz musicians Dollar Brand and Semenya McCord, and a speaker from the Patriotic Front.

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past it has allowed violations of the U.N. sanctions, both openly and behind the scenes. We are carrying out a postcard campaign directed at President Carter, urging him to stop all U.S. aid for the Smith-Muzorewa forces.

We have a 25 minute tape-slide presentation about the history of Zimbabwe and the current struggle going on there. We also have raffle tickets to sell to raise money for the Patriotic Front. We want to present the slide show to your group, and talk about why the liberation of Zimbabwe is important for working people in this country. We've already shown it to various community groups, churches, high school and college students. If you want to support this campaign by sponsoring a slide presentation, selling raffle tickets, distributing literature, etc., please call 522-8699.

Melinda Tuhus

WOMEN IN THE LIBERATION STRUGGLE

Black Women in South Africa and the Case of Winnie Mandela is a recently published 24 page pamphlet on South African women and their struggles. It highlights the life of Winnie Mandela, a Black South African woman who has helped lead the struggle against apartheid and for national liberation. For these activities, she has been interrogated, banned, jailed, and tortured. The pamphlet draws out the connections between South African liberation struggles and the struggles of oppressed people, particularly women in the United States.

The pamphlets are $.75 each, or $.50 each for orders of ten or more. Add $.28 for single copies, and $9.95 for ten copies, for postage.

To order, write and send check to: WMSC c/o P.O. Box 8791, Boston, MA 02114. Make checks payable to the Winnie Mandela Solidarity Coalition.
Willie Sanders Defense Committee Must Raise $35,000

On November 23, 1979 a multiracial jury of 12 men and women found Willie Sanders not guilty of raping a Brighton woman last Christmas. With this decision a major hurdle has been crossed in the struggle to free Willie Sanders. Through the efforts of the Willie Sanders Defense Committee and supporters all over the city, his innocence has been confirmed. But the struggle to free Willie Sanders isn't over yet. Incredibly, he still faces 3 more trials. The District Attorney’s office has refused to drop the charges in the other 3 cases, even though the evidence in these cases is even weaker than that presented in the original trial.

The first trial cost $20,000. So far the Willie Sanders Defense Committee has only raised $5,000. The next trial, which is scheduled for April 3, will also cost $20,000. The price of securing a fair trial is truly staggering. There is obviously a double standard of justice when the rich and the poor don't get equal treatment under the law. So the Willie Sanders Defense Committee needs our help. The BCLSA urges our newsletter readers, who have shown their opposition to racism in Southern Africa, to take a stand against racism in Boston by sending a contribution to the Willie Sanders Defense Committee, P.O. Box 175, Boston, MA 02119.

Mass. Pension Fund Divestment Victory

Last year, State Representative Mel King successfully offered an amendment to the State budget banning the investment of state pension funds in companies doing business in South Africa. In a letter dated January 14, 1980, the chairman of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means officially notified the Pension Fund Investment Committee that (1) any pension funds which had been invested in corporations doing business in South Africa would have to be divested before the State would pay its share to the pension fund; and (2) no new monies should knowingly be invested in such corporations. This means that tens of millions of dollars will be divested from corporations involved in South Africa, including five million from the First National Bank of Boston!
On December 17, after 3½ months of talks in London, the Patriotic Front (PF), the British, and representatives of the Smith/Muzorewa Government reached an agreement on arrangements for a ceasefire and an election in Zimbabwe. Although the agreement did not meet the original demands of the PF, it has ushered in a new phase in the struggle for liberation in Zimbabwe.

**THE SETTLEMENT**

The new agreement completely wipes out the 'internal settlement' which Ian Smith and Bishop Muzorewa had been trying unsuccessfully to sell to the world as genuine majority rule. A comparison of some of the points in that agreement and the new one is revealing. Under the old arrangement, the PF had been banned from participation in the election and whites, who comprise less than 4% of the population, had been allocated enough seats in parliament to veto any legislation that threatened their interests. Under the new constitution whites will still be over-represented in parliament (20% of the seats will be reserved for whites) but they will lose their veto power and their control over the civil service, the police, the judiciary, and the security forces.

The old guarantees of compensation for any property which a new government decides to nationalize and of the payment of pensions to white civil servants who decide to emigrate were retained in the new agreement. This represented a major compromise on the part of the PF and was only agreed to after assurances were made that the money for these payments would be provided by Britain and possibly the U.S.

In April 1979 Bishop Muzorewa had predicted that the freedom fighters of the PF would accept the 'internal settlement' and abandon the war effort. Instead, the people of Zimbabwe saw that settlement as a sell-out and intensified the war effort. As a result the Bishop found himself 'heading' a Government whose sole ally was South Africa and whose primary activity was waging war against its own people and the surrounding black-ruled countries which were offering support to the PF.

The new settlement gives full recognition to the Patriotic Front and its armies. After long negotiations about the military arrangements for a ceasefire, the PF agreed to assemble its forces in 16 designated camps and to accept the authority of a British Governor until a free and fair election could be arranged. On the other side, the Rhodesian government forces are also to be under the command of the British governor and confined to their base camps. The British governor, Lord Soames, has been provided with a Commonwealth military force of 1200 troops to police the ceasefire. Before agreeing to the ceasefire arrangements, the PF obtained a British pledge that all the foreign mercenaries and South African troops which had been fighting in the Rhodesian army
would be withdrawn. Soames has already broken this pledge by allowing South African troops to remain in Rhodesia at the South African border.

**SETTLEMENT NOT PERFECT**

The PF made a considerable number of concessions during the talks. Given the pressure which was being exerted on their staunch supporters in the frontline states and the very real threat that both Britain and the U.S. would shortly lift sanctions against trade with Rhodesia, the PF apparently felt that a negotiated settlement was the best strategy to pursue at this time. Significantly, both Britain and the U.S. actually did lift sanctions a few days before the final agreement with the PF was reached. Also significant was the fact that the very first official act of the British Governor following the signing of the agreement was to lift a ban on the export of corn to Zambia—one of the front line states which had been pressuring the PF to reach a settlement in London. All of Zambia’s major transport routes to the outside world had been cut off by Rhodesian bombing and sabotage and the country was threatened by a food shortage.

The members of the PF have no illusions that the present agreement will automatically lead to a truly independent Zimbabwe. The freedom fighters have been warned by their leaders that although they should report to the designated assembly points as agreed, they should hold on to their guns and be on guard against any form of double cross.

**DANGERS AHEAD**

Hopefully the London agreement will lead to open and fair elections and genuine majority rule. There is a real possibility, however, of intimidation and violence leading to a rigged election or a military coup. The press reported an armed attack on the Salisbury home of Robert Mugabe less than twenty-four hours after the London agreement was signed. The force of 1200 Commonwealth troops is ridiculously small for policing a country the size of Texas. Certainly the U.S. government and U.S. corporations with interests in Zimbabwe—Union Carbide, Mobil, Woolworths, etc.—will be trying to influence the election process overtly or covertly. Allegheny-Ludlum, a U.S. corporation with mining interests in Zimbabwe was implicated last spring as a conduit for a million dollar contribution from the South Africans to Bishop Muzorewa and his party. Former CIA officer, John Stockwell, reported last spring that the CIA was active in Rhodesia, ‘The agency knows who all the players are. It has people on the ground, and in the military. Of course this could be in preparation for a paramilitary operation like Angola.’

Even if the election process should go smoothly and fairly, there is always the possibility of a post-election military coup. In

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addition to the still white-controlled Rhodesian army, a number of Black signatories to the 'internal settlement' have been recruiting and outfitting their own private armies. The South Africans, who see Zimbabwe as part of their sphere of influence, have already threatened to invade if the PF should come to power. Given the hawkish climate in the U.S. and in Britain following events in Iran and Afghanistan, the South Africans may well feel that the time is ripe for carrying out an invasion, under the old guise of saving southern Africa from Communism.

CAN THE PF WIN?

Meanwhile, preparations for the election, which is scheduled to be held in late February, are already underway. ZANU has announced that it plans to run separately from its partner in the PF, ZAPU. There is, however, a possibility that a loose alliance between the two organizations will be made following the elections, and that if ZANU should win the election it would offer the largely ceremonial position of president to Joshua Nkomo, the head of ZAPU. Nkomo insists that ZAPU will still run in the election under the banner of the PF. It is unclear at this point what exactly the political differences are which have led to this division or how serious the division is.

Despite the problems that the PF faces in the election, most reports from Zimbabwe indicate that ZAPU and ZANU have a good chance of winning the election. U.S. Senator Paul Tsongas recently returned from a two week trip to Africa, where he met Lord Soames, Robert Mugabe and Joshua Nkomo. He sharply criticized Britain's role during the transition period and said that the transition will succeed 'in spite of and not because of Britain's role. 'In my opinion,' he said, 'the only reason this thing will work is that the Patriotic Front thinks it can win' power peacefully. And Ian Smith, himself, was reported as saying that in any kind of free vote 'the Patriotic Front would walk it.'

The British, the U.S., South Africa, and the whites in Zimbabwe all have an interest in preventing a truly revolutionary government from coming to power in Zimbabwe. Supporters of the Zimbabwean liberation struggle in this country should be aware that the struggle has now entered a crucial stage and demands closer attention and stronger support than ever before.

Use Us! BCLSA Resources

Are the members of your organization or your friends interested in learning of the lives and struggles of the people of Southern Africa? We have three slide show presentations available for you to choose from. Each presentation is free, and would be introduced by a BCLSA member who could answer your questions afterwards.

Banking on Apartheid: (½) shows the involvement of the First National Bank of Boston in South Africa, and its practices here in Boston. It provides a graphic illustration of the links between the struggles of the people in Southern Africa and of people in Boston (and throughout the U.S.)

Zimbabwe Must Be Free: (½) presents an outline history of Zimbabwe (Rhodesia) since its colonization by the British, and the struggles of its people for liberation. It shows how Western corporations have helped to maintain white minority rule there and why we must support the Patriotic Front (the liberation movement) as it leads Zimbabweans in their struggle for full liberation.

Women Under Apartheid: (25 min.) describes how the system of apartheid in South Africa affects women, and how they've participated in the struggle against this oppression.

If you would like to arrange a presentation, call 522-8699 or 924-0543.
WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT SOUTHERN AFRICA

The BCLSA from time to time runs a 6 week educational series about Southern Africa. If you have considered working with the Coalition, but think you don't know enough about Southern Africa, this series may be just the thing for you. Call Melinda at 522-8699 for more information.

DO YOU HAVE AN OPINION?

We would like to know what's on your, the reader's mind. Beginning in our next issue, we will publish written responses to any of our articles as well as any point or opinion you have pertaining to the numerous activities affecting the day to day goings on in Southern Africa.

If you would like to participate in this venture, send your correspondence to BCLSA Newsletter, Box 8791, Boston, MA 02114. Please limit your remarks to no more than 250 words. Also, include name, address, and telephone number. Your name will be withheld from publication on request.

ANNOUNCEMENT

On Sunday, February 24, there will be a service of witness for Southern Africa, at 4 p.m., to be held at the Memorial Church in Harvard Yard. The service will feature music by the Kuumbe singers and a message by Burgess Carr of the All-African Conference of Churches. The program is sponsored jointly by International Defense and Aid for Southern Africa, and the Black Studies Association at Harvard College. All are invited.

‘Dead Wood!’

Dear Friends and Readers,

Because of financial restraints, we need to cut ‘dead wood’ from our mailing list. If you want to continue to receive the newsletter, you must inform us in writing. If you don't write to tell us that you want to continue receiving the newsletter, your name will eventually be dropped from our mailing list.

We are also in the process of evaluating our newsletter and we need your input. A random 200 of you will have received questionnaire postcards with this issue. Please take a few minutes to fill them out and return them to us. To those of you who did not receive postcards, we will heartily welcome any written feedback from you. We plan to use all information to strengthen future newsletters.

Newsletter Committee, BCLSA
Want More Information?

In this newsletter we can only give our readers a brief description and analysis of progress in Southern African liberation. However, we hope that we stimulate interest and a desire to have more information. Below are listed three newspapers or periodicals—all excellent sources which often contain information and insights into the lives and struggles of people in Southern Africa and the way these struggles affect us in the U.S.

Southern Africa Magazine—Southern Africa Committee, 17 West 17th Street, New York, N.Y. 10011. Individual rates for new subscriptions are $20 a year; pre-paid trial is $5. Not available without a subscription. A monthly magazine giving information and analysis on events in Southern Africa and on a subscription a weekly newspaper, includes news coverage of Southern Africa as well as events in the U.S.

Africa News—P.O. Box 3851, Durham, N.C. Information on Southern Africa and other countries is available at some newspapers. The Guardian is also available at some book stores, including Red Book, 136 River Street, Cambridge. The Guardian is available at some newspapers, and the rest of the world.

The Guardian—33 West 17th Street, New York, N.Y. 10011. Individual rates for new subscribers are: $13 for one year; $7 for six months; $5 for a six week trial. A radical monthly magazine giving information and analysis on events in Southern Africa and on the rest of the world.

In future newsletters we will begin to review books that give information and insights into the lives and struggles of people in Southern Africa and the way these struggles affect us in the U.S.