A crisis in Rhodesia (formerly Southern Rhodesia) demands immediate action by American students. The white-settler government of this self-governing British colony is threatening to unilaterally declare independence from Britain as soon as December 19. This government is pledged to entrench white supremacy with police and military power for the 217,000 Rhodesian whites (5% of the total population) against the nearly four million Africans.

Background Information on Rhodesia

A country about three-fourths the size of France, Rhodesia is bounded by South Africa, Portuguese East Africa, Zambia (founded under black government October 24), and Bechuanaland. Whites from the United Kingdom, South Africa, and the United States began settling there in the 1890's under the leadership of Cecil Rhodes' British South Africa Co. Nearly deciding for a formal union with South Africa in 1923, the local white community has insured its privilege through law and custom. Taxes were imposed to force Africans into a money economy to provide a cheap labor supply for white farms, mines, and factories while Africans coming into towns were segregated into "African townships." In these townships, housing was not multiplied to accommodate families. Thus, in one large Salisbury township, a ratio of seven men to each woman has existed.

White supremacy is insured by:
1. The Land Apportionment Act, which reserves nearly 50% of the land for the 5% whites.

2. The Land Husbandry Act, which has uprooted thousands of rural Africans from their traditional lands and placed them in African reserves. Areas reserved for Europeans on the average have much better rainfall and water-table, are more fertile and resistant to breakdown, have fewer mosquitoes.

3. The Law and Order Maintenance Act which gives government almost unlimited powers of search, arrest, and detention. When this act was passed in 1959, the Federal Chief Justice refused to administer the act, resigned, and said, "...it outrages almost every basic human right." Since then, it has been strengthened by amendments, including mandatory hanging penalty for some crimes. Under this Act it is now estimated the government has almost 4,000 African nationalists in detention campus and in restriction, many without writ of habeas corpus. Included in this group are pastors, teachers, farmers, and housewives. The only African newspaper has been closed under this Act. Other white newspaper editors are being charged and threatened under the Act. All African political parties have been banned under the Act.

4. Deportation of several prominent Christians who have spoken out in support of African enfranchisement and government, including a bishop of the American Methodist Church, Ralph E. Dodge.

5. Economic measures: Providing free education for the 5% whites while charging tuition to Africans; a wage structure that gives the white an average annual income of more than ten times that of the employed African.

6. Spending over $30 million this year for police and defense.

7. Controlling the African chiefs with payments based on government estimates of the chief's effectiveness, with the deposition of some troublesome (nationalist) chiefs, and with 'gifts' of autos, guns, etc.
8. Recent visits of the Rhodesian Prime Minister and Secretary of Defense to Portugal, and of the Prime Minister to South Africa—allegedly to arrange defense pacts.

The Rhodesian Front Government recently has gained the assent of the chiefs and the white electorate for a declaration of independence. The new Labour government of Britain is vigorously opposed to any such unilateral declaration, and is urging the Rhodesian electorate to vote against it in the November 5th referendum. Although the oath of the army is to Queen Elizabeth, the whites expect army loyalty to a unilateral declaration of independence, after dismissing the army major general who refused to support any "unconstitutional action." The Commonwealth can hurt Rhodesia by recognizing an African "government in exile," by calling for the army's loyalty to its oath, and by threatening to cut off Commonwealth trade tariff preference.

**YOU CAN HELP BY...**

A. Writing immediately to Rhodesian Christians, supporting them in any non-violent or other resistance to a unilateral declaration of independence. You may write to:
2. Southern Rhodesian Student Christian Movement, c/o Mr. Jowitt Kunyogana, Chairman, University College of Rhodesia and Nyasaland, P. Bag 167H, Salisbury, Southern Rhodesia.
3. The Christian Action Group, c/o Mrs. Stanley Moore, 15 Dale Road, Marlborough, Salisbury, Southern Rhodesia.
4. The Bishop of Mashonaland (Anglican), Salisbury, Southern Rhodesia.
5. The Bishop of Matabeleland (Anglican), Bulawayo, Southern Rhodesia.
7. Conference Methodist Church, c/o Bishop Ralph Dodge, Mindolo Ecumenical Centre, Kitwe, Zambia.
8. Synod Methodist Church, c/o Rev. Jesse Lawrence, 7 Central Avenue, Salisbury, Southern Rhodesia.
9. Moderator of the Rhodesia Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church of Southern Africa, c/o First Presbyterian Church, Jameson Avenue, Salisbury, Southern Rhodesia.

B. Writing to the President of the United States, urging him to use American influence to prevent further deterioration in Rhodesia and to grant recognition to any African "government in exile" should independence be declared.

C. Writing other governments, especially Commonwealth nations, urging them to use their influence and to recognize a "government in exile."

D. Having this information published in your local or campus newspaper.