March 20, 1974

Dear Friends,

We now have to our credit the first legislative victory in the fight for a progressive United States policy toward southern Africa.

On December 18th, the Senate voted 54 to 37 to restore United States compliance with United Nations sanctions against Rhodesia, in a dramatic reversal of position from 1972 when a similar bill lost by 40 to 36.

Senate Gale McGee wrote us after the vote:

"I want to take this opportunity to express my sincerest appreciation for the important contributions you made to both the successful vote to invoke cloture and also the vote on final passage. We just could not have done it without your assistance.

* * *

Your continual contacts in both the Senate and the House, your willingness to assist us in important vote counts, and your research and dissemination of information all contributed to our victory and were extremely vital to the outcome."

Now we are working for a successful vote in the House. We have been concentrating on the sanctions bill since we have to focus our limited resources on one issue at a time to win even small victories. But we are also beginning work on other issues: revoking the sugar quota allotted to South Africa, averting a potential U. S. - South African - Portuguese military alliance in the Indian Ocean, and opposing continued U. S. military and political support for Portugal.

Because we have professional skills, because we concentrate on southern Africa issues, and because we are in day-to-day touch with Congress and the Executive branch, we can multiply your effectiveness by giving you the information you need to work for a progressive U. S. policy.

But we can't do this important job without your financial help.
The stainless steel lobby spent $200,000 last fall to try to beat us in the Senate; our budget for the whole year is only $44,000. But we are still $25,000 short.

We hope that most individuals can send $25 and that most organizations can give at least $100 to help us go on mobilizing citizen support for African freedom.

Thank you for your hard work in helping us politically. If you can help us financially as well, we can build together on the firm foundation that has been laid.

Sincerely,

Edgar Lockwood

Christine Root