HOW WE HELP YOU INFLUENCE POLICY

INFORMATION
** Background information and analysis of issues
** What action Congress is taking on Africa
** A Congressional voting record on Africa
** The current position of members of Congress on African issues

GUIDANCE
** What arguments are likely to be effective with members of Congress
** Legislative alerts as to when action is most timely
** How to visit your Representative
** What other interested groups you might work with in your community

CO-OPERATION
** More than 40 organizations are working with us on the sanctions legislation
** We are helping to build a network of over 1000 groups and individuals across the country who are prepared to act

WE NEED YOUR HELP

We need increased political support from individuals and local and national groups in order to change U.S. policy toward southern Africa. We also need financial support if we are to continue to provide the research and co-ordination that this task requires.

Our budget is only $44,000. The salaries we pay our staff are not a measure of the market for their skills. Our opposition spent $200,000 in hope of winning the Senate sanctions vote last fall, but money alone could not win the victory. Our staff are willing to work for modest salaries because of their commitment to supporting the struggle for freedom in Africa.

As we pick up political strength, we need a broad base of financial support to maintain and increase our effectiveness. Please send your contribution to:

THE WASHINGTON OFFICE ON AFRICA
110 Maryland Avenue, N. E.
Washington, D. C. 20002
(202) 546-7961

THE NEW IMPORTANCE OF AFRICA

The last twenty years have witnessed dramatic change in the African continent. Forty-one African states have become independent. But the process of de-colonization, freedom and self-rule by the majority has been blocked by white regimes in South Africa, Namibia, Rhodesia (Zimbabwe) and the Portuguese colonies of Angola, Mozambique and Guinea-Bissau.

U.S. SUPPORT FOR MINORITY RULE

Africans throughout the continent are determined to continue their struggle until all of Africa is free. In September, 1973 the Republic of Guinea-Bissau, formerly a Portuguese colony, declared its independence. But the hardest fight, against the core of white supremacy in the south, must still be waged.

The United States government has given significant support to the white regimes of Africa. U.S. corporations are gaining large profits from over one billion dollars of investment in southern Africa, where African workers are denied the right to organize to gain a decent wage. The Nixon administration has espoused "dialogue" with SOUTH AFRICA, in spite of increased bannings and imprisonments of opposition leaders. The U.S. has frustrated U.N. efforts to deal forcefully with South African control of NAMIBIA. The Nixon administration has allowed the arms embargo against PORTUGAL to be dangerously eroded. The U.S. Congress has legislated open violation of U.N. sanctions against RHODESIA.

CITIZEN SUPPORT FOR MAJORITY RULE

We believe that U.S. citizens must confront and oppose U.S. policies which give support and aid to repressive minority regimes. We believe that Africans should be free to rule their own land.

A growing number of American citizens are taking this position; Black groups, civil rights groups, religious bodies, labor unions, and groups concerned about international law and world peace are joining in efforts to change U.S. policy to support the struggle for majority rule in southern Africa.

A FOCUSED APPROACH

The Washington Office on Africa works for a progressive U.S. policy toward Africa. We believe that such a policy cannot become reality unless we concentrate our limited resources and the support of a relatively small number of concerned Americans. We therefore focus on Congressional legislative issues, and try to win them one at a time.

A VICTORY

In 1973 we mounted the largest and best-organized campaign ever prepared on a southern African issue. We focussed the efforts of two full-time lobbyists and several constituency organizers on restoring U.S. compliance with U.N. sanctions against Rhodesia. Our efforts really made a difference. On December 18th, 1973, the Senate passed S. 1868 to renew sanctions by 54 to 37, in the first significant vote in Congress in support of majority rule in southern Africa.

We are now working to pass the identical bill, H.R. 8005, in the House, where we hope the Senate action will be upheld. If we win in the House, we will seek to see that the legislation is enforced, and we will take on another major issue.

WHAT WE DO IN WASHINGTON

** Prepare well-thought-out, documented testimony for Congressional hearings. Assist others in doing so.

** Lobby with members of Congress and their staff in co-ordination with other interested groups

** Work with Congressional staff on legislative strategy

** Stimulate groups to organize locally to influence their Representatives