FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE PASSES SANCTIONS BILL

July 1, 1974

On June 27 the House Foreign Affairs Committee voted 25 to 9 to report out favorably S.1868, the senate-passed bill to restore U.S. compliance with Rhodesian sanctions, ending a six-month stall. A last-ditch effort to obstruct the bill back-fired and the advocates of sanctions came off with a major victory. A strong constituency effort is now needed to capitalize on this success. A House floor vote could come by the end of July.

THE FIGHT IN THE COMMITTEE

Opponents of sanctions, knowing that they could not win in Committee on a straight vote, maneuvered to beat it by wearing out proponents by obstructionist tactics. On June 25th, the first day of Committee consideration, Wayne Hays of Eastern Ohio, one of the most hated and feared men in Congress, offered an amendment to make the bill effective only after the total release of chrome and ferrochrome from the national stockpile. Since a release bill is hung up in a subcommittee of the Armed Services Committee, Hays' amendment would have killed the bill by sidetracking it to an unfriendly committee. When Hays' lost 21-11, Edward Derwinski tried to tie the Byrd Amendment repeal to free Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union, to prove the "hypocrisy" of the Rhodesian embargo's "selective morality". This transparent ploy lost 6-23. Adjournment of the Committee and rigged quorum calls from the House floor failed to beat back the sanctions forces, who were angry and determined and smelted victory.

On June 27th, the Committee voted 25-9 to report S.1868 out favorably after rejecting a Lagomarsino amendment tying Rhodesian sanctions to a Turkish opium ban.

This is an impressive win. Not only did the bill get a comfortable majority, but it was supported by the two top-ranking Democrats, Chairman Morgan and Clement Zablocki, and by the two top-ranking Republicans, Frelinghuysen and Broomfield. Frelinghuysen is a liberal but Broomfield is not, and he is not enthusiastic about the U.N. but is a supporter of the Administration. Another important "plus vote" was that of Gus Yatron, from a stainless steel producing district, Reading, Pennsylvania.

The stainless steel industry has put great pressure on Representatives from Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York and other steel-producing areas by generating employee and consumer mail and visits. The theme is that if sanctions are re-imposed, prices will skyrocket and jobs will be lost. In an effort to discredit important Methodist support for sanctions in Committee Chairman Morgan's district, officials of Universal Cyclops and Continental Ore took their anti-sanctions fight to the floor of the Western Pennsylvania Methodist Conference in mid-June and lost by a substantial majority.
The Committee vote illustrates the important role of grass roots work for sanctions. Morgan and Yatron could not have risked displeasing the stainless steel interests in their districts had they not felt strong pressure and persuasion from churches, NAACP, local labor officials and delegations of other progressive constituencies. WE ARE MOST GRATEFUL FOR ALL YOU HAVE DONE.

COMMITTEE VOTE TALLY: FOR SANCTIONS Democrats: Morgan (Pa.), Zablocki (Wis.), Fas-cell (Fla.), Diggs (Mich.), Nix (Pa.), Fraser (Minn.), Rosenthal (N.Y.), Culver (Iowa), Hamilton (Ind.), Wolff (N.Y.), Yatron (Pa.), Reid (N.Y.), Harrington (Mass), Ryan (Calif.), Wilson (Tex.), Riegle (Mich.) Republicans: Fralinghuysen (N.J.), Broomfield (Mich.), Findley (Ill.), Buchanan (Ala.), du Pont (Del.), Whalen (Ohio), Biester (Pa.), Guyer (Ohio). AGAINST SANCTIONS Democrats: Hays (Ohio), Fountain (N.C.), Kazen (Tex.) Republicans: Gross (Iowa), Derwinski (Ill.), Thomson (Wis.), Burke (Fla.), Lagomarsino (Calif.). ABSENT Democrats: Davis (Ga.) Republicans: Vander Jagt (Mich.), Steele (Conn.), Mathias (Calif.), Winn (Kans.), Gilman (N.Y.).

THE HARD PART IS JUST AHEAD: SUMMER ACTION IS NEEDED

We hope the sanctions bill, S. 1868, will come to the House floor by the end of July. Floor managers will have to fight crippling amendments like the Hays and Derwinski proposals. The Administration will have to continue active lobbying with Republicans. Chairman Morgan will need to rally support for the bill.

Many members of the House have avoided taking a position on the sanctions bill, thinking that it may never come out of Committee. Now they should be pressed to take a stand. Meet with your Representative in the next month if you can. The House recess from July 3 - 8 provides a good opportunity. If this is not possible, phone, write or wire him or her expressing support for the Committee decision and asking for his or her vote on the floor.

Administration support is important. Write to Secretary of State Kissinger and Assistant Secretary of States for African Affairs, Donald Easum, Washington, D. C. 20520. Stress the importance to African nations of demonstrating U.S. sincerity and seriousness by making the sanctions effective this year, not next year when it may be too late. Congratulate them for their work in Committee and urge action now.

To assist you in making a presentative to your Representative, we are enclosing a short argument for sanctions with some attached graphics that we think will help with Congressmen who are not primarily concerned with morality but with the economics of scarcity, popularized by the energy crisis.

Many Representatives have also become aware of the Portuguese coup and therefore will be able to hear arguments about implications of the coup for Rhodesia. The Portuguese foreign minister has talked of restoring sanctions. If Mozambique soon becomes a free black nation, it would cut off Rhodesia's main access to the sea. Leaders and newspapers of the ruling Nationalist Party in South Africa are warning Rhodesian "Prime Minister" Smith he must settle fast. The Rhodesians are losing ground to the forces of liberation. Surely now is the time for the United States to take a stand in support of justice in Rhodesia.