LEGISLATION INTRODUCED TO RE-INSTATE RHODESIAN SANCTIONS

May 23, 1973

On May 22nd, bills were introduced in both houses of Congress to re-instate United States compliance with United Nations sanctions against Rhodesia.

BILLS H.R. 8005 AND S. 1868

To amend the United Nations Participation Act of 1945 to halt the importation of Rhodesian chrome and to restore the United States to its position as a law-abiding member of the international community.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That section 5(a) of the United Nations Participation Act of 1945 (22 U.S.C. 287c(a)) is amended by adding at the end thereof the following new sentence:

"Section 10 of the Strategic and Critical Materials Stock Piling Act (60 Stat. 596; 50 U.S.C. 98-99h) shall not apply to prohibitions or regulations established under the authority of this section."

The effect of this legislation, if passed, will be to exempt regulations issued by the President to implement United Nations' sanctions from the operation of the so-called Byrd Amendment (section 10 of the Strategic and Critical Materials Stock Piling Act), which forbids embargoes on importation of "strategic and critical materials" from any country which is not Communist-dominated so long as the importation of such materials from Communist countries is not embargoed. This will effectively halt importation of materials from Rhodesia which has been occurring since January 1972 in violation of United Nations mandatory sanctions against the white minority regime in southern Africa.
In the Senate, leadership is being taken by Senator Hubert Humphrey, as chairman of the Subcommittee on Africa of the Foreign Relations Committee. He is joined by 23 co-sponsors. In the House, Congressman Donald Fraser (Minn.) and Congressman Charles Diggs (Mich.) are the primary sponsors, in their respective positions as chairmen of the Subcommittee on International Organizations and Movements and of the Subcommittee on Africa of the Foreign Affairs Committee. They are joined by 51 additional sponsors.

SENATE SPONSORS: Hubert Humphrey (Minn.), Gale McGee (Wyo.), Edward Kennedy (Mass.), Clifford Case (N.J.), Jacob Javits (N.Y.), Edward Brooke (Mass.), James Abourezk (S.D.), Birch Bayh (Ind.), Alan Cranston (Calif.), Thomas Eagleton (Mo.), Philip Hart (Mich.), Harold Hughes (Iowa), Daniel Inouye (Haw.), Henry Jackson (Wash.), Charles Mathias (Md.), George McGovern (S.D.), Walter Mondale (Minn.), Frank Moss (Utah), Edmund Muskie (Me.), Gaylord Nelson (Wisc.), Claiborne Pell (R.I.), Adlai Stevenson (Ill.) John Tunney (Calif.), Harrison Williams (N.J.).

HOUSE SPONSORS: William Mailliard (Calif.), Peter Frelinghuysen (N.J.) Dante Fascell (Fla.), Charles Diggs (Mich.), Robert Nix (Pa.), Donald Fraser (Minn.), Paul Findley (Ill.), Benjamin Rosenthal (N.Y.), John Culver (Iowa), Lee Hamilton (Ind.), Lester Wolff (N.Y.), Charles Whalen (Ohio), Ogden Reid (N.Y.), Michael Harrington (Mass.), Leo Ryan (Calif.), Donald Riegel (Mich.), Herman Badillo (N.Y.), Walter Fauntroy (D.C.), Augustus Hawkins (Calif.), Frank Brasco (N.Y.), William Green (Pa.), Ralph Metcalfe (Ill.), William Hungate (Mo.), Ronald Dellums (Calif.), Patsy Mink (Haw.), Frank Horton (N.Y.), Bella Abzug (N.Y.), Howard Robison (N.Y.), Thaddeus Dulski (N.Y.), Claude Pepper (Fla.), William Lehman (Fla.), Richardson Preyer (N.C.), Parren Mitchell (Md.), Lloyd Meeds (Wash.), Charles Mosher (Ohio), Antonio Borja Won Pat (Guam), Shirley Chisholm (N.Y.) Pete Stark (Calif.), Don Edwards (Pa.), Robert Kastenmeier (Wisc.), Gilbert Gudé (Md.), Robert Drinan (Mass.), Bill Clay (Mo.), John Conyers (Mich.), Charles Rangel (N.Y.), Les Aspin (Wisc.), John Seiberling (Ohio), Robert Tiernan (R.I.), Paul McCloskey (Calif.), Jonathan Bingham (N.Y.), Alphonzo Bell (Calif.), George Brown (Calif.), Edward Biester (Pa.).

It is likely that these bills will come to the floor of the House and Senate as amendments to legislation from the Foreign Relations and Foreign Affairs Committees, with a vote in either July or September. Another possibility is that they will be voted on as independent bills. In either case, it is crucial to begin now to communicate public support for the sanctions program from national and local groups to members of Congress.

Contact the Washington Office on Africa for further materials and information.