

February 20, 1967

sent to 200

Dear Returnee,

The Africa working committee of the still-unnamed "Returnees Association" is focusing on Southern African issues. Currently, a pressing question in congress concerns the economic sanctions against Rhodesia.

The U.N. Security Council passed Resolution 232 on December 16, 1966. President Johnson's Executive Order to carry out these sanctions was signed on January 5, 1967. By the end of the month, mail to Congress was running 3:1 against our support of sanctions. This was in part due to the propagandizing of the Liberty Lobby (which has a monthly newsletter with a paid circulation of 170,000) and its satellite, the Friends of Rhodesian Independence. Other groups of the far-right, or those which represent business interests, are lobbying against sanctions.

We urge you to write either a member of Congress (the names of interested Congressmen are enclosed) stating your support for his position, and/or write your own Congressman, urging that he support our government sanctions. We have collected and are sending the enclosed material to about 200 volunteers returned from Africa. The two sample letters might best be used supplemented by your own opinions and relevant information from the factual material. We hope that such informed opinion will impress Congressmen with our continuing concern with the Rhodesian problem.

Congressional attention can assure that the spirit of the Executive order is fully carried out. Despite the mounting opposition, it is unlikely that the Order will be withdrawn. However, Senator Hickenlooper (R-Iowa), Chairman of the Judiciary Committee, is trying to get hearings on the Order in Senator Fulbright's Foreign Relations Committee. Observers say that, failing Foreign Relations hearings, Hickenlooper will discuss the Order in his own Committee. Such hearings could result in a precedent very harmful to liberal foreign policies.

Do write to one or more Congressmen to urge support of U.S. sanctions. We would be very interested in what response you receive.

Sincerely,

Tarna Bunce, Lisa Forbes,  
Mary Yarwood for the Africa  
Committee.

(Please turn over for the Sample Letters)

The Honorable -----  
 United States Senate (House of Representatives)  
 Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Senator,

(I am a constituent from ----)

I am a former----- who worked in -----, Africa from 19-- to 19--. I concur with your stand on Southern African issues as embodied in your recent letter to President Johnson protesting the USS Roosevelt's stop in Capetown. Thank you for helping to effect another American denunciation of Apartheid.

As you know, the President's Executive Order for economic sanctions against the minority regime in Rhodesia has stirred much controversy since its signing on January 5, 1967. I hope you will be able to take steps in Congress to insure that the spirit of these sanctions is not violated in practice. Through efforts such as yours, the American people will be kept aware of the vital issues in Southern Africa, and their relevance to America today.

Let me thank you again.

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Dear Mr. Senator,

(I am a constituent from -----)

As a former----- who served in -----, Africa, from 19-- to 19--, I am very interested in American policy in Africa, especially as it affects Southern Africa. As you know, the Presidential Executive Order of economic sanctions against the minority regime in Rhodesia has stirred much controversy since its signing on January 5, 1967. I fully support our government's implementation of the United Nations sanctions.

The Rhodesian situation demands our attention. The nations of the world have adopted sanctions as one of the few peaceful means available to persuade the white Rhodesians who constitute 5.5% of the population that the economic and political future of their country depends on the full participation of all Rhodesians, regardless of race. Since the Unilateral Declaration of Independence (UDI) in November 1965, the situation in Rhodesia has rapidly deteriorated. African leaders have been jailed, the press censored, the appropriation for African education cut back, schools re-segregated, University professors expelled: the country is being governed by emergency laws. This is in keeping with the determination of Prime Minister Ian Smith to prohibit majority rule "in our lifetime."

I understand that Senator Hickenlooper (R-Iowa) intends to bring up the issue of sanctions before a Senate Committee. Newspaper reports have described a growing lobby--many of them extremists-- against our participation in United Nations sanctions.

May I urge you to support our President in his search for a peaceful solution to one of the great problems of our time, one in which we, as Americans, have a vital stake.

Sincerely,