

WHAT'S THE WORD?

ON ZIMBABWE

While the words Apartheid and Southern Africa have become virtually synonymous, many people do not realize that a form of Apartheid exists in Zimbabwe (Rhodesia). There are only 250,000 whites as compared to 7 million blacks, yet the whites own half of the land -the most fertile of course- and they control the government.

In response to this oppression the black people formed, in Dec. 1961, the Zimbabwe African People's Union (ZAPU). About one year later part of ZAPU broke away and formed the Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU). *- Aug 5, 1963*

Today these two groups have banded together to form the Patriotic Front. The Patriotic Front is now in the process of waging a guerilla war against the illegitimate white regime headed by Ian Smith. Not only are they waging war, but they are also winning it. It is acknowledged that the Patriotic Front controls 75% of the Country. One can not leave the capital city of Salisbury except by armed convoy, and they leave only twice daily.

Because of this pressure and the low morale of the whites Ian Smith has had to talk with three "moderate" blacks. These include Rev. Ndabaning Sithole, Bishop Abel Muzorewa, and Senator Jeremiah Chirau. On March 3 of this year the four signed an agreement providing for a ten year transitional government and elections to be held by the end of the year.

During this period there was to be a 100 person assembly with 72 seats reserved for blacks and 28 for whites. Thus whites, only 4% of the population, would receive over 25% of the vote.

Assuring that things would not really change, the agreement provided for eight entrenched provisions which could only be changed by a vote of 78. These provisions include protecting white property rights, and keeping the judicial system and the civil services intact (100% and 99.9% white respectively). Also the police and army (widely known to be racist) would remain the same.

Not only is this agreement a sham in theory, but also in practice. Recently, Byron Hove, a black cabinet minister, was fired for suggesting that more blacks be incorporated into the police force. This created a lot of infighting among the four with Muzorewa threatening to quit. Chirau, however, claimed Muzorewa had been in on the decision to fire Hove.

After Hove's dismissal the four were supposed to speak in a black community east of Salisbury. Muzorewa refused to go and the others went without him. Only 600 people showed up and gave what the New York Times and the Washington Post called a cold reception. Muzorewa was egged recently when he went to Botswana.

On Sept. 10, 1978 Ian Smith declared martial law. Following this act of desperation 200 Patriotic Front people were arrested. He also announced that the elections promised for the end of the year would not be held. This proves, as the Patriotic Front has said from the beginning, the "internal settlement" is a farce.

an S.A.S.C. broadside