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AMERICAN COMMITTEE ON AFRICA OPPOSES RHODESIAN SANCTIONS BREAKING BY UNION CARBIDE AT STOCKHOLDERS MEETING:

CALLS FOR SUPPORT FOR BILL H.R. 1868 IN CONGRESS TO RESTORE SANCTIONS

The American Committee on Africa would like to raise a question at this Annual Meeting of the Union Carbide Corporation that directly concerns this company's policies: it concerns the importation of materials from Rhodesia (called Zimbabwe by the African majority) in violation of United Nations sanctions and the legislation now before Congress (bill H.R. 1868) to stop these imports and restore sanctions.

On this vital question we find that Union Carbide has continually opposed in testimony before Congress the legislation to restore sanctions, which have been openly violated since the passage of the Byrd Amendment in 1971. This legislation symbolizes United States' policy on the whole question of the right of African freedom from colonial and minority rule.

We would like to urge that Union Carbide reverse its policy of opposition to sanctions. Union Carbide has argued that...
Rhodesian chrome ore is needed to assure the continued availability of a strategic material at reasonable prices. Yet those with direct responsibility in this area, the Defense Department, have indicated that these imports are not needed.

Union Carbide has argued that sanctions will bring great price increases for products using chrome, such as stainless steel. Yet those who must deal with questions of foreign trade and the U.S. economy in the State Department have testified that this is not so.

Finally, Union Carbide has said that the United Nations sanctions are not effective, and are in fact harmful to the interests of the Zimbabwean people, the 95% majority. Yet Bishop Abel Muzorewa, leader of the African National Council there has called sanctions "the only weapon we have in our non-violent struggle for freedom in Rhodesia".

Now Rhodesia is in a state of war. The forces of the Zimbabwean African National Union (ZANU) and the Zimbabwe African Peoples Union (ZAPU) are recognized throughout independent Africa and overwhelmingly in the United Nations as fighting a legitimate struggle for freedom in their own country against the illegal, minority Rhodesian regime. Yet this is the regime that Union Carbide wants to continue breaking United Nations sanctions to do business with.

It was reported yesterday in the Washington Post that the forces of the Rhodesian regime are making raids into neighboring
Mozambique "with orders to neither take military or civilian prisoners but to kill everyone they find". Can there be any doubt why sanctions must be restored?

Last year U.S. Rhodesian imports provided Rhodesia with some $36 million in foreign exchange. This trade must be stopped. We call on Union Carbide to end its opposition to sanctions now.

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ThobAmERICAN Committee on Africa appeals to individuals and organizations to make their voice heard now in Congress: write, wire, or phone your Representative urging support for bill H.R. 1868 (formerly H.R. 8005) to restore sanctions against Rhodesia.