BACKGROUND
Rhodesia is a breakaway British colony in southern Africa. 5% of its population, which is white, denies political and human rights to 5 1/2 million Blacks. No country in the world recognizes their legitimacy. In 1968 the United Nations established mandatory sanctions against the white minority regime headed by Ian Smith.

The U. S. Congress enacted the "Byrd Amendment" in the fall of 1971 to override the United Nations sanctions program. The U. S. has been importing chrome, ferrochrome, nickel and other strategic materials from Rhodesia ever since.

IF ENOUGH AMERICANS CARE AND EXPRESS THEMSELVES, A RENEWED ATTEMPT IN CONGRESS TO REPEAL THE BYRD AMENDMENT AND RE-INSTATE FULL UNITED STATES COMPLIANCE WITH SANCTIONS COULD SUCCEED THIS SPRING. WE MUST WORK NOW TO MAKE THIS HAPPEN.

 Asked, "When do you foresee a phased hand-over to majority rule?" Mr. Ian Smith replied, "Never."

"Rhodesia moves into 1973 with a deep sense of uncertainty, uneasiness, and frustration born of continued isolation and the inability to shape her own destiny free from the fetters of powerful outside influences."

Johannesburg Star, Dec. 30, 1972

The action of [the U.S.] government to break sanctions and to begin to import chrome was a severe blow to our struggle for freedom...Economic sanctions provided us with the only tool we have in our non-violent struggle for a free Rhodesia.

Bishop Abel Muzorewa
President, African National Council

SWING VOTES IN CONGRESS

SENATORS:
William Saxbe* and Robert Taft* (Ohio)
Charles Mathias and Glenn Beall (Md.)
Lowell Weicker (Conn.), William Roth (Del.), Richard Schweiker (Pa.), Ernest Hollings* (S. C.), Walter Huddleston* and Marlow Cook* (Ky.), Lawton Chiles (Fla.), Sam Nunn (Ga.), James Pearson (Kans.), Pete Dominici and Joseph Montoya (N. M.), Lee Metcalf (Montana).

REPRESENTATIVES:

*ferrochrome plants in district/state
SEVEN REASONS WHY WE SUPPORT RE-INSTATING SANCTIONS

1. Renewing sanctions would support self-determination by the majority in Rhodesia. Methodist Bishop Abel Muzorewa, leader of the African National Council, continues to feel that strong sanctions are the only hope for a non-violent solution satisfactory to his people. We support the right of the majority of the people to self-determination and the real independence of Zimbabwe, the African name for "Rhodesia".

2. The U.S. has a treaty obligation to stand by the sanctions program which we co-sponsored in the United Nations. The position of the United States in the U.N. has been severely damaged by our international lawbreaking.

3. Importing chrome gives overt support to the forced labor system in Rhodesia. The Apartheid-like system in Rhodesia restricts Africans to arid wastelands or "tribal reserves". Made foreigners in their own country, Africans must work for a pittance as migrant laborers or see their families starve. In the mines Blacks earn on the average 1/10 to 1/20 of what whites earn. If a worker breaks his contract, he can be jailed.

4. Importing Rhodesian ferrochrome has serious detrimental effects on the U.S. ferrochrome industry. 758 people in ferrochrome plants in Steubenville and Brilliant, Ohio, plus 215 workers in Charleston, South Carolina are going to lose their jobs, because the market is flooded with ferrochrome produced in Rhodesia and South Africa by "forced labor." (Last year the U.S. imported 42,000 tons of processed ferrochrome - an intermediate product used in the production of stainless steel - from these two countries alone, almost as much as we previously imported from the world.)

5. Sanctions have contributed to the economic and political pressure on the Ian Smith regime. Rhodesia's 1971 trade deficit was the largest in Rhodesian history, and foreign exchange reserves are low at present. In addition, sanctions have increased world consciousness of the situation in Rhodesia and have exerted pressure for political change on the white minority regime.

6. Breaking sanctions puts the U.S. on the side of the white-minority Smith regime. The U.S. is helping to support the government in power politically and economically by subverting international attempts to press the Smith regime to accept a settlement for African majority rule.

7. Independent African countries recognize the hypocrisy of our professed position of support for both white- and Black-ruled Africa. Zambian President Kaunda has said, "Indeed the future of the African-American relations will be greatly determined by the U.S. policy in matters relating to self-determination in southern Africa."

ACTION SUGGESTIONS

We urge you to work to repeal the Byrd Amendment and re-instate full United States compliance with United Nations sanctions against Rhodesia.

INFLUENCE CONGRESS DIRECTLY ...

... visit your representatives in their local offices when they make home visits

... conduct a constituent letter-writing campaign directed at influencable Congressmen (see 1st on back page) (positions of Congressmen are available from the Washington Office on Africa)

... urge supportive representatives to co-sponsor appropriate legislation, place statements in the Congressional Record and speak on the floor

... write to Senators Hubert Humphrey and Gale McGee and Representative Don Fraser encouraging them to introduce legislation immediately to re-instate sanctions

INFLUENCE THE WHITE HOUSE ...

... write to President Nixon urging strong White House support for Congressional legislation re-instating sanctions

RAISE CONCERN ABOUT THE ISSUE ...

... hold community educational and strategy meetings, including media when appropriate (see back page for where to get speakers and resources)

... publicize the issue using establishment and non-establishment media

"We specifically urge the Nixon administration to... vigorously support U. N. sanctions against Southern Rhodesia and to end all dealings with the illegal Smith regime."

Congressional Black Caucus
January, 1973