New York, N. Y. March, 1978----The Carter administration was urged to reject the "internal agreement" in Rhodesia, in a statement adopted by the thirty-member executive board of the American Committee on Africa.

George M. Houser, ACOA executive director, charged that the agreement between Ian Smith and three African leaders "creates the facade of a new structure without the reality."

Four major reasons are cited by the Committee's statement for rejecting the internal agreement. First, the blocking power of the white minority in Rhodesia over "entrenched provisions" of the agreement effectively "perpetuates white minority domination." Ian Smith will continue as prime minister and his white dominated parliament will continue to function, while no "test of acceptability" for the agreement will be conducted among the African majority.

Second, the internal agreement would "accord on a racial basis special privileges to the minority who have already acquired grossly unequal status by suppressing the majority for the past ninety years."

Third, the internal agreement "lays the foundation for civil war" since it excludes the guerrilla forces of the Patriotic Front "which have been responsible for Smith's finally signing even this agreement."

Fourth, the internal agreement "lays the basis for international conflict" noting that the Frontline States and the other independent African states have rejected the agreement, while South Africa could intervene on the side of the white minority in the future.

Noting six critical differences between the internal agreement and the Anglo-American proposal, and the willingness of the Patriotic Front to continue talks begun at Malta, ACOA called upon the U. S. government to "continue efforts for a solution acceptable to Zimbabweans engaged in the liberation struggle."

The internal agreement does not "provide the basis for a truly independent Zimbabwe or hope for a peaceful transition to majority rule" the statement concludes.

Founded in 1953, the American Committee on Africa has for 25 years worked to support the struggle for independence in Africa. The statement was adopted at a meeting of the ACOA executive board, which includes members prominent in many fields such as law, religion, the media and trade unions, chaired by the Committee's president, Justice William H. Booth of the New York State Supreme Court.