RHODESIA TO BEGIN TRIAL OF CATHOLIC COMMISSION MEMBERS

New York, N.Y. March 6, 1978—A Catholic Church report documenting the use of torture, repression and propaganda by the white minority regime of Ian Smith in Rhodesia is being published in the U. S. Its American release coincides with the trial scheduled for March 6 of three members of the Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace in Rhodesia, who are charged with subversion for the preparation and publication of this report. A fourth member of the Commission, Sister Janice McLaughlin of Pittsburgh, Pa., was arrested for three weeks and deported September 21, 1977 for her role in assembling the controversial document.

"Rhodesia: The Propaganda War" helps to illustrate why Smith's internal settlement, which leaves the oppressive army and military forces intact, will not be acceptable to the majority of the population who have suffered at the hands of these forces.

The original papers comprising the report were circulated within Rhodesia in mimeographed form during July and August, 1977. On August 31 a team of eight police officers searched the Commission's office, confiscated the files, detained Sr. Janice at Chikurubi prison outside Salisbury and charged three other members with publishing material "likely to cause fear, alarm or despondency," and of violating the Official Secrets Act. The Catholic Institute for International

(more)
Relations in London compiled the papers and published them in booklet form on September 21 after long deliberation between lawyers and church officials whether the publication would further endanger the four Commission members charged with its preparation.

It has been reprinted in many languages and distributed in countries throughout the world including Australia, Germany, Hong Kong and New Zealand.

In the United States the "Propaganda War" is being reprinted by The Africa Fund. The Africa Fund, founded in 1967 by the American Committee on Africa, aids health and education projects of Africans struggling for independence and supports victims of colonialism with legal and refugee aid.

Most recently, the Fund has shipped 600 textbooks and large quantities of antibiotics for use by Zimbabwe refugees in Mozambique and Zambia.
Rhodesia has been in a state of emergency since just before UDI in 1965, and the regulations have been amended 32 times. Besides giving the government more powers to punish the guerrillas and those who assist them, the new regulations also further restrict the free flow of information. As the *Rhodesia Herald* of 11 June reported, "It is also now an offence to 'communicate to any other person any rumor or report which is likely to cause alarm or despondence.' This is punishable by a fine of $100 or three months in jail."

*from Rhodesia: The Propaganda War*

This pamphlet provides useful insight into the struggle for majority rule in Zimbabwe. At a time when the illegal Smith regime is attempting to be seen as "reasonable," it is in fact terrorizing the African population.

_Sister Janice McLaughlin_
American nun who was arrested and then deported from Rhodesia in September, 1977.

_IF YOU DISTRIBUTED THIS PAMPHLET IN RHODESIA, YOU COULD BE ARRESTED._

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