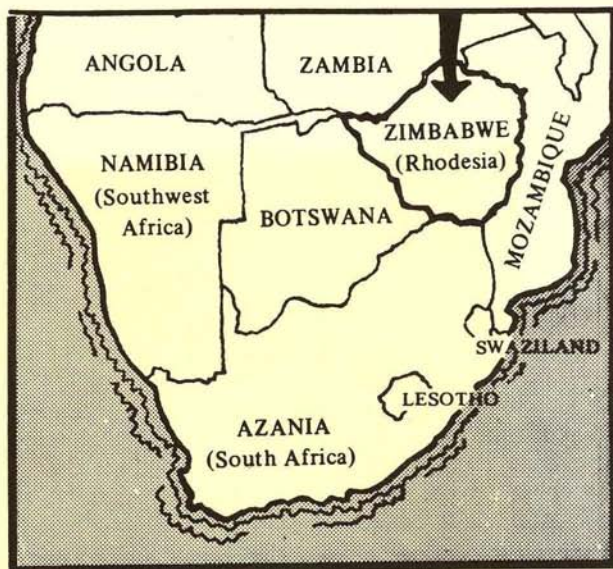


# Medical Aid to Zimbabwe

The forces of liberation are on the rise throughout southern Africa. In Zimbabwe, a peoples army is engaged in militant struggle to overthrow the racist regime in power there. As the struggle intensifies, the Rhodesian government is withdrawing what little services it once provided the Africans in the battle zones (four fifths of the country). The responsibilities of the liberation forces in setting up a decent health care system are increasing.

We can help by contributing medical supplies to ZANU (Zimbabwe African National Union), the major liberation force. Our goal is to raise enough money to donate a fully equipped ambulance.

The six million Africans of Zimbabwe, 96% of the population, are ruled by a quarter million whites, a 4% settler minority, who own half the land (all the fertile land) and control the economic and political structure of the



country. The first white settlers came to Zimbabwe in 1890 as part of the British South Africa Company, to exploit the mineral wealth and the rich agricultural land of the area for the British imperialists.

Today in Zimbabwe, the white government maintains a system of racial separation, apartheid. The African people are restricted to the infertile, overcrowded "Tribal Trust Lands," where they can only farm at a subsistence level. To earn money, the men are forced to go to the cities and the mines, where their families are not allowed. Laws restrict black travel, all blacks must carry passbooks, and black trade union organizing is all but outlawed - strikes are illegal. Many U.S. and British corporations, such as Mobil Oil, Coca Cola, Southern Company and



Foote Minerals reap super profits from the labor of the black workers. The average earnings of whites are more than ten times that of blacks. The average white family in Zimbabwe has 3 or 4 black servants. The only employment for African women is as domestic servants or as farm laborers. The Africans have resisted this domination from the beginning. There have been both uprisings and repeated parliamentary struggles for independence.



## **LIBERATION FORCES**

Zimbabwe plays a crucial part in the struggle for liberation of all southern Africa. Seeing movements growing in South Africa and South-west Africa as well, the U.S. is suddenly anxious to be involved along with the British in finding a "peaceful solution" - one which would derail the liberation struggle and allow U.S. corporations to continue exploiting the human and

natural resources of southern Africa. For years U.S. corporations and the U.S. government have backed the minority regimes to the hilt. At present they are scrambling to find the best means to protect their interests, talking "majority rule" while looking for Black faces that would protect their ability to make super profits from the exploitation of Black workers. Only the struggle of the liberation forces against the white minority regimes and the imperialists who back them can bring real freedom to the people of Zimbabwe and ultimately to all of southern Africa.

ZANU is a revolutionary organization formed in 1963 to fight for the liberation of the country through armed struggle. Its initial isolated military actions failed to gain mass support and were repeatedly put down by the well-equipped army of the white settlers.

In the late 1960's, the liberation forces pulled back and began a period of political education. ZANU began to integrate itself with the rural population and to involve the great mass of people directly and concretely in the struggle for freedom; the liberation forces could achieve victory only with the support of the people, only by being fed, clothed and sheltered by the masses of Zimbabweans.

Gradually ZANU has expanded its



area of military operations from a small base area in 1970 to an area now including over three million people and four fifths of the land. In these operational zones, the people, with the help of ZANU, are beginning to set up their own government, including education, health services, food production, and a legal system.

In November, 1975, ZANU and ZAPU (Zimbabwe African Peoples Union), a smaller liberation organization, set up a united army, ZIPA (Zimbabwe Peoples Army), to fight against the white minority regime and the imperialists who back it.

As the liberation forces have gained strength, the white minority government has increased its repression. In regions sympathetic to the guerillas, crops and cattle are destroyed and suspected guerillas are shot or hung. African women and children have been placed in concentration camps called "protected villages." Schools, shops, and medical facilities serving the African population have been closed by the government. Over 100,000 Africans have fled to refugee camps in neighboring countries.

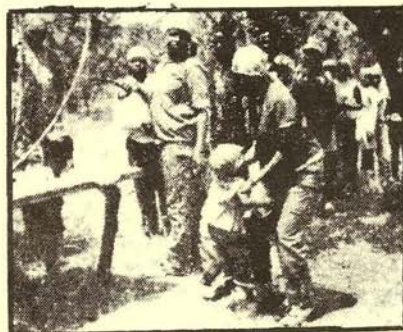
## HEALTH CARE

The organization of medical care for the population in Zimbabwe has always been grossly unbalanced in favor of the white settler population. The whites are provided a modern European-type medical system with a ratio of one doctor for every 1800 people. On the

other hand, rural Africans get almost no medical care; they are served by one doctor for more than 100,000 people. Present official policy is worsening the situation by closing down district and rural hospitals that primarily serve blacks and constructing modern hospitals in the cities to serve whites.

The effect of poor health care is readily seen in the statistics on infant mortality: the infant mortality rate for blacks is more than 300 per 1000, fifteen times that for whites. The overwhelming portion of disease among the African population is readily preventable by immunizations, improved public sanitation, and adequate nutrition.

An example of the political use of health care occurred in 1973 in northeastern Zimbabwe, where ZANU forces were particularly strong. The Smith Government's National Health Service gave cholera vaccine to the few white settlers in the region while vaccinating none of the African population; a month later, cholera broke out in this region and of



Villagers line up to receive cholera vaccination.

course it affected only the blacks. The ZANU health forces, supported by the World Health Organization and the United Nations, responded to the needs of the population and organized teams to carry out a program of prevention, detection and treatment to control the outbreak.

## Medical Aid to Zimbabwe

Medical Aid to Zimbabwe is an organization initiated by the Medical Committee for Human Rights, open to all who want to support the liberation forces and demand



the U.S. get out of southern Africa. Our immediate goal is to raise over \$15,000 in order to donate a fully stocked ambulance to ZANU.

## VICTORY TO THE LIBERATION FORCES

## U.S. OUT OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

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### How You Can Help

Here is \$\_\_\_\_\_ to send medical supplies to Zimbabwe.

\_\_\_\_\_ Send me more information about the struggle in Zimbabwe.

\_\_\_\_\_ Send me information about upcoming events.

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to work with MEDICAL AID TO ZIMBABWE.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

Send to:

MEDICAL AID TO ZIMBABWE

POST OFFICE BOX 88

PAOLI, PA. 19301

or call:

382-5485 or 271-1079

Comments or Fundraising Suggestions \_\_\_\_\_

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