

ZIMBABWE TASK FORCE meeting, 15 August 1977

Present: Toby Moyana, Edna Moyo, Anne Schneller, Tapera Chiwocha, David Wiley, Mike Bratton, Peter Machungwa, Lee Crawford.

Proposal made that the ZIMBABWE TASK FORCE would work, in conjunction with SALC and the ACTION NOW group at LCC, on three projects:

1. Material Aid to Zimbabwe Liberation Struggle: fundraising would be undertaken in the local Lansing/East Lansing area in order to send money or clothes/Medical supplies/educational supplies to those directly involved in the struggle. The successful LCC strategy of bakesales, carwashes and dances would be continued in the forthcoming year. In addition fundraising projects would be devised with an explicitly educational content, seeking donations rather than an exchange of goods or services: SALC's contribution?

The decision on the channels to be used to send material support was deferred for further discussion. Several possibilities were raised: via the Patriotic Front in Lusaka and Maputo; via Zimbabwe Medical Aid channels in Britain; via liberation movement intermediaries in direct contact with refugees. The possibility of "adopting" Botswana refugee camps as a special target was discussed. A decision on the channels to be used could properly wait until after funds were raised.

2. National Zimbabwe Liberation Support Committee: a feasibility study would be done to look into the resources required to establish a national level task force on Zimbabwe. None now exists. Such an organization would begin with a nationwide mail appeal for contributions to the struggle. A proposal was made that funds be divided into a humanitarian account (medical, housing, clothing) and an armed struggle account (to be used by the movements at their own discretion). A clear commitment to the Patriotic Front was proposed for the national committee in order to provide an unambiguous alternative to Americans who do not support U.S. foreign policy. The nationwide mail appeal would be specific on where the money would go and would be relatively "professional" with printed brochures and letterheads. An estimate of \$1500 initial capital required was made. Different emphases would be made in appeals to the American constituencies on Southern Africa (church groups, left groups, academics etc.) Much work would be needed here.

3. Education: an attempt would be made to develop a set of educational materials about the state of the liberation struggle in Zimbabwe today. The aim would be to provide basic information plus explode some of the more dangerous myths about the bourgeois character and ethnic divisiveness of the liberation movements. Short handouts on such topics as "A Day in the Life of a Guerrilla", "Story of a Refugee Schoolgirl", "Inside Zimbabwe Today" etc. were proposed. Movement speakers would be brought to Michigan. A slide/tape presentation would be developed with the assistance of the African studies Center. Materials for education would be used both at local fundraisers and for the national mailing.

Commitments: David: outline of a proposed national committee
Lee+ Tapera: liason with LCC group
Peter and Edna: ask African Students U. to have a Zimbabwe year with fundraising
Toby: "Inside Zimbabwe Today" handout
Anne and Mike: liason with Salc, slide show.

Next Meeting: Monday, September 12, 7.30.

begin with discussion on proposal to support Zimbabwean students in U.S., with emphasis on skills for development.