

Rhodesian Liberation

War in Southern Africa is escalating. In recent months the white-minority government of Ian Smith has come under increasing attack by guerilla units operating both from Mozambique and from northern Rhodesia (Africans call it Zimbabwe).

The war is being escalated by both sides with the Smith regime increasing its ill-fated campaign to eliminate the nationalist guerillas while the nationalist units have been engaging in sporadic yet mounting fights with the Rhodesian "security patrols" and armed forces.

During the past month the Rhodesian forces have invaded Mozambique causing heavy casualties in pursuit of the liberation forces. These incursions are in response to some of the "dramatic strikes at points in Rhodesia previously regarded as safe".

With the white minority ruling class representing only about five per cent of the population, many experts are predicting a collapse of Smith's government within the year. The minority simply does not have the "economic or manpower base to sustain" the prolonged and intensive military campaign.

The nationalist forces, despite their arms inferiority, have a large and solid base among the people of Rhodesia (Zimbabwe) and the neighbouring African countries. Their struggle is also supported by most third world nations and many anti-racist groups in the developed world.

The Rhodesian government's support appears to be weak on the surface, not even South Africa will make an open commitment to support the Smith regime. Nonetheless they are surviving with the covert support of multi-national corporations and various right-wing elements in South Africa.

While Prime Minister Vorster of South Africa has revealed a preference for a negotiated settlement even at the expense of black majority rule, the rightists in his country are pushing for military intervention to aid the Smith government. While this is currently happening on a limited scale, full-scale involvement in Rhodesia is unlikely.

Despite international sanctions and world pressure Rhodesia is still surviving as a racist society. Various multi-national corporations have been circumventing the economic blockade in their search for profits at any cost. These powerful corporations are lobbying, through U.S. and British officials, for a compromise government which will protect their investments. They hope to do this by establishing a 'moderate' black government 'favorable' to western interests.

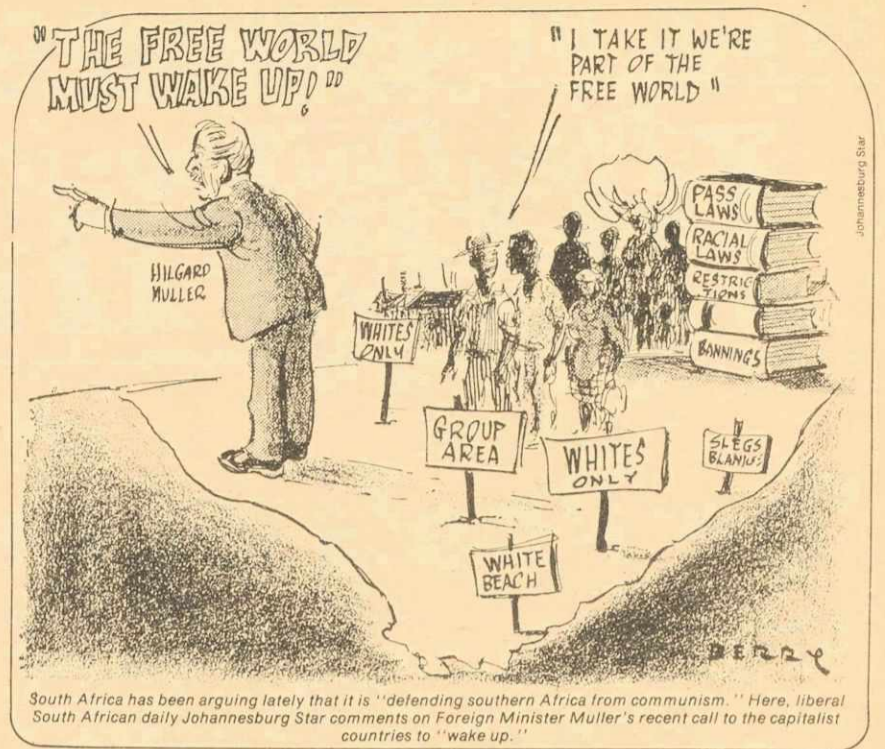
The 'moderate' group idea - also being attempted in Namibia - is widely recognized as an attempt by the west to set up a puppet or comprador* regime which will cater to multinationals and continue the plunder of Rhodesia's resources.

Another stratagem likely to be used will be 'the loss of freedom'. With the recent victory by the Marxist led MPLA forces in Angola, it is expected that Smith and others will invoke the spectre of communism in order to maintain the tenuous existence of his government. Smith and his intransigent white supremacists will undoubtedly link the maintenance of the status quo with the preservation of freedom. They always fail to mention that Rhodesia is currently only free for the five percent white population controlling the country.

In Vancouver at the recent Habitat conference, Z. Gamanya told the delegates that native Rhodesians "have been forced to live in 'concentration camp conditions' or flee the country because of a white minority which rules the nation at gunpoint."

Smith has said publicly that majority rule would never come "in my lifetime". It is obvious that after so many years of repression the African people have only one choice left.

Unfortunately - and people in the west must recognize this reality - freedom will not come through the establishment of a 'moderate black



South Africa has been arguing lately that it is "defending southern Africa from communism." Here, liberal South African daily Johannesburg Star comments on Foreign Minister Muller's recent call to the capitalist countries to "wake up."

government' but through armed struggle, by those groups who will cater not to the foreign interests which exploit the country but to the vast majority of people in their country. This means that power will be put into the hands of the majority so that they can determine their own destiny. Just as China, Cuba, Vietnam, Angola and even America were liberated by armed struggle, so too will Zimbabwe be liberated. It is in our interest to support the liberation struggle for the outcome is all but assured.

*Comprador: A colonial economic agent of an imperialist power, who sells his country's resources, industry and people with the objective of benefitting from the various types of payoff or "commission" that his masters provide.

The International

This issue marks the beginning of the second year of publication of The Dalhousie International. This is an opportune moment to greet new readers and to explain the purpose behind this paper.

The International was established as a forum "where people can discuss issues of a nature which heretofore have been relegated to a peripheral role at this university; we can not afford to remain isolated from the world around us". This year we intend to remain faithful to this mandate.

We feel that a basic knowledge of different cultures, politics, and peoples is essential in order to make a correct analysis of world events. We hope to provide this basic service.

For various reasons our local media have neglected this responsibility. Affairs of an international nature receive scant coverage. The coverage we do receive is generally interpreted first by the U.S. media. Therefore, part of our duty is to provide both quality material and an alternate perspective. But, perhaps more importantly, we hope we can engender an interest in 'foreign' countries and international affairs. We must be able to understand why nations act like they do if we are to maintain a responsible position in the world today.

In general, it is fair to say that Canadians appear to have a rather facile understanding of the increasingly important Third World. Recognizing this problem, we may tend to emphasize the concerns of the 'developing nations' in this paper. But the focus of the International is not limited to this type of coverage. (Note the articles on Scotland and Ireland in this issue.)

Our purpose is to provide a platform for the discussion of issues and problems of all countries. However this is your responsibility. Let us know your interests because as our readers you decide our content.

We appreciate your contributions and criticisms.

The staff and contributors for this issue included:

Margaret Atwood is a well known Canadian poet and novelist. **Chai Chu Thompson** is a Chinese Canadian who recently visited the People's Republic of China. **Karen Gellen** is an editor of the *Guardian* a New York weekly. **Malcolm Guy** is a McGill student and a staff writer of the McGill Daily News. **Victor Jara**, a famous Chilean poet, was executed by the junta of Pinochet. **Jim Morrison**, a teacher from Economy, Nova Scotia was a CUSO volunteer in Ghana for two years. **David Rollo** is a Scottish nationalist presently living in Canada. **Lal Singh** is an Indian student at Dalhousie. **Dorrick Stow**, a volunteer in Bangladesh refugee camps in 1971, is a Dalhousie student. **Lynn Stow**, a Dalhousie graduate student, is Metro Chairperson of Amnesty International. **Abe Weisfeld** is a York University student and the chairperson of the Alliance of Non-Zionist Jews.

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I am a man happy to exist
at this moment
happy because
when one puts one's
heart, reason and will
to work at the
service of the people
one feels the happiness
of that which begins to
be reborn.

-Victor Jara