

Zimbabwe is NOT negotiable

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It is political immaturity to continue to think that Britain will at any time side with the cause of the majority. Whitehall has made it plain that they have no alternative policy to sanctions. The African nationalists are not considered a factor in so far as overthrowing the Smith regime is concerned. Should they, however, resort to 'violence and terrorism' which threatens the breakdown of 'law' and order, Britain would physically oppose them. The British government is opposed to the principle of immediate majority rule, but subscribes to a policy of transition over two or three elections (10 years) after a return to "legality". With these as established facts, it is inconceivable for the Africans to hope for negotiations with Britain. The doors to a constitutional settlement are closed. To try and negotiate with people who have established policy which they cannot change is to seek concessions. Those who seek negotiations are in fact advocating the abandonment of a cardinal principle - immediate majority rule on the basis of universal adult suffrage. An abandonment of this principle is a sell-out to the African cause.

The grave problems inherent in Rhodesia's crisis will therefore not be solved in the corridors of Whitehall. It is the duty and responsibility of the African people to seek their own solution. The Smith regime which is in fact a neo-fascist dictatorship will not voluntarily surrender to Britain nor to the majority. At no time in history has a police state peacefully given up the reigns of control. The British government is equivocal about its unpreparedness to use force to overthrow the minority regime. One way remains - the African people must use force to achieve majority rule. Force by the African people will be promptly replied to by the regime's security forces. The conflict can thus not be limited and will inevitably escalate into civil war. This is the tragedy of the Rhodesian crisis.

But to the African people, the adoption of this

The whole concept of selective mandatory sanctions is based on a faulty hypothesis - that Rhodesia's political structure will collapse with the application of pressures on the economy. During 1966, the Smith regime successfully re-adjusted the economic structure to defeat the half-hearted economic siege. This nullifies the false picture given by Britain about the effect of sanctions. What emerges with clarity is that Britain's tactics are a mixture of duplicity and hypocrisy, but her long term strategy remains unchanged - the concepts embodied in the 1961 Constitution.

line of action is forced on them by those who have created this situation - Britain and the white minority. The struggle of the majority is not for "a return to legality" but for the immediate overthrow of a minority dictatorship. This is the essential difference between the objectives of the British government and the aspirations of the African people. Hence the policy of ZAPU is diametrically opposed to Britain's moves. The violent suppression of civil liberties and the refusal to negotiate with the African people leaves us no alternative but resort to the use of force to overthrow minority rule.

The consequences of this sanguinary confrontation and the human suffering that will result cannot be underestimated. But against this must be weighed the total of the inhuman treatment of the African people in the past, at present and in the future. To prevent these atrocities being intensified, a major operation should be made to remove this ulcer in our body-politic. The future and happiness of all Rhodesians depends on the restoration of a democratic government. Confronted by a regime which has abandoned moral codes, the use of force is a humanitarian move.

In the 1930's, the people of Europe and Asia watched fascism born and grow. The penalty for this was to plunge hundreds of millions of people into war and death for many years. The attempt to placate Hitler at Munich only served to embolden his plans for aggression. In South Africa, the world watched the birth and the growth of apartheid. To-day the apartheid grip has tightened and millions of people are subjected to slavery. If the African people let Smith go on, the neo-fascist dragon will grow stronger and more ruthless.

In these circumstances, ZAPU firmly believes that to achieve our objectives, the African people have a moral obligation to overthrow the minority dictatorship through armed struggle. There is no chance to negotiate for there is nobody to negotiate with. There is only one way to victory - armed struggle. We must stand and have the courage of our convictions and in this confrontation we shall win. Although we are the victims of a situation, we shall not let Zimbabwe become a casualty of history.