

# ZIMBABWE

*A Statement by the Central Committee of  
the South African Communist Party*

The attempt of Ian Smith's 'Rhodesia Front' to seize unlimited power over the four million Africans of Zimbabwe must be effectively and vigorously resisted by the peoples and governments of Africa and the whole world.

This is emphatically not a private dispute between the British Government and the Smith gang. It is a matter of direct immediate concern of the people of Zimbabwe and of the neighbouring countries, not least the fourteen million Africans and other repressed non-whites in the Republic of South Africa.

We cannot leave the solution of this question to British imperialism, which has never been and is not now the friend of African freedom and independence. It was Britain which imposed the undemocratic 1961 Constitution, which put the reins of power into the hands of Smith and his racist colleagues.

It was Mr. Wilson and his so-called Socialist Cabinet which appeased the Smith gang with one unprincipled concession after another and finally gave them the green light with a promise not to use violence in the event of illegal declaration of so-called independence.

Even now, while formally denouncing the usurpers as 'traitors' and 'rebels', the British Government limits itself to the empty and legalistic formality of 'dismissing' the Smith Cabinet, while refusing either to bring them to heel by force or to allow others to do so.

It is not only racialistic concern for white-skinned 'kith and kin' which underlies the shameful policy of Britain. Imperialism is concerned to avoid a truly democratic solution in Zimbabwe, which would give a further impetus to the anti-colonialist African Revolution and bring it to the banks of the Limpopo River. This would endanger the investors' paradise which apartheid and cheap African labour have created in the Republic of South Africa.

**We express the fullest solidarity of the oppressed and democratic majority of South Africans with our four million brothers and sisters in Zimbabwe.**

**We call on all our people to give the fullest support to their cause and to prevent by all means in our power Verwoerd from giving any military or economic aid to the Smith gang designed to frustrate the will of the people of Africa and the world.**

**We appeal to the British working class and democrats to show their solidarity with the Africans of Zimbabwe by demanding that the Government act immediately to arrest the illegal Smith Cabinet, release all political prisoners and detainees, and implement a democratic constitution based on One Man One Vote, for the independence of Zimbabwe.**

**Smith's act is a declaration of war on Africa. We call on all leaders and peoples of Africa to stand firm behind the oppressed masses of Zimbabwe to overthrow the racist minority dictatorship at this crucial turning point for African unity and independence.**

**Kick this Smith gang out!**

**Long Live Free, Independent and Democratic Zimbabwe!**

**Long Live Freedom for Southern Africa!**