

In the name of the people of Zimbabwe, in the name of the Zimbabwe African Peoples' Union (ZAPU) all its leaders, Mr. Joshua Nkomo and his colleagues in the Central Committee of the ZAPU, who are today languishing in settler Ian Smith's prisons and concentration camps, I greet the people of India and extend to them the deepest appreciation of the people of Zimbabwe.

THIS Solidarity Conference, which has been organised by the Indian Association for Afro-Asian Solidarity, to which my organisation has been invited to participate, marks yet another victory for the Afro-Asians, and all progressive and peace-loving peoples of the world, over the imperialist, colonialist and neo-colonialist forces who have plundered and are still plundering—committing cold-blooded murders and enforcing brutal and oppressive laws—to deprive the indigenous people all over the world not only of their land but of liberty and human dignity.

It happens to be coming from one of those countries where rights of man have been trampled underfoot, where dignity of a human being even after death, is disregarded. It is the hell that is called Rhodesia.

Before I relate the sad episode of Rhodesia, I would like to say this:

The people of Zimbabwe salute the people and the Government of India for the principled stand they took against the Rhodesian fascist regime, even before many other people the world over had detected the conspiracy that was before the British Government and her kith and kin—the settlers.

The Indian Government, took steps and broke-off all diplomatic ties with a regime that had proved to be nothing but fascist. We owe the people and the Government of India a pyramid of thanks.

You are aware, dear Friends, that on November 11, a die-hard fascist, Ian Smith and his settler followers declared our country, Zimbabwe, "independent" without the consent of the indigenous people—the four million Africans, the rightful owners of the country. This came at a time when Smith had made the preparations for such a seizure of our country.

In preparation for this illegal and immoral act, he had locked in all the leaders of the African nationalist liberation movement, including our national leader, Mr. Joshua Nkomo, whose health is reported to have seriously deteriorated.

The unilateral declaration of independence came at a time when torture, murder and terrorism against the Africans was the order of the day in Zimbabwe. This is a situation that was witnessed by the British Prime Minister, Harold Wilson, when he flew to Salisbury for talks, which have now led our country to the present crisis.

Wilson actually saw hundreds of Africans being torn to pieces by police dogs and heard the sounds of the showering of bullets where tens of our people died in cold blood. But unfortunately for him—a man who travelled to Rhodesia with pre-conceived ideas—the situation was "normal".

And after successive meetings where conspiracies were hatched between the two, Harold Wilson joyfully led his men and departed for London—he had handed over to

Zimbabwe: Heroic Fight Against Smith Regime

Ian Smith the tools of "independence"!

Therefore, to the people of Zimbabwe, it was clear that Harold Wilson had sold them to the settlers, and hence the UDI that followed came as no surprise to those oppressed millions.

Till today, a little over a month since UDI was declared in our country, quite a number of things which have not been revealed to the outside world have occurred. The reasons why the outside world has been kept ignorant of what is really happening in Zimbabwe is that the settler regime has imposed very stringent laws which make it practically impossible for foreign correspondents to transmit news to world capitals without such news being censored by the Government.

The actual state of affairs is that the Ian Smith regime has now embarked upon the inhuman practices of the era of Hitler Germany.

There are secret common graves for Africans in the



vicinities of all urban areas and it has been established that about four people shot dead in Bulawayo, our second capital, during the uprising, were not taken to the mortuary but were disposed of at a big hole near the army barracks on the eastern side of the city. No

African soldier or policeman lives on our side, our activities was allowed to witness this grim ceremony.

Information reaching our HQ and the Republic of Zambia that borders our country, is that a week after UDI, six more bodies were brought to this place for burial from the southern part of our country where people had risen to challenge the regime.

This ties very well with the fact that Ian Smith personally flew to this area, under police guard, to tell the so-called African Chiefs that if the people did not cooperate with them, the police and soldiers would shoot without warning.

Some African soldiers, most of whom were disarmed and quarantined after refusing to serve under the illegal dictatorship, maintain that the grave is an old quarry mine. Other graves of a similar nature are dotted all over the country.

As it is known, the country is under a state of emergency which in fact was declared even before UDI, the Rhodesian army and police had been given orders to shoot at any African they might suspect to be working against the regime.

Hence, in all the eight provinces of the country there have been these unrecorded deaths. In the eastern districts alone, bordering fascist Mozambique more than fifty families have lost their houses as a result of refusing to co-operate with the regime. During these operations many have lost their beloved ones—men, women and children.

But despite all this, the people of Zimbabwe have refused to be intimidated. Even with thousands of Portuguese troops that have been deployed along the Mozambique—Rhodesia border, the courageous villagers in these areas continue to defy a regime that was imposed without their will.

It is for this reason that the Rhodesian fascists in conjunction with the Portuguese and South African fascist armies have stepped up their activities against the unbreakable will of our militants.

In the cities of Zimbabwe, our militants have also stepped up their activities in the form of sabotage. Many factories are at stand-still as a result of these activities and quite a number of buildings in the city centres remain guarded, because there have been numerous bomb explosions that have kept the settlers in a state of panic.

We may also bravely say that in spite of the loss of

have also dealt the enemy heavy blows in defence of the rights of their people, by killing members of the police forces, the army and the security men. This has happened in various parts of the country.

It must be noted that the situation in Southern Rhodesia became more serious in the year 1964 when 47,000 political cases were heard in the courts of law. Of these 90% were convicted and sentenced to various terms of imprisonment, ranging from five to twenty years, and some sentenced to death. Up-to-date the number of Africans condemned to death is 27.

With the additional arrests which were made during the state of emergency a week before UDI, the concentration camps today carry over 13,000 of people detained without trial.

The people of Zimbabwe, fail to understand how the economic sanctions can bring down to its knees the Ian Smith regime which has the full backing of the British Government. Because British investments in Rhodesia today, are estimated at over 170 million pounds sterling. Can Britain really set sanctions against herself? We believe not.

In conclusion, in dealing with the Zimbabwe situation I would like to assure you and all our friends assembled here, in the name of our patriots who have sacrificed their lives for our country and those that are languishing in prisons, detention and concentration camps, that the people of Zimbabwe have vowed never to rest until Zimbabwe is free.

We of ZAPU would like to reiterate our stand that our people, our militants and their leaders shall recognise no price too high nor sacrifice too great for the sake of that which is ours—our country, Zimbabwe.

In conclusion we greet and thank the people and the great leaders of this country. We pay homage to the late Premier Jawaharlal Nehru whose spirit still leads and guides the people of this Republic. We greet our great leader and friend whom we had the opportunity of seeing during his visit to our continent, Premier Lal Bahadur Shastri.

Long live the solidarity between the people of Asia, Africa and Latin America.

Long live solidarity between the people of India and the people of Zimbabwe.

Long live world peace.

(From Stephen Nkomo's speech at Kanpur)

INDIA WILL STAND WITH ZIMBABWE

WHITE RACIALISTS, QUIT ZIMBABWE! LONG LIVE ZIMBABWE FREEDOM MOVEMENT!

THESE were the slogans that echoed in the vast conference pandal as Stephen Nkomo, representative of the Zimbabwe African Peoples' Union ended his moving report on the present situation in his country.

The fifth national conference of the Indian Association of Afro-Asian Solidarity took up the question of Rhodesia as one of the central issues on its agenda.

The conference decided to set up a Zimbabwe Solidarity Committee as a special campaign committee of the Association to launch a nationwide movement to demonstrate the Indian people's feelings in support of the fighting people of Zimbabwe and to condemn the British government which "though opposing in words the illegal seizure of power yet refuses either to use force or even to impose really effective economic sanctions to bring the Smith regime to its heels".

While appreciating the Government of India's declaration of supporting the Zimbabwe people's struggle for independence and of giving recognition should any provisional government in exile be formed by the nationalist forces, the conference urged the Government of India to take all necessary steps in support

of the actions taken by the Organisation of African Unity and by several African states to tell the British government in no uncertain terms that this country will join the African states in breaking off diplomatic relations with Britain and in quitting the Commonwealth if the present British policy of conniving at the racialist regime is not ended immediately.

The conference sent its warmest greetings to the fighting people of Zimbabwe and the thousands of patriots and people's leaders especially their national leader Joshua Nkomo now incarcerated in detention centres and concentration camps and pledged to mobilise all possible support in India in solidarity with the freedom struggle in Zimbabwe.

The conference gave a call for the collection of funds, medicines and other material aid for the people of Zimbabwe from all over the country.

Romesh Chandra, Vice-President of the Association, reporting on the conference decisions at the public rally said that if the British Prime Minister Wilson came to India on the Republic Day, "we will organise black flag demonstrations against him". "India's doors must be closed to him", he said.