

U.S. nod sought by Rhodesia

United Press International
WASHINGTON — Prime Minister Ian Smith of Rhodesia said Tuesday he will pursue his plan to bring black majority rule to the African nation despite its rejection by the United States and guerrilla forces.

Smith, in unofficial talks with Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, made no progress in trying to win American support for the transitional government plan which is supposed to lead to black majority rule by the end of the year.

Guerrilla forces and the United States have rejected Smith's transitional government. Vance wants all parties in the escalating war to join in a peace conference to seek an end to the civil strife.

Smith said Tuesday that his country would move forward with its internal settlement, even if the black guerrilla leadership did not accept it.

"If there is no settlement, you'll find us in 10 years going along the way we are now," Smith said. "By then, I'll be sitting quietly on my farm. If we don't get support we'll continue because we believe in majority government."

Smith and a fellow member of the executive council member, the Rev. Ndabangini Sithole, appeared on nationwide television, on ABC-TV's "Good Morning, America," and then spoke to reporters at a Washington breakfast arranged by Foreign Policy magazine.

The unofficial visit of Smith and Sithole to the United States coincided with the announcement in Rhodesia that the breakaway British colony is to abolish all laws involving

Helps prisoners Amnesty International forms at A&M

By BECKY DOBSON
Battalion Reporter

A chapter of Amnesty International, a group which works to free what it calls "prisoners of conscience," has been recognized by Texas A&M University.

It was organized on campus last April, but gained recognition by the University Sept. 18, according to one of the co-chairmen of the local chapter, Leonard Seelig.

Today, in more than 100 countries, over half a million prisoners are punished solely for their race, religion or ideas, according to information released by AI. These "prisoners of conscience," as they are called by the group, are isolated from family and friends, locked away in jails or concentration camps, or declared insane and consigned to mental institutions.

"This organization is not connected with the draft dodgers of the Vietnam era," Seelig said. He said many people associate the group with the draft dodgers during the Vietnam war because of their name. The local group is part of a worldwide movement with headquarters in London. It puts pressure on governments to practice fair treatment in the arrest and imprisonment of their citizens.

Seelig said the object of the organization is to secure throughout the world the observance of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights written by the United Nations. Virtually all of the countries that AI deals with have signed the document, Seelig said. Each chapter of AI is assigned up to three prisoners, says Becky Rivera, coordinatory of the Texas A&M group. She said in order for prisoners to qualify for AI assistance, they cannot have a record of violence and must be from a country different from the AI chapter appealing on their behalf.

Seelig said AI is not political in any way and does not support the actual viewpoints of the prisoners they try to help.

"AI does not work for prisoners whose views are politically violent," Seelig said. "Amnesty only gives the cases out when they are 100 percent sure there is no violence involved."

The local chapter has been assigned two prisoners, each in a foreign country.

Seelig said one of the prisoners is from Taiwan. Nina Huang was a college student when she was arrested in July of 1976. No formal charge was ever brought against her. The length of her sentence has not been given. Seelig says no one has been able to contact her since her arrest.

Alajandro Martinez is the other prisoner of conscience the local AI chapter is investigating. Martinez is a 40-year-old from El Salvador. He organized a trade union at the sugar mill where he worked. In 1977 he was arrested while participating in a strike at the mill. Martinez has never been formally charged with anything, Seelig said, and the length of his sentence is unknown.

Rivera said members of the local AI chapter will study the constitutions of both prisoners' governments, and will try to secure more information on the prisoners. Then members will write letters individually to the governments to say that these citizens are not being dealt with as their own laws dictate.

"Amnesty pressures the government by effectively bringing human rights violations to the attention of the public," said co-chairman Elia Tasca.

AI received the Nobel Peace prize in 1977.

Tasca said the point of the AI chapter's recognition on campus is to draw concerned students, but membership is also open to non-students.

"We want this to be an organization encompassing all members of community," Tasca said.

race discrimination. Smith said that American officials did not know of the change when he and Vance talked Monday.

Smith repeatedly told his American audiences that he and his transitional government have fulfilled their part of the bargain made by the United States and Great Britain. He said they insisted that he move toward one-man, one-vote black majority rule in order to be reaccepted into the family of nations.

"What more do they want?" Smith said. "I've done my part and I was told I'd be accepted. We are now waiting for them to do their part."

Smith said he would like to take his case to the White House but no meeting was announced. State Department spokesman Hodding Carter said that Vance would be willing to meet the Rhodesians again.

Warnke to quit after SALT II

United Press International
WASHINGTON — Chief U.S. arms negotiator Paul Warnke said Tuesday he will resign from the administration sometime after the U.S.-Soviet strategic arms talks in Moscow Oct. 22-23.

Warnke, the target of hard-line conservative criticism in Congress, said he planned to return to his Washington law firm headed by former Defense Secretary Clark Clifford. Warnke said no "target date" for his resignation had been set.

"But it will be after the Moscow trip," he said.

The White House is expected to announce the resignation soon.

Warnke, 58, made the disclosure to UPI as he entered a meeting of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee to brief the panel on the strategic arms negotiations. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance is expected to wind up final details of those talks during his forthcoming Moscow trip and announce a U.S.-Soviet summit conference at its conclusion.

Warnke has been the subject of continuing attacks by Senate hard-

liners who believe he is too anxious for a SALT II agreement. His difficulties with congressional conservatives go back to his nomination.

He was confirmed by the Senate by a vote of 58-40, a margin conservatives felt was a clear signal of major reservations about his abilities as a negotiator.

Warnke, in private conversations, however, has said the Senate vote never interfered with his negotiations.

A published magazine article he wrote prior to his nomination irked conservatives who said he was calling for unilateral U.S. action to halt the arms race in the hopes the Russians would follow suit.

Warnke's return to law practice is likely to be seen as a gesture by the administration to assuage conservatives prior to the push for Senate ratification of the SALT II accords.

But officials at the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, which Warnke heads, deny this is the case. They say it has been known for some time that Warnke wanted to return to private life.



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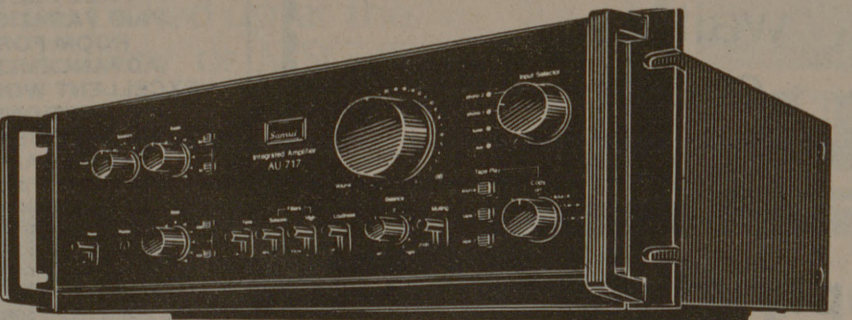
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