

AHG/St.1 (XXXVI)

STATEMENT ON ZIMBABWE

We, the Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, meeting at the Thirty-sixth Ordinary Session of our Assembly in Lome, Togo, from 10 – 12 July, 2000, received a report on a Bill recently adopted by the Senate of the United States of America, titled "Zimbabwe Democracy Act" 2000,

The Bill, inter-alia, prohibits assistance or debt relief from being extended by the USA to Zimbabwe. It also opposes any assistance to Zimbabwe by international financial institutions where the USA is a member. Furthermore, it prescribes the reform of land ownership Zimbabwe should adopt. It authorizes the USA President to support opponents of the Government of Zimbabwe including financing propaganda activities targeting Zimbabwe,

We, the Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity are dismayed by this report which amounts to interference in the internal affairs of a Member State by a foreign power. We direct the OAU Secretariat and our Ambassadors in Washington to make representations to the American Congress with the objective of dissuading the legislators from proceeding with passing this bill into law.

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