The US government and the South African embassy in Washington are being very tight-lipped about Danie Opperman. The enclosed story in yesterday's WASHINGTON POST appears to be all that is publicly known at the moment about Pretoria's recently departed head BOSsmann in the USA and why he left. It could be - as the WP story mentions - that a US diplomat was kicked out of South Africa, and that the Opperman affair is the customary tit-for-tat. If so, we don't know of an American official being expelled from down there. Or, maybe Opperman trod too hard on some high-ranking toes in this country; those Afrikaner officials can be untowardly arrogant and stupid. Perhaps he was into some heavy action which if carried out would have been embarrassing to the Reagan administration. It would have had to be something big for this wrinkle in the cloth of 'constructive engagement'. Opperman quite likely was planning something in the nature of the London operations, of which there is abundant evidence attached hereto. One thing we can be sure of: intelligence ties between the Pretoria people and their US counterparts have in no way been severed. Opperman's successor is surely in place in Washington.

In contrast to the secretiveness in the USA, South African espionage and hit operations in Britain are getting if not a complete still a good airing. We enclose a number of reports from the major London newspapers following a court appearance last Friday at the Old Bailey of three men working for Pretoria in and around the British capital. Two men pleaded guilty, the other not guilty. More disclosures should come during his trial probably in March, 1983. Note that the affair of the three hired hands was in charge of Scotland Yard's Anti-Terrorist Squad, yet the men were only indicted with conspiracy to burgle. British officialdom is particularly close-mouthed on that.

Not mentioned in THE WASHINGTON POST story is the fact that Danie Opperman's like number at South Africa House on Trafalgar Square, First Secretary B. M. van der Klashorst, departed London suddenly at the end of September as revelations of the break-ins and attacks on SWAPO, ANC and PAC offices were coming thick and fast into public attention.

The hideous true nature of the people who rule South Africa is again underscored in the press reports in today's papers. The ghoulish insinuation of guilt on the part of another detainee held in detention at the time of Dr Neil Aggett's death is perverted beyond words. It should be clear even to the Reagan administration's apologists of 'constructive engagement' that they are allied with unredeemable monsters.

In this packet are press accounts of the actions of friends in Houston against the intrusion of South African Airways into that Texas and American heartland city. Pan Am is providing facilities and services to SAA. The Houston activists ask protests. Those of you in the USA should write:

Edward Acker, President
Pan Am
Pan Am Building
New York, NY 10165

Those of you not in the USA can express your feelings to local offices of Pan Am.

Both houses of the legislature of the State of Michigan have passed a bill which would cause funds of state educational institutions to be withdrawn from corporations of companies in South Africa. The bill - House no. 4553 - was approved by the lower chamber 75 to 25; by the upper house 20 to 13. Some Michigan cities - Grand Rapids and East Lansing, for instance - have enacted ordinances at the municipal level. The divestment issue is rapidly spreading around the country; momentum is well established. The governor of Michigan has until 31 December to sign the bill into law, or to veto it, or to do nothing, thereby effectively killing it. He is being intensely lobbied - by Ford Motor Company among others. (Ford is well established in South Africa). The South African consul general from Chicago is devoting enormous efforts to kill the hard-fought-for Michigan legislation. We should all write the governor even though most of us are out of state. Tell him what you think of Pretoria and what you think his approval would signify.

Governor William G. Milliken
State Capitol Building
Lansing, MI 48909
This is a listing of events proven and suspicious involving anti-apartheid activists in the USA. It is of course only a partial recounting. We ask all who have experienced similar happenings to send ECSA a full description of them.

Richard Lapchick is a long-time anti-apartheid activist. For as long as he has been subject to attack and harassment. In 1978, while teaching at a Virginia college, he was assaulted late one night in his office, suffered a hernia, liver and kidney damage, a concussion and had the word 'Niger' carved on his stomach with a pair of scissors by the thugs who broke in on him. A South African Ministry of Information official claimed 'the destruction of Richard Lapchick' was a 'victory for South Africa'. Lapchicks activity centered on effecting a boycott of South Africa in the realm of sports. The Lapchicks' eldest child had to undergo a period of psychiatric treatment as a result of this attack on his father.

During 1981, Lapchick was a leading figure in organizing US opposition to the visit of the South African Springbok rugby team. South African press attention focussed on him. Within two weeks the Lapchicks' apartment was broken into and ransacked though cash, jewelry and a camera were untouched. Ms Lapchick set out in the family car - just out of shop, newly purchased - stopped dead a few miles up the New York Thruway. Its engine was destroyed: there was not a drop of oil in the tank. The garage mechanic had filled it up the night before. Several days later, Ms Lapchick took the children to purchase school supplies. She noticed the hood of their old car had been tampered with. The police said 'many cars in New York are broken into'. Three days later, Lapchick answered his phone at his office at the UN. A voice said: 'Did you get the message yet?' - and hung up.

A South African in exile in the USA who is active in the divestment campaign is under surveillance. On a visit to Washington last summer he was tailed in our nation's capital by agents or employees of the South African embassy. He stayed overnight with friends in a suburb and next morning was driven downtown. A small blue automobile parked across the street followed. In the center of the city as his friend pulled over to a curb, the little blue car rushed a changing light and eased in behind. As the activist got out he noticed two men - one black, one white - in the blue auto. The latter said: 'Have a good trip.' Inquiry turned up the information that the little blue car was registered to someone at the South African embassy.

The Lutheran Church in America's biennial synod in Louisville in September passed a resolution instructing its executive council to exercise the option of divestment of securities in corporations invested in South Africa and to press corporations invested in South Africa to pull out. Pastor John Evenson, director of interpretation of LCA's mission arm and the producer of the documentary film about the Namibian struggle, 'A Cry For Freedom', returned from Louisville late on 11 September. At 6 am the following morning he and his wife and their little son were awakened by pounding on the door of their New York home. It was the police who said they had received a phone call saying someone was hurt at that address. A couple of evenings later at 10 pm the Evensons were again disturbed by pounding on the door. Four police cars. of officers, pistols at the ready, said there had been another call from an anonymous party stating someone had been shot at that house.

Ms Lucia Hamutenya, once SWAPO secretary for legal affairs inside Namibia during which time she uncovered and documented incidents of torture of her fellow countrypeople by South African security forces, is now in exile in the USA and working at the UN. In September one evening she found stretched along the base of the door to her room in a midtown Manhattan apartment hotel a towel reeking of some chemical; the towel was not simply dropped - it had been carefully lined across the crack of the door. In the previous month, a report appeared in THE WINDHOEK ADVERTISER that rumors in the Namibian capital stated that Lucia Hamutenya had secretly returned home.

Washington Office on Africa director Jean Sindab received a phone call on 18 August from a telephone operator somewhere in Virginia saying a man calling himself Ben Gurirab wanted to place an overseas call to Nigeria and charge it to WOA. Ms Sindab demanded to talk to the man and immediately ascertained it was not SWAPO's representative at the UN and in the USA Theo Ben Gurirab. The strange man hung up at once. The trick was tried again a week later.

Jerry Herman, Southern Africa co-ordinator of the American Friends Service Committee in Philadelphia, a long-time advocate of freedom in Southern Africa, who has tirelessly travelled countrywide to rally Americans to oppose apartheid, has for a year experienced odd phone calls at his office, more frequently at his home. The phone rings - the line is open.