

## Proposal for a Regional Coalition to

"END ALL U. S. SUPPORT FOR SOUTH AFRICA"

"END RACIST ATTACKS IN THE DELAWARE VALLEY"

### I. The Significance of Southern Africa

In the last year, southern Africa has greatly increased in importance as a battleground between imperialism and national liberation. National liberation forces have shown that they can defeat the colonial powers militarily and politically when they are committed to building a new, democratic society, uniting and relying upon all the people, not just a small elite. In Angola and Mozambique, which have won independence, the struggle continues to educate people in newly liberated areas, and to develop their economies in the face of boycott and harassment by some Western countries, including the U.S., and by giant corporations.

Despite their own difficulties, these countries continue to aid and support the liberation fighters of Namibia and Zimbabwe, because they understand that freedom throughout the continent is essential to their own success. The advances of the past few years are rapidly bringing the armed struggle toward the central fortress of racism and oppression in Africa, South Africa itself. Within South Africa, despite violent repression, resistance is growing. The U.S. and other Western allies of South Africa have had the international limelight turned on their support for the racist regime and its colonies of Rhodesia and Namibia, since that support has become more substantial as those regimes grow more desperate.

In addition to actively supporting the racist regimes, the government and giant corporations have, through their control of the major media, made propaganda about Southern Africa a major feature of the news on an almost daily basis. The distortions and misrepresentations of conditions in southern Africa, and of the politics of the liberation movements are aimed at indoctrinating an uninformed public, especially white people, with racist ideas and Cold War fears.

### II. Past Mobilization in Support of African Liberation

Despite the impression created by the news, large numbers of people have demonstrated in support of liberation and against the activities of the U. S. government and multinational corporations. Here in Philadelphia, a very successful march of 300 people demanded "US/CIA Out of Angola" and "Support the MPLA", on Feb. 7th, under the banner of the Philadelphia Coalition for Justice in Angola. Many other cities also had large demonstrations, and in Chicago, New York, and San Francisco, large demonstrations were held in support of the Soweto uprising and denouncing the Kissinger-Vorster talks. Many local and some national organizations have been formed or strengthened in this work in the last year. People of many different backgrounds have been involved. Black community groups and political organizations, Black and white college students, anti-war groups, liberal churches such as the Quakers, and progressive local clergy of all denominations, leftist political organizations, and trade unionists have all made important contributions to this movement.

But clearly, we need to do more. To date there has been a serious problem of paternalism and racism on the part of white supporters of southern African liberation, which has led to parallel work by Black and white supporters of the struggle, and held back the overall progress of the movement, by reducing its ability to mobilize the greatest number of working people, Black and white. It has also made it more difficult to link the day to day

problems of working people in this country to the struggle in South Africa. This practice and division must be overcome if we are going to be able to move forward.

We need to come together, locally and nationally, around points we can all support. The Philadelphia Coalition to Stop Rhodesian and South African Imports is therefore proposing these two -- "End All U.S. Support for South Africa" and "End Racist Attacks at Home", as the starting point for a new regional coalition, which we hope can eventually link with coalitions in other cities to form a genuine national movement.

### III. Goals and Program

Our goals in this activity are to expose the American people, through effective and well-organized education, to the real conditions in southern Africa, and the U.S.' role there;

To mobilize these people, especially to demonstrate against the presidential candidates, wherever they appear, to demand that the U.S. change its role in southern Africa;

To link, by concrete action, the southern African liberation struggle with racism in this country and to show the common cause of both forms of oppression.

To force, in the heightened political activity of an election year, consideration and understanding of our views by greater numbers of people than ever before

To unite the divergent forces who have worked over the years on different aspects of the liberation support movement.

We want to show that in this period of economic crisis, both the increased support for South Africa and the encouragement of racism at home are attacks on all working people and are designed to benefit the giant multinational corporations which exploit people here and abroad.

For example: Tremendous spending on foreign aid and military defense spending to support South Africa among others uses the tax money of white and Black workers to protect the investments of corporations which are practicing discrimination, lay-offs, and wage-cuts here in the U.S. We need that money to build schools and hospitals for us.

For example: runaway shops threaten the living standards and job security of all American workers. South Africa remains a haven for runaway shops because of its extreme racist oppression of the African majority, which in turn is impossible without the military and economic support of the U.S. and its corporations.

For example: The encouragement of racism here, of groups like ROAR in Boston, the Nazis in Marquette Park, Chicago, combined with the restoration of the death penalty as a weapon of terror against innocent youths like Gary Tyler encourages competition among Black and white working people, and fighting among ourselves, rather than uniting to demand the jobs and social services we all need, let alone supporting the struggles of oppressed peoples in other countries.

Locally, in the struggle against racism, the Coalition should be active in demanding an end to racist attacks and justice for victims like Michael Sherrard and the three-year-old who was murdered in South Philadelphia; it should speak out against a school board which refuses to take any measures to guarantee quality education to Black students; against the closing of PGH. These questions are not side issue to the fight against apartheid South Africa; rather, they are the keys to moving Black and white working class Americans to see those problems as their own.

Some of the specific activities of this Coalition could be ,

1) Development of a poster and short pamphlet to be used and distributed throughout the city.

2) Conduct local educationals leading up to city-wide programs on specific dates. These might include activities on Sept 24-5 the anniversaries of the independence of Guinea-Bissau and the beginning of the armed struggle in Mozambique. September 25 is the date chosen by Robert Van Lierop, producer of A Luta Continua, for the national premieres of his new film about the continuing revolution in Mozambique, O Povo Organizado (The People Organized). Perhaps we could build toward a forum of liberation movement representatives in October, and if there is progress nationally, to a national demonstration just before the election.

3) Be prepared throughout by means of a phone tree to demonstrate against the candidates or their representatives.

4) Make a slide show to be used in local work, or perhaps develop it along with other groups in different cities to be used nationally.

5) Build on and make stronger our contacts with local media.

In conclusion, we invite your comments, criticisms, and prompt reply-- we must convene a meeting in August if we are to move before the elections. For greater unity in the struggle against racism and for the complete liberation of southern Africa,

Philadelphia Coalition to Stop Rhodesian  
and South African Imports

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