FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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A group of clergy representing the major religious denominations in the City of New York will meet to announce plans for a day of religious remembrance of the Sharpeville Massacre which occurred 22 years ago in South Africa. Those killed were involved in a demonstration to end the hated "Pass Laws" enacted by the apartheid regime.

Southern Africa Sunday comes at a time when the church in South Africa has come under severe attack from the Botha regime. Four pastors were detained and tortured in late 1981 in the northern part of the country. A Lutheran layman Tshifhiwa Muofhe was also detained and soon thereafter died. The South African Council of Churches, and its general secretary Bishop Desmond Tutu, have been among the strongest critics of apartheid. This outspoken stand has won the Council of Churches the wrath of the government. In what many fear is preparation for a crackdown, a recent government commission of inquiry accused the Council of "open, strong, and oft-repeated support for the armed liberation struggle." The minister of police, Louis Le Grange has announced that there will soon be a major political trial.

Church leaders of New York are proclaiming March 21st as Southern Africa Sunday. They will not stand by quietly while the South African Government attempts to silence their sisters and brothers. Plans for the day will be announced by those assembled who will include many of the endorsers.

SOUTHERN AFRICA SUNDAY is endorsed by:

Mr. Willis Logan
Director of the Africa Office
National Council of Churches

Rev. Carl Flemister
Executive Minister
American Baptist Churches
of Metropolitan New York

Rev. Dr. Robert L. Polk
Executive Director
Council of Churches of the City of New York

Rev. Robert Davidson
Moderator
United Presbyterian Church USA
The press conference will take place on March 1, 1982 at 11:00 am at the offices of the American Baptist Churches of Metropolitan New York, 225 Park Avenue South, 5th floor, between 18 and 19 Street.