NATIONAL WEEKS OF ANTI-APARTHEID ACTION (March 21-April 6, 1987)

SATURDAY MARCH 21: NATIONAL DAY OF EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS ON SANCTIONS AND U.S. POLICY IN SOUTHERN AFRICA
On Anniversary of the 1960 Sharpeville Massacre

* As part of a long-term campaign for sanctions against South Africa, it is vital to educate our communities about the role of U.S. policy in southern Africa. In kicking off the Weeks of Action hold day-long educational programs that deal with the need for comprehensive sanctions against South Africa and their relation to a progressive U.S. policy in the region.

* In the process of organizing such programs (teach-ins) it will be vital to involve both community and student groups.

* Hold a press conference on the morning of March 21 to announce both the educational program and other activities planned during the Weeks of Action.

* Invite your Congressional Representative and Senators to participate in such an educational program. Depending on their outlook this will be important in pressing them to define their positions on sanctions and U.S. regional policy.

* As part of the educational program set aside time for letter writing in support of Congressional initiatives for comprehensive sanctions, a ban on aid to UNITA, and assistance to the front-line states.

* On an ongoing basis set up tables and organize write-ins and call-ins to the Washington offices of Representatives and Senators on sanctions.

**Congressional Switchboard (for all): 202-224-3121
**Write:  U.S. House of Representatives, Washington DC 20515 and
U.S. Senate, Washington DC 20510

POLITICAL FOCUSES FOR EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS AND ONGOING WORK

#1 There is a need to enact a bill for comprehensive economic sanctions against South Africa—the equivalent of Dellums' bill which passed the House of Representatives last year.

The unprecedented protests in South Africa and in this country made possible the override of Reagan's veto of limited economic sanctions in October 1986. While this was an important blow to the policy of "constructive engagement", the resulting bill leaves untouched existing U.S. investment and will affect less than 18% of U.S./South African trade.

In light of growing repression in South Africa it is vital to pass measures that have a real impact on the apartheid regime. Unfortunately, many members of Congress feel that they have done enough on South Africa, and in the absence of pressure are unlikely to go farther.

It is thus vital that we build widespread grass-roots awareness of the need for effective sanctions against South Africa. Through educational work we can establish the basis for the lobbying and protest necessary to get Congressional legislation mandating full corporate disinvestment from South Africa within 6 months and a comprehensive trade ban (Dellums' bill provisions).
#2 Ban all U.S. aid to UNITA, the contras of Angola:

Since 1975 South Africa has waged a war of destabilization against Angola through direct invasions and by arming and directing UNITA—"contra" surrogates headed by Jonas Savimbi. Since last year the Reagan Administration has joined in the South African war effort by providing millions in covert aid to UNITA—including advanced anti-aircraft stinger missiles.

Unequivocal measures are needed to halt the deepening U.S. involvement in South Africa's regional wars. Urge your Congressional Representative and Senators to back reintroduction of provisions which forbid any U.S. overt or covert aid to factions in Angola.

#3 Support U.S. aid to the Frontline States which have sustained serious damage from South African attacks:

Since 1980 South Africa and its surrogate regional forces have caused over $10 billion in damage to the Frontline nations of Angola, Mozambique, Botswana, Zambia and Lesotho. This economic warfare has been designed to reinforce South African regional dominance by precluding alternate economic relations between and within the Frontline states. Moreover, South African organized warfare and economic sabotage threatens to engender massive starvation in Mozambique and Angola—with perhaps as many as 4 million people threatened.

In order to combat the short and long-term effects of South African destabilization the frontline states are in desperate need of financial and food aid. This year there will be a number of Congressional initiatives to provide such aid. While urging our Congressional Representative and Senators to support such measures, we must continue to educate our communities about the political context of any aid. In particular, it is essential to underline the inextricable linkage of aid to the Frontline states with a ban on U.S. assistance to UNITA and contemplated funding of the MNR—a similar South African "contra" force in Mozambique.

#4 Support the immediate independence of Namibia, and a U.S. policy which pressures South Africa to end its illegal occupation of that nation.

For decades South Africa has thwarted independence for Namibia through its illegal military occupation which now involves over 100,000 troops. This illegal occupation allows the continued exploitation of Namibian resources by U.S. and other foreign corporations contrary to international law. Rather than pressure South Africa to end its occupation, the U.S. government has delayed Namibian independence by linking it to the unrelated presence of Cuban troops in Angola—a presence necessitated by continual South African invasions.

In order to pave the way for Namibian independence, the U.S. government should abandon its policy of "linkage" to Cuban troop withdrawal from Angola. To help force South Africa to end its illegal occupation, the U.S. should also observe international law and ban the importation of all goods from Namibia while outlawing U.S. corporate investment there. On the grass-roots level, we must also build political and material support for SWAPO, the liberation movement of Namibia, and undercut right-wing red-baiting efforts.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE WEEKS OF ACTION AND U.S. POLICY IN SOUTHERN AFRICA:
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