As a part of the national campaign to end bank loans to South Africa, activists here in New York City are continuing to organize for two days of demonstrations and rallies in mid-June. The focus of these efforts is the second anniversary of the Soweto uprising, Friday, June 16, which has been termed an International Day of Action Against Apartheid by the UN and a host of organizations and individuals around the world. The Committee to Oppose Bank Loans to South Africa (COBLSA) is co-ordinating the activities which will include anti-bank loan demonstrations on that Friday and rallies on Saturday, June 17, in the two major NY black communities of Harlem and Bedford-Stuyvesant.

In the spirit of Soweto, Friday June 16 will be marked by major demonstrations around the city protesting American bank capital support for Apartheid South Africa. The focus of action will be on Manufacturers' Hanover Trust (MHT) which of all the largest NY lenders to S.A. seems the lease responsive to calls that it end its apartheid lending practices. MHT has participated in at least $400 million in loans to South Africa, most of which has gone to the government and its agencies. MHT Board Chairman, Gabriel Hauge, says that bank lending to the South African government, its agencies and instrumentalities is "currently an inactive front" without mentioning under what conditions such lending may again become active. In addition, he presents a false dichotomy between the South African public and "private" sector which covers up that the economy functions as a whole, in keeping with government guidelines, plans and goals. In explaining their "inactive" policy, Hauge says, "apartheid's impact on risk assessment is direct and growing."

This is a far cry from a policy statement against apartheid loans and also far removed from the expressed views of concerned persons around the country who call for condemnation of the oppression of the African majority by the white minority through apartheid and for an end of the use of the American peoples' monies to support that oppression.
Three major demonstrations are planned for June 16th at noon: one, at the MHT downtown HQ on Wall Street, one at the MHT branch office on 125th St. and 8th Ave. in Harlem, and one at the MHT branch office on Fulton St. and Bedford Ave. in Bed-Stuy. In addition, smaller pickets and demonstrations are being organized for other branches around the city.

On Saturday, June 17th, both Harlem and Bed-Stuy will be hosting rallies protesting American support for South Africa and emphasizing the ties between the struggles of black people in South Africa and the U.S. While planning continues for each of these efforts, they will likely consist of cultural-political presentations (songs, dance, theatre, film, etc.) and speeches by South Africans representing the people and liberation movements as well as black community speakers.

Presently, we have gained the support and endorsement of many local and national organizations that are aiding us in many valuable ways from mailings and phone calling to leaflet production and mobilization of their constituencies for the activities and more. A partial listing of supporters includes:

- African Liberation Support Committee - NYC
- African Peoples Party
- American Committee on Africa
- Black New York Action Committee
- Coalition for Responsible Investment
- Corporate Data Exchange
- East - Bklyn
- House of the Lord Pentecostal Church - Bklyn
- National Association of Black Veterans
- National Coalition to Overturn the Bakke Decision
- National Coalition to Support African Liberation
- National Lawyers Guild
- National Student Coalition Against Racism
- Patrice Lumumba Coalition
- South African Freedom Day Committee
- South African Freedom Committee
- Third World Veterans Collective
- Thrust Society - Baton Rouge
- Al Vann, N.Y. State Assemblyman - Bklyn
- Youth Against War and Fascism

For more information about events or to volunteer services, contact COBLSA - 838-5030