Greetings -

It's time for another $top B of A Banking on Apartheid meeting: Thursday, 25 August, 7 pm at 944 Market on the 4th floor. A lot of work has gone on since most of you attended so this gathering looks to be informative and stimulating--well worth coming out of vacation hibernations for...

To lead off, Prexy Nesbitt, Executive Associate for the American Committee on Africa and coordinator for the Committee to Oppose Bank Loans to South Africa, will tell us about the national campaign being waged (with particular focus on the successes in New York and Chicago). We'll then discuss the goals of our own B of A campaign and what work has been done up to this point. There will be representatives from different organizations to discuss their actions around the specific areas of our focus--South Africa, red lining, affirmative action, pension fund investments, State money and local deposits. We now have good indications of the Bank's concrete involvement in South Africa and these will be spelled out as much as possible.

The major part of the meeting should be around finalizing the demands associated with our areas of focus, the type of strategy we can initiate (including publicity, educational packets, etc.) and a realistic timeline on bringing the campaign "public". Particularly important will be the decisions reached around organizational structure, possible funding sources, and outreach activities.

As mentioned before, this campaign has the definite makings of influencing the policies and practices of large institutions and making them serve our interests instead of us theirs. Let's join together to $stop the B of A Banking on Apartheid--in South Africa as well as there--contribute your ideas, suggestions and energy!

In solidarity,

Miloanne Hecathorn for $top B of A Banking on Apartheid

P.S. The enclosed media announcement is only sent as a suggestion in case you're interested in talking with Prexy on a more informal basis without a tight time line. If so, 11-12 will be open discussion time.
EVENT: In honor of Namibia Day, August 26th, and the struggle being waged by the Namibian people, Paul Isaacs, Prexy Nesbitt and BA-NAG will discuss what is currently happening in Namibia (armed struggle, SWAPO political organizing, strikes, "constitutional talks", and South Africa's increasing repression). They will also deal with what is happening internationally, particularly with respect to U.S. intervention. Prexy will summarize what is taking place within North America in support of the liberation struggles in Namibia and South Africa, while Paul and BA-NAG will detail on-going local and State-wide support work. They will give a formal presentation for the first half hour and will then be available for questions and general discussion.

A photo and poetry exhibit on conditions within Namibia and South Africa and on the struggles being waged will be displayed. In-depth materials on Namibia and South Africa, including a synopsis of events over the last four months in Namibia, will be available.

PLACE: Y.W.C.A.
2134 Allston Way (just below the U.C. campus)
Berkeley

TIME: Thursday, August 25, 1977, 10 am to 12 pm

BACKGROUND OF PARTICIPANTS AND SPONSOR:

Paul Isaacs is a Namibian who came to the U.S. in 1975 under a scholarship from the Lutheran World Federation. He is currently studying for his M.A. in Religion and Society at the Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary in Berkeley. Paul is a member of SWAPO and a representative of the Church. He has been invited by many groups and organizations to speak with them about conditions within his country, U.S. involvement, and what U.S. citizens can do to support the Namibian liberation struggle. Consequently, he's made extensive contacts up and down the West Coast as well as across the U.S. Before coming to the U.S., he studied in both Namibia and South Africa and served as a pastor for two years to a congregation of 2,500 in Bethanie, near Keetmanshoop in southern Namibia. He will be finishing his studies in a year and plans to return to his country.

Prexy Nesbitt is a U.S. person currently serving as Executive Associate for the American Committee on Africa. His primary work is with the Committee to Oppose Bank Loans to South Africa, which is focusing on a nation-wide campaign to stop banks making loans to South Africa in any form. This campaign is receiving nation-wide attention. Before working for ACOA, he was based in Chicago where he helped form the African-American Solidarity Committee and the Committee for the Liberation of Angola, Mozambique and Guinea-Bissau (now known as the Chicago Committee for African Liberation). He spent a year as a union organizer for Service Employees International, was Dean of Students for a school of "incurables" in Chicago's West Side and did counseling with youth gangs. He helped form African Information Service in New York and co-edited Return to the Source, speeches of Amilcar Cabral. He has been to Africa six times where he worked a year for the Mozambique Liberation Secondary School, a year in Northern Kenya on famine relief, and spent two years studying African History at the College of Dar Es Salaam. He has also been to several conferences in southern Africa, including the Cunene Dam Conference on Namibia and
Angola (1972). He went to Havana in February 1976 to meet with the MPLA and convened the Angola Support Conference held in Chicago May 1976. He travels throughout the country speaking and working with various groups and organizations and is well acquainted with the actions and support work being done in North America.

The Bay Area Namibia Action Group is a collective formed 2½ years ago to support the liberation struggles in Namibia and South Africa through direct aid, education, research, and changing the social and economic structures within the U.S. which enable U.S. imperialist powers to survive and spread. We have done a considerable amount of speaking and film showings, have worked in the various local coalitions supporting southern Africa, and have formed a national network with various folks and organizations focusing on southern Africa. We have coordinated several speaking tours in northern California for liberation representatives, including Bill Anderson who exposed the atrocities being committed by South African troops in Namibia. We also have direct access to liberation movement representatives here and overseas. Our research files are fairly extensive, especially on Namibia and South Africa, and we receive clippings from several services, including the weekly bulletin from the U.N. Council for Namibia issued in conjunction with SWAPO. We are also focusing on two multinational corporations doing business in southern Africa—Bank of America and Del Monte (the largest multinational agribusiness—and their effects on our local economy.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Contact BA-NAG at 626-3131, or P.O. Box 6088, SF 94101.
MANIBIA AND MANIBIA DAY

Background

At the end of World War I, the former German colony of Southwest Africa (Namibia) was mandated by the League of Nations as a trust territory of South Africa. South Africa, rather than enhancing Namibia's progress towards independence, enforced its system of apartheid, occupied the Territory, and incorporated it as a virtual fifth province. In 1966 the World Court voted unanimously that South Africa's presence in Namibia was illegal and that complete withdrawal from the Territory must occur immediately. In 1967 the United Nations Council for Namibia was established by the U.N. General Assembly as the only legal authority to administer the Territory of Namibia until its independence and, in the meantime, to prepare it for such independence.

Instead of accepting the World Court's authority as well as the governing stature of the U.N. Council for Namibia, and the subsequent revisions and resolutions passed by the United Nations regarding South Africa's illegal occupation, South Africa continues its defiance. Today it applies a form of apartheid even more brutal than that witnessed in South Africa itself.

Namibia Day

In light of this repression and its clear threat to world peace, Namibia Day was established by the U.N. This day has special significance to all freedom-loving people since it is the day on which the Namibian people, 11 years ago, were forced to initiate their armed resistance against the illegal occupation by South Africa and its supporters. As a result of this, Namibia Day has become a day, recognized throughout the world, on which the outrages being committed against the Namibian people are condemned. It is also a day to commemorate their struggles to liberate themselves from the bondage of South African rule.

Present Conditions

The struggle is currently escalating as the South African government attempts to entrench itself within the country through such means as: formalization of the so-called "homelands" or "bantustans"; the creation of "security zones" where thousands of innocent people have been forced to move (primarily along the northern border with Angola); the wholesale detention, torture and murder of the regime's opponents; the imposition of the sham "Constitutional settlements" under the Turnhalle guise; and the training of "homeland armies" to protect South Africa's interests.

The South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO), which initiated and carries on the armed struggle, is recognized as the legitimate representative of the Namibian people by the United Nations, the Organization of African Unity, and countries throughout the world. It has put forward five demands which preclude its participation in any negotiated independence with the South African government. "There must be free elections, no arrests of political leaders, freedom of expression during the election campaign, all political detainees be released, and the South African troops must pull out of Namibia." These demands are supported by governments and organizations (including church, U.N. and international) in every part of the world.

The United States, as one of the five Western powers currently negotiating with the South African government on Namibia's independence, recognizes the critical importance of SWAPO. Yet we must ask whether the government is being realistic and sincere in such attempts when it is not trying to achieve the withdrawal of South African troops (50,000+) before the elections now being planned are held. No elections can ever be free when the country is invaded by a brutally occupying force. Likewise, the sincerity and intent of the U.S. government must be questioned when it refuses to accept Walvis
Bay as an integral part of Namibia. Walvis Bay, the primary seaport and processing area, is viewed as sovereign to Namibia by SWAPO, the United Nations, the Organization of African Unity, and most countries without vested interests. For any country to achieve its own self-determination, it must have control over basic economic and legal functions which the Bay represents. Yet the U.S. government allows such corporations as Del Monte Corporation to violate international law and the interests of all Namibians through its sardine trade. Thus SWAPO, supported by progressive forces, must continue to increase its open confrontations with the occupation regime while more moderate forces stall for time to allow the South African government to try to strengthen its control over the Namibian economy and people.

Paul, Prexy and BA-NAG will give a more in-depth presentation on these issues as well as share the latest news from the front at Thursday's gathering.