Dear Coalition friends,

This mailing contains background information explaining the Coalition's newest priority area, southern Africa. The Coalition supports "de-colonization, majority rule and authentic self-determination for southern Africa." In recent months the American press has given much attention to only one side of the developing conflict in southern Africa -- violence by the guerilla forces and the increasing fear in the white community.

Little or no attention is paid to the underlying causes, the viciousness and injustice of an apartheid system operating in South Africa, Namibia and Rhodesia which allows a life of power, privilege and plenty for whites, based on the exploitation of cheap African labor. The press ignores the long history of discriminatory and repressive legislation, boycotts, strikes and civil-disobedience campaigns initiated by Africans attempting to bring about change through moderate and peaceful means.

The material included will help you understand how much apartheid regimes are dependent on military, economic and technical services from the industrialized world to carry out their policy of white supremacy. Attracted by the vast mineral wealth of southern Africa and a vast supply of cheap black labor (legally forced to remain unorganized) billion of dollars have been invested in southern Africa by foreign corporations.

Recognizing the role that corporations play in stabilizing apartheid regimes, numerous organizations including the United Nations, Organization of African Unity (OAU), the African liberation movements and the World Council of Churches have called for disinvestment in southern Africa. Statements issued by the Congressional Black Caucus and the Democratic Platform committee repeat the call for "denial of tax advantages to all corporations doing business in South Africa and Rhodesia who support or participate in apartheid policies."

There is little evidence to indicate that Jimmy Carter will heed these recommendations. A pre-election interview with a South African business magazine suggests that he believes in the advantages of corporate investment as a method of applying economic leverage and achieving racial justice. However, his position is not realistic. The 1960's saw great expansion of investment in southern Africa, but little gain in real wages for black workers and no concessions granting political power.

In addition, heavy investment by U.S. corporations will influence the decisions of the Carter Administration and Congress. For example, the U.S. steel industry's pressure influenced the government's decision to import chrome from Rhodesia in violation of the economic sanctions imposed by the
United Nations in 1968. These sanctions were designed to pressure the illegal Rhodesian government and accomplish majority rule.

A change in U.S. foreign policy is urgently needed. The active input of all Coalition members is essential to produce the necessary pressure on Congress and the Carter Administration to bring about this change. In seeking to end U.S. support for apartheid rule, the Coalition will be focusing on the following legislative priorities in the coming months:

1. **REPEAL THE BYRD AMENDMENT:** Legislation has already been introduced in both Houses to repeal the Byrd Amendment which allows the U.S. to import chrome from Rhodesia in violation of economic sanctions imposed by the U.N. The Coalition will support the amendments introduced by Young (before moving to the U.N.) and Clark (D-IA) in the Senate. The Coalition also supports broadening the sanctions to prohibit trade with Rhodesia by South African subsidiaries of American corporations.

2. **APPLY HUMAN RIGHTS LEGISLATION TO SOUTH AFRICA:** The Coalition will attempt to apply the human rights legislation being used to ban U.S. aid to dictatorships to the atrocious violations of human rights in South Africa. At the present time, human rights legislation can only be used to end direct U.S. military and economic aid to dictators. Since South Africa receives economic aid through institutions like the Export-Import Bank and does not receive direct economic or military aid from the U.S., it will be necessary to attach human rights amendments to the rules governing U.S. participation in such institutions.

3. **DENY TAX CREDITS TO COMPANIES INVESTING IN SOUTH AFRICA AND NAMIBIA:** The denial of tax credits will discourage new investment and may force the withdrawal of some existing investments. Both the Congressional Black Caucus and the Democratic Platform favor this approach. It appears feasible to deny tax credits to U.S. corporations in Namibia since the U.S. has accepted the ruling of the International Court of Justice that South Africa's occupation of Namibia is illegal. Previous legislation to this effect was introduced by Senator Mondale in 1974. However, it will be more difficult to pass such legislation this year applying to South Africa.

Expect to receive further background on each of these issues during the coming months. At present, LEARN about apartheid, WRITE to your congresspersons expressing your genuine concern over the violations of human rights in southern Africa, CALL for a change in U.S. policy and urge them to support all upcoming legislation designed to end U.S. support for these governments.

Sincerely,

Coalition staff