

"One match in the hands of a fool is enough to set this country on fire. Make no mistake, the alternatives are chaos, conflict and revolution. There are some whites who are a greater threat to the survival of civilisation in South Africa than the tens of thousands of coloured people." (Sunday Express Aug. 1, 1982) This is a quote from the current prime minister of South Africa, Piet Wapen Botha. One always wonders when the leaders of apartheid make such outrageous statements, if they realise how much truth is revealed. Botha, in this instance, was talking about his proposed President's Council, in which a few "Coloured" and Indian politicians would participate in some token effort at integration. He was referring to the even more racist whites who are attempting to block his so-called "power-sharing solution."

For once, Piet Wapen is right. The alternative in South Africa is revolution. If the white minority government and the army continue to rule by brute force, it will continue to be a violent conflict. For the Black majority, there is the daily violence of apartheid and the continual fight "to bestow on South Africa a more human face." (Biko) There are indeed many whites who are an absolute threat to the survival of civilisation in South Africa, Piet Wapen included. All of those whites who continue to defend what apartheid has created, are a threat to future generations both Black and white.

Whatever cosmetic concessions the Botha regime is prepared to make, they will never be enough to meet the demands of Black people. While there might be talk of "integration" and "President's Councils," the army still rolls into Angola, prisoners continue to die in detention, political opponents are continuously harassed, striking workers are forceably subdued, and most importantly Black people continue to be denied voting rights and all basic human rights.

Amidst the continuous waves of violent repression, burns the flame which Piet Wapen warns about and fears so much. Generations of resistance have fought this three headed monster called apartheid, battling against racism, colonialism and fascism. Only its destruction, and the eventual freedom and dignity for all Black people will bring peace to the region. Despite the threat of death sentences, ANC guerrillas continue to attack the enemy on many fronts. Despite military invasions, Angolans and Namibians fight together for the freedom of that entire region from white military dictatorship. And in a smaller way, despite increased call-ups and heavier penalties for draft resistance, more and more young white men are refusing to fight in the army.

U.S. government support for apartheid continues and manifests itself in many ways. For instance, the Reagan administration issued an export licence in April for the sale of 2,500 high voltage shock batons to the South African police. These sophisticated cattle prods are similar to those used by U.S. police forces against Black people struggling for civil rights in the U.S. South during the '60's. The U.S. government evidently understood that these horrible weapons would be put to the same kind of use in South Africa. In an attempt to cover up this blatant act, a Commerce Department spokesperson referred to the export approval as an "honest mistake." It seems the number

of "honest mistakes" made over the years by the U.S. government in its support for apartheid is staggering. These "mistakes" reveal a totally dishonest and hypocritical U.S. policy in favor of white domination in South Africa.

Meanwhile the U.S. State Department refuses to pass judgment on the asylum application of Dominic Holzhaus, a South African war resister, who refuses to be a soldier for apartheid. For us, this is a further example of U.S. support for the South African military.

This newsletter is produced by whites who are opposed in every way to the architects of apartheid and their supporters internationally. We refute the words of Piet Wapen Botha, who recently said, "Deep in our hearts there is a little of the HNP in all of us." What a sick statement to make; it is like saying there is a little of the KKK or the Nazi Party in all of us. Botha can only speak for himself, the generals, and the other supporters of white racist rule. They have such a sick mentality that they are willing to put guns in the hands of every single white youth, demanding of them the will to kill and die in order to protect the "South African way of life," in which Botha believes the spirit of the HNP is so welcome.

We say never. Deep in our hearts, we long for a free South Africa and the death of apartheid. We, as whites, support the total liberation of South Africa and the active freedom struggle that has always been waged by the Black majority.

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#### ACTS OF SABOTAGE AGAINST FRONT LINE STATES

Three countries--Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Angola--have experienced significant direct attacks from South African military forces in the past two months. The Sunday Mail from the Zimbabwean capital of Harare carried a very significant article in its September 5th edition. The article quotes several dissatisfied soldiers of the South African Defense Force (SADF).

The background to the story is, of course, the SADF commando raid which was intercepted 20 miles inside Zimbabwe. On August 18th, the Zimbabwean government announced that its troops killed three SADF soldiers and claimed that an entire unit was taking part in a sabotage operation, part of an overall military destabilisation campaign. The military high command in Pretoria initially dismissed these charges, but then had to admit that the slain men, 3 white sergeants, were SADF officers leading what they termed "an unauthorised mission."

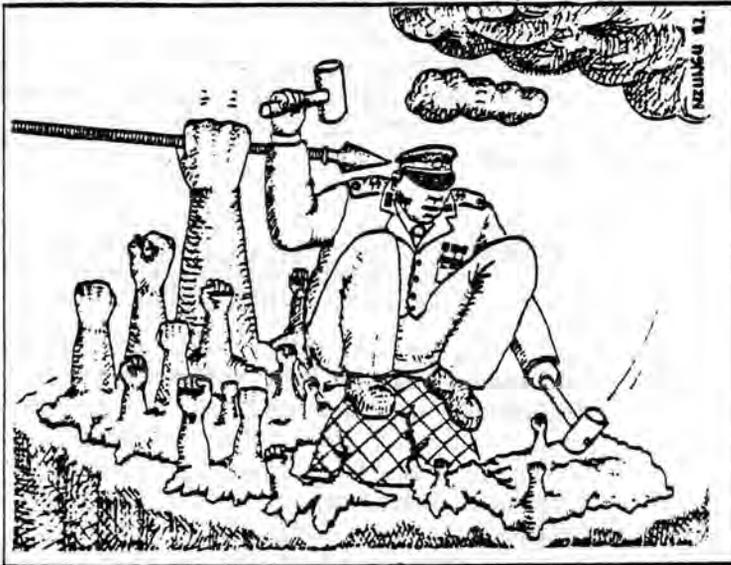
Now a number of SADF members are angry at the disavowal of their dead comrades. They have told journalists in South Africa that they are regularly deployed in raids on neighbouring independent nations. The South African soldiers speaking out are said to be former members of the Rhodesian

military. Some 5,000 to 6,000 white soldiers and some blacks left Zimbabwe and were actively recruited by the SADF when the Mugabe government came to power in independent Zimbabwe in April, 1980. The majority of the troops had been in the three main terror branches, the Selous Scouts, Special Air Services and the Rhodesian Light Infantry, all of which specialised in commando raids on villages and guerrilla bases in both Zimbabwe and Mozambique.

These veteran fighters for white supremacy are bitter because the SADF has maintained that the fateful final raid for the three white officers was unauthorised, thus depriving their families of insurance or survivor's pension benefits. "They were on an authorised mission and now they're being disowned," said one angry soldier. "We're being treated as cannon fodder."

South African reporters first developed this story, but when they asked the SADF for comment they were told that publication of the story in South Africa would constitute a punishable violation of strict national security laws. Consequently, the story was written in South Africa and published in Zimbabwe. The soldiers revealed that they had been used by South Africa on other clandestine commando raids. "We know the ropes," one said. "We operate in Zimbabwe because we obviously know the coun-

try well. We also go into Mozambique because we used to raid there during the war. But we're fed up with the SADF for turning around and dissociating themselves from the guys killed in Zimbabwe."



The disaffected soldiers are also quoted as saying that South Africa has established a special "destabilisation center" inside SADF headquarters in Pretoria, working to weaken the independent Black countries now surrounding the apartheid regime. This report further confirms what President Samora Machel has been saying about South African backing for the massive destabilisation operations which have been carried out in Mozambique. The soldiers admit taking part in operations such as re-supplying the rebel movement MNR with weapons, food and medical supplies.

In fact, South Africa has been thoroughly involved in building this "Mozambique National Resistance" for many years. The MNR was originally organised by the Rhodesian Central Intelligence Organisation, recruiting primarily among Mozambicans who had served in special forces of the colonial Portuguese army and the hated PIDE, the Portuguese secret police and terror squad. Financial backing was initially from wealthy Portuguese colonialists who had made their fortunes in Mozambique and had lost power and prestige under the independent FRELIMO government. By 1978, South African authorities had focussed on a leader of the MNR known as "Commander Andre" portraying him as a national hero. After his death in

1979, Afonso Dhlakama became the major black front-man for the MNR.

The South African/MNR relationship was exposed in detail after documents were captured from a military base of the MNR. The documents included minutes of meetings between Dhlakama and his South African advisor, Col. Charles van Niekerk of Military Intelligence. The main theme revealed by the minutes is that although the Rhodesians had used the loosely organised MNR troops for intelligence gathering on ZANU bases and other military targets, the South Africans pushed greater military organisation in order to sabotage strategic economic and transport facilities. The SADF has projected the MNR as more than "bandits" committing atrocities against civilians which is their primary function. The South Africans have instead seen the MNR as a true rival army capable of significant destabilisation operations.

The 9-nation Southern African Development Coordination Conference (SADCC), made up of independent Black states in the region, seeks to develop projects that are economically independent of South African control. They have emphasised the importance of transportation and communications projects. Together, SADF commandoes and MNR saboteurs have carried out major attacks on installations such as bridges, railroad links, oil pipelines, and electricity lines. South Africa, by disrupting these crucial supply lines, has been able to promote economic weakness and dependence. This is an important weapon in apartheid's arsenal, used as leverage against its political and military isolation in the region.

Another function of the MNR is to operate against ANC freedom fighters in Mozambique. In January, 1981, South African commandoes attacked an ANC house in Maputo, murdering 12 ANC members. Raids such as this could only occur with the assistance of rebel groups such as the MNR.

A similar strategy is at work in Angola where UNITA performs the destabilising role for South Africa. The blueprint is the same with continuous attacks against transport convoys and the mining of highways, thus insuring that food

supply is a constant problem. A large percentage of Angola's food comes from the central highland provinces. With war raging not far from this region, Angola's ability to provide food for its people is in serious jeopardy. UNITA is supplied, trained and supported by the SADF, and the two forces operate jointly in attacks on civilians as well as economic targets in southern Angola.

All three countries--Angola, Mozambique and Zimbabwe--are under the threat of increasing South African sabotage operations. Angola has been the primary target, bearing the brunt of massive military incursions on a regular basis. Presently, the Angolan press service is reporting a major build-up of approximately 30,000 South African troops along its border with occupied Namibia. Like Angola, Zimbabwe is warning that the three South African officers killed during the recent raid were leading a force sent in to prepare the way for an invasion. Increased terror actions by the MNR rebels and periodic cross-border raids by South African troops into Mozambique indicate the same threat on that front as well.

The South African military machine constantly reiterates certain themes which supposedly form the basis of its operations: 1) that it doesn't support or provide bases for terrorists to act against neighbouring states; 2) that it is not interested in territorial expansion; and 3) that it doesn't want to interfere in the domestic policies of other countries the way everyone else wants to interfere with the internal apartheid policies of South Africa. All of these themes can obviously be disproved; they are, in fact, total bullshit. Yet, they are important building



blocks in the ideological structure supporting the military machine among South Africa's white minority population. For those of us building a wedge of white resistance, there must be an understanding that for peace to dawn and bring stability to the region requires the total dismantling of all the structures of white South African domination whether it be in the independent nations or Namibia or South Africa itself.

#### IMPASSE ON NAMIBIA SETTLEMENT, SADF INVADES ANGOLA

Since the June 6th invasion of Lebanon, world attention has been focussed on the war being fought in the Middle East. The Israeli war machine blitzkrieged northward through Lebanon to Beirut using United States and NATO weaponry in a military action which horrified people throughout the world. The Israeli Defense Force clearly intended to destroy the Palestinian movement led by the PLO and to establish a friendly Lebanese government.

On June 11th the South African military began another large-scale invasion of Angola. In contrast to the highly publicised situation in Lebanon, the South African attack received absolutely no publicity. On August 10th Defense Force Headquarters in Pretoria announced that SWAPO guerrillas had shot down a Puma assault helicopter over Angola killing 15 South African soldiers. It was not until August 12th that they admitted these casualties were part of a 5,500 man invasion force. By that time the SADF had advanced 175 miles north of the Angola-Namibia border spearheaded by 300 armoured vehicles and mirage jet fighters. The news blackout was reminiscent of the 1975 Angolan invasion, although then the news was reported everywhere except South Africa.

There has been a great deal of publicity surrounding the progress in negotiations concerning the future of Namibia. The August 15th target date for a ceasefire in the 16-year war between SWAPO and South Africa passed with not so much as a pause in the fighting. Negotiations continued, but under the shadow of major military actions by the SADF. The timing of South Africa's latest

invasion of Angola has made it even less likely that a ceasefire and international settlement will occur in the foreseeable future. And, once again, it has been proven that the South Africans are not negotiating in good faith, but rather are buying time. Their preferred solution has been and still is some sort of internal election process which would exclude SWAPO, not a United Nations supervised election.

In light of the increased South African aggression against Angola and SWAPO bases in Angola, SWAPO has stated its position by declaring "this offensive is a clear demonstration that Pretoria is not yet ready to end its illegal and oppressive occupation of our country. Moreover, the so-called consultative talks which have been going on in New York have to date not moved beyond the state of public relations exercises. They remain, indeed, a diplomatic charade, orchestrated by the West to mislead world opinion that progress is being made toward a peaceful solution."

General Charles Lloyd, SADF commander of forces in Namibia, held a major news briefing on August 12th in Windhoek in which he acknowledged that an invasion of Angola was in progress. He sought to offset the damage to morale caused by the heavy South African casualties (44 dead according to Lloyd). He made wild claims about the success of the "hot pursuit" operations. He announced that SADF troops will remain in southern Angola until a Namibian ceasefire is arranged. This forces Angola to rely on Cuban troops for support, thus giving South Africa an excuse to continue both its occupation of Namibia and its war of destabilization against Angola. In fact, SADF specialist units such as the Recces and 32 Battalion, made up of mercenaries, have been continuously occupying parts of southern Angola since last year's major invasion codenamed "Operation Protea."

With South African troops remaining in a large section of Angola and threatening major cities such as Lubango, the Botha regime has effectively halted the Namibian negotiations. According to press information put out by the U.S. government, the only remaining obstacle to a settlement is the presence of Cuban troops in Angola.

Although "linkage" of a Cuban withdrawal to the Namibia settlement has been rejected by Angola, SWAPO and the Frontline States, the Angolan government has stated that Cuban troops would be withdrawn if there was no threat to Angolan sovereignty from South African invaders. This entire SADF operation obviously highlights South Africa's total disregard for Angola's sovereignty.

SWAPO reports that there are other serious issues still to be resolved prior to a Namibian settlement. The liberation movement would undoubtedly win a free and fair election. The peoples of Namibia and Angola deserve as much support as we can give from the United States, especially as the U.S. government increases its support to the apartheid government and military forces. Our work of building white military resistance will certainly continue, and we believe contribute to weakening and disarming the South African war machine.

#### OPPOSE APARTHEID AND ZIONISM

The University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg was the scene of a clash between Black students and white students on August 4th. The issue was the recent Israeli military invasion of Lebanon. Simultaneous lunchtime meetings were called by the Black Students' Society and the South African Union of Jewish Students. About 1,000 pro-Zionist white students left their meeting and surrounded the gathering of Black students and loudly chanted "No to PLO terrorism." Some Black students left their meeting wearing signs which read "I am a Palestinian, I have nowhere to live." They were reportedly attacked by the whites, fist fights broke out, and university security police intervened. Twelve students were suspended and the university banned all meetings.

A member of the Black Students' Society was quoted as saying "Some of the Zionist students are threatening us and we have the security police on our backs. We identify with the PLO because we find them in the same position as us--landless, uprooted, and fighting for the simple right to live in

peace with natural human rights." He went on to emphasise that one could be against Zionist aggression without being anti-semitic.

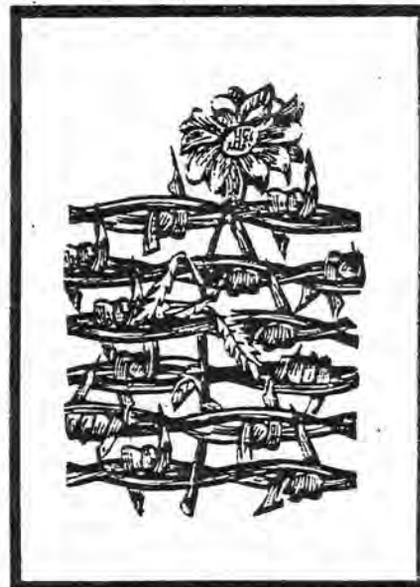
We totally agree with these sentiments. The identification between Black South Africans and Palestinians is based on the commonality of their struggles and the conditions of their oppression. The outlaw regimes of Israel and South African certainly have much in common as well. Both have seized land and expanded their settlements using military force to remove the indigenous peoples. Both Israelis and white South Africans have developed national identities fundamentally based on racist ideology, denying the oppressed peoples their right to self determination.

Feverish anti-communism and overly broad use of the "terrorist" label to include even school-children who throw stones--for both governments are sufficient justification for criminal polices. Both governments perceive their security threatened by neighbouring states as well as by the national liberation struggles which are being waged. Thus, there are numerous attacks on refugee settlements and on the Frontline states that support the guerrilla forces. Militarily, both governments are threats to regional and world peace. They operate boldly because they have the backing of Western imperialism, receiving U.S. and NATO weapons with little or no criticism of even the most vile military actions. Both nations avoid international sanctions only because of protective vetos in the United Nations Security Council delivered by the United States, British or French governments.

The Wits Black students also used the tight military relationship between Israel and South African as an effective way of expressing their support for the PLO and their anger at Israel. The particulars of military collaboration between the two governments is very well documented. There is a continuous flow of military personnel between the two countries. The top generals shuttle back and forth for regular consultations. At the beginning of this year General Sharon, the butcher of Beirut, spent time with the SADF touring the war zones of Namibia. Israeli weapons sales have continued in

violation of the international arms embargo on South Africa.

South Africa and Israel have both developed sophisticated military-industrial establishments. The technology that Israel can openly import (largely from the U.S.) is consciously being transferred to the South African Armaments Corporation, ARMSCOR. The SADF claims to develop new weapons systems, but they are mere modifications of Israeli weapons or sometimes exact duplicates under different names. Economic collaboration is also very significant.



Perhaps the most devastating aspect of this military alliance is the genocidal treatment of refugees. The recent slaughter of over 1,000 Palestinian civilians in two Beirut refugee camps closely parallels the horrible Cassinga massacre carried out by the SADF on Namibian refugees in Angola. Over 700 civilians were murdered in that 1978 attack, and many more have been killed since then.

Both the ruling Nationalist Party in South Africa and the Phalangist Party in Lebanon have historical connections to the German Nazis responsible for the slaughter of 6 million Jews. Now the cruel irony is that Israel, supposedly acting on the imperatives of Jewish survival, is uniting with pro-Nazi forces and collaborating in genocidal atrocities which can only be compared to the holocaust and Hitler's reign of terror.

SAMRAF believes that the criminal actions of both the Israeli and South African governments should be seen in a similar context. Apartheid and Zionism have

allied with one another. For stability in either region, the demands of Black people in Southern Africa and Palestinian people in the Middle East have to be recognised. The primary demand is for self determination. This, together with the dismantling of the racist ideology of both states and their lethal military machinery, will finally pave the way for peace. Both progressive Jews and progressive whites need to combat the criminal actions and policies of the Zionist and apartheid regimes while supporting the aspirations of the liberation movements.

#### OUTRAGE AT LATEST DEATH IN DETENTION

Ernest Maobi Dipale, a Soweto student of auto mechanics, has become the 53rd person to die in detention in South Africa since 1953. Only the following day, Louis le Grange, Minister of Law and Order, explained to foreign journalists, "You don't get much information if you keep a detainee in a 5-star hotel, or with friends."

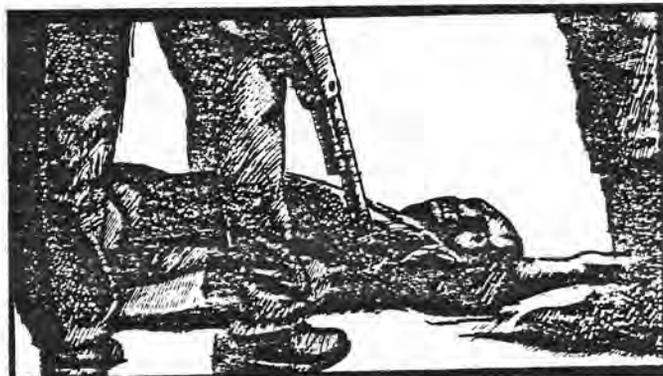
Jill Berger, sister of Neil Aggett, the first white to die in detention, reminded her audience of Jimmy Kruger's similarly callous statement when she said of the entire apartheid government that the deaths "leave them cold." She was speaking at a highly emotional protest meeting attended by 1,000 people and called by the Detainee's Parents Support Committee. Mrs. Amanda Kwadi of the Federation of South African Women also spoke and declared, "Ernest died for the truth. He is a casualty in the struggle, a hero and a martyr. The masses will pursue the course he pursued while he was alive."

The Rabie Commission and the Internal Security Act which resulted from it this year, supposedly established safeguards for detainees such as fortnightly visits by a magistrate, surgeons and inspectors, and a review after six months. These didn't apply, however, for 21-year-old Dipale because he had only been detained for three days. Other detainees have testified that the worst torture occurs in the first few days.

Actually, the incident immediately preceding his detention makes this story even more tragic and

symbolic. Ernest's mother Lizzie Dipale told South African newspapers that her son and his friend Oupa Koopeng were travelling from Soweto to Dobsonville when they noticed they were being followed by a combi. At an intersection their car was approached by a white man who jumped from the van. He pointed a gun at the young Blacks and said, "Ja julle skelms [hey, you delinquents]." Ernest swung the car around and drove off as two shots were fired. The incident was reported to police at the Meadowlands Station. Police visited the Dipale home to gather information, but the Commissioner of Police later told newspapers that "no such incident was ever reported to the Meadowlands Police." The following morning, three days before his death in detention, Ernest was arrested without charges. His mother said he was not involved in politics, but police said he was to be charged under the new Internal Security Act with furthering the aims of the ANC.

The Rabie Commission has reported that funerals were being used to further the aims of banned organisations. So new legal restrictions were written into the 1982 Internal Security Act. Whereas the Act's safeguards for detainees did nothing to protect Ernest



from torture, the Act was strictly enforced at his funeral. Ernest's parents refused to sign the magistrate's order prohibiting political speeches at the funeral. Police were everywhere at the subdued funeral, but 500 mourners defied the authorities by singing freedom songs and raising clenched fists in salutes. Pamphlets denouncing the apartheid government were distributed the night before rather than at the funeral itself. Police arrested two people and escorted away white journalists who arrived to cover the funeral. The journal-

ists' permits were confiscated and a BBC television crew was not allowed to film. This funeral was more solemn due to the new restrictions legislated by the Internal Security Act. No longer will the police permit marchers to carry the coffin to the cemetery and the green, black and gold flag of the ANC was not hoisted. There were no political prayers or speeches. But the oppressed people know that another hero was buried and that his blood is on the hands of the apartheid regime.

#### IMPORTANCE OF DRAFT RESISTANCE IN SOUTH AFRICA AND THE U.S.

The prosecution and conviction of young draft resisters in the United States clearly indicate the potential threat that all forms of military resistance pose to the U.S. military machine. The Vietnam era has not been forgotten by either the resisters or the U.S. government. The government has taken over two years to initiate the recent prosecutions which have led to the felony convictions for at least three young men so far. Reagan is using a strategy of selective prosecutions in order to frighten other resisters into registering for the draft. The level of draft resistance is higher now than during the Vietnam War: 700,000 resisters now compared to 570,000 during the entire period of U.S. aggression in Vietnam.

For the Vietnam generation of young people, the wounds are still raw and fresh. Over 56,000 of our youth lost their lives and some 250,000 were wounded. This represents only a mere fraction of the number of Vietnamese wounded and/or killed. No wonder military resistance became so widespread, and the positive effect it had on the consciousness of many people is still alive. Now a new generation faces a similar dilemma, knowing that draft registration will only lead to an eventual draft for another U.S. war of intervention such as Vietnam.

SAMRAF firmly believes that draft resistance is often a crucial step in a young man's life toward becoming able to contribute to social change. In the South African context, all forms of resistance to apartheid militarism are a

slap in the face of apartheid's survival strategists. Draft resistance weakens white unity with apartheid and can be a significant step toward eventual support for the liberation struggle of the Black majority.

Many of us in SAMRAF have seen this occur through our own experiences. We have all wound up supporting the very movements we were supposed to fight against. The refusal to fight for an unjust and inhuman cause can and should develop into a recognition of legitimate struggles taking place throughout the world. In South Africa the legitimate struggle is, of course, being waged by our fellow South Africans, the Black majority.

Resistance is growing within the ranks of white South African society. The apartheid regime is responding with harsher prison sentences, longer periods of compulsory military service, and by making it more difficult for young whites to leave South Africa for any reason.

Just as South African military resisters are a thorn in the side of apartheid's generals and master-planners, draft resisters here in the U.S. are a thorn in the side of the hawks and warmongers at the Pentagon. The U.S. military machine is cranking up once again. The Green Berets and other Special Forces are being revived and taught the latest counterinsurgency tricks. The Rapid Deployment Force and NATO forces have held enormous military exercises to practice all



sorts of scenarios for global war. The military budget has skyrocketed while social services which meet human needs have been drastically cut back. It's as though Reagan and the generals around him are dogs chasing the scent of blood.

Today's military advisors and the youth who sign up at the Post Office for the draft can become tomorrow's Marines and Army infantrymen in the jungles of Central America or the oil fields of the Middle East. We heartily agree with Ben Sasway, one of the outspoken draft resisters selected by the U.S. government for prosecution, when he pointed out that after the war in Vietnam, he couldn't possibly cooperate with rising U.S. militarism and find himself sent to El Salvador.

SAMRAF FORUM ON DRAFT RESISTANCE

SAMRAF is holding a forum on draft resistance in South Africa and the United States. The forum will be held on Friday, October 29, 7:30 P.M. at the Grace United Methodist Church, 33 7th Avenue, Brooklyn (between Sterling Place and St. Johns Place).

We hope to link the issues of military resistance in both countries and spark a lively discussion which could lead to greater support for our work. Also participating will be a representative from Black Veterans for Social Justice, an activist from our community to draw some of the connections between the U.S. and South Africa, and a U.S. draft resister. A leaflet publicizing the event will soon be available. If you would like more information, please contact us at the SAMRAF Brooklyn office.

Andre Brink, the dissident Afrikaner novelist, has produced a powerful portrayal of oppression in South Africa through his latest book, A Chain of Voices. It opens with an historical document detailing the charges brought against ten Black slaves following a slave rebellion in the Cape. The year is 1825, and the scene is the Cape interior around a farm called Houden-bek (shut your trap).

Brink proceeds to explain the circumstances leading up to the revolt by developing the individual characters, both slaves and slave-owners. He delves deeply into their perceptions of the life which surrounds them. Through sensitive development of his characters, Brink is able to expose the fundamental problem and conflict: ownership and bondage.

The conditions facing the slaves are those still facing all Black South Africans under apartheid. The slaves express a constant longing for freedom despite an ability to withstand an enormous amount of physical and emotional abuse. They possess a knowledge that they must act dramatically and they must act for themselves if they are to be free.

The voices of the whites display an inability to comprehend slaves as equal human beings. Their consciousness as whites allows them to act not only as barbaric overseers, but also justifies these actions by relying heavily on Calvinistic religious principles. The white farmers use such arguments as "Where would the slaves go if they were freed? Surely they would die of hunger. We look after them." The same sort of justifications are commonly heard today in South Africa when apartheid is the topic of conversation among whites.

Fired by the brutality of the Boer farmers and the rumours that the British government of the Cape was prepared to abolish slavery, the slaves were driven by hopes for emancipation. The English were unable, at this time, to legislate the abolition of slavery because the Boers refused to accept the slightest notion of such a move. How similar this is to the current proposals for peace in Namibia with



elections and independence. The United Nations and five powerful Western countries can pass resolutions and develop plans, but the Boers only invent new obstacles. Since the oppressed people themselves are rarely consulted, they have no choice except to continue fighting. The slaves couldn't wait for the English to free them, just as the Namibians cannot wait for the South African or United States governments to free them. They have to free themselves.

Left with no other alternative, the slaves unite and rise up, killing two white farmers and seriously wounding a white woman. They are hunted down, brought to trial, found guilty, and the leaders executed.

One of those charged is Joseph Campher, a white overseer who, throughout the novel, identifies with the slaves and their struggle. Campher, a poor working class European, finds himself in the Cape as a result of harsh conditions in Europe during that period. Yet, in spite of verbal support for the rebellion, he compromises and is unable to deliver at a crucial moment. The conflict at the heart of Campher's consciousness reflects a conflict for all of white South Africa. There are many whites who don't want to be racists, don't see themselves as racists, and may even speak against racism at cocktail parties. Still they are enmeshed in certain blind spots inherent in their dominant position. Campher epitomises this. His identification with the slaves flows from his ability to see himself in relatively the same position in Europe. In South Africa, however, the privileges bestowed by virtue of his skin color outweigh his class identification.

The way in which the conflict in Campher's consciousness develops in the novel is very interesting and revealing. His mistake provides important lessons for whites today. Like Campher, we have to come to terms with the reality that the Black majority holds the key to the future and the solution to South Africa's nightmare. Progressive whites need to learn from and follow the general direction of Black people who are struggling for liberation. We must contribute whatever we can toward weakening

the enemy which Black people face, and in so doing we move closer to our own liberation.

We highly recommend this book. Its setting is South Africa, but the insights of Brink's chain of voices are very important for South Africans and Americans. The setting, of course, could have been the cotton plantations of the southern United States or wherever racial oppression has shaped relations between whites and Blacks. The spirit that sparked this particular rebellion, and the generations of resistance which have followed, will never die. This book explains why.

#### APARTHEID IN MISSISSIPPI

The following is an account of a current struggle occurring in Mississippi. We believe it is very relevant because it speaks of the real conditions facing Black people in their struggle for self determination here in the U.S.A. It is comparable to what occurs constantly in South Africa. Racism is not peculiar to that part of the world. It is part of an international system designed to enforce white supremacy.

Former Tchula Mississippi Mayor Eddie Carthan was refused bond and jailed for three years in Lexington, Mississippi last month. The charge was "assault of a law enforcement officer." This trumped up charge was one of several false charges laid against the first Black person since Reconstruction to be elected in the Mississippi Delta region. This sentence is part of a racist plot contrived by former elected white officials in the Black majority town of Tchula. Six other defendants in the case, also Black officials driven from office by fraud and at gunpoint, received fines and suspended sentences on the same charge.

At a July 26th press conference in Jackson, Mississippi, two of the jurors who convicted the Tchula 7, publically recanted their verdicts, saying they were tricked and misled by Judge Webb Franklin.

In October, Carthan faces the most serious fabricated charge against him: murder, for which the death penalty may be imposed. Eddie Carthan has maintained his

fighting spirit in jail. He writes "all over the globe men and women are revolting against old systems of exploitation and oppression, and out of the womb of a frail world new systems of justice and equality are being born. The poor and meek are rising up as never before."

From all around the U.S.A. people, groups, churches and political organisations have been campaigning for Eddie's release. The National Campaign is mobilising for a week of support activities in Mississippi before the murder trial begins. Actions include a state-wide march from Tchula to Lexington, culminating in a national march into the city of Jackson, Mississippi on Saturday, October 16th. For more information contact:

Arnett Lewis c/o  
United League of Holmes County  
Route 4, Box 18  
Lexington, MI 39095  
(601) 834-3080

The Eddie Carthan campaign needs your financial support. If you can, please send a donation to the above address.

#### NEWS ITEMS

Ruth First, 59-year-old South African author and political activist was murdered on August 17. She was killed by a letter bomb which was sent to her office at the Eduardo Mondlane Univ. in Maputo, Mozambique. Prof. First was widely respected for her commitment to the liberation struggle in South Africa. She was arrested for high treason in 1956 along with over 100 other people. This epic treason trial dragged on for over two years before the charges were dismissed. She was banned in 1962, and then arrested in 1963. At that time she was held in solitary confinement, an experience written about in her book, 117 Days. Also among the several books which she authored was a biography of the South African feminist, Olive Schreiner. Prof. First was a leading member of the South African Communist Party and the African National Congress. Immediately following her murder, there was widespread outrage expressed around the world at yet another assassination obviously

carried out by security forces of the apartheid military regime. Over 3,000 mourners attended her funeral in Maputo, where she was buried next to the graves of 12 Black South Africans killed 18 months ago when the South African military attacked an ANC house also in Mozambique.

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The Ivory Coasters, a British rock band, have produced a record which should give the South African Board of Censors a cadenza or two. It's called "The Bongo that ate Pik Botha," and it's selling pretty well in England. Apparently, if you hold the record up to the light, inscribed on the vinyl is the slogan, "Free Nelson Mandela." Let's hear it for the Ivory Coasters.

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Sam Hayakawa, the Reagan clone from California, has recently visited South Africa. Hayakawa, a member of the Senate's Foreign Relations Committee and Africa subcommittee, met with a number of important South African government officials. He was quoted as saying, "I am impressed with the President's Council report. It is a step in the right direction." There's no need for us to emphasise the close and allied relationship South Africa has with the current U.S. government. Senator Hayakawa just did it for us.

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The banning order restricting Helen Joseph expired June 30th, and she has not yet been served with a new banning. The 77-year-old Mrs. Joseph has been speaking frequently at protest meetings and other occasions all over the country. She has been able to resume an active political life despite her age and threats on her life. Over 1,500 Wits students recently gave her a standing ovation, recognising her many years of committed struggle. She still cannot be quoted in the press, however, due to the absurd tangle of South African security laws. Helen Joseph was also one of the speakers at a gathering to commemorate August 9th--South African Women's Day. It was held to remember the march on the Union Buildings in Pretoria 26 years ago. On

August 9, 1956, 20,000 women gathered to protest extension of the hated pass laws to further oppress African women. They tried to present petitions containing one million signatures collected by the Federation of South African women.

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A new organisation has been formed in South Africa called the Security Forces Support Committee. Currently it has three members. It is dedicated to keeping people informed about the "onslaught" against South Africa and support-

ing all branches of the security forces, including the security police. Since numerous instances of torture have recently been brought to public attention and conclusively proven, the role of security police is being slandered, according to the Committee. Interestingly, one of the three founding members formed his views that public exposure of torture undermines state security while he was on a lengthy "visit" to Chile in 1973 at the height of mass murders by that country's security forces.

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### *SAMRAF and Our Programme*

SAMRAF is a political organisation and a network of supporters. It is composed of white South African exiles, especially military resisters, as well as American activists. We began organising work in the USA in late 1977, the first overseas group to form in support of the war resistance movement inside South Africa.

SAMRAF believes that it is a necessity to build support among white South Africans and white Americans for the national liberation struggle which will free South Africa and bring the destruction of the apartheid system. Since the South African military has become the dominant force within the whites-only regime of Botha, Malan & Co., and because a thoroughly militarised Total Strategy has been developed to preserve apartheid, SAMRAF believes that we can and should foster white resistance through encouraging military resistance.

SAMRAF publishes "an uncensored resistance magazine for white South African soldiers and draftees," called Omkeer (in English, the military command: about face). This call for resistance is distributed to white youth currently facing military obligations. Inside South Africa, military resistance takes many forms. Some active-duty soldiers distribute Omkeer. Some have organised mass walk-outs from base. Some conscientious objectors to apartheid military service are locked up in Detention Barracks, often under solitary confinement. Some draft resisters and deserters disappear within South Africa, while others take a big step into forced exile. Resistance has even reached into the high schools where white students are forced to undergo military training. This entire movement is

still small, but is growing in importance.

We have established a base of support for this work in the USA. For those military resisters who are exiled in this country, we can help with legal counsel, especially for those seeking political asylum. We also provide general guidance and orientation for re-settlement. We have found that we can be particularly helpful in New York, San Francisco, Chicago, Los Angeles, and Boston. We also campaign for U.S. government acceptance of the right to political asylum in the case of genuine South African military resisters and political exiles.

SAMRAF is investigating the moves by the apartheid regime toward greater mobilisation of white women in support of the military. This is done through research, active recruitment of women to our work, and fostering the development of a women and war project designed to counter the enemy's propaganda toward white women.

Educating the American public about the South African military as a threat to world peace, a nuclear menace, and a festering sore of violent racism against Black people is one of our primary goals. SAMRAF participates in the broader U.S. movement to support the liberation struggles of Southern Africa. In this we have raised funds and other material aid for SWAPO, the liberation movement of Namibia. We also participate in other progressive movements in this country and take part in numerous coalitions.

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