SISTER BERNARD TO VISIT CHICAGO

Sister Mary Bernard Ncube, a leading figure in the anti-apartheid struggle in South Africa, will visit Chicago on November 29 and 30. She is the president of the South African Federation of Women and the Federation of Transvaal Women. Sister Bernard is also a leader of the Institute for Contextual Theology, a key organization promoting liberation theology in South Africa.

Sister Bernard, a native of Soweto, was the first nun to be jailed for political offenses in South Africa. She was instrumental in bringing a court injunction against the activities of the South African police and Defense Force in Kagiso township. Presumably that was why she was detained in June 1986 and held in solitary confinement for 16 months. She stood trial for subversion, sedition and assault along with 13 residents of Kagiso and Munseiville in 1988.

Jim Cason of the American Committee on Africa describes Sister Bernard as "...one of the central figures in the women's movement and an important church leader along with Bishop Tutu and Rev. Frank Chikane."

On Thursday, November 29th, Sister Bernard will speak at the Lutheran School of Theology Auditorium, 1100 E. 55th Street in Chicago, 7:30 P.M. On Friday, November 30, at 7:00 P.M., CCISSA and a number of other Chicago organizations will welcome Sister Bernard at St. Sabina Church, 1210 W. 78th Place in Chicago. Join us for this unique opportunity to hear one of the most important leaders of South Africa's anti-apartheid movement. For more information about Sister Bernard's visit to Chicago, call Carol Thompson at 312-327-0545.

Chicago Keeps the Pressure On!

On July 12, 1990, the Chicago City Council voted to strengthen city sanctions against South Africa. The ordinance, which assesses an 8% penalty on bids submitted by companies listed as having South African ties when they make competitive bids for city business, has been called one of the strongest measures in the U.S. Chicago's restrictions go further than those of Oakland and New York which impose 5% penalties.

CCISSA members Toni Moore, Harriet Parker and Cheryl Harris and Kathy Devine of the Illinois Labor Network Against Apartheid worked closely with Alderman Helen Shiller to refine even stronger legislation which she introduced earlier in the year through a series of hearings and amendments. Supporters had hoped to pass the original ordinance while Nelson Mandela was in the United States but it was defeated following Daley administration attempts to water it down. The administration later came back with their own version of the sanctions legislation which was eventually passed.

Alderman Shiller calls the new ordinance "adequate" even though it shifts enforcement and monitoring to the Mayor's office and out of the hands of the City Council. She said she would continue efforts to make the law more restrictive.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Basil Clunie, Joan Gerig, Cheryl Harris, Rev. Don Guest, Judy Hatcher, Toni Moore, Alice Palmer, Zeva Schub, Carol Thompson, Rev. Booker Vance
Soweto Day Walkathon Raises $10,000

The second annual Soweto Day Walkathon raised over $10,000 to aid victims of South Africa's war against neighboring Mozambique. The June 16th Walkathon was sponsored by CCISSA, the Mozambique Support Network and Church World Service. The Walkathon, which began and ended at the Charles Hayes Community Center at 4835 S. Michigan, took 200 participants through a variety of South side neighborhoods.

1990 Walkathon proceeds will be sent to two groups in Mozambique. Half of the funds will be sent to the Christian Council of Mozambique for their humanitarian assistance in rebuilding their war torn country. The balance of the proceeds will go to the Organization of Mozambican Women (OMM) which is developing programs to help children traumatized by the war.

Lisa January, the former National Coordinator of the Mozambique Support Network, carried the first $2,500 to the OMM when she traveled to Mozambique this summer.

She reports that OMM was delighted to receive the much-needed money and surprised at the quick delivery of the funds. We will be sending the remainder of the pledges to Mozambique around the first of November. If you have any additional funds to contribute, please send checks made out to "Soweto Day Walkathon" to CCISSA, 343 S. Dearborn, #314, Chicago, IL 60604.

A special thanks to groups who provided rest stops along the 10 kilometer route: Charles Hayes Community Center, DuSable Museum of African-American History, St. Ambrose Church, and the United Church of Hyde Park. CCISSA also thanks the Illinois Labor Network Against Apartheid, the Vietnam Veterans Against the War, and the AKA Sorority for their major support of the Walkathon this year. Most of all, thanks to the walkers and pledgers who made this material aid drive a success. Your time, effort and money have made a very real contribution to the struggle against apartheid in Southern Africa.

CCISSA Changes

This summer, CCISSA moved its office to Room 314 at 343 Dearborn in Chicago. We now share office space with the Mozambique Support Network. The move gives us access to a larger meeting space and a closer working relationship with MSN. CCISSA Board member Lucille Teichert has moved to Buffalo, N.Y., to continue her studies. Lucille has been a stalwart supporter of CCISSA and formerly a staff person for CIDSAA. We know she'll continue in her commitment to the struggle for a free South Africa wherever she goes and we wish her well.

CCISSA is proud to announce that Reverend Donald Guest of Gammon United Methodist Church will be joining our Board. Rev. Guest is also a longtime anti-apartheid activist and we heartily welcome to the CCISSA Board of Directors.

Alexandra to Benefit from 1991 Walkathon

The CCISSA Board of Directors is planning to send funds from the 1991 Soweto Day Walkathon to Chicago's Sister Community, Alexandra Township in South Africa, specifically to the Alexandra Civic Organization (ACO). CCISSA already has the support of the Chicago Alexandra Sister Community Committee and is working with Church World Service to identify a South African Council of Churches project similarly involved in creating new structures for post-apartheid South Africa to share in the proceeds.

In the coming year, CCISSA will build support for the Walkathon with an educational campaign to introduce Chicago organizations and churches to the ACO and the situation in Alexandra Township. You can get involved in the Sister Community Project by attending the next committee meeting on October 21, 6:00 PM at Synapses, 1821 W. Cullerton, Chicago.

Anti-Apartheid Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>October 19</td>
<td>7:30 P.M. &quot;South Africa: Black on Black Violence or Apartheid's War?&quot; - a discussion with Joan Gerg and Orlando Redekopp. First Church of the Brethren, Central Park and Congress Parkway, Chicago. For more information: 312-421-5513</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 21</td>
<td>6 P.M. Chicago Alexandra Sister Community Committee Meeting. SYNAPSES 1821 W. Cullerton, Chicago</td>
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<td>November 4</td>
<td>&quot;New&quot; South African Cultural Group. For meeting location and more information contact Lebo Juda at 312-421-5513.</td>
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<td>November 9 &amp;10</td>
<td>7:30 P.M. Mozambique Support Network National Meeting; Lutheran School of Theology, 1100 E. 55th Street, Chicago. $15/members, $25/non-members, includes lunch. For more information: 312-922-3286</td>
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<td>November 17</td>
<td>Noon-4 P.M. South Africa Educational, Malcolm X College, 1900 W. Van Buren, Chicago. Sponsored by CCISSA and other Chicago Anti-apartheid organizations. For information: 312-427-9868.</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 18</td>
<td>3-6 P.M. Committee to Defend the Bill of Rights Reception; Prase Nettles to receive tribute. Ambassador West Hotel, Chicago. Tickets $50. For more information: 312-939-0675.</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 29</td>
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<td>7:00 P.M. Sister Bernard Ncube speaks at community meeting at St. Sabina Catholic Church, 1210 W. 78th Place, Chicago. Information: 312-327-0545.</td>
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<td>December 7</td>
<td>&quot;Sarafina&quot; Benefit for Women United for a Better Chicago 312-939-3636</td>
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A VISIT TO ALEXANDRA TOWNSHIP

by Joan Gerig

On April 6, 1990, the Chicago City Council passed a resolution which recognized the Alexandra Civic Organization (ACO) as a legitimate representative of the people of Alexandra Township, that Chicago and Alexandra be "sister communities", and that Chicago urge the government of South Africa to recognize and negotiate with the ACO to solve the township's need for land and for affordable, decent non-segregated housing. This summer, CCISSA Board member Joan Gerig visited Alexandra Township. She shares with us her impressions of our Sister Community in South Africa:

My weekend visit to Chicago's sister community of Alexandra (Alex) was the highlight of my two month stay in South Africa. The invitation to spend the weekend of May 25-27 in Alexandra and address a rally as a representative of the Chicago community came two days after arriving in the country.

Moses Mayekiso, President of the Alexandra Civic Organization (ACO) and Richard Mdakane, General Secretary, briefed me in Moses's downtown Johannesburg union office. Richard and I then travelled the 20 minutes to Alexandra by "taxi" - a Toyota van packed with 14 people. There is no train or bus service to this township of 300,000 people.

The unpaved streets and endless numbers of shacks were especially startling after the ride through the well paved surrounding white suburbs. An industrial area borders these two worlds; many of the workers live in Alex but the industries pay taxes to the white suburbs.

"Decent and affordable housing for all" is one of the ACO's demands. I visited Alex residents in homes that were decent and in homes that were affordable; few homes fit both qualifications. The land in Alex used to be owned by its residents but was expropriated by the state during the 1960's and 1970's when much housing was demolished in hopes of turning Alex into a dormitory township for workers. The policy was finally reversed in the 1980's due to the tenacity of the Alex residents. During this period, conditions in Alexandra deteriorated considerably.

The Alexandra Town Council (a South African imposed system of government) controls most of the housing in the township; apartment renters have organized a rent strike because the rents are far too high for the people to pay. In fact my hosts had not paid rent for years; along with many others they informed the council they would pay a reasonable rent, but not the current price. The council refused. The council also sells land to private white developers to build new, decent housing - one sign promotes it as "prestige housing", but few of the residents can afford to purchase such homes. As a result nearly one third of the residents of Alex live in shacks: affordable but hardly decent.

Alex residents were called to a Saturday rally to receive reports on an Anti-Crime Conference, transport crisis, ANC recruitment drive, and talks between the ANC and government. The football stadium was festive with banners of the ACO, Alexandra Students Congress, African National Congress, and the South African Communist Party.

(continued on page 4)
Near the end of the five hour mass meeting I was invited to bring greetings from Chicago. The "Windy City" T-shirt which I presented as a symbol of the relationship was carried around the stadium for all 2,000 to see; I was in turn presented with an ACO T-shirt.

At the rally I was introduced to women of the Alexandra Women's Congress (AWC) which has 5,000 registered members. Sisakele Nkosi, General Secretary of the AWC, said the women of Alex face exploitation because of their color, gender and class. In addition to problems of accommodations and illiteracy, she reported that many women of their organization have lost children to apartheid -- they are in jail or have been killed. During the rally T-shirts were sold bearing the name and picture of youth killed by police a few months earlier. "The AWC is looking beyond Alex." Sisakele said. "We need to make friends with women of other races." In fact, the AWC is assisting women in neighboring suburbs to organize.

Following the rally several women walked with me through Alex and we visited their homes. They were eager for me to see even the most difficult of living conditions in hopes that my photos and notes would help Chicagoans understand the problems of Alex. Visiting the women's hostel at the end of the day was a very sobering experience. There are 2 male and 1 female hostels in Alex, each housing 5,000 people. The high fences topped with razor wire did not make me feel welcome, but Elizabeth Molontaoo who has lived there for 17 years was a very gracious hostess. I was taken into numerous rooms where 4 women live -- a narrow bed in each corner. Most of the residents are domestic workers who see their children once a month or less. They pay rent to the town council, and although rent has regularly increased, the services have decreased. Elizabeth reported that the council had once provided kerosene heaters for the rooms, but no longer does so. The nights can be very cold during the winter. In addition, the women now must provide their own light bulbs and the council no longer hires anyone to clean the halls and common kitchen where each woman must keep all her cooking utensils and food in a small locker of about 1 foot square.

The women escorting me through the hostel were very dignified and yet again and again they outlined for me experiences that seemed designed to crush their dignity. They pointed out a bar attached to the hostel and explained how the room had once been a lounge for the hostel residents. They recalled having birthday parties and meetings in it until the town council sold the room to a businessman who now operates it as a bar. Next they took me to a large room that used to serve as a self-help project room, a place where women would gather to work together on sewing and needlework projects. The town council sold it to a woman (the wife of a councilor) who now operates a private sewing business out of it. The women now have no place where they can gather for social or political events.

I also visited the Alexandra Arts Center. It was a lively place with two people working on potter's wheels, several men at easels and a band practicing for a performance later that week. In one small room, a young man with a saxophone was working with a tutor. Later we learned that the patient teacher was a well known Ntime Piliso of the African Jazz Pioneers. Earlier the homes of musicians Hugh Masekela and Wally Serote had been pointed out to me.

I was impressed with the discipline, dedication and good will of the people of Alexandra. I fully expected to be awakened by noise during the nights I spent in Alex; after all it is one of the most densely populated areas of the country (containing 66 dwellings per hectare compared to 17 per hectare in Soweto). When I asked my hostess if it was always so quiet, I was informed that part of the discipline of the ACO is to work with neighbors to respect each other and the need for quiet to sleep.

The two days I spent in the ACO office, volunteers were at work planning events. It was difficult for me to figure out who was staff and who was not -- all seemed equally dedicated to the objectives of the ACO. Everyone I met expressed pleasure that their township was a sister community with Chicago. Together we will determine exactly what this relationship will mean, but ACO members are eager to work with us in any way they can. Viva Chicago-Alexandra Sister Communities, VIVA!
Many CCISSA members traveled to Detroit to welcome Nelson Mandela. CCISSA worked with other Chicago anti-apartheid groups to distribute a limited number of tickets and organize a bus for the event. All agreed it was an inspiring day.

Notes from the National Activist Briefing

by Basil Clunie

On Friday, June 22, 1990, over 100 anti-apartheid activists from across the country met in New York to share information, tactical insights and critiques with each other, with U.S. anti-apartheid organizations and with members of the African National Congress (ANC) and Congress of South African Trade Unions. The highlight of the conference was the appearance of the ANC Deputy President Nelson Mandela and several of his colleagues.

Chicago was represented at the briefing by Basil Clunie of CCISSA, Carol Travis of the Illinois Labor Network Against Apartheid, Lisa January of the Mozambique Support Network and Prexy Nesbitt, who served on the Organizing Committee. TransAfrica/Chicago also sent a representative.

During the day, participants met in plenary sessions, with ANC members in small workshops and also in regional workshops. There was even time scheduled for informal meetings to renew old friendships. As part of the conference’s preparation, each organization sent a one-page brief describing its programs, victories and difficulties.

Several themes developed by the activists emerged. Among them were the need for more two-way communication between local groups and national anti-apartheid organizations; discussion of how anti-apartheid organizations can link this struggle’s focus with local ones concentrating on anti-racist, social and economic justice themes; the requirement for differing tactics in different types of communities when rolling out national anti-apartheid initiatives; and specific plans within each region for heightened communications and support among local organizations.

Comrade Mandela’s visit to the briefing, in the midst of his brutally hectic schedule, provided a strengthening bond to the work of the conference. He gave gracious thanks to the various individuals and organizations for work done throughout the past years, and he recounted victories in the struggle tied directly to our legislative, organizing and educational work, including the U.S. Congress’ override of Reagan’s veto, leading to the 1986 sanctions legislation. He praised the tremendous response to the ANC effort.

Mandela reminded us that the greatest difficulties lay directly ahead. Seeds of confusion and discord continue to be sowed in an effort to blunt the efforts of anti-apartheid work both here and in South Africa. He exhorted us to greater efforts and ended with his by then established epilogue of gratitude, acknowledgment and love.
What is CCISSA?

CCISSA seeks to increase public awareness of the situation in southern Africa in order to mobilize support for the struggle against apartheid. CCISSA members operate an educational resource center stocking pamphlets, books and videos, provide speakers on anti-apartheid issues, participate in public forums and present educational programs. CCISSA supports demonstrations, letter writing and material aid campaigns which not only protest against apartheid but also build support for liberation movements throughout southern Africa.

Support the SAISCO Book Drive

South African students across the U.S. have come together to form SAISCO - the South African International Students Congress. The primary purpose of SAISCO is to keep South African students who are studying here in touch with each other and with the Mass Democratic Movement and the African National Congress in South Africa.

One of SAISCO's goals in 1990 is to start a project that will improve education in the black communities of South Africa. SAISCO is collecting books in the USA to be used in these libraries. 3000 books have already been shipped to South Africa by individual donors. You can contribute to this project by sending your used books directly to South Africa.

Due to logistical and financial constraints, SAISCO is not able to collect books here and requests that you ship them directly to South Africa where they will be sorted and distributed to community libraries. The books can be sent through M-bag post office rate special for printed materials.

SAISCO believes that the improvement of education is an important part of building toward peace and freedom in South Africa. CCISSA urges you to join them in their efforts!

SEND YOUR USED BOOKS TO:
Rev. Zwo Nevhutala
P.O. Box 862
Louis Trichardt. 0920
South Africa

CCISSA c/o MSN
343 S. Dearborn Suite 314
Chicago, IL 60604

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CCISSA needs your support and involvement. Please be generous! Thank you in advance for your support of our mutual struggle to end apartheid.

PLEASE RETURN TO CCISSA, 343 S. DEARBORN, #918, CHICAGO, IL 60604

NAME
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Enclosed is my check for
CCISSA membership $10.00
Additional contribution

I WOULD LIKE TO GET INVOLVED IN:

CCISSA educational work
Sister Community Project
Soweto Day Walkathon

I would like to join the AMANDLA Club - Contributors who give $100.00 or more per year.

contribution enclosed
pledge per month.

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