Prime Minister John Vorster

House of Assembly, June 18, 1976.

"The Government will not be intimidated, and orders have been given to maintain order at all costs."

Nkosi sikeleli Africa
God Bless Africa
Let her glory be exalted
Hear our prayers
God bless
Come spirit, come spirit
Come holy spirit
God bless
We her children
A CALL TO DEDICATION

We appeal to you all to mark THURSDAY, 16 JUNE 1977, with prayer and dedication for the struggle for the liberation of Southern Africa.

You may wish to set aside the Sundays - 12 and 19 June. And, too, to honor 26 June - Africa Liberation Day.

This period is dedicated to those who have died in the struggle, who suffer from imprisonment, detention and exile and from the ordeal of daily life under oppression in South Africa, Zimbabwe and Namibia.

On 16 June 1976, the students' protest in Soweto launched a decisive stage of the thrust for freedom from 300 years of racist minority rule. Since then at least 500 men, women and children have been positively identified as having died. The true figure is closer to 1,000, and the unbridled ravages of the South African Police repeatedly sweep black communities and escalate the reign of terror to unprecedented heights.

The minority regime in Zimbabwe and that of Pretoria operating in South Africa and occupied Namibia, rather than accept and prepare for inevitable majority rule, instead make war against the people under their control.

The majority is increasingly united and will no longer tolerate subjugation. The great tragedy of Southern Africa will shortly become enormous.

Human needs of people in South Africa, Zimbabwe and Namibia will mount in the coming months. The whole range of aid and support for those suffering - funds for food, medical assistance, burial expenses for those slain by the police, help for those detained without trial and for prisoners and their families, legal aid, the needs of exiles - will present the Christian churches with unheralded demands. Our concern will be severely tested.

Episcopal Churchmen for South Africa calls on all Americans freely to commit themselves to support of those struggling - and suffering - for freedom in Southern Africa.

We ask your prayers, your political support, your contributions - now - on the anniversary of Soweto - and beyond.

ECSA also asks your prayers and support on our 21st anniversary - 12 June 1977.