MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 12, 1979
TO: ACAS Board
FROM: Immanuel Wallerstein
RE: Meeting convened by S.A. Catalyst Project

In July, the S.A. Catalyst Project convened a meeting in New York of various activist organizations. We were invited, but unfortunately could not go. The Catalyst people told me they were particularly anxious we attend, since they wanted to coordinate campus strategy with us.

The SUNY-Binghamton Committee on Southern Africa did however send someone to the meeting. I attach for your information a report prepared for them by their representative.

IW/r
att.
About 40 representatives from various campus and community organizations attended this meeting to develop a coordinated and viable program of Anti-S.A. work in the U.S. for the immediate future. Although time was somewhat limited, the participants managed to accomplish quite a bit in identifying some of the problems the movement encountered in the past, proposing some alternative strategies and laying the basis for co-ordination on a broader regional level. In the case of proposals around region co-ordination, the meeting was unanimous in its efforts to avoid the pitfalls which plagued NECSA in the past (e.g., over rigid decision making process and problems encountered in dealing with some U.S. left organizations). The meeting was held over two sessions. In the first session the participants presented reports of their group's activities, problems encountered and how they perceived the future direction of the movement. In the second session the various proposals were evaluated and attempts were made to construct a set of priorities among the proposals.

2. **First Session: Reports and Problems**

2.1. Limitations of divestment as a focus were emphasized. Divestment was regarded as an important and valid strategy at one point in time, but its effectiveness as a primary goal-emphasis was questioned. It should, however, remain a strategy which can be used in appropriate situations. Its major problem lies in its limited potential for success and engaging the wider community. It has been effective as a means of introducing the S.A. question to a campus community. A.C.O.A. is scheduled to produce an up-dated document on all the Divestment arguments and counter-arguments soon. The Southern Africa magazine (Sept. 1979) is devoted to the Dives-
ment movement.

2.2 New York C.O.B.I.S.A. adopted selected targeting, e.g., Citibank is the largest lender to S.A. in the world and also has extensive loans to the nuclear industry.

2.3 Washington Office on Africa (W.O.A.) is concentrating on the Zimbabwean issue and legislation around bank loans to S.A.

2.4 American Friends Service Committee (A.F.S.C.) is concentrating on material campaigns (medical, school, clothing and blanket supplies) via the U.N. High Commission for Refugees, ZANU and ZAPU.

2.5 American Committee on Africa (A.C.O.A.) will be publishing documents reviewing the Wiehan Report (S.A. government report), Sasol project and the collaboration of the Flo Corporation (U.S.) and the Zimbabwean Constitution.

2.6 Institute of Policy Studies (I.P.S.) publications available or to be released soon: The Sullivan Principles, the Shaba Invasion (Steve Talbot The Bishop (Janice McLaughlin), C.I.A. in S.A. (Fell) and News Media on S.A. Prexy Nesbitt reported that the Angolan authorities were anxious to receive publications and reports on our work. Send to Department of External Publications, M.P.L.A. P.T., C.P. 936, Luanda, Angola.

2.7 The Interfaith Center of Corporate Responsibility were emphasizing the development of S.A. militarism and the record of equal employment opportunities of corporations doing business in S.A.


3.1 The Zimbabwean issue was unanimously regarded as the most vital problem facing Southern African activists. Since Carter has to make a public decision in mid October, we would have to start early on this program. The meeting agreed to organize a Patriotic Front speaking tour (v.i.p. to emphasize Patriotic Front and not ZANU or ZAPU). The tour will be organized initially for the North-East but might become a national tour.
3.2. A material aid campaign was seen as vital and effective mobilizing strategy among the community and students. The Liberation Movements have also expressed their desperate need for such support and indicated how the relief of some of the demands for medical, school and clothing supplies would assist them in their struggle for liberation.

3.3. Recommendations to broaden the "presentation" of the movement by including cultural events were widely endorsed. The meeting also set up a committee to organize a tour of the play *Homelands* and encourage greater use of such events in our programs. The play should be accompanied by distribution of documents on the C.M. Contingency Plan and possible demands for the resignation of C.M. directors from Boards of Trustees.

3.4. A committee was formed to convene a meeting to sort out the "political line" of the movement during the early Fall. The basic anti-imperialist and anti-racist focus was emphasized as the 'bottom line' for the political direction of the movement.

3.5. The anti-Nuke movement: Links should be forged and encouraged on the basis of common grounds (same corporations, banks lending to the industry, S.A. uranium, S.A. refusal to sign the non-proliferation treaty and U.S. technological exchange with S.A.) rather than relate to the anti-Nuke movement opportunistically.

3.6. Similar links should be encouraged with anti-draft bill activists emphasizing the possibility of U.S. military intervention in Southern Africa.

3.7. The idea of targeting specific corporations which have S.A. links and "domestic problems" (e.g., C.M. and local lay-offs or oil companies and their lack of credibility at the moment) received mild support.

3.8. More extensive attempts should be made to involve minority groups in the movement.

3.9. The 26th September is the International Anti-Bank Activities Day, especially Barclays. Contact COBLSA for more details. Also barefoot local
4. Conclusions

The meeting agreed that priorities should center around: 1) the Zimbabwe issue, 2) the material aid campaign for refugees, 3) the Homelands tour and other cultural presentations, and 4) any of the other proposals which participants are able to organize in their own locality.

Two B.E.C. films were recommended: 1. "The Operation Is Still Going On" and 2. "Portrait of a Terrorist - Robert Mugabe".

Organizations represented: