

A LUTA CONTINUA

< the struggle continues >

October issue

Friends,

This newsletter, we think, is more than just news; it testifies to the blossoming of the anti-apartheid movement in the United States. For years the seamy side of U.S. multinational and governmental ties to South Africa has been known--in the last two years, however, activist groups on campuses and in the community have begun to turn that knowledge into power, grassroots power. One purpose of this newsletter is to keep us informed as to our scope as a movement: who and where we are, what we are doing, the variety of our politics and our tactics. We are growing, and have much to learn from each other.

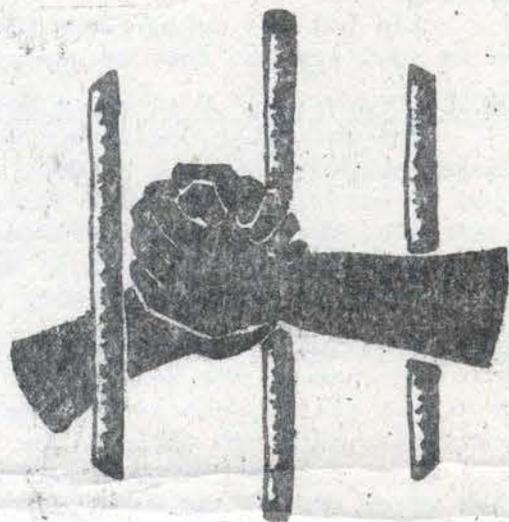
The second purpose of this newsletter is to facilitate greater contact and regional coordination between the various anti-apartheid groups; student, community, union, and so on. The updated mailing list is the first small but important step in the development of an informational network which will include not only national groups but many local organizations and activists. As groups draw on each other's experience and resources, this network for coordinated action and mass-based organizing will grow.

This newsletter will be coming out monthly from the offices of the South Africa Catalyst Project. The Catalyst Project was formed to initiate and support student anti-apartheid activity, and to facilitate greater contact between student and other groups in the movement. The West Coast Cat was formed in June 1977 by 20 Stanford community members involved in the Stanford Committee for a Responsible Investment Policy (SCRIP). In its first year, Catalyst produced both an organizer's handbook (Organize) and a detailed booklet on U.S. investment in South Africa, which our full-time traveller used in helping to organize Californian campuses. The group is committed to social change through non-hierarchical structure, democratic decision-making, and constant grassroots work.

This year the Catalyst Project has been established by a group of student organizers on the East Coast as well, greatly extending our communications network. In addition to this national newsletter, the two Cats are jointly writing two new publications. One studies the impact of U.S. withdrawal from South Africa in both political and economic terms; the other, a companion to our first organizing publication, is a South African action handbook. With contacts and activists on both coasts, the Cat hopes this newsletter can keep us all aware of the most recent news and actions; in addition, we hope to feature articles dealing with immediate problems of organizing and movement coordination as events this year unfold.

But coordination of news--like that of conferences and demos--needs everyone's cooperation. Write us about your actions, your plans, suggestions and criticisms of the newsletter. Your struggle is ours, as ours is the South African People's--and the struggle continues.

The South Africa Catalyst Project



American University Presidents Travel to South Africa

Presidents of five American universities--University of Michigan, Clark University of Atlanta, Denison University, Notre Dame, and Hampshire College--visited South Africa this past summer, under the auspices of the U.S./S.A. Exchange program. The five stated that they believe that what they call a "racial abridgement" of justice in S.A. could endanger the continuation of the program. They called for the pace of change to be substantially quickened and to include meaningful participation for all South Africans. Chancellor Bromery of the University of Massachusetts in Amherst also visited this summer to attend a conference on alternatives to governmental structures and ways to avoid violent confrontation. In a recent interview with a member of NECLSA, Bromery stated that he thought all universities and colleges, no matter how much stock they owned, could take a moral stand and sell all stock in business in South Africa.

Unfortunately, this attitude may not be reflected in administrators' responses to student demands for action. For example, in response to a query at an Alumni Association gathering as to the way his South African travelling experiences might affect his reaction to campus protests of the University's connections to South Africa, Stanford President Richard Lyman announced that he would be "brief, impolite, and dismissive."



CAMPUS UPDATE

East Coast Student Actions to Date

Students at Dartmouth, demanding immediate divestment of stocks which do business in South Africa, have been picketing their administration building twice weekly since the summer...

Steve Biko Memorial Rallies commemorating the anniversary of his death at the hands of the South African police were held on Sept. 12 at Rutgers and Columbia. At Columbia, some 150 students marched across campus in protest of their trustees favoring the "progressive force" position over divestment...on Oct. 2, 125 people were involved in a second protest rally there...

Put together "overnight," 200 students picketed a trustee meeting at Princeton recently. The demonstration demanded that Princeton divest and that Princeton trustees either resign their trusteeship or their position on corporate boards in companies involved in South Africa.

At Harvard, the Black Law Student Association and the Harvard Committee picketed deKieffer Associates, a law firm which represents the South African government, who was there doing recruiting. Some 125 people participated in this successful action; the recruiter himself admitted, "A substantial number of students cancelled their interviews..."

About 50 protestors at the U. of Massachusetts picketed IBM, Texaco and Union Carbide in opposition to these corporations' links to apartheid...

In early September, Cornell students spoke for divestment at a trustee committee meeting...

(As you can tell, these updates are somewhat sketchy; let us know what's going on in your area so that we all can get a bigger picture of the divestment movement.)

NECLSA Organizers' Conference Held

The Northeast Coalition for the Liberation of Southern Africa (NECLSA) held a conference/workshop for student organizers on Sept. 30 that was attended by 150 people from 30 schools. Discussion focused on campus reports and on their upcoming November general conference. The day also included workshops on strategy and tactics, uniting black and white students, formulation of demands, and other anti-apartheid activity. The conference set October 19 through November 4 as a period of action for schools in the northeast.

Miami Reverses Divestment Decision

On June 5, the trustees of Miami University (Ohio) overturned an April 29 decision to divest of the schools holdings in Union Carbide and Warner Lambert Co. for their activities in South Africa. The trustees argued that such divestment would violate an Ohio State law prohibiting university interference in U.S. foreign policy. The reversal came after several corporations declined to donate to a \$14 million gift fund and threatened to drop their scholarship funds after the April resolutions.

Regional Conferences Set for Fall

This fall will mark a new stage in the student anti-apartheid movement--regional coordination. Two years ago, there were only a handful of colleges and universities with anti-apartheid groups; now there are over 125 with new ones starting almost daily. A key part of this growth are the new regional groupings that bring together campus and community groups for joint action. This fall, organizing conferences are planned for Oct. 20-22 in the midwest (Northwestern, Illinois), Nov. 11-12 in the southeast (Duke, North Carolina), and Nov. 17-19 in the northeast (New York University, New York). These conferences will bring together anti-apartheid activists to share their experiences organizing, to discuss how to build the most effective movement in solidarity with the liberation struggle in South Africa, and to consider plans for future regional (and national) campaigns. For more information contact:

for the northeast: East Coast Catalyst Project, P.O. Box 177,
Amherst, Mass. 01002

for the midwest: The Ad Hoc Divestiture Working Group of
Northwestern University, 1570 Oak Avenue,
Evanston, Ill. 60201

for the southeast: Southern Africa Coalition, Duke University,
917 Lancaster Street, Durham, N.C. 27701

On the West Coast...

On Oct. 14, Campuses United Against Apartheid (CUAA) has invited 39 schools to participate in its first meeting of the year in Santa Barbara. The agenda will include participation in the November 17 action against the Bank of America, the role of students in newly created BaySAC and SCSAC, and future unified actions.

As most California schools have just opened, things are just starting to happen. First week activities have included a fundraiser at UCSB, a disorientation week at UC-Irvine, and successful protests at Berkeley against the sale of South African gold and diamonds in the student store.



Students Beware!

Student groups on several campuses have been receiving questionnaires aimed at identifying the scope and depth of the divestment movement. Questions include size, leadership, political links, attitudes and tactics of campus anti-apartheid groups. This questionnaire was not created by some well-meaning Catalyst researcher or even some "interested" bourgeois academic, but by none other than Meyer Feldberg, visiting professor at Northwestern and Director of the Graduate School of Business at the University of Capetown. Feldberg is coming to the U.S. to conduct a research study on "American Student Attitudes Towards U.S. Business Involvement in South Africa." It seems likely that administrators and others on campus will also be approached to provide information. No doubt U.S. corporations, campus officials and maybe even South Africa's secret police, BOSS, are all eagerly waiting for answers.

NATIONAL ANTI-APARTHEID UPDATEInternational Day of Bank Withdrawals

This past June 16, the second anniversary of the Soweto uprisings, was a day of international anti-apartheid actions around the bank campaign. People in 18 major cities and numerous towns in North America picketed, demonstrated and withdrew accounts from banks loaning to South Africa, in solidarity with the freedom struggles. The largest actions included a demonstration and picket of over 200 people in NY, leafletting of 60 branches of B. of A. in California, and three days of actions in Boston that included pickets of branches of First National Bank of Boston and cultural events.

California Trade Union Conference on Southern Africa

On June 10 over 200 delegates from some 100 union locals met in San Francisco to discuss ways in which they could support liberation struggles in Southern Africa. The delegates passed a resolution for a program of action which includes greater union involvement in efforts to put pressure on U.S. corporations to withdraw from South Africa and work for change in U.S. foreign policy. A Continuations Committee has been set up to investigate how to divest union portfolios and pension funds from corporations linked to South Africa and to help local unions in implementing the Program for Action.

NAACP Calls for U.S. Corporate Withdrawal from South Africa

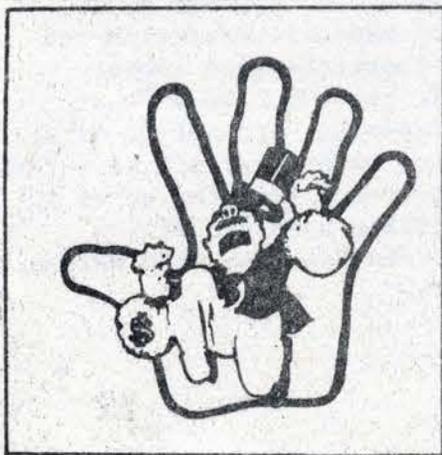
At its annual convention in Portland, Oregon, during July, the NAACP supported corporate withdrawal along with the withdrawing of accounts from banks lending to South Africa, refusal of landing rights to South Africa Airways and a ban on S.A. participation in international cultural and sports events. On Sept. 18, as the Soweto 11 went to trial, the NY chapter of the NAACP picketed the South African Consulate there.

Stop Banking on Apartheid Sets Date for California Action

Stop Banking on Apartheid, a coalition of Californian union, student, church and community groups working on ending bank loans to South Africa, has set Nov. 17 as a statewide day of protest against Bank of America, the largest S.A. lender in the state. Stop Banking has set a target of 250,000 leaflets to be distributed at over half of the 1000 B of A branches, calling for people to withdraw their money from the bank because of their role in the present situation in South Africa.

Bay SAC meets SCSAC!

The formation of two new California coalitions promises better coordination and broader-based anti-apartheid activity in the West. The Bay Area Southern Africa Coalition (BaySAC) and the Southern Californian Southern Africa Coalition (SCSAC) were formed in June, and together represent over 35 student, community, labor, church, and black activist groups involved in the Southern Africa issue. Both coalitions have drawn up principles of unity aimed at grass-roots expansion, and have targeted Nov. 17 and 19 as days of action. The first date reflects the coalition's commitment to the Stop Banking campaign; on the latter day a demonstration will be held in San Francisco that will include a march from Golden Gate Park to a mass rally at the Civic Center. Speakers will include Judge William H. Booth, president of ACOA and Ben Guriab, SWAPO rep to the U.N. Demands will include that San Francisco evict its racist tenants (the local South African Consulate). Future coalition plans include uniting soon with several groups in the northwest to form WCSAC. Guess what that stands for?

Black-White Wage Gap Widening

"In hard cash terms, the wage gap between white and non-white workers in South Africa is still growing," the pro-S.A. newsweekly To the Point International reported Sept. 15. The magazine cited a recent survey by an industrial consulting firm, Urwick International, which concluded that the wage gap was widening even among black and white workers who "perform exactly the same job and hold exactly the same responsibility."

This information contradicts advocates of the continued U.S. investment in S.A., who assert that economic growth automatically improves the condition of blacks there.

Ex-Im Update

The Senate has once again postponed action on bill S. 3077, the Ex-Im Bank bill. Its language, which passed the House by a 100 vote margin, prohibits Ex-Im Bank financing to the South African government and its agencies (i.e., parastatals), and to private purchasers which haven't endorsed and "proceeded to implement" fair employment practices in their plants in South Africa. The bill will return to calendar either the second week of October or after the November elections; in the meantime, people are urged to lobby their representatives and demand the original wording.

NEW RESOURCES FOR CAMPUS ORGANIZERSU.S. Bank Loans to South Africa--CDE Handbook

The most extensive and current study of American bank financing of apartheid to date; reveals 20 new banks never before linked to South Africa lending. Available from Corporate Data Exchange, 198 Broadway, Rm. 707, New York, NY, 10038. \$3.00 for a single copy, \$1.80 for 10-24, \$1.50 for 25 or more.

The Nuclear Axis: The Secret Collaboration Between West Germany and South Africa

A new book by Barbara Rogers and Zdenek Cervenka documenting how West Germany provided South Africa with the necessary technology to develop a uranium enrichment process and build its own nuclear bomb. New York Times Books, 1978. \$12.50

CIC Brief: "Computing Apartheid: The Role of U.S. Computer Companies in South Africa"

Available from Corporate Information Center, 475 Riverside Dr., Rm. 566, New York, NY 10027. 1-10 copies, .60 each; 11-19 copies, .40 each; 20-49 copies, .35 each; 50 or more, .15 each.

New Pamphlets from American Committee on Africa/ Africa Fund

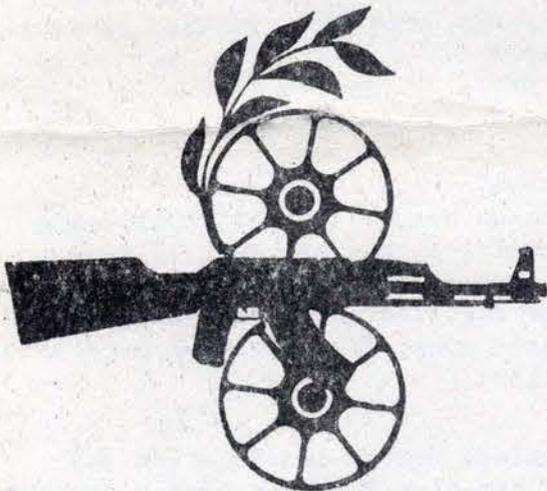
"U.S. Dollars in South Africa; Context and Consequence" by Jennifer Davis.

"U.S. Business in South Africa: Voices for Withdrawal"

"General Motors in South Africa: Secret Contingency Plans 'in the case of unrest'"

"Confidential Diplomatic Cable Reveals Black Hostility to U.S. Investment in South Africa"

These and other pamphlets are available from ACOA at a low cost. In addition, ACOA has compiled an updated list of films on South Africa and distributors across the country, available free with a self addressed envelope. ACOA's address is: 305 E. 46th St., New York, NY, 10017



A LUTA CONTINUA is the monthly newsletter of the national student anti-apartheid movement. To get on the mailing list or to get more information on student organizing in general, write:

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1979 South Africa Freedom Calendar

A perfect stocking-stuffer...a must for every South African organizer...produced by ACOA in co-operation with the U.N. Center Against Apartheid. Individual calendars \$5.00. Discounts on quantity orders: 5-9, 20%; 10-19, 30%; 20 or more, 35%. A good way for campus groups to raise funds, too.

"Divestment and Apartheid" by Marcia Burdette and Sanford Dumain

New pamphlet outlining the logic of divestment and analysing issues involved; includes eight page question and answer section. Available for \$1.00 from ACOA, but supply is limited, so hurry up!

Southern Africa Media Center

California Newsreel, an independent radical film distributor, has set up a Southern Africa Media Center to improve the effectiveness of media in education and organizing around Southern Africa. The Center has the most comprehensive library of films on South Africa available in North America which it rents out on a "what you can afford" basis to needy groups. The Center is now preparing "activation kits" for organizers which will complement films on Southern Africa with a variety of informational material, simulation games, discussion guides and outreach planning so as to place the films in a context to not only inform, but to initiate specific action around Southern Africa issues. For more info, write: California Newsreel, 630 Natoma St., San Francisco, CA 94103