

FRIENDS OF THE ANC and FRONT LINE STATES



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Press Statement

October 24, 1990

The Friends of the African National Congress and Frontline States were shocked to learn last night that the meeting that was planned with a number of community groups for 11:00 am this morning was cancelled. Elected officials, community groups, church representatives, and students were invited to express our grave concern over KCET's notice to cancel South Africa Now, an Emmy award winning national news show that has been aired in the LA area for over a year. The program has brought objective news reports from anti-apartheid activists, trade unionists, religious leaders, and community organizations that make up the struggle against apartheid.

At a time when apartheid is being challenged internationally, and Los Angeles, the second largest city in the nation, is still reeling in the wake of the excitement of Nelson Mandela's visit, we find KCET, particularly vice president Steven Kulczycki, to be out of step with the goals of public television that responds to community interest, and is not driven by commercial interests or shadowy conservative groupings that avoid public debate.



SOUTH AFRICA WILL BE FREE!

South Africa Now does not only report on events inside South Africa, but regularly covers stories in the Frontline states, such as the cover-up of the April 1 massacre last year of returning Namibian freedom fighters; and the ongoing destabilization of Angola and Mozambique through aid packages to UNITA and the MNR, from the US and South Africa.

The demand to keep South Africa Now on the air is not a Black-white issue, but rather one that raises deeper questions about our public television system, and our right to be informed about the struggle for change in South Africa.

Our demands are clear:

1. Keep South Africa Now on the air!
2. We call for a full investigation by the KCET board into the decision by Steve Kulczycki to take South Africa Now off its program list. While we endorse the quality programs shown by KCET, we believe the arbitrary and covert steps taken by Steven Kulczycki that resulted in this controversy can be resolved by his resignation.
3. We call on the Los Angeles community to support our demands, and let their voices be heard through networks of phone calling to the station, letter writing campaigns, and more delegations to KCET, even though

our delegation was cancelled, and meetings with delegations requested by the UCLA African Studies Center, director Merrick Posnansky, along with Dean of Honors College Ned Alpers; and the USC South Africa Initiatives Committee with Professor Doe Mayor; were denied. This arrogance will be challenged.

Lastly, if KCET does not address this matter immediately we are prepared to implement mass picket lines in front of KCET until South Africa Now is reinstated. We hope it won't come to this. We have confidence in KCET's integrity in wanting to provide an alternative to the limited views of commercial television, and will retain with pride this award winning program.

South Africa will be Free!