Dear Brothers and Sisters in Struggle,

The past year has seen many changes in Southern Africa. Nelson Mandela has been released by the apartheid jailers after twenty seven years in South African prisons. His visit to the United States in June was an extraordinary and emotional event. But his visit is over and the struggle continues for a non-racial, democratic South Africa with one person one vote. Nelson Mandela is out of jail but his country is still under the control of the most racist system on earth. Four out of five citizens of South Africa still cannot vote, eighty seven percent of the land is still controlled by whites only and repression and violence fueled by the South African government continue as the daily reality.

Namibia gained its independence in 1990 but South Africa left the Namibian economy in shambles and still controls Walvis Bay, Namibia's only deep water port.

Hopes that the bitter war in Angola would end were dashed by UNITA's refusal to participate in the peace process. Continued U.S. funding of Jonas Savimbi's UNITA contras shows the hypocrisy of the Bush administration's Africa policy. The U.S. still refuses to recognize the legitimate government of Angola (the only country besides South Africa which has not granted Angola diplomatic recognition).

Mozambique is struggling to survive beyond the chaos and destruction wrought by South African supported Renamo contras.

At home, as the United States prepares to go to war in the Persian Gulf, much needed dollars are being diverted from domestic priorities. AIDS, homelessness, unemployment and drugs are problems of crisis proportions. Incidents of bias related violence are increasing. Racism is still a major part of the fabric of American life and is devastating whole communities.

If we hope to influence U.S. government policy on Southern Africa and if we hope to see a real movement for social change develop in this country, we must be prepared for a real fight against our government's policy of supporting apartheid in South Africa and racism in the U.S. As you know this very important battle means cash and commitment.

We deeply thank you for the support you have given to the Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism (CD-CAAR). 1991 marks the 10th year anniversary of CD-CAAR. We could never have continued for ten years without the commitment of so many of you. It has been your
generosity in time, money and other resources that has made it possible for CD-CAAR to continue the struggle.

CD-CAAR is a member of the Social Justice Center of Albany, the umbrella organization for many groups working on issues of justice and social change in the Albany area. CD-CAAR is also a co-convening member of the Northeast Southern Africa Solidarity Network, (a network of anti-apartheid organizations in a twelve state region); and a member of the National Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression. We do solidarity work with the African National Congress (ANC) of South Africa and worked with SWAPO of Namibia prior to independence.

As a recipient of the monthly newsletter of CD-CAAR, you are aware that we ask for a yearly membership fee of $5.00. (Of course, any larger contributions are gratefully accepted.) This membership campaign is one of our most important fundraising efforts. Your dues will pay for your monthly newsletter - printing and postage. Additional funds will help us pay for other organizing expenses. Please mail your contribution in the enclosed envelope. Your 1991 membership card will be sent upon receipt of your dues.

Thank you for your continued support.

In solidarity,

Vera Michelson, Merton Simpson
Vera Michelson, Merton Simpson
Co-chairpersons

TEAR OFF AND MAIL (Please print clearly)