

AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE, INC.

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February 28, 1977

Dear Friend,

The American Friends Service Committee is sponsoring a conference on Trans National Corporations and Southern Africa: Ramifications for the United States, April 15, 16, 17, 1977 at the University of Chicago Center for Continuing Education. We are sending this letter to you because we know you share the long standing concern of the American Friends Service Committee for the right of all people to freedom and equality. Southern Africa is a region of the world in which the most flagrant abuses of this right can be seen. The non-White majority in the three remaining White Settler regimes of South Africa, Rhodesia, and South West Africa supply the labor that produces the wealth for the White minority. By law, a non-White can never be paid the same as a White worker. By law, a non-White can never hold a job position higher than a White.

During the conference, there will be presentations by academics who have studied this region for many years, representatives of the independent countries of Mozambique and Angola, representatives of the liberation movements and political activists who have worked on issues affecting democratic rights in the United States, and people who have been involved in African liberation support work. Through these presentations, films and workshops, we hope to illuminate the issues in the Southern Africa crisis. We are focussing on Trans National Corporations because of the assumption that one cannot understand social and political issues, without understanding the economic base of those issues.

In Southern Africa, you will not find the United States government or military presence such as in South East Asia, but our influence is there in the form of Trans National Corporations. Over 300 of these huge corporations dramatically shape the economy and hence the lives of people in this area. Over 20 of these, such as International Harvester, John Deere, Caterpillar and Abbott Laboratories, to name a few, are based in Illinois. We will be looking at the facts and figures that document the profits that these corporations reap from the labor of Southern Africa's non-White majority. We must first be informed about the roles of these corporations in Southern Africa, and then plan effective strategies to challenge racism and injustice in Southern Africa as well as in the United States.

We hope you can be with us on April 15, 16, 17, 1977. Please return your registration form as soon as possible.

For Majority Rule In Southern Africa,

Fannie Theresa Rushing
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Encl.

AT NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS