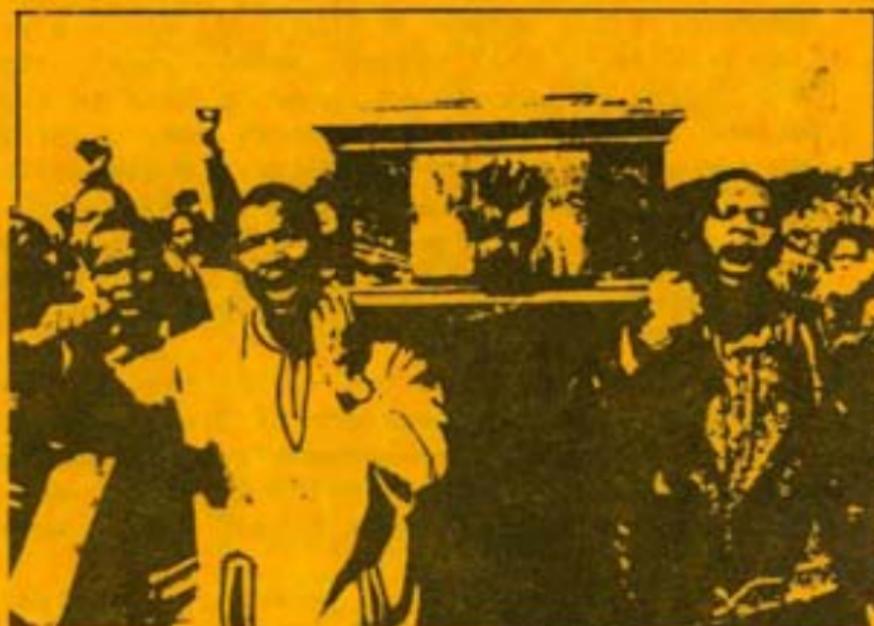


MADISON'S ANNUAL

SHARPEVILLE
COMMEMORATION
WEEK

APRIL 1-9, 1978



Stephen Nixon, Black Star

Steve Biko, symbol of black resistance in death.

SCHEDULE
OF
EVENTS

WHAT IS SHARPEVILLE?

On Monday, March 21, 1960 about 10,000 Black South Africans converged on a local police station at Sharpeville, a small town in the Transvaal, in South Africa, to protest against the country's pass laws. The marchers had left the hated passes at home and willingly presented themselves to the police for arrest. What could have been just another non-violent protest by Blacks in South Africa, resulted instead in a Massacre. A daily newspaper gave the following description of the event... "The police opened fire, volley after volley of .303 sten gun bursts tore into the crowd. The hordes began to waver as scores of people fell before the hail of bullets. Soon they were routed. They fled so quickly that hundreds of shoes, trousers and even chairs were left behind. The police came out from behind the wire in front of the police station. Bodies lay scattered about. The wounded fled into backyards and side streets. Bodies lay in grotesque positions on the pavement. The came ambulances... 11 of them. Two truckloads of bodies were taken to the mortuary." Casualties: 67 killed, 186 wounded.

Though the use of force to suppress the demands of Black people in South Africa is a principal feature of that system, nobody really thought the forces of repression could be used to such an extent and in such circumstances. One might even go so far as to say that most Black people still believed in the possible humaneness of apartheid, and that people could appeal to the reasonableness of the ruling regime to effectively reform the system of racial oppression. Sharpeville was a major lesson.

Sharpeville was the ruling regime's answer to the political aspirations of Black people. The violence that has been endemic to that society for almost 300 years became overtly manifest. And the trend continues, ever more brutal - ever more intense and widespread.

Sharpeville was also a lesson to a dedicated coalition of Black organisations. Despite all manner of appeal and demand, the ruling regime in South Africa persistently refused to reform the system to accomodate what was after all very moderate demands. Two weeks after Sharpeville, the two organisations, PAC and ANC, wre outlawed. They went underground and have been operating clandestinely since then. Last October, even more moderate organisations were banned, Black newspapers were shut down and great masses of people were shot, wounded or jailed. The use of arms by the people of South Africa is no longer a question.....

The A.N.C. Observer at the United Nations will be speaking more on this on Saturday, April 8, 1978 at memorial Union (Please see schedule of events).

The commemoration of Sharpeville has been an annual affair since 1961.

ZIMBABWE(RHODESIA)

One of the goals of the Kissinger "shuttle" in Southern Africa two years ago was, in concert, with Prime Minister John Vorster, to pressure Ian Smith into participating in a Constitutional Conference, convened by Britain in Geneva. The hope was to halt the development of a four-year old guerilla war in Rhodesia and to achieve a negotiated settlement with a moderate Black government. Representatives of four different political formations were invited to participate in the conference.

The Geneva Conference did not reconvene after its pre-Christmas recess due to the intransigence of the Smith regime.

Early in 1977, Ian Smith announced plans to seek an "internal settlement" with consenting Black nationalists. Such agreement was signed last month between the Rhodesian government and a handful puppet blacks. The agreement has been rejected by all political opposition groups in Rhodesia, and denounced by African governments.

Meanwhile guerilla war is escalating in the country. In areas where the guerillas are active, Rhodesian forces have rounded up Black villagers and forced them into "protected villages," camps quite similar to the now infamous "strategic hamlets" in Vietnam. Whole areas of the territory are now unsafe for travel, and armed caravans plus air support have become necessary in these areas. To counter the steadily increasing exodus of whites from the country and to bolster his flailing army, Prime Minister Smith has stepped up an international drive to recruit white mercenaries.

Although documentation on the number of mercenaries (including specific figures on American mercenaries) is hard to come by, Jack Foisie of the Los Angeles Times reports that "Rhodesians are using aircraft, weapons and tactics that a Vietnam veteran would recognise. The reported 100 to 300 hundred Americans who have enlisted in Rhodesian units - at regular Rhodesian pay so that they are not considered mercenaries - are almost all Vietnam veterans." (L.A. Times, Feb 28, 1977).

The recent agreement between Smith and his black leaders has placed the guerilla army of the Patriotic Front on an increased war footing.

Tirivafi Kangai, the Representative of Zimbabwe African National Union will be saying more on the situation in Rhodesia. (Please see schedule of events)

NAMIBIA: A REMINDER

Namibia (South West Africa) was a German colony until after World War 1. Then, the territory was seized by the Allied powers and turned over to the Union of South Africa which was to govern the country as a trusteeship of the League of Nations.

Under pressure from independent African governments and political organisations in Namibia itself, the United Nations revoked the mandate of trusteeship. At this time, it became clear that South Africa had been progressively exporting its system of racial oppression and separation into Namibia. This was in 1966.

Since then, South Africa has defied world opinion, and continues to occupy Namibia. However, the mass resistance movement against apartheid in South Africa, and the increasing military action of SWAPO's guerilla army in Namibia, have led the South African government to convene a "constitutional conference". Eleven groups, hand-picked by South Africa, have met for many months to draw up a Constitution for an "independent" Namibia.

The whole scheme is designed to legitimize the bantustan policy in Namibia. For, the chiefs who have been chosen to participate in the constitutional talks do not represent any other interest but those of the South African government. On the contrary, SWAPO (South West African Peoples Organisation) the Black liberation movement recognised by African governments and the United Nations as the legitimate representative of the Namibian people - has been shunned. Last month, following a period of intense guerilla activity and massive defections from the ranks of the occupation army, South Africa attempted to talk with SWAPO under the aegis of the five western powers. South Africa's intransigence stalled the talks.

Escalation of war in Namibia is no longer a question. South Africa's persistence in maintaining troops in the country and its insistence on dictating the terms of independence for the masses of black people has made any notion of peaceful change in Namibia, an empty dream.....

Theo-Ben Gurirab, the United Nations Observer from SWAPO will have more to say on the question. Please see schedule of events.)

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

march 31 SOUTH AFRICA REFUGEE BENEFIT DANCE
Place: Memorial Union, Tripp Commons Bn.
Time: 9PM to 2AM
Featuring live music by "Dave Anthony & Co.",
and "Disco Afrikana-Americana" music. Donation
of \$1 (or more!) requested.

april 2 PUBLIC FORUM: SOUTHERN AFRICA ISSUES
Place: Memorial Union, Old Madison Rm.
Time: 4PM
Discussion of local issues and activities relating to Southern Africa, liberation support groups, and analysis of the issues.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

(CONTINUED)

april 3 FILMS ON ZIMBABWE

Place: Memorial Union, Tripp Commons.

Time: 7:30PM

1. "Massacre at Nyazonia". Documents slaughter of civilians by Rhodesian army.
2. "Mission to Africa". A United Nations release. It shows the U.N. at work on the Rhodesia question.

april 4 ZANU SPEAKER: TIRIVAFI KANGAI

Place: Memorial Union, Tripp Commons

Time: 7:30PM

As ZANU (Zimbabwe African National Union) representative to North America & the Caribbean, and ZANU Observer at the U.N., Mr. Kangai can explain ZANU's current activities and the current situation in Zimbabwe.

april 5 ALSC SPEAKER: FILMS ON NAMIBIA

Place: Memorial Union, Play Circle.

Time: 7:30PM.

SPEAKER: Nelson Johnson, of the African Liberation Support Committee, which supports the liberation groups in Southern Africa.

FILMS: 1. "Namibia: The Struggle for Freedom";
2. "Independence Struggle in Namibia".

april 6 SWAPO SPEAKER: THEO-BEN GURIREB

Place: Memorial Union, Tripp Commons.

Time: 7:30PM.

Mr. Gurireb is the SWAPO (South West Africa People's Organization) Observer at the U.N. SWAPO is the recognized voice of the Namibian people.

april 7 SOUTH AFRICAN FILM FESTIVAL

Place: Memorial Union, Tripp Commons.

Time: 3PM-10PM, continuous showing.

Six films, including the most recent footage out of S. Africa (October 1977).

Why not drop in and watch a film or two? Bring your friends or organization, or class.

april 8 ANC SPEAKER: THAMU MHLAMBISO

Place: Memorial Union, Tripp Commons.

Time: 8PM.

Mr. Mhlambiso is well known for his excellent speaking, and as the U.N. Observer at the U.N. for ANC (African National Congress, South Africa) he can interpret the current situation in South Africa from the "inside".

april 9 BLACK THEOLOGY AND LIBERATION

11AM- Ecumenical Worship Service, Pres. House, 731 State St. Sermon, "Black Theology & Liberation: Southern Africa & the U.S.", preached by Rev. George Riddick, Vice-Chairman of Operation PUSH in Chicago. Music: The Student Gospel Choir.

12:45PM- Potluck Dinner, all invited! (Pres House)

2:30PM- Speech by Rev. George Riddick, "Operation PUSH: History, Activity & Future", at the South Madison Neighborhood Center, 609 Center St.

7:30PM- Candlelight Vigil for those killed at Sharpeville & Soweto & Steve Biko.

During Sharpeville Week,
listen to
VOICES OF
AFRICAN LIBERATION

←(see schedule for details)

ZANU (Zimbabwe African National Union) represented by:
TIRIVAFI KANGAI, ZANU Representative to the U.S., Carribbean, and Observer to the U.N.

ZANU was founded in 1963 to work for the liberation of Zimbabwe. It is now united with the Zimbabwe African People's Union (ZAPU) in the Patriotic Front, which is conducting the military campaign against the white Rhodesian army.

SWAPO (South West Africa People's Organization) represented by:
THEO-BEN GURIRAB, SWAPO Representative to the U.N.

SWAPO is recognized as the legitimate representative of the Namibian people. Founded in 1960, it is dedicated to the liberation of Namibia from the occupying South African troops. Currently, SWAPO is involved in negotiations which are aimed at achieving independence for Namibia before a full-scale war breaks out.

ANC (SOUTH AFRICA)
(African National Congress)

represented by:
THAMI MHLAMBISO, ANC Representative to the U.N.

ANC was founded in 1912, and has had a distinguished history in the long struggle of black people in South Africa to achieve control over their own destiny.

YOU CAN HELP STOP THE OPPRESSION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

The black people of Southern Africa are suffering under severe repression, while the Apartheid systems are propped up by economic support from other countries, including the United States. The time has come to put an end to American support for Apartheid.

You CAN make a difference:

- Participate in Madison's Sharpeville Commemoration activities.
- Participate in one or more of the following activities:

YES, I want to help stop repression in Southern Africa.....

- (1) I want to participate in Madison's Sharpeville Commemoration Fundraising Campaign to help refugees in Botswana, through the American Friends Service Committee. My contribution is \$.
- (2) Please send me a copy of the petition to stop the U.S. Government Export-Import Bank from financing Apartheid.
- (3) Please send me information on the "Free the Pretoria 12 Campaign." The Pretoria 12 are black South Africans who face possible execution if convicted under South Africa's harsh laws.
- (4) Support 1977 Wisconsin State Assembly Bill 1213, which will require that the State of Wisconsin cease to invest in companies which support Apartheid. Send me current information.
- (5) I want to get involved in local activities relating to Southern Africa. Let me know what I can do to help.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP: _____

Return to: MACSA
 731 State St.
 Madison, WI 53703

REFUGEES FROM APARTHEID NEED YOUR HELP

Who are They?

Most are young people from South Africa and Rhodesia, some of them as young as eight years of age. Although still of school age they have begun to struggle for dignity and human rights. Their parents and elders, braving the violence of the police, support the student organizations.

Why Do They Become Refugees?

For their conscientious refusal to submit to separate and inferior schooling and the system of racial subordination, these young people have been gassed, beaten and wounded. Many are in prison. Fearing for their lives, many now seek refuge in nearby Botswana. Some arrive wearing no shoes and only the shirts on their backs. Squeezed into crowded and makeshift shelters, dressed in ragged clothing and lacking warm garments for the cold nights, they need aid of the most basic kind.

As storm clouds of repression and violence gather on the horizons in southern Africa, the AFSC Southern Africa Program responds by exploring how to contribute to the struggle for fundamental change, justice and peace in nonviolent ways.

The American Friends Service Committee--Southern Africa Program is providing assistance for the direct relief of suffering in the refugee camps in Botswana.

OUR GOAL IS TO RAISE \$2,000 IN THE MADISON AREA TO HELP THESE REFUGEES. WE NEED YOUR HELP !!!!!!!

Please give \$1, \$5, \$50, whatever you can!

Make checks payable to: 'AFSC-Southern Africa Program' and mail them to:

MACSA (Madison Area Comm. on Southern Africa)
731 State St. Africa)
Madison, WI 53703

Contributions are deductible for Federal income tax purposes.