

Educators Against Racism and Apartheid

Vol. 10, No. 9 May, 1993 164-04 Goethals Ave. Jamaica, NY 11432

Oliver Tambo - People's Hero

Oliver Tambo, National Chairperson of the African National Congress, died of a stroke on April 24 at age 75. Oliver Tambo helped found the ANC. He led the ANC from exile.

In his keynote address to the Conference, in one of his last speeches, Oliver Tambo thanked the entire solidarity movement for our efforts over the decades and asked for our continued support of the liberation movement.

Let us rededicate ourselves to the struggle to help end apartheid and to help build a democratic, non-racial South Africa.

African National Congress

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
P.O. Box 31791 - Lusaka - Zambia - Telephone: 219656/219657 Telex: 45390

FEBRUARY 1987

Our Ref:

Your Ref:

MY DEAR HUMBERTO DIAZ,
YOU AND I ARE GREAT FRIENDS
BECAUSE, LIKE YOU, I FEEL
TERRIBLE ABOUT APARTHEID.
APARTHEID IS INDEED VERY BAD,
AND YOU ARE QUITE CORRECT
WHEN YOU SAY APARTHEID KILLS.
IT KILLS OLD PEOPLE AND SMALL
CHILDREN ALIKE. HOW TERRIBLE!

I THANK YOU, HUMBERTO, MY FRIEND,
FOR YOUR KIND LETTER. I SHALL
SHOW IT TO OTHER FRIENDS HERE
IN AFRICA.

GOOD-BYE, NOW.
MUCH LOVE
YOUR FRIEND


OLIVER TAMBO

Attend a memorial service for Oliver Tambo on Sunday, May 16 at the Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine in New York City from 2-5 pm. (112th St. and Amsterdam Ave.)

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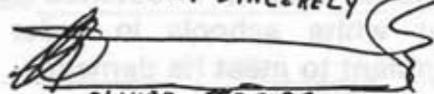
Your Ref:

MY DEAR FRIEND,
LACHELLE ALMONTE,

YOU WROTE ME A LOVELY LETTER
LAST MONTH. THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
IN YOUR LETTER YOU ASKED -

"DO YOU LIKE APARTHEID? YES or NO?
WELL, LACHELLE, I SHALL TRY AND ANSWER
"YES" or "NO" BUT BEFORE I GIVE MY
ANSWER, LET ME TELL YOU THAT I
FULLY AGREE WITH YOUR OPINION ABOUT
APARTHEID. APARTHEID IS BAD, VERY VERY
BAD. THEREFORE MY VERY GOOD ANSWER
TO YOUR QUESTION IS A BIG, BIG "NO!"
YOU GO TO SCHOOL AT P.S. 173, AND YOU
ARE IN FIRST GRADE. I WISH YOU EVERY
SUCCESS. WORK HARD AND MOVE QUICKLY
THROUGH ALL THE GRADES TO THE VERY HIGHEST.

YOURS VERY SINCERELY


OLIVER TAMBO

During a break at the International Anti-Apartheid Solidarity Conference in February, Oliver Tambo recalled sending these letters to my first grade students. He shook my hand vigorously and told me to thank educators for involving our students in the struggle to end apartheid.
P.Bower

The Education Crisis in South Africa - Some News The Times Forgot to Print

TEACHERS' PROTESTS

In March there was a strike, under the banner of the South African Democratic Teachers' Union (SADTU), including the following issues:

- a. protests against a five percent salary increase. SADTU has demanded a 30% across-the-board increase.
- b. deteriorating conditions in schools.
- c. the "unilateral" announcement by President De Klerk that the racially segregated education departments would be phased out. SADTU said that while welcoming a single education system, the unilateral move by the government would be nothing more than "apartheid restructured in a different way."

STUDENT PROTESTS

Nationwide protest marches by students, under the banner of the Congress of South African Students (COSAS) and other student groups, demanded the following:

- a. The scrapping of exam fees.
- b. A halt to unilateral decision-making
- c. Consultation with representative organizations.
- d. The supply of "basic resources and materials which are required to establish a culture of learning in the schools. e.g. textbooks, upgraded classrooms.

During March, a number of gatherings and marches organized by COSAS and other student organizations were dispersed by police who declared the gatherings illegal.

On March 30, the National Education Crisis Committee (NECC) threatened to attempt to disrupt white schools in order to get the government to meet its demands.

On March 31, the government announced that matric exam fees would be cut by one third!

ON OTHER FRONTS:

POLITICAL REPRESSION

Sections 46-49 and 51-53 of the Internal Security and Intimidation Amendment Act, 1991

make provision for:

- 1.) The Minister of Justice to ban gatherings in any area, at any time, and for any length of time.
- 2.) magistrates to prohibit or restrict gatherings in their magisterial districts for periods of up to 48 hours. The security forces have to power to prevent access to places where a gathering has been banned and to disperse, with the use of force, prohibited or restricted gatherings. The penalty for convening or attending a prohibited gathering is imprisonment for up to 2 years or a fine of up to R2000 on first conviction.

According to HRC records, 537 people were arrested during March for allegedly participating in illegal gatherings!!

The HRC reported a huge increase of attacks on ANC members and their homes by the Pan Africanist Congress (PAC).

In addition, hit squads have been organized to oppose the reconciliation attempts between the ANC and Inkatha, deliberately planning violence to derail peace initiatives.

Former Security Police Major Louis Botha, who played a central role in the center of the covert police funding of Inkatha, has been PROMOTED to the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel and is now the head of the South African Police SAP's community relations in the Eastern Cape!

This information is from the Human Rights Commission, Monthly Repression Report. March, 1993.



Washington, D.C. - A Symbol Of Institutional Racism

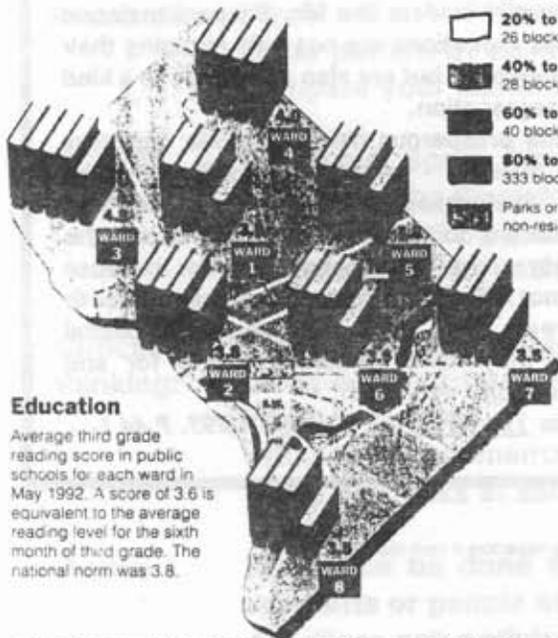
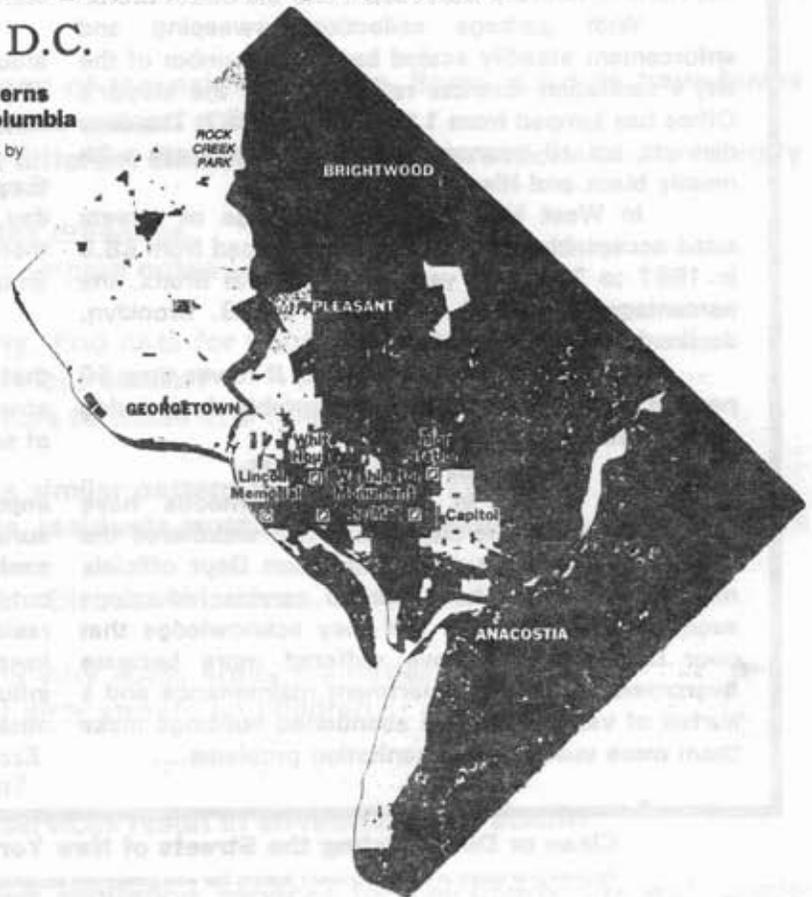
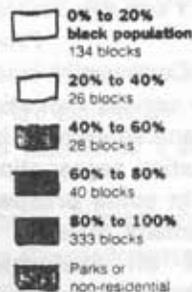
Washington, D.C. is sometimes called "the last colony" because it is not independent. The city has the right to raise taxes but Congress must approve its budget and can override any of the city's legislation. In the capital of this "democracy" there is a pattern of racism in housing and education. You may want to refer to earlier issues of this newsletter or the draft Activity Guide To Combat Racism to investigate the causes for segregated housing and schools.

Portraits of D.C.

Racial Housing Patterns In the District of Columbia

Percentage of black residents by block group, according to the 1990 census.

65% of the population was non-Hispanic black in 1990.



Education

Average third grade reading score in public schools for each ward in May 1992. A score of 3.6 is equivalent to the average reading level for the sixth month of third grade. The national norm was 3.8.

Data from: The New York Times, 4/25/93. A Beveridge and H.Sook Kim, Queens College, NY, and D.C. Public Schools

Activities For Your Classroom

- Math:** Examine the data from the two maps above.
Which wards have the lowest reading scores? What is the population of these wards?
How much higher are the scores in Ward 3 than in Wards 7 or 8?
- Research:** Find the data for your city. Are there similar patterns?
Find the data regarding funding/per/pupil, number of libraries in each area.
Do wealthier communities have private funds to draw from to supplement public school budgets? (See the lesson on garbage, where wealthier communities raise money to supplement city sanitation services.)
- Action:** Activists in Washington, D.C. have been campaigning for self-determination and for statehood. They have been lobbying actively for more Federal funds for services.
Keep a scrapbook or file of newspaper clippings about this struggle.
Work in your city to combat any forms of institutional racism such as redlining, housing discrimination, unequal funding of schools, segregated schools, etc.

Garbage - Is It Environmental Racism?

Sanitation Cutbacks Hits Poorer Districts Hardest

by Clifford Levy

The sharp cuts in New York City's sanitation budget during the fiscal crises of 1990-91 have hit poor, minority residents far harder than wealthier ones, scarring once-orderly blocks in neighborhoods like Harlem, Bedford-Stuyvesant and the South Bronx.

With garbage collection, sweeping and enforcement steadily scaled back, the number of the city's sanitation districts rated dirty by the Mayor's Office has jumped from 1 to 12 since 1987. The dirty districts are all economically depressed areas with mostly black and Hispanic populations.

In West Harlem, the percentage of streets rated acceptably clean by the city dropped from 58.8 in 1987 to 39.4 this year. In the South Bronx, the percentage decreased from 59.8 to 39. Brooklyn, declined from 55.3 to 46.4.

A district is considered dirty if fewer than 50 percent of its streets are rated acceptably clean during monthly surveys by inspectors...

Poor Areas More Vulnerable

The drops in poor neighborhoods have occurred even as the city overall has weathered the sanitation cuts fairly well...Sanitation Dept officials maintain that they have spread service reductions evenly around the city. But they acknowledge that poor neighborhoods have suffered more because overcrowding, shoddy apartment maintenance and a surfeit of vacant lots and abandoned buildings make them more vulnerable to sanitation problems....

Perhaps the harshest service reduction was the elimination of the Clean Teams - crews that roamed the city on foot with trash cans and brooms, picking up refuse from streets and sidewalks. In 1987, there were 1,400 such workers. Now, there are none.

That is readily apparent during a morning stroll around West Harlem with Peggy Shepard, co-founder of a citizen's group called West Harlem Environmental Action...

"Think about the children in this area. When they walk through a trash-strewn neighborhood every day, sooner or later they are going to wonder, 'Why is there so much trash? Maybe I'm trash, too...You wouldn't see this on Columbus Avenue downtown.'"

Private Crews

Community leaders like Ms. Shepard maintain that the service reductions are not only ravaging their streets and sidewalks, but are also giving rise to a kind of sanitation segregation.

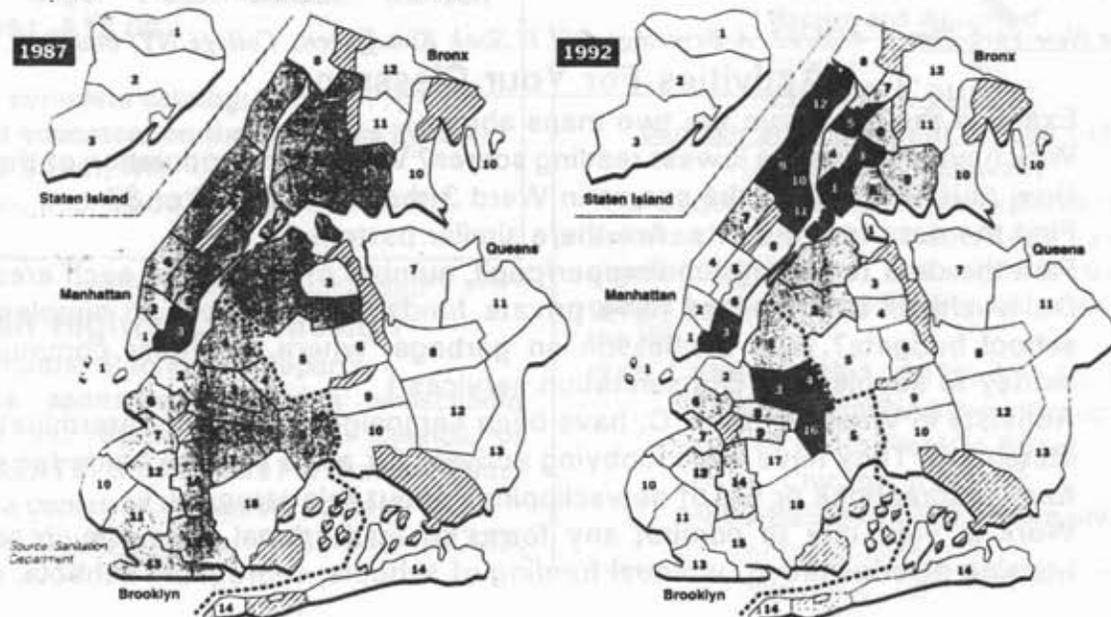
In some prosperous neighborhoods, business improvement districts - private groups financed by surtaxes on businesses - are hiring their own sanitation workers to cushion the blow from the cuts...But poor areas have become dirtier because residents cannot afford to turn to the private sector to keep their streets clean. They also have less political influence, so they have trouble lobbying for and obtaining scarce city services...

Excerpted from The New York Times. 4/18/93. P.44 L

Clean or Dirty? Rating the Streets of New York

Percentage of streets in community board districts that were considered acceptably clean by city inspectors in each fiscal year.

33.1% to 50.0% (Dirty)
 50.1 to 67.0% (Marginal)
 67.1% to 100% (Clean)
 Park areas



Source: Sanitation Department

Is It Environmental Racism?

Activities For Your Classroom

- Math:** Using the maps, calculate what percentage of districts have were considered dirty in 1987 and in 1992?
- Social studies:** Find the sanitation districts on a map of New York City. Which neighborhoods are clean, marginal, or dirty?
- Trip:** Take a class field trip to several of the neighborhoods. Some districts have buses available. Or you may need to use several subway passes. Keep a journal as you visit the different districts. Record observations of the sanitary conditions in the streets. If possible, take photos or make drawings. When you're back at school, compare notes.
- Research:** If you are not in New York City, find data for your city. Is the pattern of sanitation services similar? Compare your sanitation services to those in a neighboring suburb.
- Critical thinking:** Apartheid, South Africa, has a similar pattern of sanitation services. In some of the Black townships, residents must throw their garbage on a corner where it is picked up by a tractor. Apartheid makes racism legal. Discuss this issue.
- Critical thinking:** Make a list of possible reasons why some areas are dirtier than others. What are long term effects of dirty streets on children? What is racism? What is environmental racism? Do to cutbacks in sanitation services result in environmental racism?
- Action:** What can be done to improve sanitation services for neighborhoods with poorer residents or people of color? Are there any activists who are already working on this issue? If so, invite them to speak in your school. Draw up a plan of action for a summer project or for implementation during the next school year. Such a project can be done by students in so-called dirty, marginal, or clean neighborhoods.
- Action:** If you are in a neighborhood which is "dirty" or "marginal," you may want to campaign for improved sanitation services. At the same time you may want to organize a series of school or neighborhood clean-ups. While people are cleaning, people can discuss the campaign for improved services. Please share your activities with other educators. Send a report to Educators Against Racism and Apartheid so that it can go into upcoming issues of this newsletter.

This lesson is part of the draft of Activity Guide To Combat Racism. The Guide deals with environmental racism. For more information about this Guide, please contact Paula Rogovin Bower, 625 Linden Ave. Teaneck, NJ 07666. (201) 836-6644.

RESOURCES

The Africa Fund

The Africa Fund has an extensive catalog of resource materials about Southern Africa. They also have materials for the STOP THE VIOLENCE campaign.

Africa Fund
198 Broadway
NYC, NY 19938
(212) 962-1210

Teaching For Change

Anti-racist, Multicultural Curricula
Critical Teaching

Open Minds to Equality: A Sourcebook of Learning Activities to Promote Race, Sex, Class and Age Equality. by N. Schneidewind and E. Davidson. Prentice Hall. Grades 3-12. 1983 \$25.

Anti-Bias Curriculum: Tools for Empowering Young Children. L. Derman-Sparks, et al. Natl Association for the Education of Young Children. \$10. 1989.

Colonialism in the Americas: a Critical Look. by Susan Gage. VIDEA Canada. Cartoon format. 1991. \$12.00

Send for a complete catalog:
Network of Educators on the Americas (NECA)
1118 22nd Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20037. (202) 429-0137

Human Rights Commission -

Monthly Repression Reports

The HRC is sponsored by such subscribing organizations as: Black Sash, SA Council of Churches, COSATU, SA, Lawyers For Human Rights, etc. To receive copies of the report contact: HRC. Fax: (011) 339-1422. P.O. Box 32723. Braamfontein 2017

Monthly Review Press

The Conquest of America. by Hans Koning. June, 1993.

Dominican Republic: Beyond the Lighthouse. by James Ferguson.

Women And Resistance in South Africa. by Cherryl Walker.

The Political Economy of Race and Class in South Africa. by Bernard Makhosezwe.

Send for a complete catalog:
Monthly Review Foundation
122 West 27th Street
New York, NY 10001
(212) 691-2555



Apartheid Is Wrong: A Curriculum For Young People

by Paula Rogovin Bower

This multi-disciplinary curriculum for grades 1-12 has been purchased for all social studies teachers in the Mt. Vernon, New York school district!

To order, send \$12 + \$5 postage and handling to:
Educators Against Racism and Apartheid
164-04 Goethals Ave.
Jamaica, NY 11432
Or fax: (201) 836-1062

Make checks payable to Educators Against Racism and Apartheid

Africa Counts:

Number and Pattern In African Culture

by Claudia Zaslavsky

This unique, illustrated book explores how sub-saharan peoples' numerical systems, geometrical designs, and subtle mathematical games have developed from prehistoric times to the present.

ISBN 1-55652-075-1. 1979. \$11.95 paper
Independent Publishers Group
814 North Franklin Street
Chicago, IL 60610
1-800-888-4741 (for orders only)



**Commemorate
The Struggle For Freedom
Of African Peoples
U.S. to South Africa
At A Soweto Day - Juneteenth
Outdoor Event!
Saturday, June 19, 1993, 4-7pm
Riverside Park at 122nd Street
(Near Grant's Tomb)**

This will be a fundraising event for the African National Congress, with music, food, and news updates. We will also be launching a walk-a-thon to be held in the Fall of '93. Help us make it a success!

Endorser list(in formation): African & Caribbean Resource Center, Committee for Non-intervention in Central America, Committees of Correspondence, African Institute, Intercommunity Center for Peace and Justice, Jews For Racial and Economic Justice, Islamic Society-NYCTA, Inc. American Committee on Africa, Sisters Against South African Apartheid, Madre, Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility, S.A. S.A. Issue, National Council of Churches Africa Office, NYC Presbyterian S.A. Task Force.

Please call if you want to endorse the event, help with cooking, make a donation to cover expenses for the event, to work on or donate performing talents for the walk-a-thon. (212) 870-2928 or (718) 857-2107.

Blaming The Victims

"The violence showed that Nelson Mandela's African National Congress was unable to restrain its disaffected black supporters."

That's what The New York Times said in an April 15 editorial about the demonstrations which took place after the assassination of Chris Hani. That has been the theme song of the U.S. media.

There's no need to retell here the history of oppression and repression in South Africa. And when a beloved leader is assassinated, when armored tanks drive through the crowds, when heavily armed police send tear gas into crowds of mourners - what did The Times expect? Did they expect the ANC armed with moral persuasion and bull horns to "control" the thousands of mourners?.

The Hani assassination was planned to destabilize the ANC and the SACP. It was planned to derail negotiations. The armored tanks and the heavily armed police were there to threaten.

What The Times failed to do in the editorial was to comment about the thousands of South Africans who demonstrated PEACEFULLY after the assassination, despite their grief and anger. They failed to compliment the ANC for refusing to allow the negotiations to become derailed.

In fact, over the years, The Times and other media have acted as key players in the conspiracy to destabilize the South African liberation movement.

Educators Against Racism and Apartheid urges you and your students to respond with letters to misinformed editorials and reporting in local and national media.

Join the Educators' Coalition For Democracy in SA!
Educators'- CODISA will meet at Riverside Church, 120th & Claremont, NYC on May 27 at 7:30 pm. Topics: Support for the ANC in the upcoming elections. The Border Region Rural Education Solidarity Project.

OOOOOOOOOps!

Did you forget your donation to EARA?
Educators Against Racism And Apartheid needs your help. Your \$10 membership donation is welcome.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE() _____

SCHOOL or ORGANIZATION _____

Please make checks payable to Educators Against Racism and Apartheid. Send to 164-04 Goethals Ave. Jamaica, NY 11432. Thank you!

'Chris' Martin Thembisile Hani 1942-1993

Chris Hani, general secretary of the South African Communist Party, member of the National Executive Committee of the African National Congress, and former Chief of Staff of the ANC's army, Umkhonto weSizwe, was assassinated on April 10. Chris Hani was among the most respected leaders of the ANC.

Chris Hani's accused assassin reportedly used a stolen South African Air Force weapon, had a target list of other prominent ANC leaders in his apartment, and had close ties with the Afrikaner Resistance Movement (AWB) and the Conservative party.

Democratic forces in South Africa believe that this assassination is part of the destabilization campaign (referred to in earlier EARA newsletters), an attempt to destabilize the ANC and other anti-apartheid organizations and to undermine their ability to win broad support in the upcoming elections.



Educators Against Racism And Apartheid
164-04 Goethals Avenue
Jamaica, NY 11432

Don't forget the Soweto Day Outdoor Event - June 19th. 4-7pm. Riverside Park & 122nd, NYC.