Next general Coalition meeting: Thursday, September 28, 1989, 7:30 p.m.
Albany Urban League, corner of Livingston and Ten Broeck, Albany, N.Y.

SOUTH AFRICA NOW!

Presentation by Rob Jones, representative of American Committee on Africa (ACOA), anti-apartheid organizer and friend. Rob has just returned from a three week visit to South Africa where he met with many people in the Mass Democratic Movement. He will give a briefing at our meeting which will provide an invaluable update about what is really happening inside South Africa today - the growing repression of the government and the growing defiance of the people.

Update on the "Dollars for Democracy in Namibia" campaign

Note the date for the October meeting of the Coalition is October 26, 1989 at 7:30 p.m. at the Urban League. (No October newsletter)

Some background on SOUTH AFRICA NOW!

The struggle against apartheid in South Africa has been intensifying in recent months. The Defiance Campaign of the Mass Democratic Movement (MDM) in South Africa reached a climax during the week of September 3rd when hundreds of thousands of Black workers observed a two day stay away called to protest the whites-only elections. The Defiance Campaign was called by the MDM a few months ago to defy apartheid laws and to defy the restrictions placed on anti-apartheid organizations. Blacks have gone to white hospitals demanding medical treatment, protested on whites-only beaches and planned political rallies to defy the restrictions. The government responded to the legitimate demands of the oppressed majority by arresting hundreds and killing 29 people on the eve of the election. This killing of 29 is the largest number of killings by the police in a single clash since the Sharpeville massacre when 69 people

(continued on next page)
These recent events make it clear to the rest of the world that deKlerk is no different from any of the past racist presidents despite his language of reform. The Bush administration has yet again very clearly stated its support for apartheid by sending congratulations to deKlerk on his "victory." Thus it is incumbent upon all Americans to put pressure on the Bush administration to isolate the racist apartheid regime and immediately impose comprehensive and mandatory sanctions. Meaningful change in South Africa will come about only when the demands of the oppressed majority are met.

These demands are articulated in the unifying perspective of the MDM:
1. One person-one vote in a united, democratic, non-racial South Africa,
2. The lifting of the state of emergency,
3. A living wage for all,
4. Freedom of association and expression,
5. Press freedom,
6. The unconditional release of political prisoners,
7. The unbanning of the ANC and other banned organizations.

The Mass Democratic Movement is the will of the people of South Africa. At our September meeting you will have an opportunity to hear of the strength and resolve of the people in South Africa NOW!

The Coalition is in receipt of a letter from Solly Simelane, Deputy Chief Representative of the ANC Observer Mission to the U.N., asking us to join in a national effort to assist the people of South Africa. An independent, non-profit organization, the South Africa Freedom Fund, has been formed by a group of U.S. volunteers to raise funds for South Africans who have been forced into exile by the threat of detention, torture or death by the apartheid regime. Funds are being sought for the ANC's Solomon Mahlangu Freedom College and the Dakawa Development Center - programs where exiles can find medical help, food, shelter, training and, most importantly, the strength of a community struggling to bring closer a non-racial democracy in South Africa.

If you are interested in supporting the South Africa Freedom Fund or would like more information, contact the Fund at the above address. If you can provide names of other potential supporters, that is also of vital importance.

Respond quickly - every day the seriousness of the situation in Southern Africa intensifies and the need for international support grows.
"The labor movement, traditionally, has been the only haven for the dispossessed, the despised, the neglected, the downtrodden, and the poor."

— A. Philip Randolph, founder of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters and an American civil rights leader all his life, speaking at an AFL-CIO convention.

COALITION NAMIBIAN LABOR COMMITTEE REPORT

The Coalition has set up a Labor Committee to work on the "Dollars for Democracy in Namibia" campaign. The committee has contacted many local and state wide union leaders and union members active in the anti-apartheid movement. Articles describing the situation in Namibia and the urgency of the campaign for free elections are scheduled to appear in the state-wide publication of the Civil Service Employee's Association (CSEA). The Black Caucus of the Public Employee's Federation (PEF) has mailed the brochure requesting dollars directly to its members. Details about the campaign will be published locally by the Solidarity Committee of the Capital District in its next newsletter.

The Albany County Federation of Labor (AFL-CIO) has led the way in supporting free elections in Namibia. At its September, 1989 meeting the Federation recognized "Namibia's desperate need for help in resettling refugees and...the need for a massive voter registration." The members of the Federation further resolved to bring the situation in Namibia to the attention of their members and support the "Dollars for Democracy" campaign. During the discussion at the Federation it was pointed out that the 40,000 member National Union of Namibian Workers, the chief union federation, had joined the outcry against South African actions in Namibia, particularly the blame placed on SWAPO for violating the peace accords. The NUNW stated: "We wish to remind the entire international community of who the aggressors are in the Namibian conflict. South Africa is the murderer, the thief and the criminal. Let the falsification of facts not deceive you." And the NUNW is putting its clout behind SWAPO. The delegates to the federation were informed that the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) and the National Union of Miners of South Africa (NUMSA) have sent delegations to Namibia to help train monitors for the elections and to develop strategies to contain violence in the north.

On Labor Day the Coalition Committee staffed a table at the Troy Area Labor Council 125th Anniversary Rally and Picnic. Members were excited to find the CSEA Anti-apartheid committee present with pins, teeshirts and anti-apartheid information. The CSEA tablers expressed a strong interest in the Dollars campaign.

The Labor Committee is shaping up into a strong component of the Dollars Campaign. To get involved, call 462-2542. Next meeting: Oct. 11 at 7:00pm at the Albany Public Library.

Bill Ritchie and Mabel Leon
ELECTION PROCESS IN NAMIBIA:
Appeal for support and assistance to SWAPO

ARISE SUMMER 1989
By Gabriel Uahengo and Shektauamba V.V. Namhala

For over a century the country of Namibia has suffered the burden of colonialism, first at the hands of Germany and now by South Africa and its apartheid and racist regime. Since World War I, South Africa occupied Namibia as a mandate of the League of Nations and as a trustee of the United Nations. However, in 1966 the UN General Assembly revoked the mandate status over Namibia and South Africa was supposed to leave and grant Namibia freedom and peace.

For the past 23 years South Africa has refused to leave Namibia and has continued to violate the United Nations resolutions and the desire of the international community. South Africa continues to occupy Namibia illegally in defiance of the law. Indeed, the history of Namibia has been traumatic and tragic.

In spite of the adamant refusal position of South Africa to leave Namibia, Namibians under the vanguard of their liberation movement, SWAPO (South West Africa Peoples Organization), fought a bitter battle for national liberation against the illegal occupying racist troops of South Africa.

Because of this colonial war imposed on the Namibian people, many lives and properties have been lost and destroyed. However, Namibians continue to demand their right to be free and independent. Similarly, the international community through the United Nations and other peace-loving organizations all over the world rallied together in an effort to bring peace with justice to Namibia and to end colonial rule.

In 1978, the UN Security Council passed a resolution known as UNSCR 435. This resolution calls for fair, free and democratic elections in Namibia under the supervision of the United Nations to provide an atmosphere for the Namibian people to design their future and elect them. Unfortunately, the implementation of R435 was hampered by South African delaying tactics in collaboration with her allies.

The years 1987-88 brought about many changes and factors which led South Africa to the negotiation table. One of these factors was the heavy casualties South Africa suffered in the battle of Cuito Cuanavale in southern Angola during one of South Africa’s infamous invasions into the Peoples Republic of Angola. This battle was fought by the joint forces of FAPLA—the national forces of Angola, Cuban Revolutionary Army and PLAN combatants of SWAPO.

The negotiation table led to the signing in New York of a Tripartite Peace Agreement between Angola, Cuba and South Africa on December 22, 1988. This agreement not only allows for a chance for a ceasefire between Angola and South Africa, but also includes the implementation of R435. This decolonization process and implementation of the decade-old resolution was to start on April 1, 1989.

It is long past April 1 now and we have seen that day mournfully pass, taking with it many Namibian lives. Over 300 innocent Namibians were killed by South Africa occupation forces since then. Most of the dead were cold-bloodedly shot execution-style.

April 1, 1989 caught many Namibians by surprise. In their hour of joyful anticipation for peace, bullets once again shattered their shining jubilation. Death swiftly descended on the nation, a sober reminder that South Africa has no intention of leaving Namibia in peace.

Through long and hard maneuvers, thanks to the efforts of the international community, today the electoral process is back on track. The hurdles to overcome are numerous. South Africa, the very country that Namibians have been and still are vigorously opposing, has been allowed by the United Nations to design and run the electoral process. It seems, after years of vehement opposition to South African rule over Namibia, the world body found itself victim to political favoritism which maneuvered and tugged at the United Nation’s purse strings—ultimately, it can be said that the United Nations botched the process because of financial strain.

The working incipies, a base on which the elections are run, make a document full of gaps and concessions to South Africa. Of these concessions, the most disturbing are South Africa’s “legal” right to register voters and the failure of the United Nations to address the question of Walvis Bay. As it is, South Africa could withdraw any number of its forces to Walvis Bay (which is “South African territory”) and so be within one-hour flying distance to any point in Namibia.

Today, the reality in Namibia could not be more horrifying. South Africa clearly runs the show. As refugees return home, some local pastors in the Owamboland region have already warned the returns not to go home and meet their families, because South Africa’s notorious Koevoet Squad (a counter-insurgency unit) lies in wait for them. Families wish to see their children, but are also worried about their safety.

The UN-supervising force has only 188 police monitors in the whole of Owamboland and Kaokoveld regions, which are the size of about one-third of the state of Minnesota. Most of the Namibian population lives in these regions. Church workers from Omundaungilongo in eastern Owambo said they have not yet seen any UNTAG personnel.

Clearly, South Africa has no more intention of leaving Namibia than it had a decade ago. It is, for instance, no surprise that South Africa donated over $10 million to a puppet and pro-South Africa party in Windhoek already for their election campaigns and costs. South Africa is ever determined to out-spend SWAPO and so, at the very least, prevent SWAPO from achieving the required two-thirds majority in the elections.

In view of South Africa’s intention in the election process, SWAPO has pulled all its resources together to carry out an effective campaign. As a result, most of SWAPO offices around the world have been closed, save only those that are maintained by the good will of peace-loving nations and organizations.

Nevertheless, the cost of preparing for the elections and maintaining health programs and housing for the returnees and other facilities is proving astronomical. It is therefore, in this critical hour, that we turn to our friends worldwide for support of any kind.

Recently you received a special mailing from the Coalition asking you to join the "Dollars for Democracy" campaign.

Please heed this request. The chance for real independence is at hand. Funds are needed for voter education, reparation of exile, refugee resettlement.

South Africa is out to sabotage this process. As a member of the international community you can help Namibians on their road to freedom.

EVERY DOLLAR COUNTS!
Next meetings of the Namibia Committee are scheduled at 7:00 at the Main Branch of the Albany Public Library, Washington Ave., Albany on October 11 and November 8. If you can join in this critical work, your attendance is welcome.

In addition to the Namibia campaign, the Coalition organized a large demonstration in front of the OTB in Albany to protest the inclusion of South African tennis players in the Schenectady OTB tournament. (The Coalition is in receipt of a letter from the Australian Anti-Apartheid Movement which has been active in their opposition to the appearance of South African players in the Australian tennis open). Over 50 people joined the protest in Albany and gained widespread media attention. Les Davis coordinated this event with assistance from Merton Simpson, Cherly Pemberton and others.

CDCAAR also worked with the National Lawyers Guild Albany chapter to promote a reception for Johnny DeLange, South African attorney who is active in the anti-apartheid movement in that country. DeLange is Assistant National Secretary of the non-racial National Association of Democratic Lawyers (NADEL). The State of Emergency in South Africa has resulted in a virtual blackout of news about the intensified repression, prosecutions of political activists and the imposition of the death penalty in unprecedented numbers. Johnny brought first-hand information which was greatly needed.

Another valuable presentation was given by Curtis Nkondo, United Democratic Front representative who was on tour of the U.S. this Spring. At a Spring general Coalition meeting he gave a valuable presentation of what is happening in South Africa now.

Well, well, well... You remember Patrick Swindall, the former Georgia representative who spend most of his time in Congress getting involved in drug money laundering on the one hand and trying to suppress the anti-apartheid movement on the other hand?

You remember the unsuccessful Swindall amendments which falsely branded the ANC as a terrorist organization?

You remember the unsuccessful Swindall amendments which attempted to limit U.S. travel of ANC representative to 30 miles from the U.N.?

Well, on June 20th Swindall was convicted on nine counts of lying to a grand jury regarding evidence in an undercover drug operation. Swindall was videotaped negotiating an $850,000 loan to finance a million dollar house he was building in Atlanta. He was repeatedly told by an undercover IRS agent on the video that the money was coming from drug profits. On August 28th, Swindall was sentenced to a fine of $30,450 and a sentence of one year. New federal guidelines insure that Swindall will only spend a few days in prison.

Two points to be made here. In Bush's war on drugs, a high ranking public official will get a few days in jail for a deal of almost a million dollars. Hypocrisy remains public policy. And secondly, the self righteous accuser of the ANC should be asked now, "who is the real terrorist?"

In closing, we evoke remembrances of Huey Newton for his contribution to the movement and to Yusuf Hawkins - he was only going to buy a car and he was murdered... with a candy bar in his hand. The struggle continues.
Another victim of racist violence in the U.S.

With the recent "lynching" of Yusuf Hawkins, a 16 year old African American in Brooklyn, New York on August 23rd, there is renewed discussion on the status of racism in America. The problem is that Americans as a group are for the most part ahistorical and apolitical. The widely held belief is that racism is to a large extent synonymous with individual prejudice. In reality, nothing could be further from the truth.

Racism is a subliminal omnipresent central element of the collective unconscious of the majority of the world's population of European ancestry and this belief system has been internalized by people of color all over the world who have been the victims of white supremacy. The internalization of the effects of a racist belief system manifest itself in a sense of powerlessness, inferiority and autodestructiveness on the part of people of color.

It needs to be understood that the capitalist value system of western civilization is distinguished from the value systems of most aboriginal peoples of the world, in that the capitalist value system reduces everything to property whether it is people, land, the air, the sea, marriage, etc. In contrast a large proportion of the rest of the world is motivated by a sense of spirituality and an understanding that human beings are an integral part of nature. So for example, the so called "American Indians" found it impossible to comprehend the European notion that the land could be purchased for the exclusive use of an individual or a particular racial group at the exclusion of others. To get a better understanding of the complexity of racism, I recommend the following books: The Psychohistory of White Racism by Joel Covel; Black Athena by Marius; The Cultural Unity of Black Africa by Cheikh Anta Diop; Stolen Legacy by George G. M. James, and The Cress Theory of Color Confrontation by Dr. Francis Cress Welsing.

A critical element of racism in our lifetime is the white supremacy doctrine by which the value of life is put on a hierarchial scale with various Europeans at the top and people of color at the bottom, with Africans at the lowest end of the spectrum.

As Carol Taylor points out "No white has ever been executed in America for killing a Black male. I say don't preach to me about the flag, the national anthem, the Constitution, civil or color at the bottom, with Africans at the lowest end of the spectrum."

In the Yusuf Hawkins "lynching" we see the classic white supremacist modus operandi. Hawkins was attacked and fatally wounded when the gang of white youths, who thought either he or his friends had been dating a white girl, encountered the Black youths in "their" neighborhood. If you think such thinking is reserved for the KKK, then you have failed to understand racism in our lifetime. As Francis Welsing points out "Lynching is all about the business of castration."

From the Newsletter of the Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism.

Co-chairs:
Vera Michelson 
Merton Simpson

Box 3002 - Pine Hills Station
Albany, NY 12203
A Project of the Social Justice Center
The struggle did not take a summer vacation. We are pleased to report that the CDCAAR maintained a high level of political activity this summer. We approached the summer with a well-thought out plan for implementing the "Dollars for Democracy in Namibia" campaign. The "Namibia/Dollars" committee of the Coalition has been meeting every other Wednesday in the Albany Public Library. Subcommittees function between regular meetings. New and old CDCAAR members have been working very hard to involve the labor, religious and student community in Southern Africa issues with a focus on Namibia. This work continues.

Our "Do the Right Thing - Party with a Purpose" event on August 25th was an outstanding success. Everything worked: the music (house, Reggae, Latin, Calypso and African), the crowd (approximately 400 people attended, the spirit was warm), the D.J.'s (there were 3 - Kool Kriss, Pedro and Sir Walford. They never missed a beat), the venue (Holidaze was great. Thank you to Kenny and the Holidaze staff). Special mention to Tyrone at the door for being so kind and looking out for us.

People were talking for 'daze' about the event. Congratulations to all of us. But in particular to the party committee - Sharon Cole, Larry Shajuyigbe, Paco Duarte and coordinator Theresa Williams. They did the right thing by anyone's standards.

Thanks also to Kuiri, our friend from SWAPO, for coming up from New York City to bring greetings of solidarity.

Anyone with outstanding tickets and money should call Theresa immediately at 426-7966.

We would also like to take this opportunity to mention a number of committed students who were active this summer: Verena Diemer, Scott Hughes, Amber Thomas, Fredua Ofori-Atta, Tom McBrien, Varsha Saxena, Judy Krebs, Hassain Blackshear, Fermin Espinosa, Martin Matthews and Elba Matos. The students represent SUNYA, Siena and St. Rose. They put the "S" in struggle. We look forward to solid community/campus links this fall.

Acknowledgements also go to old and new Coalition members who are taking an active part in the Namibia campaign: Celia Bess Cotton, Coordinator of the Religious Committee, Mabel Leon, Coordinator of the Labor Committee, Everette Joseph, Media, and Lois Daley, Natasha Reeder, Mary Moore, David Aube, Sandra Lamb, Eileen Kawola, Naomi Jaffe, Deb Maxwell, Connie Owens and our friends at SASU.

IT IS WIDELY RECOGNIZED THAT SWAPO, THE LEGITIMATE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE NAMIBIAN PEOPLE CAN WIN THAT COUNTRY'S (AFRICA'S LAST COLONY) FIRST ELECTION ON NOVEMBER 1, 1989 IF THE ELECTIONS ARE FREE AND FAIR. THE "DOLLARS FOR DEMOCRACY" CAMPAIGN BEING CONDUCTED THROUGHOUT THE NORTHEAST IS TO RAISE FUNDS WHICH ARE CRITICALLY NEEDED BY THE PEOPLE OF NAMIBIA TO INSURE THAT THE ELECTIONS ARE FREE AND FAIR.

If you can join in this effort on any level, call Vera Michelson at 436-0562.
Farewell Function for SWAPO members returning home to Namibia...

At the end of June, several members of the Coalition attended a farewell in New York City, with a large contingent of anti-apartheid activists and friends and supporters of the ANC and SWAPO from various parts of the Northeast. It was a happy and a sad occasion. Everyone was elated for those members of SWAPO who have been in exile and who can now return home after years of exile. But there was a sadness at saying goodbye to friends. And all present are aware that hard work and struggle lie ahead.

The main speaker of the evening was Helmut Angula, chief representative of the SWAPO Observer Mission to the United Nations. Mr. Angula thanked all those present and those who could not come to the party, for the support they have given to the people of Namibia. "Your struggle was not for personal gain but for the liberation of an oppressed people," he said.

Mr. Angula spoke about the many problems which lie ahead for the people of Namibia in the struggle for real independence. (Over the summer we continue to see the many ways in which South Africa is attempting to subvert the independence process.) He encouraged those in attendance to continue their support. "With your efforts South Africa and Namibia will be free."

The Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism has been active, as part of the Northeast Southern Africa Solidarity Network, in a "Dollars for Democracy in Namibia Campaign since the Spring of this year. See elsewhere in this newsletter an update of that campaign and check your newstand in November for CAPITAL magazine which will carry an article on the "Dollars" campaign.

RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY OF THE CAPITAL DISTRICT - A CALL TO ACTION...

The Council of Churches of Namibia has been in the forefront of the struggle to educate people around the world about South African atrocities in Namibia. The Council has denounced South African attempts to sabotage the election process and call on the international community for assistance. The Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism has mobilized a "Dollars for Democracy in Namibia" campaign. The Coalition is looking forward to working with local churches in this effort and is appealing to clergy and church members to respond to this call. The Coalition has videos, brochures and speakers who are available to address meetings and congregations. Remember that the election will take place in Namibia on Nov. 1, 1989 so time is of the essence. If you are interested or for more information, call Celia Bess Cotton at 436-9234.

VICTORY TO SWAPO - FREE NAMIBIA

VICTORY TO ANC - FREE SOUTH AFRICA
WHAT'S HAPPENING...

Former South African Detainee, Nomgcobo Sangweni, to speak in Albany on October 4th at the Albany Public Library at 7:00 p.m. Sangweni, a Black South African jailed by the white racist government, was released after Amnesty International intervention. For information, call 436-0491.

Harlem Renaissance - Art of Black America - An exhibition and program at the New York State Museum running through October 29th. The exhibit celebrates the achievements of pioneering artists of the Harlem Renaissance, the film series includes classics from the period and the lecture series explores the artists and their times. Call 474-5677 for info.

"Cry Freedom and Justice: An Unfinished Agenda" - Siena College Fall Lecture Series. November 1 at 8:00 p.m. "Race and Canon: An American Idea" by Henry Louis Gates. December 5 at 7:00 p.m. "Journey to Freedom - a dramatic portrayal of the lives of African Americans." Admission is free, but reservations are strongly recommended. Call Siena Ticket Office at (518) 783-2527 Monday through Friday.

National March for Housing Now! October 7, 1989. A march to end homelessness, fund the creation of affordable housing, restore funds for federal housing programs. Buses will leave Albany on Friday evening at 11 p.m. on October 6 and return at midnight on Saturday, October 7th. Tickets are available in Albany at the Social Justice Center, the Coalition for the Homeless and United Tenants. Call 436-5612 or 434-4037 for info.

Non-violent Civil Disobedience Action on Friday, October 6th - if you want more information, call Donna DeMaria at 434-4037.

African American Theatre in the Community - a panel discussion on Wednesday, September 27, 1989 at 8:00 p.m., Recital Hall, Performing Arts Center at SUNY. For more info., call 442-4200

ALL OF THE ABOVE EVENTS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

SPECIAL NOTE: The Rev. Alan Boesak, South African anti-apartheid leader will be appearing at Siena College in January. More details in the next newsletter.

SOCIAL JUSTICE CENTER of Albany, the umbrella organization for peace and justice groups in the Capital District, is holding the ANNUAL PEACE AND JUSTICE AWARDS DINNER on November 3rd. For more information, call 434-4037.
Next Coalition meeting
September 26 at 7:30 p.m.
Very important briefing on: **SOUTH AFRICA NOW!**

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**ACT NOW - SEND THE POSTCARD**

Enclosed in this mailing you will find a pink postcard addressed to Governor Mario Cuomo asking that he enact selective purchasing legislation against the apartheid government of South Africa by refusing to do business with the companies that do business with South Africa.

You only have to sign and stamp and mail the card to let the Governor know that you don't want your tax dollars supporting apartheid.

**ACT NOW...**

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Free South Africa
Victory to ANC

Free Namibia
Victory to SWAPO

Recognize Angola and the legitimate MPLA government.