IMPORTANT APRIL MEETING TO PLAN "DOLLARS FOR DEMOCRACY IN NAMIBIA" CAMPAIGN.
Thursday, April 27, 1989 at 7:30 at the Albany Urban League, corner of Livingston and Ten Broeck Streets, Albany, N.Y.

On April 1, 1989, the implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 435 calling for Namibian independence began. November 1, 1989 is the date that has been set for elections in Namibia. There are critical concerns about how free and fair these elections can be. One of the gravest obstacles is that South Africa, the brutal colonizer of Namibia since World War I, is setting the conditions. (HOW CAN THE APARTHEID REGIME WHICH HAS ILLEGALLY OCCUPIED NAMIBIA FOR OVER SIXTY YEARS NOW BE CONSIDERED A LEGITIMATE PRESENCE CAPABLE OF PRESIDING OVER AN ELECTORAL PROCESS THERE? THIS CRUEL IRONY POSES A CRITICAL THREAT TO THE ASPIRATIONS AND HOPES OF THE NAMIBIAN PEOPLE)

Some of the real problems facing the electoral process is that South Africa is setting the voting age at 21, thereby excluding thousands of Namibians between the ages of 18 and 21. This group makes up a large number of SWAPO supporters. South Africa is discharging South African soldiers in Namibia and if they have been there for at least a year they are eligible to vote! Illiteracy is widespread as a result of years of apartheid repression of the Namibian people so there is a need to educate the people about the electoral process.

It is generally accepted that the South West African People's Organization (SWAPO) can win an overwhelming majority of the vote if the elections are free and fair. However, South Africa is determined to prevent SWAPO from gaining the necessary 2/3 majority.

"DOLLARS FOR DEMOCRACY IN NAMIBIA" is a material aid campaign being conducted throughout the U.S. to raise the funds which are critically needed by the people of Namibia to insure free and fair elections. The money will go for voter education, election monitoring and other election processes.
On Friday evening, March 31st at the Macedonia Baptist Church in Albany, the Coalition presented a community forum: Crisis in Southern Africa. Monica Nashandi of SWAPO and Victor Mashabela of the ANC were the main speakers at this event which was attended by over 140 people from the Capital District.

Nashandi reviewed the events in Southern Africa which forced the Pretoria regime to negotiate peace accords for Namibia, stressing the defeats suffered by the South African forces inside Angola by the Cuban and Angolan forces. She also outlined the problems that still lie ahead for the Namibian people as they approach independence.

Mashabela gave an overview of events in South Africa since the state of emergency was imposed by the racist government. In spite of wide scale arrests, detention and oppression, the people continue to offer wide scale resistance to the apartheid system.

The program also included a presentation by Vera Michelson, Coalition co-chair, calling on those present to join the "Dollars for Democracy in Namibia" campaign. The funds raised in this campaign will be used to help insure that the elections in Namibia, scheduled for November, will be free and fair.

Herminio Jacome Rivera, Jonathan Freeman and Brian Brown, students at the Albany Street Academy, presented two raps to open the program - A.F.R.I.C.A. by the nationally known group, the Stetsasonic and Do you know what it means to be free?, an original rap by Brian Brown. The students expressed the belief that rap is a good way to teach youth more about the struggle and to learn who you are for and who you are against in the fight against racism and apartheid.

Many people contributed to the success of the forum which was co-sponsored by over 25 student, labor and civil rights groups in the Capital District. Special thanks to Rev. Leonard Comithier of Macedonia Baptist Church, the Student Association of SUNY and Division #165 of the Public Employees Federation at the O.D. Heck Developmental Center who contributed $100 for the struggle against apartheid and racism.

The information presented by the two main speakers at the forum was vital to those who want to learn the truth about what is happening in Southern Africa. With the press 'white' out imposed by the South African regime and the almost total manipulation of news coming from Namibia by the South Africans, it is critically important that we hear of what is really happening from sources who represent the people.
Below find a letter from Hazine Eytina who was accused with a hijacking attempt, the ostensible destination was Cuba. The Coalition is involved with helping to disseminate Hazine's story.

April 10, 1989

Dear Friends,

On Monday, July 25, 1988, I was arrested and my house was thoroughly searched. For my first court appearance, my husband, Mylo, represented me. From then until sentencing I was represented by Edward D. Wilford. During that time, Mylo acted as co-counsel.

At my detention hearing, I was denied bail since the prosecution started out by asking for the death penalty and the trial would have been held in Uniondale, N.Y. I was afraid that I could not get a trial by my peers so I agreed to a plea bargain. After working night and day for months with Mylo I submitted a lengthy statement for my probation report. The court read it thoroughly and on November 7, 1988 I was sentenced to a five year term, consisting of six months incarceration to be followed by a suspended sentence and fifty four months probation.

I am now happy at home with my husband and children. I wish to express my heart felt gratitude to all of you who have loved and supported me through my ordeal.

Sincerely yours,

Hazine Eytina

(If anyone is interested in making a donation to Hazine to help offset her considerable legal expenses, they can make a check out to: Hazine Eytina and send to P.O.Box 3002, Pine Hills Station, Albany, N.Y.12203)

The Coalition continues to do work in the community to fight against police and racist violence.

The next meeting of the Coalition's Police and Racial Violence Committee is April 18th at 7:30.

Vicki Smith continues to serve as the Coalition representative on the Community Police Relations Board. The next meeting of the Board is scheduled for April 24th.

For more information about these meetings, call 438-2845

The people of Albany will suffer a great loss now that Alice Green will no longer be the NAACP representative to the Community Police Relations Board. She has been the Board's most consistent and articulate spokesperson advocating increased accountability from the Albany Police Department. The Coalition is proud to have worked with Alice and will continue to look to her for leadership and clarity in the struggle to end police abuse.
Since April 1st, the date for the beginning of the process for independence in Namibia, many reports have come from Namibia about SWAPO. Most all of the reports on TV and in the press quote South African spokesmen, in other words, the illegal colonizers of Namibia for over seventy years are telling what is happening there. To counter some of the false information, we reprint for you a press statement issued by SWAPO from Harare on April 2nd.

**SWAPO PRESS STATEMENT**

HARARE, April 2nd, 1989

SWAPO decided voluntarily in September to enter into cessation of the hostile acts with South Africa. We have honoured that undertaking to the letter.

On March 29th, after I have received my part of the identical letter regarding the ceasefire from the United Nations Secretary General, I addressed the PLAN combatants regarding ceasefire. These letters contained terms and conditions of the ceasefire as required by United Nations Security Council resolution 435 (1978). I have duly, on behalf of SWAPO Central Committee, signed this letter which came into force on April 1st at 004 hours GMT. SWAPO is committed to honour the letter and spirit of that ceasefire, however, we are aware and we have incontrovertible evidence that South Africa has her own schemes. We have already warned the international community about these schemes but suffice it to restate a few of them:

1. South African regime through its many spokesmen has vowed that it will never allow the "red flag" to be hoisted over Windhoek, therefore, no implementation of resolution 435.
2. South Africa's maximum strategy is to engineer and set off events that will lead to the abrogation of the transition process but without appearing to be the culprit.
3. If resolution 435 is implemented they vowed, through their agents which were created after 435 was adopted such as Koevoet murder squad, South West Africa Territory Force (SWATF), ETANGO, Ezuva, Namwe, etc. which are commanded by the South Africa Defence Force to prevent SWAPO forming a government.
4. They even stated that even if elections are to be held under resolution 435, SWAPO should not be allowed to win two thirds majority.
5. To achieve the above mentioned objectives, South Africa by necessity has to be engaged in large scale intimidation, terror campaign, blackmail and finally the rigging of the elections themselves.

It is against this background that the latest developments must be viewed.

Therefore, the allegations made by the South African government that SWAPO freedom fighters have violated the ceasefire and that there was a fight between South African police and SWAPO combatants during which 38 alleged SWAPO combatants and 2 South African police died is figment of its imaginations. SWAPO forces are strictly ordered to observe the ceasefire. In this case, they were attacked inside Namibia and only responded in self defence.

Since these allegations, we have extensively checked and the information from Namibia is the following:

1. At Okahange, northern Namibia, SWAPO members who were celebrating the pending implementation of resolution 435 were attacked by South African soldiers and 33 bodies were found.
2. At Okalongo, northern Namibia, seven people were shot dead by members of battalion 101.
3. At Ananghulo and Okadila, northern Namibia, 8 people were killed and many others wounded when they were attacked by a helicopter gun ship.
4. Today at 1400 hours thousands of SWAPO members and supporters returning from Windhoek where they attended a rally yesterday were ambushed between Tsumeb and Oshivelo. Many were wounded, some seriously and are now in hospitals in Tsumeb and Windhoek.

Many other cases of similar serious nature are taking place all over the country.

Furthermore, what is more disturbing, is that after the permanent members of the Security Council have deliberately reduced the original UNTAG military components to be sent into Namibia from 7500 to 4650, the special Representative of the United Nations Secretary General yesterday agreed to use South African troops, the murderous battalion 101 to murder our people.

SWAPO is dismayed and shocked by the news that we heard that the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary General has agreed to use dreaded killer squad of the South African army also known as battalion 101 the very forces against which we asked the UNTAG to protect our people from, to once again kill and maim our people. We earnestly expect to hear an explanation from the United Nations Secretary General.

Once again, I would like to reiterate the fact that SWAPO abides by the ceasefire it has signed.

Note: Resolution 435 called for United Nations forces to number 7500. At the urging of the U.S. the number was cut to 4650. Only 1000 were in place in Namibia on April 1st. And the United States Congress has yet to release the money the U.S. promised for its share of the UNTAG expense. The complicity of the U.S. with South Africa in sabotaging independence and peace for Namibia cruelly continues.

VIVA SWAPO
FREE NAMIBIA

VIVA ANC
FREE SOUTH AFRICA

VIVA ANGOLA
RECOGNIZE ANGOLA
Robert Taylor, Arthur Majeed Barnes, and Abdul Haqq have joined the growing number of political prisoners in the United States. They were arrested on July 17th, 1987 in Orange County, N.Y. and charged with weapons possession. They were tried, convicted and immediately remanded in July, 1986 by 11 whites and one Black in a racist county. This occurred despite the fact that they were forced to go to trial without the lawyers they had retained and, facing certain conviction, still had made the 70 mile journey to Goshen every day.

The case of the Brothers stemmed from the N.Y.C. Police Intelligence Division operation called the "Black Desk". This operation engaged in widespread spying of political activists of the Black community who were involved in organizing against police and white racist mob violence, and particularly focused on a group of activists formerly known as the New York 8 (8 Black men and women who were arrested, tried and acquitted of conspiracy charges in 1985). Robert Taylor, and the other members of the N.Y.8, along with Majeed and Abdul, are members of the Black Men's Movement Against Crack. They had become the scapegoats to cover the illegal activity of the Black Desk. It is in this context that our Brothers were arrested.

Robert and Abdul are presently incarcerated and serving terms whose minimums are two and six years respectively. Majeed was recently released on bail pending appeal in the amount of $50,000 cash ransom. He was sentenced to one and a half year minimum despite the fact that he had no prior record.

The case is now in the appeals stage. Essential to the appeal are the trial transcripts. We are asking you to help us force Orange County to produce these transcripts by writing to: Mr. Arnold Edman, Deputy Clerk Appellate Division, Second Department at 45 Monroe Place, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11201.
The Coalition notes with sadness the death of "Jim" Campbell and we extend to his wife, Pearl, and members of his family deep condolences. Jim and Pearl have been outstanding leaders in issues of peace and social justice throughout their lives. Early civil rights activists, they have been involved in the anti-apartheid movement as well as in other movements dedicated to social change. Jim will be greatly missed in the community because of the leadership and example he provided in dedicating his life to making the world more just.

The Coalition would like to recognize the excellent work being done by one of the members of the Steering Committee, Bill Ritchie. Bill, a member of the Albany Public School Teachers Association and the New York State United Teachers, has been tireless in his work with the unions of the Capital District in putting the issue of apartheid on union agendas. The links he has made with the unions aid greatly in making the struggle one in solidarity.

NORTHEAST SOUTHERN AFRICA SOLIDARITY NETWORK ADOPTS PROPOSALS

On March 11th in New York City, over 100 activists representing scores of anti-apartheid organizations met to solidify the Northeast Southern Africa Solidarity Network. The Network organizing began in Sept., 1988 at a conference in New Haven Connecticut which called for anti-apartheid organizations throughout the Northeast to work with the African National Congress (ANC) and the South West African People's Organization (SWAPO) to coordinate anti-apartheid efforts.

The Network adopted three proposals. The first is to focus immediately on national legislation calling for comprehensive sanctions and on efforts to pressure Congress to release the $150 million in U.S. funds pledged for the U.N. peacekeeping forces (UNTAG) in Namibia. The Shell boycott was endorsed as the second campaign with the primary strategy to be the implementation of "Shell-Free Zones." Institutions will be urged to boycott all Shell products. A "Dollars for Democracy in Namibia" material aid campaign was the third proposal adopted. This campaign will solicit funds to held insure a fair election in Namibia.

The participants also set up the mechanism to continue the work of the Network which is vital to strengthening the U.S. anti-apartheid movement.

"If you belong to an organization - labor, church, student, community - which does anti-apartheid work and you are not yet part of this Network, please contact the Network at the following address for more information:

Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism
Box 2003, Pine Hills Station, Albany, New York 12203
Next Coalition Meeting: April 27th

"DOLLARS FOR DEMOCRACY IN NAMIBIA"

We urge all labor, church, student and community organizations who are interested in helping insure free and fair elections in Namibia to attend this very important meeting. The situation in Namibia, as the move toward independence begins, is very critical. Most of the news coming out of Southern Africa is being controlled by the South Africans. The "Dollars for Democracy in Namibia" campaign is being set up to help aid Namibian independence. COME TO THIS MEETING TO FIND OUT HOW YOU CAN BE PART OF THIS URGENT AND CRUCIAL CAMPAIGN.