NEXT REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING: FEBRUARY 23rd, Thursday
7:30 p.m. at Albany Urban League, Corner of
Livingston and Ten Broeck Albany, New York

Topics: "THE CRISIS IN NAMIBIA: OUR RESPONSE"
The situation in regard to Namibian independence
is critical. We need to respond to SWAPO’s call
for increased vigilance and support at this time.
An educational background presentation will be
given. Discussion will center about what action
we can take.

UPDATE FROM POLICE ABUSE/RACIAL VIOLENCE
COMMITTEE
Note: This committee has recently been reorgan-
ized and meetings have been held. Merton Simpson
and Mark Mishler are co-chairs. Vicki Smith is
continuing to serve on the Community Police Re-
lations Board as the Coalition representative.

The committee plans to monitor the Board and
is also working on a project to compile informa-
tion about the scope of the problem of police
abuse in Albany. If you know of any incidents
of police abuse, please call Mark Mishler at
462-6753.

Please see enclosed flyer - New York State for a People’s
Budget - FOR HUMAN NEEDS AND SOCIAL JUSTICE - Lobby
Day scheduled for Monday, March 6th in Albany

The Coalition is planning a community forum on U.S.
foreign policy in Southern Africa - speakers from
ANC and SWAPO - watch for details

Northeast Southern Africa Solidarity Network - Work is
continuing on the organizing of this vital network.
Interim planning meetings have been held in Albany and
New York City since the initial September call to action
in New Haven. The general meeting is scheduled for
March 1st in New York City. This meeting will be struc-
tured to implement the three initiatives that have been
set forth - U.S. sanctions campaign, material aid for
SWAPO and the ANC and the international Shell boycott.
Organizing this network is critical to the solidarity
movement if we are to meet the challenges present to us.
If you would like more information about the Network or
are able to represent your group at the March 11th meet-
ing, call Vera Michelson at (518) 436-0562.

Special thanks to Assemblyman Roger Green and to
NYPIRG for their help in the organizing effort.

Shell Oil - HELP WANTED - An assertive student wanted
immediately to do local telephone research and detective
work regarding Shell Oil. Please call 436-0562.

Social Justice Center - Bowl for Peace - On Saturday, Feb.
25th at the Playdium Bowling Center on Ontario and Park
in Albany, the Social Justice Center will hold the 3rd
Annual Bowl - A - Thon. This is one of the Social Justice
Center's major fundraisers and the Coalition is putting
together teams. If you can participate or can pledge to
one of the bowlers, call Celia Bess Cotton at 436-9234.

Social Justice Center - Peace Offerings Store will offer
a pre-Spring sale on Saturday, March 4th from 10 a.m to
6 p.m., 33 Central Avenue, Albany, N.Y. 434-4037.
WHAT IS SWAPO?

SWAPO stands for South West Africa People's Organization. It is recognized as the sole and authentic representative of the Namibian people - by the people themselves, by the United Nations, the Organization of African Unity and the Movement of Non-aligned Nations. It is the national independence movement for Namibia. (Namibia was colonized by the Germans in the 1880's. During World War I, the Germans were expelled by the South Africans. After the war, the League of Nations gave South Africa a mandate to promote material and moral well-being and social progress for the Namibians. South Africa promoted its brand of white supremacist rule. At the end of World War II in 1945 the newly formed United Nations placed the former League of Nations mandates under the Trusteeship Council to be granted independence. South Africa continued to oppress the people of Namibia and refused to report to the United Nations or to take steps leading to independence for Namibia. In 1966 the agreement between South Africa and the United Nations was terminated and Namibia was placed directly under the U.N. South Africa refused to leave and tightened its control over Namibia enforcing apartheid as brutally there as in South Africa. In 1978 the United Nations Security Council passed Resolution 435 calling for the total independence of Namibia)

SWAPO was founded on April 19, 1960. During the first five years of its existence, SWAPO carried out a campaign of opposition to South African oppression with protests, demonstrations and meetings. The South Africa regime suppressed the peaceful political activity of SWAPO by harassment, intimidation, detention and imprisonment of leaders and activists. By the end of 1963 all of the young independence movement's meetings were banned and much of the movement's leadership forced into exile. The leaders of SWAPO were faced with the reality that only protracted armed resistance would convince South Africa of the Namibian people's determination to end colonialism.

In August 1966 SWAPO launched the armed resistance with PLAN - the People's Liberation Army of Namibia. In spite of the strength of the South African army (which currently has over 100,000 troops in Namibia) PLAN has proved ineradicable. SWAPO's liberation ideology cuts across racial, religious, ethnic and cultural lines and mobilizes all Namibians. SWAPO has extensive political support inside Namibia. SWAPO will win a landslide victory if free, fair and democratic elections are held.

The accords which were recently signed providing for Namibian independence call for elections but the question now is how free and fair the elections will be - South Africa is in charge of the conditions of the elections, the United Nations forces (UNTAG) to supervise the elections have been drastically cut. SWAPO and the people of Namibia have been struggling against cruel injustice and oppression for over 100 years. Will this chance for freedom now be real or another illegal sham perpetrated by the apartheid regime and its friends in the U.S?

VIVA SWAPO
FREE NAMIBIA

VIVA ANC
FREE SOUTH AFRICA

VIVA MPLA
RECOGNIZE ANGOLA