

December 29, 1984

Dear Friends,

On November 21st, after a dramatic sit-in at the South African Embassy, prominent Black leaders launched a nationwide "Free South Africa Movement". This movement is to focus American attention on the policies of the South African government and the Reagan administration's support of that government.

Fed up with Reagan's refusal to condemn apartheid and his continual accommodationist policy of "constructive engagement", Black leaders around the country have taken militant action. TransAfrica, the Black American Lobby for Africa and the Caribbean, is spearheading the "Free South Africa Movement". Successful effort has been made to incorporate a range of labor and political organizations, academic and religious groups across the nation.

A call for a nationwide movement in the US comes at a time when Black resistance in South Africa has escalated. Militant protest has spread throughout South Africa following the adoption of a new constitution on September 3rd, designed to reinforce the apartheid system. In the past two and a half months more than 1,000 political activists have been arrested and at least 170 people have been killed.

In Seattle, The Washington State Rainbow Coalition and many other organizations and individuals have staged pickets and civil disobedience on Saturday and Sunday at the local consulate. City, county and state divestment legislation has been proposed.

To close the consulate and to stop U.S. support for the racist, white minority government of South Africa continual protest has to be maintained. The Washington State Rainbow Coalition would like you to participate in the building of a city wide Seattle Coalition Against Apartheid. The first meeting to discuss the proposed principles of unity and the strategy (enclosed) will be on Thursday, January 3, 1984; 7:30pm at Mt. Zion Baptist Church; 19th and Madison. At a previous meeting it was decided to build for a major demonstration on Sunday, January 20th, Inauguration Day, with mass civil disobedience. The demonstration will also be discussed.

Hope to see you there.

*Gerald Lenoir*  
Gerald Lenoir  
Steering Committee,  
Washington State Rainbow  
Coalition  
328-0834

Sincerely,  
*Mona Bailey*  
Mona Bailey  
Co-chair, Washington State Rainbow  
Coalition  
National Board, TransAfrica  
232-9451