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ALBANY URBAN LEAGUE, LIVINGSTON AND TEN BROECK

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  discussion of what this means and what action we can take
  (see analysis inside this newsletter)
- racial violence in New York State
  planning for a forum:and follow up on the Brawley case
- Aaron Carter, a Schenectady resident:and member of the Refreshing
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With a clean sweep of the legislative guillotine, the neofascist South African government has launched a desperate attempt at the total annihilation of the liberation movement inside South Africa. They have now, on Feb. 24, 1988, banned 17 major national political organizations and groupings. These include the 650,000 member-strong Congress of South African Trade Unions, and the largest political grouping in the country, the non-racial United Democratic Front.

1985 was the first year since 1960 that the South African government had thought it necessary to declare a State of Emergency. This State of Emergency is still in place now, three years later, but its nature has changed. Throughout the three years the neo-fascist government of P.W. Botha has introduced more and more legislation to give greater and more sweeping powers to the police and to the Minister of Law and Order. These have included bans on the press, bans on gatherings, summary and arbitrary arrest and detention for indefinite periods, with detainees having no recourse to the law, censorship of what is taught in classrooms, preached in churches, violations of moslem places of worship, and the list continues.

1988 is the year in which the racist Apartheid government is trying to crush the backbone of the movement for democracy and justice in the same way that it repressed it with the banning of the ANC and other organizations in 1961. Hence the banning of the 17 organizations.

This is ostensibly done in an attempt to clear the field for the reactionary forces consisting of the traitors to the struggle for liberation of the oppressed and exploited black masses in South Africa. These traitors and self-seeking, avaricious political opportunists include Gatsha Buthelezi and his reactionary impi in Inkatha (the US favorite), which has been steadily losing support to the UDF and COSATU, even in areas which have been Inkatha's traditional strongholds, few and small though they may be. They also include the puppet parties of Alan Hendrickse and Amichand Rajbansi, who for financial and material remuneration, were prepared to give token participation in the farcical tri-cameral parliament. I call it token participation because they have no power to effect change or even to stimulate a discussion about change. Also, less than four percent of those eligible to vote in the tri-cameral elections of 1984, voted for these quislings; an indication of the massive popular rejection of any racist, oppressive, and exploitative compromises from this illegitimate government. P.W. Botha's National Party is also trying to stem the steady flow of white Nazis from his party in preparation for the elections scheduled for 1989.

The United States has made enough excuses. The excuse of "Constructive Engagement", which was designed to give the South African government enough room in which to maneuver and give incentive for reform, resulted in the assassination by the South African police of Matthews Goniwe, a teacher and community leader in Cradock, South Africa. It led to the infamous Langa massacres where people, peacefully on their way to a funeral, were mowed down by the police, who afterwards planted sticks and stones next to their bodies and claimed that these people had made threatening gestures at them in their armored cars, which have been built to withstand grenade attacks. "Constructive Engagement" led to the massacres of children in 1985, 1986, 1987, to the mass detention and torture of people, aged from eight to 80. "Constructive Engagement" was a license for the South African government to wage a brutal war on an unarmed and initially peaceful protesting people.

The South African people demanded sanctions. The Front-Line states demanded sanctions. Yet, for a long time, the US government stalled and listened to the voice of P.W. Botha, which sounds remarkably like Adolf Hitler's, but then again, so did Somoza's voice in Nicaragua.

When the Anti-Apartheid movement in the United States battered down the conservative double-talk of a White House tarnished with the blood of South Africans, Namibians, Angolans, and Mozambicans, the conservative conspiracy managed to soften the sanctions bill, which had been spearheaded by progressive representatives, making it absolutely toothless. Excuses abound. They say that sanctions are no way to bring about peaceful change, but there was no hesitation in imposing sanctions on Poland, Lybia, Nicaragua, and Brazil.

The Dellums-Cranston bill is before Congress, which, if passed, will impose total sanctions on South Africa. The South African masses are calling for total sanctions. The Front-Line states are calling for total sanctions. South Africa must be isolated economically, politically, in sport, tourism, entertainment — everything. The excuses of the US government do not conceal the hypocrisy of vested interests. The US government has only one moral, democratic, and just direction it can take:
Dear Friend:

As you know, Senator Alan Cranston (D-CA) and I have introduced H.R. 1580/S. 556, a bill to impose a virtually total ban on South Africa. This legislation would also require U.S. corporations to withdraw from South Africa within six months of enactment. H.R. 1580/S. 556 is similar to H.R. 997, the comprehensive sanctions bill I introduced in 1986. H.R. 997 passed the House of Representatives by voice vote and helped provide the momentum for pressuring the Senate, and ultimately the entire Congress, to pass a lesser sanctions package against South Africa over President Reagan's veto.

The Reagan Administration has undermined the current sanctions law with weak regulations and loose interpretation of the letter of the law. Since the Administration is not willing to enforce even the limited actions presently in effect, it is up to the Congress to enact stronger, truly comprehensive sanctions against the apartheid government. Black South African organizations such as the National Union of Mineworkers, COSATU, NACTU, and leaders such as Archbishop Desmond Tutu, South African Council of Churches President Rev. Frank Chikane, and the Rev. Beyers Naudé continue to call for comprehensive mandatory sanctions against Pretoria. As Americans, the very least we can do is to heed their call for international pressure against apartheid. Together, the churches, trade unions, anti-apartheid, civil rights and other organizations of this country can mobilize the kind of grassroots pressure needed to force Congress to pass strong, comprehensive sanctions against the apartheid regime.

Sincerely,

Ronald V. Dellums
Member of Congress
On February 24, 1988, the racist South African government banned 17 major national political organizations. These include the largest political grouping in the country, the non-racial United Democratic Front with over 3 million members and the 650,000 member Congress of South African Trade Unions. This is another move by the apartheid government in Pretoria to crush the movement for democracy and justice. Black South Africa are asking the international community for complete and real sanctions against South Africa. As Americans we have a real responsibility to respond to this call. Our government is supporting apartheid with its continued trade and investments in South Africa. The time for debate is over. We must show our legislators that we want a real change in our policy towards Southern Africa.

On the other side of this page you will find an excerpt from a letter by U.S. Congressman Ronald V. Dellums with details about legislation he and Sen. Alan Cranston have introduced in Congress which would isolate the pariah state by imposing a virtually total ban on South Africa. We are asking you to take the time to write the following letter (or another letter in your own words) to New York Senator Daniel Moynihan. This is an urgent appeal - the crisis in South Africa deepens.

After you have written a letter, please post this information or pass it on.

March, 1988

Senator Daniel P. Moynihan
Russell Senate Office Building
Room #464
Washington D.C. 10501

Dear Senator Moynihan,

I am very concerned about the fact that you have not signed on as a cosponsor to Sanctions Bill #S 556.

I am sure you know that things have never been worse in South Africa. The fact that we no longer see the horrors of apartheid on the nightly news does not mean that it is not happening. The recent bannings of 17 organizations committed to peaceful change shows that the government is committed to maintaining white supremacist rule in that tortured country. And we are continuing to support that racist government and its heinous crimes against the majority of the South African people by our continued trade and investments there.

Every major anti-apartheid organization, trade union and youth organization is calling for complete sanctions. What are you waiting for?

Senator Moynihan, I am sincerely hoping that you will join the courageous leadership of Senator Cranston and Congressman Dellums in cosponsoring this bill. #S 556 responds directly to the call of those who have the most to gain, the Black majority in South Africa. We do not need any other legislation...such a move would only serve to add confusion to this most urgent issue. For once, let us be on the right side of history.

Sincerely,
[1] Impose total sanctions on South Africa.
[2] Demand the total withdrawal of South Africa from Namibia.
[3] Withdraw all overt and covert aid to the contras of Angola, namely Jonas Savimbi’s UNITA.
[4] Support the South African liberation movement financially and materially through support for the ANC, SWAPO, the MPLA government of Angola and the FRELIMO government of Mozambique.

Ordinary people have the moral responsibility to write to their legislators, like D’Amato and Stratten, demanding that they support the sanctions bill. Write or call Senator Daniel P. Moynihan and demand that he take leadership with the Dellums-Cranston bill.

The United States has been complicit in much death, devastation, and injustice. Let’s make a concerted effort toward the death, devastation and injustice in Southern Africa.

CALL TO ACTION...
The heightened crisis in South Africa makes it crucial for the Coalition to heighten our work around the issue of sanctions. The apartheid regime must be isolated. We are planning to develop strategies with churches and labor unions to press for action from the U.S. government.

WE NEED MORE PEOPLE TO WORK ON THIS IMPORTANT CAMPAIGN.
Call 436-0562 to volunteer.

and

after the bannings

...more repression

CAPE TOWN, South Africa — The government Tuesday proposed a bill to outlaw foreign funding of political activity, which could cripple anti-apartheid groups and churches thus far spared from the new crackdown on opposition.

No court challenge of the restrictions would be allowed.

Last week, the government banned 18 predominantly black organizations from political activity, including the largest anti-apartheid coalition and largest labor federation.

The new legislation, called “The Promotion of Orderly Politics Bill,” would prohibit all organizations from receiving money from abroad for political purposes and would empower the justice minister to seize foreign funds received by certain groups. His powers would be indefinitely retroactive.

“The South African government to make the white supreme has had to reach into the past and revive the nightmarish ideology and practices of nazism. We are witnessing a rerudescence of the barbarism which murdered more humans than any war in history.”

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
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