NEXT REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING: THURSDAY, JAN. 28, 1988 at 7:30 p.m.
Urban League, corner of Livingston and Ten Broeck, Albany, New York

TOPIC: **Racial violence ... critical update**
- Cases of Racial Violence - Tawana Brawley, Jimmy Lee Bruce & others
- The need for a statewide special prosecutor - Cuomo's position
- The Coalition petition campaign - Albany policewoman Von Dollem Burke

Jeff Jones and Vicki Smith will lead discussion

For Barbara Winters - December, 1988
(The following statement was made to Barbara Winters upon her resignation as Director of the Albany Urban League and her return to Connecticut)

These words were not difficult to put together. They are a collation of the reactions of the members of the Coalition who we talked to about your leaving. The reaction became predictable. Barbara, never has there been a time, that any of us can remember, that anyone has come into our community and made such an impact in such a short time.

Your work has been insightful and steady. You are most skilled at working with all sectors of the community. You are deliberate, open, honest and caring. You live by the saying, "Nothing ventured, nothing gained." This ideal has led you forward, taking others along with you.

Your contributions and initiatives in the community are endless. While others talk, you act. Sometimes they talked while you were acting, and they are still talking! Your involvement in the Coalition and your role on the steering committee have been invaluable.

Barbara, within a very short time, you said to us: "This is where I want to be!!" You understood that our politics is a maze of diversity and you instinctively understood the difficult task ahead. You put on no airs and you were willing to learn and grow with us. In your work you became a symbol of the link between fighting racism here and fighting apartheid in South Africa. Know that you have been a true sister in struggle. **A luta continua!**

The Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism, Albany, N.Y.
news notes

study groups - the coalition has been running monthly study sessions on what is happening in southern africa. in october, south african students, sean lewis and shobhna golpa, discussed their experiences as students within the country. in november, vicki erenstein of the national lawyers guild told of a conference she recently attended in harare, zimbabwe and the moves by the apartheid regime to destabilize and terrorize all of southern africa. in december, mojaki thulo of the anc led a discussion of the meaning and importance of the freedom charter. also in december, two members of the coalition, barbara winters and naomi jaffe, presented information on the situation in namibia. scheduled next: a discussion of mozambique in january and one on angola in march. if you would like to join these study sessions, call 435-0562.

a. philip randolph institute the next meeting of the a. philip randolph institute, albany chapter, will be held at 7:00 p.m., thursday, feb. 4, 1988, in the offices of service employees local 200 d, 16 russell road, albany (westgate building, adjacent to the westgate shopping center). all who are interested in working with the black community, through the labor movement, are invited to attend. (apri is part of the afl-cio)

social justice center - peace offerings, the craft and gift store of the social justice center of albany, raised $3,000 for the center during the recent holiday season. these funds provide critical help to the center which is struggling to raise money to meet operating costs. besides raising money, another of the store's goals is to provide multi-cultural and political education. the store will be kept open the rest of the year with shortened hours. call 434-4037 for details.

bowl-a-thon - on saturday, february 27, 1987, the social justice center will sponspor the second annual bowl-a-thon as a fundraiser. if you like to bowl and could be part of a coalition team, call 438-0309.

volunteers needed by the center. each member group (the coalition is a member group) has been asked to find volunteers to work at various jobs a few hours or days each month. help is needed in the following areas: office work, floor and window displays, publicity, physical work on the building, fundraising. call 438-0309 or 434-4037 if you can help out.

the social justice center, made up of several organizations working on issues of peace and social justice, is an invaluable community resource. please give your support.
More than 500 delegates from all over the world, travelled to Arusha, Tanzania, to attend an Anti-Apartheid conference called by the African National Congress, the vanguard of the liberation movement in South Africa.

Vera Michelson, of the Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism, was part of the 14-member US delegation to the conference, which consisted of representatives of governments, non-governmental organizations, solidarity organizations, national liberation movements of several countries and the South African democratic movement inside the country. The conference was entitled, "PEOPLES OF THE WORLD AGAINST APARTHEID FOR A DEMOCRATIC SOUTH AFRICA."

The following is a conversation with Vera Michelson.

Q: Anti-Apartheid conferences are being held all the time. What was special, or different or significant about this one?
A: This was the first time in the history of the liberation movement that the ANC has been able to sit down with the international community to discuss strategies to more effectively isolate South Africa. The actual work of the conference was done in four commissions:
1) Pretoria's policy of aggression against the frontline states.
2) Mobilization of people's sanctions.
3) The international isolation of the Apartheid regime.
4) New perspectives on international solidarity.

It was in the commissions that strategies were hammered out to set an agenda for the international movement, which will push the struggle forward to keep up with the escalating resistance inside South Africa.

Q: How does the African National Congress fit into the internal or external struggle?
A: The time has come for the world to understand that the South African regime is absolutely illegitimate. The people's movement in South Africa is truly the ANC. Freedom fighters from inside the country who spoke under strict security measures repeatedly told of the vanguard role of the ANC. One un-named representative of COSATU (the largest and most powerful trade union federation in South Africa) said: "The ANC lives among our people, it is within our people...they are instruments of liberation.

Q: Why should the ANC receive full support from the international community?
A: It is the will of the mass democratic movement inside the country. That same COSATU representative said: "We want to inform the Conference and the international community that we don't see the need for any other national liberation movement, except the ANC. The ANC is an organ of unity. It was founded on the principle of broad unity amongst our people. In its policies and constitution there is room, and a home for all kinds of belief, for all men and women who are serious and true patriots. The struggle is not playing games. Men, women and children are daily imprisoned, tortured and killed. We don't want to encourage the existence of the Savimbis' and the Renamos'. Thus we appeal to the international community to help us avoid it. Only the fascist, racist white minority and Reagan will encourage the existence of a third force."

You see, the issue is critical now, because the South African government and its Western allies, are trying to promote puppets like Gatsha Buthelezi and his Inkatha movement. These people are not legitimate and do not represent the people. They are being promoted by the SA government in a desperate attempt to divide the forces of democracy and freedom and to sow confusion. The mass democratic movement inside the country, organizations like COSATU, the UDF (the largest political grouping in the country), the youth, student, women's organizations, etc., not only support the program of the ANC, which enshrine non-racialism and democracy but also support the ANC as the nucleus of the government in exile."

Q: What do people in the US have to do with all this?
A: Simply being Anti-Apartheid is not enough. The liberation movement needs our concrete support. There is no middle ground. We are either supporting the ANC, or the regime. In his address to the conference, President Julius Nyere of Tanzania said: "...the task of the ANC is to continue the struggle and the task of non-racists everywhere is to support them."

Q: How does the solidarity/anti-apartheid movement in the United States compare with movements in other countries?
A: Britain and the Scandinavian countries have strong movements which are not fragmented. The Socialist countries and most of the African nations support the liberation movement. Even Japan now has a growing Anti-Apartheid movement which is working to prevent Japanese companies from moving into South Africa to replace disinvesting companies. In the US we tend to go in spurts and jogs. We have a tendency to support an issue if it is fashionable. I sometimes think we have very short attention spans.

Q: How does the conference see the role of the US in the future?
A: We have to build on the important victories that we have won in this country. Our task here is to advance the effort to win real and complete sanctions against Pretoria. We also have to educate people about the atrocities SA is committing in Namibia, Angola and Mozambique in particular. Our work is cut out for us.

Q: What are the future plans of the Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism? Will the conference affect your work?
A: The conference will help us to focus our work in the solidarity movement. We are already holding teach-ins so that our members can become more knowledgeable about SA's role in creating chaos, death and starvation in the whole of Southern Africa. We will be working on the sanctions bill and perhaps a material aid campaign to give concrete financial assistance to Liberation movement.

We can also never forget that our country's foreign policy is just a reflection of its domestic policy. It is for this reason that it is just as necessary to fight against racism in the US. We are therefore conducting a petition campaign to have action taken against police officer Valerie Van Dollen Burke, for twice violating the civil rights of Black citizens in Albany.

We invite anyone who believes racism inside or outside the US is a crime against humanity, to join us in our fight against this crime.

Call 436-0562 to get involved.
CRITICAL BLACK ISSUES CONFERENCE - On Saturday, February 6, 1988, from 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the New York State Museum at the Empire State Plaza in Albany. Guided community discussions will focus on several major issues including economics, politics, education, cultural and social awareness and leadership. For more information on the conference, call (518) 885-1683 (eves.)

In this newsletter you will find a flyer with particulars of this event - please read and post where others can read it.

BLACK AND PUERTO RICAN LEGISLATIVE CAUCUS WEEKEND - This year's weekend is planned for February 13-15. Remember the dates.

WASHINGTON OFFICE ON AFRICA - provides very comprehensive and valuable legislative updates on Southern Africa, including the latest regarding sanctions bills. If you would like more information, call 436-0562.

LATIN NIGHT - On Friday, January 22nd from 9:00 p.m. to 3:00 a.m, there will be a Latin Night at the Imperial Room of the Thruway House on Washington Avenue in Albany. For more information, call Tony 465-1827.

CELEBRATING DIFFERENCE - UNITY AND DIVERSITY SERIES sponsored by Women and Minority Studies, Peace Studies and the Reinhold Niebuhr Institute of Siena College will present two lectures in February.

"Where do we go from here - chaos or community?" by James Lawson, Pres. of the Los Angeles chapter of the SCLC and former Martin Luther King colleague and co-worker - on February 1st at 8:00 p.m.

"African International Ethos" slide show and lecture by Marta Moreno Vega - on February 15th at 8:00 p.m.

Both programs will take place in Room 202, Roger Bacon Hall, Siena College, Route 9, Loudenville.

REMEMBERING THE REVOLUTIONARY VALUES OF MARTIN LUTHER KING

"I am convinced that if we are to get on the right side of the world revolution, we as a nation must undergo a radical revolution of values. We must begin the shift from a "thing oriented" society to a person oriented society. When machines and computers, profit motives and property rights are considered more important than people, the giant triplets of racism, materialism and militarism are incapable of being conquered."

M.L. King
On November 28, 1987, 15-year-old Tawana Brawley was found alive in a plastic bag on a roadside in Wappingers Falls, Dutchess County. She had been kidnapped and held for three days by 6 white men who identified themselves as Police Officers (showing badges). She had been raped and sodomized. "K.K.K." had been written across her chest, and "NIGGER" written in excrement across her stomach.

In nearby Orange County, Black and Hispanic men right now resist a KKK/prison guard reign of terror in the County jail. This is the County where Jimmy Lee Bruce was strangled to death a year ago by Orange County Police Officers.