



Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism

Box 3002 - Pine Hills Station

Albany, NY 12203

A Project of the Social Justice Center

SEPTEMBER 1987
NEWSLETTER

NEXT REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING: Thursday, Sept. 24, 1987 at 7: 30 p. m.
at the Urban League, corner of Ten Broeck and Livingston, Albany, N.Y.

This is a very important Fall planning meeting. We urge you to attend and we urge all member groups of the Coalition to send a representative. (On the back page of this newsletter is a complete list of all Coalition member groups and also a list of the members of the Coalition steering committee.)

This meeting will also include a discussion, led by Coalition member, Silvestre Wallace, a Panamanian, on:

"CRISIS IN PANAMA"

MOROBE ARRESTED

It is with great sadness that we announce the arrest and detention of our friend, Murphy Morobe. The report of Murphy's arrest by the South African apartheid police is described in the article copied below from the July 23, 1987 issue of the New York Times. When Murphy was in Albany - March of 1985, he spoke to several area groups and pointed out that the governmental policy of apartheid, a system which denies human dignity, is the real violence in South Africa and he called for people in the United States to oppose government policies here which reinforce the repression and institutionalized segregation of the apartheid regime in South Africa. The struggle continues.....
FREE NELSON MANDELA.....RELEASE THE CHILDREN.....FREE ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS

JOHANNESBURG, July 22 — Two key officials of the anti-apartheid United Democratic Front, the biggest internal grouping resisting white rule, were arrested by the South African police early today in a pre-dawn sweep.

Murphy Morobe, the acting national publicity secretary of the Front who has been working underground for more than a year, was detained in Port Elizabeth on the eastern seaboard along with the Front's acting general secretary, Mohammed Valli Moosa.

Civil rights lawyers, who confirmed the arrests, said they were considering applying to the courts for the release of the two men.

The four-year-old United Democratic Front, which claims a multiracial membership of more than two million, has been severely hampered by the intimidation, assassination and detention of leading officials.

Program Aligned With A.N.C.

Although the Front rejects the use of violence to achieve its goals, it follows a political program closely aligned to the outlawed African National Congress, the main guerrilla-backed group that is fighting to end white rule. (continued)



MURPHY MOROBE meeting with Coalition Co-chairs, Vera Michelson and Merton Simpson during visit to Albany in March, 1985.

MOROBÉ ARRESTED (continued from page 1)

On Tuesday, a group of 40 mainly Afrikaans-speaking South Africans returned from a ten-day visit to West Africa where they held talks with officials of the banned group in a bid to prepare the ground for negotiations between the white-dominated Government and exiled black nationalists.

The state-controlled television showed brief scenes of neofascist demonstrators that turned up at Johannesburg airport to jeer at the negotiators. The broadcast was followed with what was described as a documentary on the group portraying it as a "Marxist-terrorist" organization bent on the violent overthrow of the state.

Mr. Morobe, who went into hiding when a nationwide state of emergency was declared on June 12, 1986, had emerged as a key figure in keeping the spirit of anti-apartheid resistance alive in the face of state repression.

Predecessors on Trial

Although the United Democratic Front is not formally outlawed, it has functioned largely as an underground organization under the emergency laws.

Mr. Morobe has made several public appearances since he went into hiding, and his picture has appeared alongside signed articles advocating a non-racial democracy in South African newspapers.

He has emerged to hold news conferences, and last weekend he addressed the first national congress of the 750,000-strong Congress of South African Trade Unions, the militant union federation that has been spearheading anti-apartheid action in recent months.

The other person arrested today, Mr. Valli Moosa, was in custody for the first three months of the year as one of an estimated 25,000 people that have

been held without trial under the emergency decree. Mr. Morobe and Mr. Valli Moosa hold their posts temporarily while their predecessors, Patrick "Terror" Lekota and Popo Molefe, are tried for treason.

Angry Reaction

Mr. Morobe was detained for six weeks during the first state of emergency, declared in 1985, after apparently being trailed by security forces in downtown Johannesburg.

Civil-rights groups, trade unionists and youth organizations reacted angrily to the detentions tonight and vowed that detention and repression would not dampen resistance to apartheid.

NEWS NOTES

SOUTH AFRICAN WOMEN - In June, MOJAKI THULO of South Africa and LOIDE SHINAVENE of Namibia were sponsored by the Coalition in Albany as part of a nationwide tour arranged by Women for Racial and Economic Equality (WREE). Several events, including a public forum at Albany's Wilborn Temple, were held and Mojaki and Loide did a great job of educating the people in the Capital District about the continuing repression by the apartheid government of South Africa. Besides education, the other major goal of their visit was to raise money for the defense of the children held in detention by the racist regime.

We recently received a letter from Cecelia McCall of WREE thanking us for the "good work and the quality of what was done in Albany." The total money raised here and turned over to the women was \$1,850.00!! The Coalition was aided in this effort by many organizations and individuals.

Special thanks to Elder Jeffress and our friends at the Wilborn Temple, Rev. Lawrence and the congregation at the A.M.E. Zion Church in Albany, Father Amisshah and the Black Catholic Apostolate of the Catholic Diocese, the Women Building and the Companera Project, Irene Carr and C.S.E.A., and Mark Mishler and Renee Haritan. Also thanks to Gloria DeSole of SUNYA and to Thandi Zwana, Talitha Komane Simpson and the Arbor Hill Community Center of Albany.

Many individuals also worked in this important solidarity effort with the ANC and SWAPO during the four days that Mojaki and Loide spent with us: Florence Frazier, Ethel David, Judy Daniels, Vera Michelson, Naomi Jaffe, Eileen Kawola, Laverne Sirmans and Barbara Smith. (Apologies to anyone whose name we left out.)

JUNE FUNDRAISER - Also in June, Bill Ritchie, Yvette Scarlett and Merton Simpson organized a successful disco fundraiser at Page Three. The money came at a critical time and we thank all who gave their support.

BLACK ARTS FESTIVAL - On July 19th, the Coalition tabled and did educational outreach at the 6th annual Empire State Black Arts and Cultural Festival at the Plaza. Coalition ball is with an anti-apartheid message added a political tone to the event. Bill Ritche and Yvette Scarlett organized the Coalition participation.



Times Union photo by Roberta Smith

Loide Shinavene (left) and Mojaki Thulo

Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism • Catholics for a
People-Albany Chapter • National Association of
Puerto Rican Legislative Caucus • NYS
Political Caucus-Capital District

• ACCESS • Albany Business and Professional Women • Amalgamated Clothing and
Free Choice • DSA • Eleanor Roosevelt Democratic Club • Hispanic Political
Social Workers- Northeast Division • National Education Association of NYS
Lesbian and Gay Lobby • Student Association of the State University • Service
Chapter • YWCA of Albany

Senator _____

U.S. Senate

Washington, D.C. 20510

**PLACE
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HERE**

Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees • Americans for Democratic Action • Capital District
Abortion Rights Action League-NYS Affiliate • National Association for the Advancement of Colored
District Chapter • National Organization for Women-Albany Chapter • NYS Black and
Employees International
Textile Workers Union • American
Coalition of NYS • National
• National Lawyers Guild-Capital

Union-Local 200

• Solidarity Committee
• Women's Building • Women's

• NYS Black and
• Women's

Dear Senator _____,

Americans have long depended on the Supreme Court to protect individual rights and liberties.

Judge Bork's philosophy threatens the freedoms of all Americans. Our lives and health and the well-being of our families are at stake.

Americans now depend on the U.S. Senate for a thorough review of Judge Bork. Our government's balance of power depends on the Senate's active scrutiny.

I urge you to vote for New Yorkers and against the confirmation of Judge Bork to the Supreme Court.

(signature)

(address)

(city)

(st)

(zip)



-EMERGENCY---EMERGENCY---EMERGENCY---EMERGENCY---EMERGENCY---

We are making a very serious and very urgent request that you read the information on this insert and take action. We need three things:

1. a letter to the U.S. Senate opposing legislation which would put great restrictions on the ANC and SWAPO.
2. a letter to the U.S. Senate opposing the nomination of Robert Bork to the Supreme Court.
3. a letter of solidarity and cash to the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) of South Africa.

Send Letters of PROTEST, solidarity

We are providing some background information on these three issues and suggestions for your follow-up - including sample letters and addresses.

We are asking that you act and then pass this information along, copy this page and post it, do whatever you can to get as many people involved as possible.

ANC and SWAPO

On June 23, 1987, by a vote of 303-111, the House of Representatives passes HR 177, the State Department Authorization bill. Amendments which were added to this bill represent a serious attack on the people of South Africa and Namibia by placing U.S. travel restrictions on their national liberation movements, the ANC and SWAPO. (Both the ANC and SWAPO have permanent observer missions at the U.N. The travel restrictions would make it impossible for members of these missions to even come to Albany to take part in educational forums!) The amendments to this bill also make an ominous assault on the First Amendment free speech rights of all Americans.

The Senate is now considering S 1394, the Foreign Relations Authorization bill. We must oppose any such amendments to this Senate bill. After the Senate passes its bill, a joint House-Senate Conference Committee will meet to work out a compromise version of a joint bill. If we can ensure that the Senate version does not contain similar negative amendments, we have a significant chance of getting a decent compromise version. There are also attempts in Congress to pass legislation calling for sanctions against Angola and aid for the "contra" forces of UNITA.

ROBERT BORK

Having failed to implement their social and political agenda through legislation, Pres. Reagan and Attorney General Meese are attempting, with the nomination of Robert Bork, to tip the balance of the Supreme Court in a direction that will undermine more than 30 years of progress in Court protection of civil rights and individual liberties.

An overview of Bork's opinions shows that Bork does not favor court and Constitutional protection of minorities' civil rights.

* He finds insupportable the Supreme Court's 1948 decision holding that the judicial enforcement of racially restrictive covenants violates the fourteenth amendment.

* He said that he thinks the decision striking down the poll tax in 1966 was unfounded on equal protection grounds.

* In 1963, he opposed passage of provisions of the 1964 Civil Rights Act barring discrimination in public accommodations. He recanted that view in 1973, but the fact remains that when times were moving towards extension of civil rights, Bork was trying to prevent desegregation of public facilities. He continues to oppose desegregation remedies today.

(continued on other side)

ROBERT BORK...continued

*In 1972, Bork was one of only two law professors to testify in favor of the Nixon Administration's effort to curb steps the Supreme Court had held were necessary to remedy unconstitutional school segregation. 500 law professors said the legislation was unconstitutional.

*Later, as Solicitor General, Bork continued to oppose school desegregation remedies, once being overruled by Attorney General Levi when he sought to file a brief opposing Black parents and students in the Boston school desegregation case.

*Today, Bork would certainly support Ed Meese in his efforts to eliminate affirmative action as a remedy for discrimination.

The Bork nomination is not just being opposed by groups whose main concern is the protection of civil rights and individual liberties. His nomination is being opposed by groups representing a broad spectrum of American society. His record is clear...his confirmation will mean a reactionary move backwards...hard fought for progressive victories will be in grave jeopardy if he becomes a member of the Supreme Court.

SOUTH AFRICAN MINERS STRIKE

In August, the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) engaged in South Africa's biggest labor action ever. The strikers were fighting for a living wage and also for an end to the appalling uneven distribution of income between Blacks and whites under the apartheid system. The strike lasted almost three weeks and cost the mine owners millions of dollars in revenue. Cyril Ramaphosa, NUM General Secretary points out that although the demands of the miners were not achieved, the strike represents an important victory. It showed the growing strength of the trade union movement in South Africa. It is a beginning - a trial run for the future.

The broad based strike also pushed the anti-apartheid struggle forward, showing the ability of the struggling masses to make South Africa "ungovernable."

The NUM and the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) have appealed to U.S. workers for support for food, legal and medical aid for workers who lost their jobs, were injured during the strike, or were arrested. The United Mine Workers of America stand in solidarity with their brothers in the NUM and are helping to lead this campaign.

You can help by sending contributions to:
the Solidarity Committee of the Capital District
191 Amsterdam Avenue, Albany, New York 12204

make checks out to the Solidarity Committee with a notation NUM/South Africa or to the National Union of Mineworkers.

Messages of support can be sent directly to:

National Union of Mineworkers

P.O. Box 2424, Johannesburg 2000, South Africa.

—and cash

WHAT YOU CAN DO...ABOUT ANC/SWAPO LEGISLATION AND THE CONFIRMATION OF ROBERT BORK

Below you will find a sample letter regarding the ANC/SWAPO legislation, a postcard regarding the Bork nomination, and addresses. EVEN IF YOU HAVE NEVER WRITTEN TO A SENATOR, DO IT NOW!

ANC/SWAPO Legislation:

Dear Senator

The recent House-passed State Department Authorization Bill, HR 1777, represents a serious attack on the people of South Africa and Namibia by placing U.S. travel restrictions on their national liberation movements, the A.N.C. and SWAPO. And it represents an ominous disregard for First Amendment free speech rights of all Americans.

Any attempt to restrict the ability of the A.N.C. and SWAPO to tell their story to the American people is outrageous, and furthermore, could be broadly interpreted as a way to silence Americans who speak out for human rights in Southern Africa. I urge you to become a leading voice in opposing any such amendments to the Senate Foreign Relations Authorization Bill, S 1394. I also urge you to oppose any attempt to place sanctions against Angola or to give any support to the forces of UNITA.

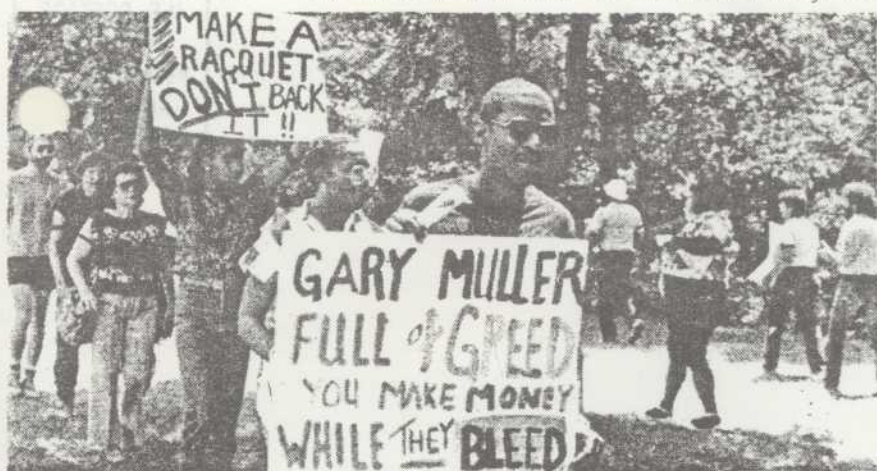
Sincerely,

ANC/SWAPO letters should go to Senator Daniel Moynihan and Sen. Clayborn Pell
Bork postcard to Senator Daniel Moynihan and Senator Joseph Biden

U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510

TENNIS PROTEST

The Coalition and the Schenectady NAACP protested the appearance of South African tennis players at the Schenectady OTB Tennis Tourney which began on July 18th at Central Park. Representatives of the two groups were very successful in getting the Schenectady City Council to pass a resolution agreeing to try to negotiate with organizers to stop South African player participation in future tournaments.



A protest of approximately 100 people was held on opening day and the spirited demonstration stopped play for about 45 minutes.

Some of the many people who worked on this sports boycott were Joe Allen, Pres. and Doug William, V.Pres. of the Schenectady NAACP and Roli Varma, Randi McGough, Vera Michel Martin Manley, Les Davis, Mabel Leon and Coalition attorneys Mark Mishler and Anita Thayer. Senti Thobejane of the African National Congress addressed a rally after the demonstration.

COMMITTEE ON POLICE AND RACIAL VIOLENCE

- There have been several meetings over the summer and the next meeting is scheduled for October 13th at the Urban League in Albany at 7:00. The committee reviewed a letter calling for discipline against Police Officer Valerie Von Dollen Burke who was ordered to pay damages to the McKeever family in their lawsuit against the city police. This call for disciplinary action is being made to the Community Police Relations Board and to the Mayor. An educational project for youth is scheduled for the Fall in cooperation with the NAACP.

RAY CHARLES

- A Ray Charles protest was planned for September 3rd. Our old friend Ray, the cultural boycott violator, was coming back to town for the third time and Mert Simpson had done the preliminary work to have a protest ready for Ray. Fortunately, or unfortunately, the Coliseum where he was scheduled to appear went out of business early in August. NO RAY THIS SUMMER. (Look for an analysis of the Paul Simon "disgrace" in the next newsletter.)

WHAT'S HAPPENING

- AFRICAN AMERICAN FAMILY DAY FESTIVAL - The theme of this annual event, sponsored by A Univer-Being, is "Strengthening Family Ties." The schedule is as follows: (Arbor Hill Softball Field)
Sept. 29, 6-9 p.m. - FAMILY DAY BAR-B-QUE
Sept. 30, 6-9 p.m. - JAZZ IN THE PARK
Oct. 1, 6-9 p.m. - DJ NIGHT
Oct. 2, 6-10 p.m. - GOSPEL EXTRAVAGANZA
Oct 3, Noon - 10 p.m. - YOUTH DAY GUEST ARTISTS, with special visiting artist, Cosbie Mbele
CARNIVAL RIDES OPERATE EACH DAY, BOOTH DISPLAYS ON SATURDAY - for information, call 472-9047 or 370-0384.
- MUSIC AT PAGE THREE - Four exciting evenings of music are planned for Sept. and Oct. at Page Three, 439 N. Pearl St. in Albany. The schedule is as follows:
Fri., Sept. 25, 9 p.m. - Latin Night with Alex Torres
Sun., Sept 27, 5 p.m. - Jazz with Himalaya
Fri., Oct. 23, 9 p.m. - Latin Night with Juan Vega
Sun., Oct. 25, 5 p.m. - Jazz with Oasis
Latin nights, sponsored by Los Internacionales, will feature Latin and international music.
Jazz dates, sponsored by Phoenix Productions, will feature, jazz, blues and Latin-jazz.
- NATIONAL TEACH-IN - A two day teach-in on the Disarmament Program is scheduled of Oct. 16-17 at Riverside Church in New York City. There will be a focus on the "contra-band" of overt and covert warfare stretching around the globe. This program offers an opportunity to learn more about the contras of Angola, their support by South Africa, and the U.S. role in training, equipping and maintaining that brutal force.
Also at Riverside...Sept. 27th, 4-7 p.m., Qorapetse Willie Kgositsili, a preeminent South African poet, Abdullah Ibrahim, and musical vocalists the Statophonics will be performing a fund raising concert for the 1988 tour of Amadla - the world renowned cultural group of the African National Congress.
For information on either event, call 436-0562.

Capital District Coalition
Against Apartheid
and Racism
A Project of the Social Justice Center
33 Central Avenue
Albany, New York 12210

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Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism

Member Organizations

N.A.A.C.P., Albany Branch
Student Association of the
State University
National Lawyers Guild
Malcolm X Study Network
Albany County Central
Federation of Labor
Mount Calvary Baptist Church
The Democratic Socialists
of America
Urban League of Albany
Y.W.C.A.

Capital District Labor Religion Coalition
Student Coalition Against Apartheid and
Racism, SUNYA
A Universal Being
Blacks in Government
Capital District Committee for Palestin-
ian Rights
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.
NYPIRG
Central America Solidarity Alliance
A. Philip Randolph Institute
Kitchen Table: Women of Color Press

and a special welcome to our newest member: N.A.A.C.P., Schenectady

Steering Committee

Vera Michelson, Co-Chairperson
Merton Simpson, Co-Chairperson
Eileen Kawola
Mark Mishler
Bill Ritchie
Anita Thayer
Roli Varma
Barbara Winters
Japhet Zwana

and a special welcome to our newest member, Yvette Scarlett

Victory to ANC of South Africa



Victory to SWAPO of Namibia