

idaf. news notes

Published by the United States Committee of the International Defense and Aid Fund for Southern Africa
P.O. Box 17, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138

February, 1982

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Political Prisoner Project

On March 20, 1980, Representative Thomas Downey and several other Members of Congress, including Senator Paul Tsongas of Massachusetts, launched the Congressional Ad Hoc Monitoring Group on Southern Africa and its Political Prisoner Project. The idea of the Project is that Members of Congress "adopt" certain South Africans currently detained, imprisoned or banned because of their opposition to apartheid. The project was first conceived and proposed by a former Member, Rep. Donald Fraser. Fraser believed that if this or a similar program had previously existed it might have prevented the death in detention of Stephen Biko and of many other prisoners.

The Political Prisoner Project has a threefold objective. Its primary goal is to improve the treatment of political prisoners—to reduce the incidence of torture, "accidental" death and other offenses against human rights. It is hoped, too, that the Project will apply pressure to the South African government to move towards a less reactionary policy in its treatment of dissidents. Because of the positions the adopters hold in the United States government, the Project should receive national if not international coverage and raise the nation's consciousness to the appalling conditions in South Africa. So far, unfortunately, media coverage of the Project has been very poor.

When political prisoners are selected and adopted by Members of Congress, the Members are given biographical files which describe the circumstances which have led to the prisoners' arrest, detention, or banning, when this information is available. (In cases of banning or detention there are no charges or trials.) Members then enter the cases into the Congressional Record and write letters of support to the prisoners and their families while investigating their current condition. They usually write as well to South African officials and to the US State Department to inquire about the adopted prisoner and his case. Members of Congress usually take a moderate tone in their letters, but they urge the South African government to alleviate the conditions in which political prisoners are held. In cases of emergency, when an individual receives a death sentence or disappears while in custody, Members cooperate to send joint telegrams and letters requesting assistance to the United Nations and the US State Department as well as to particular South African officials. While the immediate goal of these letters is to ensure the welfare of the prisoner and to facilitate his or her release from prison or banning orders, Members stress that by pressuring South Africa to release those who have fought for change, the South African government is forced to take its first step toward reform.

Occasionally it may happen that a Member of Congress can actually meet an adopted prisoner. At an IDAF reception in 1980, Senator Paul Tsongas was able to talk with Thozamile Botha, a black South African and former adoptee who had recently fled South Africa to seek refuge and support in the United States. Botha, founder of the Port Elizabeth Black Civil Organization, was arrested for being a union organizer.



In this first issue of the IDAF *News Notes* I welcome the opportunity to say a few words about the work of our United States Committee. Like IDAF National Committees around the world, our task is to inform the public conscience of the destructive and unjust system of racial segregation that exists in southern Africa, and to raise money so that those who risk all they have and are in the struggle to destroy this system will

themselves be defended and their families assisted during the times of trial and imprisonment. We sell and distribute literature so that Americans will know something of conditions in South Africa; we make speeches and show films so that people will be informed. And we solicit money, small gifts and large gifts so that we may provide that defense and aid without which no movement towards freedom can be sustained.

At one level ours is a very mundane task; raising money is seldom exciting, but always necessary. But the fund raising is the means essential to our end: the enablement of social change in that recalcitrant and beloved country. We thus go about our task of raising money for this purpose, and this newsletter is a means by which we invite you to share in this task with us. No gift is too small, and certainly no gift is too large. I do hope you will want to be a part of our effort, not simply by reading our prose and sympathizing with our work, but by pledging gifts to work which is in very essence the saving of life and the redemption of an entire society.

Faithfully yours,

Peter J. Gomes
President, IDAF-USA

IDAF maintains and updates biographical files on all current political prisoners. Gleaning information from a variety of sources, including South African radio and newspapers as well as *Focus* magazine (published by IDAF in London), the Fund informs Congressional adopters of new events affecting their adoptees and recommends other political prisoners for adoption when their positions in South Africa become precarious. Organizers of the Project held a February meeting to revitalize its work and recruit new participants in Congress. The participation of more Members would make it possible to offer a measure of protection to some of the many other political prisoners threatened by torture or death while in detention.

WOMEN IN

Women's Committee Founded

In the quarter of a century that has passed since the historic pass-law protest in Pretoria, and despite a long and militant record of struggle against apartheid, the condition of black women in South Africa has steadily worsened.

The migratory labor system and the legal restrictions in South Africa have placed heavy burdens upon black women. When husbands seek work in the cities, their wives and children are left behind in the impoverished bantustans. Arrests under the Terrorism and Internal Security Acts and the increasing number of detentions under the pass laws (1000 per day) mostly strike men, thus forcing women in families to fend for themselves. Women have been compelled to assume responsibilities traditionally shared with or handled by men. They have become sole breadwinners in their families; they direct the education and upbringing of their children.

However, black women remain the most economically and legally disadvantaged of all social groups in South Africa. They earn less than either black men or white women. South African custody, property and divorce laws that apply to white women do not extend to them. Black women are regarded as minors, under the authority of their husbands, fathers or brothers. And women, of course, are not exempt from the political repression and violence that pervade South African life.

The number of black women detained, tortured or killed in South Africa and Namibia is growing. As of July 1980, 16 Southern African women were imprisoned for political offenses. A further 24 women were banned: prohibited from travelling, from attending any social gathering, from being in the company of more than one other person at one time, and from publishing any writing. In addition, scores of women and girls in Namibia and South Africa have been detained and tortured. The wave of strikes and the schools boycott of 1981 increased the number in detention. Forty-two women have been held without charge in a Namibian prison since the South African raid on the Kassinga refugee camp in 1978. In the course of the 1980 demonstrations in Cape Town, eight women and girls were killed by police bullets.

The 1980 World Conference of the U.N. Decade for Women, in Copenhagen, adopted a Program of Action which stressed the need for special assistance to women in Southern Africa. The program called for "legal, humanitarian, moral and political assistance to women inside South Africa and Namibia persecuted under repressive and discriminatory legislation and practices and to their families and to women in refugee camps."

Recognizing the plight of women in Southern Africa and responding to this appeal, the U.S. Committee of IDAF has established a Southern African Women's Committee, chaired by Dr. Nancy Randolph of Harvard University. The committee has three main tasks: 1) to educate Americans about the condition of women in Southern Africa, 2) to organize a support network among women and women's organizations in this country, and 3) to raise funds to provide legal defense for all woman political prisoners in Southern Africa and aid for their dependents.

Five IDAF publications are now available on women in Southern Africa, and the Women's Committee is beginning its work by increasing the circulation of these materials to women's studies departments, women's bookstores, and political and religious women's organizations. We are also organizing a national Speakers Bureau of Southern African women to give talks on the political situation within Southern Africa, and the condition of black women there. Speakers for the Women's Committee have been active in the

liberation movements and within Southern African women's organizations, and some have been exiled from South Africa because of their work. They are continuing the struggle against apartheid in this country by working for solidarity between American women and the black women of South Africa.

The Women's Committee reaches out to all concerned women, women's organizations, and social action groups. If you are interested in sponsoring a talk, receiving literature, or donating to the work of the Fund within Southern Africa, please write to us: IDAF Women's Committee, P.O. Box 17, Cambridge, MA 02138.

SPEAKERS BUREAU

The following are among the speakers available to groups wishing to sponsor talks on apartheid and the Southern African liberation movements. We request that speakers be provided with travel expenses and an honorarium, which will be used for IDAF work in Southern Africa. If you would like to sponsor a speaker please contact: Susan Pedersen, IDAF Speakers Bureau, P.O. Box 17, Cambridge, MA 02138.

Motlalepula Chabaku

Motlalepula Chabaku held offices in South Africa as National Secretary and full-time organizer for the Women's League of the African National Congress, and was a founding member of the Black Women's Federation of South Africa. Born in Johannesburg in 1933, Ms. Chabaku has been a school-teacher and social worker, and was active in a number of child welfare and women's organizations.

Ms. Chabaku came to the US to take up graduate studies in divinity. She has travelled extensively, attending religious and human rights conferences around the world. She was a keynote speaker at both the 1975 and 1980 international conferences of the United Nations Decade for Women. Ms. Chabaku is presently International Scholar and Adviser in Residence at Bennett College in Greensboro, North Carolina.

Elizabeth Claire Franklin

Elizabeth Franklin was National Secretary of IDAF in South Africa in 1963 and 1964. She worked with political prisoners, their families and lawyers, organizing legal services and aid. While in South Africa, Ms. Franklin also worked as a legal and employment advocate for Africans at the South African Institute of Race Relations, and held office as the National Secretary of the Liberal Party of South Africa.

In 1965 Ms. Franklin left the country to work with the Methodist Office for the United Nations and to lecture throughout the Eastern Seaboard on the political situation in South Africa. She presently lives in Cleveland, where she works as a psychotherapist and counselor. Ms. Franklin is active in the local Committee on Southern Africa and in a variety of women's and peace organizations.

Mankekolo Mahlangu Ngcobo

For over ten years Mankekolo Ngcobo carried on community and anti-apartheid work within South Africa, in the face of continual government harassment. In Soweto, she was on the Executive of the Soweto Action Committee, the Soweto Committee of Ten (Civic Association), and People United to Save Orphans. She trained as a nurse and a schoolteacher and was involved in a variety of Christian and student organizations while at the University of the North.

On May 20, 1978 Ms. Ngcobo was arrested in Soweto for her part in helping to form the Azanian People's Organization (Azapo). She was detained under Section 6 of the Terrorism Act and held in solitary confinement for 21 days. In 1980 she fled the country and joined the African National Congress. Since her exile, Ms. Ngcobo has travelled widely on missions for the ANC and has represented it at two international conferences on women and apartheid.

SOUTHERN AFRICA

The Fight for Liberation

by Stephanie Urdang

Stephanie Urdang, a South African, is the author of Fighting Two Colonialisms, a book on the role of women in Guinea-Bissau. She has recently worked on a study of women under apartheid for the United Nations.

Twenty-five years ago this August, 20,000 women—mostly Africans—converged on Pretoria from every part of South Africa. Their powerful protest was directed against the imminent extension of the pass laws to include African women. It was a march that had been extremely difficult to organize given the oppressive political climate of the country, the vast distances that had to be covered and the lack of funds. But its success in terms of mass mobilization is an important symbol of inspiration for South African women today.

Twenty years later the Soweto uprisings ignited resistance campaigns throughout the country. In photographs and TV film that flashed across the world's media, women and girls were seen in large numbers demonstrating, striking, facing guns. There were many young women among the hundreds killed and the thousands jailed.

Many more are fleeing into exile, joining liberation movements and taking their place with the fight for national liberation. South Africa is inevitably heading towards armed struggle, while in neighboring Namibia it is well underway. Recent history of sub-Saharan Africa bears out the fact that such struggles do end in success. Those fighting in Namibia and South Africa can take heart from the striking victories which began with the ousting of Portuguese colonialism from Angola, Guinea-Bissau and Mozambique and were followed by the raising of the flag of independent Zimbabwe in 1980. But independence did not come easily. The wars of liberation lasted many years and took their toll on

the population. However, these wars were not viewed as an end in themselves. The common ideology that runs through the movements that led and continue to lead these struggles insists that their fight stretches beyond victory on the battlefield to the more fundamental question of establishing a new and just society in each of their countries. And they have all, in varying degrees, emphasized within this context, the importance of the liberation of women to the process.

Reflecting this are the words of Mozambique's President Samora Machel: "The liberation of women is a fundamental necessity for the revolution, a guarantee of its continuity and a precondition for its victory."

Machel's statement is a compelling one, and one that is likely to evoke a sympathetic and excited response from those pushing for the liberation of women in other countries. The big questions are what does the "liberation of women" represent for these revolutions? Why is it viewed as so important? How successful are the efforts?

The policy of the new governments and of the liberation movements differ from most of Africa, where the oppression of women has generally not been viewed as an issue in any way fundamental to development. The key to this divergence lies in the nature of the transformation being sought, namely the creation of societies free from all forms of exploitation and ones able to nurture a new man and a new woman in the coming generations. This approach has led to both an analysis of the conditions of women in their respective countries by the leaders of the movements and an articulated need to change them.

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20,000 women gathered outside the Union Buildings in Pretoria on 9 August 1956.

Liberation

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The generalized situation in these countries is that women are expected to be subservient to men, are subjected to numerous detrimental customs such as polygamy, forced and child marriage, and have little say in the political life of their countries. This subordinate role has come about despite their active and major participation in agricultural production. While women did not experience equality in pre-colonial Africa, they did derive considerably more status from their role in subsistence agriculture than is currently true. This role enabled them to have broader input in the social and economic life of communities, though their political role, when present, tended to be an indirect one. The ever-deepening incursions of colonialism eroded their position, undermining their contribution to the economy, and exposing them to increased oppression.

The struggle for the liberation of women is twofold: for an equal place in the political, social and economic life of the new nations, while simultaneously uprooting the attitudes that keep women down. As members of the oppressed people as a whole, this struggle takes place within the context of the total revolution. Only in a free and independent country—free from colonialism, neo-colonialism and imperialism—and in one based on principles of total equality, can women find their equal place. At the same time it is emphasized that this outcome is not automatic. Choosing a socialist path to development will not mean that women will be spontaneously liberated.

In southern Africa and Guinea-Bissau protracted guerrilla warfare proved to be very effective in hastening the process of emancipating women. For one, there is the question of sheer necessity. Every man, woman and child had to be called upon to participate in some way to overthrow the repressive regimes. This in itself was encouragement to women to take on tasks—including fighting in combat—that otherwise could have been left to the domain of men. As Teurai Ropa Nhongo, a member of the Zimbabwean government and a long-time militant of ZANU stated it:

"The revolutionary armed struggle has been the biggest blessing for the Zimbabwean women. Within a few years it opened the doors which would probably have taken decades to loosen. The struggle for national independence has opened our women folk to a world even they would not have dreamed of."

But this was one facet. The ideologies of these movements extended beyond the pragmatic, whereby the activities of women were consciously encouraged and, most importantly, mechanisms set in motion to ensure both their full participation as well as changing attitudes that hampered this progress.

During war this is relatively easier to achieve. The enemy is both obvious and visible and the fight to oust it magnifies the potential for people to unify across ethnic, religious and sex lines. With independence comes a different set of complexities. The problems that then confront countries as they work towards developing their colonized and war-torn economies are immense. How women fare during this phase of the revolution is even more dependent on their own demands for liberation than before. However, given the continued emphasis on the liberation of women as a "precondition for victory" by the new governments, there is room for hope that this struggle will continue.

We would like to express our grateful appreciation to the Grants Board of Trinity Church, which has provided IDAF with seed money to publish the first several issues of *News Notes*. We welcome further support to help us spread information on current events in Southern Africa and on the work of IDAF. Donations are tax-deductible.

As we go to press...

More on the following stories will appear in the February-March News Calendar in our next issue.

- The worst fears of South Africa's English-language press were realized in the report of the Steyn Commission, which recommended, among other things, that all journalists in the country be licensed and that a government-appointed council be empowered to bar journalists from writing for any newspaper. The recommendation was deplored as an attack on the press by New York's Freedom House, the *London Daily Telegraph*, and even by the pro-government Afrikaans press.

- South Africa's Rabie Commission on security has recommended the addition of three new offenses and the creation of a new department of "Law and Order" to help cope with the "Communist" threat. Other recommendations included a tighter definition of offenses, greater accountability by security personnel, and greater access to prisoners detained without trial.

- Dr. Neil Aggett, a 28-year-old physician and provincial organizer in the unregistered black Food and Canning Workers Union, was found hanged in his prison cell, according to South African police. Aggett was detained in November 1981, held incommunicado and according to an eyewitness account read in Parliament by opposition MP Helen Suzman, subjected to degrading ill-treatment. His death, the 56th among political detainees since "no trial" legislation was introduced in 1963, caused a storm of protest in South Africa and abroad. Police did nothing to prevent the gathering of thousands of blacks and whites in a huge funeral procession from St. Mary's Cathedral to the cemetery.

- Nearly one-sixth of the MPs in the ruling Nationalist Party's caucus voted against Prime Minister P.W. Botha in what has been hailed in opposition circles as the most portentous division in the ruling party since it came to power in 1948. The 22 who voted against Botha are supporters of the Transvaal party leader Andries Treurnicht, who is even further to the right than Botha. The split occurred not over the major question of African voting rights but over the marginal issue of whites "sharing power" with Coloureds and Asians.

IDAF News Notes is published bimonthly by the United States Committee of the International Defense and Aid Fund for Southern Africa, P.O. Box 17, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138. President: Peter J. Gomes, Vice President: Mia Adjali, Women's Committee Chair: Nancy Randolph, Executive Director: Kenneth N. Carstens, *News Notes* Editor: Geoffrey Wisner, Contributors for this Issue: Lucy Boling, Kenneth Carstens, Peter Gomes, Thomas Harris, Madeleine Leeds, Susan Pedersen, Stephanie Urdang.

IDAF has three objectives:

- (1) to aid, defend and rehabilitate the victims of unjust legislation and oppressive and arbitrary procedures,
- (2) to support their families and dependents,
- (3) to keep the conscience of the world alive to the issues at stake.

Southern Africa News Calendar

December 1981 and January 1982

The following news items are based on shortwave broadcasts by the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), the Voice of America (VOA), and Radio South Africa (RSA). They are intended to supplement major news sources and are not exhaustive. Because radio reception is sometimes unclear, the spelling of all proper names cannot be guaranteed.

1 December

South Africa—News from Southern Africa is dominated by the attempted coup in the Seychelles, which originated in South Africa. A party of about 50 white mercenaries flew to the Seychelles Islands from Swaziland and the coup was crushed at the airport on 26 November. Forty-four of the mercenaries escaped by hijacking an Air India plane back to South Africa, leaving a half dozen of their fellows in the Seychelles. The 44 were detained upon arrival in South Africa. The Seychelles government asked South Africa to extradite the mercenaries. South Africa denied official involvement in the failed coup attempt. The Seychelles also asked the Organization for African Unity (OAU) to help it in its efforts to secure the extradition of the coup plotters from South Africa. (VOA)

Angola—The government blamed South Africa for the blowing up of an oil refinery near Luanda yesterday, citing evidence of South African involvement and of the subsequent capture of white mercenaries; Jonas Savimbi, leader of UNITA, the Angolan rebel group backed by the US and South Africa, had claimed responsibility for the attack on the oil refinery. (BBC)

South Africa—The South African Council of Churches is being investigated by the government. The investigation is being carried out by Judge Eloff, whose terms of reference are very wide, suggesting a determination on the part of the government to create difficulties for the SACC. (BBC)

2 December

South Africa—"Mad Mike" Hoare, leader of the Seychelles plot, and four other mercenaries were charged with "kidnapping" and released on low bail (R10,000 for Hoare, R5000 for each of the others). The other 39 were released without charge. (BBC)

4 December

USA—The US reaffirmed its rejection of the bantustan scheme in general and specifically of the so-called independence of Ciskei. (VOA)

Angola—The US called Savimbi's UNITA rebels a "legitimate" (sic) political force in the country. (BBC)

5 December

Seychelles—The Seychelles government asked in the UN whether the US and other governments that had undertaken to impose sanctions on countries that do not deal adequately with hijackers will act against South Africa because of its lenience in dealing with the Seychelles plotters. The US and six other industrialized countries agreed three years ago to impose sanctions on any country that neither prosecuted nor extradited hijackers. (BBC)

6 December

South Africa—The government has announced an agreement with Ciskei and other reservations granted "independence" that would enable their residents to secure South African passports. (RSA)

7 December

South Africa—South Africa confirmed that it invaded Angola again in November despite denials at the time. This was the deepest incursion into Angola in the past six years. (BBC)

Namibia—A fraternal mission sent by the British Council of Churches to the churches in Namibia returned to England. The bishop of Manchester said in an interview that the people of Namibia were virtually unanimous in reporting that they suffered far more from the hands of the South Africans than from SWAPO (South West African People's Organization) guerrillas opposing South Africa's occupation of the territory. (BBC)

Angola—According to South Africa, November's raid into Angola lasted three weeks and involved paratroopers and mechanized infantry backed by Mirage jet fighters and other aircraft. The incursion went at least 240 kilometers inside Angola, and the South Africans claim to have killed 71 SWAPO members with a loss of 4 South African troops. Authorities said the operation ended on 20 November. (BBC, VOA)

South Africa—After calling "ridiculous" the reports that a South African officer was among the mercenaries captured in the Seychelles, the government admitted later in the day that one of them had indeed been a member of the Security Intelligence division, but said that he left the service two months before the coup attempt.

South Africa—Alastair Sparks, the former editor of a major newspaper, pointed out that the US has insisted that its sophisticated surveillance equipment will enable it to detect troop movements in southern Angola and northern Namibia. Sparks said that

therefore the substantial South African invasion must have been detected by the Americans and that the announcement of the raid must have come as no surprise to the US and probably to other Western countries. (BBC)

8 December

South Africa—Authorities announced that a hunger strike in the maximum security prison for black political prisoners at Robben Island has ended. No further information was given about the issues or the number of prisoners involved. (BBC)

9 December

South Africa—Two more trade unionists have been detained in the eastern Cape. Thozamile Gqweta, president of the South African Allied Workers Union and Sisas Nphelanane, vice president of the same union, had each been detained more than once earlier in the year. A postponement of the trial of more than 140 trade unionists arrested in the Ciskei bantustan in September 1980 was also announced. (BBC)

Swaziland—Two corpses were found in a burnt-out car just inside the Swazi border. Reports speak of a high-speed chase involving South African security forces. It is believed that the two dead men were members of the African National Congress (ANC). (BBC)

10 December

South Africa—An unspecified number of suspected saboteurs were detained in the Durban area apparently in connection with the latest wave of sabotage that began with a spectacular bombing on "Republic Day" in May. Several sabotage groups are at work in South Africa. Electricity substations, power stations, even an important military base near Pretoria have been attacked in recent months, and authorities have warned that the attacks might increase. Last night a bomb exploded outside the Soweto police station near Johannesburg, and a bomb blast caused extensive damage to government offices near Cape Town the night before. (BBC)

Angola—President dos Santos, in a conciliatory gesture, has offered to hold talks with the US regarding the establishing of diplomatic relations but he has deplored the role being played by Jonas Savimbi of UNITA. (BBC)

14 December

South Africa—Dissidents within the Dutch Reformed churches are again criticizing their own churches' support for racial segregation and for being too closely identified with white nationalism and the Nationalist Party. (BBC)

South Africa—The Israeli Defense Minister visited the South African defense force on the Namibian border last week. The Israeli minister said that South Africa ought to get more support for its struggle against Communism in Africa. (RSA)

15 December

South Africa—Saboteurs struck a Pretoria power station, plunging parts of the city into a blackout. A connection was seen between this attack and the observance on 16 December of what to the blacks is Heroes Day and to whites the Day of the Covenant. (BBC)

17 December

Swaziland—The Swazi government is said to be succumbing to pressure from South Africa to ban the entry of ANC members from Mozambique. The Swazi security forces are said to be closely linked with South Africa, receiving both supplies and cooperation. Last year South Africa attacked some ANC houses; earlier this year Joe Pillay, an ANC member, was kidnapped and taken to South Africa. On 8 December a group of South Africans entered Swaziland and machine-gunned a car, killing two ANC men inside, and there are reports of an earlier clash between Swazi security forces and the ANC in which several men were wounded. Known South African intelligence agents and special branch men operate openly in Swaziland. Police sources say that Swaziland has been warned that if they support the ANC they will be made another operational area like Angola. (BBC)

Namibia—Magnus Malan, the South African Minister of Defense, said that his forces could continue indefinitely in Namibia if no settlement were reached.

18 December

South Africa—Persistent reports indicate that the government is seriously considering handing over to Swaziland all or part of the KaNgwane bantustan, which would deprive some ¼ million South African Swazis of their South African citizenship. (BBC)

Zimbabwe—An explosion wrecked the party headquarters of the Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU) in Salisbury yesterday, injuring 150 people and killing six in the crowded streets. Thirty to forty pounds of explosive were used. The explosion occurred at about the time that the Central Committee of the party usually meets, but Prime Minister Mugabe and the committee were elsewhere, preparing for his visit to Mozambique. (BBC)

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Southern Africa News Calendar

December 1981 and January 1982

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19 December

Angola—President dos Santos is visiting Gabon in a continuing diplomatic effort to end the war in Angola. Dos Santos has had meetings with President Diop of Senegal and President Kaunda of Zambia. (BBC)

21 December

Angola—The government has accused South Africa of continuing its military operations across the border. (BBC)

South Africa—Five prisoners, members of the ANC and the Black Consciousness Movement (BCM), were released from the prison at Robben Island. (BBC)

South Africa—The British government has asked for information about Mark Kaplan, who is said to be a British passport holder, and who has been held in solitary confinement for 42 days. Kaplan was detained while filming a demonstration by Coloured people in Cape Town. (BBC)

22 December

South Africa—Certain theologians in the Dutch Reformed Church have attacked the Broederbond, a secret organization which wields immense power in church and state in South Africa. (VOA)

South Africa—There have been calls for an investigation into a strange case of poisoning. A 19-year-old detainee, Mr. Mtinkulu was held in connection with a demonstration against the government. Upon his release he took seriously ill and doctors found that he had been poisoned with a rare insecticide used overseas. South African police are refusing to comment. (BBC)

23 December

South Africa—The *Washington Post* reports that the South African business community is making public its disappointment with Prime Minister Botha's failure to fulfill his promises of racial reform. Although the South African government considers itself a defender of capitalism, many of its policies are regarded as bad for business. (VOA)

South Africa—The Pan-Africanist Congress (PAC), which was banned in South Africa in 1960, announced that it will hold its first congress in three years next July in Tanzania. (BBC)

South Africa—Franz Paul Blakemere, the alleged East German spy who escaped from a prison cell in Johannesburg's John Voester Square, may be carrying a South African passport. The alleged spy, also known as Roelof Blesny, had entered South Africa from Nairobi on 5 October with a false Austrian passport and was arrested on 30 October for fraud. He escaped from prison with two other whites and a black, also "prohibited immigrants." It is believed that he may have crossed into Mozambique. (RSA)

South Africa—According to the government, many independent African churches supposedly representing 2½ million people over the age of 15 issued a joint statement dissociating themselves from the South African Council of Churches and its "policy of confrontation." (RSA)

24 December

South Africa—About 150 persons detained in the crackdown of the last two months will have a "less than joyous Christmas." Most of them are trade unionists or anti-apartheid student leaders. South African security police usually hold such suspects under a 14-day detention law, after which they may be redetained under the Terrorism Act, without trial or explanation. Under the provisions of the Terrorism Act, detainees may be held indefinitely and are denied any access to relatives, lawyers, or courts. The current detainees will be allowed to receive Christmas gifts subject to police approval and to send and receive up to six Christmas cards. Some visits will be approved on an individual basis. South Africa's *Star* newspaper asked in a recent editorial, "Can any South African feel secure while the basic tenets of justice continue to be distorted in this way?" (VOA)

26 December

South Africa—One policeman was killed and four injured in an attack on a police station in the northern suburbs of Pretoria. Rockets, automatic weapons and hand grenades were used in the attack. The identity of the attackers is unknown and no one has as yet claimed responsibility, but authorities say the pattern strongly suggests a raid by the ANC, which has been responsible for at least 60 similar raids in various parts of South Africa over the past year. Pretoria has seen several outbreaks of violence in recent weeks. A huge search for the attackers is under way. (RSA, BBC)



28 December

South Africa—In an interview with the Associated Press, Mrs. Winnie Mandela said that South Africa is threatened with a bloodbath if her husband, Nelson Mandela, who is serving a life sentence on Robben Island, is not released. The interview was conducted in the remote village of Brandfort in the province of the Orange Free State, where Mrs. Mandela has been serving out the last days of her five-year banning order. Mrs. Mandela said that her husband was responsible for the care taken by the ANC to avoid unnecessary bloodshed in its guerrilla and sabotage activities. She also said that all moderate black leaders have been

imprisoned, leaving only those who, in her words, have learned that the only way to get power is through the bullet. Recent polls show that Nelson Mandela remains the black population's favorite for President if and when they should gain control of the government. (VOA)

30 December

South Africa—Another five-year ban was imposed on Winnie Mandela as her first one came to an end. She remains banished to the remote village of Brandfort. (VOA)

Mozambique—Sabotage by the National Resistance Movement (NRM), which has disrupted transportation between Mozambique and Zimbabwe, has forced Zambia to ship goods via South Africa. According to military experts and diplomats, South Africa is the only plausible source of some of the sophisticated sabotage apparatus and materials employed by the NRM. (VOA)

31 December

South Africa—Two men have been arrested in connection with sabotage raids carried out in the Pretoria area recently, one involving an electricity substation and the other a police station. (BBC)

South Africa—The government is reported to be bargaining with Swaziland about the transfer of the KaNgwane bantustan. (VOA)

South Africa—Separate television service for blacks has begun operating. Blacks are referring to "black TV" as "racial TV," and Azapo, the Azanian People's Organization, has declared that it brings apartheid into black homes and tries to justify it. Some community leaders are reported to have been very severe in criticizing what they considered rank propaganda. (VOA)

1 January

South Africa—The ANC has begun a campaign against government informers by naming the hitherto anonymous state witnesses used in political trials in South Africa. (BBC)

2 January

Seychelles—The Foreign Minister has criticized Western countries for not acting against South Africa in accordance with their 1978 agreement to stop all air service to countries harboring hijackers. A three-person commission has been set up by the UN Security Council to investigate the background and financing of the attempted coup and to assess the economic damage caused by it. (BBC)

5 January

South Africa—In a sharp reversal, the government has decided to charge all the mercenaries who were involved in the hijacking of the Air India plane in the Seychelles.

South Africa—The leaders of the Ciskei bantustan, which received Pretoria-style independence in December, have already gained a reputation rivalling that of the white South African government which they serve in their severe treatment of detainees and their cavalier attitude toward civil rights. In the small and impoverished Ciskei region, 249 people including many trade unionists were detained during 1981, and the fate of many of them is still unknown. (BBC)

South Africa—Foreign investment in South Africa reached \$30 billion, with 1200 UK corporations, 375 US corporations, and 350 West German corporations taking part. Investment from the US and West Germany is increasing rapidly. (RSA)

7 January

Angola—Angola confirmed an earlier report that one Cuban soldier was killed and one captured by the South Africans two hundred miles inside Angola, on the Namibia-Angola border. A number of Angolans were wounded. Angola says that South Africa is penetrating deeper into Angolan territory and escalating military action. (BBC)

USA—South Africa's new decision to prosecute the Seychelles hijackers has been welcomed by the US government. The US is said to have considered sanctions against South Africa under a 1978 international agreement if the trial had not been forthcoming. (VOA)

South Africa—The Soweto offices of a government department were bombed while many detentions and political charges against black offenders continued. The Secretary General of the ANC, Alfred Nzo, said in an interview that the Pan-Africanist Congress does not exist in South Africa anymore and that the ANC plans to involve much larger numbers of South Africans in political action.

Zimbabwe—The renewal of the preferential trade agreement between South Africa and Zimbabwe, which South Africa had decided to terminate, is being renegotiated by the two governments with a view to its possible extension. (RSA)

9 January

South Africa—Stephen Kitson, a British engineer detained because of an alleged plot to free ANC political prisoners from South African jails, was visited by the British consul. Kitson was held after visiting his father, who is serving a twenty-year sentence on political charges. Relatives of Kitson concede that he made a couple of "small drawings" while waiting to see his father in prison, but said that these had nothing to do with any plot to free prisoners. (BBC)

Namibia—Vigorous new protests have come from both the South African government and its related parties in Namibia against the UN Secretary-General's alleged bias towards SWAPO and against apartheid. (BBC)

South Africa—The 70th anniversary of the founding of the ANC was observed in many parts of the world.

10 January

South Africa—Three whites have been arrested, apparently in connection with the Kitson detention. Michael Jenkins, his wife Kathy Hunter, and Daphne Smith were held. Jenkins' brother Timothy was one of three convicted ANC prisoners who escaped from Pretoria in December 1979, and Jenkins' father, Professor Peter Jenkins, said the arrests seemed to be linked to that of Stephen Kitson. Kitson's lawyer said that the Commissioner of Police pronounced his client guilty while he was being held incommunicado. (BBC)

South Africa—Both the Prime Minister and the Foreign Affairs Minister deny that the UK, the US or any other countries named in a South African newspaper report made any representations to South Africa to persuade it to change its earlier decision not to prosecute the Seychelles hijackers.

11 January

Lesotho—Authorities arrested six high school students whom they say were linked with the Lesotho Liberation Army—the military wing of the banned opposition party, the BCP (Basutoland Congress Party)—and with students driven into exile for political reasons. The six were detained after the explosion of a bomb. Radio Lesotho alleged that it was possible they had been trained in South Africa. (BBC)

South Africa—Two automobile corporations, Datsun and Sigma, plan to fire 3-10% of their workers with the consent of the workers' union. Because of this consent hundreds of dissatisfied African workers are intending to join a more radical union. (BBC)

South Africa—Continuing its attempt to focus attention on UN "bias," the South African delegation that will meet in London with US officials to discuss Namibia say that they will also discuss the UN Secretary-General's attitude toward South Africa and SWAPO. South Africa says that the Secretary-General's bias could jeopardize the Namibia independence negotiations. (RSA)

12 January

United Nations—The UN Committee against Apartheid has launched the International Year of Mobilization for Sanctions against Apartheid. At a meeting of the Committee, the Secretary-General made a strong and comprehensive attack on apartheid. (VOA)

South Africa—Three days after a senior faculty member of the University of Witwatersrand was detained, the government banned David Johnson, chair of the Black Student Society at the University. (BBC)

13 January

United Kingdom—Stephen Kitson's mother alleged that Kitson, who was deported yesterday from South Africa, had been tortured in prison. At a press conference Kitson also stated that he had been ill-treated in prison. (BBC)

Swaziland—Heated arguments are developing around Swaziland claims to certain parts of South Africa in the KwaZulu and KaNgwane bantustan areas. (BBC)

United Nations—UN observers are expressing surprise at the unusually intemperate South African outbursts of criticism against the Secretary-General for making remarks about apartheid which his predecessor Waldheim routinely made and which merely express majority opinion in the UN. The observers fear that these outbursts signal a new intransigence in either Phase One or Phase Two of the Namibian independence plans. (BBC)

14 January

South Africa—A possible crisis is developing in black education. Many students are to be excluded from school when the academic year begins because there are insufficient accommodations, even by South African standards, for all pupils. (BBC)

15 January

South Africa—Joel Lisker, the chief counsel for the US Senate Subcommittee on Security and Terrorism, is visiting South Africa in order to see if the Soviet Union is "masterminding any activities of the ANC, PAC and SWAPO." In a radio interview, Lisker sounded very sympathetic to the South African contention that it is being subjected to a "total onslaught" from the USSR and other enemies. (RSA)

United Kingdom—The US-South Africa talks ended in London with no sign of progress or any statement from either side. The US team will go on to Paris for talks



with the Foreign Minister of Angola amid speculation that the US is planning to recognize the Angolan government. (BBC)

Namibia—The influential *Daily News* of Dar es Salaam expressed a widely held African view when it stated in an editorial that the Western powers are trying to buy time for South Africa in delaying the independence of Namibia. (VOA)

USA—South African poet, anti-apartheid leader and former political prisoner Dennis Brutus is applying for political asylum in the US. Also a well-known sportsman and organizer of successful sports boycotts against South Africa, Brutus is a professor of English at Northwestern University in Chicago; he is on leave for a year to serve as a visiting writer at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst. Brutus is under threat of deportation for having failed to renew his work permit in the US. His attorneys are applying for political asylum because they say that if he were to return to Zimbabwe, where he now holds citizenship, he would be subject to reprisals from South African foreign agents. (VOA)

South Africa—The Very Reverend T.S. Farisani, one of a number of Lutheran clergymen detained last month in a widespread clampdown in the Venda bantustan area, was removed from prison and seen in a hospital near Sibasa heavily bandaged and surrounded by security police. A bulletin reported that he was in critical condition. Farisani, dean of the northern diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southern Africa, was detained after it became known that an elder in the Lutheran Church, Tshifhiwa Isaac Muofhe, had apparently been killed in detention. One church person said he believed the authorities were about to "nationalize" the Church. He said it was obvious that torture had been used on the ministers. He also said that some 50% of all Christians in Venda were Lutherans and that the authorities were intent upon crushing resistance from the churches. (BBC)

16 January

Namibia—Speaking on his return from the London talks, the South African Director-General of Foreign Affairs, Brand Fourie, again attacked the UN Secretary-General, saying that if his statements in support of SWAPO continued they would have a destructive effect on the Namibian independence negotiations. (BBC)

France—Angola-US talks continued for a second day in Paris.

South Africa—Criticism from the US and other friends of South Africa was probably the reason why the government changed its attitude toward the 45 mercenaries who hijacked a plane after the Seychelles coup attempt. (BBC)

18 January

South Africa—Forty-five alleged hijackers were charged today on four counts under South Africa's anti-hijacking law. The trial was adjourned until 3 March.

Angola—Dr. Jonas Savimbi, head of the rebel UNITA movement in Angola, said that the US would insist upon the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola before applying the necessary pressure on South Africa for a settlement in Namibia. Savimbi said he got this message from a meeting with US Secretary of State Haig. He said the US would also demand the reconciliation of the Angola government with UNITA. The stated policy of the US is that while it sees a relationship between the Cuban troops and a Namibian settlement, it does not require the withdrawal of the troops as a precondition for independence. (BBC)

Continued on page 8

South Africa—Venda, a bantustan which received Pretoria-style independence in 1979, is described as being under siege conditions following mass detentions which according to one report include all the area's Lutheran ministers. Very large numbers of armed security people are in evidence and all persons entering or leaving the area are subjected to a "lengthy search." Some speculate that the upsurge of detentions, searches and interrogations is intended to temper the anger of the population over the clampdown on the Lutheran Church, but the police deny this, saying the activity is due to threatening phone calls they have received from ANC members. (BBC)

22 January

Zimbabwe—The South African government announced that some 20,000 Zimbabweans would be returned to Zimbabwe when their work contracts end, apparently in response to a critical remark by the Zimbabwean Minister of Information. The return of the workers could be a severe blow to the Zimbabwean economy by adding to unemployment and eliminating badly needed foreign exchange.

Mozambique—Evidence that South Africa has taken over the role of the defunct Rhodesian government in supporting the rebel National Resistance Movement has come from the testimony of NRM captives who claim to have been trained in South Africa and from documents captured at a major NRM base. Among the documents was a record of a meeting between the head of the NRM and a South African military official who was instructing the NRM to attack the railway lines, roads, and the oil pipeline between Mozambique and Zimbabwe. (BBC)

23 January

Angola—A senior Angolan official, Lucio Lara, who led the Angolan delegation to Moscow, said that Angola would be prepared to negotiate the withdrawal of Cuban troops from his country if South Africa ended its attacks on Angolan territory. (BBC)

South Africa—A major dispute is brewing over poor examination results among African students, especially in the bantustans. In the Ciskei an overwhelming 65% of matriculants failed their examinations. Of 3200 who took the examinations, only 1092 passed. The Director of Education in the Ciskei blamed the South African Education Department for the poor results, saying that schools that had consistently shown good results in examinations could not suddenly produce bad results simply because other schools did. (BBC)

25 January

Namibia—The US Department of State last week expressed confidence in the outcome of the two-day meeting of the Namibia contact group in Bonn, saying that without last-minute snags the meeting should be able to report agreement on the constitutional principles for Namibian independence. SWAPO met over the weekend with the front-line African states—Angola, Botswana, Mozambique, Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe, together with Nigeria and Kenya—and formulated a common response to the constitutional proposals, which has been forwarded to the contact group in Bonn and is not yet public. The South African response to the constitutional proposals or Phase One has not yet been given to the contact group. (BBC, VOA, RSA)

USA—After meeting for half an hour with the UN Secretary-General, the South African ambassador said that the UN commission investigating the Seychelles incident could meet with South African officials but not with the 45 mercenaries awaiting trial, unless the mercenaries agreed voluntarily. (RSA)

26 January

West Germany—In the second day of the contact group's meeting in Bonn, the Mozambican Minister of Information said that the African front-line states and SWAPO had no quarrel with the constitutional proposals except for the election methods, which are cumbersome and complicated and favor the anti-SWAPO parties. The proposed election system for the constituent assembly would give every voter two votes, one on a proportional basis and one for a representative chosen on a constituency basis. (VOA)

South Africa—Militant student demonstrations have taken place in the Durban area after the government ordered students in 42 schools to rewrite their matriculation examinations because of alleged cheating. Police were called in to disperse the demonstrators yesterday and today. (BBC)

27 January

South Africa—A violent clash took place between police and squatters in an area near Nyanga outside Cape Town when the police began to pull down tents and shacks. Several squatters were wounded by police bullets. (BBC, VOA)

West Germany—Ending its meeting in Bonn, the contact group issued a brief statement saying that while there had been agreement on some issues, others required further consideration. (BBC)

USA—The US is engaged in an active review of a trade embargo on the export of all goods to the police and military in South Africa. The arms embargo imposed by the Carter Administration will automatically lapse at the end of February unless it is specifically reimposed by the Reagan Administration. (RSA)

28 January

Angola—Four delegates of the European Economic Community and the ACP (African, Caribbean and Pacific bloc) are visiting Angola, Zimbabwe and Zambia to see the effects of South African incursions and judge how much economic damage has been caused. The delegates just finished a tour of Angola where they saw an enormous amount of destruction caused by South African bombing and ground assaults. As one of the delegates said, "Seeing is believing. Now we have seen." (BBC)

29 January

United Nations—By a vote of 28 to 1 the World Health Organization voted to disaffiliate the World Medical Association from membership in WHO because it has readmitted South Africa. All Western members except the US voted for the expulsion. (VOA)

Namibia—South Africa announced that it has agreed to Phase One of the Namibian independence plan. (BBC)

30 January

South Africa—The National Association of Lawyers for Human Rights, a multiracial South African group, termed 1981 a dismal year in the history of freedom and human rights in South Africa. The Association cited the brutal treatment of squatters, the use of immigration laws to deny people access to the courts, the deprivation of South African citizenship to residents of the Ciskei, and the detention of people without trial. (BBC)

31 January

South Africa—Bishop Desmond Tutu, General Secretary of the South African Council of Churches, and Reverend Peter Storey, President of the Council, were expelled from the Venda bantustan area where they had been trying to visit detained church people. (BBC, RSA)

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