The struggle continues

June meeting announcement:

Important meeting - June 12, 1985
7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Albany Public Library, Small Auditorium, Main Floor

(NO SUMMER MEETINGS)
see attached flyer for details

1985

16 black dissidents face trial in S. Africa

In 1962 Nelson Mandela was sentenced to life imprisonment for his struggle to end apartheid. In 1985 leaders of the U.D.F. face treason trials for their struggle to end apartheid.

(See text of Nelson Mandela's statement on freedom inside)

Justice officials said the charges related to countrywide unrest last year in which up to 165 people died in clashes with police.

The United Democratic Front, a coalition of opposition parties, is seeking to end the white-minority government's policy of apartheid, or institutionalized racial discrimination against the nation's 22 million black majority.

The defendants include UDF Presidents Archie Gumede and Albertina Sisulu, wife of ANC official Walter Sisulu who is serving a life sentence with ANC leader Nelson Mandela.

Justice officials said the prosecution planned to call more than 100 witnesses.

The trial, the largest since Mandela and Sisulu were convicted of treason in 1962, could take up to 18 months, they said.

Murphy Morobe, a regional leader of the U.D.F. who spoke in Albany this Spring, is back in South Africa. Our thoughts are with him as he continues the struggle.
Solidarity to SUNY Students

Twenty-six students were arrested on Wednesday, April 24, 1985 after a day long sit-in at the SUNY Administration building in downtown Albany. The action was held to protest the university's stock holdings in companies that do business with the white minority ruled South Africa. The students were charged with criminal trespass. Most of those arrested paid a $100 fine, one opted for a 15 day sentence at Albany County Jail and six pleaded innocent. Their trials are pending.

The university trustees approved a stronger version of an investment policy adopted in 1979 but rejected total divestiture. Susan Wray, a student trustee and president of the Student Association of the State University denounced the revised policy: "It would seem the trustees are using these "expanded" guidelines as an excuse to further postpone full divestiture, our ultimate goal."

The SUNY students are part of a new wave of activism against the apartheid system on college campuses. Student protests have occurred at Columbia, Cornell, R.P.I., Rutgers, University of California, University of Florida and scores of other colleges.

New York Moves Toward Divestment

State Assembly Speaker Stanley Fink and Governor Mario M. Cuomo have both issued plans for the divestment of New York State from South Africa. In a future mailing there will be an outline of their proposals. It is an encouraging sign that there is now such strong movement toward divestment. However, the struggle is still major - New York State Comptroller Regan is opposed to divestiture and says the main concern with state investments is whether or not they provide the state with revenue.

Donald Woods, the South African exile and former newspaper editor, recently spoke at the University of New Hampshire. He stated that a standard reply to those who are opposed to divestment on grounds like Regan's has been developed. The standard reply is:

"PROSTITUTION AND COCAINE WILL RAISE YOU EVEN MORE MONEY. IF MORALITY MEANS NOTHING IN INVESTMENTS, THEN WHAT THE HELL. SO WE PLEAD FOR MORALITY IN INVESTMENTS AND WE DO SAY THIS CAN CONTRIBUTE MASSIVELY TO THE CAUSE OF FREEDOM IN SOUTH AFRICA."

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Top U.S. Investors in South Africa</th>
<th>Investments</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Caltex Petroleum</td>
<td>$354 million</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Motors</td>
<td>$283 million</td>
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<td>Ford</td>
<td>$213 million</td>
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<td>Goodyear</td>
<td>91 million</td>
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<td>General Electric</td>
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Source: Washington Office on Africa
On May 13, his birthday, Stevie was honored by the U.N. Special Committee Against Apartheid. He had dedicated his Oscar to the Academy Awards to Nelson Mandela.

STEVIE WONDER, in thanking the Committee and audience for his "very incredible birthday gift", said he had never imagined he would speak before the United Nations.

In honour of his birthday, he wanted to introduce a special spirited friend whose name was "light", he continued. Light that could go anywhere, was very special and had helped him in many ways. "Light is so perceptive it can expose the truth... Light has been to South Africa and has painted a picture that reached across the barriers of my blindness", he said.

Mr. Wonder said that those in power in South Africa believed that they had a covenant with God that allowed them to take care of the majority. If that were so, why were there such disparities in education, health, employment and land distribution for blacks and whites? That was not right, he added. "All people are created equal, not created to take care of another race."

Why were labourers who worked near important industrial centres separated from their wives and children? If all the black people wanted to live together all in one place, then why had so many given their lives to avoid living in resettlement camps? he asked. Those camps were wrong -- if they were so great, why didn't the whites live there? he asked.

What about the people on Robben Island? he continued. What about Nelson Mandela and other political prisoners? What was their real crime? he asked -- the colour of their skin or the truth of their words? Those questions were for those who were blinded by "ego and evil", and who had convinced themselves that wrong was right and had tried to change the laws of mankind.

Light was a gift to all, inside everyone. As he had examined the question for truth and right, light had inspired him to say things that were sometimes not popular. "If light is right, then might will never overpower right", he added.

The world could no longer continue to ignore the blemish on the earth. When people were oppressed they arose and freed themselves.
Long, hot summer planned.

for details come to June 12 Coalition meeting

The summer will be hot - lots of anti-apartheid work to be done.

Chick Corea, one of the entertainers who went to South Africa in violation of the cultural boycott is scheduled to appear at the Saratoga Jazz Festival. A major protest is being organized. For updates or more information on summer cultural boycott work, call 436-0562.

The Black Arts Festival which attracts tens of thousands to the Empire State Plaza is scheduled to be held on July 28th. The Coalition plan to be there to get out the word about South Africa.

Fundraiser a Success

On May 17 the Coalition held a very successful fundraiser at Page Three in Albany. Congratulations to the committee which planned the event - Jim Wright, Dick Melita, Fred Kakumba and Bill Ritchie. Special thanks to Bill Pendelton who provided the music and Martha and Wilbur of Page Three - and to the hundreds of people who bought tickets and came to the event.

Thanks

Lobbying Continues

Assemblyman Roger Green has been instrumental in pushing the Medicaid issue in the New York State Assembly. A lobbying effort was held on May 29th at the Capitol. This major effort was organized through Green's office.