How do you like our new computer printer?!!!

Important Note: Our regular monthly meetings take place on the fourth Thursday of each month at the Albany Public Library.
However, this month there is a change - there will **not** be a meeting at the Library on the 23rd of April.

CD-CAAR's April meeting will be a public forum on Haiti:

**Haiti - Deny it no more**

**Wednesday, April 29, 1992 - 7:00 p.m.**

College of St. Rose
Campus Center Lounge, Western Ave., Albany, N.Y

(SEE ENCLOSED FLYER FOR DETAILS - PLEASE POST)

"Stop the Violence" in South Africa - video shown at CD-CAAR March meeting, followed by a discussion about the violence. This video stresses that it is **not** so called "Black on Black violence, but rather, the violence is being perpetrated by right wing racists, South African Defence Forces' hardliners, government supported Inkatha and Gatsha Buthelezi, and also includes RENAMO forces from Mozambique (see informational piece in this newsletter on Mozambique). Time was given for those present at the meeting to write letters to George Bush, and to Congressmen urging them to stop all funding for Inkatha and to pressure the DeKlerk government to continue with the democratic process and also to do all in its power to stop the violence.

The Referendum - a victory for who? In this newsletter we have reprinted a letter by Jennifer Davis of the American Committee on Africa about the recent whites only referendum. Please read it - it gives a very clear analysis of what that vote was all about. It also makes it clear that we can't think apartheid is over. Americans are ready to forget about South Africa. We can't let that happen until there is a non-racial democratic government running that country.
LABOR VICTORY...SOUTH AFRICA

In the fall of 1991, the Crown Cork and Seal Co., Inc. in South Africa arbitrarily fired 196 people who had not come to work on one day because of violence around the plant. The South African Nation Union of Metalworkers of South Africa (NUMSA) demonstrated against the company and launched a boycott of Crown Cork in South Africa. On a recent trip to the United States, a regional secretary of NUMSA, Bethuel Maserumule, met with union leaders here in a campaign of solidarity against Crown Cork. The International Association of Machinists and the United Steel Workers of America, the unions that represent workers in Crown Cork plants in the U.S., spearheaded a campaign to pressure the company to rehire the South African workers. The solidarity campaign also included protests by the United Auto Workers and local labor committees in Philadelphia, Chicago, the Bay Area and New York.

Local note: The Africa Fund of ACOA, with assistance from Bill Ritchie, a member of CD-CAAR and a member of the Albany Public School Teachers Association and the New York State United Teachers, contacted the NYSUT representatives to the New York State Teachers Retirement Fund. After being informed of the situation, the NYSUT representatives then lodged a protest against the firings. On March 24, 1992, the company caved in and agreed in principle to rehire all 196 workers, immediately rehiring 100 workers which will be followed by preferential recall of the remaining 96. The agreement was accepted by NUMSA. The Africa Fund has suspended direct action against Crown Cork pending a final settlement of the dispute. Letters to the company are needed to be sure it carries through with the settlement: William J. Avery, CEO, Crown Cork and Seal Co., Inc., 9300 Ashtown Road, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19136. (Fax # 215-698-7050) (Phone # 215-698-5100). *15th largest shareholder of Crown Cork.

POLITICAL STRUGGLE...ALBANY

In 1991, The Albany Branch NAACP filed a federal law suit which is forcing the Albany County Legislature to make a new redistricting plan for the county. In order to be in compliance with the U.S. Voting Rights Act, there should be three County legislative districts with Black and Hispanic populations of at least 63%. As part of the Court decree, a Redistricting Commission was set up to recommend a plan to the County Legislature. The NAACP proposed a plan to that Commission for three minority majority districts that meet the population thresholds of the Court decree and that include Albany's Black and Hispanic neighborhoods.

CD-CAAR is asking the readers of this newsletter to contact their County Legislators to let them know that we expect them to vote for a new redistricting plan that includes the NAACP proposal. Let them know that it is not going to be "politics as usual" this time around. Let them know that Albany's Black and Hispanic community are not going to be ignored this time around.

Congratulations to the Albany Branch NAACP, led by President Anne Pope, for the determination and perseverance with which they are fighting for fair representation.
White Referendum in South Africa

A Victory for Who?

or...it ain't over 'til it's over

On the following pages we have reprinted a letter from Jennifer Davis, Executive Director of the American Committee on Africa/Africa Fund. We strongly encourage you to read this piece about South Africa. The American media and government is telling us that de Klerk is a hero, that sanctions should be lifted, that the struggle is over. The truth is that the struggle is far from over - more than ever we need to be aware of what is really happening in South Africa. We need you to stay with the anti-apartheid movement until apartheid is really ended, until there is a free, non racial, democratic society,
March 19, 1992

To: Africa Fund Key Contacts
From: Jennifer Davis
Re: White Referendum in South Africa

In casting an overwhelming YES vote in President de Klerk's referendum, the white electorate in South Africa re-affirmed support for the man they first chose as President three years ago and provided him with a mandate for continued negotiation on ending apartheid. "Today we have closed the book on apartheid," declared de Klerk after the results were announced.

For the majority of South Africans, who once again saw themselves excluded from the process of decision making because of the color of their skins, the book of apartheid is not closed.

How much has changed when the 3.26 million whites eligible to vote still decide the shape of the future for the 26 million blacks who still have no vote?

De Klerk was forced to abandon the old order by the persistent courage and resistance of the oppressed majority, supported by the added pressure of international sanctions.

But F.W. de Klerk is now taking the results of this referendum as a mandate not for change, but for pursuing a white veto over South Africa's future. He campaigned on a specific platform that spelled out sharp limits in the powers of any new government and the South African President is already arguing in negotiations with the ANC that he cannot compromise very far on key elements on the National Party proposals.

If de Klerk has his way the 13% white minority will be constitutionally empowered to block affirmative action programs that remedy the deprivation and poverty caused by apartheid. The old economic order will actually be entrenched in the new constitution.

Black people would even be denied the powerful symbolism of electing Nelson Mandela as the first president of a free South Africa. Instead de Klerk proposes a "shared" presidency among the most important leaders. His proposals stress the need to avoid "domination by the majority" and resound with plans for regional rather than strong central government.

De Klerk has developed a sophisticated two pronged strategy to achieve his goals. He talks change and negotiation at the same time as he seeks to undermine his opponents, so that the final agreement will be written on his terms.

Thus at the same time that his government and his party negotiate with Nelson Mandela and the ANC in the Convention for a Democratic South Africa, CODESA, his government is pressing a deadly assault designed to cripple the ANC and the democratic movement. There is now overwhelming and published evidence that the government is behind the escalating violence which has claimed tens of thousands of victims - some killed, some maimed, others burned out of their houses. (Africa Fund Trustee Peter Weiss has just returned from South Africa with new evidence of the government's role in the violence.)

If de Klerk has no blood on his own hands, he must certainly know who is guilty. The South African military and police have been directly responsible for some of the worst attacks and the government is also responsible for the vicious attacks carried out by Chief Gatsha Buthelezi's Inkatha Freedom Party and his KwaZulu police.

The threat to a democratic transition to majority rule is unlikely to disappear now, even though de Klerk has won his referendum. As the meetings of the Convention for a Democratic South Africa proceed there may well be more harrowing violence, as the state plays out its forked strategy, hoping to force a weakened opposition to settle for de Klerk's version of the new South Africa. This would mean giving Black people apparent representation in a new parliament while white power and economic domination remain essentially unchanged.

over ....
As the referendum results were announced both the ANC and the South African Council of Churches issued statements urging the international community to maintain its vital support of the democratic movement. The ANC urged the retention of all economic sanctions until the establishment of a fully representative interim government. The South African Council of Churches recalled that "many have died, and are still dying in the struggle for justice, peace and freedom" and called for vigilance on their behalf.

This is a useful moment to recall the role that the pressure of international sanctions played in bringing de Klerk to the negotiating table.

It is also a vital moment for the international community to maintain its pressures, urging President de Klerk to move swiftly in completing the process of democratization. He must now act forcefully to end the violence unleashed on the people, accept the rapid establishment of a representative Interim Government and implement the principle of a democratically elected Constituent Assembly to put in place a democratic constitution for a free South Africa.

The Africa Fund has initiated a "STOP THE VIOLENCE" campaign. There is a video and a question and answer sheet available which detail what is really behind the violence in South Africa. (Our February newsletter carried a reprint of this information sheet.) CD-CAAR has a copy of the video and copies of the information sheet. If you belong to a group - student, church, community - that would be interested in promoting this campaign of if you would like more information, call CD-CAAR at 436-0562 or the Africa Fund at 212-962-1210.

Note: The Albany Central Labor Federation and the Solidarity Committee have endorsed the "STOP THE VIOLENCE" campaign.
Back to slavery?

To the Editor:

One could argue that prison inmates in New York state's correction system are its exclusive responsibility; and that since the inmates, for all intents and purposes, are there because of dysfunctional behavior of their "choosing," they must accept the consequences of such behavior and the decision of the state judiciary that put them there.

Yet at the same time, one could equally argue that the state correction commissioner's recent remarks about the "loan of inmate laborers to towns" sound like ideas from a bygone era when New York was heavily involved in the trading of black people as slaves. Commissioner Thomas Coughlin's choice of words in getting his message across was tasteless, insensitive to the human element in inmates, and too entrepreneurial. His statement: "I think we have to make every locality aware that this 'resource' is available to them and let them 'pick' and 'choose' how they would like to use the inmates," is right out of a textbook on slavery in New York City where prospective buyers, at the slave market on lower Wall Street and along the East River, are depicted feverishly picking and choosing black slaves. The negative responses the commissioner's remarks elicited from labor organizations and other interest groups about the use of inmates mirror similar reactions in that bygone era when free labor (wage labor) felt threatened by the use of slave labor in the workplace.

Given the fact that 70 percent or more of New York state's correctional facilities are filled with African-Americans and Latinos, and that the majority of personnel in the facilities and in Albany are white. I would caution the commissioner, and the governor's office, in this kind of flagrant, unwarranted show of correction's policies. Such a position with loaded, coded statements paints a convoluted picture of what state corrections "should be" in terms of behavior modification.

A. J. WILLIAMS-MYERS
Associate Professor
Black Studies Department
The College at New Paltz

THE TIMES UNION

Albany, N.Y., Thursday, March 5, 1992

DEATH PENALTY FACTS

Currently 38 states have enacted the death penalty.
There are 2,547 people on death row in the U.S.
Some 39 percent of the people on death row are Black, which is out of proportion to their numbers (14 percent) in the general population.

Note:
On April 11, 1992, the Center of Law and Justice, Inc. of Albany held its second annual Community Conference, "Separate and Unequal: Racial Bias in Policing and the Courts." In our May newsletter we will print a report of the conference and of the decisions made for community action.
Important Notice:

The April meeting of CD-CAAR will NOT take place on the fourth Thursday of April at the Albany Public Library. Instead, CD-CAAR is sponsoring a public forum on Haiti on Wednesday, April 29th at the College of St. Rose.

It is never too late to send in your membership dues – $5.00 a year

In this newsletter you will find an informational flyer on Mozambique. We urge you to read it carefully and become familiar with the situation in Mozambique. The Mozambique Support Committee of CD-CAAR is asking all our readers to do several things:

1. Write a letter to your Congressional representatives about Mozambique. The issues that need to be addressed in letters are discussed in the flyer - under the question "what can we do about Mozambique?" You may say "why bother writing to those guys anyway?" Well, if they do not hear from anyone about Mozambique (or other Africa issues) when we do approach them and ask why there is no legislation on Africa, their response is that they didn't know about the issue or that anyone cared about what was happening. When you write letters about Southern Africa, you will add your voice to many others who are calling for peace, social justice and an end to hunger and misery in that region.

2. We are planning on launching a material aid campaign for the children of Mozambique. To do this we plan on talking to religious groups, labor unions, politicians, community organizations and individuals. If you have any contacts with any particular constituency which you think might be open to doing work around Mozambique or for more information about the Committee, call Eileen Kawola, 438-0309.

3. We are planning on lobbying New York State legislators to introduce legislation on Mozambique. If you are interested in the lobbying aspect of Mozambique work or have contacts in the Legislature, please get in touch with us.
The Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism presents

Haiti
Deny It No More

Wednesday, April 29, 1992 - 7:00 p.m.
College of St. Rose
Campus Center Main Lounge
420 Western Avenue, Albany, New York

A Panel Discussion with:

Benjamin Dupuy  Haiti's Ambassador at Large - under President Jean Bertrand Aristide. Formerly Director, Haiti Progres.

Valerie van Isler  General Manager of WBAI, Pacifica Radio, N.Y. International Affairs Journalist reporting on Haiti for more than a decade. Member of Haiti Commission of Inquiry.

Anne Fuller  Associate Director of National Coalition for Haitian Refugees. Author of several reports on human rights conditions in Haiti. Most recent report, December 1991, "Return to the Darkest Days." Editor of Haiti Insight.

Video: "Haiti Under the Gun" produced by the Haiti Commission for Inquiry into the September 30th coup d'état against Jean Bertrand Aristide. (Parental Guidance advised due to graphic content)

Partial List of Endorsers: History and Political Science Department of the College of St. Rose, Telos Society, ASUBA, SCARR, Fuerza Latina, Center for Law and Justice, Inc., ALARM, Pledge of Resistance, Albany Branch NAACP, Pax Christi USA Albany Chapter.
MOZAMBIQUE
End the Violence - Promote the Peace
Questions and Answers

QUESTION 1: Why are we talking about Mozambique? Where is Mozambique anyway?
ANSWER: Mozambique, on the south east coast of Africa, gained independence in 1975 after 13 years of armed struggle against colonial Portugal. The struggle was led by FRELIMO, the Mozambique liberation front. South Africa, on the southern border of Mozambique, has been waging a brutal war against Mozambique for the past twelve years.

QUESTION 2: Why?
ANSWER: Since 1980, the apartheid government of South Africa has practiced a policy of destabilization in the Southern Africa region in order to keep her neighbors weak. South Africa has used RENAMO terrorists to destroy the people, institutions, infrastructure and economic resources of Mozambique.

QUESTION 3: What is RENAMO?
ANSWER: The beginnings of RENAMO can be dated back to the liberation struggle in colonial Rhodesia (Zimbabwe). The Rhodesian Central Intelligence Organization (CIO) created RENAMO to maintain white minority rule and weaken the liberation movement in Rhodesia. After Zimbabwe gained independence in 1980, RENAMO forces were provided weapons, vehicles and military training by the South Africans and unleashed on Mozambique to create chaos and destruction.

QUESTION 4: How has this war been carried out?
ANSWER: This war has not been a civil war or a war against the armed forces. South Africa/RENAMO have perpetrated "one of the most brutal holocausts against ordinary human beings since World War I." The violence has been directed against civilians. Acts of mutilation, the cutting off of noses, ears, lips, breasts and genitals, have been used to terrorize the people. Houses are burned, crops ravaged and meagre stores of rice and cassava are stolen by the bandits called RENAMO. Services to the people such as education and health care, priorities of the FRELIMO government after independence, have been systematically destroyed. Schools and teachers, health clinics and health care workers have been major targets of RENAMO. Some of the grim statistics are as follows:

- Mozambique (total population, approximately 15 million);
- one million people killed, over half of them children;
- over two million displaced inside the country;
- over one million and a half have become refugees in neighboring countries;
- over 250,000 orphans of war.

The cost to the children of Mozambique has been especially horrendous. A favorite tactic of RENAMO has been to kidnap children after making them witness atrocities. An estimated 200,000 children have been forced to serve in RENAMO. These children have not only been traumatized by what they have seen, but in addition, they have been turned into killers - killing their own families, friends and neighbors. In Mozambique, people say the children have been "instrumentalizado" (turned into instruments of war).

QUESTION 5: What have been the economic costs of this war to the people of Mozambique?
ANSWER: The economy is in ruins, a major objective of the South African destabilization strategy. Ports, roads and railways have been bombed to ensure that Mozambique and its neighbors (some of them landlocked) would be completely dependent on South Africa for economic survival. Food supplies have been disrupted and destroyed with the mass devastation of villages, livestock and crops. This destruction, coupled with drought, has made Mozambique the "most food insecure country in the world" according to the U.S. Agency for International Development. The economic cost of the war has been estimated at 15 billion dollars.
QUESTION 6: Isn't this war "Black on Black" violence?
ANSWER: This is not "Black on Black" violence. This is not tribal violence. This is political violence which has been engineered and financed by the apartheid regime in South Africa. RENAMO in Mozambique, like Inkatha in South Africa, has been trained and supplied by the South African government. In fact, now that change is coming to South Africa, former RENAMO fighters from Mozambique are being used to commit acts of violence and destabilization in South Africa.

QUESTION 7: Aren't there some kind of peace talks going on about Mozambique?
ANSWER: The FRELIMO government of Mozambique has done everything possible to attain peace with RENAMO. Since July, 1990, FRELIMO has been meeting with RENAMO in Rome, Italy. The talks have been directed at ending the war. This negotiation process has broken down repeatedly because of RENAMO's intransigence and blatant violations of agreed upon conditions. Meanwhile RENAMO massacres continue throughout the country.

QUESTION 8: From where does RENAMO get its support?
ANSWER: RENAMO is supported by South Africa, Kenya, and private right wing U.S. sources (the Heritage Foundation, Rev. Pat Robertson, Senator Jesse Helms, and others.) Regular contact between RENAMO leaders and South African Defence Force (SADF) officers is still being maintained. Keeping Mozambique at war with itself and importing elements of that war into South Africa clearly meets the needs of SADF hardliners and white racists.

QUESTION 9: What can the people of the United States do about Mozambique?
ANSWER: STOP IGNORING THIS 'UNRECORDED HOLOCAUST" ... AND ACT!
Learn about the situation in Mozambique. Educate your community about this tragedy. Initiate material aid campaigns to help the Mozambican people. Write letters urging Congress to pass laws that will curtail private support for illegal armies in Mozambique and laws that will pressure RENAMO to negotiate in good faith so there can be peaceful elections. Encourage Congress to also greatly increase humanitarian aid to Mozambique especially for the orphans of war and those children who have suffered RENAMO violence. Ask the Presidential candidates to address the issue of Mozambique in their campaigns.

Prepared and distributed by:
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