

BAY AREA NAMIBIA ACTION GROUP

MEDIA ANNOUNCEMENT

EVENT: In honor of Namibia Day, August 26th, and the struggle being waged by the Namibian people, Paul Isaacs, Prexy Nesbitt and BA-NAG will discuss what is currently happening in Namibia (armed struggle, SWAPO political organizing, strikes, "constitutional talks", and South Africa's increasing repression). They will also deal with what is happening internationally, particularly with respect to U.S. intervention. Prexy will summarize what is taking place within North America in support of the liberation struggles in Namibia and South Africa, while Paul and BA-NAG will detail on-going local and State-wide support work. They will give a formal presentation for the first half hour and will then be available for questions and general discussion.

A photo and poetry exhibit on conditions within Namibia and South Africa and on the struggles being waged will be displayed. In-depth materials on Namibia and South Africa, including a synopsis of events over the last four months in Namibia, will be available.

PLACE: Y.W.C.A.
2134 Allston Way (just below the U.C. campus)
Berkeley

TIME: Thursday, August 25, 1977. 10 am to 12 pm.

BACKGROUNDS OF PARTICIPANTS AND SPONSOR:

Paul Isaacs is a Namibian who came to the U.S. in 1975 under a scholarship from the Lutheran World Federation. He is currently studying for his M.A. in Religion and Society at the Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary in Berkeley. Paul is a member of SWAPO and a representative of the Church. He has been invited by many groups and organizations to speak with them about conditions within his country, U.S. involvement, and what U.S. citizens can do to support the Namibian liberation struggle. Consequently, he's made extensive contacts up and down the West Coast as well as across the U.S. Before coming to the U.S., he studied in both Namibia and South Africa and served as a pastor for two years to a congregation of 2,500 in Bethanie, near Keetmanshoop in southern Namibia. He will be finishing his studies in a year and plans to return to his country.

Prexy Nesbitt is a U.S. person currently serving as Executive Associate for the American Committee on Africa. His primary work is with the Committee to Oppose Bank Loans to South Africa, which is focusing on a nation-wide campaign to stop banks making loans to South Africa in any form. This campaign is receiving nation-wide attention. Before working for ACOA, he was based in Chicago where he helped form the African-American Solidarity Committee and the Committee for the Liberation of Angola, Mozambique and Guine-Bissau (now known as the Chicago Committee for African Liberation). He spent a year as a union organizer for Service Employees International, was Dean of Students for a school of "incorrigibles" in Chicago's West Side and did counseling with youth gangs. He helped form African Information Service in New York and co-edited Return to the Source, speeches of Amilcar Cabral. He has been to Africa six times where he worked a year for the Mozambique Liberation Secondary School, a year in northern Kenya on famine relief, and spent two years studying African History at the College of Dar Es Salaam. He has also been to several conferences in southern Africa, including the Cunene Dam Conference on Namibia and

Angola (1972). He went to Havana in February 1976 to meet with the MPLA and convened the Angola Support Conference held in Chicago May 1976. He travels throughout the country speaking and working with various groups and organizations and is well acquainted with the actions and support work being done in North America.

The Bay Area Namibia Action Group is a collective formed 2½ years ago to support the liberation struggles in Namibia and South Africa through direct aid, education, research, and changing the social and economic structures within the U.S. which enable U.S. imperialist powers to survive and spread. We have done a considerable amount of speaking and film showings, have worked in the various local coalitions supporting southern Africa, and have formed a national network with various folks and organizations focusing on southern Africa. We have coordinated several speaking tours in northern California for liberation representatives, including Bill Anderson who exposed the atrocities being committed by South African troops in Namibia. We also have direct access to liberation movement representatives here and overseas. Our research files are fairly extensive, especially on Namibia and South Africa, and we receive clippings from several services, including the weekly bulletin from the U.N. Council for Namibia issued in conjunction with SWAPO. We are also focusing on two multinational corporations doing business in southern Africa--Bank of America and Del Monte (the largest multinational agribusiness-- and their effects on our local economy.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Contact BA-NAG at 626-3131, or P.O. Box 6088, SF 94101.