

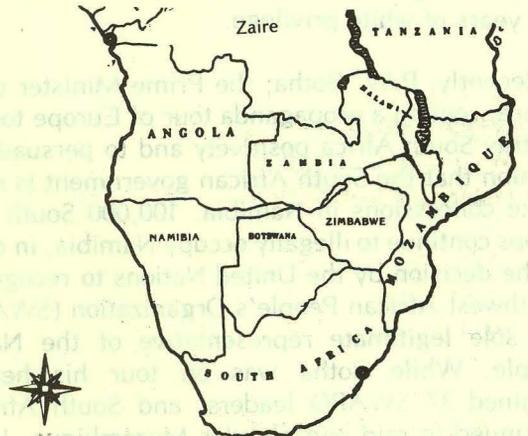
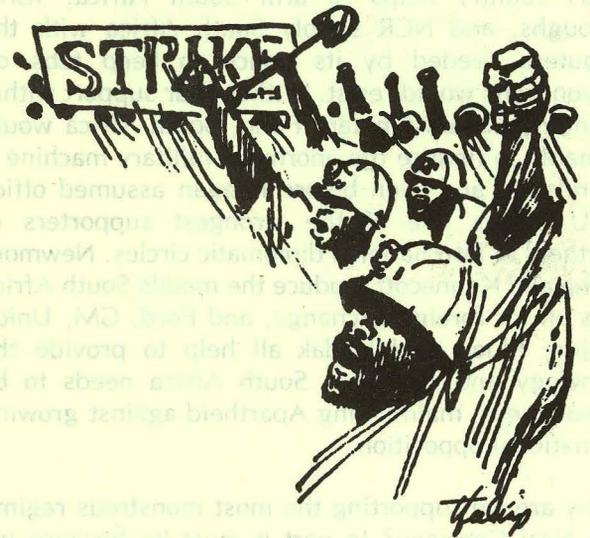
STOP. STOP NOW AND THINK OF SOUTH AFRICA !

During this election year, the attention of most Americans has focused on a few major issues; unemployment and the growing poverty of millions of Americans, the suicidal nuclear arms race, our invasions of Grenada and Lebanon, and the one our president is planning for Central America. Much campaign rhetoric has already been heard on these issues, and sadly, much remains to be said. By failing to look far beyond today's headlines though, we are overlooking one of the most critical struggles happening in the world today: that of the liberation of South Africa.

South Africa is a nation of about 24 million people, 20 million black and four million white. In the Republic of South Africa today, Black people cannot vote, own land, or hold public office. They are restricted by legislation called the Pass Laws from ever going too far from their homes or workplaces without the permission of the Apartheid regime, and it is common for dissidents to be locked in their homes for years at a time; this is called "banning." Black workers earn about one tenth as much as their white counterparts; again, this is the result of laws governing labor, and restrictions on union activities.

Most insidious of all are the "bantustans," a system of virtual reservation onto which the South African government is systematically relocating the black population. The eventual goal is to have all of South Africa's "non-white" peoples crowded into the very worst parts of land, allowed exit only for work. The result will be that eighty percent of all south Africans will be allowed to live on only thirteen percent of the land.

So why are we handing out a leaflet about South Africa here in America?



Because America Supports Apartheid.

This country helps to arm South Africa. IBM, Burroughs, and NCR supply South Africa with the computers needed by its police to keep tabs on everyone who would resist. Without our support within the International Monetary Fund, South Africa would be unable to finance the enormous military machine it depends on, and even before Reagan assumed office the U.S. was one of the strongest supporters of Apartheid in international diplomatic circles. Newmont Mining and Kennecott produce the metals South Africa relies on for foreign exchange, and Ford, GM, Union Carbide, Fluor, and Kodak all help to provide the technology and resources South Africa needs to be self-sufficient, maintaining Apartheid against growing international opposition.

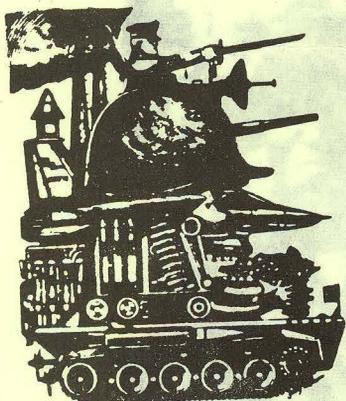
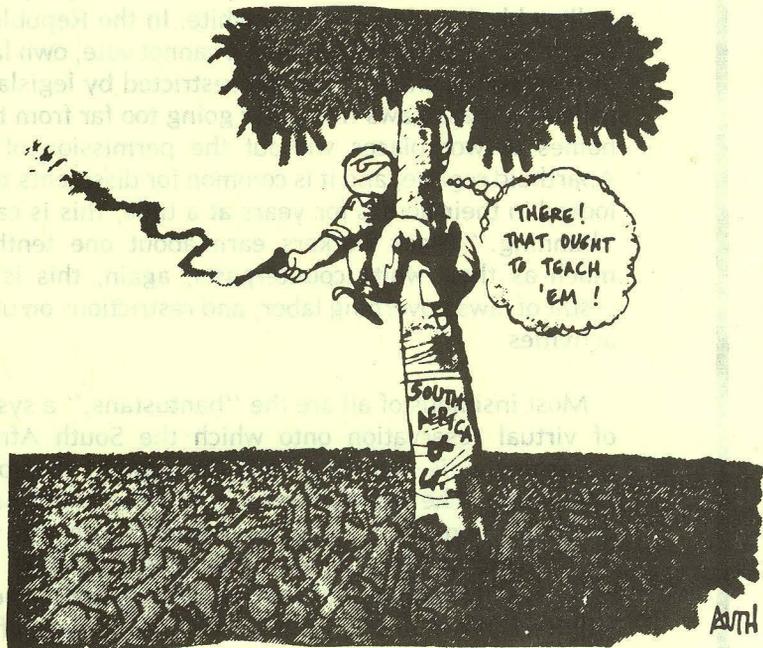
Why are we supporting the most monstrous regime since Nazi Germany? In part it must be because we have not freed ourselves from this country's racist legacy, and lately the outlook for freedom, or even Civil Rights, is looking pretty dim. Wherever we look from the resurgence of the Klan and the Nazi Party to Republican attempts to gut the Voting Rights Act and the Democrats intransigence over Jackson delegates, we see a nation turning its back on promises made twenty years ago to feed, clothe, house, and educate everyone regardless of skin color, in favor of another 300 years of white privilege.

Recently, P.W. Botha, the Prime Minister of South Africa went on a propaganda tour of Europe to try and portray South Africa positively and to persuade world opinion that the South African government is ready to make concessions in Namibia. 100,000 South African troops continue to illegally occupy Namibia, in defiance of the decision by the United Nations to recognize the Southwest African People's Organization (SWAPO) as the sole legitimate representative of the Namibian people. While Botha was on tour his henchmen detained 37 SWAPO leaders, and South Africa has continued to raid and plunder Mozambique, Lesotho, Angola, Zimbabwe, and Botswana, all states which border on South Africa and are opposed to Apartheid.

Yet freedom in South Africa is only a matter of time. Since Apartheid's beginnings there has been resistance, and in the last fifteen years it has become a groundswell. The past two decades have seen a wave of union organizing, the start of a liberation war, an upsurge of community oriented activities such as boycotts, numerous organizing efforts led by students, and a growing resistance to military service on the part of white youth.

Much remains to be done, though, and you are an important link in the chain of resistance. You have already taken the first step by reading this leaflet, and you can do more to educate yourself and others. Join the international boycott of South African sports teams, cultural organizations, and imports. Stay away from entertainers like Linda Rondstadt, The Temptations, Shirley Scott, and the Beach Boys. Find out if your bank invests in South Africa, and move your money somewhere else if it does. Finally, get involved with SAMRAF.

SAMRAF (the South African Military Refugee Aid Fund) is an organization of white South African exiles, war resisters, and North Americans who support the struggle for liberation in South Africa. The primary focus of our work is helping to forge white South African solidarity with the National Liberation struggles. As a concrete way of doing this, we encourage and support resistance within the ranks of the mostly white South African Army. We need your help (and your tax deductible contributions) to keep this work moving forward. Join us!



For More Information:

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