AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE
Pacific Northwest Regional Office

West Coast Meeting to Stop South Africa Trade
San Francisco, California — August 24, 1985

Conference Report
By: Randolph Carter, Seattle Southern Africa Program

The Bay Area Free South Africa Movement and Local 10 ILWU organized a conference to discuss ways of pressuring West Coast ports to end South Africa trade. Approximately 100 people attended from San Francisco, Oakland/Berkeley, Los Angeles/Long Beach, and Seattle. The meeting was organized by unionists from the ILWU Local 10, and each group of participants related anti-apartheid action from their respective areas.

A keynote address was given by Soli Simelane, a U.N. representative from the A.N.C. Brother Soli gave the group its charge and updated us on the struggle in South Africa.

Brother Leo Robinson also addressed the group and cited the years of struggle and support the trade unionist movement has given to liberation in South Africa and Central America. Many unions have liberation commissions or committees that regularly take up the question of union rights in South Africa and material support. His union (Local 10 ILWU) is committed to $2000 annually to the A.N.C.

In the afternoon, we broke into small discussion groups (see attached agenda). I was asked to serve as a resource for the coastwide campaign around port commissions and the PMA. In this group we heard from Ann Ginger (an attorney active in labor rights) about our legal rights to demand divestment, sanctions, et al.

At the afternoon's end, the groups reported back and the body made the following decisions:

1) To mount a coastwide boycott against Del Monte's.

2) From Oct. 1-11, present the demands of the Bay Area Free South Africa Movement to the West Coast ports.

3) Double our efforts to show films and provide speakers to labor. We should also consult with the A.N.C. on any matter or strategy. Provide material support to the mineworkers if they go out on strike.

4) Support the Deilums Anti-Apartheid Bill HR 997.

5) Mount a mass demonstration October 11 and invite all unions to participate.

6) Mount a picket coastwide against Pacific Maritime Association on December 5th.

The conference ended by hearing from Miloanne Heathorn from the African Resource Center in Oakland. Miloanne presented excellent documentation on U.S. trade with South Africa (see attached).
This conference presented a strong indication of coastwide unity. By joining forces in these five strategic areas and having coordinated efforts, we can send a strong message to our congressional representatives, the president, South Africa, but most importantly to American people through a focused labor/union effort.