MARK YOUR CALENDAR

The next general MACSA meeting has been scheduled for next Thursday, July 13, 7:30 P.M. We will meet in the basement of "Pres. House", or the Madison Campus Ministries headquarters, just across State Street from the Memorial Library. (We hope to be moving our office there very soon, as the "Y" office has become too crowded.)

The focus of the meeting will be a critical look at action within the U.S. against the various manifestations of oppression in Southern Africa. There will be a panel of speakers to lead the discussion on three different aspects of the Southern African struggle in the U.S.: (1) on the development of an "African consciousness" among American Blacks; (2) on the anti-corporate campaigns; and (3) on the activities of research and support groups all over the country. We feel that this kind of analysis and evaluation is essential to the development of a viable and creative role for MACSA in the coming months.

Other dates to note for July are as follows:

1) Every Wednesday: Literature on Southern Africa sold at MACSA table in Memorial Union (we need volunteers to man the tables!).

2) Every Thursday noon: Education Committee meets in Memorial Union Cafeteria (near wall on right side as you enter cafeteria).

3) Wednesday, July 12, 8:00 P.M., 6203 Social Science Bldg.: The films SABOTAGE IN SOUTH AFRICA (CBS documentary filmed in 1960) and VENCEREMOS (a short film on FRELIMO) will be shown.

4) Every Monday, 7:30 PM, 22 Sherman Terrace (Minters' home): Fundraising Committee meets.
O.A.U. SUMMIT MEETING HELD IN RABAT

The ninth annual summit conference of the Organization of African Unity was convened on June 12 in Rabat, Morocco with forty (a record number) African heads of state in attendance. Also present was U.N. Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim.

The conference was marked by an apparent spirit of cooperation and reconciliation between several countries that have in recent years been at odds, notably Zaire and the Congo (Brazzaville), Algeria and Morocco, and Guinea and Senegal.

Of major significance at the summit meeting were several decisions related to the liberation struggle in Southern Africa. Renato Osorio and Agostinho Neto, respective leaders of the Angolan Revolutionary Government in Exile (GRAE) and the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA), embraced each other before the assembled body, affirming their decision to form a united front against the Portuguese in Angola before the next OAU conference in May 1973. The original announcement of the GRAE-MPLA accord was made in a communiqué issued jointly by Zaire's President Mobutu and the Congo's PresidentNguaboni on June 10. The two presidents declared their intention to search for ways in which the Angolan movements can form a truly united front.

Also significant at the conference was the fact that, for the first time ever, liberation movement representatives were allowed to participate in the Council of Foreign Ministers in making decisions relating to their particular situations. There was no talk of "dialogue" with South Africa, as there had been at last year's summit, but the OAU members instead voted to increase by 50% their budget for support of the liberation movements. Madagascar, which recently had a change of leadership, agreed to make its long-overdue payments to the OAU Liberation Committee.

The principal resolutions passed at the conference included condemnations of Britain for its intransigence on the issue of majority rule in Rhodesia, and of the U.S. for breaking U.N. sanctions against importation of Rhodesian chrome. OAU members were also called upon to break off all relations with Portugal, and the European Economic Community countries were asked to stop cooperating with that country. Resolutions were also passed which condemned NATO and Japanese support of apartheid and the continued tacit support, especially by Britain, the U.S. and France, of South Africa's illegal rule in Namibia.

A.C.

MADAGASCAR AND SOUTH AFRICA: A NEW ERA?

At the recent OAU conference in Rabat, Madagascar's new chief of state, Major General Gabriel Ramanantsoa, promised to "re-examine" his government's economic arrangements with South Africa. Just what this will mean in long-range and concrete terms remains to be seen, but two recent decisions made by the General suggest that he may keep his promise.

In the first place, Madagascar agreed, for the first time in several years, to pay its dues to the OAU Liberation Committee, which supports the liberation struggles in Southern Africa and Portuguese Guinea. Secondly, Gen. Ramanantsoa announced on June 16 that he was granting total amnesty to all persons involved in the April 1971 revolt in Southern Madagascar (about 2000 had been detained during the past year) and declared that the country's June 26 Independence Day would be a day to celebrate national reconciliation.

The background to the recent upheavals in the Malagasy Republic is complex, but one of the major issues underlying the conflict has had to do with the continued presence of 4,000 French troops on the island and with former PresidentTsiranana's support for economic cooperation and "dialogue" with South Africa.

Madagascar, commanding the Cape route in the Indian Ocean, is of obvious strategic value to its close neighbor, South Africa. Furthermore, because of the rising deficit in its balance of payments, the latter is in dire need of economic links with independent African countries. So far, economic relations between South Africa and Madagascar have been relatively limited. A luxury hotel is being built at Nossi-Be, Madagascar, by a South African company which received a loan from the S.A. government to improve the airport and the road system of the area. This kind
of aid will benefit more than just the tourist industry. The South African air force already has rights to use the airport it constructed in Malawi. In addition, negotiations are going on between South Africa, Portugal and Madagascar for the building of a major deep-water port at Narinda which will serve, ostensibly, the giant oil tankers utilizing the Cape route. Narinda is a bay on a relatively isolated section of Madagascar's northwestern coast. The creation "ex nihilo" of a major industrial zone is also envisioned for the area.

Essential to understanding the relationship between Madagascar and South Africa is the recognition of France's role in the area. In addition to being a major supplier of arms to S.A., France is also engaging in joint naval planning with that country. Entering into what one pro-government S.A. newspaper labelled a "virtual military partnership," the two countries envision the formation of a new strategic bloc in the southern hemisphere--a bloc which will include Madagascar.

Recent student and trade union demonstrations, riots, and finally a general strike in Madagascar led to the resignation of President Tsiranana, who handed over power to the military under the leadership of Major General Ramanantsoa. Relative calm now reigns on the island, and Ramanantsoa's announced intentions to re-examine his government's relationship with South Africa and to pay its dues to the OAU Liberation Committee suggest the beginning of a new era in Madagascar.

However, one should not become overly optimistic. For Ramanantsoa, a graduate of a French military academy, a veteran of the French Army, and an advisor to the Madagascar government in 1960 when the French defense treaties were negotiated, is considered very pro-French.

A.C.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON NAMIBIA HELD IN BRUSSELS

Several hundred delegates representing eighty countries around the globe gathered in Brussels the last week in May to demonstrate international visibility for the plight of Namibia, illegally occupied by the white South African regime, and to affirm their support for SWAPO (South West African Peoples Organization) and the armed liberation struggle in Namibia.

Ironically, the conference was hosted by a former colonial power, Belgium, and was held a mere stone's throw away from the headquarters of NATO and the European Economic Community, neither organization known to be particularly friendly to the liberation struggle in Africa. Forty governments and the U.N. Council for Namibia sent representatives, while twelve heads of state were patrons of the conference.

Focusing on ways to bring international pressure to bear to cause the transfer of power from the apartheid government to the Namibian people, the conference divided its work into several commissions, including the role of foreign economic involvement and the legal and political aspects of the Namibian dilemma.

The conference condemned the extension of the Bantustan policy, discriminatory education and the rapacious exploitation of Namibia's mineral wealth by foreign firms, and the delegates unanimously applauded the recent strike by over 15,000 Ovambo workers. It also affirmed the legitimacy and prime importance of the liberation struggle, confirming SWAPO and its president, Sam Nujoma, as the legitimate leaders who must be consulted in all future negotiations over the territory.

Behind the scenes, however, evolving out of the recent secret talks between U.N. Secretary General Kurt Waldheim and the Pretoria regime, were rumors and speculation that an agreement had been reached between the two for a "special U.N. presence" in Namibia which in no way would challenge South Africa's illegal control over the territory. Waldheim was reported to be carrying his plan before African leaders at the recent meeting of the Organization of African Unity, held in June in Rabat; however, the sellout proposals have yet to surface publicly, if indeed they ever will.

In contrast to these plans, the conference held in Brussels unanimously affirmed that no "settlement" would be acceptable which did not lead to the transfer of power to the Namibian peoples. No doubt SWAPO, buoyed by the impressive showing in Brussels, will struggle vehemently and successfully against any such sell-out of Namibian rights in place of immediate independence.

P.I.
During May and the early part of June, a number of student protests erupted in South Africa, drawing a heavy-handed response from the police and a series of accusations from members of the Government to the effect that agitation had been instigated by foreign and Communist elements working their way into the placid South African scene. These protests, followed closely by the press, were organized by students at white universities. The ousting of a nephew of Sir Alec Douglas-Home appeared to be particularly noteworthy. So too was the clubbing of members of an assembly of 10,000 on the steps of St. George's Cathedral in Capetown on June 5, this protest culminating in the arrest of some well-known white South African clerics. The series of protests at many of South Africa's major cities and universities is of particular importance because it is the first of that nation's experience; it represents the first public protest of the Government's apartheid policies carried out on a broad scale with participation of the white population. It is further of importance because it has exposed, once more, the extreme defensiveness of the South African Government to any type of vocal dissent. The Government clearly overreacted to the demonstrations, first through the actions of the police with their clubs, tear gas, and dogs, and secondly with the issuing of a ban on all public meetings of more than eleven people until July 8. Attempted justification of the ban was given by Mr. Muller, the Minister of Police, who said that there were elements of revolution in all protest marches, irrespective of who was marching about what. (The Guardian, June 7)

The incident which sparked the protests of students and the general public was a speech by Mr. Abraham Tiro at the African University of the North at Turfloop. Tiro, a student leader at this black university, blatantly denounced the Government and its apartheid policies. He was particularly critical of the inferior educational facilities available to non-whites. The speech reportedly caught both the Government and the university's administration by surprise. Public criticism of the South African Government, particularly by an African, can be easily construed by authorities there as constituting illegal activity. Tiro was immediately expelled, and the entire student body of the University then responded with a full scale protest. On the Government's turn of response, it was seen as imperative to crush the budding movement. The student body of the University was expelled en masse, and the school was closed. Subsequently students at South Africa's only colored university joined in a strike of solidarity. Then in the beginning of June, action in support of the African students spread to the white students and those outside the university community. Thus it was only at the instigation of open protest by non-white students, that white students were provoked to organize demonstrations.

The first of these demonstrations on June 2, protesting poor education facilities for non-whites, was broken up by police. It was this excessive police response which instigated the gathering of 10,000 on the steps of St. George's Cathedral the following Monday, at which tear gas was used for the first time since the Sharpeville police riots. In Johannesburg, on this same day, a student march was carried out which culminated in the arrest of 200 people. The ban on meetings was issued under the Riotous Assemblies Act the next day to be in force in 16 cities. The act provided that non-South Africans can be arrested and held in detention until deported. The ban, however, only proved to inspire further protest. On June 8, students in both Johannesburg and Capetown defied the ban by holding public gatherings. The academic staff of the Capetown University reportedly signed a letter urging the Vice Chancellor to return immediately to head the University's official protest against the Government. The following day the Capetown Supreme Court ordered police to stop breaking up student meetings held on the campus, the grounds for restraint being that the University is private property on which the police have no jurisdiction under the Riotous Assemblies Act. The court action was specific, however, only to Capetown. It was an embarrassment and an affront to the Government, but there is reason to believe that it will be in effect only temporarily.

The Government quickly launched a smear campaign intended to discredit the students in the eyes of the public; but most of the charges put against the students were immediately refuted by members of the universities' staffs. Student
protest has been carried out predominantly at the nation's English-speaking universities. Students at the Afrikaans universities, in contrast, have pledged support for the Government. But, significantly, as many as 1000 signatures protesting the use of police violence against demonstrators were collected at the Afrikaans Stellenbosch University, cradle of Afrikaner nationalism. Toward the second week in June, interest in the demonstrations appeared to be fading, partly because the police had adopted new tactics of patient observation and general restraint. A Government committee of inquiry has been set up, however, to look into causes of student unrest at the African University of the North at Turfloop where the protest was first initiated.

C.B.

PAIGC RECOGNIZED

The U.N. special committee of 24 on decolonization on April 13 unanimously affirmed that the PAIGC was "the only and authentic representative of the Territory" of Guinea-Bissau. The Committee asked all states and specialized agencies and other bodies in the United Nations system to furnish PAIGC with the assistance it needed in the struggle for national liberation.

This decision followed a visit by a special three-man mission sent by the Committee April 1 - 8 inside liberated areas of Guinea-Bissau which had established "beyond any doubt" that PAIGC exercised de facto control in the Territory.

(Source: UN Press Release 17, April 1972)

The PAIGC is now in the process of organizing nation-wide elections for a national assembly in Guinea-Bissau, as a step toward functioning more completely as a state.

(N.Y. Times, 5/31/72) R.M.

MYSTERIOUS EXPLOSIONS IN TANZANIA

On June 12 there were four mysterious explosions in Tanzania's capital, Dar-es-Salaam, which is the headquarters for the Mozambique Liberation Front (FRELIMO). There was relatively little damage done. Some speculated that the incident may have been connected to the flight of unidentified planes (Portuguese from Mozambique?) over Tanzanian villages at the beginning of the month. The planes dropped leaflets portraying Oscar Kambona, a Tanzanian politician in exile in London since 1967.

(Le Monde, 6/12/72) A.C.

ON THE HOME FRONT

LIBERATION FROM A BLACK PERSPECTIVE

More than 15,000 American and African Blacks participated on May 27 in a march and rally for Black unity and in support of the national liberation struggles of the African peoples. A rally, held on the grounds of the Washington Monument, renamed Lumumba Square for the day, followed a three-hour winding march through the Washington Black community. The marchers also passed nearby embassies of several white-controlled Southern African governments.

Leaders from a broad spectrum of Black political and cultural groups - ranging from the Congressional Black Caucus to the Black Panther Party - urged support of the armed struggle of Africans in colonial states to effect their liberation.

Participation in the African Liberation Day shows the growing unity between people of color the world over and that unity will certainly be a positive force in the final defeat of Western imperialism.

C.K.
The North American Anti-Imperialist Coalition, of which MACSA is a member, will be meeting again this year in Colorado, from July 20 to 23. The main purpose of the conference is to solidify the Coalition's political practice and to strengthen its anti-imperialist analysis. It is designed to be a working conference attended by individuals who have been active in one of the Coalition's member groups. Position papers and project proposals are to be presented before the conference to facilitate communication and to allow for more in-depth analysis and strategy planning during the meeting itself.

Anyone who has been active in MACSA and who would be interested in going to Colorado should contact us as soon as possible (241-1137 or 257-1436, ext. 32). There is a $20 registration fee, due immediately, which will cover room and board for the five days of the conference. Several MACSA people will be participating in the meeting.

MACSA HOLDS EVALUATION SESSION

MACSA had a general meeting on June 3 for evaluating past activities, reconstituting the Committee's structure, and setting priorities for future projects. With regard to political education and action, it was suggested that there was a need to get into city media on a more extensive basis, to build up contacts in Milwaukee, to organize more systematically our speaking at rallies and demonstrations which have other primary foci, to extend our work with the public schools, to continue work on research projects in process, and to look into possibilities for further research.

Possible action projects included a campaign focused on Madison companies with direct contacts in Southern Africa, doing further research on the University of Wisconsin's stock holdings in order to renew a campaign on the University's involvement in Southern Africa, following up the First Wisconsin National Bank's correspondent relationship with a bank in South Africa, boycotting Southern African products sold in Madison, and supporting the national campaigns against Gulf and Polaroid. Priority was placed on initiating a campaign focused on Madison companies with Southern African ties.

In considering the structure of work groups in MACSA, it was decided that the education and fund-raising committees should be reconstituted and that two additional committees should be added. One of these is an anti-corporate committee, drawn up in order to carry out the campaign focused on Madison companies with Southern African ties; the second is a "trouble-shooting" committee, which will be able to address itself quickly to problems that arise.

It was stressed at the June 3 meeting that everyone in MACSA should be active in at least one of the committees. If we can have such broad and sustained participation, projects can run more smoothly and be multiplied. Each of the committees has assigned to it a convener. MACSA members interested in participating on one of the committees should contact the respective convener.

The convener for the political education and action committee is Charles Knox (241-5714). This committee meets weekly on Thursdays at 12 noon in the Memorial Union Cafeteria (near the right wall as one enters the cafeteria, just beyond the window where trays are placed after eating). This committee is concerned with MACSA's internal education, research, writing the newsletter, organization periodic MACSA meetings, selling literature and getting information on Southern Africa into the local media. Much help is needed and new participants are always welcome.

Convener for the fund-raising committee is Bill Minter (241-1137). At present the fund-raising committee is meeting on Monday evenings at 7:30 at the Minters' home at 22 Sherman Terrace. This committee is now conducting the fund-raising campaign for SWAPO. During the coming year it will organize two campaigns, one in the fall to raise money for PAIGC in Guinea-Bissau and to emphasize US military involvement in the Portuguese colonial wars, and one in the spring to focus on Zimbabwe and South Africa. New participants can be put to work both at present and in the future months.
The convenor for the anti-corporate committee is Austin Pearlman (835-5694). This committee is currently engaged in preliminary research regarding the nature of corporate ties of a Madison company with the economy of South Africa and is exploring possibilities of working with the employees at the company in the structuring of a campaign to publicize these ties. Meetings of this committee are irregular at the moment; those interested should contact the committee's convenor.

Convenors for the "trouble-shooting" committee are Meg Skinner and Selina Kunene (238-0503). Members of this committee are also interested in the possibility of structuring a local boycott of South African products. The trouble-shooting committee is one which will be consciously responsive to new events as they arise and which will initiate short-term projects as necessary. This committee will not meet regularly but needs to recruit individuals who can be aware of current happenings and willing to be called on when needed.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT

The Education Committee has decided that both in the interest of keeping more orderly records and for the purpose of self-education, it would be useful if all members of MACSA who go out on speaking engagements write up a brief outline of their talk and/or make a tape recording of it. Tapes may be stored in the MACSA office; outlines should be placed in a file kept in the office. The intent is that those who have substantial experience in speaking on topics related to Southern Africa might share their techniques and ideas with those members of MACSA who have little such experience but are willing to contribute their efforts. We would hope soon to have a file which could be consulted for approaches most reasonable for particular audiences (unions, churches, schools, etc.) and content judged essential for inclusion when dealing with a particular topic. We would encourage MACSA members not to limit themselves to stark outlines, but to offer suggestions on topics for particular audiences, to comment on questions commonly received from audiences and appropriate answers. Tapes and tape recorders for the purpose of recording talks will be made available to those who wish to use them.

We also suggest that a notecard be filled out giving the name of the speaker, name of organization addressed, topic, and date of talk. This can be kept on file in the office. There have been comments at recent MACSA meetings that coordination among some of the activities of MACSA members is lacking, that some members are not informed as to what others are doing, and thus that many of us are unaware of the extent of activities being carried on. We hope these new procedures will help to fill in the information gap, at least in the area of speaking.

FUND-RAISING FOR NAMIBIAN STRIKERS: A PROGRESS REPORT

MACSA is currently in the midst of its second fund-raising campaign of the year. This one is focussed on the situation in Namibia, particularly on the general strike which began there last December, and on the continued detention of workers alleged to be instigators of the strike action. We are attempting to raise money which can be channelled through SWAPO to assist in legal defense of those involved in the strike. The campaign has a two-pronged orientation; we are asking both unions and churches if we might appear before their memberships to explain the Namibian situation and the substance of our campaign. To date the work with churches has gone slowly because of problems in getting out a mailing which will provide a preliminary introduction to the campaign. The mailing has gone out only recently, and members of the fund-raising committee soon will begin personal follow-up work.

We have progressed somewhat further in making contacts with unions. An initial mailing of information to all unions in Madison was followed up with personal interviews or telephone conversations with most of them. Response has been varied, but most unions have at least promised to look over the material. A substantial proportion have brought the matter before their executive committees for consideration, and a number have invited us to come and speak. To date we have spoken before four union locals, and we expect to have several more invitations.
to speak before the campaign is completed.

The thrust of our work with the unions had been to suggest that there is a certain unity of interests between Namibian and American workers, given the extent of involvement of American corporations there. The super profits which these corporations make in Southern Africa, due to low wages paid to African workers, cushion the companies against the demands of American labor. Low wages in Namibia drive down the general level of wages in the worldwide system. Namibia seems to many to be far removed from local union problems, but in general the response from the unions has been quite positive. A member of one of the unions to whom we spoke commented that, given that American corporations are evidently well represented in Namibia, it is perhaps time for American labor to be represented as well through their support of Namibian workers.

Contributions to the Namibian cause need not originate solely from unions and churches. We remind those who receive the MACSA newsletter to send in whatever donations they can. The attached form may be used for that purpose.

The enclosed amount of $____ is my contribution to the Namibian campaign.

NAME: ____________________________________________

ADDRESS: __________________________________________

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