MACSA CALENDAR

To mark Sharpeville Day in 1976, we decided to have several programs in the community, instead of the campus rally and program held formerly.

Thursday, March 18
Sharpeville program for WILPF (Womens International League for Peace and Freedom), 6026 S. Highlands Ave., 7:30 PM

Saturday, March 20
"Sabotage in South Africa," 1962 CBS documentary with Walter Cronkite with footage on Sharpeville aftermath, University Methodist Church, 1127 University Ave. (at Charter), 8 PM

Sunday, March 21
16th anniversary of 69 Africans by police at Sharpeville, S.A.

"Namibia: A Trust Betrayed," United Nations film, at St. Marks Lutheran Church, 605 Spruce Street, 10 AM

"Namibia: A Trust Betrayed" showing at Friends Meeting House, 2002 Monroe Street, 7:30 PM

Monday, March 22
"Sabotage in South Africa" showing at University Catholic Center, 723 State Street, 8 PM

Sunday, March 28
Potluck supper and program on world hunger, 5:30-7:30 PM, followed by showing of "Namibia: A Trust Betrayed", First Congregational Church, 1609 University Ave. (at Breese Ter.)

Sunday, April 4
MACSA general meeting, St. Francis House basement, 1001 University Ave., 3:30 PM

COALITION STEERING COMMITTEE MEETS IN PHILADELPHIA

The steering committee which was established from the Madison conference of American support groups last October initiated their first working session February 28-29. Hosted by the Philadelphia Coalition To Stop Rhodesian and South African Imports, the meeting was attended by all but two of the 11 representatives. Following a brief exchange in which local organizations summarized their activities over the past several months, the steering committee began the process of activating proposals presented at the Madison conference.

(continued...)

Responding to criticisms by the Philadelphia group that the coalition lacked proper representation from workers and various ethnic groups, the steering committee voted unanimously to delegate responsibility to one organization to contact local groups for recommendations of new groups which may be interested in joining the coalition. Two of these new groups are to be incorporated into the steering committee. It was later decided that the responsibility of coordinating invitations to new members would be in the hands of an executive secretary who would also oversee all coalition projects during the interim before the next meeting of the steering committee. The Washington Office on Africa was delegated this temporary role.

In a 4-3-1 vote, the steering committee chose as the name of the organization of support groups The Coalition for the Liberation of Southern Africa. The committee unanimously agreed that all member organizations be assessed $15 annual dues to cover administrative costs of the coalition.

The American Committee on Africa was given the responsibility for compiling background information on Zimbabwe from member organizations, as well as related information gathering agencies, for redistribution to coalition members for internal use. A bibliography may be available for sale shortly thereafter.

Acting on recommendations made from a working committee at the Madison conference, the steering committee established a "hot-line telephone news network" capable of instantly distributing critical news on southern Africa or action-oriented news to coalition members. A two-person editorial board was established to activate the hot-line.

The Chicago Committee for the Liberation of Angola, Mozambique & Guinea was delegated authority to publish a review of Angola activities performed by coalition members.

In other related developments, it was decided that legislative action on Angola was completed and therefore was no longer a priority. An East Lansing, Michigan support group is presently working on an analysis of South Africa propaganda which will be publicly available in the near future. MACSA is likewise preparing a bibliography on Namibia which will be publicly available. Coalition members were requested by the steering committee to formulate strategies and targets for a national boycott of South African products. It was also unanimously proposed that the coalition, in coordination with other non-coalition organizations, support and participate in a national tour for representatives from the People's Republic of Angola.

Although no specific proposals for joint actions were initiated, the steering committee was successful in establishing an administrative and organizational structure which is capable of facilitating future coalition efforts. The steering committee agreed to take up such proposals at their next meeting to be held in the Midwest during May.

HAVANA MEETING WITH MPLA
(Source: Angola Weekly News Summary, March 4, 1976)

Twenty-six North Americans met in Havana, Cuba in late February with representatives of the People's Republic of Angola. They were invited by the Angolan government to participate in a two-day conference hosted by the Cuban government. It provided representatives of progressive groups in the United States with information to combat the distortions which appear regularly in the US press concerning the MPLA and the People's Republic of Angola. Equally important, groups working in North America to build support for the MPLA had the opportunity to learn from the Angolan comrades about their country's needs for the immediate future and to develop ways in which the groups might assist the people of Angola. Many of those attending the conference said they were profoundly inspired by the human warmth and the political clarity and commitment shown by the Angolans and the Cubans who hosted them.
MPLA representatives were Commandante Dibala, member of the Central Committee and Political Commissar of the Eastern Front; Olga Lima, Director of Political Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Relations; and Pedro Zinga Baptista, Foreign Relations. U.S. working press representatives were from Black Scholar, Freedomways Magazine, Bilalian News (formerly Muhammad Speaks), San Francisco Sun-Reporter, Baltimore Afro-American. Among the groups represented were the MPLA Solidarity Committee, soldiers of UNITA and FNLA to turn in their weapons. A majority did so and are lacked

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, American Friends Service Con-


The Angolans said that agriculture is the first priority of the PRA government. 85% of the population are peasants, and they were the most exploited group under colonialism and carried the greatest burden during the armed struggle. They acknowledged that many peasants were taken in by UNITA and FNLA rhetoric, as they lacked information. When the armed forces retook a territory they appealed to the soldiers of UNITA and FNLA to turn in their weapons. A majority did so and are now free and contributing to the society the government wants to build. Others will be re-educated to participate in the new society.

The PRA is not worried about the long-term threat of guerrilla warfare. They are confident the Angolan people would not give a guerrilla movement the protection or sustenance it would need to survive, and supply lines from the outside would be almost impossible to maintain. South Africa is the only neighboring country which might support a movement to overthrow the People's Republic, but alliance with South Africa would make popular support inside Angola impossible. The OAU recognition of the PRA and Zaire's and Zambia's economic dependence on the Benguela railroad make it unlikely that either of these countries would engage in activities which African and world opinion would label as meddling in the internal affairs of an independent nation. However, in the near future occasional incidents between forces of the PRA and small guerrilla and mercenary units are likely to occur.

Multinational monopolies will exist in Angola for some time, the Angolan delegates said, but their relation with the government and with the workers will be changed. New agreements will be negotiated which will have the approval of workers. Some of the new requirements will be minimum wages, day care facilities, medical care, dining areas and educational programs to train Angolan workers for all areas of work within the company. The Ministry of Labor is developing a labor code.

The Angolans expressed confidence that the government of South Africa would be wise enough to withdraw from all of Angola in order to avoid an open military confrontation with the PRA. Their government would not hesitate to ask for continued Cuban support to assist in the removal of these hostile foreign troops from their soil, if this became necessary. They stressed that South African presence in Angola violated United Nations and OAU declarations.

Following discussions with the Angolan representatives, the North American delegates adopted these goals for future action:

1. Lobbying and informational campaigns to dispel myths about the MPLA and the Angolan situation, to press for U.S. diplomatic recognition of Angola and against a U.S. economic boycott of Angola and military aid to Zaire and South Africa.
2. Material support campaigns to raise money for medical services, fertilizers and agricultural equipment, and possibly educational supplies.
3. Arranging for a visit by an Angolan delegation to the U.S., pressing the State Department to grant visas to the delegates.
4. Broadening the base of support for Angola by organizing regional meetings leading to a national working conference on Angola to be held in May.
5. The formation of a national coordinating committee to plan the national conference on Angola and to coordinate the work of the groups represented at the Havana conference on the above goals, and to involve as many other groups as possible.
Books for a
FREE NAMIBIA

The British Organizing Centre of Operation Namibia has arranged for the purchase of a boat which will sail from Portsmouth, England to a port in Namibia in May, 1976. The immediate aim of the trip is to openly deliver to Namibians a cargo of books which have been banned or made unavailable by South Africa. A more basic goal of the trip is to eventually force the withdrawal of South Africa from Namibia by either weakening her authority there or by focusing world-wide attention on her illegal presence in the area. The delivering of books to Namibia thus serves as a catalyst. If South Africa allows the books to be distributed in Namibia, her authority there will be weakened and a precedent set for future activities of this type. On the other hand, if South Africa prevents the materials' distribution, her illegal intervention in Namibian internal affairs will be dramatically demonstrated to the world community.

To insure that world attention is focused on the May event, progress reports will be radioed from the ship and support actions will be organized on an international scale.

Contributions to the Project can take several forms:
1. Crew - An international, multi-ethnic crew of four to five persons with navigational skills is needed. Applicants should be committed to the values of non-violent confrontation and to the goals of the Project. Applicants should also be available to begin training this Spring.

2. Donations:
   - Loans - $500 minimum - to help pay for the boat.
   - Pledges - a small sum to be sent weekly or monthly if the boat is lost.
   - A donation of $5,000 to help send a book to Namibia - the sending of individual books is not encouraged.

   A contribution of any amount to be used as needed.

For more information, please write: Operation Namibia/4811 Springfield Av. Philadelphia, Pa. 19143
On Monday, March 1, the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity voted support for the People's Republic of Angola, commenting in the resolution that the PRA, led by the MPLA, had "resisted South African aggression and collapsed the myth of the superiority and invincibility of the military fascist regime in South Africa and its allies." The PRA has been consolidating its control and establishing a functioning administration immediately concerned with the welfare of the Angolan people. But this does not mean that the struggle for the liberation of Angola has been completely achieved or that the dangerous times are over, for South Africa and her allies, both black and white, concerned with their survival, will continue to fight and to try to undermine the victory of the Angolan people. This victory of Dr. Neto's Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola, following similar victories in Mozambique (FRELIMO) and Guinea-Bissau (PAIGC) not only gives tremendous prestige to the PRA -- now recognized by more than 70 countries -- but, most importantly, is the turning-point in the struggle for the liberation of all Southern Africa; Zimbabwe (Rhodesia), Namibia (South-West Africa), which is illegally held by South Africa, and the inevitable overturn of the powerful, industrialized, apartheid stronghold of South Africa itself.

As the major attention of the American press begins to shift from Angola to these other areas of Southern Africa, we must keep a critical eye on reports as they appear. For as we have seen with Angola, this press coverage is highly biased and serves to confuse and mislead. Although the extent of U. S. interest in Southern Africa has been exposed eventually by the Angolan conflict, the real nature of the war in Angola -- to break all colonial ties and to establish real independence and freedom -- was carefully avoided by the daily press. We heard only about "civil war", and "race war" and "tribal conflict" and "Soviet and Cuban intervention." President Ford's reference to Cuba as an "international outlaw" only indicated the desperation of those representing the multi-national corporations who would have liked once again a free hand in Angola -- and all other parts of Africa. We heard not one word regarding Portuguese domination of Angola and that fact that the United States aided Portugal for many years in keeping Angola a colony, supplying every thing from dollars to napalm, and sharing in the wealth in diamonds, oil, iron, and coffee, all extracted with virtual slave labor. And they refused to recognize that the Angolan people under the leadership of the popularly based and recognized MPLA had the right and duty to use and protect its own resources -- and to call for assistance of their own choosing, which was dismissed as a "Soviet power play in Angola." Rather press attention was directed to the exploits and conflicting pronouncements of the carefully groomed, nationalist clients of the multi-national interests.

As we review again the actors and events of the Angolan struggle, we can see the patterns emerging that will undoubtedly be repeated again in southern Africa -- that pattern of a long standing, legitimate, broad-based liberation movement (MPLA) threatened in its quest for independence not only by the colonial power (Portugal), but by the divisive, limited-power, splinter groups fostered and backed by multi-national, European, Asian, North American and self-seeking African interests. Added to this we have the forces of rich, powerful South Africa, whose parliament approved military intervention anywhere in Africa south of the Equator -- an action seen by the Organization of African Unity as equivalent to a declaration of war on free Africa. Mercenaries are recruited from among discontented and jobless Europeans and North Americans, and are sent in to bolster the forces of the splinter groups (dubbed pro-Western or anti-Communist). Any request for solidarity and aid, tendered to the only source left, the socialist countries, by the legitimate liberation movement immediately brings labels and cries of "Marxist", "Communist intervention", or "pro-Soviet."
Underlying all is a South Africa now on the defensive. There is hypocritical talk of "reform" (in effect the removal of a few signs of petty apartheid such as "white only" signs on park benches) and an approach to a "detente" with Black Africa (which brought into focus self-serving Black leaders). There are increasing attempts to co-opt elements among the Black population within the Bantustan framework and the building of the Black middle class. And all the while from a position of increasing political, social and economic repression, loudly they cry about the possibility of a "race war", appealing to the lowest racist feelings of whites. Black Africans, and progressive White Africans as well, do not view the conflict as "racial", but see that this is the excuse of those who are attempting to justify minority rule in South Africa, a rule which has proved to be financially advantageous not only for the financial institutions that rule South Africa, but for the foreign investors. One can only come to the conclusion that the basic cause of the present conflict and tensions must be laid at the door of those multi-national corporations and their allies, European, Asian, North American and African, who consider the economic exploitation of Africa's men and material not only fair game but their inalienable right.

Thus it behooves us, in the light of the Angolan experience, to have our homework reviewed, our background material marshalled, so as the situation escalates, we can respond unhesitatingly with knowledgeable action, letters, teach-ins, lectures and other forms of solidarity with the true liberation forces.

Jeanette Snyder