THE SOUTH AFRICA CONCERN OF THE NSCF

The "South Africa person" of the Civil Rights Committee has become a committee of twenty; the 'South African concern' of the Federation is now a concern for all of Southern Africa still under foreign and/or white domination. How has this come to be?

The General Assembly of NSCF, out of its concern for racial justice and its sense of the oneness of the Body of Christ, made its commitment to race world-wide by recommending the inclusion of a South African responsibility in the Civil Rights Committee. Thereupon, the Commission on World Mission, sensing this broadening of concern relevant to its function within the Federation, devoted a major portion of time at its Fall Gathering to reflection upon South Africa.

Reflection raised very pointedly the question of action, and South Africa led us to consider Southern Rhodesia, South West Africa, and the Portuguese territories of Angola and Mozambique. Thus, after spending a long Sunday afternoon and evening trying to understand, and at the invitation of the Civil Rights Committee, we accepted as the Commission on World Mission the responsibility for implementing the NSCF's commitment, and restated that commitment as including all of the areas mentioned above and the British High Commission territories. About twenty of us volunteered to serve on the "Southern Africa Committee" and we are now hard at work. How do we understand our responsibility?

As action, information, and reflection: Our "mandate" from the General Assembly includes leadership in development of a study program, information within the member and related movements of NSCF, liaison with groups within and without South Africa, support of South African refugees and of students studying in the United States, and responsible pressure upon important governmental and non-governmental relationships with the South African Republic. We understand this to apply equally to all of Southern Africa.

The Commission on World Mission also underscored the task of "theological understanding."

We have urged the US government to protest the rejection of an appeal for commutation of the death sentences of three South African nationalists and have tried to insert "South Africa" as an issue in the Kennedy-Keating campaign. Enclosed with this report you will find an important note on Rhodesia (the name has just been changed from "Southern Rhodesia") which demands your and our attention during this crucial time between now and Christmas, and a 'Bulletin' summarizing the most recent developments concerning South Africa. We are also organizing, and considering means of protest for all of the constituent groups of the NSCF.

We eagerly solicit your suggestions and count greatly on your support.

The Southern Africa Committee of NSCF