NATIONAL CONFERENCE: SOUTH AFRICAN CRISIS  
AND AMERICAN ACTION  
March 21-23, 1965 in Washington, D.C.

I. REASON FOR CALLING A CONFERENCE NOW

An increasing number of American organizations, recognizing the threat to peace and human rights represented by South Africa's apartheid policy, have expressed themselves forcefully on this subject. But there has been no national gathering of organizations opposed to apartheid for the purpose of examining South African racism, their grounds for opposing it, and a program of action for themselves and their government. It is the belief of the organizations sponsoring the conference on the "South African Crisis and American Action" that this national meeting can fulfill an important purpose.

The organizations calling this conference share a revulsion to racism in all its forms everywhere. They recognize that the practice of apartheid in South Africa has led to a deepening crisis. The white minority has a complete monopoly of political, economic, and military power. The African majority has no say in deciding its own destiny. Most South African organizations determined to end the white supremacy system have been banned and their leaders have been harassed and jailed. African nationalism and the forces of white supremacy are on a collision course. An unknown number of South Africans are undergoing training in guerilla warfare at several centers outside of South Africa. Once violence has started in earnest, neither side will permit an accommodation with the other.

Perhaps wholesale violence can be limited as the forces for change are strengthened through support from the rest of the world. As Alan Paton has pointed out, "The Afrikaner nationalist...will change only when the pressure inside and outside the country becomes unendurable...What he needs to bring him out of the pipedream is a decisive order from the outside world."

The sponsors of this conference recognize a deep American involvement in strengthening the economic power of the white minority government through significant investment and trade with South Africa.

This conference is being called for the purpose not only of analyzing the particular form of South African racism, but to discuss and propose programs of action. American organizations believing they share some responsibility in meeting the crisis existing in South Africa, and believing that the United States Government must have a more vigorous policy in opposing apartheid, are invited to participate and send delegates to this conference.
II. CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Sunday Evening, March 21 (Fifth Anniversary of the Sharpeville Massacre)
Public meeting on the general theme of the conference. There will be three outstanding speakers from the areas of civil rights, U.S. Government, and South Africa.

Monday Morning, March 22, 10:00 a.m.
General Conference Chairmain, the Rt. Rev. James A. Pike, presiding.
The conference will meet as a body to listen to a panel of six speakers who will speak 15 minutes each on the subjects listed below. A half hour of questions and discussion will follow. The general focus for the discussion will be on forces making for change or for perpetuating the status quo.

1. The Transkei, Bantustans and High Commission Territories
2. South West Africa and the International Court of Justice; The Rule of Law in South Africa
3. Economic Forces at Work in South Africa
4. African Continental Dynamics and International Pressures
5. The Policies and Activities of Groups Within South Africa
   a. African groups
   b. 'European' groups

Luncheon, 12:30 Address: "A Critique of United States Approach to South Africa"

Monday Afternoon, 2:30 p.m.
The conference will divide into three seminar groups, each one to analyze a particular aspect of American involvement in South Africa. In each seminar there will be a chairman, a participant who has prepared in advance a study paper, and a panel of two or three discussants.

1. U.S. Government Involvement
2. American Business and Financial Involvement
3. American Private Involvement

Dinner, 6:00 p.m.
Meeting of the Whole, 7:30 p.m. Presentation of a preliminary draft of a conference statement

Entertainment, 8:30 p.m.
Hopefully Miriam Makeba and others will be able to participate and present a statement by actors, musicians, etc. who have committed themselves not to allow their work to be performed under conditions of apartheid.
Tuesday Morning, March 23, 9:30 a.m.

The conference will divide into functional groups for discussion to consider what can be done to implement general recommendations. There will be four such discussion groups, under the general theme of "What Can We Do?"

1. Churches and Synagogues
2. Youth and Students
3. Civil Rights
4. Labor

Closing Luncheon, 12:30 p.m.

There will be a presentation of the conference statement, group findings from the morning sessions, and a closing address on: "A Proposal for a Dynamic U.S. Policy."

Afternoon

Delegations will call upon some Senators and Congressmen, at the White House, and at the State Department