

National Conference:
THE SOUTH AFRICAN CRISIS
AND AMERICAN ACTION
Washington, D. C.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION AGAINST APARTHEID

Adopted by The Conference, March 23, 1965

We believe that racism, whether in Alabama, New York, or South Africa is an abomination in the eyes of God and men, an offense to human decency, and a gross violation of the emerging common law of mankind. However, South Africa is the only country in the world officially dedicated to a policy of racism (apartheid) and, under that policy, has reduced a majority of fourteen million non-whites to subjugation at the hands of a tyrannical government chosen by the minority of three million whites. This policy is maintained by a totalitarian system strongly reminiscent of Hitlerism.

We have therefore come together on the fifth anniversary of the Sharpeville massacre to consider the extent of our responsibility for the perpetuation of the evil system of apartheid and the various ways in which we can contribute to the abolition of that system and to the return of South Africa to established principles of the community of nations as reflected in the Declaration of Human Rights.

We associate ourselves with and pledge ourselves to support the African-based movements for freedom and justice for all Africans.

Speaking as individuals and not necessarily on behalf of various organizations with which we are affiliated, we find

THAT the various reasons offered by the apologists of apartheid are totally without merit,

THAT the continuation of apartheid will lead inevitably to violence and bloodshed and possible escalation into world conflict,

THAT the survival of apartheid depends upon the maintenance of a garrison state resting on a largely self-sufficient economy, which South Africa has not yet achieved, but is on the way to achieving,

THAT Americans, along with other peoples, are contributing to the maintenance of apartheid by governmental action, economic involvement and private non-economic contact. We therefore make the following recommendations for American action against apartheid:

1. The US Government should adopt full economic sanctions against the South African Government, in accordance with the recommendations of the UN Special Committee on Apartheid, and should prepare to enforce such sanctions by all necessary means authorized by international law. Pending the adoption of such action, we specifically recommend that our Government:

- a) discourage private American loans to and investments in South Africa,
- b) discontinue guarantees of American exports to South Africa through the Export-Import Bank,
- c) discontinue loans to South Africa through the US controlled International Monetary Fund and World Bank,
- d) provide incentives for the withdrawal of American investments from South Africa,
- e) discontinue allocation of any sugar quota to South Africa,
- f) stop encouraging American investments in and trade with South Africa through assistance rendered by the Department of Commerce,
- g) discontinue the purchase of gold, uranium, and other strategic materials from South Africa, and
- h) enforce the sanctions provided in federal fair employment legislation against American companies whose subsidiaries abroad discriminate on the basis of race or color.

2. We believe that the U.S. should initiate and support any action authorized by international law to bring an end to the policies of apartheid in South and South West Africa, not excluding collective military action.

3. We favor reduction in our diplomatic representation in South Africa and, if circumstances warrant, the United States should not hesitate to break relations completely. We recommend more than token integration in social activities in American diplomatic posts in South Africa, increasing contacts with non-white South Africans by our diplomatic and consular personnel and the end of discrimination against Negroes in appointments to diplomatic posts in South Africa.

4. We recommend material assistance to the victims of apartheid and to the South African freedom fighters.

5. We recommend a substantial program of assistance to South African refugees, including greatly expanded aid to their education, both in Africa and in the U. S.

6. We urge that our government grant asylum to political refugees from South Africa.

7. We affirm that American companies should make no further investment in South Africa.

8. We express the strong hope that American companies already operating in South Africa will recognize that their spectacular profits derive from a near-slave labor system enforced by a police state and will start paying a living wage to their non-white employees.

9. We urge that American companies trading with or operating in South Africa should seize every opportunity to disengage themselves from South Africa so long as apartheid endures.

10. We strongly urge that individuals and organizations should refrain from investing or depositing in those financial and business institutions actively involved in the South African economy.

11. We urge that all Americans should refuse buying products of South African origin, including particularly in the U.S., lobster tails, karakul (Persian lamb) fur, and diamonds.

12. Tourism to and from South Africa should be completely discouraged and appropriate action should be taken against those agencies in the U.S. promoting such tourism.

13. American athletes should refuse to participate in athletic events, in or outside South Africa, with South African athletes selected on a segregated basis. American athletic organizations should use their influence to abolish segregation in sports in South Africa.

14. Cultural and educational exchange programs with South Africa, whether official or private, should be re-examined and, to the extent that they require the active collaboration of the present South African Government, and reflect the patterns of apartheid, discontinued altogether.

15. The boycott of South Africa by American artists announced at this Conference should be extended to include as many additional artists as possible, and other organizations (AGVA, AFTRA, etc.) should adopt stands on apartheid similar to that of Actors' Equity.

16. We pledge our efforts as individuals and through the Consultative Council on South Africa, to the implementation of the objectives listed above, by educational campaigns, by direct assistance to the victims of apartheid, by the use of the time-honored tools of the democratic process, as well as the new-found weapons of the civil-rights struggle, including direct non-violent action.

We emphasize that these are proposals for ACTION against apartheid. As one Conference speaker said: "Our words of freedom, with respect to South Africa, have a hollow ring, for we are what we do."

Washington, D. C.

March 23, 1965