BACKGROUND SHEET
WASHINGTON OFFICE ON AFRICA

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Number and Composition of Members: The Washington Office on Africa, founded in 1972, has a full time staff of three. Material support for the Office comes from various national Protestant churches, the American Committee on Africa and individual and group contributors.

Constituency: The "consituency" of the Office consists of any persons or groups who press actively for a more progressive U.S. policy toward southern Africa. These include trade unions, church groups, peace organizations, political groups, and numerous individuals. About 2000 persons and organizations receive WOA's material regularly.

Actions undertaken: The Office attempts to monitor and influence United States policy toward southern Africa. WOA stands in unqualified opposition to racist minority rule in the region and the many ways in which the American government and American-based corporations extend support to racist regimes. We work to foster majority rule and in support of liberation movements struggling toward that goal. We oppose U.S. intervention and subversion in black-ruled nations of southern Africa.

In the past two years activities of the Office have included:
--preparing informational and analytical material in favor of Congressional legislation to restore full U.S. compliance with U.N. sanctions against Rhodesia (in particular, to stop the importation of Rhodesian chrome and nickel under the "Byrd Amendment");
--lobbying in favor of the bill and coordinating lobbying efforts of other organizations;
--mobilizing support for the bill and pressure on members of Congress from within various Congressional districts.
--testifying before Congressional hearings on other aspects of U.S. policy toward southern Africa, and assisting the testimony of others.
--exposing and publicizing issues such as U.S. mercenaries in Rhodesia and military contacts between the U.S. and South Africa.
--generating opposition to the appointment of Nathaniel Davis as Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs.
--proposing and coordinating Madison Working Conference on Southern Africa.
--writing U.S. policy section of Southern Africa magazine.
--serving as a resource and information center on U.S. southern Africa policy.
**Projections:** In the near future the Office expects to concentrate on two more issues—erosion of the U.S. arms embargo toward South Africa, and U.S. intervention in Angola.

**Resources:** We distribute the following materials, for which there is no subscription charge. We ask our mailing list to support the office through contributions.

1) "Washington Notes on Africa," which appears approximately bimonthly, carries 4-6 stories on current U.S. southern Africa policy developments.
2) "Africa Action," short notices intended to mobilize pressure on legislative matters.
3) Pamphlets and other materials on sanctions legislation.