



Sam Nujoma visit

By Tommie Fry

The Chicago anti-apartheid movement has established a vibrant tradition of hosting solidarity visits and educational conferences featuring representatives from the Namibian national liberation movement SWAPO, the South West African Peoples Organization. Within the last several years we have had the opportunity to interact with political delegations from SWAPO at two United Nations sponsored conferences. In addition we have also enjoyed performances by the SWAPO N'dlimani cultural troupe. In all of these events CCISSA activists have played a prominent role.

This tradition was renewed on Saturday, April 30th when Chicago hosted a SWAPO delegation that included President Sam Nujoma, the Secretary for Foreign Relations, Theo-Ben Guirab, and Helmut Angula, the SWAPO Permanent Representative to the United Nations.

Even though this high-powered delegation only remained in the city for one day this was still enough time to forge new links between Chicago's progressive community and the Namibian independence struggle. The day's itinerary included a breakfast talk and a noon press conference by Sam Nujoma. In between these two events Brother Nujoma also addressed Operation PUSH at their Law Day ceremony. The main topics articulated by the SWAPO President was the continuing need for the international community to play a constructive role in implementing U.N. Resolution 435 which calls for U.N.-supervised elections for Namibian independence. President Nujoma also blasted attempts to 'link' the



SWAPO President Sam Nujoma at PUSH

question of Namibian independence to demands for a Cuban troop withdrawal from Angola. He stated that the dynamics of Southern Africa could be precisely summed up as: 1) Angola is an independent country; 2) Namibia is an illegally-occupied country and 3) that Apartheid is a Crime Against Humanity. Advances toward Namibian independence required the international solidarity movement to keep these three facts in mind.

Although their stay was brief, the Namibian delegation was more than able to convey their optimism about the future prospects of their national liberation movement. It was impossible not to believe that their victory was, indeed, certain! Tommie Fry is a CCISSA member and a student activist.

Basil Clunie

June 16, 1976 Year of the schoolchildren

By Orlando Redekopp

In the early part of 1976 the South African government introduced the enforced use of Afrikaans as a medium of instruction for mathematics and social studies in the country's black schools. Despite warnings from black community leaders, black church leaders, black political leaders, that such a policy would ignite an explosive protest among schoolchildren and youth, the government persisted in its plan. On June 16, students in the Soweto township gathered at the Orlando football stadium for a mass meeting to protest Afrikaans as the "oppressors' language." Shouting "Amandla ngwethu" (Power to the people) and "Asingeni" (We won't go in), carrying placards proclaiming "Afrikaans is oppressors' language," students were urged to keep calm: "Don't taunt the police; don't do anything to them. We are not fighting," said a leader of SASM (South African Students' Movement), the organizers of the protest.

Soon van-loads of police reinforcements arrived, and the students, far from being cowed, waved their placards defiantly. Without warning, one police officer threw a tear-gas cannister into the crowd. The students retreated and regrouped. Stones were thrown. Colonel Kleingeld, the officer in charge, took out his revolver and fired one shot into the student group. Hector Petersen, 13 years old, became the first martyr of Soweto. Police began to fire indiscriminately, without warning, and the students surged

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CCISSA hosts Namibian labor leader

By Toni Moore

Petrus Nangolo Ilonga (referred to as Nangolo), the General Secretary of the Namibian Public Workers Union (NAPWU), visited Chicago from April 19th through April 23rd. Nangolo, an activist against apartheid and the illegal occupation of Namibia by South Africa, spent 18 years in prison due to his political work. His recent release in 1985 was largely a result of pressure put on the South Africans by the international community, as well as the intensity of the internal movement in Southern Africa.

CCISSA was fortunate and pleased to host Nangolo's first Chicago visit, which included a luncheon meeting with the Illinois Labor Network Against Apartheid and a CCISSA representative. Nangolo also met with representatives from the Chicago Urban League, AFSCME (American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees), Transafrica, SYNAPSES, the Association of Black Doctors, Black Professionals in City and State Government, and CBTU (Chicago Black Trade Unionists). The General Secretary's itinerary included the CCISSA Artist Against Apartheid reception and art show, the Earth Day Rally, the Black Studies Conference dinner at Olive Harvey College and he attended the First Congressional District meeting at the Charles Hayes Center.

NAPWU, the union which Nangolo represents, is affiliated with the National Union of Namibian Workers (NUNW). NUNW is the coalition of progressive labor groups in Namibia. The Mine Workers Union of Namibia, Namibia Food and Allied Union, and the Metal and Allied Namibian Workers' Union are also affiliated with NUNW. In a paper presented by Nangolo, he stated that NUNW, as the representative body of Namibian workers,

"recognize that their rights will only be realized when their country becomes an independent nation."

Further, he said that Namibian workers see "their struggle for national liberation," therefore they support democratic and free elections under the 1978 UN Security Council Resolution 435.

Toni Moore is an attorney and CCISSA Board member.

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through the streets of the township, attacking anything or anybody connected with the government.

By midday, 30,000 bitter and angry students were out in the streets. Police dropped tear-gas from Alouette helicopters. By night time, Soweto was aflame as students targetted government property: beer halls, Administration Board offices, schools. A ring of policemen, commandos, police reservists, hippos, cordoned off South Africa's largest city from the rest of the world.

At the end of the second day, the official count was 50 dead, all but two black. But a black policeman spoke of 176 corpses collected in one section of Soweto alone. By the third day, the rebellion had spread through seven townships in the Johannesburg area. Four black universities around the country organized solidarity demonstrations and marches. In less than a week, the official count rose to 109, although a black leader claimed the figure was closer to 700. Reports indicated many dead had been shot in the back.

June 16 has since become a day to commemorate the student uprising, and the deaths of hundreds who protested the oppression of apartheid. The language issue was only one symbol of that oppression.

June 16 did not erupt in a vacuum. It was partly the result of the rise of the black consciousness movement throughout the 1970s, beginning with the formation of the black consciousness group SASO (the South African Students' Organization) in 1968, the BPC (Black Peoples' Convention) in 1972, the banning of black consciousness leaders Steve Biko and Barney Pityana in 1973, and the trial of nine SASO leaders in 1975. But it was also another expression of black resistance to apartheid that had gone on for generations. (In 1948, apartheid was *formally* instituted as a system of white domination and exploitation.) Already in 1912 the African National Congress was founded to struggle against apartheid, waging a peaceful battle until 1961, when the ANC launched its armed wing; June 16 followed other events such as the March 21, 1961 massacre of 69 people with 179 wounded; the banning of the ANC and the Pan Africanist Congress in the same year; the treason trial of ANC leaders in 1964; the 1973 Durban strikes where 60,000 workers stayed off the job; the independence of Angola in 1974 and Mozambique in 1975; the stripping of South African citizenship from the Xhosa people who the state claimed were Transkei citizens, in 1976 receiving its so-called "independence."

June 16 today, then, is one of numerous days when blacks remember their struggle for freedom and justice, and its tremendous cost. It joins other commemorations such as March 21—Sharpeville Day; May 1—Workers' Day; and June 26—Freedom Charter Day. June 16 is the Day of the Schoolchildren. *Orlando Redekopp is a CCISSA board member.*

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Timuel Black, Basil Clunie, Earl Durham, Tommie Fry, Judy Hatcher, Tena Johnson, Toni Moore, Cheryl Johnson-Odim, Alice Palmer, Orlando Redekopp, Rachel Rubin, Robert Starks, Lucille Teichert, Kevin Thompson

"Get Up, Stand Up" dance for human rights June 17

By Diane Scott

Since January, dozens of CCISSA and Chicago CISPES (Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador) volunteers have been hard at work on "Get Up, Stand Up" Music Video Dance Night—a special dance for human rights on June 17th. Now, with just a few weeks to go, we can see the ever-growing fruits of our labors. A 20-page program/ad book, to be distributed the night of the dance, is nearly on its way to the printer. A wonderful program of international music videos will feature Bruce Cockburn, Miriam Makeba, Talking Heads, Nona Hendrix, Peter Gabriel, and many others. Local video artists contributed their own original video creations, using documentary footage from Central America and Southern Africa. Musicians and political leaders (see the ad) extended their personal messages of support via video. And as the brightly colored flyers with "Get Up, Stand Up"'s exceptional artwork

hit the streets, the Chicago media is beginning to call us for more information.

Our dream back in January was to produce an enjoyable event that would not only increase the public's awareness of the political realities in Southern Africa and Central America, but would also raise funds for both groups' human rights projects. We wanted to foster an atmosphere of cooperation and equality by sponsoring an event that would attract a multi-ethnic, multi-racial crowd. And we wanted to build the connections between CCISSA and CISPES in our very similar work.

Rachel Rubin, CCISSA co-chair, pointed out how this coalition strengthens the effectiveness of both groups. "'Get Up, Stand Up' is an event meant to link and increase awareness of the struggle for freedom in Southern Africa, Central America, and throughout the world," she said. "Only by looking at the common roots of oppression

and the fight for human rights in these countries can the international solidarity movements be most effective in their work. CISPES and CCISSA are making these links through this collaborative and exciting event," she said.

CISPES Director Peter Nagelvoort re-echoed the importance that an event like "Get Up, Stand Up" can play. "By focusing people's attention on Central America and Southern Africa, and increasing public pressure against human rights abuses there, 'Get Up, Stand Up' can play a concrete role in ending these abuses," he said.

Buy your tickets now for "Get Up, Stand Up" on Friday, June 17th, 8 p.m. at the Riviera Night Club, Lawrence and Broadway. Tickets are available through TicketMaster, or for \$12 at the CCISSA and CISPES offices, or at the door.

Diane Scott is a member of CISPES and a GUSU Media Committee member.

DC hearings on Namibia

By Judy Hatcher

On May 2-4, representatives of organizations around the world met in Washington for special hearings convened by the World Council of Churches. The hearings, titled "U.S. Foreign Policy and South Africa's Illegal Occupation of Namibia," was coordinated by the Washington Office on Africa. Church leaders, legislators and activists joined top Namibian leaders in discussions of how to best support the liberation struggle.

Chairing the panel was Olusegun Obasanjo, former head of Nigeria. Among the other panelists was Lisbeth Palme, widow of the former prime minister of Sweden. The Swedish people have long been involved in fighting South Africa's racist policies. Mrs. Palme was especially concerned about the children of Namibia.

The World Council of Churches

and the Washington Office on Africa pulled in an impressive array of international speakers. Chief among them was Sam Nujoma, president of the South-West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO). Nujoma spent three weeks in the United States speaking on the 22-year occupation of Namibia, legally a U.N. territory, by South Africa.

The speakers updated the panel on the current situation in Namibia, highlighting the detentions, torture and murder instigated by the South African government. "We have become beggars in our own country," said Bishop James Kauluma, President of the Namibian Council of Churches. Much of the testimony focused on what's happening here and in other parts of the world to force the South Africans out of Namibia.

The thrust of the hearings was to support the implementation of the

United Nations plan for Namibian independence, contained in U.N. Security Council resolution 435, which passed ten years ago. Rep. Mervyn Dymally spoke on behalf of U.S. House Resolution 131, which condemns the South African presence in Namibia and calls for sanctions of South Africa until U.N. Resolution 435 is complied with. Rep. Dymally's resolution specifically rejects linkage of the U.N. resolution with the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola, which is South Africa's current rationale for occupying Namibia.

The hearings climaxed with a commemoration of Kassinga Day, May 4. A survivor of the 1978 massacre of 700 Namibian refugees in Kassinga, Angola spoke, and there was a special ecumenical service at a local Lutheran church.

Judy Hatcher is a Chicago activist and a CCISSA Board member.

C · A · L · E · N · D · A · R

**THE TIME TO ACT:
JUNE 16!**



- Soweto Day, June 16, sponsored by a CCISSA-led coalition, at 4 p.m., 200 S. Michigan (South African consulate), marching to Chicago Temple Church, 77 W. Washington for a 5:30 p.m. program. For more information call Sylvia at CCISSA, 922-3915.
- "Get Up, Stand Up" Music Video Dance Night, June 17, sponsored by CISPES and CCISSA, 8 p.m. at the Riviera Night Club, Lawrence and Broadway. Tickets are \$12 from CCISSA; they're also available through TicketMaster or at the door.

■ A special benefit for the Chicago Religious Task Force on Central America will be held at Second City, 1616 N. Wells, on Fathers' Day, June 19, 1988 at 7:00 p.m., featuring special skits on Central America. A Second City menu is available for food and drinks. Tickets are a sliding scale from \$25 to \$15. For reservations by phone, call (312) 663-4398. Tickets are also being sold at the Guild Bookstore, 2456 N. Lincoln Ave.

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Bishop Tutu's visit to Midwest

Archbishop Desmond Tutu spoke in Madison, Wisconsin on May 3 as part of a two-day conference on South Africa and Namibia. Several CCISSA members attended this conference and participated in various workshops.

Bishop Tutu spoke to several thousand people at the University of Wisconsin fieldhouse and the following day there were workshop sessions addressing Mozambique, chaired by Prexy Nesbitt; the ANC chaired by Neo Mnumzana, the ANC representative to the UN; Constitutional Law/Institutional Racism in South Africa and Namibia, chaired by Elizabeth Landis; and several others.

A highlight was a panel discussion between the workshop presenters and Wisconsin news editors. The conference was attended by at least 200 participants from across the country including several Nami-

bia students currently studying in the U.S.

**Action Alert
Sanctions Against South Africa**

The strong sanctions legislation currently being debated in Congress was originally introduced in the House by California Democrat Ronald Dellums. This legislation, HR 1580, would substantially strengthen the limited U.S. sanctions imposed on South Africa in 1986. The Dellums bill was amended and approved by the House Foreign Affairs Committee in May and is scheduled to come before the full House for a floor vote in the next few weeks.

The Senate is now considering legislation introduced by Senator Edward Kennedy, S. 2378, that is identical to the legislation currently before the full house.

Urge your Representative and Senators to support HR 1580/S. 2378.

RESOURCES

CCISSA operates an office which serves as a clearinghouse and resource center for Southern Africa support work. Speakers, films, books, videos and other educational tools are available for your church, school or organization. We require a donation so that we may continue to offer these services.

**Become involved!
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