Celebrate the dawning of a new Southern Africa
1994 Soweto Day Walkathon - June 18, 1994

The sixth annual Soweto Day Walkathon will take place on Sunday, June 18th beginning and ending at the Trinity United Church of Christ, 532 W. 95th Street in Chicago. Registration will begin at 9:00 AM followed by a Prayer Service at 9:30 in the Trinity Sanctuary. The Walkathon will step off at 10:00 AM.

Along the 10 kilometer route, walkers will be refreshed at rest stops hosted by Third Baptist Church, Wendy's Old Fashioned Hamburgers on Western, Beverly Unitarian Church and Checkers.

Following the Walkathon at 1:30, walkers will gather at Trinity UCC for refreshments provided by the Trinity Hospitality Ministry and music and poetry in celebration of the recent democratic victory in South Africa.

In the past five years, the Soweto Day Walkathon has raised over $50,000 in material aid to those who struggled for an end to apartheid in South Africa and throughout the southern African region. This year, we celebrate with the people of South Africa their victory over apartheid and the first democratic elections in South Africa. Last year, over $10,000 was raised for voter education in Chicago's sister community, the Alexandra Civic Organization in Alexandra Township, South Africa. This year Walkathon proceeds will be sent to Alexandra as well as Kunene Province in Angola to develop leadership for the post-apartheid period.

The anti-apartheid activists of Alexandra Township have provided critical leadership to the struggle for freedom in South Africa. Now, as a new national government is established and local and regional governmental bodies are restructured, many of Alexandra's leaders have been called to serve at all levels leaving a leadership gap in the Alexandra Civic Organization itself.

The scale war of destabilization waged by the US backed contra army, UNITA. In 1992, the Angolan government held elections in hopes of ending the bloody war. When it became clear to UNITA that they could not win free and fair elections, they began the war all over again. Since 1992, more than 100,000 people have been killed in what has become one of the longest wars in history.

The people of the southern Angolan province of Kunene have paid with their lives, blood and dignity in this regional struggle against apartheid. They are hoping that democracy in South Africa will lead to an end of the war in their country. A portion of 1994 Walkathon funds will be sent to the people of Kunene Province to aid in the re-building of their communities.

Soweto Day Walkathon
June 18, 1994
Trinity United Church of Christ
532 W. 95th Street

Schedule of Events
9:00 Registration
9:30 Prayer Service
10:00 Step Off
1:30 CELEBRATION
featuring South African poets, drummers and singers to celebrate the victory over apartheid.

1994 Walkathon funds will be used in part for leadership training for a new generation of ACO leaders for the critical years ahead in building the new South Africa.

South Africa's neighbor, Angola has been tremendously undermined by apartheid. With its independence from Portugal in 1975 came numerous invasions by the South African Defense Forces and a large
Chicago’s Anti-Apartheid Movement Celebrates and Remembers

CCISSA Board member Lisa Brock made the following speech at the May 14th Celebration of the South African Victory and CCISSA’s 10th Anniversary. Lisa's words capture the depth of emotion many of us have experienced in this historic moment.

It is hard for me to express what I feel this evening. And I am sure I am not the only one. In fact, the other day, on April 26, 1994, I got up, excited because the South Africans here in the Midwest were going to vote that day and people were to gather at the South African Consulate. I felt good about it. I was, in fact, ecstatic at being able to be at that damn Consulate for something good instead of something bad... I got in my car and went downtown. As I walked from the parking lot towards the Consulate, I felt my knees begin to tingle. In fact, they began to feel weak. Then as I got closer, I could hear the sound of a collective crowd and my heart began to pound. With weak knees and a thumping in my chest, I moved towards the joyous scene of people laughing, toiling and hugging. Before I could reach them, I felt tears coming from my eyes. The flood was so intense that I had to stop and simply cry. I think I cried for about 15 minutes and then I danced, and toilied and hugged.

However, neither the dancing nor the crying is over. Because we are tonight a part of that very special moment in history where the past and the present meet. Where we are both sad and happy, both angry and conciliatory. We feel victorious but have no real map of the future South Africa. We know that it will be different and that the old apartheid is over and we hope that, unlike here after slavery, “the new South” Africa will not be as bad as the old one. We also hope that the Mass Democratic Movement in South Africa will be able to attain the necessary power to substantial-ly improve the life chances of South Africans. Voting, as it has been proven here, is only symbolic of power. The leaders of South Africa must be able to control the economic destiny of their country. Further, we also know that the western elite have derailed movements in the past and financed war in Angola and Mozambique, blockaded social revolutions in Cuba, Nicaragua, and Vietnam, propped up dictatorships in Haiti, Chile, El Salvador and Zaire and invaded progressive countries such as Grenada. So, we cannot be romantic about the future.

However, we can be hopeful about the dawning of this new South Africa. Because they are a people who have laid a foundation of militancy and sophisticated internationalism that will forcefully challenge all attempts to derail their self-determination. Many of us here in the United States and here in Chicago have been a part of that tradition. We have been their sisters and brothers in the international struggle, working as best as we could in this belly of the beast. I don’t know if many of you realize that one of the founders of the ANC, Solomon Plaatje, came to Chicago in 1921. He spoke to a packed audience at Quinn Chapel AME Church in Chicago's near south side, connecting his struggle there with Jim Crow here. Or that in the 1850's, the first sanctions bill was proposed in the United States Congress by black and progressive congressman such as Adam Clayton Powell. Or that during the 1960's and the 1970's, young men and women such as Prexy Nesbitt and Harold Rogers, worked with southern African liberation movements in Tanzania and Mozambique as teachers or that a Chicago committee of Prexy, Harold, Otis Cunningham, Linda Murray, Scotty Ray and others put out a newsletter called The African-American Agenda which for seven years diligently kept up with the liberation struggle in South Africa. In fact, it was Chicagoans Ronelle Mustin and Willie Williamson who struggled to start the National Anti-Imperialist Movement in Solidarity with African Liberation in the mid 1970's which became the first broad organization in the United States to openly call for comprehensive sanctions.

It was the knowledge of this history that, I think, made me cry that day three weeks ago, knowing how connected we all have been to the South African struggle. In fact, as I walked towards that Consulate, I thought about Basil, Carol, Rachel who were founders of the Coalition for Illinois' Divestment from South Africa in 1984 and Bob Starks, Mark Durham, Cheryl Johnson and Alice Palmer who put the Free South Africa Movement together here in Chicago. I thought about Kathy Devine, Rose Daylie and Mike Elliott who worked with the Illinois Labor Network Against Apartheid. And I

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PUBLIC RALLY

On the Road to Freedom

Come hear

Charles Nqakula
General Secretary
South African Communist Party

Saturday, July 23, 1994
7:00 PM
Bismark Hotel
171 W., Randolph (at LaSalle)

Admission: $5.00
(No one will be turned away for lack of admission charge.)

Additional speakers and cultural performances to be announced.

Sponsored by
Committees of Correspondence
(312) 384-5799

Over 900 South Africans Vote in Chicago

Funeka Sihliali and Zolani Ngwane celebrate outside the South African consulate after casting their ballots. Over 900 South Africans from across the midwest traveled to Chicago to vote in South Africa’s first non-racial elections.

Chicago Election Observers Visit Alexandra Township

Chicago Alderman Jesse Evans and journalist Stan West visited Chicago’s sister community, Alexandra Township while in South Africa to observe the recent elections. The Chicago delegation presented the Alexandra Civic Organization with a Chicago City Council resolution commemorating the elections and pledging continued support for the sister community relationship.

Chicago-Alexandra Sister Community Chairpersons Sophie Makhubu and Kay Burnett meet with Alexandra Civic Organization member Nkele (Mary) Ntingane (center) in Alexandra Township.

Chicago to Welcome ACO Intern

The national United States-South Africa Sister Community Project has received a grant from the US Information Service to bring South Africans from sister communities to the United States for 3 month internships in public administration. The Chicago-Alexandra Sister Community Project will welcome someone from Alexandra Township this fall.

Negotiations are underway with various city of Chicago departments as well as Chicago’s community development organizations to arrange a program for the intern.
Join CCISSA Today!

Keep Solidarity with Southern Africa Alive!

Despite the current and deserved bliss about South Africa and the election results, southern Africa now faces formidable challenges. We, who have struggled against apartheid alongside our southern African brothers and sisters, must move forward to face these new challenges with them. Now our solidarity, technical and material assistance can help build a new future from the ashes of apartheid.

This past year, CCISSA has raised funds for voter education in South Africa, campaign funds for Nelson Mandela and the African National Congress and financial support for election observers who represented Chicago in guarding South Africa's historic first non-racial democratic election.

Now the Chicago Committee in Solidarity with Southern Africa needs your support to move into the future. Your $10.00 membership contribution will bring you our newsletter and notices of educational, solidarity events and speakers from southern Africa. Your financial contribution, as well as your expression of support in becoming a CCISSA member, also assists us when we go to foundations for funding of staff and office.

We urge you to join CCISSA today and to become active in the Chicago Alexandra Sister Community Project, the annual Soweto Day Walkathon and other CCISSA activities. Together we can help to build the new southern Africa.

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Celebrate...(continued)

thought about the Cuban people and the thousands of lives lost fighting apartheid in Angola. Hundreds of faces and places ran through my mind as I walked to that Consulate one last time.

I even thought about those who worked against the Springboks in 1981 such as Doug Gills and Conrad Worrill and how Dennis Brutus and I were at the consulate protesting the hanging of three South African MK fighters on the very same day that Rudy Lozano was assassinated. I thought about Queenie Mustin doing all that cooking every summer at her annual west side picnic to raise money for the ANC and Helen Shiller and Danny Davis battling the foes in the City Council. I thought about Ndiko and Nomusa and their music. It all came back to me on voting day.

I was sentimental that day because we, all of us here tonight, have given our time and our hearts to this greatest of all occasions. We have, as Paris Mashile pointedly reminded me, participated in one of the first truly democratic processes in history. I was overjoyed for South Africans and proud of all of us. On behalf of the Chicago Committee in Solidarity with Southern Africa, I say thank to all of us.

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| PLEASE RETURN TO CCISSA, P.O. Box 578066 CHICAGO, IL 60657 |
| NAME |
| ADDRESS | ZIP |
| PHONE (Day) | (Evening) |

Enclosed is my check for:

$10. CCISSA Membership
Additional Contribution
Contribution for Soweto Day Walkathon

I would like to get involved in the Sister Community Project.
I will participate in the Soweto Day Walkathon
I am unable to make a contribution but would like to be on the mailing list.