

SAMRAF  
29 Seventh Ave.  
Brooklyn, N.Y. 11217  
August 26, 1981

Dear Friends and Associates,

The South African Military Refugee Aid Fund, SAMRAF, has been infiltrated by an agent of the South African Security Police. His name is Clifton Westraad.

Posing as a deserter and war resister against the South African military, he approached SAMRAF on the West coast over a year ago for asylum assistance. He had all the right papers, sympathies and had even claimed he had spent time in detention barracks for draft resistance.

Appearing as a friend and doing public speaking in support of war resistance in South Africa, he slowly got closer to the organization and the people in it. Three months ago he moved to New York to get involved there. He later accepted the task of stage manager for a play about South African war resistance for which SAMRAF is presently organizing a national tour.

On Friday, the 14th of August 1981 over 100 files were stolen from the locked SAMRAF offices. Clifton Westraad vanished on the same day. He also cleaned out the petty cash box and owed SAMRAF a considerable sum of money. SAMRAF's entire USA and international mailing lists on index cards were stolen as well.

SAMRAF was in the final stages of production of three different booklets: one on the nuclear links with the USA; one on the military and the history of military resistance in South Africa and finally, a booklet on our political motivations and beliefs. The final drafts of these were taken as well. No files relating to contacts inside South Africa were kept at the office and remain safe.

All of this constitutes a serious blow to our work. It will take some time to recover some of the damage. In view of the recent stepped up harrassments and attacks on South African activists in exile, we are very concerned about the safety of certain of our leaders. Security is the major area we are working on at present.

This letter is both an alert and an appeal for help. Someone said to us "they must be threatened by the work that you do in order to have gone to such lengths." That may be true, but our ability to regroup and renew the work as soon as possible partly depends on how much help we get from our supporters.

Although we have undertaken a number of measures to prevent similar damage in the future, the danger is constant in our kind of work. Very few white South Africans support resistance to apartheid upon first arriving in exile. Because we believe in peoples' capacity to change, we try to encourage and involve war resisters in work beyond their initial asylum application. This means on-going risks, but it also means we have to take maximum measures with regard to security. We are preparing a profile of the agent for distribution in South Africa and overseas to help prevent any on-going dirty work on his part, or others acting similarly.

As for SAMRAF's future, there is no doubt that we will pick up the pieces and fight on, more committed and determined to resist the madness of apartheid than ever.

The struggle continues,  
SAMRAF staff.

MATERIALS STOLEN FROM SAMRAF BY C. WESTRAAD

1. ENTIRE USA AND INTERNATIONAL MAILING LIST
2. ALL SAMRAF CORRESPONDENCE WITH ORGANIZATIONS
3. MINUTES OF STAFF AND BOARD MEETINGS
4. ALL MATERIALS RELATING TO ASYLUM APPLICATIONS
5. FUNDING FILES; FOUNDATIONS, AGENCIES, INDIVIDUALS
6. SWAPO USA TOUR REPORT
7. DRAFTS OF THREE (3) BOOKLETS SOON FOR PUBLICATION
8. ALL SAMRAF PRESS CLIPPINGS, STATEMENTS AND CONTACTS
9. LIST OF LITERATURE SUBSCRIBED TO
10. LETTERS OF SUPPORT AND ENDORSEMENT FROM ORGANIZATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS
11. SAMRAF NEWS AND NOTES MAILING LISTS
12. DETAILS OF WORK DONE WITH ANTI-NUKE, ANTI-RACIST GROUPS
13. HISTORY OF WHITE RESISTANCE IN SOUTH AFRICA--SAMRAF INCLUDED
14. DETAILS OF PLAY "FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE"
15. MONEY