Dear COBLSA Affiliates and friends:

On the heels of our first national COBLSA meeting in 17 months, I want to thank all of you who were able to attend! Despite our exhaustion from participating in the prior CAISA Conference, I felt we made good headway in re-establishing contact and dialogue among local affiliates towards how to strengthen both local work and the national effort. I also thought we initiated some excellent discussion, all too short given our brief time together, on how to deal constructively with racial tensions in our bank campaign work. I hope this and other themes can be further explored and pursued in future newsletters. Special thanks to those of you who chaired, took notes and generally assisted with meeting logistics.

Enclosed you will find Minutes of the National Meeting as well as an address list of those comprising the new Coordinating Committee and other COBLSA Affiliates, Associates and contacts. The purpose of these lengthy minutes is to give a flavor of the meeting (and information on local experiences) to those groups who were unable to attend and to provide a record of several important discussions which local affiliates would hopefully take up in regional/local discussions as well as in making contributions to the national newsletter. If any participants feel the Minutes do not adequately reflect their perspective or the content and dynamic of a particular discussion, please let me know so that can be shared with other COBLSA affiliates.

Below is a Brief Summary of COBLSA's Direction for the coming months. It represents a very rough summary of what I perceive to be the major themes and priorities emerging from our National Meeting that will be guiding my immediate work in the months ahead. If you feel this summary is not accurate, please contact me right away so that it can be taken up with other affiliates. Following the Summary is a list of Requests to Local Affiliates for their prompt action that flowed out of the National Meeting. A quick attending to these requests would be most appreciated and would facilitate my work.

The deadline for the next CAMPAIGN NEWSLETTER is July 26. I will be putting the Newsletter together the following week before a quick trip to the Midwest. If you have anything you as a local affiliate want to share with other groups and contacts, please get it to me by then if possible.

**BRIEF SUMMARY OF COBLSA's DIRECTION:**

COBLSA reaffirmed its identity as a network of primarily local campaigns working to end all loans, direct and indirect, to South Africa; that it would function as a resource network for local campaigns and for other groups (community; labor; church) targeting banks; and that it would begin to explore a focus on reinvestment/alternative investment issues to make the bank campaign more relevant to grassroots concerns.

Local campaigns in 4 regions (West Coast; Northwest; Midwest; East Coast) will explore
the feasibility of, and work to organize, regional conferences that would bring local and regional groups (in particular grassroots groups and new organizational "networks" previously uninvolved in the bank loan campaign) on board the campaign, hopefully in Fall 1981. If successful, these regional conferences would provide a basis for a national Withdrawal Day sometime in the spring of 1982. These regional conferences would be planned to support the activities of CAISA as well. The National Coordinator will work to support and resource these regional conferences and liaison with relevant national organizations (e.g. NPA) that might be involved on the local level.

Re-activating the National Newsletter was given high priority by local affiliates, who felt out of contact with one another and lacking in up-to-date information on new loans to South Africa or other factors affecting local campaigns. Local groups expressed a need for updated information on the current status of bank withdrawals and on the experiences of other campaigns around the country.

A limited mandate was given to the National Coordinator to explore how COBLSA might link up to alternative investment groups (e.g. NPA) in ongoing work targeting banks. Some sort of regional/national meeting/protest to coincide with the ABA meeting in October in S.F. will be explored both locally & nationally but may be unfeasible due to shortness of time and conflicting East Coast conferences. COBLSA will explore planning a study/survey of local campaign experiences & strategies as this could prove both useful and fundable.

REQUESTS TO LOCAL AFFILIATES:

1. Would affiliates within each region please let me know by July 26 which member of which group will be serving as the regional liaison? As a rep to the Coordinating Comm.?

2. Could local affiliates which have not already done so please send the national office the following:
   - a list of local endorsers of the bank loan campaign;
   - a list of withdrawals in your city/state up to the present, listing the group, date of withdrawal, amount if known, etc.;
   - any statement on loan policy to S.A. by targeted banks (and when made);
   - any statement(s) supporting an end to bank loans to S.A. by local, state or regional labor/church/community organizations, including the date statement/resolution was adopted;
   - information on any "shadow board of directors" set up to monitor/pressure a local bank and how that board is functioning;
   - any "codes of conduct" which local groups may have developed for banks relating to redlining, affirmative action, bank relations to unions, foreign lending, etc.

RECENT ACTIVITIES (a selective summary):

Since the National Meeting, I was able to meet with Bill Howard of the National Council of Churches to explore how COBLSA might resource local churches on the issue of ending loans to So. Africa. I also met briefly with Jennifer Davis, incoming Director of ACOA, to express our thanks for ACOA's recent and past contributions to our work and to explore how we might work together in the future. We plan to meet in late July after the next CAISA meeting. I prepared a more extensive listing of bank lenders to So. Africa in states where CALC has chapters or affiliates for their use at their national meeting in July. I was also asked to provide material on loans to South Africa to be included in the informational packet going to an estimated 1500 participants at Operation PUSH's national conference in July. Also our national office is now established at the Institute for Policy Studies.

If you have specific needs or questions, please contact me at (202)-234-9382 (days) or (202)-797-1253 (eves).

a luta continua -

Carole Collins
NATIONAL COBLSA MEETING -Saturday, June 13, 1981 - 1st Session

Present: Carole Collins, National Coordinator
Tim Smith & Annie Street, Interfaith Center for Corporate Responsibility
Rosemary Meyer & Arlene Woefel, Chicago Coalition on Southern Africa & 8th Day Center for Justice
Paul Irish, American Committee on Africa
John Harrington, SEIU and Calif. Task Force on Responsible Investment
Norm Watkins, Chicago CALC
John Latz, Minnesota PIRG & Minn. CALC
Debbie Goldberg, DC Bank Campaign
Doug Tilton, Washington Office on Africa (formerly Minn. CALC)
Bud Day, Southern Africa Resource Center, Los Angeles
Jim Cason, Southern Africa magazine & NY-COBLSA (inactive)
Maryamu El Tayeb, Seattle AFSC
Roger Walke, People for Southern Africa Freedom, Eugene, Oregon
Miloanne Hacathorne, Stop Banking on Apartheid, Bay Area, CA
(Regrets from Jim Wright of Rochester, NY group)

The meeting convened at 8:45 PM at the Washington Square Methodist Church, Carole Collins chairing; Doug Tilton agreed to take minutes for this session.

In opening the meeting, the chair noted it was the first national meeting of COBLSA in 17 months. Paul Irish of ACOA reported that George Hauser will be leaving the ACOA staff on July 1st and Jennifer Davis will be taking over as Director. He stressed ACOA's commitment to continuing to assist local groups with actions via resources, publications, information, etc. Although ACOA's BLC organizing files have been in disarray, the research files could be useful to COBLSA.

Tim Smith of ICCR suggested that C. Collins send a letter to Jennifer Davis stressing that our working relationship with ACOA has been central to some of the successes we have had, encouraging ACOA to work closely with COBLSA and to place a high priority on the bank loan campaign. Carole noted that COBLSA will have an advertisement in the program for the Tribute to George Hauser. Group agreed on letter.

[C. Collins met with Jennifer Davis on June 18th, expressing the above and briefly summarizing the outcome of the national meeting. A follow-up meeting is planned for late July, following the CAISA Coordinating Comm. meeting July 21, when Davis will have a better idea of ACOA's direction and priorities.]

REPORTS ON LOCAL CAMPAIGNS:

1. Oregon: Roger Walke reported on People for Southern Africa Freedom's participation, with AFSC, in a campaign against U.S. Bancorporation in Eugene, a shareholder in PEFCO. Following a joint campaign involving unions in the area in 1979, the bank agreed to sell its PEFCO stock. They continue to hold it, however, claiming they cannot find a buyer. In January 1981, the local Building Trades Council voted to put the bank on their "do not patronize" list for its SA lending and for its employment of non-union carpet layers. PSAF may attempt to place U.S. BanCorp on the statewide AFL-CIO "do not patronize" list at the State AFL-CIO's September meeting. PSAF's other activities have included work on legislative divestment and work against Canadian branch banks and Citibank loan offices in the Eugene area (incl. pickets) and against new loans by 1st Interstate Bank.

Response: J. Harrington volunteered to ask state employees international union to put pressure on the Oregon Public Employees Union (OPEU) to participate in the campaign, esp. the legislative one. Roger added that PSAF needs high level financial information on how US banks can sell their PEFCO stock.

2. Seattle, Wash.: Maryamu El Tayeb of Seattle AFSC distributed a packet of materials from AFSC Seattle recent actions. The group's bank campaign has been directed against Seafirst, Rainier and People's Banks, working to pull local black and
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church groups into the campaign (they organized around the ALC conference in Seattle), and have recently been targeting women's groups as well. Seattle AFSC recently decided to concentrate their efforts on Seafirst. They tied Seafirst's SA policy to their policy of lending to Chile, drawing in the issue of El Salvador and consequently the Hispanic community, as well as to union concerns. A broad coalition of activists went to the Seafirst Board meeting April 16, including members of the Financial Institution Employees of America Local 1182 (which the bank has refused to recognize as collective bargaining agent for bank employees despite a valid election by workers and several NLRB decisions favoring the union); many participants in the action had obtained proxies to enable participation in the meeting. After some embarrassing questions, the Board Chairman closed the meeting early. Maryamu talked at length about people's sense of burnout, which led to an original decision to disband Seattle COBLSA in May 1980 'officially', under advice from D. Kumalo. The group decided to support the Church Council of Greater Seattle's efforts to press Seafirst on the SA lending issue; the Church Council's negotiations/dialogue has been going very slowly, though Seafirst is trying to reach an agreement. She asked for some discussion/suggestions on what response the Council should be urged to make on June 16 when they decide how to answer a Sept. 1980 letter from the bank.

Response: Tim Smith said he had written Bill Cate of the Council asking that the Council demand a statement of policy from Seafirst. Doug T. noted that Seafirst was the only stock that the Macalester College (Minn.) Board of Trustees had voted to sell under their new South Africa policy. Maryamu added that the City of Pullman also had voted to divest itself of Seafirst & take funds from Seafirst. (Pullman is in eastern Wash. state.) Maryamu noted that some work had been done on legislative divestment, but that the lack of success has led to burnout. Carole noted that the bank campaign is integral to legislative divestment work, involving trying to get legislatures to take state funds out of banks lending to SA, as well as divesting in other ways. Maryamu also noted a couple plans for autumn conferences, including one on pensions.

3. NY COBLSA (Inactive): Jim Cason reported that after Jan. 1980 the NY-COBLSA shifted their emphasis to a large, grassroots anti-Citibank campaign. They talked with numerous labor groups and church groups and had just started outreach to local anti-nuclear groups when they realized that the job would be too big for so small a group already involved in many other projects (some even southern Africa-related). They voted to go into suspension. Jim noted that other groups in the area were doing some of the bank campaign work, and he distributed a flyer on the National Black United Front Soweto Day Demonstration at Citibank. [Tina Simcich, on Sunday, spoke about other groups' activities targeting Citibank, including Big Business Day in 1980 (this group has since become dominated by Ralph Nader, who dissolved the "Shadow Board" for Citibank without consulting anyone on the board; feeling is he isn't keen on working with labor); anti-redlining groups targeting Citibank branch closings (S. Bronx) and openings (in Park Slope to service condo areas); and an employee group targeting Citibank sale of its Travel Dept. and the dept's employees to another company which then fired many employees (has been two newsletters & leafletting). She also noted the Black United Front's upcoming demo against Citibank.]

4. Los Angeles, CAL.: Bud Day of the Southern Africa Resource Project (a new group that plans to network literature and audiovisual resources in the area) had had difficulties keeping a constant committee together. He noted several other area groups active on the L.A. bank campaign, in particular the South African Support Coalition [Steve Martin of SASP attended the Sunday meeting and reported on SASP activities at that time.], which was targeting Gibraltar Savings Bank for its housing the South African Consulate. The Kemper Group, JP Morgan,
Reliance Bank and CitiCorp are all tied into the campaign activities there. A southern California office of ICCR is also being formed. UCLA students removed $25 million from Bank of America and Security Bank. Bud noted that there were two separate campaigns around the consulate (which they did get to move from LA to Beverly Hills): (1) one led by SASC calling for a boycott of the bank housing the consulate, with regular weekly pickets, and (2) one led by NAIMSAL and a coalition of 40 groups doing weekly pickets at the bank. Occidental College students and faculty voted unanimously to divest, but the Trustees have yet to respond. Bud also noted a targeting of Security Pacific (slated for shareholders resolution), Crocker & Fluor (involved in SASOL Project). Asked what would be useful to local campaign, Bud stressed the need for a list of "clean" banks, ideas on how to get media coverage, and help in maintaining flexible approaches to local actions without appearing to be contradictory or in conflict.

Response: Carole noted the difficulty in defining "clean" for bank lending policies, esp. when you link up the SA lending issue to other issues (e.g. red-lining; loans to Chile or other repressive regimes; anti-union and bad affirmative action policies). She regretted that time did not permit a media workshop originally planned for this meeting.

5. Minneapolis, Minn.: John Latz, representing Minn. CALC, distributed their report and summarized recent actions for the absent Mark Halverson. In May 29, 1980, a Bank Withdrawal Day picket was held to dramatize the more than $1.65 m. in annual accounts that had recently been withdrawn (since March 1979, over $4 m. in annual accounts have been withdrawn by groups such as coops, social service organizations, a church denomination & two local church congregations). Northwestern National Bank's last loan to the SA government expired March 31, 1981 and the bank will not permit further loans to the public sector in SA (although it will allow loans to the private sector). Thus, unless the bank makes a new loan, the Minn. bank campaign may not be as active and is seeking how to redirect its work on So. Africa. Minn. CALC has been a center for bank campaigning in Minneapolis [Minnea. AFSC tends to work on legislative divestment]. CALC wanted to find out how to get info on new loans to SA and on the status of Northwestern's Ex-Imbank loans.

Response: Carole indicated plans to compile aggregate withdrawal figures from around the country if she can get local groups to send in their estimates, broken down by type of account (checking, savings, other); type of groups withdrawing (name & if church, labor, community, etc.); amount withdrawn, etc. A list of bank lending policy changes will also be compiled. [ICCR is working this summer on an update of bank positions on lending to S.A.]

6. District of Columbia: Debbi Goldberg of the D.C. Bank Campaign distributed their report on recent activities and a newsletter documenting their participation in a Nov. 1980 hearing before the Comptroller of the Currency protesting Riggs National Bank expansion (mandated under the Community Redevelopment Act in certain circumstances where the banks' servicing of poor communities is in question). The DC Bank Campaign has focussed on Riggs with the demands: End Loans to SA! End Loans to Chile! End Red-Lining! The DCBC picke-ted Riggs one day when an investigator came to check into Riggs' redlining practices. The picket prompted a meeting with the investigator and the subsequent DCBC decision to file a formal challenge to Riggs' next branch applications (done in March 1980). In preparing written & oral testimony & lining up witnesses for the hearing, DCBC made broad contacts with church, community & tenants organizations in the District. Over 200 people attended the Nov. 1980 hearing, with DCBC and over a dozen community organizations documenting Riggs' violations of the CRA. An unprecedented 7 conditions were placed upon approval of the applications. The campaign
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is now considering two possible directions: developing their own plan for the implementation of the 7 conditions or launching a DC Divestment initiative. The latter could be tied into the Depository Act requiring banks requesting the deposit of public funds to meet certain requirements. One issue: do genuine gains for community groups undercut/sustained support for the South Africa/Chile issues?

7. Chicago, IL:

a) Norm Watkins of Chicago CALC distributed Chicago CALC's report and noted that the bank campaign had been relatively formant because of CALC's recent focus on defeating the Lefever nomination (Percy of Senate For. Rela. Comm. is from Ill.) and Reagan's Human Rights Policy (or lack thereof). CALC did, however, picket 1st National and Continental Banks' shareholders meetings for the 4th year in a row. He noted that the bank managers are becoming visibly upset. In a meeting with Continental this spring by people from CALC and CCSA(8th Day Center), bank officials asked "can't you let up on us and get off our backs this year?" Both targeted banks, largest lenders by far to SA in Ill., have made no loans to SA agencies for 4 years, but refuse to disclose loans to the private sector in SA or trade loans. 1st National sold 93,000 Krugerrands wholesale in 1980. CALC helped in getting the State AFL-CIO to endorse the bank campaign, using national AFL-CIO precedents and the crucial help of a Coalition of Black Trade Unionists activist. CALC participated with CCSA and AFSC in 3 July 1980 protests outside the SA consulate here over the arrests of SA religious leaders in May (on the third try, we were finally permitted to deliver petitions; the consulate had called the US Dept. of State Security Office to escort/monitor this church protest). CALC has moved to focus on work with seminary groups active on SA (several in Chicago) as well as campus groups. They hope to work more with groups that became active in the anti-Lefever effort and with Lutheran congregations active in their denominational fight. We get withdrawals most easily from church denominations (including Chicago Disciples Union; United Church of Christ - Chicago Assoc. & Ill. Conf.; United Methodist Church-Northern Ill. Conf.; Church Women United in Greater Chicago; Association of Chicago Priests; McCormick Theological Seminary; Associated Colleges of the Midwest; NCC). Norm raised several campaign ideas: a Krugerrand campaign; more aggressive pursuit of withdrawals; regular leafletting of the banks; systematic work to get bank campaign endorsements; developing a study group for newcomers to this work; and re-reading basic pamphlets on the history & tactics of nonviolent action.

b. Carole Collins, until late April 1981 active in the Chicago Coalition on Southern Africa, reported on the 1979-80 legislative campaign to pass Ill. House Bill 1256 (after a great public hearing in Nov. 1979 with over 40 groups favoring the bill and 1 opposed, the Ill. House Financial Institutions Comm. tabled the bill, with the option that it could be re-introduced in the next session; because of pressing Chicago fiscal crises and current redistricting, bill sponsors have not had the time or energy to do so). In October, CCSA assisted with media contacts for a SWAPO tour and helped mobilize a protest of the Chicago Bar Assn annual meeting featuring a member of SA's Appeals Court. In Nov., CCSA set up the itinerary for Thozamile Botha and, with Norm Watkins, spoke at a downstate forum on the Sullivan Principles. Since November, CCSA has focussed on developing a common agenda with community groups that would link the SA lending issue to red-lining and to divestment of resources from local communities, resulting in job losses, etc. CCSA helped to develop some fact sheets on the role of Ill. banks in causing the school crisis, foreign lending of Chicago banks, job losses in Ill., etc., for use in some meetings of community organizations at the National Training & Information Center to explore a joint campaign on jobs that would include, as part of its thrust, a focus on the banks. Several community
groups felt it was easier for them to target corporations that were employers in their communities than the banks. Further meetings with NTIC staff underlined the need to do more research on bank/corporate links and relations to the Economic Development Corporation and other city/state bodies impacting local communities. In late Spring, CCSA helped work toward a broad community meeting to form a Jobs Coalition and develop a Jobs Manifesto that would also raise the issue of SA lending. A CCSA member was also invited to speak at the national conference of National People's Action (the national network of community groups which NTIC serves as a technical assistance branch) in March 1981, linking the SA issue to unemployment. CCSA also initiated a Good Friday Walk for Justice sponsored by 24 religious groups which targeted points of 3rd world people's oppression, including the SA consulate, 1st National Bank (for loans to SA, Chile & Bolivia), and International Harvester (layoffs and expansion in SA).

c) Rosemary Meyer of 8th Day Center for Justice (a member of CCSA, on CALC's Board and the local representative for ICCR) also noted their involvement in shareholders actions involving the SA issue against International Harvester and Xerox (and, in past years, Motorola) as well as the banks.

8. CALIFORNIA [MiloAnne Hecathorne spoke Sunday about activities in the Bay Area.] John Harrington of SEIU & the Governor's Task Force on Responsible Investment reported the Calif. Governor's Commission on Economic Investment Priorities and his Public Investment Task Force had been having little legislative success. A resolution discouraging the sale of Krugerrands has been passed but not enacted, while a bill denying tax credits for South African operations failed.

Response: MiloAnne noted they had obtained the California State Chartered Bank Report that listed all State bank loans to South Africa, which was very helpful.

9. Interfaith Center for Corporate Responsibility: Tim Smith reported that ICCR views the bank campaign as a high priority. ICCR has been working primarily with the campaigns in California, Illinois and New York. He called attention to the Riverside Church and Union Seminary withdrawals from Citibank.

Debbi Goldberg of DCBC requested that the minutes from this meeting be typed and sent out along with the names and addresses of those present, the researching papers from the MPA meeting, and the listing of most recent bank loans to South Africa. [A tentative list of recent bank loans was distributed the next day by CC.]

Carole Collins distributed the Conference Edition of the Newsletter, which included copies of:
- summary of new Citibank loan and its repercussions, including withdrawals by institutions in protest (from Zurich Conf.)
- statement by the National Conference of Public Employee Retirement Systems
- Joint Statement on Bank Loans by Dr. Howard & Rev. Sullivan
- background on the SA economy from IRRC documents (which includes a specific mention to the work of COBLSA)
- summary of church positions on bank loans (from Zurich Conf.)
- Guide to Banking Terminology (from Zurich conf.)
- resolution on SA adopted by the Nat'l Conf. of Black Mayors, April 1981
- article on federal authorizing of Free Banking Zones, June 10, 1981

She announced the new permanent address of COBLSA: at Institute for Policy Studies, 1901 Que St., N.W., Washington, DC 20009 (phone: (202)-234-9382). She also distributed memos on fund-raising ideas and COBLSA's financial report, as well as a memo on structu

The Meeting adjourned at 11:10 P.M.
2nd Session: Sunday, June 14, 1981 - 9 AM to 5:30 PM

Present: Carole Collins, national coordinator
Maryamu Eltayeb, Seattle AFSC
Norm Watkins, Chicago CALC
Annie Street, ICCR
Doug Tilton, WOA
MiloAnne Hecathorne, $BOA
Jim Cason, NY-COBLSA & Southern Africa
Dick Clapp, Boston Coalition for the Liberation of Southern Africa
Bud Day, Southern Africa Resource Center-L.A.
Chris Root, DC Bank Campaign
Ted Lockwood, DC Bank Campaign
Tina Simcich, Corporate Campaigns Inc. & formerly NY-COBLSA
John Latz, Minn. CALC & Public Interest Research Group
Steve Martin, Southern Africa Support Coalition, Los Angeles
Mark Harrison, National Clergy & Laity Concerned
Debbie Goldberg, DC Bank Campaign

The meeting convened at 9:30 AM at the Marxist School, 151 West 19th St, New York; Maryamu & Carole chaired the morning session; Chris Root chaired the afternoon. Ted Lockwood took notes in the morning and Norm Watkins in the afternoon.

Before resuming local reports, Carole emphasized the need for a national focus on banks such as that provided for community groups by National People's Action (NPA) under Gail Cincotta (has targetted ABA 3 years running). A national focus could make a real sharp blow possible because at the moment all the struggles are quite local and the victories small. There is no way at the moment to unite all the different groups we seek to mobilize: unions, community groups, churches, etc. We should take advantage of the interest which exists on banks, channel attention by playing on certain things through publicity. We could, for example, put pressure on banks by targetting the big ABA convention coming up this fall, in conjunction with other groups like NPA.

Responses:

Seattle: At the moment the white and middle-aged Americans are on board of the issue and are prepared to challenge the banks. The burned-out radicals have to be re-intereste

Chicago: Continental Bank is a threat to city survival. Using Citibank as a national target would not do as well. Looking at banks as part of a larger system gives something for people to disengage from as well as a place to go to put money into something else. All minorities get messed over by the banks.

In discussing proposed alternative forms of investment as set out in the CAISA meeting, questions were raised as to whether minority-run banks have the capacity at this moment to handle and run pension funds. (Discussion also touched on failure of the CAISA conf. to equally prioritize, financially, getting grassroots activists to the conf. as well as legislators.)

The link to groups like NPA has meant that the bank campaign has to deal with additional criteria in its local campaigns which banks should follow in addition to ending loans to So. Africa. These include:
- greater employment & advancement for blacks/women/other minorities in banks;
- ending bank financing of nuclear projects
- ending red-lining of insurance, home mortgages, commercial credit
- ending anti-union activities by banks.
REPORTS ON LOCAL CAMPAIGNS (Continued):

Northern California: MiloAnne Hecathorne of Stop Banking on Apartheid reported work recently has been done with the Human Rights division of the Northern California Ecumenical Council, which uses as a basis of unity that it will seek to focus on human rights issues that span a number of regions and include labor, women and money problems. The Africa Resource Center (ARC) in Oakland acts as a resource and information base for groups that seek to mobilize in local areas. ARC stocks ACOA, ID&A, LSM and other literature, many periodicals and has, as well, resource files that can help activists. The Data Center, located in the same building, is able to pull data on any corporation for a modest fee.

$BOA has worked with the Black Pastor's Assn.; food & hunger groups; AFSCME/SEIU/CBTU/OPEIU groups. SEIU passed a comprehensive resolution withdrawing from B of America. Oakland School Board has gotten active on this. $BOA has worked with several church groups (WSCF/CSM/No. Cal. Ecumenical Council) and supported the South African Women's Fund (self-help projects).

$BOA is going to conduct a survey of all banks in regard to affirmative action, loans, treatment of employees, etc. Worked out in cooperation with S&L assns and John Harrington, $BOA used two interns to develop a basic questionnaire. After evaluation, there will be a summary of S&Ls affirmative actions, etc. and a rating system, and will then expand to banks. To get the information, you have to be bland in your approach.

The ARC puts out a newsletter containing a section on alternative forms of investment. We are developing resources, not doing organizing. People are now raising questions about Reagan's intentions & we are helping focus some of this on Southern Africa.

In addition, the ARC is preparing a How To Do It Manual on a Municipal Divestment Campaign, which it anticipates will cost $10 a copy for a run of $250. A big problem is money. AFSC has pulled out of local Southern Africa work.

The most important aspect of national work for us is a national newsletter with updates on campaigns around the country. We believe divestment is important if linked into local re-investment. We are focussing on the banking system. We feel that in finding funds it is better to concentrate on South Africa (Carole Collins disagrees here, thinks a more broad focus on bank lending policies, domestic & international, could better generate funds.)

New York/Citibank: Tina Simcich of Corporate Campaigns Inc & formerly NY-COBLSA said many employees of Citibank are now fed up and angry. When Citibank sold its Travel Dept., Dept. employees found they lost all job security. Employees affected are suing to stop the sale and continue to be outraged. Citibank is extremely paternalistic. This situation touched off other areas/issues such as non-inclusion of employees in profit-sharing plans. There have been 2 employee newsletters and leafleting. The United Food & Commercial Workers Union has done some leafleting but no real money as been put into organizing at this time.

Nader has taken over Big Business Day and the old board dissolved, with Ralph taking over direct control. He's not keen on working with labor. At the annual Citibank meeting, resolutions were put forward attacking Wriston, Chairman of the Board. There were 20 people outside and 20 on the inside. Wriston & the Board were visibly upset. The National Black United Front will be bringing people out on the issue of SA June 16 along with a couple anti-redlining groups protesting displacements in Park Slope. [CC sent a packet of information on COBLSA to a BUF organizer but was unable to set up a meeting; the BUF action attracted 50-100 protesters outside Citibank.]

Boston: Richard Clapp of BCLSA noted they had organized material aid for SWAPO and demonstrated against Pik Botha's visit. The bulk of their work has been pension fund divestment work, though, as 1st National Bank of Boston handles many pension funds.
He talked about the fact that banks have stopped making loans to the government of SA and to its parastatals and will say so publicly, but the law does not cover trade financing. The banks put forward as an excuse for their lack of cooperation on this that they have to preserve private financial confidentiality. MURAG, a Mass. group, set up a "shadow board" of Directors of major bank target.

BCLSA expanded their slide show from one dealing with bank loans to one dealing with pension fund investment/divestment, including bank lending. In preparing their slide show, they experienced a bad case of sectarianism. The leading force in this sectarianism was the OCIC local group. Nationally OCIC has been conducting a campaign against white chauvinism, concentrating on the elimination of individuals' racist attitudes rather than on their practice. They brought this method into our mass organization, creating a great deal of tension and conflict. The people who did this are now self-critical, have left BCLSA or left political work. The effect was very destructive, with BCLSA at one point reduced to only six people.

Line of March political tendency is critical of OCIC. There is no preventive medicine; we cannot just purge people. CC noted this had also been a problem elsewhere. Clapp said "we will survive" but are aware that it is literally going to be generations of resistance.

As to national focus, Dick Clapp felt that a newsletter swapping stories and raising funds for this kind of meeting was important. The West Coast particularly has a problem with isolation. Also, if possible to raise money for local conferences.

Los Angeles, CAL.: [Steve Martin of Southern Africa Support Coalition arrived later and briefly summarized the work of SASC around banks in LA.]

SASC sprung out of dissatisfaction with ideological debates dominating another group (NAIMSAL & coalition it formed) and a desire to focus on the issue of Gibraltar Savings Bank renting space for a new consulate of the RSA (relocated from SF following protests there). SASC grew from a Committee into a Coalition and has done outreach and educational for church and community groups, and to small businesses whose money was likely to be in the bank. The reason the consulate was moved to southern Cal. was because of the weather and to be closer to the aerospace industry, as well as oil industry and Fluor Corp. (assisting with SASOL). SASOL is definitely interested in the coal-to-oil engineering projects of the US synthetics industry.

SASC is not satisfied that Governor Brown's task force is moving at the speed or pace it should. It skinned over the consulate issue as well.

RESEARCH UPDATE: [Beate Klein is in Geneva doing research on institutional withdrawal procedures and couldn't be here to give report. CC will work to get copies of some testimony she prepared for Tim Smith for the UN Conference on Sanctions held at the end of May 1981 in Paris. CC summarized information on recent loans gotten at Zurich.]

Through the Zurich conference, CC was able to get additional up-to-date info on lending:

1972-1978: bank loans extended to SA amounted to $7 billion, with over 400 banks involved. There is a wish list for another $30 b, in infrastructure projects for the period up to the year 2000.

In 1979-80, gold prices went up and some people thought that this would mean that So. Africa would not need loans. On the contrary, SA needs the loans for massive expansion of projects in energy and elsewhere. West German and Swiss banks are the major participants so far in this new upsurge in SA borrowing.

At the recent UN Seminar in Zurich (co-sponsored by various UN bodies and the WCC), representatives of Nordic, West German, Dutch, Swiss, French, Belgian and British anti-apartheid groups were present as well as Tim Smith and Carole Collins representing US bank campaigning groups. The conference issued an attack on a recent $250 m. loan (in which Citibank participated), allegedly for "black uplift" in housing, etc. There is a further need for ongoing research to determine US participation through
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finance houses' prospectuses, "tombstones" listing participation in a bond offering, looking at files of groups like the World Bank, etc. Private placement of loans/bonds are hard to trace.

In June 1980, $67 m. appeared on the Eurobond market. In August 1980, another $50 m. We need to know what the new consortium bank arrangements are, formed and unformed. In Sept-Oct. 1980, Citibank participated in a $5.8 m. Standard Bank loan as well as a $250 m. loan to the RSA for housing, education & health. We have to remember that it is the Black African people who will pay this back to the lending banks with profit for Citibank [as outlined in the summary analysis in the COBLSA newsletter]. This means that RSA will not pay for it; the Africans will. Citibank will accelerate its projects; the gov't will not increase its share of outlays for blacks. An ESCOM loan of $51 m. due in 1987 is being handled by Credit-Suisse-First Boston.

Minerals: Gold is key foreign exchange earner for SA. 3 US firms handle all gold transactions, according to a UN document (i.e. gold as a commodity in trading). Krugerrands are handled by 25 main distributor banks. South Africans are now exploring creation of a Euro-Rand and would like to convince the rest of the world to return to some form of a gold standard. [Recent drops in the international price of gold in late June underscore the increasing need for SA will have to obtain foreign financing for many of its major infrastructure/projects planned.] US banks now often use their European subsidiaries to buy SA securities for them.

Free-trade zones: London, Singapore, Switzerland & the Bahamas have been free of regulations re: minimum deposits to be held as reserves or ceilings on interest rates for international loans/transactions and have historically attracted most of the Eurobond market. On June 10, 1981, the US Federal Reserve Board eliminated such regulation for "free banking zones". New York will probably be a major center for this type of regulation-free zone, creating a new Ameribond market. Several cities & states interested in attracting this type of business have passed or are considering legislation to exempt these zones from State and/or local taxes. US banks are thus bound to become more involved in international lending.

Loans Coming Due: Many loans from the 1974-6 and 1976-77 periods are now coming due in 1981-1982. The issue is, will they be replaced by new loans (or old ones rolled over) and how will we know? There's a need for our work to prevent this happening.

If you need more explanation on these or other research/analysis issues, you can call or write Carole Collins (at (202)-234-9382 or (202)-797-1253) or Tina Simcich at her office at (212)-420-1160.

DEVELOPING A NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR COBLSA: General Discussion

1. Targetting Citibank: National branch banking will possibly come soon. Stronger banks like Citibank will get into it although perhaps not immediately. According to Tim Smith, Citibank is going to turn its credit card mechanisms into branch banking, rather than buying up big banks in other regions (which might provoke too much opposition from smaller banks.)

Can Citibank be made a viable target? Gail Cincotta has been thinking along these lines, i.e. forming a major national anti-redlining group. CCSA-Chicago has been meeting with NPA on national and local strategy re banks. Two thirds of the NPA conference participants were black.

In several responses to this suggestion, various people noted that that they are organized around opposition to Apartheid, not around a specific bank. The way that works out is to see where Apartheid has an impact in the local community. Lending California funds overseas, e.g., may deprive the local community of funds. Citibank, on the other hand, doesn't affect them directly the same way.

2. Discussion of national priorities: There seems to be 3 models for local action:
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a) focussing on the impact of bank's activities in a more general sense rather than on broad southern Africa work, with a specific emphasis on re-investment. This model is being pursued by $BOA.

b) Strength is based on combining with other local groups, sharing knowledge and expertise with them in re: banks. E.g. banks funding energy projects. Pursued, e.g. by Boston, CCSA-Chicago.

c) Churches work on the corporations, including banks, rather than start another bank campaign group, the advantage being they are not seen as another leftist, Marxist group.

Another possible source of support is linking up to So. American solidarity groups as in the case of loans to Chile.

3. Discussion of ABA convention: we might not generate any media. Depends a lot on whether other national groups like NPA are focussing on ABA or willing to (e.g. Working Woman, etc.). Would So. Africa issue get visibility in working with domestic-focussed groups? (Norm Watkins suggested that alternative investment groups put out a "do-it-yourself" guide for those who are "civilians" like him on this.)

Further discussion: DCBC noted that focus on Citibank was focussing on the strongest lending link to SA (given Citibank is US largest bank), not the weakest bank link. Several re-iterated whether we are organizing re: banks or re: anti-apartheid. People felt it important to focus on unrepresentative nature of bank boards and to publish and publicize a list of banks involved in lending to apartheid, make banks less invisible. One person noted the importance of delivering concretely to the black community, so the bank campaign isn’t seen as a "damn hobby".

Chris Root summarized where she thought the group now was, saying CC should be given a mandate to explore the feasibility of a campaign against Citibank; to make linkages to NPA on an exploratory level; that this does not mean giving up focus on local campaigns; that CC can play that role with national organizations.

Several people felt this was not the consensus of the group. The focus of national work should not be Citibank but something else, perhaps a national day of withdrawal.

Dick Clapp reported that Boston campaign had gotten involved w/ local community re-investment act groups. He stressed that dealing with alternative investment in housing is now much more difficult due to changes in interest rates and lack of subsidies. We have been looking into local hydroelectric power projects and will summarize and circulate our experience. Unions are prepared to consider alternative investment vs. SA-related investment.

Maryamu reported that there would be a pension fund conference in the fall. She noted that there had not been great successes in the field of alternative investments in WASH.

Tina made three points:

a) Linkages are so important at the local level re the issue of where bank capital is going and not going; if a red-lining group is thinking of it, should be the SA contact group;

b) Exploration of Citibank or other "national" focuses is not to suggest a change in local focuses, but rather doing some "advance planning" for possible future targets if indeed they are viable (or when).

c) Carole's role is national and we should build on/take advantage of that.

CC suggested we return to themes and identity. Our structure should reflect what we are in the business to do. "What I need is guidance for my work, how best to spend my time." There should be themes to give coherence to work.

Bud Day said some units/campaigns are present that are actually not part of the network and felt more should be contacted.

CC just became a "Visiting Scholar" at the Institute for Policy Studies, which allows COBLSA to have free office space, limited xerox privileges and perhaps interns. Only obligation: 2 informal seminars on progress of "her" research.
CONTINUATION OF PRIORITIES DISCUSSION

What is the Bank Loan Campaign (BLC)? Slowing of loans to RSA in 1979-80 has possible implications for funding, organizing if we stick to banks. Two possibilities:

a) COBLSA can be a resource network for variety of causes targeting banks; or

b) COBLSA can focus on reinvestment issues (have some expertise in this) - would be narrower focus but wd work with other, new constituencies.

COBLSA's strength is in its many local campaigns, which are sharing experiences.

$BOA: CAL anti-nuke groups are starting to realize that finance issues are what's stopping nukes also. ($BOA has packet on church positions/actions.)

Seattle suggested CC be a liaison to church groups working on banks. e.g. Seattle Church council, helping inform that group, mediate what happens within the council. Advantage is this improves COBLSA's image of moderation.

CC felt COBLSA should function as a task force in style, providing greater visibility to local campaigns and to the national effort targeting bank lending to SA, rather than an extremely broad coalition. Focus on banks (not everything related to apartheid) has a value and place and we have info and experience to resource others with on this.

COBLSA originally had a membership criteria for local affiliates: must oppose all loans, direct and indirect. $BOA thinks this should still hold (distinguishing us from many other groups opposing only direct loans) and that this is important a a starting point as COBLSA contemplates legislation.

CC proposed that COBLSA should emphasize 1) end all loans to SA; 2) the need for alternative investment by banks, linked to local economic issues; and 3) that COBLSA is a locally based national campaign bringing together activists, resourcing them.

One person raised importance of developing arguments re: linking domestic and international bank issues and why it is worth it for local community groups to continue to struggle on international bank policy issues when they are making some headway with the bank on local issues.

DISCUSSION OF CAISA CONFERENCE

1. Helped legislators but provided fewer new resources for local COBLSA groups.
2. Brought few local/municipal officials whose local campaigns often help build momentum for state-wide efforts.

Points to bring up on behalf of COBLSA at CAISA Meeting in July (from later discussion):

- If areas of possible coming together of COBLSA local groups and local/state legislative efforts are identified, then these should be mentioned as target areas.
- Positive investment issue should be raised and discussed by CAISA groups in the context of the need for grassroots input on these decisions/content of legislation.
- As legislators won't act without support, local initiative process important.
- Too much CAISA resources put into getting legislators to feel they are hotshots, hurt BLC and activist, grassroots participation, with major logistical hassles for activists. If more activists there, would have had greater impact on legislators. (Recognized that early planning stressed getting both groups there, but when it came to finances, legislators were given precedence.)

CC suggested that COBLSA resource, where feasible, Black mayors to help them implement their resolution to work for bank withdrawals. Need to identify those who can take issue around to appropriate forums, including, e.g., those going to National Black Caucus of State Legislators. (Seattle has a rep. going to this meeting who will plug issue.)

Lockwood: CC should survey Local COBLSA groups on what issues they think should be tied into the SA issue as a way to clarify our experience. $BOA: Assessment of BLC issues, development of priorities, demonstration of possible constituencies can be helpful in writing proposals.

Some discussion but no resolution on whether COBLSA might evolve into another, non-totally-SA focussed organization. Will see what comes of regional mtgs, explorations.
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$BOA agreed to work with SASC in exploring possibility of a regional conference with their CA groups, possibly linked to a regional conference/meeting on reinvestment, that might take place around the time of the ABA meeting or at another time. There are several possible conflicts for any action/conference targeting the ABA (ICSA Conference & national meeting of Campus groups being planned by ACOA).

Discussion focussed on developing several regional meetings/working conferences on reinvestment & divestment. CC said such regional reinvestment/SA divestment conferences focusing on outreach to diversity of local groups at regional level, wd:
- allow expansion in South and Southwestern states;
- allow intersection with other networks;
- strengthen cooperation among local affiliates in each region;
- allow cooperation in NW area (ORE/WASH/MONT. conf. being planned Oct. 2);
- be in part resourcable by national coordinator.

Maryamu raised view that local groups could often adequately resource such conferences on their own. She and Steve Martin stressed the need to involve black organizational input into the direction of the BLC, nationally & locally. Discussion focussed on perception (and reality) of COBLSA as a white group and how racial tensions could be dealt with in positive ways. Steve was asked to discuss how their Coalition dealt with this, since they seemed to have some more positive experiences. Several suggested that this would be a good topic to develop some sharing of experiences via the newsletter. Reality is that often white groups have money and credibility (which black groups want/need), though not always at the grassroots. Maryamu felt this issue was important to deal with if regional conferences were to be successful. She noted NW conference being planned for Sept. on pensions, in addition to Oct. 2 conference.

CC discussed meeting with Chicago/Minn groups later in summer to discuss feasibility. MiIloAnne noted regional conferences would take time and money, though others suggested they might lend themselves to more effective local fund-raising.

Suggested: That local affiliates explore the feasibility and try to bring about 3 regional meetings in the October-December period that would bring together local activists on SA divestment, alternative reinvestment groups, and other networks to explore linkages and working relationships. Would then tentatively have another national meeting in early 1982 and move (possibly?) towards some national day of withdrawal. Regional meetings, with stress on local activists, would try to be developed to feed into regional meetings developed by CAISA with legislative focus (their grassroots composition would provide a sounder base for legislative work). Regional conferences would also get regional people on board for later withdrawal day activities.

CC said regional fundraising should go ahead & is feasible, that some foundations fund regional networks & economic democracy work.

STRUCTURE:

1. CC listed COBLSA affiliates, Lockwood stressed that Coordinating Comm. should be mostly local groups. Old Implementation Subcommittee's best functioning was decision on how to spend WCC grant and getting input from local groups (though not done at time of planning - more a "go ahead" type of decision - shd be more involvement of local groups in planning from the beginning).

2. Unions and other endors-rs should be included in COBLSA through sponsorship status and invited to national meetings (or regional).

3. Approved: New Coordinating Committee would consist of 8 local campaigns represented at this meeting (Eugene, ORE; Boston; D.C.; Chicago; Minneapolis; Los Angeles-SASC; S.F.; Seattle) plus 4 national groups present (National CALC; ACOA; WOA: ICCR). CC to send list.
4. Approved: That COBLSA establish 4 regions (East Coast; Midwest; West Coast; Northwest), each of which will subsequently choose a regional liaison to the national coordinator. Function will be to communicate with other groups in the region re: policy questions and to generate discussion within the region. Maryamu will discuss liaison selection with other NW groups; SBOA and SASC will discuss West Coast representation; Minn. CALC, Chicago CALC, CCSA and Detroit will discuss Midwest representation; East Coast will decide (DC; Boston; Rochester; NY?).

5. As we evaluate BLC responses to an upcoming questionnaire, we should expand the coordinating committee to include all of them.

6. Regional conferences should happen before next COBLSA meeting.

FINANCIAL STATUS:

CC reported that Institute for Policy Studies "fellowship" will provide free office, local phone use, some free xeroxing and possible use of interns (perhaps not before fall due to late decision by IPS).

Chris Root: We lucked out in getting the WCC grant; CC won't be able to do all the fund-raising herself. How can other folks help?

CC et al. will seek $1000 sponsorships, if possible, from supportive groups. COBLSA has funds to last through October-November. No estimate of annual costs has yet been prepared (difficult to do until we had national meeting, a sense of priorities, and what would go into a proposal). CC was hired at $1000/mo plus health benefits, with responsibility to raise remainder of money.

John of Minn. will ask others at CAISA meeting from Minn. re approaching American Lutheran Church for money. Maryamu said she'd contribute through buying COBLSA resources. Was felt major funding should come from national groups approached on behalf of national COBLSA. MiloAnne suggested our providing training programs based on reinvestment ideas as a way to raise money. Shd check internships, matching funds.

NB: Re questionnaire, Lockwood said DC and Colo. State have a questionnaire which banks must fill out. Covers several issues.

EVALUATION:

We're going in the right direction but need to remember individual tasks assigned or volunteered. Key to moving ahead. Use Newsletters - for discussion as well as info sharing. Need to continue work on internal racial problems.

CC: Enjoyed meeting and see a lot of energy (despite the fact we were exhausted by CAISA conference before starting).

Feeling that the process (e.g. chairing) wasn't clear in the AM session; that there's still some East Coast dominance re resources, etc. Several felt much good info was exchanged.

MiloAnne: Next time we piggyback COBLSA meeting onto another, COBLSA should meet first so energy level is higher. She feels personal contacts help her explain national situation better in her conversations, work at home. Fundraising is always a source of tensions (we shouldn't have ended the meeting with that discussion). Next COBLSA meeting should have skills workshop.
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PROPOSALS FOR NATIONAL WORK OF COBLSA
(for discussion Sunday morning/afternoon)

1. What should our role be in the legislative work of the Campaign Against Investment in South Africa (CAISA)? How actively should we participate in the Coordinating Committee? What particular input do we want to have? What balance do we want in our local work between:
   a) legislative campaigns for divestment of public monies at state/municipal levels;
   b) withdrawal campaigns targeting 'private' deposits by churches, unions, community groups, individuals.

What implications does the balance we choose have re: constituencies we target; tactics and educational strategies we utilize; alliances we develop?

2. Can we agree on a national target or activity to better unite local campaigns' efforts and gain greater visibility/impact? Is any national 'target' feasible to organize around locally? Would this drain energy and resources from local groups/campaigns or strengthen their efforts and impact? What balance should there be between working on national or local targets/activities?

Some proposed targets or joint activities we should consider include:
- a national campaign against Citibank, currently the largest US lender to SA, which has service offices in 22 states & own large shareholdings in many local/regional banks (e.g. 20% interest in Central National Bank-Chicago, another lender to SA). Shd explore possible relation to "Shadow Board" set up by Nader groups on Citibank to monitor banking activities.
- A protest at the American Bankers Association national meeting in SF in October, in conjunction with other groups targeting the ABA, such as National People's Action (national umbrella of community organizations). Could possibly be coordinated with a) a national teach-in following the ABA meeting, and/or b) local actions against ABA members who are lenders to SA.(It may be that there are more appropriate bankers' groups to target; also SF grps wd be key)
- another National Day of Withdrawal in late fall/early spring with careful thought given to how to obtain/attract major media coverage and how to utilize to build constituencies.
- Other?

3. Can we join at all effectively with campaigning groups from other countries in coordinating international days of action? Can this fit into local campaign work in any meaningful (i.e. more than symbolic) way?

Specific proposal: At the Zurich Conference, British campaigning groups requested that other national campaigns join them in an International Day of Action against Barclay's Bank on October 15, 1981 (Barclay's is the largest lender to SA).

4. Should the national office focus on getting more national groups and labor unions to endorse the campaign and concretely exert pressure on banks via organizational withdrawals/publicity? Does this detract from assisting local campaigns or strengthen local linkages they can make?