CAMPAIGN TO OPPOSE BANK LOANS TO SOUTH AFRICA

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CONTENT & PURPOSE OF WORK: to pressure US banks to adopt a public policy of not lending to the South African government, its agencies/parastatals or to corporations doing business there. COBLSA is a network of primarily local affiliates and contacts around the country that: a) organize individual and organizational withdrawals of funds from banks which have made loans to SA and refuse to change their policy; b) work to support state and municipal legislation barring deposit of public monies in banks lending to SA or investment of pension funds/university endowments in banks or corporations active there; c) support national legislation barring new bank loans or investment in SA by US corporations. They do this in great part thru linking the SA issue to domestic practices of banks: red-lining, poor affirmative action practices, investment in nuclear industry, union-busting activities, failure to invest in job-creation at community levels.

The work of the National Office includes: 1) provide updated info and analysis of use to local groups; 2) work to get new campaigns started in new regions of the country; and 3) update research on financial links to SA, esp. trade-related loans; 4) do educational and media work for COBLSA at the national level, & respond to requests for info from groups and individuals; 5) develop resources for education & organizing (forthcoming by June: The ABCs of Bank Loans to South Africa: A Handbook for Research & Organizing).

I also am working on more general research and writing on US/SA relations and apartheid (e.g. recent articles on women under apartheid, rural development in Moz. and Israeli/South African military relations).

CONSTITUENCIES: Our local and national affiliates' constituencies include: local and regional churches, community groups, some unions (esp. in public sector), anti-red-lining groups, student and university groups. In 1982, we are working to increase outreach to unions, anti-nuke and pro-disarmament people, and to the black community. Through our work in state and municipal legislatures, we also work with elected officials.

SHORT- AND LONG-TERM PLANS FOR WORK AT IPS:
- focus on publishing articles in diverse publications, in particular religious and union publications and the mass media where possible, raising the issue of breaking financial links to apartheid; giving testimony where appropriate (e.g. Phila. this spring);
- producing a handbook for organizers on researching and organizing a campaign and how to link it to local issues;
- updating research on US/SA financial links, on positions of groups on this issue and on US policy toward SA generally.
- doing major outreach to national church, union, black and civic groups to endorse the campaign.

HOW COBLSA IS/COULD RELATE TO OTHER WORK AT IPS:
- connect up to groups/individuals in the Planners Network concerned about/active on the role of banks in determining housing supply/bond markets/job supply at comm. level.
- M&D: liaison with them re work on US/SA nuclear connections, role of US banks in breaking military sanctions (Houston gun-running in May 1981); arms sales to SA
- Human Rights: working re human rights violations in SA; possibly bringing Dennis Brutus to speak or other South Africans touring the country
- IEO: relate COBLSA work to IEO work re developing more popular educational materials that demystify banks/corporations and make policy issue discussions accessible to grassroots
- Seminars/Wash.School/other: teaching research for organizing methodology to comm. groups;
- Roundtable of African diplomats on: US Policy in (various areas): The View from Africa.
- General organizational: Would it be possible for all projects/interested individuals to meet monthly/bimonthly to see how their work/activities relate to regions of the world (e.g. Africa; Latin America; Mideast) to keep projects in touch with one another on related work? (cd lead to special joint projects or just ongoing communication/coordination)
- Third: role of corporations in intensifying women's exploitation under apartheid.