On March 28, individual and group members of the Chicago Coalition on Southern Africa met to discuss building a broad coalition to work around June 16th (the anniversary of the Soweto uprising in 1976). It was decided to initiate the call for such a Coalition and day of action. The purposes of the June 16th Coalition would be:

1. to commemorate June 16th and the thousands of South Africans who have died in the struggle for liberation;

2. to raise the issue of economic sanctions against South Africa more generally, as well as keeping up pressure on local banks and other institutions which directly or indirectly support Apartheid; and

3. to reach out to new and broader constituencies and mobilize them to work actively on this issue.

We hope this coalition will also serve to move all of us closer to a more nationally unified strategy on opposing Apartheid and white minority rule in South Africa.

Following meetings on March 28 and April 11, the following three demands have been put forward as the basis for the June 16th Coalition:

1. Close the South African consulate!

2. A total boycott of Apartheid — support U.N. -endorsed economic sanctions against South Africa!

3. End U.S. corporate and bank ties to South Africa — withdraw your account from Continental and First National banks!

The first two demands are steps in moving beyond specifically targeted campaigns toward a more general economic sanctions campaign nationally. It is recognized that more work must be done to develop strategic and tactical approaches to achieving both these demands, approaches which will enable people to participate directly in their achievement. On April 11, the following was also decided:

Location: The June 16th demonstration/picket will focus on the South African consulate (North Michigan Avenue) since it is (a) particularly appropriate as a target on June 16th, (b) exists primarily to boost U.S.-S.A. trade, and (c) has not previously been a target of city-wide demonstrations. The demonstration will also march to a First National Bank branch (361 East Erie), representing a local target for protest.

Format: Demonstration and picketing; all signs to accord generally with above demands; one collectively-written leaflet only to be passed out; street theatre to be incorporated into the demonstration.

A partial list of groups which have been approached by CCSA to participate to date include: NAACP; United Black Voters of Illinois; PUSH; local churches; CALC; AFSC; student groups (Northwestern and UC); NC-ALSC; community groups (e.g. LVCC, KOCO); community college students (e.g. Malcolm X, etc.); Nation of Islam; Metro High School; etc.

On Tuesday, April 25 at 6 P.M., a meeting will be held at the 8th Day Center, 22 East Van Buren to discuss tactics and mobilization for June 16th. At this meeting, there will also be a slide tape show presentation (South Africa: Freedom Rising by Dayton Community Media Center); update on events in South Africa during the past three months; and a summary of recent actions across the United States opposing white minority rule in South Africa. We urge you or your organization to attend this important meeting. If you have any questions, please contact Chuck Dahm at 427-4351.