PROPOSALS PRESENTED AT WORKING CONFERENCE ON SOUTHERN AFRICA

October 11-13, 1975

A. Study and Analysis

1. Analysis of South African propaganda
2. Analysis of establishment media
3. Specific list of which liberation movements are supported by different North American groups.

B. Legislation

1. Congressional actions
2. United Nations actions

C. Mass Organizing

1. Boycotts: a consumer boycott of Union Carbide, the largest U.S. corporation in Zimbabwe.
2. Demonstrations: coordination around North America, especially against South African officials.

D. Creation of New Resources


E. Coordination Among Liberation Support Groups

1. "Hot-line" telephone news network
2. Distribution of news of solidarity actions for dissemination by North American media and to reach African and other international groups and media.
3. Better distribution of Southern Africa magazine and Africa News
5. Coordination of fund-raising for specific liberation movements
6. Establishment contacts in Africa to disseminate material support and to report that it has been successfully received
7. National coordination center for resources
8. Coordinate liberation movement representative speaking tours.
9. Annotated list of resources in loose-leaf notebook format to be updated for use by existing and by new groups

* These entries have more detailed descriptions of the proposals which follow this outline.
10. Information about research: sharing what research is now available and what is being produced; use Southern Africa for dissemination.

11. Internal newsletter to distribute among southern Africa liberation support groups.


F. Texts of Submitted Proposals*

A-1. Analysis of South African propaganda

Whereas imperialist interests within the United States and South Africa continue to either misinform or deny access to information to the people of all countries concerned--

Whereas this global manipulation of information restricts opportunities for Americans to arrive at a greater understanding of our friends in Africa as well as their struggle against imperialism--

We recognize that alternatives to this global imperialist effort require distribution of knowledge and greater sharing of strategies among all groups united in the struggle against imperialism.

We propose to appoint a group/person for analysis of South African propaganda in North America.

A-2. Analysis of Establishment Media

1. The mass media in the U.S. are presently giving a totally inadequate and misleading account of events in southern Africa.

2. Press, television and radio distortions provide a smokescreen behind which the policy of intervention on behalf of the minority regimes goes forward.

3. We therefore propose that representative of the movement undertake a detailed and critical content analysis of the treatment of southern African affairs in the media. This should be printed as a pamphlet and circulated through the movement network.

4. We also propose the formation of a joint working group on the mass media to

   a. study the process by which policy in the media has been arrived at
   b. study the organization of the mass media
   c. locate the key figures of influence in the media
   d. study the ways and means of influencing those who may be open to reason
   e. study the ways of organizing inputs for exerting influence

5. The joint working group should report in writing to all organizations in the movement.

* These texts do not imply that these proposals have been adopted. They were simply given in more detail than the others and are presented here for clarification and reference. See tally sheet for count of vote on proposals.
6. We recognize the limitations on influencing the media, but believe a situation has developed in this country over the last ten years which opens new opportunities for securing less biased media coverage. Concerted, organized and judicious action, however, is necessary.

7. The Network Project and NACLA should be consulted in respect to both parts of this proposal.

B-1. Congressional Actions

1. National campaign on stopping U.S. intervention in Angola by
   a. organizing an on-going committee to put together an organizing packet on Angola
   b. designating representatives from liberation support groups to committee

2. Watch-dog committee could be on-going and deal not only with legislation but with the electoral process beginning at the primaries.

3. Vote sheets on legislation should be produced by the Washington Office on Africa. Votes on corporate and labor issues and on Africa should be identified and tallied.

B-2. United Nations Actions

A United Nations group similar to the WHO should be established to coordinate efforts on matters such as forthcoming debate on expulsion of South Africa.

E-1. "Hot-Line" Telephone News Network

We agreed that there is a lack of current, hard news on southern Africa and lack of a network for passing on to other groups information they need.

We propose that liberation support groups participate together in a hot-line network via telephone.

It would work as follows: if Africa News picks up a broadcast on an attempted coup in Mozambique or hears that a South African official will be visiting the U.S., Africa News will call certain regional relay groups, who will then contact other groups in their part of the country. The same thing happens if the news is picked up by someone in New York City.

The network will require:
   a. compilation of a large, detailed mailing list
   b. calling list
   c. clippings to be channeled through the network
   d. provision of list to all groups so they may participate.
E-7. National Coordination Center for Resources

The purposes of the Center would be to
a. disseminate quickly news of liberation support activities
b. communicate with liberation group leaders to set-up, coordinate speaking tours
c. compile resources listed with a critique in a loose-leaf format which can be continually up-dated.