September 8, 1975

Chicago Committee for the Liberation of Angola, Mozambique and Guinea
c/o Carole Collins
626 W. Roscoe #3F
Chicago, Ill. 60657

Dear Carole,

Your organization is one of many across the United States and Canada working to support liberation in southern Africa. Certainly the events of the past 18 months have lent a far greater urgency to this work. While the defeat of Portuguese colonialism is a cause for great encouragement and opens up many new possibilities, many dangers and obstacles lie ahead. Civil war, great power intervention and possible partition threaten Angola. The liberation of Zimbabwe and Namibia has not yet been achieved, and oppression of the majority in South Africa has become greater, if more sophisticated. As the lines become clearly drawn in southern Africa, there are many indications that Western powers are increasing their support for minority rule and neocolonialism.

Under these conditions, we perceive a growing need to strengthen and expand local work on southern Africa and to consider possibilities for greater collaboration and coordination among groups.

Nine local and national groups working on southern Africa have therefore joined together to plan and sponsor a Working Conference on Southern Africa to be held in Madison, Wisconsin on October 11-13, 1975. The Madison Area Committee on Southern Africa is acting as host for the conference. On behalf of the sponsors of the conference (see list below), we invite your organization to participate.

This will be a working conference, with participation limited to 100 people, including three representatives from each group. The sharing and collective analysis of information and of experiences in working on southern Africa issues will be central to the meeting. Since this can best be done through small group discussion, much of the conference time is reserved for sessions under that format.

We feel that the conference will provide an unusual opportunity for you to meet with persons and groups who share your concerns and objectives. Such contact is vital if existing groups are to become a more effective force in opposing apartheid and U.S. support for minority rule in southern Africa.

Enclosed you will find:
1. an information sheet which gives a fuller description of the conference, and details on location, costs, transportation, accomodations, etc.;
2. the conference agenda;

3. guidelines for preparing a background sheet on your organization, to be distributed to the other participants at Madison;
4. a registration form, which should be completed and returned to the Washington Office on Africa by Wednesday, September 24. Adequate preparation for the conference will be impossible if replies are not received promptly.

The organizations sponsoring the conference are:

LOCAL GROUPS

Coalition to Stop Rhodesian and South African Imports, Philadelphia
Chicago Committee for the Liberation of Angola, Mozambique and Guinea
Madison Area Committee on Southern Africa
Southern Africa Liberation Committee, East Lansing, Michigan
Syracuse Committee on Southern African Liberation

NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

American Committee on Africa
Southern Africa Committee
United Church of Christ Center for Social Action
Washington Office on Africa

These groups and others have taken part in planning the conference.

The success of the meeting will depend on the participants. We hope that your group will be able to attend. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Edgar Lockwood  Ken Vickery  Christine Root

cc: Eileen Hansen and Prexy Nesbitt