Dear Friends:

The United Nations has declared this year, March 21, 1978 to March 21, 1979, the International Year Against Apartheid. To commemorate this year, groups around the country have initiated various activities: withdrawing funds from banks that loan to South Africa; supporting shareholder resolutions against corporate investment there; opposing U.S.-guaranteed Export-Import Bank loans and tax breaks for investors in South Africa; passing city and State government resolutions against banks and corporations that deal with South Africa; collecting supplies for refugees from South Africa; and sponsoring educational programs to inform members about the inhuman conditions forced on the African population by the system of Apartheid.

Many national and local groups are commemorating the end of this year by planning activities around March 21, the 18th anniversary of the South African massacre of unarmed Africans at Sharpeville in 1960. We urge you to participate in this international effort by planning or joining an activity in late March to mark Chicago's continued support for the struggle against Apartheid.

A number of activities are being planned in the Chicago area. They include forums on U.S. foreign policy toward southern Africa; visits by representatives of southern Africa liberation movements to the Chicago area; letter-writing campaigns to demand stronger U.S. action against apartheid; campaigns to collect supplies and funds for refugees from white minority rule; educational programs on the Apartheid system and the struggle for liberation; and anti-Apartheid demonstrations.

In addition, special attention needs to be given to counter efforts by right-wing Senators to pressure the U.S. government to recognize the illegal Smith government in Rhodesia and break U.N.-initiated economic sanctions against that country. We are initiating a city-wide campaign in the next two months to pressure our government representatives, including President Carter, to maintain and strengthen the economic isolation of the illegal "internal settlement" government in Rhodesia.

Details of joint and separate group activities are being determined as concerned groups indicate their interest and plans. The Coalition is working to facilitate these activities. Please let us know if you are interested in:

* using a speaker, film, slide show or other materials in programming for your constituency;
* sponsoring or participating in activities to commemorate the Sharpeville massacre;

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participating in the legislative campaign for a stronger U.S. position against Apartheid in southern Africa.

Your group may already be involved in this issue. Please share with us your activities and plans, past and future. Let us work together.

Sincerely,

Rev. Chuck Dahm, Convenor
Chicago Coalition on Southern Africa

SPECIAL BULLETIN

Janice McLaughlin, a Maryknoll sister who worked for the Catholic Commission for Peace and Justice in Rhodesia, will be in the Chicago area March 9-11. Sr. Janice was arrested by the Rhodesian police in September 1977, because of her work in exposing Rhodesian atrocities against the African population. She was released and deported after three weeks because of massive international protest. She is currently working for the Washington Office on Africa. Contact the Coalition about her schedule of activities.

The Coalition has films and slide shows available on southern Africa. They include the following:

* Banking on Apartheid (slide show; 20 min., 1978)
* South Africa and US Global Corporations (slide show, 25 min., 1977, produced originally by ATSC)
* Women in the African Liberation Struggle (slide show, 15 min., 1977-78)
* Mozambique: Building People's Power (slide show includes section on Rhodesia and Zimbabwe refugee camps; 45 min., 1977-8)