POLITICAL POSITION: MACSA is an organization of individuals in the Madison community who are concerned to publicize the conditions of colonial, imperialistic, and racial oppression in Southern Africa, to offer material assistance to those peoples who are fighting against the oppression which daily confronts them, and to press for elimination of U.S. governmental and corporate support of the repressive white minority regimes in the Southern African states. We recognize the necessity in all of our work to relate the conditions of oppression in Southern Africa to those of our own society. We see our activities as inherently anti-imperialistic; we view the world capitalist economy as an integrated network through which systematic exploitation of peoples both here and abroad is promoted and perpetuated. In focusing on a geographically defined portion of that network—Southern Africa—within which the practice of liberation groups is directed toward the elimination of imperialist relations, we understand that our support activities contribute to a worldwide struggle to undermine and negate the dominance of capital. We have directed our attention specifically toward Southern Africa because it is strategically located in the world imperialist system, because the conditions of oppression are particularly acute there, and because we feel it essential to support those movements, emergent within the context of oppression, whose struggle includes the building of new, socialist institutions.

PRACTICE: Our activities during the past year included two fund-raising campaigns (one still in progress); publication of a newsletter, some (limited) use of local media, sponsorship of speakers on the progress of the Southern African liberation movements, self-education sessions during which we concentrated on history, stance, and state of specific liberation movements, and numerous speaking engagements. Early in the year we offered our assistance (primarily in the form of speakers and newspaper articles) to the Madison Young World Development group whose walk raised approximately $18,000 for FRELIMO in Mozambique. Also during the fall we carried through a fund-raising campaign which raised over $1200 for FRELIMO and MPLA, a portion of which was channeled through L3M in Vancouver for the purchase of medical supplies for the Angolan struggle. In evaluating this campaign, we came to the conclusion that the method utilized in our target area, the university, was misdirected. Solicitation for funds at tables set up at strategic locations in the university did not result in the donation of very large amounts; neither did it allow us to integrate education with fund-raising since it did not offer a suitable forum for discussion. We further decided that our energies would be more satisfactorily put to use if we concentrated fund-raising activities on groups within both the community and the university rather than relying solely on the liberalness or humanitarian tendencies of passers by at strategic locations. Thus in our spring and current fund-raising campaign (which is directed at the situation in Namibia) we are approaching local churches and unions. It is too early as yet to evaluate the success of this approach. We are not sure how successful we will be in actually raising money, but we believe that we are getting information into channels which we have previously neglected.
PROJECTIONS: Since MACSA is a community organization, we feel that it is important to work continually to establish a connection between social and economic conditions in Southern Africa and the Madison area, specifically to show that the conditions of oppression in Southern Africa are supported and aggravated by the economic involvement there of companies with a home base in the Wisconsin area. We feel it important that community groups be made aware of the very concrete tie which they have to liberation struggles, mediated by the activities of profit seeking companies (and by the larger framework of governmental policies which support the overseas expansion of capital and management of those companies). With this concern in mind we published two years ago a pamphlet entitled Is Southern Africa Wisconsin’s Business?

During the coming year we wish to further concretize this basic concern by focusing a campaign on a local company (Ray-o-Vac* - one of the largest employers in Madison) which has economic ties with South Africa. We intend to begin by following up on some contacts with the union representing workers at this company. Our subsequent strategy will be dependent upon the outcome of this preliminary work.

Additionally we have decided to continue with two major fund-raising campaigns during the coming year. The fall campaign will focus on PAIGC and will emphasize U.S. military involvement in the Portuguese colonial wars. We hope to cooperate with other local groups in this endeavor. In the spring our fund-raising activities will focus on Zimbabwe and South Africa, with money raised to go through the OAU Liberation Committee or another suitable channel for the liberation struggles in these two areas. Additionally we will continue our political education activities (newsletter, selling of literature, research, speaking), hopefully on a more systematic basis.

RELATIONSHIP TO NAAIC: MACSA clearly agrees with the general political statement which binds all members of NAAIC to the coalition. We fully affirm the necessity of maintaining communication links between member groups of NAAIC and believe that the function of the newsletter should be maintained and extended to this end; even this minimal mechanism of communication and cooperation could stand for great improvement. We have found our participation in NAAIC not only to have brought us into somewhat closer contact with other North American groups with an interest in Southern Africa, but also to have facilitated, to a limited extent, our interaction with other anti-imperialist groups in our own community with different geographical foci. MACSA would approve of more coordinated action being taken by members of NAAIC; yet we recognize the need for all groups to concentrate on their local communities, to build up a strong base with local organizations, to be responsive to local needs. We are willing to participate in joint projects with NAAIC members which might serve to strengthen the coalition and to solidify the links between politically cohesive groups throughout North America if those projects may be feasibly integrated with our ongoing activities and are relevant to the interests of our local constituency.

*Ray-o-Vac is a division of ESB (Electric Storage Battery) Inc., with headquarters in Philadelphia.